

The Church Bell

November 30 2022

VOL. 78, ISSUE 23



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

From your Board Chairman—Jonathon Prouty



Congregational Meeting

Please plan to attend a **congregational meeting between services (9:30 a.m.) on Sunday, December 11, in the Family Life Center**. At that time, the congregation will have an opportunity to consider and vote on the 2023 leadership slate and the 2023 budget. A copy of the slate and budget will be emailed in early December.

Board Meeting Summary

The FCC Administrative Board met on Thursday, November 10. Noteworthy items of business were:

***Boy Scout Troop 333:** The board approved a request from Boy Scout Troop 333, which for the past several years has operated out of space in the church, to become its chartering organization. In this capacity, FCC will appoint a Chartering Organization Representative, annually review troop status and troop leaders, approve troop leadership, and provide general support to the troop. Please contact Rich Green if you'd like to get involved in the program.

***2023 Leadership Slate:** The Leadership Development Team, led by Karla Denny, worked hard over the past several months recruiting members to serve as admin board members, ministry team leaders, personnel committee members, elders, and deacons for 2023. The board considered and approved their slate, which will include Allen Posz as Chair, Ann Littlefield as Vice Chair, Bob Robuck as Treasurer, and Brenda Johnson as Secretary.

***2023 Budget:** The board approved a balanced budget for 2023. Special thanks to Stewardship Chair Ann Littlefield for her work on the proposal considered at the meeting.

Please also mark your calendar for the next board meeting, which will take place on Tuesday, January 17, at 6:00 pm.

A Festival of Lessons and Carols

Chancel Choir, Handbells, Instrumentalists

December 11, 8:20 and 10:40



Dates to Remember

December 11—Cantata

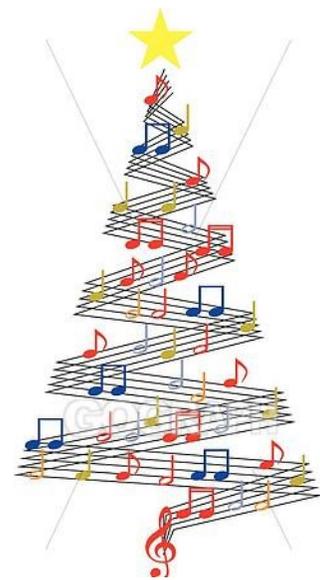
Christmas Eve

5:00 p.m. Family Service

7:00 p.m. Musical Celebration

7:30 p.m. Traditional Service

Christmas Day—One Service 10:00 a.m.



MUSIC and WORSHIP

Join us in worship on Dec. 11 for “A Festival of Lessons and Carols” at each morning service. This service is modelled after a Christmas Eve service celebrated in 1880 at Truro Cathedral in England. In 1918 the format was adapted for Christmas at King’s College Chapel, Cambridge, England and quickly became duplicated in churches both large and small. It features several Scriptures that retell the Christian story of faith from the fall of Adam in the book of Genesis to the coming of the Word Incarnate in the first chapter of John. Each Scripture is then followed by the singing of a carol. On December 11 these carols will be presented by the Chancel Choir, Forever Faithful women’s sextet, the Jubilant Sound Handbells, and congregational singing.

In addition to rousing congregational arrangements of “O Come, All Ye Faithful” and “Hark! the Herald Angels Sing,” you will hear anthems representing various musical styles: a haunting arrangement of the ancient hymn, “O Come, O Come Emmanuel;” a madrigal-like composition that combines new music with the familiar “God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen;” an exciting arrangement of “We Three Kings;” two gospel songs, “There Will Be Peace in the Valley” and “Soon and Very Soon,” featuring our worship leader, Curtis Sudduth; and the perennial favorite, “Mary, Did You Know?” Each of these will be accompanied by nine instrumentalists who are either members or long-time friends of the congregation.

Jubilant Sound Handbells will share a lovely lullaby combining two well-known tunes of “Away in a Manger;” a sparkling arrangement of “Angels We Have Heard on High;” and “The First Noel” as you’ve not heard it before!

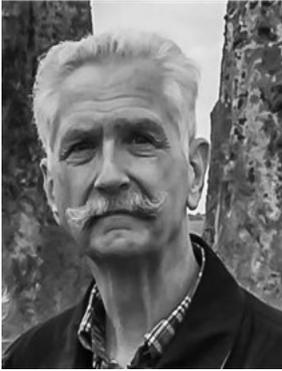
Through holy Word and inspired music, our prayer is that this service will help you prepare your heart anew to receive the Savior and to celebrate the everlasting hope, the peace that passes understanding, the unspeakable joy, and the radical love that Christ alone can bring to our broken world. To the Prince of Peace be the glory!

