



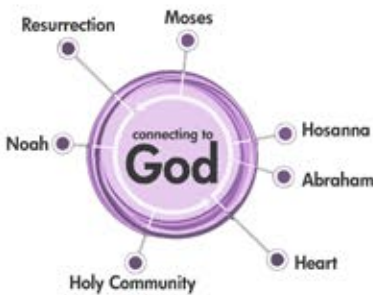
THE
February 23, 2018
Vol. 76, No. 27

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) VISITOR

Our mission: to know God and follow Jesus Christ

Connecting to God: The Abraham Connection Sunday, February 25

Leave your land, sacrifice your son... we all know the story of Abraham. But, do you know about Abraham's covenant with God and what it means to us as modern-day Christians? Find out about this special connection on Sunday. We'll have wonderful music this weekend,

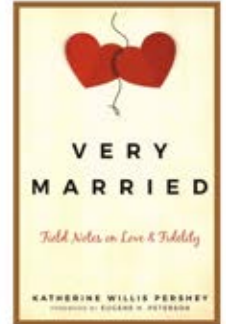


LENT 2018

too, as the Chancel Bells will be playing! The Chancel Choir will lead us in singing hymns, "The Voice of God is Calling," Help Us Accept Each Other," and "All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly." Bring a friend and make a connection to God in worship at FCC.

Happily Ever After

Katherine Willis Pershey has never slept with the mailman or kissed an ex-boyfriend. Good thing, since she's married. But simply not committing adultery does not give you the keys to happily ever after, as Pershey has come to find out in her own marriage and in her work as a pastor. What is this sacred covenant that binds one person to another, and what elements of faith and fidelity sustain it? In *Very Married: Field Notes on Love and Fidelity*, Pershey opens the book on all things marital. With equal parts humor and intelligence, Pershey speaks frankly about the challenges and consolations of modern marriage. As she shares her own tales of bliss and blunder, temptation and deliverance, Pershey invites readers to commit once again to the joyful and difficult work of cherishing another person. For better or worse. For life. The book is 200 pages, 20 sm. chapters, and will garner good conversation over 4 weeks – reading and checking in as a group on Thursday evenings in March. Rev. Jimmy Spear will offer this read/conversation. **March 1, 8, 15, 22 at 7:00 pm, Bethany Hall. Beverages served.** Email Jimmy Spear or the office if you are interested or have questions. Books will be ordered soon.



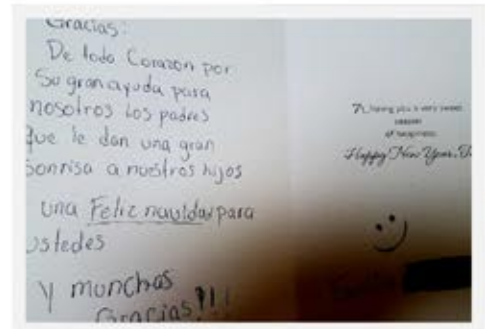
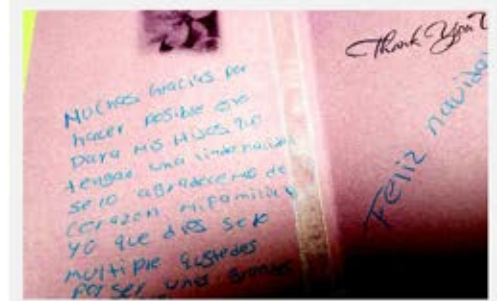
VAC Thanks You!

VAC's 2017 Holiday Program served 1040 families, including 2199 children, 83 seniors and 192 disabled adults. Thank you for your support, FCC! Here are a few examples of the thank you notes we have received.

"I'm writing this letter to say thank you for assisting me in my time of need. It's very hard at times to maintain bills and try to provide a good Christmas for my boys so I'm very grateful for you and appreciate all you're doing for us. May God bless you and keep you."

"Thank you very much. You don't know how much this means to me and my daughters. Things have been a little ruff (sic) but, through God things will get better. I have faith (we) have faith. Thanks again and God bless you and your family. P.S. Have a great holiday and new year! Thanks again!"

If you would like to know more about what VAC is doing, or to help year-round, follow them on Facebook or check out the website at www.vacmo.org.



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Bit from Brad

FCC's Warming Station Ministry, a temporary resting spot for Columbia's homeless to stay on Sunday mornings, **still needs two (2) more volunteers for Sunday, March 4th at 6:00am to host our guests.** The Warming Station continues serving Room at the Inn's Winter-overflow population by providing a place where overnighters staying at local churches can wait for houses of worship to transition from Saturday-night homeless residences to Sunday-morning church services while providing a warm spot for clients to stay during the bitter cold winter months. Remember Sunday, Feb. 11 when the Ice Storm hit and we only had 15 folks attending the 8:30 Service and 42 attending the 10:30 Service? Well, the Warming Station delivered three full busloads of people (35-40 in all) to our church. Just because it's difficult to get to church doesn't mean homelessness lets up, actually just the opposite, services are in higher demand. So thank you to all of our volunteers who show up on Sunday mornings at 6:00am to make coffee and tea, welcoming the homeless in the name of Christ, and letting those people know God loves them. Our mission: To know God and follow Jesus Christ!

