



Be Resurrection

As we approach the sacred season of Easter, my heart is drawn to the profound connection between the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the principles of justice and love. Easter is not merely a celebration of Jesus' triumph over death—it is a powerful reminder of the transformative power of love and the call to pursue justice in our world.

The story of Easter is rooted in the radical love that Jesus demonstrated throughout his life and ministry. From his teachings on compassion and forgiveness to his actions of healing and reconciliation, Jesus embodied a vision of justice that was grounded in love.

At the heart of Easter lies the ultimate act of love: Jesus' sacrificial death on the cross for the redemption of humanity. His willingness to lay down his life for others serves as the ultimate example of selflessness and compassion—a model for how we are called to live and love in the world.

But the story does not end with Jesus' death—Easter proclaims the victory of love over hatred, of justice over injustice. The resurrection of Jesus is a testament to the power of God's love to overcome even the darkest forces of evil and oppression.

As followers of Christ, we are called to embody this same spirit of love and justice in our lives and in our communities. We are called to stand up for the marginalized and oppressed, to speak out against injustice and inequality, and to work tirelessly for the establishment of God's kingdom of justice and peace on earth, as it is in heaven.

The message of Easter challenges us to examine our own lives and ask ourselves: Are we living in accordance with the principles of justice and love that Jesus taught us? Are we actively working to create a world where all people are treated with dignity and respect?

This Easter, let us recommit ourselves to the pursuit of justice and love in all that we do. Let us follow in the footsteps of Jesus, who proclaimed good news to the poor, freedom for the prisoners, recovery of sight for the blind, and release for the oppressed (Luke 4:18). And let us remember that the same power that raised Jesus from the dead is alive and at work in the world today, empowering us to be agents of transformation and change.

May the spirit of Easter inspire us to be bold in our pursuit of justice and unwavering in our commitment to love.

Peace,

Michael

Rev. Dr. Michael Dunn



MUSIC and WORSHIP NOTES

There's something about Holy Week that brings out the best in our musicians. (This was already evident on Palm Sunday as the choir joyfully sang "Lift up your heads. . . let the King of Glory come in!") Perhaps it's a return to some favorite anthems recalling Jesus' final days on earth. Perhaps it's a culmination of weeks of rehearsal on music for this holiest of weeks. Perhaps it's an expression of deepest gratitude in song for the debt Jesus paid for each of us. Whichever is true for any one musician, the composite of our voices and instruments blend together to fill the sanctuary with powerfully moving music this week. My prayer is that our sanctuary will be filled for each of these special worship opportunities!

***ON MAUNDY THURSDAY, March 28, 7:00 p.m.** we gather to remember the meal Jesus shared with His closest friends and then the cross on which they watched Him die. This Tenebrae service features the gradual extinguishing of candles and the darkening of the sanctuary as Scriptures are shared which recall the events of Jesus' arrest and ultimate death. Dramatic music to be shared by soloists, choir, and instrumentalists include some new anthems plus some of the ensembles' favorites: "Via Dolorosa (Way of Suffering)" "Crucify This Man!", "Surely This Was the Son of God," "Even the Heavens Are Weeping," and "Pieta." I urge you to make attendance at this service priority in your week. On our spiritual journey, it's important to encounter the suffering Savior to greet the risen Lord just a few days later.

***EASTER SUNDAY, March 31, 8:20 and 10:40 a.m.** we gather as a church family to proclaim "The Lord is risen! He is risen indeed!" (Try using this greeting with one another rather than the usual "good morning"!) A brass quartet will accompany congregational song and the special anthems will be shared by the Chancel Choir and a guest soloist. Please join us to celebrate the culmination of God's plan of salvation!

***APRIL 7, 8:20 a.m.** We've been blessed to have Rev. Heather sing with the Chancel Choir for several months. On this Sunday, she will share a solo for the first time, singing "Because He Lives." Sherry Jordan will be at the piano and organ in my place.

***APRIL 7, 10:40 a.m.** After three weeks off, the FCC worship team will be back to lead worship with two capable substitutes filling band members' absences. Our thanks to Ken Kehner who will be at the piano in my place and to Margaret Graham (daughter of FCC's Chris and Marsha Graham) who will be vocalist.

TO OUR CRUCIFIED AND RISEN SAVIOR BE THE GLORY!



Looking ahead...

There will only be 1 service on Earth Sunday, April 21 at 10:00.



DO YOU
HEAR
WHAT
I HEAR

Administrative Board and Elders

Retreat April 23, 2024

6:00-7:45 PM

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, 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.



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. Please complete by Sunday so we can accurately plan for food.

