



THE
January 25, 2019
Vol. 77, No. 23

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

VISITOR

Our mission: to know God and follow Jesus Christ

Worship this Sunday, Jan. 27

One body, many parts. This Sunday Rev. Stagg explores 1 Corinthians 12:12-31 and helps break down Jesus' words about each of us being individuals AND a necessary part of the whole church. We, in fact, are the body of Christ!

Join the joyous singing of *O God of Vision, Take My Gifts* and *One Bread, One Body*. If you're an early riser, you'll certainly enjoy the solo of Linda Chandler in the 8:30 service.

Sign up for these special Sunday luncheon events!

Sunday, February 3

Meal: Baked Potato Bar

Focus: TBD

Sunday, February 10

Meal: Soups and Bread

Focus: TBD

Sunday, February 17

Meal: Italian Village Pizza & Salad

Focus: TBD

Sunday, February 24

Meal: Carry-In/Potluck

Focus: Week of Compassion

RSVP for lunch on the pew pad each week, write the date; i.e. "Feb. 3", "Feb. 10", etc. OR to the office by Thursday prior to the event.

Cost? FREE. An offering will be taken with any surplus funds above food cost to the day's focus organization.



February 4

Outreach

and fellowship, too!

4 Sundays at Noon 4 Different Menus

4 Outreach Organizations We Support

Come share a simple lunch meal in the noon hour and hear a focus presentation by one of the organizations we as church support with budget money, fundraising efforts and volunteers. Eat, learn, fellowship — all on the Sundays in February!

A short program will accompany lunch and we will be out the door by 1:15/30pm. Programs still being placed will hopefully include Voluntary Action Center, Rainbow House, Love INC. and Welcome Home.

Co-sponsored by **World Outreach & Church in Society** departments of First Christian Church

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www.facebook.com/FirstChristianColumbiaMO



Bit From Brad

In last Sunday's sermon, *Spiritual Gifts* (based on 1 Corinthians 12:1-11), I shared a poem by Arianna Freelen called "Church is Hard." Since then, several folks asked for a copy of it so I thought I'd share it in my column as well.

~Blessings, Brad

"Church is hard. Church is hard for the person walking through the doors, afraid of judgment. Church is hard for the pastor's family, under the microscope of an entire body. Church is hard for the prodigal soul returning home, broken and battered by the world. Church is hard for the girl who looks like she has it all together, but doesn't. Church is hard for the couple who fought the entire ride to service. Church is hard for the single mom, surrounded by couples holding hands, and seemingly perfect families. Church is hard for the widow and widower with no invitation to lunch after service. Church is hard for the deacon with an estranged child. Church is hard for the person singing worship songs, overwhelmed by the weight of the lyrics. Church is hard for the man insecure in his role as a leader. Church is hard for the wife who longs to be led by a righteous man. Church is hard for the nursery volunteer who desperately longs for a baby to love. Church is hard for the single woman and single man, praying God brings them a mate. Church is hard for the teenage girl, wearing a scarlet letter, ashamed of her mistakes. Church is hard for the sinners. Church is hard for me. It's hard because on the outside it all looks shiny and perfect, Sunday best in behavior and dress. However, underneath those layers, you find a body of imperfect people, carnal souls, selfish motives.

"But, here is the beauty of church— Church isn't a building, mentality, or expectation. Church is a body. Church is a group of sinners, saved by grace, living in fellowship as saints. Church is a body of believers bound as brothers and sisters by an eternal love. Church is a holy ground where sinners stand as equals before the Throne of Grace. Church is a refuge for broken hearts and a training ground for mighty warriors. Church is a converging of confrontation and invitation. Where sin is confronted and hearts are invited to seek restoration. Church is a lesson in faith and trust. Church is a bearer of burdens and a giver of hope. Church is a family, a family coming together, setting aside differences, forgetting past mistakes, rejoicing in the smallest of victories. Church, the body, and the circle of sinners-turned-saints, is where [God] resides, and if we ask, [God] is faithful to come.

"So even on the hard days at church—The days when I am at odds with a friend, When I've fought with my husband because we're late once again. When I've walked in bearing burdens heavier than my heart can handle, yet masking the pain with a smile on my face. When I've worn a scarlet letter, under the microscope. When I've longed for a baby to hold, or fought tears as the lyrics were sung. When I've walked back in, afraid and broken, after walking away. I'll remember, [God] has never failed to meet me there."

