

The Church Bell

September 29 2021

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

Hope: Maybe the Best of Things

First Christian Church, Jefferson City

Dr. Jim Hill, Interim Senior Minister

Even though it was not an initial success at the box office when it was released in 1994, after seven Academy Award nominations, *Shawshank Redemption* became one of the highest-grossing movie rentals and most-watched films on television. Earlier this year Bettie Jo and I visited the Ohio State Reformatory in Mansfield, Ohio, where the movie was filmed (although the story setting was Shawshank State Prison, Maine). Andy Dufresne (Tim Robbins) is wrongfully convicted of killing his wife and her lover and finds a way to survive 19 years of harsh prison life while creating an unlikely friendship with fellow convict Ellis "Red" Redding (Morgan Freeman). The movie has a powerful message about the enduring power of hope and friendship. Near the end of the movie Andy writes to his friend, "Remember Red, hope is a good thing, maybe the best of things, and no good thing ever dies."

This past year and a half have been a challenging time to find hope. Our annual Stewardship Emphasis is all about hope. Our theme this year has been *a Future with Hope*. As followers of Christ, we have hope because we believe in the faithfulness of God. We believe in the future because despite the challenges of the present, we know God is with us and he has a plan for us. The prophet Jeremiah wrote, "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." The strategic planning session we had recently at the North Jefferson Park is also an expression of our confidence in God and his plans for the future of our ministry.

The Stewardship Committee and leadership of the church will be working during the coming weeks to develop a proposed budget for our ministry for the coming year. If you have not already done so, I hope you will complete your "A Future with Hope Pledge Card" and return it to the church by this Sunday, October 3rd. Your pledges will help them plan appropriately for the future. In many ways your pledge is a statement of faith—your belief that God has a plan for our church and its ministry. We are grateful for your faithful support of the church's ministry.

Bettie Jo and I are leaving this week for a week of vacation. We will be visiting some of family and spending a couple days hiking in a national park. Rev. Sarah will be sharing the message, *Trusting God in Exile*, this Sunday in our worship services. I know you will want to be present as we complete our Stewardship Emphasis. We will be consecrating the stewardship commitments on Sunday, October 10th, during our worship services.

Reminder: As you know Missouri, and specifically our community, continues to see many COVID cases. I want to thank you for being responsive to the Worship Committee's recommendation: *It is out of care that First Christian Church highly recommends that everyone worshiping with us wear a mask to protect yourselves and more importantly out of respect for others. As you know, this is the current recommendation of the CDC and other medical experts for both vaccinated and unvaccinated people when indoors in high infection areas, like Cole County.*

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

We pray for these

Gene Adkison, Beverly Anderson, Steve Brown, Jane Burd, Nellie Campbell, Richard Carroll, Darlene Charles,, Doug Defreecer, Nancy Dunwiddie, Ken Dykes, Marilyn Gross, Cheryl Hanson, Norma Hasselman, Jeanette Hickman, Venita Jackson, Brooks Jarrett, Shirley Jarrett, Jessica Kozlen, Vivian Murphy, Jackie Possinger, Kathy Speidel, Doris Yelton, Our Country and our men and women serving our country, the world, safe travels

