

The Church Bell

August 4, 2021

VOL. 77, ISSUE 16



327 East Capitol Avenue, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101-3003 (573-636-5157)

Nothing Can Separate Us from God

Dr. Jim Hill

Interim Senior Minister

I am grateful for the privilege of serving as your interim senior minister. The Search and Call Committee has provided a brief update on their work in this issue of *the Bell*. As the update shares, I am working with the committee to help them complete a brief self-study which is a central part of the *intentional interim ministry*. I believe this process can be very helpful to the church family as you seek God's will concerning a new senior minister. I hope you will watch for updates during the coming weeks regarding congregational events that are being planned as a part of this process. These are important times when the congregation will have opportunities to provide input for the committees as they lead the self-study.

As you know Missouri, and specifically our community, has seen a significant increase in COVID cases in recent weeks. Cole County has been designated a COVID hot spot. Unfortunately, sixty percent of the adults in our county have not been fully vaccinated. In light of these circumstances and the current CDC guidelines, the Worship Committee recommended the following procedure to help keep our church family and community safe:

"First Christian Church **HIGHLY RECOMMENDS THAT ALL WORSHIPING WITH US WEAR A MASK** to protect yourselves and more importantly out of respect for others. This is the current recommendation of the CDC and other medical experts for both vaccinated and unvaccinated people when indoors in high infection areas, like Cole County."

Later this week my extended family will be together to celebrate my mother's 90th birthday. There will be about 80 of us. Fortunately, everyone has been vaccinated except for the children who are too young to be vaccinated. We are looking forward to celebrating with my mom. All of us have missed this type of event and others over the past year and a half. Most of us have felt some of the pain caused by the separation.

As I thought about how COVID has impacted our lives, I thought about how grateful I am that we have not been separated from God. I know how difficult it was when we could not gather for worship, and we are still not able to return to all of our normal worship procedures. But the good news is that God is still with us. The Apostle Paul wrote in Romans 8:38-39: *"For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."* Nothing can keep us from God. This may be one of the most important times for us to remember that we need regular times when we get alone with God.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

We pray for these

Beverly Anderson, Steve Brown, Jane Burd, Nellie Campbell, Richard Carroll, Darlene Charles, Georgiale Dallas, Doug Defreese, Nancy Dunwiddie, Marilyn Gross, John & Barbara Gulick, Cheryl Hanson, Norma Hasselman, Jeanette Hickman, Brooks Jarrett, Shirley Jarrett, Jessica Kozlen, Emily Lane, Vivian Murphy, Jackie Possinger, Kathy Speidel, Elaine West, Doris Yelton, Our Country

Individuals will be kept on our prayer list for **four weeks** at a time. At the end of four weeks, please give Kathy a call at 573.636.5157 or email her Kathy@firstchristianjcmo.org, if you would like continued prayers for an individual. Thank you!

Members in Care Centers

BLUEGRASS TERRACE

Glenda Crow

HEISINGER

Richard Carroll

Shirley Ferguson

Barbara Nikodyn

Norma Woodson

JC MANOR

Jackie Possinger

OAK TREE VILLA

Sue Cobble

Georgiale Dallas

Shirley Jarrett

Emily Lane

PRIMROSE RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

Norma Hasselman

Wendell & Myra Hubbs

Jessie Schell

ST. JOSEPH'S BLUFFS

Doris Yelton

THE TIMBERS

Marilyn Gross

VILLA MARIE

Terry Fockler

HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

Mariam Craddock

OUT-OF-TOWN MEMBERS

Betty Schramm

Betty Schulte

August Birthdays and Anniversaries

AUG
1
Sharon Gonder
Joyce Wagner
3
Barbara Kuebler
Cameo Middleton
4
Toni McNeal
<i>Brian & Kara Knight</i>
5
Brenda Johnson
Wade Park
6
Elaine West
<i>Mark & Sue Snell</i>
7
Judy Brooks
Scout Claycomb
Rick Naught
<i>Tom & Barbara Rackers</i>
8
<i>Steven & Kathy Brown</i>
<i>Danny & Nina Stewart</i>

