

# The Church Bell

December 8, 2021

VOL. 77, ISSUE 25



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

## The Joy of Christmas

*Dr. Jim Hill*

*Interim Senior Minister*

I have already shared with you that I love the celebration of Christmas. I grew up in a large family and my parents made it a very special time for our family. Our family loved Charles Dicken's famous tale, A Christmas Carol. I continue the tradition with my family. I am something of a Dicken's fanatic. It is the second most read Christmas story. Obviously, the story of Christmas in the Bible is the most read story. Dicken's story reminds me that through the years men and women much like Scrooge have been changed by a new awareness of the meaning of Christ's coming. When I was a boy, we had an old album that was a recording of a radio broadcast of the Dicken's story. Sir Laurence Olivier was the narrator and played the role of Scrooge in the recording. We literally wore out the album. A few years ago, one of my brothers found a new release of the old recording on CD and gave us each a copy. I have listened to the tale many times since I received it. It is incredible how it brings to my mind Christmas experiences from my childhood.

Christmas is that kind of experience for God's people. The celebration is a reminder of the incredible significance of his coming—his Advent. It is an event that helps us to recall what God has done for us. It is a celebration of the incarnation of the Eternal Word of God. John's prologue says, "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us!" We could never have found our way to God, so God came to us. The most important gifts we ever give are the gifts that carry something of ourselves in the gift. God gave us himself, in the person of his Son. It was this gift that changed everything. In Christ is light and life.

This Sunday we will continue our Advent worship series – God with Us. On the third Sunday of Advent, we will explore God's gift of joy. Sometimes joy seems allusive. Jesus told his disciples in John chapter 15; *I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.* The joy that God promises is so much more than the momentary happiness we often experience. It is a deep, inner happiness that sustains us even during difficult moments in our lives. We have discovered real joy in Christ.

I hope you will remember during this Christmas season, with all its activity, to share the "joy" of Christmas with someone. Share with someone the message and meaning of Christ's birth. Maybe their heart is cold, or their life is empty like Scrooge. Share with someone who needs a Savior who's coming brought good tidings of great joy. That is why we celebrate Christmas. I will look forward to seeing you on the Lord's Day as we continue our Advent celebration.

# OUR CHURCH FAMILY

## We pray for these

Gene Adkison, Beverly Anderson, Dot Baker, Austin Brandt, Steve Brown, Jane Burd, Nellie Campbell, Richard Carroll, Doug Defreese, Ken Dykes, Jodean Foster, Marilyn Gross, Cheryl Hanson, Norma Hasselman, Jeanette Hickman, Venita Jackson, Brooks Jarrett, Shirley Jarrett, Jessica Kozlen, Matthew Lang, Michael Lister, Vivian Murphy, Patty Osman, Jackie Possinger, Doris Yelton, for the Brandenburg, Cooley & Miller families, Our Country and our men and women serving our country, the world

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](mailto:Kathy@firstchristianjcmo.org), if you would like continued prayers for an individual. Thank you!

