

The Church Bell

March 17, 2021

VOL. 77, ISSUE 6



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

Pastoral Ponderings

Sisters and Brothers,

Vaccination rates are up and COVID-19 case numbers continue to decline. This is good news, but public health experts continue to caution us against premature victory laps. Weighing all of this, alongside the survey results from our congregation, this writing details the next evolution in our worship life through the pandemic.

The survey results revealed three sets of preferences: one group strongly wants to be in the sanctuary, another does not yet feel safe indoors, and a third continues to desire virtual options. Rather than choose one of these paths to the exclusion of others, our hope is to meet the needs of everyone in the safest way possible. To make this possible, we WILL need your help.

Returning to the Usual Sunday Routine

On Sunday morning, March 21st, we will shift our in person worship to the sanctuary and again hold two services at 8:20 and 10:40. This returns us to the sacred space we cherish, while limiting crowd size. Physical distance between family units, wearing masks, and other public health measures will continue to be required for the safety of the community gathered. While we recognize many in the church have been vaccinated, many others have not. Recently released CDC guidelines recommend continued adherence to these measures in public spaces.

Shifting Second Service Outdoors when Weather Permits

Once temperatures rise, early service will remain in the sanctuary but the 10:40 service will be held in the parking lot. This allows those most comfortable outdoors to again enjoy corporate worship. When weather is prohibitive, this service will be moved into the sanctuary on that Sunday. We hope to offer an outdoor service beginning on Easter, April 4th.

We are utilizing the parking lot instead of Riverside Park for two reasons. First, our survey indicated there wasn't a strong preference between the two among those wanting to worship outdoors. Second, the parking lot is far easier logistically in terms of set-up.

Two Very BIG Exceptions

We WILL utilize Riverside Park for worship on two occasions. On Easter, our SECOND service will be at Riverside (first service in the sanctuary). Second, on my final Sunday with FCC, April 25th, we will hold ONE service at 10 am *(continued)*



MAUNDY THURSDAY

April 1, 6:30PM via Zoom

This is an interactive service, and a "Special Delivery" will show up soon to encourage your participation.

Pastoral Ponderings (continued)

at Riverside with a meal/fellowship opportunity happening afterwards. More details about both these services will be shared in the coming weeks.

Virtual Worship

We will continue to offer a live-streaming option for folks worshipping at home. Beginning on March 21st, we share the 8:20 service virtually. (*The Zoom Room will be open starting at 8:10AM Sundays March 21 and March 28 to worship together.*) This allows those wanting to attend at the early service time to participate and those wishing to participate later in the day can also utilize the recording for worship.

We Need your Help

All of this (returning to two services, offering an outdoor and virtual option) involves more work. We need people to help with a range of tasks, especially ushering, soundboard/live-streaming, and serving as liturgists. Bluntly, without enough volunteer help this plan isn't sustainable. None of these jobs are overly time-consuming and all can be easily learned, so if you're planning to participate in person either in the sanctuary or outdoors, then please reply to this email with an offer to help in one way or another. If everyone raises their hand to do a little bit then collectively we can do a lot.

Stay Vigilant and Safe

Right now, we are all living in different worlds. Some have been vaccinated and others have not. Some are growing more risk tolerant because of pandemic fatigue, while others remain quite risk averse because of the virus' threat to their health. I also recognize that this plan, while attempting to be as accommodating and inclusive as possible, will not satisfy everyone.

Please remember that we belong to a community and our approach has to work for the group as a whole. Navigating the pandemic has required sacrifices by all of us. While the light at the end of the tunnel is getting brighter, we are not yet out of the woods. Your continued patience and participation is appreciated as we continue our mission and ministry through these difficult times.

*Steadfast in hope,
Rev. Beau Underwood*

40 Days of Prayer for First Christian Church Jeff City

As we enter both the search process for an Interim Minister and, eventually, a new Senior Minister and a time of strategic planning for our future, we invite you to lift up a prayer for the prompts listed below. You may also wish to lift up other prayers as your spirit guides you. (Note: For space purposes, only two weeks of prayer have been included below. If you would like the full list of prayer days, the church office has some available or Kathy can email a copy to you. This space will be updated in two weeks.)