9
<i>Doug & Cindy VanCamp</i>
10
Stephen Drake
Scott Little
11
<i>Tony & Katy Ramirez</i>
12
Maren Moore
<i>Mark & Elaine Woodson</i>
13
Alex Wood
14
15
Drew Bell
Stacey Gregory-Angell
Wayne Hepler
16
David Avery
Doug VanCamp
Denise Woodruff
<i>Jim & Marty Morris</i>

17
Eden Dietle
Kyleigh Garver
18
19
<i>Cole & Melanie Markway</i>
20
Dot Baker
Clancy Dunn
<i>Morris & Denise Woodruff</i>
21
Maylin Miller
Nancy Mormann
22
Barbara Rackers
23
<i>Chris & Sonya Cooley</i>
<i>Dan & Tracy McClard</i>
24
Gene Adkison
<i>Chris & Marsha Graham</i>

25
Lauren Eichelberger
Hazel Fishback
Christine Mott
J.T. Yarnell
<i>Don & Winnie Shaw</i>
26
Stephanie Bell
Brenda Foutes
Sandy Robinson
<i>Michael & Sandi Helton</i>
27
Payton Garver
28
Laura Avery
Susan Vaughn
29
<i>Brian & Shelly Drake</i>
30
Betty Schulte
31
Cindy Cook
Travis Jackson

A Message from Board Chair, Stephen R. Waters

Dear Members:

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention has recommended that fully vaccinated Americans in parts of the country with substantial or high transmission of COVID-19 should return to wearing masks indoors. Latest research indicates that while vaccinated people still have very low incidents of being infected or getting seriously ill there is still a chance of being infected or infecting others around them.

Cole County has been designated as an area of high transmission. With this in mind, the Worship Committee **HIGHLY RECOMMENDS THAT ALL WORSHIPPING WITH US WEAR A MASK** to protect yourselves and more importantly out of respect for others. This is the current recommendation of the CDC and other medical experts for both vaccinated and unvaccinated people when indoors in high infection areas, like Cole County. "

I know this is a very difficult time and personal decisions to wear or not wear a mask is very personal. Please consider those around you and their health. Help us stop the spread of this terrible disease.

Prayerfully yours,

Stephen R. Waters
Administrative Board Chair

HISTORIC CITY OF JEFFERSON PRESENTS

TOUR OF HISTORIC PLACES OF WORSHIP

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2021
1:00 PM - 4:30 PM
JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI

Self-paced walking/driving tour featuring several historic places of worship in Jefferson City. Learn about the history of the congregations and how they have impacted our community over the past 200 years.

Tour will feature several historic places of worship including:

Central Church	Immaculate Conception
First Christian	Quinn Chapel
First Presbyterian	Temple Beth El
First United Methodist	and more!
Grace Episcopal	

Advance Tickets: \$15 Day-of Tickets: \$18

Available online at www.historiccityofjefferson.org or at the following locations:
Capital Arts/Carrie's Hallmark/Click2Sell4u/Hyvee
J Street Vintage/Samuel's/Schaefer House/Schulte's/ShopGirl



For sponsorship or tour information, please contact hcjexec@gmail.com

This will be a wonderful opportunity to showcase First Christian Church. If you would like to volunteer to help the day of this event, please give Kathy a call at 573-636-5157.

Condolences

Please keep Sue Tussey in your thoughts and prayers. On July 14, 2021 she said goodbye to her beautiful guide dog Sahara. Sahara was almost 14 years old and had given a full life of service and companionship to Sue. While this period of grief is difficult, Sue is looking to the future with the hope of welcoming a new guide dog into her life by the end of the year.

A Huge "Thank You!" to Food for Kids Volunteers

A huge "thank you" to everyone who volunteered to make sandwiches and pack lunches for the United Way Food for Kids summer feeding program the week of July 19-23. We packed an average of 50 lunches each day.

It is a joy to work with people willing to give their time to improve the life of others. You guys are the best!

Cindy Cook, Karla Denny, Rosie Evans, Robin Grumm, Jenny Hagenhoff, Dorothy Meyer, Alan & Jeanne Nelson, Patty Osman, Nancy Samp, Gail Watkins, Debi Wells.

Ann Littlefield

Update from the Search and Call Committee

Dear Friends,

The Search and Call Committee would like to give you an update on the process for calling a new, settled senior minister.

