



**Our mission: to know God and follow Jesus Christ**

## Worship this Sunday, February 22

1 Corinthians 15:35-58 will be the text of focus with Rev. Stagg's sermon, "The Resurrection Body" unpacking the story when Paul reveals a mystery that at the last trumpet, we will not all die, but be changed.. Hymns for the day will include *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty; Restless Weaver; and All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly*. The possibility of good weather, the chance to invite guests, a pot-luck lunch to follow late worship, and the balcony open for week two are just the beginning of what could be a very good Sunday. Join us!



### The past 7 days were...

## THE WEEK OF COMPASSION

We will receive the special day offering for our #1 relief organization in the Christian Church (DOC) in worship this Sunday. See inside this Visitor for more of the WOC story. Children will bring their blue boxes full of change as we share our gifts.



### Sunday, Feb. 24

**Meal: Carry-In/Potluck**

Pulled Pork Provided:  
bring a side/dessert

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

**February 4**  
**Outreach**  
*and fellowship, too!*

Co-sponsored by **World Outreach & Church in Society**

The short program at this Sunday's lunch will connect FCC to the mission beyond our walls. We will celebrate by hearing more unique pieces of the Week of Compassion story. Join us, bring food and share in good fellowship.

Our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Spring Training Visitor Campaign which encourages members to invite friends and family to worship at FCC, **begins Sunday, Feb. 24<sup>th</sup>**. The pulpit-side Redbird Disciples and lectern-side Royal Blue Christians compete for four weeks to see which side can bring the most guests! So, break out your red and blue, start thinking about whom you can invite to the friendliest church in Columbia, and let's get ready to play ball!!



**Begins Sunday**

### Who is eligible this year?

- A Neighbor
- Your kid's friend's family
- A stranger at the post office
- The woman doing yoga next to you
- Your friendly auto salesman or realtor
- The person who daily sells you coffee
- A Co-worker
- The new family down the street
- A colleague at Rotary or Kiwanis
- > "Who?" you say, well think on it!





# News of People & Places



*Prayers this week are extended on behalf of...*

**Cheryl Lightner** is now home from the hospital and continues to build strength to continue chemo treatments his week. **Mary Bowyer**, **Natalie Barnard's** mother, now home from a hospital stay. **Ron Longaker** had knee surgery on Feb. 18.

*Sympathy is extended to the families of...*

**Willie Mae Wheeland's** sister Sammi House of St. Louis died last week. We offer our prayers and support.

**Hardin "Wilkie" Wilkerson**, 100, died on February 14 at Le-noir Woods. Wilkie was a long time church member, Deacon and Elder. He came to Columbia to work for Stephens college in the 1953 and retired in 1992 as the Director of Admissions. A service will be held on Saturday, March 2, 10:00am at Memorial Funeral Home.

**Rev. Muriel Leach** died on Saturday, February 16 at the age of 95. She was surrounded by her family and dear friends. Muriel was a long time church member, keeper of the value of world outreach, and creator of Christian education. She was ordained in 1945 and spent her early career serving as Director of Missionary Education for Adults on the Disciples of Christ national staff in Indianapolis. Muriel was on staff at First Christian Church as Minister of Education from 1987-1993. As a member committed to Christian education, she developed the "Children's Worship Hour" in the early 1970s that continues to this day in an altered format as "Children's Worship." Muriel's development of the program gained national attention in Christian Church circles. Muriel was the first woman to serve as the Moderator of the Board at First Christian Church.

Muriel and husband Rev. Bob Leach were great fans of First Christian and truly called it an extension of their home and family for over 50 years. We offer prayers of comfort to children Kirsten Leach and Cory Leach. In recent years it was by the care and daily dedication of Kirsten that Muriel was able to stay at home, travel for seasons to Florida and maintain much of the life she loved. A service is being planned for Saturday morning, March 23 in the church sanctuary.

*Other news...*

Despite continued weather predictions, **Home Centered Communion** did take place to over on Sunday, Feb. 17. Elders and Deacons, **Steve Humble**, **Jeff Wheeland**, **Sarah & Marion Storm**, **Kim Leon**, **Jacki Davidson**, **Eric Seaman** and **Fred Mottaz** took part in sharing holy communion with nine in the Columbia area.

The **Balcony** opened Sunday and was re-inhabited by many who once called it home. The glass barrier and bronze rail are attractive and had many checking it out. It was one of the final Capital Campaign Tier 1 improvements.

