

# The Church Bell

May 22, 2024

VOL. 30, ISSUE 10



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

## Strength of Working Together

One of the joys of serving in ministry in downtown Jefferson City is the collegiality and friendship being developed among the downtown pastors. Once a month we look forward to time together. Which is a mixture of professional support and encouragement as we each deal with issues unique to pastoral ministry. It's important to be in a space of competent clergy who allow for honest sharing, whether that is professional or personal in nature.

The time together also creates space to process together the needs of our community. One highly visible need in our downtown area relates to our unhoused neighbors. Even as we provide ministry for those living on the streets, we also are eager to engage with other entities (such as the library, law enforcement and other community partners) to learn from one another and enhance our efforts. There's strength when we work together that we don't have when we work alone.

As we share our ministries together, we collaborate with community resource groups, including Common Ground and Housing the Community Jefferson City, an organization that hosts Project Homeless Connect and JC Room at the Inn. As a collective group of congregations downtown, we've also been deeply involved in Transformational Housing, Common Ground, Landmark Recovery Center, Compass Health, and The ACT Team. Our work together is essential for meeting these basic needs and establishing meaningful relationships with our unhoused neighbors.

Our congregation agreed that a daytime resource center for the unhoused would address many concerns by providing a safe space to access resources and support. Not to mention the benefit to other entities if such a center existed. We recognize that this work is challenging, and progress can be slow. Our congregation's contribution is a matching \$50,000 Fundraiser, which we will hold until a suitable property is established. That would allow us to contribute a total of \$100,000 to purchase, rehab, or build a suitable building. Call the church and ask Sharyl how you can give to this Fund.

I'm grateful to be a part of a congregation and a community of pastors who agree on the basic message of the gospel of Jesus: That all people, including our unhoused neighbors, are made in the image of God and have a place at the Table. Thanks be to God!

Peace,

Michael

Rev. Dr. Michael Dunn



## MUSIC and WORSHIP NOTES



First Christian proudly opens its doors to serve as host for various musical events throughout the year as a part of our hospitality and outreach to the community. Directors of ensembles which perform in our sanctuary are always highly complimentary of our generosity and our sanctuary for musical performances. It's not uncommon for me to go to an appointment or meet someone new who discovers that I work at FCC and have them comment, "Oh, I attended such-and-such concert there! When's the next one?" Thank you, dear members, for sharing our building in this way (among others)! Indeed we are blessed with wonderful facilities!

Mark your calendar for these musical events --

**\*JEFFERSON CITY COMMUNITY BAND** presents its annual Memorial Day concert, "Remember and Honor," on Monday, May 27, at 2:00 p.m. FCC members who are currently active with the band are Dan McClard and John Kuebler. John wrote to me recently: "I think the music selected for the concert truly reflects the recognition of sacrifice of those who have served our country." Indeed, one of the highlights each year is a musical tribute honoring members of each branch of the armed forces.

This is always a full house in our sanctuary! Let me know if you'd be willing to be on hand to greet attendees and help them find seats as the sanctuary fills up!

**\*LAKE AREA COMMUNITY ORCHESTRA** under the direction of Andrew Drennan will be with us once again on Tuesday, July 16, at 7:00 p.m. In addition to favorite patriotic pieces, the ensemble will share selections that include great movie marches, music from *Lawrence of Arabia*, *The Lord of the Rings*, and *The Wizard of Oz*. *Once again, a few volunteers to help with programs, seating, and gathering the free will offering would be appreciated!*

**\*SAM B. COOK MEMORIAL ORGAN CONCERT** is slated for Sunday, Nov. 10, at 4:00 p.m. While that's a ways off, I'm very excited to share that this year's concert organist is Joshua Stafford, a 36-year-old organist who garnered many accolades from a young age from many of the country's best concert artists. His programs are varied, but most often include an organ transcription of a major orchestral work as well as an accompaniment to a silent film. This concert will be a real treat! (For those who might never attend an organ concert, check out his 2020 performance of Queen's *Bohemian Rhapsody* on the world's largest pipe organ which boasts over 33,000 pipes!)

### UPCOMING SPECIAL MUSIC

**\*May 26, 10 a.m. service only** – Hollis Dunn sings Chris Tomlin's arrangement of the hymn, "Take My Life and Let It Be," with an invitation for the congregation to join in singing the final verse.

**\*June 2, 8:20 a.m.** – Chancel Choir closes out it's spring season by sharing the hymn, "Holy, Holy, Holy," set in an unexpected manner by composer Mark Hayes. We had the honor of singing this arrangement under the direction of Mr. Hayes when he led our congregation in worship and a workshop in May 2018.

**IT'S NOT TOO EARLY TO SIGN UP** to provide special music for any given Sunday this summer! Both instrumental and vocal music is a possibility -- all ages are welcome!