As you know, Rev. James Hill joined us on June 1st as our Interim Senior Pastor. Part of Rev. Hill's background has been as interim minister for numerous congregations and specifically as an "intentional" interim minister. Intentionality involves a deliberate process of completing a congregational self-study so a minister may be called who is a good fit for the congregation.

As has been shared in other contexts, the search and call process can often take twelve to fifteen months as a congregation reviews its mission and seeks a senior minister who will lead the congregation in pursuing that mission. The intentional interim minister process involves five focus points: *Heritage* (examining the congregation's history and role in the community), *Mission* (God's purpose for the congregation), *Connections* (role of the congregation to the denomination as a whole and to the local community), *Leadership* (examining the governing structure of the congregation) and *Future* (Who are we? Where should we be going? How will we get there?).

These aspects of intentional interim ministry will help us identify the characteristics we should be looking for in a new, settled senior minister. We also need to identify these characteristics so that we can work with our Regional Minister and our national offices to identify candidates for the committee, and, ultimately, the congregation to consider.

Right now, the Search and Call Committee is working with Rev. Hill on the Heritage phase of our study to help us see the history of our congregation within the Disciples of Christ context, our community, our state, and the larger world. This process will show the richness of our history and will help us to see where we are now and where we need to go in the future.

Another focus point in the self-study is "Mission," and the Search and Call Committee is working with the Strategic Planning Committee on this area. The Strategic Planning Committee was already working on a mission statement, vision statement, and the core values of our church. They are planning an event in a few weeks which will allow the congregation to provide input in this process. In the next few months, you will learn of opportunities for the congregation to have input in all phases of the self-study and thereby contribute to defining the characteristics we will want in our new, settled senior minister.

This is an exciting time! Again, please feel free to share your thoughts with us at any of these group meetings or informally with any of us individually.

Thank you for your prayerful support.

The Search and Call Committee
David Durbin, Chair

Youth & Other Updates

Sharing Our Gifts Survey

On Sunday, July 25, we asked everyone to fill out a survey letting us know what gifts and interests they could share with the congregation. Patty Osman is helping Rev. Alexis record the information from those surveys so the results are ready for Rev. Sarah when she returns from her vacation.

If you were not with us that Sunday or did not have an opportunity to fill out the survey, we invite you to do so online [here](#). It takes all of us coming together as the many parts of the one body of Christ to have a strong ministry together as First Christian Church.

Please prayerfully consider what ways you might share your gifts of time and talents during this time of transition. And thank you for all the ways you already are contributing to our life together!

Small Group Series: The Roman Empire and the New Testament

Beginning August 16, our first small group series will delve into the New Testament's context utilizing Dr. Warren Carter's book: *The Roman Empire and the New Testament: An Essential Guide*. Participants will receive an email this week with additional information, but it would be good for you to know that while our current collection is small right now, more copies of the book for participants will be available at the church office this coming Friday or Monday.

It's delightful to share that the Monday midday and evening groups are full right now. Still, if you'd like to be part of the discussion or if you'd like to engage with the material we use at your own pace, please email Alexis@firstchristianjcmo.org. We might have enough interest to offer one more group opportunity.

Reminder for this Sunday and Gratitude

This Sunday, you're encouraged to B.Y.O.P. (Bring Your Own Pencil or Pen) to church or have one ready if you're joining us online. Rev. Alexis promises that there will not be a quiz or essay assignment, nor will you have to leave your seat and draw in front of everyone, but you will need one to engage with part of the sermon. Paper will be provided with the bulletins.

Those of you joining us in the sanctuary might have noticed a difference in the bread we are using for communion. This change is for the "Bread of Life" sermon series and is made possible through the efforts of Jeanne Nelson and Virginia Lister. We hope the difference in the bread for this season serves as another way to reflect upon what is meant by "bread of life" and how we can partake of it. Thank you Jeanne and Virginia for making this experience possible. *(continued on following page)*

Coffee House Open Office Hours for August

I am going to work from the Coffee Zone at 130 E High Street from 8:30 AM - 10:30 AM on Thursday mornings from August 5-19. You're welcome to join me for coffee and conversation at any point during that time frame or email me at Alexis@firstchristianjcmo.org to arrange another time to meet. As weather and space permit, I plan to be sitting at one of the tables outside.

