

The Church Bell

March 3, 2021

VOL. 77, ISSUE 5



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

Pastoral Ponderings

Brothers and Sisters,

I am sorry to have missed worshipping with you all today. An unexpected medical situation in our extended family required us to be in Ohio for a few days, but I anticipate returning to the church on Wednesday. Still, there are three important updates I wanted to share.

Congregational Meeting

We will have a Congregational meeting on Sunday, March 14th at 1 pm via Zoom. The two anticipated agenda items are approving the 2021 voting member list and designating some unallocated financial resources. While we do not anticipate this meeting taking very long, we want everyone in the church to participate in these conversations and decision-making processes. I hope you will be able to attend.

Worship Plans

Our recent survey was very helpful but revealed a complex picture of views within the congregation: a portion of our congregation wants to return to the sanctuary, another group prefers to worship outside, and a third segment continues to appreciate the option for virtual worship. The Worship Committee has digested these results and suggested a plan for consideration by our Administrative Board.

While we are still working out details and logistics, it would involve a return to our usual Sunday routine of a service at 8:20 and 10:40 later in March. Worship for both services would initially be in the sanctuary with the necessary public health requirements (masking, social distancing, etc.) Once weather allows (hopefully beginning with Easter!), we would attempt to offer the 10:40 service outside. One of the services would be shared virtually as well.

There is no way to satisfy everyone, but the worship committee has done a tremendous job wrestling with all the dynamics of the pandemic and the needs of our congregational life. Please stay tuned for more specifics in the next couple weeks, and know that we will need help from across the church to realize these hopes.



Maundy Thursday

This year we will join Jesus in the upper room, not by gathering at the church, but by bringing worship to you. The week of Maundy Thursday all church members will receive a box containing several elements for an interactive worship service. Then on the evening of Thursday, April 1st, we will come together on Zoom to praise God and share in communion. We think this is going to be a really fun and meaningful way of observing this important part of Holy Week. So, please hold that night open on your calendars and watch for requests to help be a part of either packing or delivering the boxes to our church members.

*Steadfast in hope,
Rev. Beau Underwood*

Webinar with Dr. Frederick Christian Bauerschmidt about "The Love that is God" on March 17, 2021 at 5:30 pm via Zoom.

Time for Prayer and Reflection Wednesdays During Lent

Each Wednesday during Lent you are invited to join us for an intentional time for Prayer and Reflection at 6:30PM on Zoom. Starting February 24th, we will spend about 30 minutes prayerfully reflecting on a scripture about wandering and sharing in a time of intentional confession and prayer.

Please note we will be using a different Zoom room for these gatherings. You can find us at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88625072978> Meeting ID: 886 2507 2978. If you have any questions, please contact Rev. Sarah at sarah@firstchristianjcmo.org.



Kids' Time Schedule

We will have Kids' Time on Zoom Sunday March 7th at 9AM.

We will **NOT** have Kids' Time Sunday March 14th through Sunday April 4th (Easter Sunday).

Watch your email and future *Bells* for information about Kids' Time day, time, and location for April and May.

Summer Camp 2021

The Mid-America Region is working on how to have a safe summer camp season. Camp Directors (including Rev. Sarah) are meeting on a regular basis and regional staff is coordinating with camp locations to determine best practices and expert guidance is able to be followed. Online registration is not yet available and once it is, there will not be any late fees.

Please save the dates for the following camps and watch for more information as it becomes available. We are also working on a tentative plan for an online camp opportunity.

CYF (9th-12th grade) - June 6-11

Chi Rho (6th-8th) - August 1-6

Combo (2nd - 5th)- June 12-16

Try-It (PreK-1st with adult family member) - August 6-8

Our Bodies, Our Faith - Dates TBD (8th&9th grade)

Thank You Card Makers!

A BIG "Thank You" to everyone who made and wrote cards for the employees of Capital Region Hospital! We were able to deliver 174 cards to Chaplain Tammy for her to distribute to departments, individuals, and employees in need of encouragement.

From Chaplain Tammy:

Everyone sends a BIG "Thank you" to each one who made and wrote cards for us. So many smiles and compliments to FCC have been shared with me. I appreciate my personal cards very, very much, as well. Thank you for sharing God's Love and encouragement!

Be on the look out for more information about our next card writing project for East School Staff coming soon!