Food Pantry is on Tuesdays from Noon until 4. Volunteers are needed before Noon to help set up and after 4 to help put things away. Any time you can spare would be appreciated!

## Looking ahead.....

May 26th- Only 1 worship service at 10:00

May 27th- Memorial Day-Office closed

June 2nd- Graduate Recognition at 10:40 service

June 16th- Father's Day

June 30th-Worship in the Park- Memorial Park Pavilion

July 4th-Independence Day-Office Closed

July 21st- Hymn Sing Sunday at both services

July 21-27- Mission Trip to Kansas City

August 8-10- Mid America Regional Assembly

September 29th-Homecoming Sunday, 1 service at 10:00

**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.

### **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/fccjemo](https://facebook.com/fccjemo) for those who cannot worship with us in person.



**FCC WILL ONLY  
HAVE ONE  
SERVICE AT  
10:00 ON MAY 26**



★ ★ ★ ★ ★  
**MEMORIAL  
DAY CONCERT**



**REMEMBER & HONOR**

**FREE CONCERT**

**Monday, May 27th, 2 PM**  
**First Christian Church**  
**Capitol Avenue**  
**Jefferson City**

Sponsored by



Join the Jefferson City Community Band for a concert on Monday, May 27. The concert will be held at First Christian Church at 2:00.



Prayer Shawl  
Ministry

There will be no Prayer Shawl group meeting on Monday, May 27 due to Memorial Day.

## Message from our Associate Minister

Dear Church Family,

Something about this time of year gets me a little more emotional than usual. Perhaps it has to do with my social media newsfeed filling up with images of children finishing another school year; some simply moving up a grade, some leaving elementary or middle schools for the next building, and others graduating high school or college and moving on to whatever comes next for them. Last week, I attended the 5th grade promotion ceremony at East Elementary to present the Outstanding Youth Leadership Award on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce Partners in Education program. The kids processed in, performed some musical numbers, and received a bunch of awards, then each one received a certificate of promotion. Even though I didn't really know any of those kids personally, I found myself getting a little misty-eyed. Marking life's transitions makes me keenly aware of just how quickly the years go by. Life is a long series of changes and for someone like me, who craves stability, constant change can be hard to accept.

So, where do we turn for comfort in the midst of these sorts of seasons? Often, we turn to old habits - comfort foods or favorite TV shows. Maybe we try popular "self-care" or "self-help" trends. Or we throw ourselves into work, trusting our own productivity to give us purpose, or at least to keep us so busy that we don't have time to notice our feelings of unease. We might even turn to harmful substances to numb those feelings. Underneath it all, perhaps our longing for stability and our discomfort with change, reveals a longing for God. After all, God alone is the One who is eternal; unchanging and unchanging in love, justice, and mercy. God is the Rock upon whom we stand. It is God who walks with us through every season; encouraging, guiding, and comforting us along the way. In every time, through every change, let us continually turn to God who is the source of all that we need. Amen.

Peace,  
Rev. Heather



## MISSION TRIP 2024

### 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

DONATIONS ACCEPTED IN OFFERING PLATE OR LEFT IN OFFICE. DONATIONS CAN ALSO BE GIVEN ONLINE, JUST DESIGNATE IT FOR THE MISSION TRIP.



## A Note from the FCC Office:

As I am working on the next issues of The Bell, it came to me that it would be nice to have updates from the various committees, fellowship groups, Sunday School classes and ministry groups in the church. I would like to extend a formal invitation to submit items from your group. I would love to have ideas that you are considering, events, photos etc. I publish The Bell every 2 weeks. I would love to have any updates from your groups. Please consider sending in some information.



## Mary's Circle

Women develop a close bond of friendship while we participate in church programs. New members are welcome! We meet on the first Monday of the month at 1:00.

## The Food Pantry needs your help!

The pantry is very low on some items and are expecting a greater need now that school is out for the summer. We serve about 75 families per week. If you can grab a few of these items, you can drop them in the grocery cart by the Church Office. Any amount would be welcome!



FCC Summer Softball starts later this month. If you'd like to play, contact Jonathon Prouty at 314-537-4861. We hope to see you on the field or in the stands cheering us on!

FCC Summer Softball Schedule (all games at Binder Park)

- May 21 – 7:15 (Scott Field)
- May 28 – 8:15 (Scott Field)
- June 4 – 6:15 (Scott Field)
- June 11 – 6:15 (Williams Field)
- June 18 – 6:15 (Williams Field)
- June 25 – 6:15 (Scott Field)
- July 2 – 6:15 (Scott Field)
- July 9 – 8:15 (Scott Field)
- July 16 – Playoffs, TBD
- July 23 – Playoffs, TBD



**United Way Food for Kids  
Volunteers Needed**



FCC will be working this summer with the United Way Food for Kids program. This will be while the JC Schools are not in session. We do not have the specific week yet, but if you are able to volunteer, or would like more information, please contact Ann Littlefield or the Church Office.