## Members in Care Centers

### COLUMBIA POST ACUTE

*Glenda Crow*

### HEISINGER

*Shirley Ferguson*

*Barbara Nikodyn*

*Norma Woodson*

### JC MANOR

*Jackie Possinger*

### OAK TREE VILLA

*Shirley Jarrett*

### PRIMROSE RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

*Norma Hasselman*

*Wendell & Myra Hubbs*

*Jessie Schell*

### STONEBRIDGE AT OAK TREE

*Marilyn Gross*

### ST. JOSEPH'S BLUFFS

*Doris Yelton*

### HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

*Mariam Craddock*

### OUT-OF-TOWN MEMBERS

*Betty Schramm*

*Betty Schulte*

### MERAMEC BLUFFS

*Richard Carroll*

## December Birthdays and Anniversaries

<b>DEC</b> <b>1</b> Dale Findlay Melanie Highland Noble Knight <b>2</b> Hugh McKay Ian Schwartz Mark Snell <b>3</b> Leigh Love <i>Robert &amp; Leigh Love</i> <b>4</b> Wendell Hubbs Allison Lauf <b>5</b> Sondra Gonder Malique Harrison Carolyn Link <b>6</b> Ken Dykes John Gulick	<b>7</b> Cecily Highland <b>8</b> Nancy Floyd Jackie Possinger <b>9</b> <i>Dominique &amp; Kennysha Harrison</i> <b>10</b> Jane Beetem Daniel Love <i>Shannon &amp; Katie Imler</i> <b>11</b> Brian Knight Ken Lane David Durbin Aaliyah Fadell <b>12</b> Gabriel Jackson Annie Jarrett Jay Floyd	<b>13</b> Cindy Blosser Lily Foutes <i>Elizabeth Coffman &amp; Bruce Wibberg</i> <b>14</b> Steve Nolte Margo Williamson <b>15</b> <b>16</b> <b>17</b> <b>18</b> Virginia Lister Sally Moore June Spencer Barbara Walker <b>19</b> Yolanda King <b>20</b> <i>David &amp; Susan Avery</i>	<b>21</b> <i>Wendell &amp; Myra Hubbs</i> <b>22</b> River Reeves <i>Jim &amp; Debi Wells</i> <b>23</b> <b>24</b> <b>25</b> Richard Carroll Mark Millard <b>26</b> Mary Ann Weaver <b>27</b> Ann Lane <b>28</b> Seth Sims <b>29</b> Carolyn Green Rochelle Reeves <i>Chris &amp; Stephanie Bell</i> <i>Lucas &amp; Melody Boling</i>	<b>30</b> <b>31</b> Sarah Jones Jennifer Sapp <i>Chris &amp; Michelle Sheppard</i>
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## Congregational Survey for the Search Committee

The FCC Ministerial Search Committee invites you to participate and guide us in our discernment process by completing the congregational survey. You should have received a copy of the survey in the mail. Your participation will allow us to accurately identify the strengths and qualifications that this congregation seeks in a Senior Minister in order to fulfill its role in the Kingdom.

We hope that each member will complete the survey. If you need additional copies for your family, they will be available at worship and at the church office. If you prefer you may complete the survey online at <http://www.bit.ly/FCC2021Survey>. You may place your survey in the box in the back of sanctuary or turn it in to the church office.

The committee will begin compiling responses upon receipt. Please complete and return your survey by December 15. Thank you for providing your thoughtful response to our request for guidance.

## Christmas Giving Tree

The Christmas GIVING TREE is up and decorated with many fun requests for our East School family. This family has two parents and 9 children, ranging from 13 years of age to 4 years of age. Here is how you can make this family's Christmas merry and bright:

Grab a tag off of the tree (located in the gathering area) on Sunday and head out to shop! **OR** Call the church office now to sign up. Just ask Kathy what is on the list. **OR** If shopping is not your thing, but you would still like to participate, **monetary donations** are great. We will do the shopping! **THEN** After you purchase your item, feel free to wrap it (or not), but PLEASE tape the request tag on the item, so we know who it goes to. Bring the item to the church office. Our deadline is **Friday, December 17**.

Thank you for your generosity and spirit of giving,

*Robin Grumm*

*East School Coordinator*

## Coats for East School

East School has a need for coats, hats, and gloves during the winter. First Christian Church will be collecting new and gently used coats for the children at East School for the next few weeks. New gloves and hats are also needed. Children's coats sizes 6-7 through adult large have been requested. Donations of coats, hats and gloves can be dropped off in the box near the office/gym windows. Additional coats will be purchased through a small grant to help with this need.

## CWF Mary Circle meetings resume

Mary Circle meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of each month at 1:00 PM in the gathering area. (No meetings in June, July and August). Our members have developed a close bond of friendship and fellowship. Our members participate in the Church's programs, and remember our Circle's homebound for birthdays and special days. We also provide dinners to bereaved families of our Circle. We always welcome new members. **Our next meeting is Monday, January 3, 2022 at 1:00 PM.** If you have questions, please contact Virginia Lister or Rev. Sarah.

## Toward a Flourishing Community Zoom Series: Ubuntu Community Garden

I'm very excited to share an opportunity to learn from someone contributing needed resources and change within our community. Jennifer Ferguson, creator and cultivator of Ubuntu Community Garden is looking forward to spending time with us via Zoom on Thursday, December 9 from 11:45-12:45. A recording will be available for those who cannot attend. You can read more about Jennifer and Ubuntu Community Garden's mission here: <https://www.ubuntucommunitygarden.com/post/meet-our-founder>

The Zoom link for this session is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2202286773>

While an RSVP is not required, it would help me to know you plan to attend.

*With You on the Journey,  
Rev. Alexis  
[alexis@firstchristianjcmo.org](mailto:alexis@firstchristianjcmo.org)*

### Ways for Parent and Guardians to Connect

Our Parent and Guardian Faith Conversations occur the third Sunday afternoon of every month. December's session meets on the 19th from 3-4 via Zoom. Parents and guardians can join the Zoom meeting using this special link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83744778126>. More information regarding the topic of this month's theme will be provided closer to the date.

Rev. Alexis hosts casual check-in Zoom sessions during which parents and guardians can sign in at any time between noon and 1PM. These check-in sessions will be offered the first Tuesday of every month at noon via Zoom. You can join by following this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87825019003>.

