

The Church Bell

February 14, 2024

VOL. 30, ISSUE 3



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

Building Relationships - Continued

I'm writing this the day after the Kansas City Chiefs defeated the San Francisco 49-ers in Super Bowl LVIII in an overtime game that was incredibly played by both sides. Both teams left themselves on the field in efforts that took their all. It's hard not to like Kansas City given the trials and scrutiny they've received this year. I'll also note that it feels good to have something that brings us together when most everything else we hear is divided. For now, let's bask in the glow and enjoy the moment. Thanks be to God!

But that's not the main thing I want to share.

Heather and I've been working hard to think about this coming year. To be intentional to examine the year forward through the lens of much work that has been done from 2021-2022. In particular as that work relates to clarifying a mission and set of core values. One of those core values is **Fellowship**. We state that *"We seek to build genuine relationships allowing us to encourage one another and strengthen our ministry together."*

Most practically, Brenda Foutes and a team submitted the results and recommendations of a strategic plan to help guide ministry staff in working with congregational lay leadership. This during the difficult period of handling unforeseen ministry staff transitions. Not to mention beginning in the midst of a pandemic with all the push and pull that event brought to every congregation. It was bold and faithful for the planning team to step forward into that endeavor. We continue to press into the recommendations laid out for us as a guide.

Clearly, the need to build relationships is paramount in the recommendations. As the team wrote, we should seek *"opportunities to build stronger, genuine relationships amongst our congregational members and the community."* Their recommendation included efforts to create an *"inviting" environment, staff relationships, and to identify potential points of connection upon which stronger, genuine relationships can be built.*

Since coming to FCC and listening to folks, I hear in one form or another about the experience of attending for a while, but not feeling like they necessarily know others well. There's no judgment in that; just my sharing thoughts about the listening I've done and saying back what I think I'm hearing. This isn't uncommon for congregations, and the good news is that we can do some things about that!

One opportunity we're creating isn't necessarily fancy, but we hope it will create authentic time to get to know one another, even as we seek to understand our faith in Christ together. Starting February 21, we will begin a **Wednesday Evening Meal and Devotions**. Heather and I will be involved, of course, as well as inviting others from our community to share with us as special guests. Our theme for the meals and devotions will be Discipleship, since this is also a key element of what we're developing more broadly. Discipleship – the way we help form people to live faithful Christian lives as followers of Jesus – is ultimately the goal and measure of our ministry.

We'll start the meals and devotions on February 21 and end on May 22, before Memorial Day. So look for the details in this issue of the Bell. Details about signing up and the menu and eventually as we share your feedback about the experience once we're finished. We hope that everyone will commit to coming, being open, and find their place in the hope of learning something new.

Peace,

Michael

Rev. Dr. Michael Dunn



Wednesday Night Dinner

Beginning on February 21, join us for Dinner and Devotion. The meal will begin at 5:15 with fellowship and food. Beginning at 6:00, there will be a short devotional time. We will wrap up by 6:30. Use this link to sign up for meals. Please complete by Sunday so we can accurately plan for food.

<https://forms.gle/MABTWMDc8HCXmjLR8>

CONSIDER YOURSELF INVITED!

Sanctuary Flowers

If you have been to church lately, you may have noticed the Sanctuary Flowers. This is a wonderful way to honor a loved one, or simply donate an arrangement to beautify the Sanctuary.

Floral arrangements (\$29.95) may be purchased in memory or in honor of a loved one. The "Sanctuary Flowers Schedule" notebook located on the table in front of the chapel, is available to register your chosen date in 2024. Be sure to indicate whether the flowers are in "memory" or in "honor" of your loved one. Payment may be dropped off at the church office or placed in the offering plate. You can also order by contacting the front office.

Message from our Associate Minister

Hello friends!

In early January, I was officially approved for Ordination by the Mid-America Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ.) You are all invited to the service, which will take place at FCC in Fulton, MO on March 17th at 3 PM.

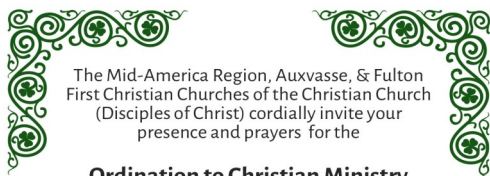
You might be wondering, “Just now? Hasn’t she already been in ministry for over a decade?” The answer to both those questions is, “Yes!”

