

The Church Bell

January 31, 2024

VOL. 30, ISSUE 2



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

Building Relationships

Beginning February 21, we will begin a **Wednesday Evening Meal with Devotions**.

We'll set up at 5:15 PM for a time to gather, share a lite supper, and carry on in conversation with one another. Individuals and families can come from home or work and be intentional about getting better acquainted with one another as one Family, First Christian Church. At 6:00 PM we will take time for a group devotional and prayer by our ministerial staff, elders, and even members of the wider community of Jefferson City. We **will** end promptly at 6:30 PM in order to transition to Choir and Bells practice. (*And who knows what other surprises are in store for those not in choir who may want to linger! You'll have to come to find out!! Ha!*)

You may ask why we are doing this? And maybe why at this time? Both are not only fair questions, they also show that you know your time is valuable. So do I.

I recently reached out to Brenda Foutes to express the gratitude I was feeling for FCC's Strategic Plan. The year before I arrived (2022), Brenda led a strategic planning team to make recommendations for the board and church to consider moving forward. One key recommendation was to "find opportunities to build stronger, genuine relationships amongst our congregational members and community."

Our **Wednesday Night Meal with Devotions** gives the whole congregation the opportunity to be intentional about building stronger, genuine relationships. The timing also seems to be right. From February 21 to May 22 takes us up to Memorial Day Weekend and is about 13 weeks. At that point we will stop for the summer, which will also provide time to evaluate before we decide to continue again after Labor Day in the Fall. We hope this feels like a manageable time commitment without feeling like it will continue forever.

So, we hope you will join in this time and consider inviting a friend to join you. I also think of Acts 2:42-44, where we find Luke's description of the heart of the early church.

42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. 43 Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. 44 All the believers were together and had everything in common.

Peace,

Michael



4th Annual February Baby Wipes Drive

Common Ground partners with Capital City Diaper Bank to provide diapers and wipes onsite to our clients. For the past three years, Common Ground along with partner churches has held a drive for Baby Wipes. These drives bring in hundreds of packages of wipes which the bank uses all year. The Diaper Bank spends all of its cash donations on regular diapers so Common Ground wants to make sure they also have baby wipes and Pull-Ups for agencies to get for their clients. You can bring your donations to Common Ground or any of these participating churches:



CAPITAL CITY
DIAPER BANK

- First Christian
- First Methodist
- First Baptist
- Joshua House
- Immaculate Conception
- First Presbyterian
- Our Savior's Lutheran
- Grace Episcopal
- Memorial Baptist

Read more about the Diaper Bank at
<https://capitalcitydiaperbank.org/>.



First Christian Church of Jefferson City would love for you to be part of an online small group experience.

BIBLE STORIES FOR ADULTS

Sundays from
3 -4 PM Central
via Zoom

February 18
through
March 24



Church membership is not required.

All seekers are welcome.

To RSVP by February 4, email Rev. Alexis:
alexisatfcc@gmail.com

Greetings, Beloveds!

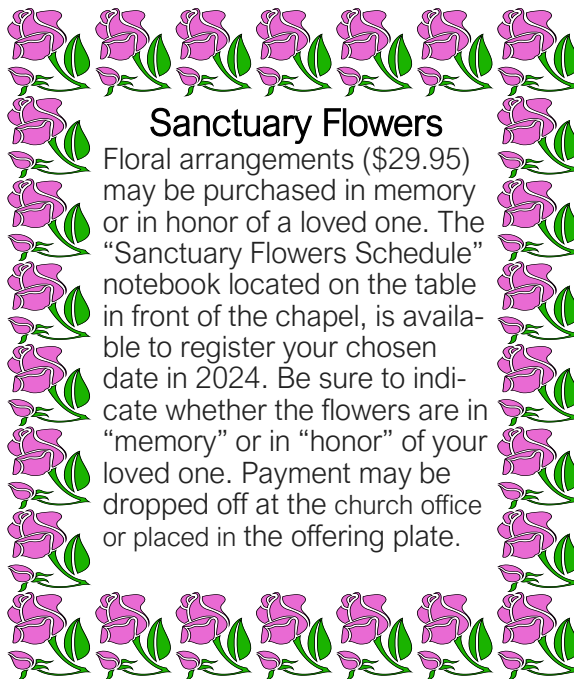
I am thrilled to share that our first online small group series will be Bible Stories for Adults. We will explore sacred stories often included in illustrated children's books in a way that will expand what they might mean and deepen what they might inspire within us. The stories we explore will be selected with the worship themes for Lent in mind.

