

The Church Bell

March 13, 2024

VOL. 30, ISSUE 5



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

Forgiving One Another

In the heart of our Christian journey lies a profound and transformative concept: forgiveness. As Disciples of Christ, we are called to embody the spirit of forgiveness in our lives, following the example set forth by Jesus during his ministry.

Forgiveness is not merely an act of mercy, but a divine principle that permeates every aspect of our faith. It is through forgiveness that we experience healing, reconciliation, and the restoration of relationships—both with God and with one another.

Reflecting on the teachings of Jesus, we find numerous instances where forgiveness takes center stage. Jesus himself demonstrated radical forgiveness throughout his ministry, from forgiving the woman caught in adultery to extending grace to those who crucified him on the cross.

As followers of Christ, we are challenged to emulate his example by extending forgiveness to others, even in the face of great adversity. It is through forgiveness that we break the chains of bitterness and resentment, freeing ourselves and others from the burdens of past wrongs.

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus teaches us to pray, “Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors” (Matthew 6:12). This prayer reminds us of the inseparable connection between our own forgiveness and our willingness to forgive others. Just as we have been forgiven by God, so too are we called to forgive those who have wronged us.

Forgiveness is not always easy. It requires humility, patience, and a willingness to let go of our own desire for retribution. Yet, it is through this act of letting go that we find true freedom and peace in our hearts.

As we continue this journey through the season of Lent—a time of reflection, repentance, and renewal—let us recommit ourselves to the practice of forgiveness. Let us seek opportunities to extend grace to those who have hurt us and to seek forgiveness from those whom we have wronged.

May the spirit of forgiveness permeate our hearts and our community, transforming us into vessels of God’s love and reconciliation. Together, let us embrace the transformative power of forgiveness, knowing that through Christ, all things are possible and all things are made new.

Peace,

Michael

Rev. Dr. Michael Dunn



HOLY WEEK WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

These services are great opportunities to invite extended family and community friends to join us!

PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 8:20 and 10:40

Both worship services will provide an opportunity to wave palm branches and sing hymns often associated with celebrating Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Hymns will be accompanied by trumpeters, Dan McClard and Margaret Davis. Special anthems will be shared by the Chancel Choir and a duet by Sandra Troutt and Kent Bemberger.

Between services our annual donkey parade will take place for both children and adults desiring to walk to the Capitol and back. We are hopeful some of our church neighbors will join us once again! Thanks to Terri Lloyd, Christian Formation chair, for coordinating the details.

MAUNDY THURSDAY CANTATA, Mar. 28, 7:00 p.m.

The worship service begins with the Fellowship of the Table, remembering the night Jesus shared His last meal with His disciples, then continues with a Service of Tenebrae, a service of shadows reflecting on some of the final events of Jesus' earthly life and the persons who were a part of those events. Through Word and song and a visual act of confession, we not only remember these events, but acknowledge that we are not unlike those who surrounded Jesus. Our Savior died for *our sins of betrayal, desertion, lethargy, violence, denial, cynicism, irresponsibility, mockery and more.*

The Chancel Choir and guest soloists, accompanied by string quartet, flute, and percussion, will provide several powerfully moving anthems that highlight the drama and deep emotion of that week. If you've never attended one of our Maundy Thursday services, this would be a good year to commit to attending! Experiencing the shadows and darkness of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday will no doubt heighten the meaning of Easter for you!

EASTER, Mar. 31, 8:20 and 10:40 a.m.

Celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior in festival services that proclaim, "The Lord is risen! He is risen indeed!" A brass quartet will add to our celebration, as will the Chancel Choir and a soloist in offering joyous anthems. Please join us!



Service of Tenebrae

Presented by Chancel Choir, Soloists, and Instrumentalists

Maundy Thursday

THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 7:00 PM



Easter Lilies are available for purchase. These can be purchased "In Memory" or "In Honor" of your loved ones. Lilies are \$21.95. Please contact the Church Office or complete the form found in the back of the Sanctuary to order.