## Green Team

Dr. Cliff Cain, C.S. Lewis Professor of Religion Studies at Westminster gave a powerful presentation last Monday on “What Does the Bible Say About the Climate Crisis?” He began by showing a slide picture of planet earth as taken from space. It was beautiful and awe-inspiring. But, of course it did not show the national boundary lines, about which nations wage wars; i.e., Israel/Hamas; Russia/Ukraine. I (John Bennett) sent him an email asking about the impact of nationalism on the climate crisis. Below is his astute response

Pride in one's nation, restrained from being the worship of one's nation, can be a good thing. I am proud to be an American (sounds like that country song, huh?!).

But worshipping one's nation is spiritual idolatry, and it IS a sin which can be viewed from other perspectives as well, one of them environmental.

Environmental issues, at their very root and in light of their far-reaching extent, are international in scope and international in solution.

This is an international problem, and any nationalistic efforts to try to isolate the issue from that scope and to spare one nation's impact, responsibility, and liability is unethical, and may be illegal (cf. the Canadian acid rain issue). It can also become "racist," in that what one nation or, say, the industrialized world does, negatively impacts the developing world. What is economically beneficial to one country, or cluster of countries, may be devastating to another country, or cluster of countries. Climate change—or ACD—is causing the people of the Maldives to lose their land, perhaps ultimately their country: I

Pope Francis, in his 2015 encyclical, *Laudato 'Si* ), deplores and laments and condemns as "sinful" the ways in which the poor and the "different" (in terms of race, culture, nationality) are disproportionately affected and impacted by climate change.

Environmental issues typically and chiefly know no national boundaries.



# Please Pray for OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Beverly Anderson, close friend of Sharon Gonder  
Sharon Gonder  
Brooks Jarrett, brother of Annie Jarrett  
Calise Lauf, friend of Sharon Gonder  
Cindy Leveron-back at Boone Hospital  
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, brother of Jon Miller, fighting cancer  
PK Karrenbrock, granddaughter of a long time co-worker of Bobbi Enslens at Central Bank.  
Wilma Collins  
Kelly and Autumn Leveron  
Kenny Holtgrewe-Marsha Posz's father  
Joyce Meade-chemo  
John Blosser

Our Country and our men and women serving our country.

Please call the office at 573-636-5157 or email at [fccjcmooffice@gmail.com](mailto: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

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

HATS OFF TO YOU!



# CONGRATULATIONS!

Graduate Recognition Sunday, June 2 at 10:40 service.



Youth Group will not be meeting each week during the summer. Stay tuned for information about lots of FUN activities this summer!

**FCC KDS  
SUNDAY  
SCHOOL WILL  
NOT BE MEETING  
DURING THE  
SUMMER**

**IT WILL RESUME  
ON SEPTEMBER**

**8**

# May Birthdays

Jon Beetem	1	Gail Watkins	11	Tracy McClard	23
Miranda Fishback	3	Paige Nolte	15	Chris Sheppard	23
Shane McClain	3	Alice Durbin	17	Charlotte Middleton	27
Theres Shannon	3	Rebecca Frye	18	Kathy Speidel	28
Kurtis Villafane	3	Sydney Foutes	19	Peggy Veatch	28
Jenny Hagenhoff	4	Barb Lehmer	19	Larissa Jackson	29
Juanita Dietle	7	Blake Snyder	20	Bob Robuck	29
Rylee Gonder	8	Lyric Johnson	21	Molly Miller	30
Jon Alexander	9	Allie Claycomb	22	Craig Giles	31
Steven Ramirez	9	Julie Jordan	23		
		Grace Lepper	23		



# May Anniversaries

- Alicea & Richard Mullen-May 2
- Craig & Heather Giles-May 12
- Barbara & John Kuebler- May 15
- Otis & Dorothy (Dot) Baker-May 16
- Rochelle & David Reeves-May 22
- Mark & Jana Millard-May 24
- Vivian & Robert (Bob) Murphy-May 25
- Kathy & Russ Dunwiddie-May 30
- Michael & Dawn Dunn-May 31
- Nike & Callie Thompson-May 31

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

**ASSOCIATE MINISTER**  
Rev. Heather Patten  
heather.fccjcmo@gmail.com  
**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**  
Sharyl Kelsch  
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**DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY**  
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**FACILITY & GROUNDS**  
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Scott Campbell  
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**BELL CHOIR DIRECTOR**  
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**Financial**  
Finance@firstchristianjcmo.org

**CONTACT US AT**  
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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 June 5, 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](http://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](http://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/>