Sermon Series – "Connecting to God"

Beginning last Sunday extending through Easter, my sermon series, "Connecting to God" looks at ways to "know God" better through various personalities and images shared in both the Old and New Testaments. For instance, last week we looked at The Noah Connection using the original Noah account in Genesis and Peter's perspective about Noah in Peter's first letter. At its most basic level, spirituality is connecting to God. Lent intentionally guides our spiritual development; time spent in prayer, study, personal examination and reflection are means of helping us "Know God and follow Jesus Christ." I hope you come each Sunday during Lent so that, together, we might grow in faith. Let's join in the eternal covenants of God that join us together! See you in Church!!

Nominations and Service Recognition Awards

The 2018 Nominating Committee requests nominations to the Service Boards for Elders, Deacons, and Junior Deacons as well as nominations for Outstanding Service to the Church Awards. To do so, simply complete a 2018 Nomination Form (located in the Church Office & the Sanctuary Narthex) and return it to the Church Office by Sunday, February 25. The Nominating Committee will review all submissions at its Feb. 26th meeting.

Blessings, Brad

Report for Sunday, February 11, 2018

Attendance 162 (includes early service— 38) (visitors— 21)

Total offerings: \$7,170.10

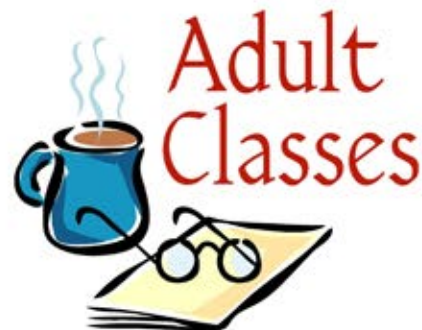


News of People and Places

Tommy Gay Evans returned to Columbia Monday, Feb. 19 following her Houston hospital stay for the flu. **Ed Bright** returned to church and continues recovering from his fall. **Nannie Lou Mallet's** son-in-law, Jeff Allen will have aortic valve surgery on Wednesday. **Nannie Lou Mallet** will be having knee surgery this month. We extend sympathy to **Bob Dixson** on the passing of his wife, **Joane**. Visitation will be Monday, Feb. 26, at 4pm at Parker-Millard with a memorial service officiated by Rev. Stagg at 5pm.

Sunday Adult Class in March

"Talking to Your Children (or Grandchildren) About Faith"



Join us on three Sundays, March 4, 11 & 18. This class will be led by Sarah Read in the Keystone Room beginning at 9:30am. It is another unique FCC opportunity to share God's Word!



Planning Meeting

Thursday, March 1, 11:30am

over lunch at Columbia Area Senior Center

Join us as we make our plans for the coming months. Bring your ideas and calendars!

St. Louis ZOO

Thursday, March 22

Full Day Trip

Enjoy the beauty and animal sightings of the St. Louis Zoo from the famous Zoo Train! Fun lunch in the city, too!

All sign-ups are in the office or on the Sunday pew pad.



It's Time To Sell It!

March 9 & 10 (Fri-Sat)

Drop-Off Dates: Mar. 4 & 5 (Sun-Mon)

Setup/Pricing: Mar. 4-7

February 25

February 26

February 27

February 28

Sarah Read

Ryan Boger,

Kimberly Rogers

and Doug Smith

Elizabeth Hensley

Jack Creasy IV





More Than We Can Imagine

February 18-25, 2018

How Your Giving Helps Those In Need



Week of Compassion is the relief, refugee and development mission fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada. We seek to equip and empower disciples to alleviate the suffering of others through disaster response, humanitarian aid, sustainable development and the promotion of mission opportunities. Above, we see a woman harvesting grain after agricultural development provided food for her village. Below, a volunteer repairs tornado damage in northern Illinois.



From tornadoes to hurricanes to drought and famine-stricken areas across the globe, your generosity does more than you can imagine. Find out more at www.weekofcompassion.org.

Thank you for your support.

Below left, we see a volunteer cleaning a home in Louisiana damaged by flooding, and below right, a group of women from Northern Nigeria work to rebuild their church.