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

BLUEGRASS TERRACE

Glenda Crow

HEISINGER

Richard Carroll

Shirley Ferguson

Barbara Nikodym

Norma Woodson

JC MANOR

Jackie Possinger

OAK TREE VILLA

Shirley Jarrett

PRIMROSE RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

Norma Hasselman

Wendell & Myra Hubbs

Jessie Schell

ST. JOSEPH'S BLUFFS

Doris Yelton

THE TIMBERS

Marilyn Gross

HOMEBOUNDED MEMBERS

Mariam Craddock

OUT-OF-TOWN MEMBERS

Betty Schramm

Betty Schulte

October Birthdays and Anniversaries

OCT	9	17	24
1			
Karla Denny	Marilyn Biesemeyer	Rebecca Kuhn	Claude Hawkins
Asher Gonder	Shelley Dawson	<i>Charlotte Middleton</i>	Myra Hubbs
<i>Steven & Allie Claycomb</i>	Jeanne Legge	18	Barbara Nikodym
<i>Kenneth & Ann Littlefield</i>		Martha Price	LeeAnna Penn
3	10	19	<i>Gary & Nanci Gonder</i>
Nanci Gonder	Ben Vegiard	Ray Miles	25
4	11	Terry Ruff	Alex Millard
Danny Stewart	Rebecca Scott	Morris Woodruff	26
5	<i>Greg & Sherry Fitzpatrick</i>	<i>Tucker & Lena Lane</i>	Isabella Giles
Virginia Helton	12	20	27
<i>Clint & Tami Barrett</i>	Terry Kulp	Eden Bell	Landon Schwartz
6	Nina Stewart	Fred Cooper	28
Lena Lane	13	Nancy Dunwiddie	Brian Drake
Erin Lepper	Deanna McKay	Hunter Peek	Mitzi Snyder
7	14	<i>Shaun & Ashley Crisp</i>	29
Carol Andris	George Burruss	<i>Greg & Tina Wood</i>	Chris Cooley
Stephen Foutes	Shirley Jarrett	22	Dominique Harrison
8	Keenan Johnson	Elory Crisp	30
Cooper Sims	Stephanie Ramirez	Cole Markway	Joy Foster
	<i>Allen & Marsha Posz</i>	23	31
	15	Kacie Kuebler	Lois Alexander
	Gayla Dunn	Jestine Lange	Larry Link
	Donna Lynch	<i>Charles & Melanie Highland</i>	Judy Nienhueser
	Melanie Markway		Jack Watkins
	<i>Terry & Brenda Ruff</i>		<i>Michael & Sarah Jones</i>

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.

CWF Mary Circle meetings resume

The CWF (Christian Women's Fellowship) **Mary Circle will meet on Monday October 4th at 1:00 PM** in the gathering area. If you have questions, please contact Mary Ann Weaver or Rev. Sarah.

Children's Sunday School Returns October 10th

Children's Sunday School will resume **October 10th at 9:30 AM**. The class will meet on the 2nd and 4th Sundays through December. We will be learning more about David through crafts and cooking each month. October will focus on his anointing; November on his encounter with Goliath; and December on his relationship with Saul.

Strategic Planning Event Follow Up

Thank you to everyone who participated in our service at the park and the Strategic Planning Conversation on September 19th. We had over 60 people stay for lunch and conversation to discuss proposed mission and vision statements and to discuss potential core values. We are grateful for the leadership provided by Brenda Foutes, Strategic Planning Chair, and members of the Strategic Planning Committee and Search Committee in facilitating the conversation. A reminder that you can send additional feedback and thoughts to planning@firstchristianjcmo.org The Strategic Planning Committee will be meeting Wednesday, September 29th to consider feedback and refine the proposed mission, vision, and core values to guide our ministry into the future. If you were unable to join us on September 19th see below for information on upcoming Zoom meetings with members of the Strategic Planning Committee.

Strategic Planning Conversation Zoom Meeting

For those unable to attend the Strategic Planning Conversation, Sunday, September 19th, members of the committee will be leading a Zoom Meetings on **Sunday, October 3 at 4:00 PM** and on **Tuesday, October 5 at 7:00 PM**. If you would like to participate, please contact Rev. Sarah for the link.

Connection and Support Opportunities for Parent/Guardian Check-In and Faith Conversation Sessions

Erin Lepper, who serves as FCC's Faith Formation Chair, and Rev. Alexis are excited to offer two ways for parents and guardians to support and learn from one another on a monthly basis.

Starting **Sunday, October 17 at 3:00 PM**, we'll resume our Parent and Guardian Faith Conversations via Zoom. The questions we'll explore together will be shared in upcoming newsletters and by email. These Faith Conversations will be offered the third Sunday of every month. You don't have to attend every session to be part of these groups—we'll be happy to welcome you when you can join us.

Beginning **Tuesday, November 2**, Rev. Alexis will host casual check-in Zoom sessions during which parents and guardians can sign in at any time between **noon and 1:00 PM**. These check-in sessions will be offered the first Tuesday of every month and at noon via Zoom.