Search Committee Prayer Request

Dear Brothers and Sisters—

The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. James 5:16 (NIV)

[People] ought always to pray and not lose heart. Luke 18:1 (ESV)

During this season of pastoral transition, the Search Committee and I would ask you to join us in an intentional time of prayer for forty days. The number forty has significance in the Bible. The number is mentioned 157 times in scripture. The Israelites were in the desert for forty years; Moses on Mount Sinai for forty days; Jesus spent forty days of reflection and meditation in the desert before beginning his ministry; Jesus spent forty days on this earth between his resurrection and his ascension. In that same spirit, please join us in forty days of prayer for wisdom and discernment by our congregation as a whole, for our Search Committee in particular, for Rev. Underwood and his family during this transition, and for the minister whom God has in mind for the next phase of our congregation's life.

We can begin whenever we choose to do so but if we begin on March 21st, the forty days would be complete on April 30th, the last day of Rev. Underwood's pastorate with us. The following table has suggestions for specific topics for prayer on each day.

40 Days of Prayer for First Christian Church Jeff City

As we enter both the search process for an Interim Minister and, eventually, a new Senior Minister and a time of strategic planning for our future, we invite you to lift up a prayer for the prompts listed below. You may also wish to lift up other prayers as your spirit guides you.

March 21	For the Holy Spirit to move through our church during these 40 days of prayer
March 22	For celebration of the gifts of ministry that we have received from Rev. Beau
March 23	For our Search Committee as they continue their work
March 24	For our church staff as they prepare for the upcoming transition
March 25	For our Strategic Planning Team and their discernment about our future
March 26	For our Board Chair, Steve Waters, as he leads us through this time
March 27	For our Regional Minister, Rev. Paul Koch, as he supports our search process
March 28	For the congregation as we wander and journey together
March 29	For God to comfort those feeling loss within our church
March 30	For hearts open to God's plan for our future
April 1	For the gift of community in difficult times
April 2	For the fears we carry about the future
April 3	For patience when faced with the unknown
April 4	For the experience of Easter hope in the midst of good-byes
April 5	For wisdom to ask the right questions of one another
April 6	For the process of gathering and sharing important information
April 7	For understanding that the coming months will require all of us to step up in service and love
April 8	For leadership from unexpected sources within our congregation
April 9	For creative ideas, inspiring dreams, and faithful hopes for our future
April 10	For faithful discernment of God's will for us
April 11	For reminders of God's presence with us on this journey
April 12	For the continued work of the Search Committee and Strategic Planning Team
April 13	For the work of our Ministry Team and Administrative Board
April 14	For the Holy Spirit to reveal to us the gifts of our congregation
April 15	For the Holy Spirit to reveal to us the gifts of our community
April 16	For the Holy Spirit to reveal to us the needs of our congregation
April 17	For the Holy Spirit to reveal to us the needs of our community
April 18	For our faithful stewardship of what the Holy Spirit reveals to us
April 19	For comfort as we face times of uncertainty
April 20	For all who are in need of healing in our congregation
April 21	For the work of the Worship Team and all who help us <i>Worship God together</i>
April 22	For the many ways we continue to <i>Grow in Faith together</i>
April 23	For the individuals and ministries who help us <i>Serve All in Need</i>
April 24	For a sense of completion and renewal as we approach the end of Rev. Beau's ministry
April 25	For Rev. Beau, Casey, and Jesse as we say Good-Bye
April 26	For First Christian Church and our future ministry
April 27	For comfort as we experience both grief and hope
April 28	For the right person to be available to become our Senior Minister
April 29	For the work of our incoming Interim Minister and our church staff
April 30	For the continued prayerful work of this church

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

We pray for these

Beverly Anderson, Steve Brown, Jane Burd, Richard Carroll, Wilma Collins, Gibson Archer Dudenhoeffer, Ken Dykes, Marilyn Gross, John & Barbara Gulick, Norma Hasselman, Philip Hawkins, Jeanette Hickman, Shirley Jarrett, Angie Kellard, Harold Libbert, Virginia Masters, Toni McNeal, Karen Meade, Dan & Sandy Meade, Vivian Murphy, Mae Oehring, Jackie Possinger, Joe Robey, Jessie Schell, Betty Schramm, Sue Steppelman, Barbara Walker, Sharon Williams, Janice Wood, Doris Yelton, Eileen, Dennis, Debbie, Desmond, 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