March 21	For the Holy Spirit to move through our church during these 40 days of prayer
March 22	For celebration of the gifts of ministry that we have received from Rev. Beau
March 23	For our Search Committee as they continue their work
March 24	For our church staff as they prepare for the upcoming transition
March 25	For our Strategic Planning Team and their discernment about our future
March 26	For our Board Chair, Steve Waters, as he leads us through this time
March 27	For our Regional Minister, Rev. Paul Koch, as he supports our search process
March 28	For the congregation as we wander and journey together
March 29	For God to comfort those feeling loss within our church
March 30	For hearts open to God's plan for our future
March 31	For God's Love and Peace to be felt by all at FCC

Our condolences to Callie Thompson on the loss of her brother, Bill Burnett of Columbia, Missouri, who passed away Saturday, March 6th.

Our condolences to Brian and Brent Connell and family on the loss of their mother, Rita Connell, who passed away Wednesday, March 10th. Visitation will be held in the sanctuary at First Christian Church on Friday, March 19th from 1:00PM to 2:00PM. A private family memorial service will follow at 2:30PM.

Webinar with Dr. Frederick Christian Bauerschmidt

"The Love that Is God" on March 17, 2021 at 5:30 pm via Zoom.

Kids' Time Schedule

No Kids' Time Sunday April 4th (Easter Sunday). Watch your email and future *Bells* for information about Kids' Time day, time, and location for April and May.

Summer Camp 2021

The Mid-America Region is working on how to have a safe summer camp season. Camp Directors (including Rev. Sarah) are meeting on a regular basis and regional staff is coordinating with camp locations to determine best practices and expert guidance is able to be followed. Online registration is not yet available and once it is, there will not be any late fees.

Please save the dates for the following camps and watch for more information as it becomes available. We are also working on a tentative plan for an online camp opportunity.

CYF (9th-12th grade) - June 6-11
Chi Rho (6th-8th) - August 1-6
Combo (2nd - 5th)- June 12-16

Try-It (PreK-1st with adult family member) - August 6-8
Our Bodies, Our Faith - Dates TBD (8th&9th grade)

East School Cards of Appreciation

This month we are collecting cards of appreciation for staff members at East Elementary School. Handmade cards donated by church members will be available in the sanctuary for the next two weeks. Each bag of cards includes a list of staff positions (such as 1st grade teacher, office staff, custodian, etc.) to address your cards to, so we make sure each staff members gets at least one card. Please return completed cards to the church office by Sunday, April 18th.

Thank you for helping us share love and encouragement with the hardworking staff at East School, as they finish out this challenging school year.

Scholarships Are Due March 30th

All graduating high school seniors are encouraged to apply. Application forms may be obtained from the church office, or from Alexis Engelbrecht, our Youth Director.

Thank You!

Dear FCC, Each time I delivered a card or group of cards that you and your friends at FCC made, I heard these words: "That is So nice! Tell them this means a lot and that we *really* appreciate this." Indeed, we all truly found your gifts of support and encouragement and Hope so uplifting. We treasure your time to hand-make each card and write a heartfelt message inside! What beautiful blessings! Thank you, thank you, thank you! You have made a big difference in our lives.

With Hope, *Tammy Kanatzar*

God Bless You for the Joy You Shared with Us!

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

We pray for these

Beverly Anderson, Steve Brown, Jane Burd, Richard Carroll, Wilma Collins, Gibson Archer Dudenhoeffer, Ken & Karen Dykes, Marilyn Gross, John & Barbara Gulick, Norma Hasselman, Philip Hawkins, Jeanette Hickman, Shirley Jarrett, Mae Oehring, Janice Wood, Doris Yelton, Our Country

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 Nikodyn

Norma Woodson

JC MANOR

Jackie Possinger

PRIMROSE RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

Norma Hasselman

Wendell & Myra Hubbs

Jessie Schell

ST. JOSEPH'S BLUFFS

Doris Yelton

SUMMIT VILLA

Shirley Jarrett

THE TIMBERS

Mae Oehring

VILLA MARIE

Terry Fockler

HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

Mariam Craddock,

OUT-OF-TOWN MEMBERS

Betty Schramm

Betty Schulte

March Birthdays and Anniversaries

MARCH	
1	David Love
2	
3	Lilith Jones
	Sue Steppelman
	<i>Keith & Karan West</i>
4	Rick Brown
	Beth Nolte
5	Alicea Mullen
6	Cash Fishback
	Quinnley Frye
7	Ruth Garver
	<i>Michael & Allison Lauf</i>