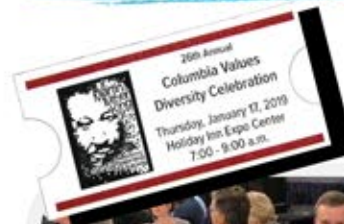
<https://herviewfromhome.com/church-is-hard/>

February Display

Check out Joyce Stanley's work in the display case on the 2nd floor of the Education Building! *Liberty and Justice* is the name of the presentation and you'll see some wonderful examples of influential people and period pieces illustrating these important foundations of our country. Check it out!



Diversity Celebration



The Columbia Values Diversity Celebration was held on Thursday, January 17 at the Expo Center. The annual event brings Columbians out for a 7:00 a.m. breakfast with a program honoring those whose achievements in the areas of diversity and inclusion, justice and freedom have been at work in our community. First Christian Church continues to be a supporter of the event with a donation at the "Advocate" level of giving. With that support we are able to fill a table – in recent years it has become clear we should share such an opportunity with our youth. Seniors active in the life of the church are invited to the breakfast. This year (pictured l to r) **Derrick Evers, Coleman Rogers, Rev. Jimmy Spear, Wyatt Rogers, guest Drew Thomas, Allie Pigg and Hunter Rogers** accepted the invitation to attend.



2019 Planning

Have some ideas for STARS trips in 2019?

Come to luncheon at the Columbia Senior Center on Thursday, January 31 at 11:30am. Sign up in the church office, please.



JYF (grades 3, 4, 5)
 Chi-Rho (grades 6, 7, 8)
 Sundays 4:30-6:00pm
 CYF (grades 9-12)
 every Sunday 6-7:30pm

Youth Group 2019 Calendar

Jan. 27 - JYF & CYF
 Feb. 3 - Chi-Rho (after church—lunch etc.)
 CYF - Superbowl Party

**Open and Affirming
 Exploration Team**

The Administrative Board approved the creation of the Open and Affirming Exploration Team to discover how our congregation can be more welcoming, inclusive and affirming to more members of our community, especially in regards to those with differing sexual orientations and gender identities. The team will be calling representative members of the congregation to get their input and all members will have the opportunity to complete a congregational assessment in the near future. The team wants to hear back from as many members as possible through the assessment and conversations. This will be a very deliberate process and it will take time. The team will be keeping the congregation informed as we move forward. If you know you would like to be a part of the conversations contact Bragg Stanley, Chair of the Open and Affirming Exploration Team, at 573.808.5504 or e-mail at jbstanley_2000@yahoo.com

