

The Church Bell

December 22, 2021

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

Celebrating Christmas

Dr. Jim Hill

Interim Senior Minister

The birth of Christ was the central event of human history. It is literally the moment by which we date our very existence. It is the ultimate expression of God's love. When we could not find our way to him, he came to us in the person of the Son to save us. Jesus is our Savior. How much more vulnerable could God have been than to enter our world as an infant. God entrusted his only Son to the care of our world, and we repaid God's generosity by crucifying Christ. Jesus was born and died a Savior. On Christmas Eve, as we celebrate the greatest gift of all, we will give praise and thanksgiving to God for a Savior. We light the last of our Advent candles, the Christ candle, acknowledging God's gift of a Savior!

One of my favorite parts of the Christmas celebration each year is the opportunity we have to hear the story of Christmas in all its simplicity and beauty. It is an old, old story that never grows old. It is a story which we love to hear and to tell over and over again. The wonder of the story of Christmas is that each year as we share it again there are those who hear it for the first time. God's Spirit has the power to use the gospel accounts to move the hearts of men and women around the world.

Throughout history authors have written short stories and novels which attempted to demonstrate how the message of Christmas could change lives. Yet none of our classic Christmas stories and traditions can capture the hearts of men and women like the simple accounts recorded by the Gospel writers. It is my prayer that the story of Christmas will penetrate our hearts and lives through the power of God's Spirit. I hope you have a wonderful and blessed Christmas and may the presence of our Savior fill your hearts and lives in the coming year.

The end of the year is also a time when many people try to catch-up on their personal stewardship. Sometimes people are able to make a special gift to their church. Obviously, the pandemic has impacted the church's offerings as it has many other areas of our lives. I hope you will consider helping First Christian Church with an end-of-the-year gift. If you would like to make a gift and have it credited toward your 2021 giving, you may make an offering any time before the end of the calendar year. If you are unable to be present you may also make your gift online or you may mail your offering to the church as long as it is postmarked no later than December 31st. We are grateful for your faithful support of the ministries of our church.

I hope you will remember during this Christmas season, with all its activity, to share the message of Christmas with someone. Share with someone the meaning of Christ's birth. Share with someone who needs a Savior who's coming brought good tidings of great joy. That is why we celebrate Christmas. I hope you have a wonderful Christmas.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

We pray for these

Gene Adkison, Beverly Anderson, Austin Brandt, Steve Brown, Jane Burd, Nellie Campbell, Richard Carroll, Doug Defreeze, Ken Dykes, Jodean Foster, Marilyn Gross, Cheryl Hanson, Norma Hasselman, Jeanette Hickman, Venita Jackson, Brooks Jarrett, Shirley Jarrett, Jessica Kozlen, John and Barb Kuebler, their daughter Julie, their granddaughters Campbell and Willa, and the Noonan family, Matthew Lang, Michael Lister, Wendy Miles, Jackie Possinger, Starlin Sims, Doris Yelton, for the Brandenburg, Cooley & Miller families, Our Country and our men and women serving our country, the world