After August 19, I plan to continue hosting coffee house hours but will need to change the day of the week. If you have been wanting to join me but have not been able to do so due to timing or location, I'd appreciate learning what might be helpful for me to take into account as I plan for September.

One of my favorite parts of ministry is the opportunity to spend time with members and listen to whatever you'd like to share. Let me know if you plan to stop by so I can look forward to seeing you.

With You on the Journey,

Rev. Alexis

Alexis@firstchristianjcmo.org

Baby & Toddler Clothes & Toys

We are pleased to announce that we have gently used baby and toddler clothes from Newborn to 4T. We also have some toys. If you are in need of these, please contact the church office to make arrangements to let you in to the room where they are stored.

Volunteer Recognition

Do you have church volunteers you would like to recognize? Individuals or groups you think deserve some thanks for the work they have been doing? Contact Rev. Alexis or Rev. Sarah with suggestions and for more information about how you can help us celebrate the hard work of our volunteers!

Bible Study

Join Rev. Sarah or Rev. Alexis for Bible Study every Wednesday!

Noon in the Activities Room

Bring your Bible

Due to scheduling conflicts we will no longer be meeting on Zoom at 6:45PM. Check out Rev. Alexis' information about small group offerings for other opportunities!

OFFICE NOTES

Church office hours are 8AM to 5PM Monday through Friday. Kathy takes a lunch hour somewhere between 1:30PM and 3:00PM [usually 1:45PM to 2:45PM]. If you need to drop something off at church, or need to speak with Kathy, coming in before 1:30PM or after 3:00PM is the easiest way to know someone will be in the office.

Rev. Dr. Jim Hill is in the office on Mondays and Tuesdays, besides being here on Sundays. You may always get in touch with him by email Jim@firstchristianjcmo.org or by calling the church office.

Rev. Sarah can be contacted by phone or email Sarah@firstchristianjcmo.org. She has office hours on Mondays from 2 - 4PM and is off on Thursdays.

