

The Church Bell

March 4, 2026

VOL. 32, ISSUE 5



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

Holding Lincoln University in Prayer

In recent weeks, our neighbors at Lincoln University have been walking through deep sorrow. Two students have lost their lives in separate tragic acts of violence. One of those students was Kevaughn Goldson—23 years old, from Kingston, Jamaica, a senior sprinter on the Blue Tigers Track and Field team. A son. A teammate. A friend. A child of God.

When news like this reaches us, it can feel both distant and very close at the same time. Lincoln University is not just another campus somewhere else. It is here—in our city, in our shared community. Its students shop in our stores, serve in our restaurants, worship in our churches, run on our streets. Their hopes and futures are woven into the fabric of Jefferson City.

I find myself thinking about the students who sat beside Kevaughn in class. The teammates who trained with him. The faculty who invested in him. The staff who greeted him by name. What must it be like to return to dorm rooms, classrooms, practice fields that now feel different? What is the weight carried quietly by those who lead and serve that campus each day?

After hearing the news, I reached out to Dr. Darius Watson, Dean and Assistant Provost of the university, simply to offer support as a friend and as a pastor in this community. In his voice I could hear the heaviness that comes when loss is no longer abstract, but personal. President Moseley spoke of how rough these past weeks have been—and yet he also expressed a steady hope that a day is coming when the sun will shine again. That kind of hope does not ignore the pain. It simply refuses to let darkness have the final word.

Lincoln University holds a unique and sacred place in our city's story. As a historically Black university in a small state capitol, it carries both pride and history—history marked by perseverance, resilience, and faith. In moments like this, it is especially important that grief not be overshadowed by rumor, assumption, or the reinforcing of stereotypes that so easily take root in our public conversations. There is much we do not know. What we do know is that lives were lost, families are grieving, and a campus community is hurting.

As followers of Christ, we are called first not to speculation, but to compassion. Not to commentary, but to prayer. Scripture reminds us to “weep with those who weep.” That may be the most faithful posture we can take right now.

So I invite you to hold Lincoln University in prayer. Pray for the families of the students who have died. Pray for roommates and teammates. Pray for professors and administrators carrying both leadership and lament. Pray for counselors and campus ministers offering care. Pray for courage, comfort, and a renewed sense of safety and hope.

And when you see a Lincoln student in our community—at the grocery store, in a restaurant, walking downtown—consider offering a simple word: “We’re praying for you.” Small gestures of kindness can shine more brightly than we realize.

Peace,

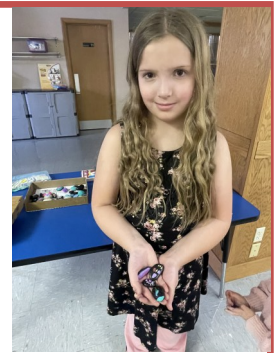
Michael





Our FCC Kids painted and hid rocks around the church as small reminders of God's love. Many are decorated with hearts. Have you found one yet? When you do, let it remind you that you are God's beloved.

You're invited to say a quick prayer when you find one and take it home, or move it to a new spot so someone else can be reminded they are God's beloved too.



First Christian Church March Events

Food Pantry Tuesdays Noon
Bible Study Wednesdays Noon
Choir and Handbells Wednesdays at 6:30
Book Study Thursdays 12:30

2 Mary Circle 1:00
Empowering Families 5:30

3 Ministry Team 5:15

4 Cardmaking Group 5:30

5 Mission Team Meeting 6:00

9 Faith Seekers 4:30
Empowering Families 5:30

12 Widows Group 1:00

14 Scout Pinewood Derby 8-5

17 Administrative Board Meeting
6:00

22 All Church Brunch 11:00

23 Faith Seekers 4:30
Prayer Shawl Group 1:00

26 Elders Meeting 6:30

Upcoming Lenten Events

Stations of the Cross— available for prayer and reflection when the church is open in the Chapel

Weekly Sermon Discussions after worship- led by the Elders in Chapel

Wednesdays at 5:30 pm Discussions on Disciples History-led by Bob Priddy

March 29-Palm Sunday 10:00 Worship-Cantata
11:15- Donkey Parade

April 2- Maundy Thursday Service 7:00pm

April 5- Easter Sunday 10:00 Worship 11:15-
Children's Easter Egg Hunt

Associate Minister's Thoughts...

Dear FCC JCMO Friends,

This Lenten season we've decided to focus on our identity as members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ.) Our sermons will think through the Disciples of Christ identity statement. Elders will lead sermon discussion groups after worship, Bob Priddy will be sharing stories from our history on Wednesday evenings, some Sunday School classes are focusing on Disciples identity, and I decided to use my Bell articles for this season to tell the stories of women in Disciples history. When we think of church history, we often think of bold preachers or public activists. However, sometimes the Spirit works in quieter, more subtle ways and that's the story of Selina Huntington Bakewell Campbell.