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

HEISINGER

Shirley Ferguson

Barbara Nikodyn

Norma Woodson

JC MANOR

Jackie Possinger

OAK TREE VILLA

Shirley Jarrett

PRIMROSE RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

Norma Hasselman

Wendell & Myra Hubbs

Jessie Schell

STONEBRIDGE AT OAK TREE

Marilyn Gross

ST. JOSEPH'S BLUFFS

Doris Yelton

HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

Mariam Craddock

OUT-OF-TOWN MEMBERS

Betty Schramm

Betty Schulte

MERAMEC BLUFFS

Richard Carroll

December and January Birthdays and Anniversaries

DEC	30	6	15	25
22	31	<i>John & Nancy</i>	Donna Cook	Dominique Harrison
River Reeves	Sarah Jones	<i>Hequembourg</i>	16	Lauri Woodruff
<i>Jim & Debi Wells</i>	Jennifer Sapp	7	Cindy VanCamp	26
23	<i>Chris & Michelle</i>	Ken Littlefield	17	27
24	<i>Sheppard</i>	8	18	28
25		Norma Hasselman	Cecile Landrum	Chris Graham
Richard Carroll	JAN	9	Hayden Markway	Jacqueline Natsch
Mark Millard	1	Allen Posz	19	Jana Millard
26	Don Clayomb	Richard Vaughan	20	29
Mary Ann Weaver	Missy Mann	Steve Waters	Nancy Hequembourg	Abbigale Ramirez
27	2	10	21	John Kuebler
Ann Lane	John Giles	11	Andrew Schramm	Marsha Graham
28	3	12	22	30
Seth Sims	Almira Clardy	13	23	Gerald Massman
29	Ingrid Caldwell	Sara Amick	David Reeves	Lisa Ramirez
Carolyn Green	Raven Ballard	14	Katy Ramirez	Olivia Wood
Rochelle Reeves	4	Jon Miller	24	31
<i>Chris & Stephanie Bell</i>	Melody Boling	Jeff Huedepohl	Dan McClard	Ethan Snyder
<i>Lucas & Melody Boling</i>	Val Dunn	Millie Jones	Sandy Zimmerman	Sue Tussey
	5	<i>Jon & Amy Schwartz</i>		
	Talia Jackson			

CWF Mary Circle meetings resume

Mary Circle meets the 1st Monday of each month at 1:00 PM in the gathering area. (No meetings in June, July and August). Our members have developed a close bond of friendship and fellowship. Our members participate in the Church's programs, and remember our Circle's homebound for birthdays and special days. We also provide dinners to bereaved families of our Circle. We always welcome new members. **Our next meeting is Monday, January 3, 2022 at 1:00 PM.** If you have questions, please contact Virginia Lister or Rev. Sarah.

Thank You!

Thank you to everyone for your prayers, phone calls, cards, texts and visits after my recent surgery and recuperation. My FCC church family and ministers were a big reason for my quick recovery. I am also so grateful for my prayer shawl. It is a wonderful ministry, and it provides a lot of comfort. God has been so good to me during this time.

*Love and Blessings to all,
Patty Osman*

Nursery Volunteers Needed

First Christian Church has employed Maria Wolfrum as our new Nursery Coordinator. We are also seeking to employ some additional Nursery Workers. Contact Maria (firstchristiannursery@gmail.com) or the church office at (573) 636-5157 if you know of someone who might be interested.

Maria is expecting a baby around Christmas Day. We are looking for a few volunteers who would be willing to work in our nursery for the 7:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Service and for the 10:00 a.m. Worship Service on December 26th. Please contact the office if you can help with either of these needs.

Children's Sunday School Schedule

The Children's Sunday School class meets at 9:30 AM on the 2nd and 4th Sundays.

Bible Study Resumes January 5

Our weekly Bible Study sessions resume on Wednesday, January 5. We meet in the Activities Room from noon-1PM. No reservation is required, and we invite you to attend as you are able. If you have questions, please contact Sarah@firstchristianjcmo.org or Alexis@firstchristianjcmo.org.

Year-end Contributions

Carol Kaylor, our church accountant, will be in the office from noon to 3:00PM on Thursday, December 30th, for anyone who wishes to submit contributions for 2021. You may also go to our website - firstchristianjcmo.org/donate - and submit your contributions online.

Contributions can also be sent by mail as long as they are postmarked December 31, 2021. Please check with the post office as to their cut-off time for the postmark.

Ways for Parent and Guardians to Connect

Rev. Alexis will host a casual check-in Zoom session during which parents and guardians can sign in at any time between noon and 1PM on Tuesday, January 4. We will then revisit the offering of these check in opportunities and welcome your feedback in terms of when and how they are offered. You can join by following this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87825019003>.

Our Parent and Guardian Faith Conversations facilitated by Erin Lepper will meet on Sunday, January 16 from 3-4 via Zoom. Parents and guardians can join the Zoom meeting using this special link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83744778126>. More information regarding the topic of this month's theme will be provided closer to the date.

Contact Rev. Alexis to learn more: Alexis@firstchristianjcmo.org.

One-Time Sermon on the Mount Session

You're invited to a special January gathering during which we will engage with a DVD prepared by Dr. Amy-Jill Levine. In it, she summarizes the main ideas within each of the chapters from her book that served as our guide during our Sermon on the Mount series. This is a one-time gathering for those who could not attend every session during the past series and for those who would like to hear and discuss Dr. Levine's reflections. Each chapter's lecture is about 10 minutes, and we will pause between each one for discussion.