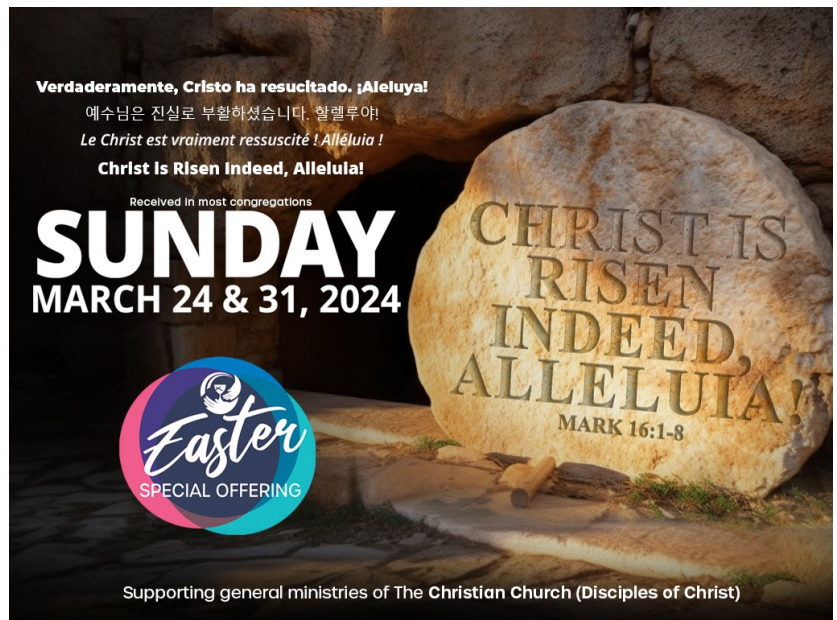


Join us for Dinner and Devotion. The meal will begin at 5:15 with fellowship and food. Beginning at 6:00, there will be a short devotional time. We will wrap up by 6:30. Watch your Friday emails for the link to use for the following Wednesday. Use this link to sign up for meals. Please complete by Sunday so we can accurately plan for food. March 20th's menu will be: Vegetable beef soup or Chicken noodle soup, cheese, crackers. This link is for March 20 <https://forms.gle/X8kJeu6qp7DbTroF9>

Easter Offering 2024

Several times a year, congregations receive a special offering to support the ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). These gifts are given above and beyond the regular core support of Disciples Mission Fund.

The Easter Offering, received by most congregations on March 24 & 31, 2024, supports several of the general ministries of the Christian Church. Your gift supports college students in leadership development programs, global mission partners, health and social service ministries, the formation of new congregations, support for pastors and chaplains, and so much more.



Housing the Community Jefferson City (HCJC)

As you may recall, last fall the board decided not to host the homeless during the day in our education wing. However, the board strongly supported assisting HCJC in finding and financing a permanent location. Consistent with that, our Missions program offered to match member donations up to \$50,000 for this worthy cause. Thus far, we have only received \$4120.70. We have until May 5 for our matching campaign. This is a great opportunity to show that we really do support HCJC having a permanent location for their work. If you support a permanent location to support the homeless, now is the time to step up! Less than 2 months remain in our matching campaign.

Blessings:

John Blosser

Message from our Associate Minister

Dear FCC JCMO family,

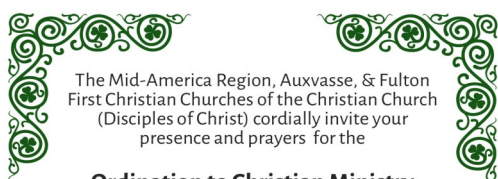
I've been fascinated with Ireland ever since I was a child when I learned that my Great-great Grandpa Johnston had been born there. For some reason, the knowledge of that one ancestor's birthplace led me to decide that I loved all things Irish. I just *knew that one day I would visit Ireland, and that when I did, it would somehow magically "make everything ok."* I'm not sure what that meant or what I thought would happen, but I certainly remember the feeling. I felt that everything in my life would "fall into place," if I could just set foot on Irish soil. What can I say? I was a weird kid!