8	Wilma Collins
	Barb Gage
9	Jim Morris
10	Phoenix Gilpin
	<i>Alan & Jeanne Nelson</i>
12	Patricia King
13	
14	Rick Vaughan
15	Brett Kuebler
16	Lily Gregory

17	Brooke Hagenhoff
	Emelyn McClain
18	Debi Wells
19	Sharon Fockler
20	Michael Helton
	Joy Powers
	Lindsey Ruff
	<i>Rick & Judy Naught</i>
21	Larry Neill
22	Gabriel Gonder
	Gemma Penn
	Michelle Sheppard

23	Susan Avery
	John Blosser
	Katherine Gonder
	Rebecca LaRock
24	Sonya Cooley
25	<i>Tim & Jan Alexander</i>
26	Russ Dunwiddie
	Kelly Verslues
27	
28	Keith West
	<i>Ray & Wendy Miles</i>
29	Becky McClain
30	
31	

MUSIC MINISTRY

As life slowly returns to normal, routines of musicians at the church are allowing a bit more music to be shared in rehearsal and in worship. The Jubilant Sound Handbell Choir is rehearsing each Wednesday evening, and small ensembles are meeting as needed to prepare music for Sunday worship. For those of us who derive much of our spiritual grounding in returning God's gift of music to Him in praise, prayer, and even lamentation, this reality is indeed a blessing!

A return to two worship services this Sunday (8:20 traditional, 10:40 contemporary) means that I will be looking for song leaders to lead congregational hymns at the traditional service at least through May. I will also be looking for singers/instrumentalists to provide special music for that service. Please let me know if you are willing to share your gifts in this way.

UPCOMING SPECIAL MUSIC

*March 21, 8:20 a.m. – Lydia Hale will sing "Lord, I Need You" and "Merciful God," two contemporary Christian ballads with meaningful messages for this Lenten season.

*March 28, 8:20, a.m. (Palm Sunday) – As we remember Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem and the throngs that greeted him, Jubilant Sound Handbells will offer arrangements of "All Glory, Laud and Honor" and "Thine Is the Glory." Trumpeter Dan McClard will share "Proclaim the Glory of the Lord" in addition to accompanying congregational song.

*April 1, 6:30 p.m. (Maundy Thursday) – Though the service will be virtual only, there will be plenty of pre-recorded special music included as a meaningful part of worship. I'm grateful to Kelsie Slaughter and Jack DeArmey for sharing a new favorite anthem, "Living Waters." They will also combine voices with Curtis Sudduth to sing "In This Very Room." In addition, Curtis will sing "Given for You," a lovely communion anthem by Joseph Martin, and "Were You There?" as the altar is solemnly stripped by Sherry Jordan and Carolyn Green, remembering Jesus' suffering and death on Good Friday.

*April 4, Easter – Both services, whether at the church or at Riverside Park, will feature the traditional Easter hymns we love to sing, accompanied by a stellar brass quartet. The quartet will also celebrate Jesus' victory over death by playing "The Hallelujah Chorus." In addition, Forever Faithful ensemble, comprised of Sandra Troutt, Laura Avery, Charlotte Middleton, Sherry Jordan, Karla Denny and Carolyn Green, will sing a favorite Sandi Patty song, "Was It a Morning Like This?" Truly you will want to be a part of celebrating new life in Christ at either (or both!) worship services on Easter!

To God Be the Glory!

Gretchen Huedepohl
Director of Music

Thank You!

I want to thank you for the prayers, cards, phone calls and snacks during my recuperation from a back fracture. Also, the food brought to the house those first few days was delicious. It was such a help not to have to prepare meals. I am blessed to be a part of a caring church family, and I sincerely appreciate your many acts of kindness during the past months.

Wilma Collins



The Easter Offering, received by most congregations on March 28 and April 4, 2021, 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.

If you would like to contribute to the Easter Offering, you may donate online by clicking [here](#). Please be sure to designate that your gift is for the Easter Offering.

Thank you.

