



THE
 May 25, 2018
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First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) VISITOR

Our mission: to know God and follow Jesus Christ

Excitement, Fun, Faith...Vacation Bible School, June 10-14

The Rolling River Rampage VBS is scheduled for June 10 – 14 from 5:30–8:00 p.m. each evening. Dinner is included starting at 5:30 p.m. We are looking for teachers, crew leaders, kitchen helpers and dessert bakers and we need your help!



Please register children from age 3 through 7th grade at <http://rrr.cokesburyvbs.com/FCCColumbia>

Please register NOW. Time is short and we need your RSVP on registration of kids and leaders/helpers. Leader/helper training will be Sunday, June 3 at 10:45 (a 30 min. meeting after worship)

BROWN BAG RETURN SUNDAYS, MAY 27 and JUNE 3!

Don't forget to return your brown bag as soon as possible! There are still a couple of bags in the narthex that need filling. Need to find out more about how you can help?

Please contact Jessica Humble at 573-808-6394 or humblejess@aol.com with any questions. Let's make this the best Vacation Bible School ever!



Summer One Worship Service

THIS
 SUNDAY

9:30 a.m.
May 27-Sept. 2

THIS
 SUNDAY

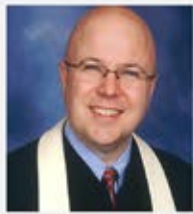
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Bit from Brad

2nd-to-Last Column before Departing for Sabbatical or... 13 Days Remaining!

The word "sabbatical" takes its root from the Hebrew, Shabbat, literally translated as Sabbath, meaning "to rest." When clergy "go on sabbatical" it is an extended rest; but for what purpose? Is it bonbons and peeled grapes by the poolside? No, it is for a deeper purpose, a much deeper

purpose. The 23rd Psalm begins: "The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He restores my soul." And that is the purpose of clergy sabbatical – soul restoration! Sabbaticals are meant for the soul of clergypersons to be restored by God, which requires clergy being removed from the regular week-to-week life of the church. This interruption allows the soul to rest from clergy stress, to be still in the green pastures, and hear God's word afresh, away from the daily pastoral stress.

What stressors do clergy deal with? Check out this compilation of stats on Clergy Stress from Soul Shepherding's website <https://www.soulshepherding.org/2018/01/sabbatical-guide-pastors/>

"Many research studies have shown that pastoral work is acutely stressful, draining, and dangerous for the pastors and their families. Here are a few of the statistics on pastor stress:

- 90% work 55 to 75 hours per week
- 90% feel fatigued and worn out every week
- 91% have experienced some form of burn out
- 70% have a lower self-esteem then when they entered the ministry
- 70% fight depression

The average seminary trained pastor lasts five years in professional ministry. Pastors get so preoccupied caring for others that their own souls suffer:

- 72% only study the Bible when preparing their sermons for others
- 70% do not have a close friend
- 50% do not regularly meet with an accountability partner or group
- 44% do not regularly take a day off."

Like most pastors, I experience many but not all of those stressors: long work hours, fatigue, weekly migraines, etc. And while I gladly serve God and church, it's extremely difficult to remain continuously fresh without extended rest. By God's grace and the church's generosity, I've discovered firsthand that sabbaticals are vital for me remaining refreshed and recharged to God's calling in my life; thereby making me a better leader, preacher, and steward of the church. Having two previous sabbaticals before this one, I can gratefully say that I do not suffer depression, I maintain a healthy sense of self-worth, and I am blessed to have served 25 continuous years in professional ministry in the local church setting. And I credit my sabbatical experiences as key to my professional and spiritual wellbeing.

This particular Sabbatical will be unlike any previous Sabbatical as the majority of time will be devoted to constructing, evaluating, and writing my doctoral project and dissertation. My project must take place in my ministerial setting (First Christian Church) so I will come up to FCC from time-to-time to meet with folks regarding my project, though not on Sunday mornings. Additionally, Trish, the kids, and I will take a few weeks off in the middle for a family summer vacation. My goal is to experience soul restoration through writing my dissertation and time spent with family. Something to which I greatly look forward! If you have further questions, please ask!

So, thank you First Christian Church for honoring me with this opportunity for my soul restoration!! I look forward to seeing what "new thing" God calls us when I return. In the meantime, I'll see you in church on Sundays May 27th and June 3rd.

~Blessings, Brad



News of People and Places

Prayers for our people include **Bob Leach** in his declining health, **Eva Bright** in her continued healing, **Cora Riley** in her return to home, **Muriel and Kirsten Leach** in their return travels from Florida, and **Ben Nelms** in his on-going recovery from surgery.

Expressions of sympathy go out to the families of **Park Baker**, who died Tuesday, and **JoAnn Spaur** who died this past week. We also pray for the family of **Emmy Croll** (who passed last month) as they celebrate her life in Bethany Hall Saturday, May 26, beginning at 10am.

Our extended family includes Sabrina Henshaw, niece of the Staggs, who is having surgery at MD Anderson in Houston to remove a malignant tumor from behind her ear.