We will meet on Sundays via Zoom from 3-4 PM Central from February 18 through March 24. All seekers are welcome to participate.

To RSVP, please complete this form by Sunday, February 4: <https://forms.gle/gjL62bb9KqrE6kxQA>

If you have questions or information that might be helpful for me to know, please be in touch: alexisatfcc@gmail.com

With You on the Journey,
Rev. Alexis
Minister of Online Faith Formation and
Public Theological Learning Experiences



Sanctuary Flowers

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.



Message from our Associate Minister

Dear Church Family,

As I write this the weather is gray and cloudy, as it has been for several days. It feels like it's been forever since we've even seen the sun, let alone felt its warmth. During this time of year it's easy to find yourself feeling a little down. The holidays are over, it's cold and flu season, it gets dark so early, the weather is dreary... the list goes on. If you're anything like me, it can be challenging to *feel that joy we have in Christ, when the sun literally refuses to shine!*

I bring this up, because the God who created us, loves and cares for us completely. God wants us to take care of our whole selves. Our spiritual, physical, *and mental health all matter and work together for our wellbeing.* *If you haven't felt your best lately, whether you've had one of the many physical illnesses that have been going around, or if the winter blahs have been getting you down, take some time to be extra kind to yourself. Do all the things that your doctor recommends; get enough rest, drink lots of water, and find a way to have fun while getting some exercise. Spend some time in prayer and in the Bible.*

Don't forget, though, that isolation contributes to feeling less than great. So, while you're taking care of yourself, reach out to someone. Make a call or send a text just to say, "Hello!" Set up a lunch date. Run errands together. Attend an activity together; maybe even a *church activity!* *And if you can't think of anyone to call, reach out to me. I'd love to spend time with you and to help you connect with other FCC JCMO folks, too.*

Hopefully, the sun will have made a reappearance by the time you're all reading this, but if not, let us enjoy the warmth of Christ's love and the fellowship of our church family.

Love & light,
Rev. Heather

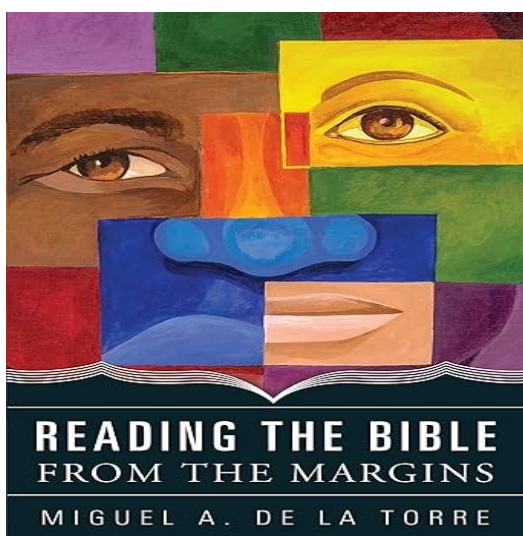


Rev. Heather Patten

The National Benevolent Association is offering a series of four zoom meetings led by our own Regional Minister, Rev. Dr. Paul Koch. Each session will offer guided scripture, devotion, prayer, and sharing with older adults in mind. The date for this series is February 6 at 11 a.m.