Please email Alexis@firstchristianjcmo.org to receive the Zoom link for these gatherings and/or to learn more.

Adolescence is a time when young people are asking themselves: "Who Am I? Where do I fit? What difference can I make?" We'd like to be a source of support and care for you as you provide support and care for your youth as they navigate those questions.

Adjustments to the schedule and format may occur in the months to come based upon participation and feedback.

Church Family Picnic Sunday October 31st

You are invited to a picnic at Riverside Park playground immediately following 2nd service with lunch provided at 12:30 PM. Come hang out with other families to play, eat, and fellowship before it gets cold. Please RSVP by October 22 so lunch can be planned — Christian Formation Committee



Updates from Rev. Alexis

Coffee House Open Office Hours for September and October

You're invited to stop by during my Open Coffee Hours on Tuesdays from 8:30 AM-10:30 AM at the Coffee Zone (130 E. High Street) for coffee and casual conversation at any point during that time frame on September 28, October 5, October 12, October 19, and October 26. As weather and space permit, I plan to be sitting at one of the tables outside. If it is raining, check the church's Facebook page for an update. While RSVP's are not required, it helps to know if you plan to stop by so I can look forward to seeing you.

You can also email me at Alexis@firstchristianjcmo.org to arrange another time to meet.

Save the Date: The Roman Empire and the New Testament Zoom Session with Dr. Warren Carter and Rev. Alexis

New Testament scholar, professor, and author, Dr. Warren Carter, will be our guest for a special Zoom session on Monday, October 11 from 6:30-7:45 PM. Dr. Carter will answer questions prepared by participants in the Roman Empire and the New Testament series. While the timing of his session with us marks the end of our series, all First Christian Church members and friends are welcome. Information for how to join will be provided in a separate email closer to that date. You are also invited to email Alexis@firstchristianjcmo.org to express your interest in attending.

Dr. Carter was awarded the John Gammie Distinguished Scholar award by the Southwest Commission on Religious Studies in 2014. His commentary on Mark for the Wisdom Commentary series received The Academy of Parish Clergy 2020 Reference Book of the Year, 2020 Association of Catholic Publishers first place award in Scripture, and the third place award for best new religious book series by the 2020 Catholic Press Association third place. Alexis was Dr. Carter's research assistant for his commentary on Matthew over the summer, which does not yet have a publishing date. His book, *The Roman Empire and the New Testament: An Essential Guide, served as our major text in our latest small group series.*

If you have questions about this event, email Alexis@firstchristianjcmo.org.

New Small Group Series: The Sermon on the Mount

You're invited to be part of a new series that will begin the week of October 10. We'll delve into the Sermon on the Mount, also known as the Beatitudes.

New Testament Scholar, Amy-Jill Levine, has created small group material I will adapt for our time together. Her book *Sermon on the Mount: A Beginner's Guide to the Kingdom of Heaven* is not required reading, although many of you will enjoy it and appreciate the way it will enhance our examination of Jesus' teachings.

There are a variety of ways in which you can still be part of this series. To express your interest and learn more, please email me.

With You on the Journey,

Rev. Alexis

Alexis@firstchristianjcmo.org

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Brian, Kara, and Noble Knight! Noble's adoption into the Knight family was made official on September 17, 2021.

Condolences

Our condolences to Sue Snell on the death of her sister Debra Kenney Porth.

Our condolences to Steve Amick on the death of his sister Paula Bryan.

Our condolences to the family and friends of Emily Lane who died September 21, 2021. Services were held Sunday, September 26.

Gluten Free Communion

Gluten free communion is available each Sunday in a basket in the back of the Sanctuary. If you need Gluten Free communion bread, you can pick it up with your bulletin when you come in to worship.

Volunteers Needed for Project Homeless Connect October 8th

Project Homeless Connect is on Friday, October 8th from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM on Capitol Avenue between Adams and Monroe Streets. This is a community event to connect our unhoused and housing insecure neighbors with resources. Volunteers are needed starting at 8:00 AM October 8th for 2 or 4 hour shifts. To find out more and sign up, go to <https://www.jcmo-phc.org/volunteers>

Office Closed

The church office will be closed in observance of Columbus Day.

