

The Church Bell

November 24, 2021

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

God With Us

Dr. Jim Hill

Interim Senior Minister

This week we celebrate Thanksgiving. One of our nation's newer traditions is Black Friday when everyone gets a running start on Christmas shopping. I am not much of a shopper. I depend on my wife, Bettie Jo, to purchase most of the gifts for our children and grandchildren. I grew up in a large family, and for years we drew names and exchanged gifts. About 20 years ago we changed our tradition. We still draw names, but we exchange Christmas ornaments. The money we once spent on gifts we now collect. We take turns letting one family use the funds to provide Christmas for a family in need in their community. It is a lot more meaningful than trying to find a gift for a family member you might not have seen for months.

The older I grow, the more I understand that the gifts that are most precious are not the gifts we find in the department store. Usually, they are the gifts of your time and your energy serving someone in need. These gifts are like the gifts our Savior brought to us. His coming brought us peace, love, hope, and joy. The angel announced his birth to Joseph in Matthew's Gospel and said, *"She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."* Jesus gave us the gift of salvation. God gave us the gift of forgiveness and life. God gave us himself—God with us!

Most people who know me well know that I love Christmas. Our family has lots of special traditions. The Christmas season is one of my favorite times of the year. When I served as pastor of local congregations Advent was always a special time, and I looked forward to the opportunity to preach on the great Advent themes. Throughout his life Jesus shared with the people that he had come for a specific reason. Why did Jesus come? What is the justification for the celebration? Why should we observe the season? There must be more to it than decorations, special dinners, gift exchanges, and hectic schedules. Obviously, there is a great deal more to Christmas than these temporary things.

Christmas is the season when we celebrate the *advent* of God's Son into our world. In Matthew's Gospel Jesus said, *"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them."* Christ came to fill them full of new meaning. His coming was intended to change everything about our lives and our world. What a tragedy for the celebration of Christ's coming to come and go and make no difference in our lives. Yet, for many people who have not experienced his love and grace, the celebration of Christ's *advent* fails to make a difference in their lives.

This Sunday is the first Sunday of Advent. This is a wonderful season of the year as we anticipate the birth of the Savior and the beginning of the Christian year. We will be lighting the candles on our Advent wreath each week. We will be sharing the songs and hymns of the Advent and Christmas season. We will be exploring our Advent theme, *"God with us."* This Sunday I will be sharing a message from Jeremiah 33:14-16, *Keeping Promises*. I hope you will invite a friend and join us for worship on the Lord's Day.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

We pray for these

Gene Adkison, Beverly Anderson, Dot Baker, Steve Brown, Jane Burd, Nellie Campbell, Richard Carroll, Darlene Charles, Doug Defreece, Nancy Dunwiddie, Ken Dykes, Jodean Foster, Marilyn Gross, Cheryl Hanson, Norma Hasselman, Jeanette Hickman, Venita Jackson, Brooks Jarrett, Shirley Jarrett, Jessica Kozlen, Matthew Lang, Michael Lister, Vivian Murphy, Patty Osman, Jackie Possinger, 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