Contact the FCC office to register:
fccjcmooffice@gmail.com

To register, contact us at
fccjcmooffice@gmail.com



SMALL GROUP BOOK STUDY

A new Book Study begins Thursday, January 11. We will be reading the book by Miguel A. de la Torre entitled "Reading the Bible from the Margins." *This book explores how we read the Bible from the perspective of the poor, oppressed, and victims of discrimination.* The book focuses on perspectives that are often ignored that can help us in understanding the Bible. Reading the book while you participate will be very helpful; however, it isn't a requirement. Portions of the book will be read during each session, which will help frame the content of the conversations. Participating, if only to listen, is welcomed and encouraged. You are welcome to bring a sack lunch.

Thursdays 12:00 PM
Activities Room, 2nd floor

Please Pray for OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Beverly Anderson, close friend of Sharon Gonder
Kathy and Steve Brown
The Claycomb Family
Karla Denny
The family of Ian Dunlap (Leslie, Liam, Lanie, Steve Waters and Cecile Landrum)
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
Elaine West

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!

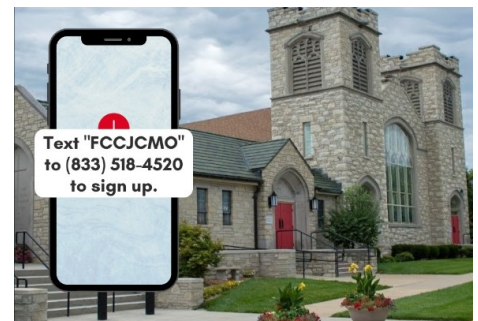


Chancel Choir has resumed weekly rehearsals following a short break after a busy Christmas season. The new year is a great time to join us! If you are unable to commit to singing throughout the year, please consider adding your voice to Holy Week music. We will begin rehearsal on special anthems for Palm Sunday (March 24), Maundy Thursday (March 28) and Easter Sunday (March 31) on Wednesday, February 7, at 6:30 p.m. Contact Gretchen Huedepohl if you'd like to be a part of sharing meaningful music during this time. I'm confident doing so will prove both a blessing to the congregation and to you as we walk together through the season of Lent.

*Thank
You*

Thank you to all of the members of FCC for the warm welcome I have received! I am excited to get to know more of you as I get used to the Administrative Assistant role. I also want to thank the church members for the welcome gift box I was given. I loved all of the goodies in it!

Sharyl Kelsch
Administrative Assistant



Sign up for SMS text alerts! 🍷

Room at the Inn Update:

Greetings from Room at the Inn! The 'challenge' week for FCC (December 31-January 6) was a success: thanks to the 30+ members who prepared/provided nourishing meals and covered shifts with compassion and care. In each shift I've worked, the guests have expressed gratitude and appreciation for the warm, safe respite from the uncertainty of daily challenges. The benefits far exceed the time and energy of my small contributions.

The "Inn" will remain open for another seven weeks, through at least March 2. Please continue to assist as you are able: sign up at this link:

[https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4AA4AA28A1FCC07-45038009-jcroom#/.](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4AA4AA28A1FCC07-45038009-jcroom#/)

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



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

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 for those who cannot worship with us in person.

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Jon and Lois Alexander 2/3

Gary and June Spencer 2/11

Tom and Mary Ann Weaver
2/14

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



Change

The Office at First Christian
Church will be CLOSED every
Friday beginning
January 16, 2024!

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
ELAINE WEST, Brookdale Rosehill Skilled Nursing,
Room 115, 12809 Johnson Drive,
Shawnee, KS 66216
EVA PRATT
3251 Pine Tree Dr., Columbia, MO 65201

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**FACILITY & GROUNDS
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Scott Campbell
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BELL CHOIR DIRECTOR
Terri Lloyd
Terri.schenkel.lloyd@gmail.com

Financial
Finance@firstchristianjcmo.org

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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 14, 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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