Selina married Alexander Campbell, one of our founders, in 1828. Their partnership lasted nearly forty years; not just as husband and wife, but as collaborators in the Restoration Movement which would come to shape American Christianity. Alexander called Selina a “fellow soldier in the cause of Restoration.” While he was traveling the country preaching and publishing, Selina ran the engine of the movement from home by overseeing Bethany College students, managing correspondence, coordinating the press, and hosting hundreds of visitors at their house.

Her influence was real, even if invisible to many. Selina's hospitality became a spiritual tool. Through meals, conversations, and mentorship, she created a space where students, ministers, and guests experienced welcome and formation.

Selina also subtly pushed boundaries. In 1856 she published a call for women to support foreign missions, becoming one of the first women in the movement to publicly advocate for women's leadership in ministry. At a time when most women were expected to stay silent, she risked criticism and social censure to use her voice for God's work. Her courage reminds us that ministry does not always mean standing in front of a pulpit. Sometimes it means shaping the pulpit's impact, from behind the scenes.

Even after Alexander's death in 1866, Selina continued to write, mentor, and organize. She preserved the movement's history, shaped its legacy, and demonstrated that faithful, everyday work is ministry. She practiced domestic life as spiritual leadership, hospitality as mission, and partnership as prophetic witness.

Selina's life reminds us that God's table is wide enough for all. Leadership can be visible or quiet, public or relational, dramatic or steady. Wholeness often comes in the faithful, disciplined, persistent presence of someone who stays open to the Spirit's leading. Selina's life inspires me to ask: How might your daily routines, your home, your workplace, your community become spaces of wholeness and welcome this Lent? Where can you exercise quiet courage to let God's Spirit work through you?

Peace & grace,

Rev. Heather

Help Fill the Easter Eggs



Please Leave Donations at
Office by March 29

We're collecting wrapped candy for our Children's Easter Egg Hunt! If you're able, please bring donations to the church office by Sunday, March 29.

Thank you for helping make this a fun day for our kids!



NEWS FROM THE PEWS

Let's celebrate our members and their events! Send news to the Church Office for publication in a future Bell.



Congrats to Sydney Foutes and Lily Foutes for being on the High Honor Roll at Calvary Lutheran School!

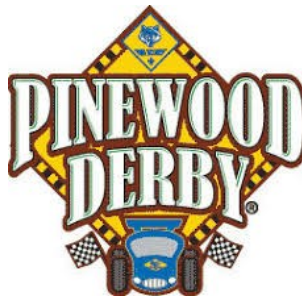
Follow FCC on Instagram!

First Christian Church now has an Instagram account. This is another way to keep up with what is happening in our church. You can follow us on Instagram at [@firstchristianchurchjcmo](https://www.instagram.com/firstchristianchurchjcmo)

We would love to have you help us add content for this page. We would love to show others the amazing things we are doing here at FCC. If you have photos of events, activities or groups of FCC members, please share those with Breanne Gibson, our communications chair.

The annual Pinewood Derby for Scouts in the Five Rivers District will be held in the Family Life Center in March 14 from 8-5. You are cordially invited to attend in support of the participants and to make them feel welcome in our space.

If you are a baker, we would be glad to accept a donated dessert for the event! Contact Rich Green for more details.



We're on Instagram!

Follow us [@firstchristianchurchjcmo](https://www.instagram.com/firstchristianchurchjcmo)