## Loaves & Fishes Serve on Monday Feb 25



FCC will serve dinner at Loaves and Fishes soup kitchen on **Monday, February 25**. The CYF will cook/prepare the meal on Sunday and a team of people are needed to transport and serve the meal on Monday night; 4:30 transport, serving from 5:00-6:30pm. Please contact Paula Hoenes if you are interested in volunteering. You can call/text her at 573.424.3165 or email pmhoenes@gmail.com

## Ash Wednesday: Soup & Worship

The beginning of the season of Lent will be **March 6, Ash Wednesday**. A service of worship—acts of repentance and the administering of ashes—will be held in the sanctuary at 6:30pm. Between 5:30-6:15pm a simple soup supper will be held in the fellowship hall. An RSVP for the supper would be welcome on the Sunday pew pad or in church office.

## CHI-RHO LOCK-IN WAS AWESOME

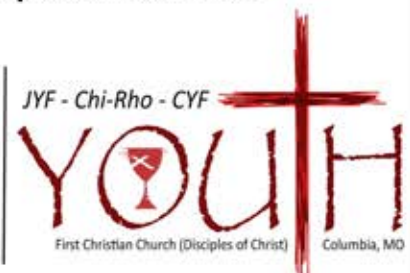
The Chi-Rho Youth Group took advantage of the Monday holiday to sleep by having a Lock-In last Sunday night. They played hard for what was called "**12 Hours of Awesome**." A great group of parents made sure food was in plenty and Holly Gieseke, Chi-Rho Partner, was on hand helping bring the awesome all night. More than a dozen youth participated with several bringing a friend. A highlight of the night was the first ever playing of "HUMAN FOOSBALL" as pictured below. The DOC (college) student group who met simultaneously joined in the game and stayed for pizza.



### Youth Group 2019 Calendar

Feb. 24: Chi-Rho & CYF  
Mar. 3: JYF & CYF  
Mar. 10: Chi-Rho & CYF

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





## Church Staff Changes: Music

### Welcome Matthew Felts, Choral Director

Matthew W. Felts is a graduate of Missouri State University where he earned undergraduate and graduate degrees in vocal music education and choral conducting with Dr. Guy Webb. He has led music at all age levels, proudly directing the choirs at his alma mater, Hickman High School, and at Calvary Episcopal Church for several years.



Growing up in a small country church, Matt learned to read music through hymn singing, seated between his mother and father on Sunday mornings. The weaving together of song, family, and faith created an abiding love for God which has only grown deeper with time. Matt is thrilled to be joining the staff at First Christian Church as Director of Choirs and is eager to share his passion for music and singing with as many people as possible!

## 2019 Planning

Have some ideas for STARS trips in 2019? We will eat lunch at the Columbia Senior Center on **Thursday, Feb. 28 at 11:30am** and make plans. A month later, the weather surely will be good? YES!



**Join others for dinner at Church Dine Out**  
**5:30pm, Friday, March 1**  
**At Bob Evans Restaurant**

**Report for Feb. 17, 2019**  
**Attendance: 118 (\*ice)**  
**(8:30 service— 29)**  
**Total offerings: \$5,083.40**

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

**February 25** - Sarah Read,

**February 26** - Ryan Boger,  
Kim Rogers, Doug Smith

**February 27**

*\*special birthday\**

**Elizabeth Hensley, 98 yrs**

**February 28** - Jack Creasy IV

**February 29** - Eliana Snyder

**March 3** - Sally Estes,  
Sue Haynes

## ALL-CHURCH GARAGE SALE

**Set Up and Drop off:**  
**Sun. March 10**

**Sale Held:**  
**Fri. March 15, 4-8pm**  
**Sat. Mar. 16, 8am-12**

## A first hand story from...

## THE WEEK OF COMPASSION

Imagine a 12-year-old girl or boy whom you might know. Maybe this is a neighborhood child, or perhaps one of your own children or grandchildren. In your mind, what is this child doing on a normal day? Going to school? Eating lunch with friends? Arguing with a sibling about what tablet game they will play after school?

Today we introduce you to another 12-year-old girl. Her life is a little different than the one you might have just imagined for the student you know. We're going to call her Z, which is the first letter of her name. She was born in Iran, but her family had fled from Afghanistan and was never fully accepted into Iranian society. So, like millions of other refugee and immigrant families, Z's family began the long journey towards a better life. They came through Serbia, hoping to eventually get to Germany. As they had been for many weeks, Z's days were filled with walking. One day, Z and her family were walking through a park, looking and feeling out of place and afraid, when staff members from an organization called Info Park noticed them. The aid workers offered them hope in the form of a safe space to rest and a bowl of warm noodles, which Z described as "the sweetest food she has tasted in years."