COLUMBIA POST ACUTE

Glenda Crow

HEISINGER

Shirley Ferguson

Barbara Nikodyn

Norma Woodson

JC MANOR

Jackie Possinger

OAK TREE VILLA

Marilyn Gross

Shirley Jarrett

PRIMROSE RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

Norma Hasselman

Wendell & Myra Hubbs

Jessie Schell

ST. JOSEPH'S BLUFFS

Doris Yelton

HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

Mariam Craddock

OUT-OF-TOWN MEMBERS

Betty Schramm

Betty Schulte

MERAMEC BLUFFS

Richard Carroll

November & December Birthdays and Anniversaries

NOV	3	10	15	25
24	Leigh Love	Jane Beetem	16	Richard Carroll
25	<i>Robert & Leigh Love</i>	Daniel Love	17	Mark Millard
Carson Lepper	4	<i>Shannon & Katie Imler</i>	18	26
26	Wendell Hubbs	11	Virginia Lister	Mary Ann Weaver
Brenda Ruff	Allison Lauf	Brian Knight	Sally Moore	27
27	5	Ken Lane	June Spencer	Ann Lane
Chase Penn	Sondra Gonder	David Durbin	Barbara Walker	28
28	Malique Harrison	Aaliyah Fadell	19	Seth Sims
Bill Trimm	Carolyn Link	12	Yolanda King	29
29	6	Gabriel Jackson	20	Carolyn Green
Shaun Crisp	Ken Dykes	Annie Jarrett	<i>David & Susan Avery</i>	Rochelle Reeves
30	John Gulick	Jay Floyd	21	<i>Chris & Stephanie Bell</i>
Sandi Helton	7	13	<i>Wendell & Myra Hubbs</i>	<i>Lucas & Melody Boling</i>
DEC	Cecily Highland	Cindy Blosser	22	30
1	8	Lily Foutes	River Reeves	31
Dale Findlay	Nancy Floyd	<i>Elizabeth Coffman & Bruce Wibberg</i>	Jim & Debi Wells	Sarah Jones
Melanie Highland	Jackie Possinger	14	23	Jennifer Sapp
Noble Knight	9	Steve Nolte	24	<i>Chris & Michelle Sheppard</i>
2	<i>Dominique & Kennysa Harrison</i>	Margo Williamson		
Hugh McKay				
Ian Schwartz				
Mark Snell				

Business Note: Herb B. Kuhn, former president and chief executive officer of the Missouri Hospital Association, was awarded MHA's Distinguished Service Award for his long service as a health care policy leader in Missouri and throughout the nation. The award, the highest honor given by MHA, was presented virtually this past week during MHA's 99th Annual Convention.

Richard Carroll New Address + Send Cards

Richard Carroll has moved to St. Louis. You are invited to send him a note at his new address to welcome to his new place and remind him of the love of his FCC Jefferson City community. His daughter, Lori, asked that we say "thank you" to everyone at FCC for their friendship, love and support of Richard over these last 60 years. *Richard Carroll, 50 Meramec Trail Dr. #347, Meramec Bluffs, Ballwin, MO 63021-3303.*

Potential FCC Kids After School Program

FCC is exploring the possibility of offering an after-school program for elementary age students in grades 1-5. The purpose of this program is to expand the children's ministry programs for the families of our church at a time that meets families' schedules.

A few details of the proposed program are as follows.

- Thursdays, 3:00-5:30. Due to various school and family scheduling some children may arrive a little later, some will leave a little earlier.
- Transportation would be provided from the Jefferson City elementary schools to church.
- Snacks would be provided.
- Programming would include a variety of activities including music, movement, stories, games, sports, art, crafts, choice time, etc. We will take our lead from the children.

We would like to schedule a parent meeting to determine if there is sufficient interest in such a program. A simple supper will be served for families attending the meeting. If your family is interested in learning more about this proposed program, please contact Terri Lloyd at 573-230-8009 to indicate the dates you are available to meet.

Thank You!

On behalf of the Search Committee many thanks to all those who helped and participated in the Heritage Celebration held November 5. A special "thanks" to program speakers including Bob Priddy, who continually shares his consummate skills as historian and story teller and who told our story over 140 years as a church family. Joining Bob to share their families' history with FCC were Virginia Lister, Marty Blosser Roberts, and Chris Graham.

The committee is appreciative to all who brought pies, served pies (Karen Shroyer, Nancy Priddy, and Becky Kuhn), and helped with set up and clean up. A special "thanks" to FCC members Shannon and Katie Imler, owners of the Ice Cream Factory, who furnished several flavors of ice cream. Finally, but not least, the committee is appreciative of Dr. Jim Hill who shepherded this event from planning to execution.

Updates from Rev. Alexis

Advent: Stories of God with Us An Invitation to Join

Last year's Advent experience provided ways for loved ones to connect across the country and sparked what have become enriching relationships between members of all ages. I am excited to share that we will continue the tradition of connecting both with the Holy and one another this year.