Week 5

Exodus 1-3; Gal 5

Exodus 4-6; Gal 6

Exodus 7-9; Psalm 105; Ephesians 1

Exodus 10-12; Eph 2

Exodus 13-15; Psalm 114; Eph 3

Week 6

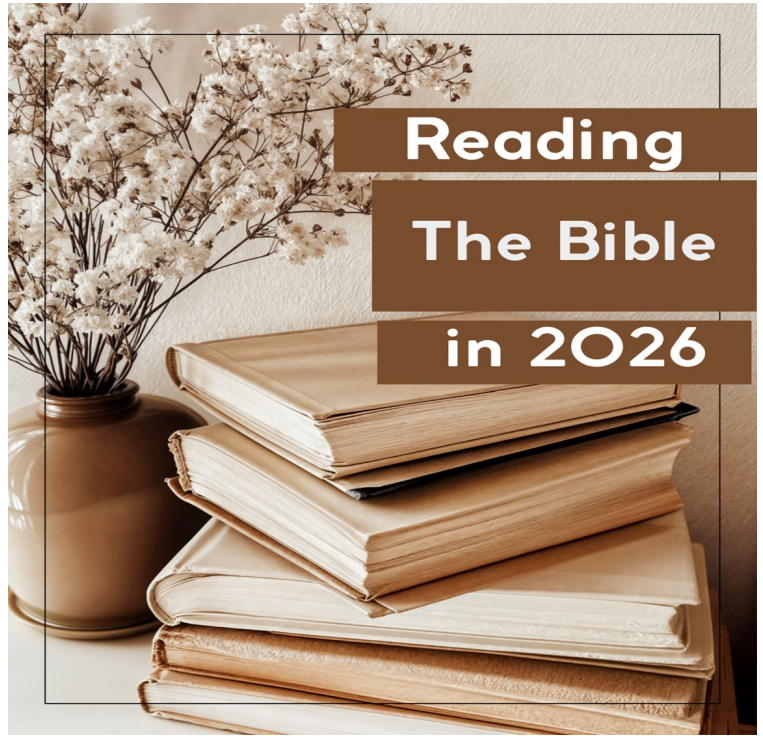
Exodus 16-18; Eph 4

Exodus 19-21; Psalm 33; Eph 5

Exodus 22-24; Psalm 109; Eph 6

Exodus 25-27; Psalm 90; Philippians 1


Exodus 28-31; Phil 2



Sermon Discussion Group

During Lent, the Elders will offer an opportunity to talk about and grow deeper in faith. Each Sunday, beginning the first Sunday of Lent, an elder will host a chance to discuss with others the ideas and thoughts presented in the sermon. Question such as “What does _____ mean?” or “Did the sermon fit with the Scripture?” or “I never thought of that before” will give the opportunity to dig deeper into the message presented and how it fits in our lives.

The group will meet in the chapel about 10 minutes after service and will run approximately 30 minutes. First session will be Feb 22.

WE CALL OURSELVES
DISCIPLES, A COMMUNITY
OF BELIEVERS WHO
FOLLOW JESUS BY
WORSHIPING GOD,
GROWING IN FAITH, AND
SERVING ALL IN NEED. 

Seeking updated Photos!

Hey You! When was the last time you sent in an updated photo for the online directory? Many of the photos we have in the directory are very old and no longer represent you and your family. Please send me a photo/snapshot/selfie that I can use to update our directory. You can email it to Sharyl at fccjcmooffice@gmail.com.





6TH ANNUAL BABY WIPES DRIVE

March 1st → March 30th



- ITEMS NEEDED**
- ▶ Baby Wipes
 - ▶ Pull-ups (All Sizes)
 - ▶ Diapers (Size 4 & 5)

Common Ground partners with Capital City Diaper Bank to provide diapers and wipes onsite for our clients. To ease the Diaper Bank's added costs, Common Ground hosts an annual Baby Wipes & Pull-Ups Drive—now in its sixth year—to ensure these essential items are available for families.

DROP-OFF LOCATIONS

- Common Ground
- First Christian Church
- First United Methodist Church
- First Baptist Church
- First Presbyterian Church
- Grace Episcopal Church
- Memorial Baptist Church
- Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Jefferson City

IN SUPPORT OF:  **CAPITAL CITY**
DIAPER BANK



Easter Lily Sales

\$20 per lily

Order through link in Bell or with form at the office.

Here is the link to order Easter Lilies. You can also complete the form at the Church Office.

<https://forms.gle/dH8vQt9kCE1TSjcZ6>



March Anniversaries

Allison & Michael Lauf	March 7
Alan & Jeanne Nelson	March 11
Rick & Judy Naught	March 20
Ray & Wendy Miles	March 28

March Birthdays

Ceaser Scott	1	Lindsey Ruff	20
Beth Nolte	4	Joy Powers	20
Barbara Mosley	4	Larry Neill	21
Ruth Veltrop	7	Michelle Sheppard	22
Wilma Collins	8	Marlee Dawson	23
Barb Gage	8	Russell Dunwiddie	26
Theodore Best	17	Breanne Gibson	28
Debi Wells	18	Jeanea Foley	29
Katelyn Rush	19		



First Christian Church Food Pantry

In addition to providing food to individuals and families who are experiencing food insecurity, the First Christian Church Food Pantry also supplies veterans with an additional monthly VIP box to serve those who have served us.

Veteran Packs are monthly boxes that include nutritious food and personal care items. These packs include ready-to-eat entrees, soups, fruits, vegetables, and toiletries such as razors, body wash, and deodorant.