January 28

Jim Baumgartner

January 29

Anita Dresser, 91

Bryan Freed
 Cole Galbraith

January 30

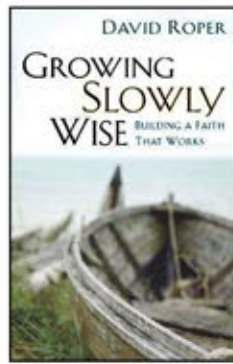
Debbie Taylor

February 1

Amy Marrero

February 2

Millie Bolman, 100

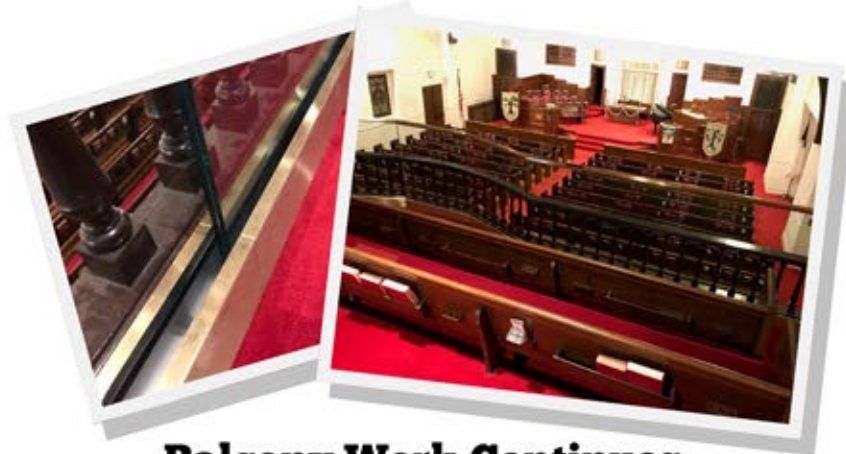


**Adult Class
 Book Study**

Sunday Mornings: 9:30 a.m.
 Keystone Room, 2nd floor

You're NOT too late! Join us
 THIS SUNDAY, January 27

Sarah Read will lead the discussion on this topic and book read. Books have been ordered. \$10 donation or get your own e-copy. Read the book alongside or come and soak in the faith-filled conversation.



Balcony Work Continues

Check out some of the progress that has been made on the balcony!



Attention: Men of FCC

Don't forget to fill out a Men's Ministry survey. Need one? Get a fillable one e-mailed to you or a hard copy in the church office.



The Visitor
First Christian Church
101 N. 10th Street
Columbia, MO 65201
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Non-Profit Org.
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Rev. Jimmy Spear, Associate Minister
jimmy@firstchristian.org

Music Staff:

Mary Bancroft, Coordinator of Music & Organist
maryebancroft@yahoo.com
Travis McFarlane, Early Worship Service Musician
travmac77@gmail.com
Dr. Laura Mayes-Morrow, Interim Director of Choirs
lmayes66@yahoo.com

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

Return Service Requested

SERVING SCHEDULE SUNDAY, JANUARY 20

Bus Driver: Russ Palmer
Office Receptionist: Diana Provenzano
Welcome Station: Trish Stagg
Flower Arranging/Delivery:
Coleen Nilges/Fred Mottaz
Servers for 8:30 Worship Service
Worship Assistants:
Richard & Natalie Barnard and Steve Smith
Elder: Eric Seaman
Offering Counters: Sarah Storm and Doug Smith
Servers for 10:30 Worship Service
Communion Prep: Joe, Kim & Abigail Reardon
Greeters: Carol Slusher (N. Door) Brad Volmert (S. Door)
Perry Stemmons (Atrium) Helen Stemmons (Portico)
Banner Bearers: Ava Martin and Gabe Palmer
Candle Lighters: Kaedon Wheatley and Alex Johnson
Liturgist: Debbie Garton
Elders: Steve & Jessica Humble
Deacons: The Hunsaker Team **Ushers:** The Scott Team
Children's Worship:
Jessica Humble (Ldr.), Vicki Johnson (Hlpr.)
Offering Counters: Cindy Smith and Deb Batterson
Warming Station Hosts/Driver:
Gene Kirkham and Sarah Storm/Marion Storm

CHURCH CALENDAR JANUARY 27-FEBRUARY 2

Sunday, January 27

-Warming Station for RATI, 6:45am, Yonker Hall
-Coffee Hour Fellowship, 9:20-10:20am
-Sunday School Classes, 9:30am
-Lenoir Healthcare Worship, 3:30pm, Rev. Stagg
-Student Ministry Groups
JYF, 4:30-6:00pm, Yonker Hall
CYF, 6:30-7:30pm, Bethany Hall
DOC, 8:30pm, Bethany Hall

Monday, January 28

-Church Office Staff Meeting, 2:00pm, Keystone Room
-Nominating Committee Meeting, 6:30-7:30pm, Keystone Room

Tuesday, January 29

-Tuesday Bible Study, 10:30am-12:00pm, Morris Parlor
-Elders Meeting/Dinner, 6:00pm, Yonker Hall

Wednesday, January 30

-Wednesday Bible Study, 12:05-12:55pm, Morris Parlor
-Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 5:30-6:30pm, Choir Room

Friday, February 1

-CAOAM Advisory Board, 5:30-6:30pm, Yonker Hall

Saturday, February 2

-Millie Bolman 100th Birthday, 2:00-4:00pm, Lenoir Fireside Room

Sundays, February 3, 10, 17, 24

-February Outreach & Fellowship Luncheons, 12:00pm, Yonker Hall
(3rd) Baked Potato Bar
(10th) Soups and Bread,
(17th) Italian Village Pizza and Salad
(24th) Carry-In/Potluck