

The Church Bell

March 2, 2022

VOL. 78, ISSUE 4



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

A Journey through the Season of Lent **Dr. Jim Hill, Interim Senior Minister**

There is something special about observing the seasons of the Christian year with brothers and sisters in Christ. Gathering for worship each week, we remember that we have joined with Christians throughout the ages in offering praise to God for the gift of new life. This week Christians around the world begin their observance of the season of Lent. It is a time of preparation for the incredible celebration of the resurrection of Christ at Easter.

Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. "Lent" comes from the Anglo-Saxon word *lencten*, which means "spring." The forty days represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan and preparing to begin his public ministry. Our Ash Wednesday Worship service officially launched this special season for our church family. Sundays in Lent are not counted in the forty days because each Sunday represents a "mini-Easter," and the reverent spirit of Lent is tempered with joyful anticipation of the Resurrection.

For many Christians, Lent is a time of repentance, fasting and preparation for the coming of Easter. In our culture fasting is not a popular tradition—at least not as a means of spiritual preparation. Our culture is pretty obsessed with food. In any event, Lent is a time of self-examination and reflection. In the early church, Lent was a time to prepare new converts for baptism. Today, Christians focus on their relationship with God, often choosing to give up something or to volunteer and give of themselves for others. I believe it is a wonderful season for reflection as we consider the sacrifice of our Savior, and as we reflect on Christ's call for all of his disciples to take up their cross and follow him. Maybe most of all, Lent is a time to reflect on our relationship to God.

On the first two Sundays of the Lenten season, I will be sharing messages from the Psalms that are part of our lectionary scripture readings. This Sunday we will share from Psalm 91. It is a beautiful psalm that is often read or incorporated into the music of worship. I look forward to sharing with you on the Lord's Day.

This Sunday the church family will also say 'good-bye' to Rev. Sarah Kingsbery who will be concluding her ministry with First Christian Church. Sarah has faithfully served this congregation for more than six years. I have been a personal privilege to serve with her during this interim period, and she has been an incredible help to me as I served as your interim senior minister. The church family will host a reception for Rev. Sarah at 9:30 a.m. this Sunday, March 6, between the morning worship services. I know you will want to be present to express your appreciation for her ministry and to wish her well as she seeks God's direction for the next stage of her ministry.

I also want to encourage you to continue to pray for the Search Committee. I know they are working hard to discern God's will as they seek the person God is preparing to serve as your new senior minister. It is a challenging task, but God is faithful, and I am confident God will lead your church family as you prepare for the future. I hope to see you in worship on the Lord's Day.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

We pray for these

Gene Adkison, Beverly Anderson, Austin Brandt, Jane Burd, Nellie Campbell, Doug Defreece, Nancy Dunwid-
die, Ginger Jodean Foster, Marilyn Gross, Cheryl Hanson, Norma Hasselman, Jeanette Hickman, Venita Jack-
son, Brooks Jarrett, Shirley Jarrett, Jessica Kozlen, John and Barb Kuebler, their daughter Julie, their grand-
daughters Campbell and Willa, and the Noonan family, Matthew Lang, Michael Lister, Dan Meade, Wendy
Miles, Jackie Possinger, Starlin Sims, Judy White, Doris Yelton, the Brandenburg, Cooley & Miller families, Our
Country and our men and women serving our country, the world, for traveling

Individuals will be kept on our prayer list for **four weeks** at a time. At the end of four weeks, please call the office at 573.636.5157 or
email the church office at fccjcmooffice@gmail.com, if you would like continued prayers for an individual. Thank you!

Members in Care Centers

HEISINGER

Marge Blosser
Shirley Ferguson
Barbara Nikodyn
Norma Woodson

JC MANOR

Jackie Possinger

ST. JOSEPH'S BLUFFS

Doris Yelton

OAK TREE VILLA

Shirley Jarrett

PRIMROSE RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

Norma Hasselman
Wendell & Myra Hubbs
Jessie Schell

STONEBRIDGE AT OAK TREE

Marilyn Gross

HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

Mariam Craddock

OUT-OF-TOWN MEMBERS

Betty Schramm
Betty Schulte

March Birthdays and Anniversaries

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

8	Wilma Collins Barb Gage
9	Jim Morris
10	<i>Max & Cindy Cook</i>
11	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	Megan Ochoa Keith West <i>Ray & Wendy Miles</i>
29	Becky McClain
30	
31	

A Message from Rev. Sarah

Beloveds,

The time is fast approaching when we will say good-bye to each other and I will no longer be your Associate Minister.

This Sunday will be my last with you all. As part of worship, we will share in a Litany of Farewell. As part of that litany, we will release one another from this mutual relationship we have shared as minister and congregation. With the end of this pastoral relationship comes expectations and boundaries. While difficult, these come as recommendations from the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and other denominations and are for our mutual benefit.

- * I will no longer be your minister. I will not provide support during pastoral emergencies, offer pastoral counseling, visits, calls, or texts;
- * I will not return to officiate at funerals, weddings or baptisms;
- * I will not discuss church business or happenings with you;
- * I will no longer receive internal church communications.

