

The Church Bell

May 26, 2021

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

Extraordinary Stories for Ordinary Time

I want to share with the First Christian Church family what an honor it is to serve as your interim pastor beginning June 1st. I have been a member of your neighbor congregation (First Baptist) for 23 years, and through the years I have developed a great appreciation for this church and your ministry in our community. Obviously, you have been blessed by the ministry of Rev. Beau Underwood for more than six years, but it is always a challenging time when a pastor resigns. I count it a special privilege to serve with you during the coming months as you seek God's will regarding a new pastor.

Sometimes people are anxious when their church is without a pastor. I certainly understand those feelings. Your church has a wonderful staff team and many very capable leaders who will provide leadership during this interim period. I look forward to serving with them. I plan to be in the office on Mondays and Tuesdays and at other times when needed. I am also available by phone (573-680-1490) and email (jameslesliehill@gmail.com). I hope you will feel free to contact me. I am confident that God has a wonderful future planned for this great church. Thank you, again, for the privilege of serving with you.

The church year is divided into seasons and observances which allow us to celebrate the life and ministry of Christ. These seasons provide the rhythms of our church life and worship. We are entering a season in the church year often referred to as "ordinary time." The term "ordinary time" may be misleading. In the context of the liturgical church year the term "ordinary" does not mean "usual or average." Ordinary here means "not seasonal." Ordinary Time is that part of the Church Year that lies outside the seasons of Lent-Easter and Advent-Christmas. The current Ordinary Time began on the Monday after Pentecost, and it continues until evening prayer on the Saturday before the First Sunday of Advent.

In this season we call "ordinary time," we celebrate the life and ministry of Christ, not in one specific aspect, but in all its aspects. The scripture readings during this period of the church year teach us on how to live out our Christian faith in our daily lives. During the beginning of this season of ordinary time, I will be sharing a series of messages from the Gospel readings called *The Extraordinary Stories of Jesus*. Some of the stories tell us about Jesus' life and ministry. Others are the stories Jesus told as he taught people about life and the Kingdom of God. We will begin the series on the first Sunday in June as we examine a story about the *Real Family* of Jesus. I look forward to meeting you for worship.

Jim Hill
Interim Pastor

**THE FELLOWSHIP TEAM IS HOSTING A GATHERING AT 9:30AM, BETWEEN SERVICES,
SUNDAY, JUNE 6, FOR ALL TO GET ACQUAINTED WITH REV. JIM HILL.**

From the Personnel Committee

We are pleased to announce that Alexis Engelbrecht-Villafane will become our Assistant Minister effective June 1, 2021. Alexis has been serving as our Youth Director since last summer. She graduated from Phillips Theological Seminary (Disciples of Christ) this month. She is continuing to progress in the ordination process and is officially recognized by our Region as a Commissioned Minister. During this transition period, Alexis will handle a number of duties under the supervision of Associate Minister Rev. Sarah Kingsbery and our Interim Minister, Rev. Hill including pastoral care, working with other staff, periodic emails and other communications, delivering sermons, and small group ministry. Feel free to talk with Alexis about her new duties and how she can help you: Alexis@firstchristianjcmo.org

Also, Kathy Speidel, our church secretary, has received a medical diagnosis for which she needs to make plans for the future. As a result, she will continue to serve the church in her current full-time capacity as church secretary, while she is making these important decisions. Please support Kathy with your prayers, and thank her for her continued service to our congregation.

Personnel Committee



Welcome to Our Newest Members

On April 25, 2021, Ken & Karen Dykes became members of First Christian. Ken and Karen moved to Jefferson City a little over a year ago. Ken is a veteran (Army Ranger) and retired truck driver. Karen, now fully retired, was a nurse and a substitute teacher. They enjoy seeing nature, visiting with friends and family and going to church. They feel blessed to have found a DOC church, about seven years ago. Please give Ken and Karen a warm welcome the next time you see them.

Beginning on Sunday, June 6, the SEARCHERS CLASS will again start meeting at 9:30 a.m. in their classroom. Refreshments & Coffee will be served.

Congratulations! to Ruth Garver and Leon Veltrop who were married at FCC on April 24, 2021.