Proposed Budgets Due October 1

Ministry Team and Administrative Board Chairs remember proposed budgets are due to Ann Littlefield by October 1st so the Stewardship Committee can begin their work on the 2022 Budget.



A Future with Hope: Our Stewardship Campaign

There has been much transition and much unknown this past year at First Christian Church. And we know there is still more unknown, more change, ahead of us as we continue our Intentional Interim Process, prepare to search for a Senior Minister, and continue our Strategic Planning work. Despite all that we do not know, we continue to trust in God's presence with us and the Holy Spirit working in and through our congregation and leaders to guide us each step of the way.

Over the next month, our Stewardship committee, Leadership Development Team (our nominating committee), and Administrative Board will be working hard on plans for our ministry and life together in 2022. They will be drafting a budget and recruiting leaders, including elders and deacons. Please keep this work and these leaders in your prayers. Also, if you have not already done so, [please return your 2022 Pledge Card to the church office by Sunday, October 3rd.](#) Your decision to pledge to give to FCC Jeff City on a regular basis in 2022, whether \$5 or 15%, more or less, or somewhere in between, is a sign of hope and faith in the work of God in the place and our ongoing ministry,. Contact the church office if you are in need of a pledge card.

One more thing...

If you haven't "Liked" First Christian Church on Facebook yet (www.facebook.com/fccjcmo) you may be missing the questions we have been posting during our stewardship campaign. I hope you will go to our page, like (if you haven't already) and comment with your answer to a question or two. Today's question is "What three things do you love most about First Christian Jeff City?" Keep an eye out for more through next week as well!



Music

As was announced this past week, I have been granted a three month leave of absence from my duties at FCC beginning Oct. 1. Much of that time will be covered by accrued vacation and sick leave; the rest is a very gracious gift from the congregation, for which I am grateful and indebted. The support I've received following this announcement has been touching.

A leave is an idea that was floated as far back as 2½ years ago, but for several reasons the timing never seemed right to make it happen. While being in a time of ministerial transition still isn't ideal timing, it is the most practical given that our music ministry is not yet fully up and running because of Covid concerns. And though I hate how selfish it sounds to say this, it is the right time for me.

Those of you who have known me through most of my tenure at FCC (23 years!) know that my passion for church music and worship runs deep. Preparing to lead musical worship is also my personal worship, so taking a break from it is not an easy decision. That sense of calling means I've often put "duty" first though, even foolishly at times, when my immediate or extended family needed me.

Confession: The past three years have been some of the most difficult of my life personally. The past two years professionally have also been some of the most challenging. Navigating through the pandemic proved exhausting as adjustments were made for in-person and online worship in the sanctuary, the Family Life Center, the parking lot, Riverside Park, and even a Christmas Eve drive-in service. Worship became work, not something I looked forward to. Sundays became a day I dreaded, rather than a day I celebrated. I became someone I didn't like -- one who took out frustrations on people I loved, both at home and at church. I thought I could handle the burdens I was carrying indefinitely; after all, that's what my German parents taught me to do. I was wrong. This leave is about getting healthier -- emotionally, spiritually, socially -- so that I can return with a more joyful and cooperative spirit in the new year to better serve this great community of faith. Your prayers for my family during this time are greatly appreciated. Please also pray for our church's renewal and its leaders as we anticipate a new senior minister whom God is even now preparing to lead us.

People of God, you are a blessing to me! Thank you for your many gifts to me!

Gretchen

Mark Your Calendars!

The third annual Sam B. Cook Memorial Organ Concert will take place in our sanctuary on **Sunday, November 14 at 4:00 PM**. Be prepared to be wowed by 33 year old virtuoso organist Christopher Houlihan who established an international reputation at a young age. The Los Angeles Times hails him for his "glowing, miraculously life-affirming performances." The concert is free! This annual event has proven to be a great gift to the community, so invite your friends to attend with you!