Up until now, I have been serving as a *commissioned minister*. *Commissioned ministers are authorized by the governing body of their denomination (Regions for us) to serve in a certain congregation for a certain amount of time. If she or he is called to a new ministry location, they should ideally be “re-commissioned” by the Region. When the Region ordains a minister, they will have spent a significant amount of time getting to know that candidate and they agree that the candidate has met all kinds of criteria for ordination. Candidates for ordination must complete a program of study (not necessarily seminary, but usually.) Whereas a commissioned minister is a representative of a specific congregation, an ordained minister is a representative of the Church Universal.*

The ordination process is designed to take a while, because walking alongside people during the highest and lowest moments of life is not something to be entered into on a whim. During the process, a candidate must have the sponsorship and support of two congregations. That’s the reason my ordination will be taking place at First Christian Church in Fulton. They have been my sponsoring congregation since I started this journey in 2013 and they are glad to do this one last act of sponsorship, even though they have already lovingly released me to serve you fine folks of FCC JCMO.

I hope this answers any questions you might have about my upcoming Ordination and gives you a peek into the larger process. If not, as always you can feel free to reach out and I’ll be happy to chat more!

Peace & joy,
Rev. Heather



The Mid-America Region, Auxvasse, & Fulton
First Christian Churches of the Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ) cordially invite your
presence and prayers for the

Ordination to Christian Ministry
of

Heather Johnston Patten

on **March 17, 2024** at **3:00 PM**

at

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
6 E. 7th St.
Fulton, MO 65251

Reception to Follow

Clergy are invited to gather in the
education wing at 2:45 to process in
together. Wear robes and red stoles, if
you wish.



Rev. Heather Patten

NOTICE OF CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

A Congregational Meeting will be February 18, 2024 in the Activities Room at 9:45. This meeting is required by the FCC Constitution for the following reason:

Under the Constitution Active Members are defined as members who, in the last calendar year, have met one of the following criteria: (1) have attended Worship at least once in the preceding twelve-month period, (2) have made a financial gift to the Church at least once in the preceding twelve-month period, (3) are on active military duty, or (4) are considered a homebound member, and (5) are at least 14 years of age. Each January, a list of Voting Members, hereinafter, "Roll of Active Members," will be assembled by the administrative staff in consultation with the Board secretary, presented to the Administrative Board and approved by vote of the Congregation at an Annual meeting in January. The "Roll of Active Members" will only be updated throughout the year to reflect the addition of new Members of the Congregation as well as the removal of those lost through death, change in residence or transfer to another congregation, The Board will approve these changes, as necessary throughout the year. The Roll of Active Members will determine the members eligible to vote in all congregational meetings, except as specifically noted for issues related to the severance of the relationship between this congregation and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the liquidation or designation of endowment funds or financial resources for use beyond this purpose; or the selling of church property in excess of endowment funds or financial resources for use beyond this purpose or the selling of church property in excess of \$100,00(Article IX). Individual members unable to fulfill the expectations of active membership due to health or life circumstances, such as military deployment, may continue to be considered Active Members.

Associate Members are defined as those individuals who are Active members of First Christian Church while maintaining membership in another church or congregation outside the community. Associate Members maintain all privileges of Active Membership.

Non-active Members are defined as members who, in the last calendar year or more, have shown no measurable support of the Congregation through attendance activity and/or financial contribution. Non-active Members may be reclassified as Active Members in January of each year and returned to the "roll of Active Members" if the qualifications of Active Membership have been met at that time.

Please plan on attending this important Congregational meeting that will approve our list of Active Members for the 2024 year.

Prayerfully yours,

Ann W. Littlefield

Administrative Board Chair



Please Pray for OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Beverly Anderson, close friend of Sharon Gonder
Kathy and Steve Brown
Karla Denny
Sharon Gonder
Brooks Jarrett, brother of Annie Jarrett
Calise Lauf, friend of Sharon Gonder
Cindy Leveron while at MD Anderson Cancer Center
Greg Maire, fighting cancer
Dan and Sandy Meade, brother and sister-in-law of Mary Ann Weaver
Eva Pratt
Sheri Skalak, Milinda Dawson's roommate
Joyce Wagner

Our Country and our men and women serving our country.

Please call the office at 573-636-5157 or email at fccjcmooffice@gmail.com if you would like continued prayers for an individual or if an individual can now be removed from the list. Thank you!

***The Office will be closed on Monday, February 19, 2024
for President's Day.***



Attention High School Seniors: Members of FCC are invited to apply for scholarships to advance their education. These opportunities stem from the generous donations made to our Educational Scholarship Fund.

Pick up an application in the church office to get started. Applications are due April 1, 2024

Worship With Us

Please join us in worship every Sunday morning at 8:20 a.m. or 10:40 a.m. in the sanctuary. The 10:40 a.m. service is also Livestreamed on FaceBook at [facebook.com/fccjcmo](https://www.facebook.com/fccjcmo) for those who cannot worship with us in person.