*"O taste and see that the Lord is good; happy are those who take refuge in God," the Psalmist sings (Psalm 34:8).*



By your gifts to Week of Compassion, Info Park is able to assist refugees to find a place of respite and a bite to eat when they are hungry. They also help young girls like Z inch closer and closer to the goals that seemed impossible as they navigated borders, checkpoints, and life as exiles. Your gifts provide for learning centers where girls and boys can escape the life of refugee camps and experience the normalcy that children in many parts of the world take for granted. Assisted by your generosity, Z embarked on a path towards education that she and her mother had dreamed of. Her days became filled with learning--first at Info Park, then at a German school in Hamburg. Just one month after enrolling in school, she won the Hamburg regional competition for best writing skills among newcomers to Germany. Two years earlier, she didn't know a word of the language, but now Z is excelling in school and dreaming for a future that is "more than we can imagine!"

*\*Since July 2016, nearly 170 women and girls have attended German classes at Info Park with support from Week of Compassion partner, Church World Service. Teachers from Germany, Austria and Switzerland inspire students to gain confidence, knowing that if they work hard they will have more opportunities.*

Your gifts do more than we can imagine!



**The Visitor**  
**First Christian Church**  
101 N. 10th Street  
Columbia, MO 65201  
573-449-7265

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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  
Travis McFarlane, Early Worship Service Musician  
Matthew Felts, Director of Choirs

**Return Service Requested**

**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:**

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

**SERVING SCHEDULE SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24**

**Bus Driver:** Eric Seaman **Office Recept.:** Carol Slusher  
**Welcome Station:** Trish Stagg  
**Flower Arranging/Delivery:** Carol Slusher/Carol Slusher  
**Servers for 8:30 Worship Service**  
**Worship Assistants:** Sharon and Steve Smith, Bob Dixon  
**Elder:** Carol Hughey  
**Offering Counters:** Sarah Storm and Kim Reardon  
**Servers for 10:30 Worship Service**  
**Communion Prep:** Kurt, Stacia and Wolf Schaefer  
**Greeters:** Gerald Ramsey (N. Door) -Susan Ramsey (S. Door)  
Joyce Stanley (Atrium)-Bette Scavone (Portico)  
**Banner Bearers:** Alex Johnson and Sam Pine  
**Candle Lighters:** Lillian McCormack and Jodie Silverwood  
**Liturgist:** Gabe Palmer  
**Elders:** Larry Burnam and Mark Mills- Joyce Stanley, Balcony  
**Deacons:** The Hunsaker Team **Ushers:** The Scott Team  
**Children's Worship:**  
Eric Arnett (Ldr.), Stacy Silverwood (Hlpr.)  
**Offering Counters:** Harlan Hackett and Deb Batterson  
**Warming Station Hosts/Driver:**  
Jay Creasy and Eric Seaman/Bill Carney

**CHURCH CALENDAR FEBRUARY 24- MARCH 2**

**Sunday, February 24**

- Warming Station for RATI, 6:45am, Higbee Hall
- Coffee Hour Fellowship, 9:20-10:20am Yonker Hall
- Sunday School Classes, 9:30am
- Feb. Outreach & Fellowship Luncheon, 12:00pm, Yonker Hall**
- Lenoir Healthcare Worship 3:30pm
- Spring Training Starts
- Student Ministry Groups
  - Chi-Rho, 4:30-6:00pm Bethany Hall
  - CYF, 6:00-7:30pm Bethany Hall
  - DOC, 8:30pm, Bethany Hall



**Monday, February 25**

- Church Office Staff Meeting, 2:00pm, Keystone Room
- Nominating Committee, 6:30-7:30pm, Keystone Room
- Serving Loaves and Fishes, 5:00pm, Wilkes Blvd UMC

**Tuesday, February 26**

- Tuesday Bible Study, 10:30am-12:00pm, Morris Parlor
- Drennen Group, 1:00pm, Lenoir, Fireside Room

**Wednesday, February 27**

- Wednesday Bible Study, 12:05-12:55pm, Bethany Hall
- Brummett-Harrah Group, 1:30pm, Lenoir, Fireside Room
- Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 5:30-6:30pm, Choir Room
- Baptism & Discipleship Class, 6:30-8:00pm, Keystone Room

**Thursday, February 28**

- Stars Planning meeting, 11:30am, Senior Center

**Friday, March 1**

- CWU World Day of Prayer
- Church Dine Out, 5:30pm, Bob Evans