The theme for this year's small group Advent series is Stories of God with Us. We will consider what is revealed about God in our own stories of Hope, Joy, Peace, and Love while exploring those themes within the story of Jesus' birth in the Gospel we call Luke. Participating in this series provides a way to connect to and learn from one another in a meaningful way. Please contact Alexis this week to learn more. Currently, participants can choose from the following options:

Sundays from 9:30-10:30 at church from November 28 to December 19;

Mondays from 11:45-12:45 at church from November 29 to December 20; Mondays from 5:45-6:45/7PM via Zoom from November 29 through December 20.

There are intergenerational options for youth between grades 6th-12th grade, which can include special guests the adults in our congregation might invite (such as family friends, grandchildren, nieces, or nephews). Families with 6th-12th graders are encouraged to participate together. Youth might also want to invite a "grand" person, and they are welcome to do so. When in doubt, email me (Alexis@firstchristianjcmo.org). I'll be happy to answer your questions.

During a season in which materialism and other pressures can so easily capture our attention and energy, you are invited in the counter-cultural and sacred practice of developing your faith alongside your siblings in Christ.

*In Advent Hope, Joy, Peace, and Love,
Rev. Alexis*

Traveling with Our Ancestors: Advent Prayer Gathering Opportunity

Beginning Friday, December 4 at 9 AM Central, Rev. Sandhya Jha (author of Chalice Press' *Traveling with Our Ancestors Advent Devotional*) will host a 15-minute gathering starting with that Friday's devotion followed by a time of prayer. As she writes in her invitation: "It's a chance for us who are using the devotional to connect with and pray with each other as we journey towards the manger together." You can use the following link to register: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEqduqsqzkqHdG8bTddGWJh0dajUKOFj7wT?fbclid=IwAR09XE1TiPTWEC42bl13Oush2msc1PfQOCz90uHRqC6JlaSVZ8fyOrmoxo8k>

Rev. Jha is the planner and facilitator of this gathering. People from across the country will be joining for this time of quiet Advent reflection. If you have questions, please email Alexis@firstchristianjcmo.org.

Traveling with Our Ancestors by Rev. Sandhya Jha, our Advent devotionals are available now. You are invited to pick up one per family in the sanctuary or from the church office. A donation of \$5, designated "Advent Devotional," will help offset the cost but is not required.

More from Alexis on next page

Toward a Flourishing Community Zoom Series: Ubuntu Community Garden

The Sermon on the Mount begins with the Beatitudes - a list of what is needed in order for all members of a community to flourish. Participants in the Roman Empire and the New Testament learned that most people within the Roman Empire were not flourishing. Food insecurity, poor health, and other problems related to poverty and imperialistic values made life very difficult. The Roman Empire and the New Testament series and the Sermon on the Mount series prompted participants to want to seriously consider how we might be part of the movement toward what the Gospel writers call the Kingdom of Heaven. As part of our small group ministry, we will host what I hope will be several Toward a Flourishing Community sessions that will expand upon participants' questions and explorations by learning about the needs within our community and how we can be part of needed systemic change.

I'm very excited to share our first opportunity to learn from someone contributing needed resources and change within our community. Jennifer Ferguson, creator and cultivator of Ubuntu Community Garden is looking forward to spending time with us via Zoom on Thursday, December 9 from 11:45-12:45. A recording will be available for those who cannot attend. You can read more about Jennifer and Ubuntu Community Garden's mission here: <https://www.ubuntucommunitygarden.com/post/meet-our-founder>

The Zoom link for this session is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2202286773>

While an RSVP is not required, it would help me to know you plan to attend.

*With you on the journey,
Rev. Alexis*

Sermon on the Mount Series: Completed and Ongoing

While our weekly Sermon on the Mount sessions ended last week, there continue to be ways to learn and connect. First, you are invited to attend the Toward a Flourishing Community Zoom Session on Thursday, December 9 from 11:45-12:45 (see that section in the Bell for more information). Second, a special gathering during which we will watch and discuss Dr. Amy-Jill Levine's short lectures on each of the chapters in her book on the topic is being planned as well.