Contact Rev. Alexis to learn more: [Alexis@firstchristianjcmo.org](mailto:Alexis@firstchristianjcmo.org).

## Children's Sunday School Schedule

The Children's Sunday School class meets at 9:30 AM on the 2nd and 4th Sundays, including this Sunday, November 28th. On Sunday December 12th we will have a Christmas Celebration at 9:30AM during Sunday School **and after the 10:40AM service. There will be cookie decorating, ornament making, a game and more!**

## Boy Scout Troop 333 Christmas Party

**Who:** You are invited to join our Boy Scout Troop 333

**What:** For their annual Christmas party

**Where:** In the scout room (basement floor off alley door)

**When:** Monday, December 13th at 7:00PM



## Blue Christmas

Sunday December 19, 2021 at 5PM

Several years ago we began having Blue Christmas services prior to Christmas. These services are a tradition in many churches as a way to provide space for the ways the holiday season can be a time of grief, loneliness, anger, worry, and other emotions that are not very festive. In 2020 we held our Blue Christmas service on Zoom. This year we will be back in the sanctuary and hope to be able to livestream as well.

As I was about to write this I received news that a family friend and former neighbor died in an accident on Sunday. He was my sister's age and leaves behind a wife and two small children. The heartbreak of grief is immense and I know this loss will ripple out to many others who know and love this family. To be dealing with such loss during a time when so much of the world around you is focused on hope and joy and love is a heavy lift.

Whether you are someone who has experienced a recent loss or continue to carry with you losses that happened decades ago, Blue Christmas is for you.

Whether you are someone who is surrounded by family and all the blessings and struggles that come with that, or you will be spending a lot of time alone and all the blessings and struggles that come with that, Blue Christmas is for you.

Whether you have decorated your entire house or your Christmas decorations are nonexistent or anywhere in between, Blue Christmas is for you.

We have all experienced loss, disappointment, and anxiety this past year - as individuals, as a church, and as a community. I invite you to join us on Sunday, December 19th at 5PM as we acknowledge the pain and remember God's presence in the midst of the pain.

*Rev. Sarah*

## Nursery Volunteers Needed

First Christian Church has employed Maria Wolfrum as our new Nursery Coordinator. We are also seeking to employ some additional Nursery Workers. Contact Maria ([firstchristiannursery@gmail.com](mailto:firstchristiannursery@gmail.com)) or the church office at (573) 636-5157 if you know of someone who might be interested.

Maria is expecting a baby around Christmas Day. We are looking for a few volunteers who would be willing to work in our nursery for the 7:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Service and for the 10:00 a.m. Worship Service on December 26<sup>th</sup>. Please contact the office or Maria if you can help with either of these needs.

## A Message for JOY Sunday

Prying myself up out of bed on some of these cold, often frosty mornings has not been an easy task for me, as I'm sure you all know, as well. In fact, the other day, I didn't even feel like getting up and going to work. But, then, a friend of mine said to me, "Yes, Elizabeth, some days none of us want to go to work, but we have to. I understand." So, I got to thinking, I DO like to encourage my Supervisor and Boss to come to work. It's part of my job, or at least I've taken it on as my job, and YES I enjoy saying to them, "My name is Elizabeth Joy, it's going to be a Beautiful Day!", "C'mon!"

Since my Epiphany I had a few years ago, that my parents named me Elizabeth JOY Coffman, I feel a little obligated to cheer others up, whomever they might be. *Continued next page*

*A Message for JOY Sunday continued*

From my volunteering at the Salvation Army Thrift Store, to my work, I get paid to do, and being there for my wonderful Husband, I ENCOURAGE OTHERS!

The Christmas Spirit begins with Christ, right? So, sufficing in THAT fact, I rest my soul in Jesus, and begin again each year and every day, to celebrate Him coming into the world through my inner Joy. It helps to sing Joy to the World too! Every verse, and every version of it I know!

So, basically, it's getting up in the mornings, sharing the Goodness that is Ultimately God-given, and, celebrating Him with our Family, Friends, and Neighbors, that really does us all Good.

Thank you First Christian Church, Jefferson City, Missouri! You have helped me Grow and become Stronger with the help of our Jesus!