1ST SUNDAY AUG 1

8:20AM

ELDER

Patty Osman
David Avery

LITURGIST

Rita Starnes

DEACONS

Allen Posz
Marsha Posz
Kathy Brown
Venita Jackson

USHERS

Doug Hagenhoff
Milinda Dawson

COMMUNION PREP

Virginia Lister

10:40AM

ELDER

Ray Miles
Wanda King

LITURGIST

Beth Nolte

DEACONS

Brian Knight
Kara Knight
Tyler Fishback
Miranda Fishback

USHERS

Jim Dunwiddie
Russ Dunwiddie

2ND SUNDAY AUG 8

8:20AM

ELDER

J.T. Yarnell
Cindy Leveron

LITURGIST

John Blosser

DEACONS

Ken Littlefield
Nancy Samp
Linda Ringo
Nancy Hequembourg

USHERS

Joe Payne
Nike Thompson

COMMUNION PREP

Meghan Hagenhoff

10:40AM

ELDER

Bob Priddy
Laura Avery

LITURGIST

Brenda Foutes

DEACONS

Blair Johnson
Sally Moore
Charles Highland
Steven Claycomb

USHERS

Debi Wells
Georgia Griffith

3RD SUNDAY AUG 15

8:20AM

ELDER

Ann Littlefield
David Avery

LITURGIST

Bobbi Enslin

DEACONS

Lauren Eichelberger
Chris Lloyd
Marsha Graham

USHERS

Greg & Sherry
Fitzpatrick

COMMUNION PREP

Karen Shroyer

10:40AM

ELDER

Wanda King
Steve Waters

LITURGIST

Georgia Griffith

DEACONS

Missy Mann
Jessica Bivin
Shaun Crisp
Leigh Love

USHERS

Morris Woodruff
Stephen Foutes

4TH SUNDAY AUG 22

8:20AM

ELDER

Cindy Leveron
J.T. Yarnell

LITURGIST

Nancy Samp

DEACONS

Doug Hagenhoff
Jenny Hagenhoff
Barb Gage
Kathy Cavender

USHERS

Kathy Cavendar
Rick Vaughan

COMMUNION PREP

Sandy Robinson

10:40AM

ELDER

Barbara Kuebler
Melanie Highland

LITURGIST

Maren Moore

DEACONS

Stephen Foutes
Brenda Foutes
Sherry Anderson
Ashley Crisp

USHERS

Marsha & Allen
Posz

5TH SUNDAY AUG 29

8:20AM

ELDER

Alan Nelson
Bob Priddy

LITURGIST

John Kuebler

DEACONS

Lauren Eichelberger
Chris Lloyd
Marsha Graham

USHERS

Greg & Sherry
Fitzpatrick

COMMUNION PREP

Karen Shroyer

10:40AM

ELDER

Steve Waters
Cecile Landrum

LITURGIST

Andrew Highland

DEACONS

Missy Mann
Jessica Bivin
Shaun Crisp
Leigh Love

USHERS

Morris Woodruff
Stephen Foutes

INTERIM MINISTER
 Rev. Dr. James Hill
 Jim@firstchristianjcmo.org

ASSOCIATE MINISTER
 Rev. Sarah Kingsbery
 Sarah@firstchristianjcmo.org

ASSISTANT MINISTER
 Rev. Alexis Engelbrecht
 Alexis@firstchristianjcmo.org

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY
 Gretchen Huedepohl
 Gretchen@firstchristianjcmo.org

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
 Kathy Speidel
 Kathy@firstchristianjcmo.org

FACILITY & GROUNDS COORDINATOR
 Scott Campbell
 Scott@firstchristianjcmo.org

BELL CHOIR DIRECTOR
 Terri Lloyd
 Terri.schenkel.lloyd@gmail.com

CONTACT US AT
 327 East Capitol Avenue
 Jefferson City, Missouri 65101
 Phone: (573) 636-5157
 Fax: (573) 893-5608
 firstchristianjcmo.org

FINANCIAL
 Finance@firstchristianjcmo.org

 Login with Facebook

facebook.com/fccjcmo

AFTER HOURS EMERGENCIES:
 Please contact Rev. Kingsbery at 573-690-2480 **Non-emergency** church-related items after working hours, Monday thru Friday 8AM to 5PM, we have voice mail. Please feel free to call the church (573-636-5157) at any time and leave a message. **NOTE: IF YOU LEAVE A MESSAGE ON THE ANSWERING MACHINE ON FRIDAY (AFTER 5PM), SATURDAY, OR SUNDAY, IT WILL NOT BE CHECKED UNTIL MONDAY MORNING. THANK YOU.**

 The next *Church Bell* will be sent August 18, 2021.
 (Articles are due by noon the Monday before)



MOBILE GIVING
 -TEXT 4842368 TO 715-803-4772
 AND FOLLOW THE PROMPTS ON YOUR PHONE

-DOWNLOAD THE "GIVERS APP"
 (FROM CONTINUE TO GIVE)



Zoom Meeting Room meeting ID is **2202286773**.
 If you need the password, please contact the church office at 573-636-5157 or one of our leaders. To join in on our free conference calls, dial (712) 775-7270 and enter access code 444928.

Please email or call Tina Mollenkamp tinamollenkamp@cgcb.org/573-522-4314, if you would like to be on Common Grounds email newsletter list, regular mailing list, or both. As an alternative, you can also sign up for the email newsletters on our website at www.cgcb.org.



You may also give online at firstchristianjcmo.org/donate

Financial Records and Questions

Questions related to giving and church finances should be sent to Carol Kaylor at finance@firstchristianjcmo.org. We have contracted with CALD services, a local accounting firm specializing in religious non-profits, to provide these critical functions.

Who Are We? We call ourselves Disciples, a community of believers who follow Jesus by *worshiping* God, *growing* in faith, and *serving* all in need. Bound to each other in Christ's love, we discover our life together through *sharing* life with the world.

WEBSITES YOU NEED TO STAY CONNECTED

Mid-America Updates: <http://www.mid-america-disciples.org/newsletter-signup/>
 Disciples News Service Updates: <http://disciples.org/dns/subscribe-to-dns/>

"The Church Bell" (UPS 110-580) by First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Jefferson City, Missouri, is published bi-weekly and there is no issue the week between Christmas and New Year's Day. Periodicals paid at Jefferson City, Missouri. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Editor/Church Secretary, First Christian Church, 327 East Capitol Avenue, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101.