Youth Update

The Intergenerational Reading and Writing Prayers Lab sessions are coming to a close as we transition to summer. While the sessions are ending, the "lab work" and "wonderings" will continue in ways that all members of the First Christian community can participate. Please continue to read the Bell and listen for announcements as those plans are finalized in the weeks to come. One will be an opportunity to learn about prayer and Psalms in a special Zoom gathering with Alexis and Hebrew Bible scholar and author, Dr. Lisa Davison.

If you'd like to receive material that includes a devotional I prepared, activities, and ways to experiment with prayer, please email Alexis@firstchristianjcmo.org.

I continue to be grateful for First Christian Church's Youth Sponsor, Jessica Bivin. She assists me during the sessions we offer and provides invaluable collaboration, insights, and support. Ann Littlefield made many supplies and deliveries possible over the course of the year. Sally Robuck made doves for special bookmarks for our prayer series. Barb Gage, Amy Kuebler, Vivian Murphy, and Erin Lepper have also been collaboration partners and providers of wisdom during the year. Thanks also to those who have enhanced the church's youth ministry with your participation and expressions of care and support, including Marsha Graham, Vivian Murphy, and Sally Robuck, who attended most every session in every Intergenerational series.

As always, please let us know of celebrations, concerns, and joys within your family. We are here to support you and cheer you on.

With You on the Journey,

Alexis
Alexis@firstchristianjcmo.org

Children's Sunday School

This summer, children's Sunday school will provide lessons in-person twice a month on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month at 9:30 AM. The two lessons within the same month will center around the same Bible story so that if you can only make it for one of the Sunday's, you'll still hear about the story for that month!

Although the story will be the same, each lesson during the month will be different and will provide an opportunity for review. One lesson for the month will include a craft activity while the other will include a cooking activity.

PreK through 6th graders are invited to join us as we explore how to build our own relationship with God through scripture stories. Older kids will have an opportunity lead and role model for the younger kids. We ask that all Sunday School attendees wear masks during our time together as a way of caring for one another.

We're excited to see our kids this summer and have lots of fun while building our faith together!

Erin Lepper

Building Our Relationship with God
Summer Sunday School
Pre-K - 6th Grade

June 13 Moses and the Burning Bush - Craft
June 27 Moses and the Burning Bush - Cooking
and Monthly Parent Conversation

July 11 Daniel and the Lions' Den - Craft
July 25 Daniel and the Lions' Den - Cooking

August 8 Jesus teaches us to pray - Cooking
August 22 Jesus teaches us to pray - Craft

*(July and August Monthly Parent
Conversation dates TBD)*

Congratulations to Our Graduates!



Lindsey Ruff graduated from Jefferson City High School. She received the following honors and recognitions: Seal of Excellence in both Math and Project Lead The Way - Biomedical Pathway, Student Ambassador for Phil Boyte's Breaking Down the Walls Program, Project Lead The Way - Biomedical White Coat Recipient, Arthur and Leota Busch Scholarship, IC Excellence in Education Scholarship, IC Ready for Success, IC Trailblazers Award, and A+ Recognition.

Lindsey will be attending Illinois College to study Kinesiology with the current goal of earning her Masters in Athletic Training. Lindsey will also be continuing her soccer career at Illinois College.

Kayla Vegiard is a homeschool graduate of Jefferson City Home Educators. Kayla plans to pursue a career in teaching gymnastics and training and grooming dogs.



Alexis Engelbrecht-Villafane graduated with a Master of Divinity from Phillips Theological Seminary with high honors. She received the Disciples Historian Award for her work in courses related to church history, and the student body elected her as the recipient of the Community Life Award. Throughout her time as a student, Alexis received book awards for her work in Constructive Theology, Native American Religious Beliefs and Practices, Introduction to the Hebrew Bible, Introduction to the New Testament, and Care in Christian Communities. She received the Matthew A. Thompson Fellowship for Student Leadership and the Christian Church, Disciples of Christ Middler Honor. Alexis served the seminary in a variety of ways, including roles as a Student Senator, a Student Senate Board Representative, a member of Phillips' worship committee, a Teaching

Assistant, and a Research Assistant.

Alexis is currently a commissioned minister and is completing the process to become an ordained Disciples of Christ minister with the goal of becoming a senior or solo minister.

Thank you!