Serving this Month

1ST SUNDAY

820AM

ELDER

Patty Osman
Bob Priddy

LITURGIST

Bob Priddy

DEACONS

Marsha Posz
Kathy Brown
Venita Jackson

USHERS

Doug Hagenhoff
Milinda Dawson

COMMUNION PREP

Virginia Lister

10:40AM

ELDER

Ann Littlefield
Laura Avery

LITURGIST

Drew Bell

DEACONS

Jon Prouty
Amanda Prouty
Leigh Love

USHERS

Jim Dunwiddie
Russ Dunwiddie

2ND SUNDAY

820AM

ELDER

Ann Littlefield
JT Yarnell

LITURGIST

Alan Nelson

DEACONS

Ken Littlefield
Nancy Samp
Linda Ringo

USHERS

Joe Payne
Nike Thompson

COMMUNION PREP

Meghan Andrews

10:40AM

ELDER

Ray Miles
Cindy Leveron

LITURGIST

Joyce Wagner

DEACONS

Blair Johnson
Steven Claycomb
Barb Gage

USHERS

Debi Wells
Georgia Griffith

3RD SUNDAY

820AM

ELDER

Cecile Landrum
Stephen Waters

LITURGIST

Nancy Samp

DEACONS

Lauren Eichelberger
Chris Lloyd
Marsha Graham

USHERS

Greg Fitzpatrick
Sherry Fitzpatrick

COMMUNION PREP

Karen Shroyer

10:40AM

ELDER

Wanda King
Ray Miles

LITURGIST

Carolyn Green

DEACONS

Missy Mann
Jessica Bivin
Shaun Crisp

USHERS

Morris Woodruff
Stephen Foutes

4TH SUNDAY

OCT 24

820AM

ELDER

Cindy Leveron
Alan Nelson

LITURGIST

Sally Robuck

DEACONS

Doug Hagenhoff
Jenny Hagenhoff
Kathy Cavender

USHERS

Kathy Cavender
Rick Vaughan

COMMUNION PREP

Sandy Robinson

10:40AM

ELDER

Stephen Waters
Cecile Landrum

LITURGIST

Meaghan Andrews

DEACONS

Stephen Foutes
Brenda Foutes
Sherry Anderson

USHERS

TBD

5TH SUNDAY

OCT 31

820AM

ELDER

JT Yarnell
Patty Osman

LITURGIST

Bob Priddy

DEACONS

Jeanne Nelson
Tracy McClard
Nancy Hequembourg

USHERS

Kathy Cavender
Rick Vaughan

COMMUNION PREP

Karen Shroyer

10:40AM

ELDER

Laura Avery
Melanie Highland

LITURGIST

Pat Amick

DEACONS

Jeff Moore
Sally Moore
Ashley Crisp

USHERS

TBD

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 Jim@firstchristianjcmo.org

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 Sarah@firstchristianjcmo.org

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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 October 13, 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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**PROJECT
HOMELESS
CONNECT**
Jefferson City, MO

**300 Block of E. Capitol
1st Baptist
1st Christian
1st United Methodist**

Volunteers Needed!

This marks our 7th Year for Project Homeless in Jefferson City. Our goal is to connect 200 local individuals and families experiencing homelessness with assistance, resources, and services, including: access to shelter/housing; food and clothing donations; ID cards; medical and dental care; mental health screening; substance abuse screening; job placement, . . . and much more!

EVENT DATE: OCTOBER 8, 2021

EVENT TIME: 10:00am to 2:00pm

Sign Up Today! @ [JCMO-PHC.org/volunteers](https://jcmo-phc.org/volunteers)

We are currently seeking the following donation items:

- New Adult *White* Socks (Tube Socks Preferred)

**Every Guest will be given a Clothing Voucher to
Salvation Army Thrift Store!**

Please donate any clothing items you have @ 718 Michigan St

**Please drop off socks at
1st Methodist Church (Capital Ave Entrance)**

By – September 24th

**If you have questions, please contact us at:
jcmo.phc@gmail.com or call (573) 635-6886**