MUSIC THIS SUNDAY:

***8:20 Chancel Choir** will sing a lovely arrangement of “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” at the 8:20 service under the direction of Terri Lloyd with Gretchen Huedepohl at the piano.

***10:40** Our worship team leads the following congregational songs. Sneak a listen into your day a couple times this week to help prepare for worship! Links are provided.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” | Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus |
| “Midnight Clear” | Midnight Clear |
| “Glory (Let There Be Peace)” | Glory (Let There Be Peace) |
| “Fear Is a Liar” | Fear Is a Liar |
| “Joy to the World (Unspeakable Joy)” | Joy to the World (Unspeakable Joy) |



Stewardship Reflection: Pieces of Me*

Rev. David Avery

If you remember the story in Genesis 32, Jacob has sent his family on ahead to face his brother Esau, at which there is to be a reckoning. Years ago, Jacob stole his brother's birthright, his right to his father's inheritance. Then he fled. Esau wanted to kill him. Now it's many years later, and Jacob is finally coming home, with a large family and a hard-won wealth. He is meeting his brother, and it's anybody's guess what Esau is going to do. Jacob sends his family ahead, hoping it will soften his twin brother. He is finally alone on the banks of the Jabbok River. He has a wrestling match with an angel. Who knows...maybe it's a wrestling match with God. The story isn't clear. Anyway, they wrestle. It isn't pretty.

I only tell this story because it's what it feels like when I pray each morning. That isn't very pretty, either. And it isn't polite. It is nothing less than shameless wrestling, grappling, giving and taking. Listening and talking. Begging and offering. Bargaining. Surrendering. Did I mention listening? And there are even a few brief moments in which--on purpose--I give a little piece of myself away to God. "Here," I say. "Have this."

In the gospels, Jesus invites us to give all our wealth away...and come and follow him instead. And at that point, I remember one of my favorite hymns, which we *ought* to sing on Sunday. It goes like this: "*All of me/why not take all of me?/Can't you see that I'm no good without you/You took the part that once was my heart./Now why not take all of me?*" I should give it all way...but I'm like many of you. I hear that call to give everything away and follow Jesus...and I freeze. I find that I am like the rich man. I just want to turn and walk away. And often, I just do just that. But I have found that it's much less daunting to give (maybe) just *little pieces* away. Little pieces of myself. One at a time. Just let it go. And don't take it back. *You may not have it back!* Just hand it over. It's gone now. A little piece of myself.

I was thinking about this the other day, and I wondered if that is what stewardship is. It's not just putting money in a plate. It's not JUST supporting your local church. It's how we manage all our money, all our time, all our abilities, all our energy, all our faith...our very lives. Stewardship is nothing more than management. That means sometimes letting some things go. Letting them go. Little pieces of myself. Not taking them back. Waving goodbye and not asking anything in return. In a way, it can look like a wrestling match, if we're honest. It's not always very pretty. But then I remember the proverb that says, "*The more we give, the more we have left to give.*" God was never very good at math.

But giving little pieces of ourselves away recognizes what it is we own, and what owns us. Until we no longer own them. And they no longer own us. And we are set free.

Frederich Bueckner once said, "*We find by losing. We hold fast by letting go. We become something new by ceasing to be something old. This seems to be close to the heart of the mystery.*"

Moreover, I have found that every time I give another little piece of me each morning, a little of me also changes, becomes new, different. I open myself to becoming maybe, eventually, a new person. Not being the old me. And maybe I can belong a little more to God today than I did yesterday...I can belong a little more to God...who loves me even if the wrestling isn't very pretty.

****Originally an Invitation to Stewardship in worship. We are reminded that this is the season of making your 2023 financial commitments to support the work and ministry of FCC JCMO.***

Looking for a Group to Join?

CWF Mary Circle Meetings

Mary Circle meets the first Monday of each month at 1:00 PM in the gathering area. 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. If you have questions, please contact Virginia Lister.

Prayer Shawl Group

Prayer Shawl Group meets the fourth Monday each month at 1:00 PM in the Gathering Area. Anytime an FCC member goes into the hospital or faces serious illness, we gift a prayer shawl that is crocheted and prayed over by this group. Bring your skills in order to become a blessing!

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) and then enter the access code 444928.

Wednesday Bible Study

Join us for Bible Study **Wednesdays at noon** in the church library. We discuss the scripture for the coming Sunday.

Widows Support Group

The Widows Support Group will resume meeting on the second Thursday of the month in the Friendship classroom. There will be a social time, a discussion period, and if time, a game.

If you are a widow, please join us and see if the group is right for you. The Widow Support Group was formed to build relationships and to support one another as we adapt to changes in our lives. It is for recent and long time widows.