To share your interest and availability, complete the following survey by Friday, December 24 (Christmas Eve): <https://forms.gle/WAiNaLXQQAdzobYW7>. I can share the most popular option before January 1. Depending upon interest, there might be one session at church and another via Zoom.

With You on the Journey,
Alexis
[*Alexis@firstchristianjcmo.org*](mailto:Alexis@firstchristianjcmo.org)

OFFERING ENVELOPES

As you know, each year you anxiously await the arrival of your box of envelopes with your # and your address label attached.

Like any other church congregation, some of you give your tithes and offering weekly, others twice a month, others monthly, and others electronically. Providing a box with #'d envelopes for each Sunday results in a considerable amount of waste: time, money and trees. In reality, the box #'s are not used to record your tithes and offerings; your checks are electronically scanned and recorded to your giving record.

You will find offering envelopes in stacks for monthly, bi-monthly, or weekly on the table in front of the church office. We ask that you please select the envelopes that most closely match your needs. Thank you.

The 2022 Flower Chart is available on the table in front of the church office for you to choose a Sunday for flowers on the chancel. For our new members not familiar with this process, you may choose a Sunday "In Honor of" or "In Loving Memory of" a family member or loved one. We ask that each Sunday have only one basket of flowers, so all Sundays are chosen. The cost for a basket of flowers is \$29.95.

Serving this Month

Christmas Eve, December 24th

5:00PM Families Service

7:30PM Candlelight Service - Steve Waters/Cecile Landrum, Elders; Jeff & Sally Moore, Deacons; Karla Denny, Liturgist

**2ND SUNDAY
DEC 12**

820AM

ELDER

Steve Waters
Cecile Landrum

LITURGIST

Sherry Jordan

DEACONS

Ken Littlefield
Nancy Samp
Nancy Hequemborg

USHERS

Joe Payne
Nike Thompson

COMMUNION PREP

Meghan Andrews

10:40AM

ELDER

Ann Littlefield
Melanie Highland

LITURGIST

Barbara Kuebler

DEACONS

Blair Johnson
Steven Claycomb
Barb Gage

USHERS

Debi Wells
Georgia Griffith

**3RD SUNDAY
DEC 19**

820AM

ELDER

Alan Nelson
J.T. Yarnell

LITURGIST

Sue Snell

DEACONS

Lauren Eichelberger
Chris Lloyd
Marsha Graham

USHERS

Jim Dunwiddie
Russ Dunwiddie

COMMUNION PREP

Karen Shroyer

10:40AM

ELDER

David Avery
Laura Avery

LITURGIST

Susan Vaughn

DEACONS

Missy Mann
Jessica Saylor
Shaun Crisp

USHERS

Morris Woodruff
Stephen Foutes

**4TH SUNDAY
DEC 26**

ONE SERVICE

10:00AM

ELDER

Patty Osman
Ann Littlefield

LITURGIST

Barb Gage

DEACONS

Sherry Anderson
Jenny Hagenhoff

USHERS

Kathy Cavender
Rick Vaughan

COMMUNION PREP

Sandy Robinson

ELDER

Laura Avery
Ray Miles

LITURGIST

Barb Gage

DEACONS

Stephen Foutes
Brenda Foutes
Sherry Anderson

USHERS

TBD

**1ST SUNDAY
JAN 2**

ONE SERVICE

10:00AM

ELDER

TBD

LITURGIST

TBD

DEACONS

TBD

USHERS

Doug Hagenhoff
TBD

COMMUNION PREP

Virginia Lister

10:40AM

ELDER

Wanda King
Ray Miles

LITURGIST

Pat Amick

DEACONS

Jeff Moore
Sally Moore
Leigh Love

USHERS

Alan and
Jeanne Nelson

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

ASSOCIATE MINISTER
 Rev. Sarah Kingsbery
 Sarah@firstchristianjcmo.org

ASSISTANT MINISTER
 Rev. Alexis Engelbrecht
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DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY
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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 January 5, 2022.
 (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 (716) 427-1083 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 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.

THANK YOU

First Christian Church highly recommends that all worshiping with us wear a mask.
 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.

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/>

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