THE ARBORS AT WESTBROOK TERRACE PRIMROSE RETIREMENT COMMUNITY HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

Rita Connell

Norma Hasselman

Mariam Craddock,

BLUEGRASS TERRACE

Glenda Crow

Wendell & Myra Hubbs

OUT-OF-TOWN MEMBERS

Betty Schramm

HEISINGER

Richard Carroll

ST. JOSEPH'S BLUFFS

Doris Yelton

Betty Schulte

Shirley Ferguson

SUMMIT VILLA

Shirley Jarrett

Barbara Nikodyn

Norma Woodson

THE TIMBERS

Mae Oehring

JC MANOR

Jackie Possinger

VILLA MARIE

Terry Fockler

March Birthdays and Anniversaries

MARCH			
1		8	17
David Love	Wilma Collins	Brooke Hagenhoff	23
2	Barb Gage	Emelyn McClain	Susan Avery
3	9	18	John Blosser
Lilith Jones	Jim Morris	Debi Wells	Katherine Gonder
Sue Steppelman	10	19	Rebecca LaRock
<i>Keith & Karan West</i>	Phoenix Gilpin	Sharon Fockler	24
4	<i>Alan & Jeanne Nelson</i>	20	Sonya Cooley
Rick Brown	12	Michael Helton	25
Beth Nolte	Patricia King	Joy Powers	<i>Tim & Jan Alexander</i>
5	13	Lindsey Ruff	26
Alicea Mullen	14	<i>Rick & Judy Naught</i>	Russ Dunwiddie
6	Rick Vaughan	21	Kelly Verslues
Cash Fishback	15	Larry Neill	27
Quinnley Frye	Brett Kuebler	22	28
7	16	Gabriel Gonder	Keith West
Ruth Garver	Lily Gregory	Gemma Penn	<i>Ray & Wendy Miles</i>
<i>Michael & Allison Lauf</i>		Michelle Sheppard	29
			Becky McClain
			30
			31

Our condolences to Millie Jones on the loss of her husband Tom, who passed away February 24th. Visitation is Wednesday, March 3, at noon at Houser Millard with the service following at 1:00PM.

Our condolences to John Kuebler and family on the loss of his mother, Mary Margery Kuebler, who passed away on February 27, 2021. A graveside service will be held on Saturday, March 7th in Pittsburg, KS.

COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

First Christian Church's Communications Team needs members who can help our congregation in these difficult times communicate within our body and our larger communities.

Please help us make sure the face we present to others through our webpage, our Facebook posts, our *Church Bell* newsletter, our worship services, our outreach efforts, and other possibilities is strong, effective, and inviting.

If you have skills in web-based content, video and video editing, graphic design, social media— even non-internet skills such as coordinating information that others can post or develop— we need you.

Communication is vital to our "One Church, Many Places" efforts. Although the time will come when the pandemic lifts, a new senior minister arrives, and life becomes more normal, we will remain "One Church, Many Places" and the ability to communicate in so many ways will be central to our mission.

Please contact us at: communications@firstchristianjcmo.org

Bob Priddy, Communications Chair

SAVE THE DATE!

Sunday, April 25th, we will say our farewells to Rev. Beau, Casey and Jesse. Plans are still underway, and we will update you as soon as we have more information.

FOOD PANTRY

Thank you for always responding to our pleas when we have needed items. At this time, we are well stocked and **DO NOT** need any more egg cartons. We will be sure to let you know when we do again. Thank you!

Cindy Leveron

NEW ONLINE CONNECTION CARD

Like our in person attendance pads, this form will help us connect with members and visitors alike. Please take a moment to click on the link that will be in the weekly Sunday morning email and posted on Facebook and make note of how you are joining us for worship! There is also a place for you to note any prayer requests and if you would like Rev. Beau or Rev. Sarah to contact you.

Thank you for helping us stay connected in this small way!

An Update from Alexis, Our Youth Director

Special Invitation from Alexis, Our Youth Director

I'm thrilled to share that New Testament Scholar, author, and one of my favorite professors, Dr. Warren Carter has kindly agreed to join me to answer questions regarding what we have discussed in our intergenerational groups. While the timing of his session with us will be to mark the end of our LORD's Prayer series in April, participation in the LORD's Prayer Lab series is not required to attend - all First Christian Church members and friends are welcome.

You can express your interest in attending the Zoom event, share your availability which will be used to determine the Zoom session's date and time, and include any questions you might have by following this link by Friday, March 5: <https://forms.gle/AiZSq3myuY6ECVmP7>.