We don't profess to being a grief group as we don't feel qualified for that; but we are open to listening and talking in a safe environment.

The Green Chalice Program

This is a Disciples Home Missions program which encourages local congregations to engage in environmental stewardship. Georgia Griffith and Property Chair Rich Green were appointed to lead FCC's effort. They will report back to the board the steps they have identified that would achieve the Green Chalice designation, and the board will make a determination at that time about whether to move forward.

Small Group Book Study

The Monday Small Group Book Study has begun its study of "Light of the World, a Beginner's Guide to Advent" by Amy-Jill Levine. We meet at noon on Mondays in the church library and all are welcome. If you would like to join, and would like for us to order your book, please call or text Sherry Jordan at 573-619-1498 or Karla Denny at 573-694-5658. You may also purchase your book through Amazon. We hope you will consider joining us on this four-week journey through the Advent season.

SAVE THE DATE!

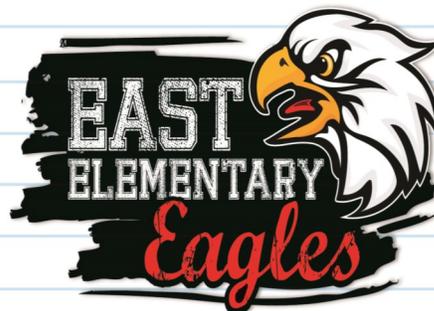
Join us for the...

83rd Annual Jefferson City Jaycees' Christmas Parade



Saturday, December 3, 2022 – 4:30pm

- Come walk or ride the church bus and join in the fun! Dress weather-appropriate and festive! Santa hats, Christmas lights, etc. are welcome and encouraged!
- Meet us in the Millbottom staging area (exact location TBD) between 3:30pm and 4:00pm. **OR** Meet in the church parking lot and ride the bus to the staging area. We will leave the parking lot at 3:00pm.
- Please RSVP to Sue if you plan to attend and where you plan to meet us so we know to look for you!



PARTNERS IN EDUCATION





You ordered tickets for

2022 Jefferson City Jaycees Christmas Parade

Location

Downtown Jefferson City

Downtown Jefferson City
100 E High St
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Date

Sat, Dec. 3, 2022

Your Receipt

Order Number: #T221026-10488639-190414

Description	Quantity
Church/Non-Profit Entry	2

Jefferson City Jaycees Christmas Parade

Thank you for registering for the Jefferson City Jaycees Christmas Parade. Please note the Parade Guidelines: PARADE GUIDELINES 1. Entries must pertain to the holiday and the Christmas theme. As this is an evening parade, LIGHTS ARE REQUIRED (minimum of 200 bulbs). 2. No Santa's or Mrs. Claus'. Parade participants dressed like Santa or Mrs. Claus will be removed from the parade by Parade Staff. (There is only ONE Santa, and he has his own entry). 3. BE ADVISED THAT THE THROWING OF ANYTHING FROM A PARADE FLOAT IS PROHIBITED. THIS PROHIBITION INCLUDES, BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO CANDY, CONFETTI, PAINT OR LIQUIDS. 4. Entries with animals MUST provide their own clean up during the line-up, and along the parade route. Also, for the safety of spectators and parade participants, all animals must be accompanied by a chaperone. 5. We must have your "announcement" (an accurate description of your entry/business/organization) section completed. This is what JCTV will use to announce your entry as it passes the video cameras. 6. Participants MUST be in their designated parking lot at the Harry S. Truman State Office Building NO LATER THAN 3:30 P.M.!! Upon arrival, you will need to check in with the Jaycee Staff Member. This person should be at the entrance to your assigned lot. 7. No alcohol or tobacco references allowed. Violators will be removed. 8. Criteria: Judging will be based on originality, relevance to theme and overall appeal. 9. Cancellation Policy: In the event of a severe weather cancellation, information will be announced via the local T.V. and Radio Stations. 10. Please note that drop off for float riders will be in the circle drive known as Lot 10 (see map). No exceptions! This will eliminate congestion between lots and ensure safety of all participants and staff. 11. Questions? Email: jcjayceeschristmasparade@gmail.com. 12. Return entry form to via email above or mail. Thanks! -Jefferson City Jaycees

Your tickets will be sent to:

Bfesd9697@aol.com



Robert and Leigh Love December 3
Bruce Wibberg and Elizabeth Coffman December 13
David and Susan Avery December 20
Wendell and Myra Hubbs December 21
Jim and Debi Wells December 22
Chris and Stephanie Bell December 29
Lucus and Melody Boling December 29
Chris and Michelle Sheppard December 31