It continues to be a joy and honor to facilitate these sessions with such a thoughtful, curious, and kind community.

*In Gratitude,
Rev. Alexis*

Children's Sunday School Schedule

The Children's Sunday School class meets at 9:30 AM on the 2nd and 4th Sundays, including this Sunday, November 28th. On Sunday December 12th we will have a Christmas Celebration at 9:30AM during Sunday School **and after the 10:40AM service. There will be cookie decorating, ornament making, a game and more!**



East School (our Partner in Education) Opportunities

Christmas Wish List

The social worker and counselor from East School have identified a family with nine children that might benefit from a little extra TLC this Christmas. When we know some of their wishes and needs we will hang them on our Giving Tree as well as have an online signup. If you feel moved to shop for others or donate a monetary gift so others can shop, please consider this opportunity.

Block Party

East School is considering a Block Party for this spring and would like our involvement. In the past (pre-pandemic) FCC has hosted this party in the fall of the year and it has been a huge success. Many hands make light work and fellowship and fun abound. Any great event needs leadership and coordination. You may be just the person for this opportunity! Help us put together a team to plan another party for the East School families and the community at large. Contact Robin Grumm or Rev. Sarah if you would be willing to be a block party coordinator.

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, December 6th at 1:00 PM. Remember to bring your cookies for our shut-ins.** If you have questions, please contact Virginia Lister or Rev. Sarah.

Coats for East School

East School has a need for coats, hats, and gloves during the winter. First Christian Church will be collecting new and gently used coats for the children at East School for the next few weeks. New gloves and hats are also needed. Children's coats sizes 6-7 through adult large have been requested. Donations of coats, hats and gloves can be dropped off in the box near the office/gym windows. Additional coats will be purchased through a small grant to help with this need.

Nursery Volunteers Needed

Maria Wolfrum is beginning her service as our Nursery Coordinator. Missy Mann served in this role for several years as a volunteer, and she has helped us organize this new approach for our nursery. Maria is expecting her fifth child and is working toward a nursing degree. Maria will help ensure that we have qualified people to provide childcare during our Worship Services, Sunday School, and for other special events. She will also see that the nursery is adequately supplied with childcare resources, appropriate cleaning supplies, and snacks for the children. We want to provide a clean, safe, and loving childcare setting for our members and guests. Maria will help us enlist and provide supervision for other paid nursery workers. Maria will also provide backup for nursery workers who are unable to work as scheduled. We are currently seeking candidates to serve as nursery workers on Sunday mornings from 8:00 a.m. to noon.



If you know of someone who would be interested in working in our nursery, please contact the church office or Maria (firstchristiannursery@gmail.com). We anticipate having at least two workers in the nursery in keeping with our ministry and safety procedures. We are currently enlisting members of our congregation who would be willing to volunteer to assist a paid worker once a month to help provide childcare during our services. If you would be willing to serve as a volunteer assistant, you may click [here](#) to sign up or contact the church office 573-636-5157. Maria will be in touch to schedule a Sunday that works for you. All workers and volunteers must complete a background check, and volunteers must be at least 16 years old to assist in the nursery. Let us know if you can help.

Weekly Prayer Call

Every **Wednesday at 9:15 AM** we gather via conference call to share our prayer concerns and our celebrations and to lift them up to God together.

Call In Phone Number: (716-427-1083)

Access Code: 444928

Bible Study

Join Rev. Sarah and Rev. Alexis for Bible Study **Wednesdays at noon** in the Activities Room. We discuss the scripture for the coming Sunday.