My love of Ireland carried on as I grew older, and probably has a lot to do with why I wanted to have my ordination on St. Patrick's Day. I chose Ireland for my elementary school "Trip Around the World" project. My senior year in high school, I even did a whole research paper on St. Patrick, to learn more about the historical figure behind the legend. As it turns out, the patron saint of the Emerald Isle was not himself, even Irish, but British. (After the advent of online DNA testing, I learned this is something we actually have in common. My percentage of Irish DNA turned out to be pretty low, while my British DNA was very high!)

When Patrick was a youth, he was captured into slavery by Irish raiders. He escaped his captors after six years and returned home to become a bishop and a missionary. Later, he returned to Ireland as his mission field. He shared the Gospel of Jesus Christ and God's great love for the world with the very people who had formerly enslaved him. He also famously taught the difficult-to-understand concept of the trinity (God's three-in-oneness as Father, Son, & Holy Spirit) by using a shamrock. The shamrock has three leaves, and yet, one stem, one life, just as God is three, and yet, still one.

Now you know a little more about me (and about St. Patrick) but, I'm wondering about you! What are your favorite holidays? Where do you hope to visit someday? What random area of interest could you tell *me all about? Reach out and let me know; I'd love to hear from you!*

Love & light,
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

Can you help provide candy for our Children's Easter Egg Hunt? If so, please leave wrapped candy at the church office by Thursday, March 14.

Thank you for supporting our children's programs!

Help Fill the Easter Eggs



Noisy Offering will be accepted on March 24.
Bring your change to church on Sunday.
This offering will go to support the Youth
Programs here at FCC!

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.

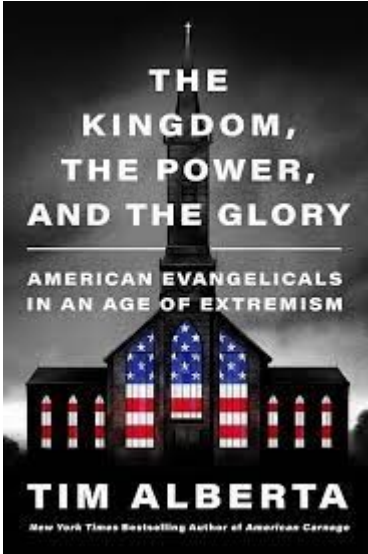




New Book Study Begins April 4 at Noon.

Evangelical Christians are perhaps the most polarizing—and least understood—people living in America today. In his seminal new book, *The Kingdom, the Power, and the Glory*, journalist Tim Alberta, himself a practicing Christian and the son of an evangelical pastor, paints an expansive and profoundly troubling portrait of the American evangelical movement. Through the eyes of televangelists and small-town preachers, celebrity revivalists and everyday churchgoers, Alberta tells the story of a faith cheapened by ephemeral fear, a promise corrupted by partisan subterfuge, and a reputation stained by perpetual scandal.

Please let Rev. Dunn know if you need him to order a copy



WORSHIP NOTES THIS SUNDAY

Even while deep in the throes of preparing for a rigorous Holy Week that features a wealth of special music, the choirs of FCC are still busy preparing music for “regular” Sunday worship. This Sunday at the 8:20 service, the Chancel Choir will share a wonderful arrangement of the hymn “How Great Thou Art.” (Perhaps the Spirit will move you to add your voice to the chorus as the ensemble shares this anthem!) The Jubilant Sound Handbells will also offer an arrangement of another favorite hymn of many, “Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us.”

*Please note that due to unavoidable worship band absences and the unavailability of our regular substitute musicians this Sunday, BOTH worship services will feature traditional hymnody.

Administrative Board Meeting



in the Activities Room



Green Team

A Prayer for the Environment

God of blessings,
The universe sings of your glory.

Deepen our gratitude for all you have made and awaken in us a renewed commitment to care for the earth and each other.