GIFTS TO LIVE ON
 SPECIAL OFFERING | February 18-25, 2024
 Week of Compassion  FOR 80 YEARS

Week of Compassion Special Offering 2024

February 18 & 25

GIFTS TO LIVE ON

*[Jesus] looked up and saw rich people putting their **gifts** into the treasury; he also saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins. He said, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them, for all of them have contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in all she had **to live on.**"*

Luke 21: 1 - 4, NRSVue

Noisy Offering will be accepted on February 25. Bring your change to church on Sunday. This offering will go to support the Week of Compassion Special Offering and their work around the globe.



FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Jon and Lois Alexander 2/3

Gary and June Spencer 2/11

Tom and Mary Ann Weaver
2/14

We are still collecting baby wipes for Common Ground. The collection drive will continue through the month of February. Donation boxes are located by the Church Office, by the Elevator and by the Gym. Please consider helping Common Ground and the people they serve.

FEBRUARY

BIRTHDAYS

1 Dianna Payne	14 Benjamin Gonder
2 David Lichty	14 Tina Wood
2 Matt Tollerton	16 Barbara Gulick
4 Nancy Samp	16 Stephanie Durbin
4 Tucker Lane	17 Jamie Jackson
5 Trevor McClain	18 John D. Bennett
5 Brent Connell	19 Doris Park
5 Adam Walker	19 Connie Wade
6 Rick Ramirez	19 Peggy Williamson
7 Ashley Weaver	19 Ian Murphy
9 Terri Lloyd	19 Joyous Frye
9 Kathy Brown	19 Shannon Imler
10 Ashley Crisp	20 Stephen Smith
11 Jan Alexander	22 Rich Green
11 Michael Jones	22 Skyler Sims
12 Kory King	22 Harrison Imler
13 Rosie Woodruff	22 Eric Obmann
	25 Cyndi Roberts
	25 Kennysa Harrison
	27 Kayla Vegiard

Our Members in Care Centers

HEISINGER-1002 WEST MAIN JC MO 65109
SHIRLEY FERGUSON
BARBARA NIKODYN

JC MANOR- 1720 VIETH DR. JC MO 65109
JACKIE POSSINGER

LENOIR WOODS 3710 LENOIR ST.
COLUMBIA MO 65201
MARILYN BIESEMEYER

PRIMROSE RETIREMENT
1214 FREEDOM BLVD JC MO 65109
WENDELL & MYRA HUBBS
JOHN H. BENNETT

OUR HOMEBOUND MEMBERS
MARIAM CRADDOCK, 640 Murphy's Ford Road,
Centertown, MO 65023

OUR OUT-OF-TOWN MEMBERS
BETTY SCHRAMM, 923 Battlefield St. Apt. C102,
Springfield MO 65807
BETTY SCHULTE, 13458 Burgess,
Riley Township MI 48041
OPAL ELAINE WEST
Brookdale Rosehill Skilled Nursing,
Room 115, 12809 Johnson Drive,
Shawnee, KS 66216
EVA PRATT
3251 Pine Tree Dr., Columbia, MO 65201



SENIOR MINISTER
Rev. Dr. Michael Dunn
pastor@firstchristianjcmo.org

ASSOCIATE MINISTER
Rev. Heather Patten
heather.fccjcmo@gmail.com
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
Sharyl Kelsch
fccjcmooffice@gmail.com

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY
Gretchen Huedepohl
Gretchen@firstchristianjcmo.org

FACILITY & GROUNDS
COORDINATOR
Scott Campbell
maintenance@firstchristianjcmo.org

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

Financial
Finance@firstchristianjcmo.org

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



AFTER HOURS EMERGENCIES:
Please contact Rev. Michael Dunn at
713-447-5954.

For **non-emergency** church-related items after working hours, Monday thru Thursday, 8AM to 5PM, we have an answering machine. 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, SATURDAY, OR SUNDAY, IT WILL NOT BE CHECKED UNTIL MONDAY MORNING. THANK YOU.



The next **Church Bell** will be sent **February 28, 2024.** (Articles are due by noon the Friday 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: tinamolenkamp@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 their website at www.cgcb.org.



Who Are We? We call ourselves Disciples,
a community of believers who follow Jesus by Worshiping God,
Growing in Faith, Serving our Community.
Bound to each other in Christ's love,
we discover our life together through *sharing* life with the world.

You may give online at firstchristianjcmo.org/donate

THANK YOU

First Christian Church supports and welcomes the wearing of masks at your own comfort level.

WEBSITES YOU NEED TO STAY CONNECTED

Mid-America Updates: <http://www.mid-americadisciples.org/newsletter-signup/>
Disciples News Service Updates: <http://disciples.org/dns/subscribe-to-dns/>
Disciples Together (Resources for Pastors): <http://disciples.org/dns/disciples-together?>

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