You may also notice changes to my Facebook presence. Social media can be a wonderful ministry tool for connecting and sharing information but it can also complicate these boundaries. After my last day, I will stop most interactions with church member Facebook posts. This does not mean I do not love you and care about what is happening in your life. It is a difficult area to separate out the pastoral relationship and so I will be erring on the side of honoring the boundary. After a year or so, especially after new ministers have had a chance to develop relationships with you, some of these social media connections may be renewed. These guidelines can feel abrupt and cold but they are grounded in the wisdom of the church's experience and in my care of you. After March 9th, it is important for you to remain open to building relationships with the ministers you will call to serve you. I have benefited greatly from being able to build relationships with you in moments of celebration and in moments of crisis. I wish this same gift for those who will follow me.

It is also true that these boundaries are for me as well as for you. God is calling us to separate and independent futures. Just as you all are now tasked with calling new ministers, I have to figure out what it means to no longer be Associate Minister of First Christian Jeff City and devote my time and energy to discerning where God is calling me next. This separation is needed for those things to happen.

Please know that I will still be in Jefferson City for the time being. If you see me out and about, you are welcome to say hi and speak to me about subjects that are not related to ministry of First Christian Church.

My prayers remain with you, as I trust God will know what you all most need even when I do not.

I am grateful for the many ways you have supported me and offered me care, love, and compassion. I hope you will share these same gifts with your future ministers. Trust that even as I step away, God is caring for me through the support networks I have outside this congregation. In return, I will trust in God's care and guidance for you through the talents and gifts in this congregation and those you will call.

As always, grace and peace for the journey,

Rev. Sarah

CWF Mary Circle meetings

Mary Circle meets the 1st 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, March 7, 2022, at 1:00 PM.** If you have questions, please contact Virginia Lister.

Nursery Workers 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) or the church office at (573) 636-5157 if you know of someone who might be interested.

Children's Sunday School Schedule

The Children's Sunday School class meets at 9:30 AM on the 2nd and 4th Sundays.

Weekly Prayer Opportunity

You are invited to join us on Wednesdays at 9:15AM for our weekly prayer call. We gather via conference call for about half an hour, sharing concerns, joys, thanksgivings from our own lives, our congregation, and our world and then lifting up what was shared (and left unshared) in prayer. **You can join the prayer call by calling 716-427-1083 and then entering the access code 444928.**

If you have prayers concerns or thanksgivings you would like lifted up during our prayer call but are unable to join us, email me at sarah@firstchristianjcmo.org by 9AM on Wednesday morning for that week's call.

Worship With Us

Please join us in worship on Sunday Mornings at
8:20 AM in the Sanctuary
10:40 AM in the Sanctuary
Or join us on Livestreamed on FaceBook at [facebook.com/fccjcmo](https://www.facebook.com/fccjcmo)



Ordination Gift

As is customary for the sponsoring church, we will present a gift to Rev. Alexis at her Ordination Service on March 27th.

Alexis' Nurture Committee, made up of FCC members along with others in our Region, have suggested a stole to be given as an emblem of her new office.

If you would like to share in the purchasing of our gift of love and support, place your contribution in an envelope to drop by or mail to the church office or place in the offering plate on Sunday morning. Include your name and designate it specifically for Alexis' Ordination gift.

First Christian Church, Disciples of Christ
327 E. Capitol
Jefferson City, MO 65101

MUSIC and WORSHIP

After two years of not meeting together, **CHANCEL CHOIR IS SET TO BEGIN!** The Administrative Board gave approval for choir to resume rehearsals in March, so we will joyfully gather together on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. beginning March 9. We will rehearse in the sanctuary where we can be seated farther apart. Masking will be the decision of each individual singer.

If you've ever thought about joining the choir, now might be the time to give it a try. If you've not sung for a long time, no problem; we are ALL rusty because we've not been singing regularly! Recognizing that, plus the fact that our group will be smaller than when we last sang and that singers may be travelling or self-quarantining at any time, the anthems we will share will be easy! Rehearsal recordings of each anthem's vocal part can be created and shared upon request.

Questions? Feel free to contact me at gretchen@firstchristianjcmo.org.

For the Sunday services for which the choir does not sing, solos or small ensembles by vocalists or instrumentalists of any age are welcome! Contact me to choose a date and music to share.

This Sunday at the 8:20 service we look forward to music of the Jubilant Sound Handbells. The ensemble will share an arrangement of "The Lamb," a lovely hymn by Gerald Patrick Coleman.

Office Hours

The church office is open from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday. It is closed on Friday.

Scholarship Applications Now Available

First Christian Church has scholarship funds available for students going into their first year of college. If you are planning to start college in Fall 2022, you are invited to fill out a scholarship application form. These forms are available through the church office and should be returned to the office by March 31st.