*Elizabeth "Joy" Coffman*

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## Serving this Month

### Christmas Eve, December 24th

**5:30PM Families Service -**

**7:30PM Candlelight Service -** Steve Waters/Cecile Landrum, Elders; Jeff & Sally Moore, Deacons;  
Karla Denny, Liturgist

**2ND SUNDAY**

**DEC 12**

**820AM**

**ELDER**

Steve Waters  
Cecile Landrum

**LITURGIST**

Sherry Jordan

**DEACONS**

Ken Littlefield  
Nancy Samp  
Nancy Hequemborg

**USHERS**

Joe Payne  
Nike Thompson

**COMMUNION PREP**

Meghan Andrews

**10:40AM**

**ELDER**

Ann Littlefield  
Melanie Highland

**LITURGIST**

Barbara Kuebler

**DEACONS**

Blair Johnson  
Steven Claycomb  
Barb Gage

**USHERS**

Debi Wells  
Georgia Griffith

**3RD SUNDAY**

**DEC 19**

**820AM**

**ELDER**

Alan Nelson  
J.T. Yarnell

**LITURGIST**

Sue Snell

**DEACONS**

Lauren Eichelberger  
Chris Lloyd  
Marsha Graham

**USHERS**

Jim Dunwiddie  
Russ Dunwiddie

**COMMUNION PREP**

Karen Shroyer

**10:40AM**

**ELDER**

David Avery  
Laura Avery

**LITURGIST**

Susan Vaughn

**DEACONS**

Missy Mann  
Jessica Saylor  
Shaun Crisp

**USHERS**

Morris Woodruff  
Stephen Foutes

**4TH SUNDAY**

**DEC 26**

**ONE SERVICE**

**10:00AM**

**ELDER**

Patty Osman  
Ann Littlefield

**LITURGIST**

Wanda King

**DEACONS**

Sherry Anderson  
Jenny Hagenhoff

**USHERS**

Kathy Cavender  
Rick Vaughan

**COMMUNION PREP**

Sandy Robinson

**ELDER**

Laura Avery  
Ray Miles

**LITURGIST**

Barb Gage

**DEACONS**

Stephen Foutes  
Brenda Foutes  
Sherry Anderson

**USHERS**

TBD

**1ST SUNDAY**

**JAN 2**

**ONE SERVICE**

**10:00AM**

**ELDER**

TBD

**LITURGIST**

TBD

**DEACONS**

TBD

**USHERS**

Doug Hagenhoff  
TBD

**COMMUNION PREP**

Virginia Lister

**10:40AM**

**ELDER**

Wanda King  
Ray Miles

**LITURGIST**

Pat Amick

**DEACONS**

Jeff Moore  
Sally Moore  
Leigh Love

**USHERS**

Alan and  
Jeanne Nelson

🌲 🦌 🌲 SEASONS GREETINGS  
FROM THE FOOD PANTRY GANG 🌲 🦌 🌲

Many, many "thank you's" to everyone for their very generous gifts over the last year and a half. This mission would not be possible without your help. God has inspired strength and creativity during Covid to keep us able to remain operational the entire time. Staff, and the community we serve, have been extremely cooperative in following CDC advice. Our patrons are very appreciative, and some work along side us. They bless us and our church. We see tears of gratitude frequently.

We believe we are offering not just needed food, but Christian love. As I always tell our fantastic volunteers, "It's not just about food." We treat everyone with kindness and respect, just as we hope to be treated.

As Christmas approaches, we have been asked how you can help. In general for food items, soups and creamed soups, sweet or salty snack items, canned Vienna sausages, canned tuna, box mixes or pouch-type side dishes, jelly, canned pork and beans, baked beans, cornbread mix, pie filling, jello or pudding, canned pineapple, canned corn and canned diced tomatoes.

(We are currently blessed with good amounts of peanut butter, cereal, canned fruits and vegetables other than those mentioned.)

For the kids: ages 1 through 5th grade in general, we will again make age appropriate Christmas gift bags.

Items needed, new please:

Crayons, coloring and activity books, puzzles, all age- safe new stuffed toys Hats, gloves, fuzzy socks, and socks

Good places to buy are Dollar Tree here in JC, the one in Linn and the 3 in Columbia if you are going to be in those areas.

Please know that anything you donate will be gratefully used. Nothing ever goes to waste.

*In Christian Love,  
Cindy Leveron  
Director FCC Food Pantry*

**INTERIM MINISTER**  
 Rev. Dr. James Hill  
 Jim@firstchristianjcmo.org

**ASSOCIATE MINISTER**  
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 Sarah@firstchristianjcmo.org

**ASSISTANT MINISTER**  
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 Alexis@firstchristianjcmo.org

**DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY**  
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 Scott Campbell  
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 Terri Lloyd  
 Terri.schenkel.lloyd@gmail.com

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**FINANCIAL**  
 Finance@firstchristianjcmo.org

 Login with Facebook

[facebook.com/fccjcmo](https://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 December 22, 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](http://www.cgcb.org).



## You may also give online at [firstchristianjcmo.org/donate](http://firstchristianjcmo.org/donate)

### Financial Records and Questions

Questions related to giving and church finances should be sent to Carol Kaylor at [finance@firstchristianjcmo.org](mailto: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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