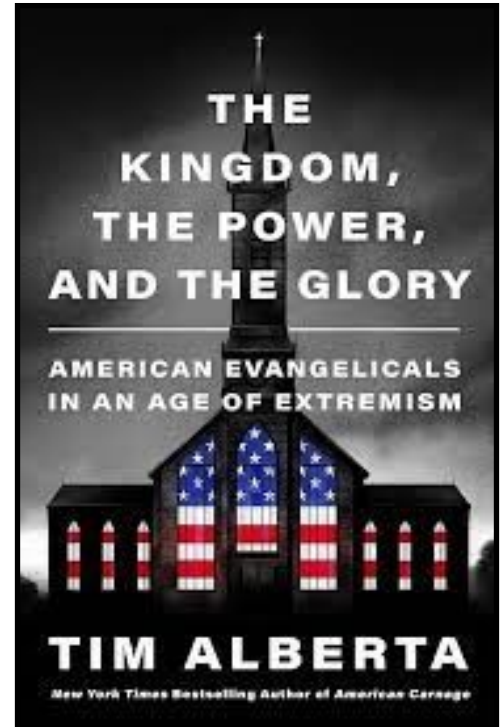
New Book Study Begins

April 4 at Noon.

Also available via Zoom

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 for you.



Ad Hoc Constitutional Review Committee

Administrative Board Chair Ann Littlefield has announced the creation of an Ad Hoc committee to review the Constitution of First Christian Church which was approved by the congregation in 2020. The committee includes, in addition to Ann, Bob Priddy, Jonathan Prouty, Steve Waters, Karla Denny, and John Kuebler.

The COVID experience exposed some procedural issues in the document which may need to be addressed. Jon, Steve, and Karla have served as Chair in the last several years and have wrestled with some of the issues.

The group is currently preparing a list of topics to be considered and addressed. All church members are invited to make suggestions for revisions. Please submit any suggestions for revision to any member of the committee.

Any revision to the constitution requires an affirmative vote of 2/3 of the Voting members of the congregation at a meeting in which a quorum is present. To be proposed to the congregation, the amendment must be submitted by the Administrative Board or by a group of members comprised of 10% of the voting members of the congregation.

Message from our Associate Minister

Dear Church Family,

Did you know that “gratitude” is mentioned in the Bible 157 times? If you add that to the number of times “thanks” or “thankful” is mentioned (72) it becomes pretty obvious that gratitude is one of the major themes in our holy scriptures. Gratitude is good for us. It helps us to avoid taking things for granted, especially when we’re facing difficult situations. Gratitude helps us develop all those lovely fruits of the spirit that Paul talks about in his letter to the Galatians. If we practice being grateful to God, we will have more peace, joy, and self-control. Gratitude helps us be more patient, kind, gentle, and generous toward others. Gratitude helps us be faithful to God.

While it can be challenging to practice gratitude when things are not going well, it’s a lot easier to feel in joyous circumstances. In the week that has passed since my ordination, I have certainly found myself feeling profoundly grateful. First and foremost, I am grateful to God for helping me reach this point in my ministry. I am humbled to feel so very loved and affirmed in my call to serve God and the church. I’m grateful for my family, who has persevered through this path with me. I am grateful to the churches I have attended growing up and the churches I’ve served in the past. I have served the Lord alongside some wonderful people along the way.

Last, but certainly not least, I am so very grateful for YOU! I am grateful for the warm reception you have given me and the support and encouragement you provided for me to finish the last leg of my ordination journey. I am grateful for the continued enjoyment of getting to know you as individuals and getting a feel for the personality of the church as a community, too. Thank you for the lovely flower arrangement, the perfect stole, for so many of you who made the trip to Fulton to attend my ordination service, and for those who couldn’t attend but sent well-wishes. I am so grateful for the months we’ve shared so far, and for the years we will share ahead!

Love & light,
Rev. Heather



Summer Camp Information



It's time to register for summer church camps! The Church will pay for half of the camp fees for each camper from our congregation. The region has some scholarships available for campers in need. Don't let money be a reason for not attending camp.

We are in the NEOLA/MUP Region and our campers attend Camp Jo Ota in Clarence, MO.

Try-It Camp (Ages 4-Completed Grade 1)

Adult Must Attend with Child

June 7-9

\$225 (includes adult and child)

Elementary Camp (Completed Grades 2-3)

July 15-17, 2024

\$185 per camper

Junior Camp (Completed Grades 4-

5) July 15-19, 2024

\$335 per camper

Chi-Rho Camp (Completed Grades 6-

8) July 28 - August 2, 2024

\$375 per camper

CYF Camp (Completed Grades 9-

12) July 8-13, 2024

\$375 per camper

Online Registration - <https://midamericaandmupcamps.godaddysites.com/neola-reg-options>

Scholarship Information - <https://midamericaandmupcamps.godaddysites.com/scholarship-info>

Apply by May 15 to hold your scholarship.

Our Bodies, Our Faith (Completed Grade 8-9)

July 28-August 2, 2024

\$385

Camp MOVAL

Online Registration: <https://midamericaandmupcamps.godaddysites.com/our-bodies-our-faith>

Canoe Camp - (Grades 6-12)

July 14-18, 2024

\$280

Location: Shannondale - Current River

Online Registration - <https://midamericaandmupcamps.godaddysites.com/canoe-camp-1>

Regional Young Adult Event

June 24 - 27, 2024

\$185

Online Registration - <https://midamericaandmupcamps.godaddysites.com/young-adult-camp-at-joota>

After you register your child, please contact the church office at 636-5157 or fccjcmooffice@gmail.com and let them know the following information.