Inspire leaders with openness to listen to those most affected by climate change and with courage to act urgently and wisely, so that our common home may be healed and restored and all people, and generations to come, may delight in it.

-Adapted from the COP27 Climate Summit prayer from the EcoJesuits

If you have related resources you'd like us to share, please contact anyone on the Green Team individually or through the FCC office.
Working together, we can make a difference.

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.

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
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
Donald L. Miller-fighting cancer
Kathy Newberry
PK Karrenbrock, granddaughter of a long time co-worker of Bobbi Enslens at Central Bank.
Trudy McGill



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!

Our Members in Care Centers

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

ST JOSEPH BLUFFS-1002 W MAIN JCMO 65109
KAY NEWBERRY

JC MANOR- 1720 VIETH DR. JC MO 65109
JACKIE POSSINGER
KATHY BROWN -ROOM 8

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,
6335 Maurer Rd. Shawnee, KS 66217

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





2024 Summer Mission Trip-Update

As of printing, we have 15 who have committed to going on this trip! Adults will need a background check to participate. The registration fee is \$350 per person which includes housing in a local church and two meals per day. Scholarships will be available to help cover the cost of registration and evening meals.

Contact the church office to let us know you are interested! Act fast, we only have 3 spots left!

Now comes the hard part..the finances! Please consider helping to support our members with a financial gift.

Sponsorship Opportunities

\$350-covers 1 person's registration

\$25-covers 1 person's dinner 1 night

\$450-covers dinner for the whole group 1 night

\$105 covers mileage one way

Any other amount is welcome and happily received!

Donations accepted in the offering plate or the Church Office. Be sure to specify it is for the Mission Trip on your donation.





MARCH BIRTHDAYS

David Love	1	Katelyn Rush	19
Ceaser Scott	1	Lindsey Ruff	20
Hollis Dunn	2	Joy Powers	20
Sue Steppelman	3	John Sigler	20
Lilith Jones	3	Lawrence Neill	21
Beth Nolte	4	Gabriel Gonder	22
Ricky Brown	4	Michelle Sheppard	22
Barbara Mosley	4	Gemma Penn	22
Alicea Mullen	5	John Blosser	23
Marissa King	6	Katherine Gonder	23
Cash Fishback	6	Susan Avery	23
Quinnley Frye	6	Rebecca LaRock	23
Ruth Veltrop	7	Sonya Cooley	24
Wilma Collins	8	Douglas Dunwiddie	26
Barb Gage	8	Kelly Verslues	26
James Morris	9	Megan Ochoa	28
Phoenix Gilpin	11	Keith West	28
Patricia King	12	Breanne Gibson	28
Richard Vaughan	14	Rebecca McClain-Sims	29
Brett Kuebler	15	Jeanea Foley	29
Emelyn McClain	17		
Brooke Hagenhoff	17		
Debi Wells	18		

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

Allison and Michael Lauf 3/7

Cindy and Max Cook 3/10

Alan and Jeanne Nelson 3/11

Judy and Rick Naught 3/20

Ray and Wendy Miles 3/28

Join us Palm Sunday, March 24, as we process from FCC down to the Capitol building and back commemorating Jesus's triumphant entry into Jerusalem on a humble donkey.

We will meet on the front steps to pick up a palm branch by 9:25.

All are welcome.

PALM SUNDAY DONKEY PROCESSION



Sunday, March 24
9:30-10:15 am

Join Us as We
"Parade" to the
Capitol and Back



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

ASSOCIATE MINISTER
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firstchristianjcmo.org



Login with Facebook

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.

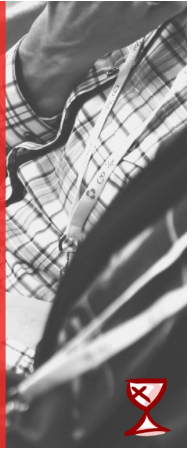


The next **Church Bell** will be sent **March 27, 2024.**
(Articles are due by noon the Friday before)



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/>

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