The response to the notice of my 90th birthday in the "Bell" was very rewarding. I received many cards, calls, texts, personal visits, flowers and gifts from my church family. One member brought lunch and shared with me and Eden. I've been a member of this church and Sunday school since early 1967. I've experienced the love and support through the years, so thanks for remembering me again. It was great to hear and see several in person after this long hard year of separation. I'm looking forward to returning to church and Sunday school to thank each of you in person.

Thanks to my FCC family,
Juanita Dietle

Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who helped us set up supplies and pack bags for East School students this past Sunday! It was a big job, and you all made it look easy to pack 250 backpacks with school supplies and fun activities for the summer.

It was so good to gather for a common cause and to share a sign of our continued love and care with the East School Community.

Thank you, especially, to Robin Grumm our East School Coordinator, Scott for helping load up boxes and boxes of bags, and Taylor Mann for being our delivery truck driver.

Register for Summer Camp 2021

<https://bit.ly/3d9TV0S> or
<http://www.mid-america-disciples.org/summer>

Support our Camp Program!

Supplies needed to help us have a safe and healthy summer.

Mid-America Region Summer Camps are committed to doing everything they can to make sure our campers, counselors, and volunteers stay safe and healthy this summer. To help with this effort, we are collecting the following items. Drop off your items in the container by the front desk and we will get them to camp!

Hand Sanitizer
Clorox Wipes
Disposable Masks
Paper Towels
Spray Bottles
Alcohol (97%)
Medium and large rubber Gloves

SUMMER CAMP 2021

Register at <https://bit.ly/3d9TV0S>
(Filter for NEOLA Camps)

Camp Jo-Ota, Clarence Mo

Try-It (PreK-1st, must be accompanied by adult family member) August 6-8.

Elem/Junior Camp (completed 2nd -5th) July 12-16

Chi Rho (completed 6th-7th) August 1-6

CYF (completed 9th-12th) June 6-11

Shannondale, Salem MO

Our Bodies, Our Faith (completed 8th & 9th) July 11-16

Canoe Camp (completed 7th-12th) July 11-15

<http://www.mid-america-disciples.org/summer>
for more information and covid precautions

FCC Jeff City will pay at least 50% of camp registration costs with scholarships available up to 100%. When you register, do not pay online. Contact Rev. Sarah to make payment arrangements.



Common Ground is hosting the Capital City's First EVER Lip-Sync Battle! This year, it's a virtual battle where dollars = votes.

YouTube link to videos must be submitted to lipsync@cgcb.org by July 30, 2021.

More information can be found at <https://www.cgcb.org/lip-sync>.

ARE YOU MISSING ANY ITEMS?

A blue and white blanket and a child's grey long-sleeved t-shirt were left at Riverside Park April 25th. Also, a pair of black-rimmed reading glasses were left in the sanctuary this past week. If any of these belong to you, they are in the church office.

5TH SUNDAY MAY 30	1ST SUNDAY JUNE 6	2ND SUNDAY JUNE 13	3RD SUNDAY JUNE 20	4TH SUNDAY JUNE 27
8:20AM ELDER Steve Waters	8:20AM ELDER	8:20AM ELDER	8:20AM ELDER	8:20AM ELDER
LITURGIST Laura Avery	LITURGIST Sue Snell	LITURGIST Sally Robuck	LITURGIST Karen Shroyer	LITURGIST Karla Denny
USHERS AVAILABLE	USHERS Doug Hagenhoff Milinda Dawson	USHERS Joe Payne Nike Thompson	USHERS Greg & Sherry Fitzpatrick	USHERS Kathy Cavender Rick Vaughan
10:40AM ELDER Barb Kuebler	10:40AM ELDER	10:40AM ELDER	10:40AM ELDER	10:40AM ELDER
LITURGIST Barb Gage	LITURGIST Susan Vaughn	LITURGIST Laura Avery	LITURGIST Cindy Leveron	LITURGIST Elaine West
USHERS Debi Wells Georgia Griffith	USHERS Jim & Russ Dunwiddie	USHERS Debi Wells Georgia Griffith	USHERS Morris Woodruff Stephen Foutes	USHERS Marsha & Allen Posz

ASSOCIATE MINISTER

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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 June 9, 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 (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/>

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