We lift our voices in prayer for those affected by the shooting/bombing at Santa Fe High School in Texas.

We pray for our graduates as they make their way into colleges, universities, trade schools and jobs post-high school. May you continue to look to Jesus for strength and guidance. You will always have support and a faith family here at FCC.

- May 27** Bud Batterson III
- May 28** Isabella Arnett and Peggy Veatch
- May 29** Abigail Reardon
- May 30** Kameron Freed
and Amanda Holman
- May 31** Timothy McCarty
- June 2** Paul Seigel



Report for Sunday, May 20, 2018
Attendance 240 (includes early service– 33) (visitors– 34)
Total offerings: \$3799.50

Many thanks to Brad and the First Christian Church family during my recent carpal tunnel wrist surgery. The flowers, calls, and notes were greatly appreciated.

~Susan Gray

Don't forget to send in your **Estimate of Giving Cards and Surveys** of Interest and Information. If you did not receive these, please let the church office know. If you have already sent yours...thank you for Living Generously!



Baptism Class of 2018

Congratulations to our dedicated young people and their decision to accept Jesus Christ and be baptized.
Isabella (Izzy) Grace Arnett Daughter of Eric and Tammy Arnett; Spiritual Gifts– Encouragement and Hospitality
Delaney Carole Batterson Daughter of Matt and Hayley Batterson, Granddaughter of Glenda Clark and Bud & Deb Batterson; Spiritual Gifts– Leadership and Faith



Kira Marie Hoenes Daughter of C.K. & Paula Hoenes, Granddaughter of Richard and Suellen Wells; Spiritual Gifts– Encouragement and Faith
Hunter Vest (Chase) Hofmann, Jr Son of Hunter & Betsy Hofmann; Spiritual Gifts– Faith and Evangelism
Brett Robert Michael Kuhn Son of Bryan & Andrea Kuhn; Spiritual Gifts– Helping and Faith
Ava Michelle Martin Daughter of Ruth Ann Obrecht & Richard Martin; Spiritual Gifts– Encouragement and Hospitality
Cullen Mahoney Snow Son of Curt & Carolyn Snow; Spiritual Gifts– Helping and Faith
Kate Ly Volmert Daughter of Brad and Khonsavan Volmert; Spiritual Gifts– Hospitality and Faith
Kayla Christine Von Talge Daughter of Shawn & Christy Von Talge; Spiritual Gifts– Giving and Faith



STARS

...the 55+ Fellowship Group

The STARS group had an incredible trip to Lamar and Carthage. It was a fun-filled excursion to the birthplace of President Harry S Truman, George Washington Carver National Monument and a tour of the HUGE Precious Moments Chapel and Gardens. Want to know more about STARS trips? Check with Rev. Spear or the church office...or better yet, someone who goes!



The Visitor
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Ministerial Staff:

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Rev. Jimmy Spear, Associate Minister
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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 MAY 26-JUNE 3

Saturday, May 26

- Breakfast for Our Brethren, 7:00am, Yonker Hall
- Emmy Croll Celebration of Life 10:00am-2:00pm, Bethany Hall

Sunday, May 27

- SINGLE SUMMER WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE BEGINS,
9:30am
- Lenoir Healthcare Worship, 3:30pm, FCC Elders

Monday, May 28

- MEMORIAL DAY- OFFICE CLOSED

Tuesday, May 29

- Tuesday Bible Study, 10:30-11:30am, Morris Parlor
- Stewardship & Finance Dept. Mtg., 6:30-7:30pm,
Keystone Room

Wednesday, May 30

- Wednesday Bible Study, 12:05-12:55pm, Bethany Hall
- Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 5:30-6:30pm, Sanctuary

Thursday, May 31

- Scholarship Meeting, 6:30-8:30pm, Keystone Room

Friday, June 1

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

Sunday, June 3

- Communion Connection (Homebound)
- CYF Summer Camp, Clarence, MO
- Chancel Choir Warm-Up, 9:00am
- SINGLE SUMMER WORSHIP SERVICE, 9:30am
- VBS Teacher Training, 10:45am-11:15pm, Keystone Room

SERVING SCHEDULE SUNDAY, MAY 27

Bus Driver: Carol Slusher
Office Receptionist: Carole Harris-Randerson

Welcome Station: Trish Stagg
Flower Ministry Arranged & Delivered by:
Chris Creasy

Servers for 9:30 Worship Service

Communion Prep:
Dan & Deidre Tevis and Larry Dietzel

Greeters:
Trish Stagg (N. Door) Jacki Davidson (S. Door)
Gerald Ramsey (Atrium) Susan Ramsey (Portico)

Banner Bearers: Gabe Palmer and Alex Johnson
Candle Lighters: Amelia Leon-Rudy and Ryley Batterson

Liturgist: Pat Wright
Elders: Dan Backues and Richard Hoepfner
Deacons: The Hunsaker Team **Ushers:** The Scott Team

Children's Worship: Hayley Batterson (ldr.) TBD (hlpr.)
Offering Counters: Janelle Patterson and Debbie Taylor