FLOWERS FOR EASTER SUNDAY (ORDERS ARE NEEDED BY MARCH 26TH)

Due to some individuals being allergic to Easter Lilies, we are ordering tulips and hydrangeas this year for Easter.

The tulips come in 6-inch pots (five bulbs per pot) for \$16.50 each. You can choose from pink, yellow, orange, purple, red and white colors.



The hydrangeas are white and come in 8-inch pots for \$35.00 each. (Note: These are **NOT** hydrangeas suitable for planting outdoors.)

Please fill out this [form](#) to order your Easter flowers, or you may give Kathy a call in the office (573-636-5157) or email her at firstchristianjcmo@gmail.com with your order. You may click [here](#) to pay for your flowers. *(Please note that your payment is for Easter Flowers, so it is noted properly on your records.)*

SAVE THE DATE!

Sunday, April 25th, we will say our farewells to Rev. Beau, Casey and Jesse. We will have ONE Worship Service at 10:00AM at Riverside Park followed by a Good Bye lunch. We will update you, as plans progress.

The 2021 Flower Chart

is available on the bulletin board across from the office for you to choose a Sunday for flowers on the chancel. For our new members not familiar with this process, you may choose a Sunday "In Honor of" or "In Loving Memory of" a family member or loved one. We ask that each Sunday have only one basket of flowers, so all Sundays are chosen. The cost for a basket of flowers is \$29.95. If you would like to give Kathy a call in the office at 573-636-5157, she will secure a Sunday for you.

An Update from Alexis, Our Youth Director

YOUTH UPDATE

"Seek God in all things and we shall find God by our side." St. Peter Claver

Each week, participants in the intergenerational Lenten group engage in a form of prayer, fasting, and giving related to a theme highlighted within part of the story of Jesus' temptations in Matthew. When we meet, much of our time is spent sharing our reflections and learnings from those practices. Each person brings something unique, and it is not unusual for people of all ages to share what practices they plan to continue, or to be inspired to try a practice because of what another participant shared. The objective of these activities, along with the materials we use, is to connect with God in a way that is transformative.

There are so many distractions and pressures that can prevent us from and the ability to share what is on our hearts and truly listen to others, it is a gift to provide space for these meaningful exchanges and learnings. A great joy for me is the bonding that occurs within the groups and how participants support one another.

To receive the devotional we are using or to learn more about the intergenerational series, you're welcome to email me: alexis@firstchristianjcmo.org. The Lent series ends March 28. We will finish our LORD's Prayer Lab series on April 11. Dr. Warren Carter will be our guest on April 18 at 3 PM (the entire First Christian Church family is welcome to attend), and we will begin a new series on reading and writing prayer in the weeks to follow (stay tuned for more details).

For those who cannot attend Zoom sessions, know there are other ways we can connect. I would love to know more about how we can be a source of support for your family.

SAVE THE DATE: An Afternoon on April 18 with Dr. Warren Carter and Alexis

New Testament scholar, Dr. Warren Carter, will be Alexis' guest for a special Zoom session on Sunday, April 18 at 3 PM. Dr. Warren Carter has kindly agreed to answer questions regarding what we have discussed in our intergenerational groups. While the timing of his session with us will be to mark the end of our LORD's Prayer series in April, participation in the LORD's Prayer Lab series is not required to attend - all First Christian Church members and friends are welcome. Information for how to join will be provided closer to the date.

Dr. Carter was awarded the John Gammie Distinguished Scholar award by the Southwest Commission on Religious Studies in 2014. His latest published book, a 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. She is looking forward to introducing him to those who attend.

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

*With You On the Journey,
Alexis
alexis@firstchristianjcmo.org*

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facebook.com/fccjcmo

AFTER HOURS EMERGENCIES:
 Please contact Rev. Underwood at 815-303-1990 **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 March 31, 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, Rev. Beau at 815-303-1990, or one of our leaders. To join in on our free conference calls, dial (712) 775-7270 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 *servicing* 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/>

"The Church Bell" (UPS 110-580) by First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Jefferson City, Missouri, is published bi-weekly and there is no issue the week between Christmas and New Year's Day. Periodicals paid at Jefferson City, Missouri. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Editor/Church Secretary, First Christian Church, 327 East Capitol Avenue, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101.