Veterans are more likely to be affected by food insecurity than those who are not veterans. According to Feeding America, in 2020, 10% of working-age veterans lived in food-insecure households and around 25% of active-duty service members were food insecure. Among those surveyed at The Food Bank's own partner pantries, 18% of households included someone who served in the U.S. Armed Forces, Reserves or National Guard. The Food Bank's VIP Veteran Pack Program is designed to address that challenge and help serve those who have served us so well.

Thanks to the support of First Christian Church, we served:

- 102 households with a total of 204 household members on 02/03/26 with 8 additional VIP boxes
- 105 households with a total of 253 household members on 02/10/26 with 6 additional VIP boxes
- 83 households with a total of 218 household members on 02/17/26 with 7 additional VIP boxes
- 91 households with a total of 204 household members on 02/24/26 with 3 additional VIP boxes

For the month of February, we are requesting donations to support the Capital City Diaper Bank's 6th Annual Baby Wipes Drive. Items needed are wipes, Pull-ups (all sizes), and diapers (size 5 & 6). Donations can be placed by the gym windows outside of the church office. Monetary donations can be made to the church office.

If you know of anyone who might benefit from the support of a visit to a food pantry or if you are curious where our neighbors can access food, you can find the locations of all the local food pantries at <https://sharefoodbringhope.org/programs/food-locator/>

We can end hunger when we all work together. Prayerfully, consider how you might use your time, talents, and treasure to ensure all of our neighbors have enough. If you have an hour or two to spare, we would love to have you visit or volunteer to support this important food pantry ministry.

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’” Matthew 22:34-39

Everyone has a place at the table. Thank you for your support.

For more information or to volunteer contact Brenda Johnson at fccjcmofoodpantry@gmail.com or call her at 573-338-5304.

Please Pray for OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Brooks Jarrett, brother of Annie Jarrett
Greg Maire, friend of Sharon Gonder
Greta Patten and her son Zeke
Sherry Anderson's family as they mourn
her passing.
Wilma Collins
Patty Osman
Brian Cook
Walt Wilde-Cindy Blosser's Brother in
Law
Nancy Odor- Cindy Blosser's Aunt

Jerry and Margie Starke-Barb Marshall's
parents
Bruce Senior
Kathy Brown
Letha Piper
Rev. James Coffman

Please call the office at 573-636-5157 or
email at fccjcmooffice@gmail.com if you
would like continued prayers.
Items will be removed after 4 weeks unless asked
to continue.

Did you know that you can request to have Communion
brought to you if you are unable to attend Church? Our
Elders will bring you Communion if you are homebound.
This could be for a short period of time (recovering from
illness, etc.) or if you are unable to attend Church for a
longer period of time. Communion can be brought to you if
you are in a residential setting as well.
Just contact the Church Office and we will help to set up this
for you.



Our Members in Care Centers

HEISINGER-
WILMA COLLINS
1002 WEST MAIN JC MO 65109

LENOIR WOODS 3710 LENOIR ST.
COLUMBIA MO 65201
MARILYN BIESEMEYER

OUR HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

MARIAM CRADDOCK,
640 Murphy's Ford Road,
Centertown, MO 65023

Peggy Williamson
915 Winston Dr
Jefferson City, MO 65101

OUR OUT-OF-TOWN MEMBERS

BETTY SCHRAMM,
6335 Maurer Rd. Apt 323
Shawnee, KS 66217

BETTY SCHULTE
13458 Burgess,
Riley Township MI 48041

EVA PRATT
3251 Pine Tree Dr. Cabin 16
Columbia, MO 65201

BOB MURPHY
206 N. Ohio St. Apt 5
Chilhowee, MO 64733

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ASSOCIATE MINISTER
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CONTACT US AT
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www.facebook.com/fccjcmo/

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.

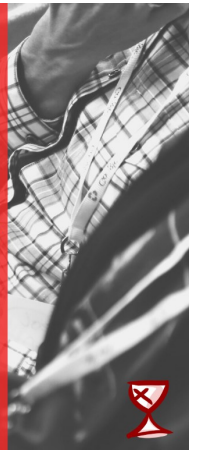
NOTE: IF YOU LEAVE A MESSAGE ON THE ANSWERING MACHINE ON FRIDAY, SATURDAY, OR SUNDAY, IT WILL NOT BE CHECKED UNTIL MONDAY MORNING. THANK YOU.

The next *Church Bell* will be sent March 18, 2026 (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.



We are a Green Chalice Congregation focused on creating a more sustainable environment both within First Christian Church, Jefferson City, MO and in the wider community.



Weekly Prayer Call

Wednesdays, 9:15

Access Code
444928

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

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.