Serving this Month

Christmas Eve, December 24th

5:30PM Families Service -

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

4TH SUNDAY NOV 28	1ST SUNDAY DEC 5	2ND SUNDAY DEC 12	3RD SUNDAY DEC 19	4TH SUNDAY DEC 26
820AM	820AM	820AM	820AM	ONE SERVICE 10:00AM
ELDER Cecile Landrum Stephen Waters	ELDER J.T. Yarnell David Avery	ELDER Steve Waters Cecile Landrum	ELDER Alan Nelson Cindy Leveron	ELDER Patty Osman Ann Littlefield
LITURGIST Cindy Blosser	LITURGIST Patty Osman	LITURGIST Sherry Jordan	LITURGIST Sue Snell	LITURGIST Carolyn Green
DEACONS Doug Hagenhoff Jenny Hagenhoff Kathy Cavender	DEACONS Marsha Posz Kathy Brown Venita Jackson	DEACONS Ken Littlefield Nancy Samp Nancy Hequemborg	DEACONS Lauren Eichelberger Chris Lloyd Marsha Graham	DEACONS Doug Hagenhoff Jenny Hagenhoff Kathy Cavender
USHERS Kathy Cavender Rick Vaughan	USHERS Doug Hagenhoff TBD	USHERS Joe Payne Nike Thompson	USHERS Jim Dunwiddie Russ Dunwiddie	USHERS Kathy Cavender Rick Vaughan
COMMUNION PREP Sandy Robinson	COMMUNION PREP Virginia Lister	COMMUNION PREP Meghan Andrews	COMMUNION PREP Karen Shroyer	COMMUNION PREP Sandy Robinson
10:40AM	10:40AM	10:40AM	10:40AM	
ELDER Laura Avery Ray Miles	ELDER Wanda King Ray Miles	ELDER Ann Littlefield Melanie Highland	ELDER David Avery Laura Avery	ELDER Laura Avery Ray Miles
LITURGIST Barb Gage	LITURGIST Pat Amick	LITURGIST Barbara Kuebler	LITURGIST Susan Vaughn	LITURGIST Barb Gage
DEACONS Stephen Foutes Brenda Foutes Sherry Anderson	DEACONS Jeff Moore Sally Moore Leigh Love	DEACONS Blair Johnson Steven Claycomb Barb Gage	DEACONS Missy Mann Jessica Saylor Shaun Crisp	DEACONS Stephen Foutes Brenda Foutes Sherry Anderson
USHERS TBD	USHERS Alan and Jeanne Nelson	USHERS Debi Wells Georgia Griffith	USHERS Morris Woodruff Stephen Foutes	USHERS TBD

🌲 🦌 🌲 SEASONS GREETINGS

FROM THE FOOD PANTRY GANG 🌲 🦌 🌲

Many, many "thank you's" to everyone for their very generous gifts over the last year and a half. This mission would not be possible without your help. God has inspired strength and creativity during Covid to keep us able to remain operational the entire time. Staff, and the community we serve, have been extremely cooperative in following CDC advice. Our patrons are very appreciative, and some work along side us. They bless us and our church. We see tears of gratitude frequently.

We believe we are offering not just needed food, but Christian love. As I always tell our fantastic volunteers, "It's not just about food." We treat everyone with kindness and respect, just as we hope to be treated.

As Christmas approaches, we have been asked how you can help. In general for food items, soups and creamed soups, sweet or salty snack items, canned Vienna sausages, canned tuna, box mixes or pouch-type side dishes, jelly, canned pork and beans, baked beans, cornbread mix, pie filling, jello or pudding, canned pineapple, canned corn and canned diced tomatoes.

(We are currently blessed with good amounts of peanut butter, cereal, canned fruits and vegetables other than those mentioned.)

For the kids: ages 1 through 5th grade in general, we will again make age appropriate Christmas gift bags.

Items needed, new please:

Crayons, coloring and activity books, puzzles, all age- safe new stuffed toys Hats, gloves, fuzzy socks, and socks

Good places to buy are Dollar Tree here in JC, the one in Linn and the 3 in Columbia if you are going to be in those areas.

Please know that anything you donate will be gratefully used. Nothing ever goes to waste.

In Christian Love,

Cindy Leveron
Director FCC Food Pantry

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 December 8, 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 (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 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/>

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