Your Special Birthday
Elizabeth Hensley, 97
Feb. 27



Feb. 25	Chi-Rho/CYF
Mar. 4	JYF/CYF
Mar. 11	Chi-Rho/CYF
Mar. 18	JYF/CYF
Mar. 25	<i>Sprg BREAK</i>
Apr. 1	<i>EASTER Day</i>
Apr. 8	Chi-Rho/CYF
Apr. 15	JYF/CYF
Apr. 22	Chi-Rho/CYF
Apr. 29	JYF/CYF

Youth Group

Times

Chi-Rho
(grd 6-7-8)
4:30-6pm

JYF (grd 3-4-5)
4:30-6pm

CYF (grd 9-12)
6-7:30pm

JYF - CHI-RHO - CYF



Thank You

A hearty THANK YOU goes to all who helped with the Ash Wednesday soup dinner last week. Janelle Patterson, Sarah Storm and Colleen Nilges (kitchen extraordinaires!) and all those who just pitched in; you know

who you are. A special thanks also to our soup makers: Carol Slusher, Donna Houston, Peggy Veatch and Tracy Evers. The selection was delightful and set the tone for a lovely service to kick off our Lenten Season. ~Chris Creasy

Dear Purdy family and First Christian Church,

My lifelong dream of attending Nursing school is finally moving forward, thanks to generous educational scholarships like yours. Since being named one of the recipients of the Vera M. Purdy and H. Glenn Purdy Scholarship, my dream is becoming a reality at the Sinclair Nursing School at the University of Missouri...First Christian Church has supported me through every single part of my life...I am so blessed that you as well as the congregation continues to support me and help me relieve the financial burden that college will bring within the next couple years, and help make my dreams into my reality! Once again, thank you for the vote of confidence and the higher education scholarship. I am committed to my education and to the healthcare field, and one step closer to becoming a nurse, thanks to your continued generosity and the Vera M. Purdy and H. Glenn Purdy Scholarship.

Sincerely,
Makali Hawkins

The Visitor
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Columbia, MO
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Ministerial Staff:

Rev. Brad Stagg, Senior Minister
brad@firstchristian.org
Rev. Jimmy Spear, Associate Minister
jimmy@firstchristian.org

Music Staff:

Mary Bancroft, Coordinator of Music & Organist
maryebancroft@yahoo.com
Adriene Floyd, Director of Chancel & Bell Choirs
adriene@firstchristian.org

Mother's Day Out Pre-School:

Tracy Westhoff, Director
tracy@firstchristian.org

Columbia Area Older Adult Ministry:

Rev. Sally Robinson, Chaplain
sallyarobinson16@gmail.com

Support Staff:

Robert Floyd, Office Manager
fcc@firstchristian.org
Fred Mottaz, Business Manager
fred@firstchristian.org
Keith Picker, Custodian

Minister Emeritus:

Dr. John J. Yonker

Return Service Requested

CHURCH CALENDAR FEBRUARY 25-MARCH 3

Sunday, February 25

- Bell Choir rehearsal, 8:30am, 3rd Floor Bell Room
- Coffee Hour, 9:20-10:20am, Yonker Hall
- Sunday School, 9:30am, Child/Youth, 3rd Flr;
Adults, 2nd Flr, Keystone
- Chancel Choir warm up, 9:45am, Morris Parlor
- Lenoir Healthcare Worship, 3:30pm, Rev. Stagg
- Chi-Rho, 4:30-6:00pm, CYF, 6:00-7:30pm, Bethany Hall

Monday, February 26

- Church Office Staff Meeting, 2:00-3:00pm, Keystone
- Loaves N Fishes, 5:00-6:30pm, Wilkes Blvd. Church
- NOMINATING COMMITTEE MTG., 6:30-8:00pm, Keystone

Tuesday, February 27

- Tuesday Bible Study, 10:30am, Morris Parlor
- Drennan Group, 1:00-3:00pm, Fireside Lounge-Lenoir

Wednesday, February 28

- Wednesday Bible Study, 12:05pm, Bethany Hall
- Brummett-Harrah Group, 1:30pm, Lenoir
- Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 5:30pm, Sanctuary

Thursday, March 1

- NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
- DOC (Disciples On Campus), 4:30-6:00pm, Bethany Hall
- Book Study "Very Married", 7:00-8:00pm, Bethany Hall

Friday, March 2

- Church Dine-Out, 5:30pm, Bob Evans Restaurant

Saturday, March 3

- Baptism Class, 12:00-7:00pm, TBD

SERVING SCHEDULE SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25

Bus Driver: Eric Seaman
Office Receptionist: Richard Barnard
Welcome Station: Lexy Bell
Flower Ministry Arranged by: Cindy Rose
Delivered by: Harlan Hackett

Servers for 8:30 Worship Service

Worship Assts:
Susan Gray and Brice & Mary Moeller
Elder: Tommy Gay Evans
Offering Counters: Sarah Storm and Kim Reardon

Servers for 10:30 Worship Service

Communion Prep:
Steve & Tracy Evers and Derrick Evers (JR)
Liturgist: Dan Gieseke
Elders: Cheryl & Steve Lightner
Deacons: The Hunsaker Team **Ushers:** The Scott Team
Greeters:

Gerald Ramsey (N. Door) Susan Ramsey (S. Door)
Joyce Stanley (Atrium) Bette Scavone (Portico)
Banner Bearers: Amelia Leon-Rudy and Ryley Batterson
Candle Lighters: Izzy Arnett and Delaney Batterson
Children's Worship:
Jessica Humble (ldr.) Kim Leon (hlpr.)
Offering Counters: Jerry Miller and Debbie Taylor