Dr. Carter was awarded the John Gammie Distinguished Scholar award by the Southwest Commission on Religious Studies in 2014. His latest published book, a commentary on Mark for the Wisdom Commentary series received The Academy of Parish Clergy 2020 Reference Book of the Year, 2020 Association of Catholic Publishers first place award in Scripture, and the third place award for best new religious book series by the 2020 Catholic Press Association third place. I was delighted to be Dr. Carter's research assistant for his commentary on Matthew over the summer, which does not yet have a publishing date. I'm looking forward to introducing him to those who attend.

With You On the Journey,
Alexis
alexis@firstchristianjcmo.org

Youth Update

Our Lenten Journey with Matthew 4: 1-11 continues through March 28. Two intergenerational groups with participants in 6th grade and beyond meet on Sunday (one in the afternoon and one in the evening) via Zoom. Right now, 25 individuals engage with a devotional I have prepared with 19 people attending our weekly Zoom sessions. More important than the numerical size of the groups are the quality of our interactions. People of all ages support and learn from one another during our sessions. Families and interested members are welcome to contact me to receive the material with or without committing to Zoom sessions.

In April, we will finish the LORD's Prayer series and begin a new series that explores ways to read and write prayers through May. Stay tuned to learn more about how to register for that experience.

If you have not yet done so, please be sure to express your interest and availability in attending a session with Dr. Carter and me in April by following this link: <https://forms.gle/AiZSq3myuY6ECVmP7> by Friday, March 5. Dr. Carter is looking forward to time with us.

Please let me know if you have questions, would like to connect, or have news to share that I can celebrate with your family or hold in prayer with you.

With you on the journey,
Alexis
alexis@firstchristianchurchjcmo.org

Scholarships Are Due March 30th

All graduating high school seniors are encouraged to apply. Application forms may be obtained from the church office, or from Alexis Engelbrecht, our Youth Director.

Join our Zoom Fellowship Room on Sunday Mornings!

If you are worshiping with us virtually on Sunday mornings via Facebook Live, we would love to have you join us in the [FCCJCMO Zoom Room](#). Because we share the Facebook Livestream directly, this is a great option if you have trouble with the Facebook site or app. The room opens at 9:45AM and is available for fellowship before service and until 11AM after worship. It is our virtual gathering area - hear our Sunday School teachers talking about next week's lesson before worship and say hi to the Friendship class as they gather for Sunday School at 11AM!

Let Rev. Sarah know if you have any questions or would like to schedule a time to learn how to get connected on Zoom.

Come as you are! We would love to have you join us, even if you just rolled out of bed.

If you would like a copy of Sunday's Bulletin or Sermon emailed to you, please let Kathy know so she can add you to the email or mailing list. If you have trouble downloading the Virtual Bulletin, please contact Rev. Sarah.

Have you moved, changed phone numbers, or emails? Want to put an updated picture of you and your family in our church directory? If so, please take a moment now and send those updates to Kathy@firstchristianjcmo.org, so we can update your church and pictorial directory records.

The 2021 Flower Chart

is available on the bulletin board across from the 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. If you would like to give Kathy a call in the office at 573-636-5157, she will secure a Sunday for you.



SENIOR MINISTER
 Rev. Beau Underwood
 Beau@firstchristianjcmo.org

ASSOCIATE MINISTER
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 Sarah@firstchristianjcmo.org

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY
 Gretchen Huedepohl
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YOUTH DIRECTOR
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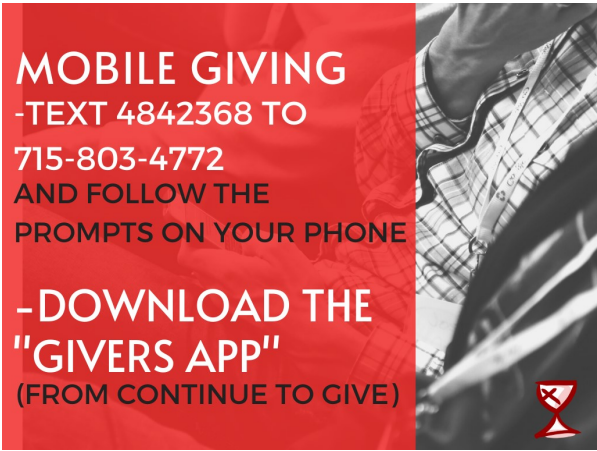
FINANCIAL
 Finance@firstchristianjcmo.org

 Login with Facebook

facebook.com/fccjcmo

AFTER HOURS EMERGENCIES:
 Please contact Rev. Underwood at 815-303-1990 **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 March 17, 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, Rev. Beau at 815-303-1990, 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.