The graphic features a purple header with the text "FRIENDSHIP SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS" and a butterfly logo. Below this, the word "JOIN US" is written in large, bold, black letters on a light background. The main text reads: "Friendship Sunday School Class", "Sunday Mornings, 9:30-10:30", "Room 325". It then says "Join us for Friendship, Fellowship, and Bible Study." followed by "Next Study" in italics, "What's Love Got to Do With It?", and "1 Corinthians 12:31-13". Below that, it states "Light breakfast snacks served." and "Teachers: John Kuebler & David Avery". At the bottom, it says "First Christian Church" and "327 East Capital Avenue" next to a red chalice icon.

Friendship Sunday School Class
Sunday Mornings, 9:30-10:30
Room 325

Join us for Friendship, Fellowship,
and Bible Study.

Next Study
What's Love Got to Do With It?
1 Corinthians 12:31-13

Light breakfast snacks served.

Teachers: John Kuebler & David Avery

First Christian Church
327 East Capital Avenue

2nd Annual Baby Wipes Drive

In 2019, Common Ground began partnering with Capital City Diaper Bank to be able to provide diapers and wipes onsite to our clients. Last year Common Ground and some of their partner churches held a drive for Baby Wipes and Pull-ups and brought in 306 packages of wipes which the bank used all year. Donors also contributed 613 pullups and 1557 diapers. The Diaper Bank only has another month's worth of wipes on hand so **Common Ground would like to help them build their supply again.** You can bring your donations to Common Ground or call, and someone will pick them up. Read more about the Diaper Bank at <https://capitalcitydiaperbank.org/>.

Widow's Support Group

A new widow's support group has been organized. We will be meeting the second Thursday each month at 1:00 PM in the Friendship classroom. Any widow looking for conversation and friendship is invited to join. If you have questions, please call Karen Shroyer at 573-619-0387 or Cyndy Millard at 573-353-0909.

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 us for Bible Study **Wednesdays at noon** in the Activities Room. We discuss the scripture for the coming Sunday.

The 2022 Flower Chart is available on the table in front of the church 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.

Serving on Sundays

1ST SUNDAY

Mar 6

820AM

ELDER

Alan Nelson
David Avery

LITURGIST

Sally Robuck

DEACONS

Marsha & Allen Posz
Venita Jackson
Brian Knight

USHERS

Doug Hagenhoff

COMMUNION PREP

Virginia Lister

10:40AM

ELDER

Barb Kuebler
Brenda Johnson

LITURGIST

Barb Gage

DEACONS

Travis Jackson
Judy Nienhauser
Jeff Moore
Sally Moore

USHERS

Alan & Jeanne Nelson

2ND SUNDAY

Mar 13

820AM

ELDER

Bob Priddy
Patty Osman

LITURGIST

Bob Priddy

DEACONS

Ken Littlefield
Nancy Samp
Nancy Hequembourg
Linda Ringo

USHERS

Joe Payne
Nike Thompson

COMMUNION PREP

Meghan Andrews

10:40AM

ELDER

Steve Waters
Cecile Landrum

LITURGIST

Grace Lepper

DEACONS

Blair Johnson
Stephen Claycomb
Barb Gage
Jessica Saylor

USHERS

Debi Wells
Kathy Brown

3RD SUNDAY

Mar 20

820AM

ELDER

Alan Nelson
Cindy Leveron

LITURGIST

Lauren Eichelberger

DEACONS

Lauren Eichelberger
Chris Lloyd
Marsha Graham

USHERS

Jim Dunwiddie
Russ Dunwiddie

COMMUNION PREP

Karen Shroyer

10:40AM

ELDER

Melanie Highland
Ann Littlefield

LITURGIST

Pat Amick

DEACONS

Missy Mann
Kathy Brown
Shaun Crisp
Jon Prouty

USHERS

Morris Woodruff
Stephen Foutes

4TH SUNDAY

Mar 27

820AM

ELDER

Cecile Landrum
Steve Waters

LITURGIST

Barb Belshe

DEACONS

Doug & Jenny Hagenhoff
Kathy Cavender

USHERS

Kathy Cavender

COMMUNION PREP

Jeanne Nelson

10:40AM

ELDER

Barb Kuebler
Ray Miles

LITURGIST

Susan Vaughn

DEACONS

Stephen Foutes
Brenda Foutes
Sherry Anderson
Lily Foutes

USHERS

Stephen & Brenda
Foutes

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

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 Rev. Sarah Kingsbery
 Sarah@firstchristianjcmo.org

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY
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 firstchristianjcmo.org

FINANCIAL
 Finance@firstchristianjcmo.org

 Login with Facebook

facebook.com/fccjcmo

AFTER HOURS EMERGENCIES:
 Please contact Rev. Jim at 573-680-1490. **Non-emergency** church-related items after working hours, Monday thru Thursday 8AM to 1PM, 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, SATURDAY, OR SUNDAY, IT WILL NOT BE CHECKED UNTIL MONDAY MORNING. THANK YOU.**

The next  *Church Bell* will be sent March 16, 2022.
 (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 give online at firstchristianjcmo.org/donate

Financial Records and Questions

Questions related to giving and church finances should be sent to FinanceFCCJC@caldservices.com. 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.

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-america-disciples.org/newsletter-signup/>
 Disciples News Service Updates: <http://disciples.org/dns/subscribe-to-dns/>

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