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY WISHES



December Birthdays

Dale Findlay December 1

Noble Knight December-1

Melanie Highland December-1

Mark Snell December-2

Ian Schwartz December-2

Hugh McKay December-2

Leigh Love December-3

Allison Lauf December-4

Wendell Hubbs December -4

Sondra Gonder December-5

Ken Dykes December-6

Cecily Highland December-7

Nancy Floyd December-8

Jackie Possinger December-8

Rochelle Reeves December-29

Jennifer Sapp December-31

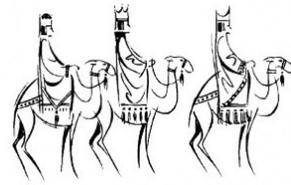
Daniel Love December-10

Jane Beetem-December-10

Brian Knight December-11

David Durbin December-11

Annie Jarrett December-12



Jay Floyd December-12

Gabriel Jackson December-12

Lily Foutes December-13

Cindy Blosser-December-13

Margo Williamson December 14

Steve Nolte December-14

Tasha Ellis December-16

Virginia Lister December-18

Sally Moore December-18

June Spencer December-18

Barbara Walker December-18

Yolanda King December-19

River Reeves December-22

Diane Kerr December-25

Mark Millard December-25

Mary Ann Weaver December-26

Seth Sims December -28

Carolyn Green December-29

Rochelle Reeves December-29

Jennifer Sapp December-31



Our Prayer Page

Gabrielle (Gabe) Lloyd-Ablefeld, friend of the Hagenhoffs

Gene Adkison,

Beverly Anderson, Close friend of Sharon Gonder

Frances Benton

Carl Brandenburg, stepfather of Sonya Miller Cooley

Austin Brandt

Jane Burd, sister of Sharon Gonder

Marilyn Gross (Member in Care Center)

Cheryl Hanson

Norma Hasselman, (Member in Care Center)

Jeanette Hickman

Venita Jackson

Brooks Jarrett, son of Shirley Jarrett, brother of Annie Jarrett

Shirley Jarrett, mother of Annie Jarrett (Shirley is a Member in Care Center)

Jessica Kozlen

Terry Kurten, brother-in-law of Cyndy Millard

Matthew Lang

Michael Lister, son of Virginia Lister

Dan Meade and Sandy Meade, brother and sister-in-law of Mary Ann Weaver

Wendy Miles

Miller Family, Sonya Miller Cooley's brother

Jackie Possinger (Member in Care Center)

David Robey, son of Darlene Charles

Seth Sims and Rebecca McClain Sims

Maddie Turner, great niece of Cindy Leveron

Judy and Larry White, mother and step-father of Jenny Hagenhoff.

Ken and Karen Dykes

Kelly Steppelman Verslues, daughter of Sue Steppelman

Pray for our country, our men and women in uniform, for those in need, and for all of God's creation.

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 or if an individual can now be removed from the list. Thank you!

December 4

8:00 AM

ELDER

Sally Robuck
Sherry Jordan

LITURGIST

Allen Posz

DEACONS

Marsha Posz
Allen Posz
Venita Jackson
Brian Knight

USHERS

COMMUNION PREP

10:40AM

ELDER

Brenda Johnson
Patty Osman

LITURGIST

Drew Bell

DEACONS

Jeff Moore
Sally Moore
Travis Jackson
Judy Neinhauser

USHERS

December 11

8:20AM

ELDERS

Cecile Landrum
Stephen Waters

LITURGIST

DEACONS

Ken Littlefield
Nancy Samp
Nancy Hequembourg
Linda Ringo

USHERS

COMMUNION PREP

10:40AM

ELDER

Karla Denny
Ann Littlefield

LITURGIST

DEACONS

Blair Johnson
Steven Claycomb
Barb Gage
Jessica Saylor

USHERS

SENIOR MINISTER

Dr. Michael T. Dunn
Pastor@firstchristianjcmo.org

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY

Gretchen Huedepohl
Gretchen@firstchristianjcmo.org

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

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FACILITY & GROUNDS

COORDINATOR

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BELL CHOIR DIRECTOR

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Finance@firstchristianjcmo.org

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Jefferson City, Missouri 65101
Phone: (573) 636-5157



firstchristianjcmo.org
facebook.com/fccjcmo

AFTER HOURS EMERGENCIES:

Please contact Dr. Michael Dunn at 713-447-5954. For 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 AFTER 5:00 p.m. FRIDAY, OR ON A SATURDAY, OR SUNDAY, IT WILL NOT BE CHECKED AND RETURNED UNTIL MONDAY.**



The next *Church Bell* will be sent December 14, 2022. (Articles are due by noon the Wednesday before)

I would love to put your article in the next Bell!

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: tinamolenskamp@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

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.

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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