- Child's name
- Grade in school
- Which camp they are attending



"Standing Strong"

Scripture Text: Isaiah 40:31

2024 Mid-America African American Convocation

Fifth Street Christian Church (DOC)
401 N. Fifth Stree, Columbia, MO 65201

Saturday, April 13, 2024

Convocation Registration:

Adults—\$40

Youth—\$10

To ensure adequate lunch and preparations, please register by April 3

Registration fee includes a continental breakfast and lunch

- 8:00 AM—Check-In/Continental Breakfast
- 8:45 AM—Gathering Worship
- 9:00 AM—Roll Call/Parade of Banners
- 9:30 AM—Workshop: Serving God Through Mission & Community Initiatives
- 10:45 AM—Break
- 11:00 AM—Breakout Groups
- 12:00 PM—Lunch
- 1:00 PM—Full Group Workshop Discussion:
- 2:00 PM—Worship, with Keynote Speaker: Dr. Delesslyn Kennebrew
- 2:45 PM—Closing—Communion—Offering
- 3:15 PM—Safe Travels

Bring Your Church's Banner!!

If you would like to join Pastors Michael and Heather, you can register by sending an email to Ministry Associate Susan Moore at susan@ccmadisciples.org.

REMINDER!!

For the safety and security of the building and all inside, we ask that you DO NOT prop open doors at any time! This leaves the building wide open for anyone to come in unnoticed. We also ask that you only enter and exit through the front door or the parking garage doors.

If you are having an event and need a door unlocked for it, just let someone in the Church Office know and we can program the doors to be unlocked for your event.

Thank you for helping keep our people and building safe!





Green Team

A Prayer for the Environment

God of love,

We praise you for the magnificence of creation.

We marvel at both its grandeur and the intricacies of its smallest microscopic life forms.

As we reflect on the creation, help us to take in its true significance.

This is your work in which you have invested deeply of yourself. It is the costly outpouring of your creativity. So, we ask you to instill in us a proper reverence for all that you have made – a genuine respect for all environments and all creatures.

Lord, we are in awe of the formidable power of nature, but in these times, may we also come to comprehend its complex fragility.

Amen.

- Reverend Prebendary Mark Geldard

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
PK Karrenbrock, granddaughter of a long time co-worker of Bobbi
Enslens at Central Bank.
Trudy McGill
Patty Osman
Wilma Collins

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

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

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Centertown, MO 65023

OUR OUT-OF-TOWN MEMBERS

BETTY SCHRAMM,
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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

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.

Don't Forget

PLEASE SIGN THE ATTENDANCE PAD
DURING THE SERVICE. WE WANT TO
KNOW YOU WERE HERE!
PRINT YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS NEATLY
BE SURE TO INCLUDE THE DATE AND
SERVICE YOU ATTENDED!

April Birthdays

Braden Millard	1	Reid Millard	12	Nicholas Fadell	20
Sid Belshe	3	Nikole Peek	12	Gene Enslen	22
Sharon Williams	3	Unique Harrison	13	Greg Wood	22
Meghan Andrews	4	Roxie Hawkins	13	Darlene Charles	23
Mike Caldwell	4	Ryan Mullen	13	Amy Jones	23
Tyler Fishback	4	Bobbi Enslen	14	Ed Powers	23
Emma Gregory	4	Kelly Leveron	14	Karen Dykes	25
Noah Schwartz	4	Kristal Murphy	14	Sarah Kingsbery	25
Sherry Fitzpatrick	5	Bailey Barnett	16	Nermina Harris	26
Patty Osman	5	Seth Huedepohl	16	Charles Highland	26
Lyric Kroeger	7	Vivian Murphy	17	Judy Naught	28
Gregg Ochoa	7	Nancy Priddy	17	Heather Patten	28
Pat Amick	8	Tom Rackers	17	Cheryl Page	29
Joyce Keitel	8	John Bennett	18	Scott Lange	30
Jim Jones	10	Amanda Prouty	18	Eva Pratt	30
Joe Payne	10	Melba Crago	19	Betty Schramm	30
Heather Giles	12	April Johnson	19		



Special thanks to all of the musicians who helped to make the music so wonderful during the Lent and Easter seasons. We appreciate you!

April Anniversaries

Jon & Linda Martin April 3

Deanna & Hugh McKay April 12

Steve & Pat Amick April 18

Doug & Jennifer Hagenhoff April 22

Ruth & Leon Veltrop April 24

Micahel & Cathy Crocker April 26



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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.

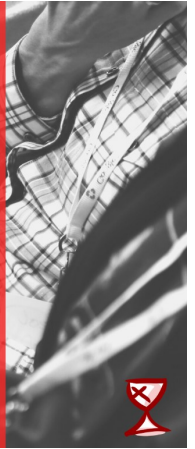


The next **Church Bell** will be sent April 10, 2024.
(Articles are due by noon the Friday before)



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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