



**THE**  
May 17, 2019  
Vol. 77, No. 38

# First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) VISITOR

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

## **Sunday, May 19** **The 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**

This Sunday is big. We will come on a morning in late spring to start the week in worship. We will bring our financial pledges – our commitments to First Christian as we together prepare for another year of ministry and mission. We will honor one of our largest groups of graduating high school seniors. The lectionary texts of the day fit well all of the above themes for this Sunday in Columbia, Missouri. The Psalm is big – majestic praise to God, for everything!

The good word from Jesus is perfect to complete our weeks speaking as friends – friends in Christ. Jesus gives his friends a new commandment, that they would use it now and forevermore. As we send a dynamic group of our own into the big world we will do so as friends in the hopes they will keep this greatest of commandment of love. Rev. Jimmy Spear will be back this Sunday to preach the sermon “Celebration of Christ: Words to GO By” and lead both services. Join us Sunday as we proclaim the very big love of God.



Mark your calendars! Vacation Bible School is set for June 9 – 13 from 5:30–8:00p.m. Please join us as we journey To Mars and Beyond! We need your help! Volunteer opportunity details inside.

## **2019-20** **STEWARDSHIP** **CAMPAIGN**



### **WEEK 3: CHRIST-LED COURAGE** **BY DEBBIE AND JAMES TAYLOR**

This week’s stewardship topic is “courage.” When Brad asked if James and I would be willing to speak, I told him that neither James nor I felt particularly courageous. When we think of courage, we think of Michael, or Mitchell, but not ourselves!

When Mitchell was about 4 years old, James and I began our search for our church home. We visited lots of churches all over town, and while none were outright unwelcoming, neither were they especially welcoming. Nothing felt quite right. At the time, we lived one street over from John and Sarah Yonker. I listened to John’s radio spot every morning on the way to work, and interacted with both John and Sarah as part of our neighborhood association. Based on those interactions, we decided to try the church at 10th and Walnut.

From our first visit, you all embraced us. You had the courage to open your hearts and arms to our little family, that didn’t really look like many other families at that time. We all felt loved and encouraged, and it didn’t take long for us to know that we were “home.” It was important to me to know that my boys felt safe and loved, and they thrived at First Christian Church. All three boys and I have been baptized here, Michael and Matthew both had Eagle ceremonies here, Michael was married here, and as you know, James officially joined the church by transfer of membership in 2018, and was recently elected by the Board as the first black Deacon in the history of First Christian Church.

(Continued on next page →)

### **Next Sunday: Celebration of Christ** **By C.K. Hoenes** **Commitment Sunday!**

101 N. 10th Street  
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E-mail: [fcc@firstchristian.org](mailto:fcc@firstchristian.org)  
[www.facebook.com/FirstChristianColumbiaMO](https://www.facebook.com/FirstChristianColumbiaMO)

## Stewardship: Christ-Led Courage

(Continued from front page) It is the courage of this congregation to face issues of diversity and inclusion that drew us to First Christian Church, and continues to keep us engaged today. James and I participated in diversity training with many of you a few years ago, and I am currently serving on a committee that is beginning the work on an "open and affirming" initiative and issues of the LGBTQ community. These are not easy topics, and there are no easy answers. I so appreciate the courage of this congregation to face the future with open minds and open hearts as we continue the discussion of race and sexual orientation.

On a personal note, I would like to tell you that the young man you helped raise, Mitchell, arrived back in the United States this past week, and will be home in a matter of days. James and I would like to thank all of you for the prayers and support during his deployment – it means more to us than you will ever know.

By Debbie and James

Attention Department Heads:

**DEPARTMENT BUDGETS ARE DUE THIS SUNDAY!**

**VBS  
Volunteers  
Needed!**



As you know, VBS takes a TREMENDOUS amount of volunteers to make it a great week for the kids. Please call me at 583-808-6394 or e-mail me at [humblejess@aol.com](mailto:humblejess@aol.com) to volunteer.

The following positions are needed:

- Preschool Crew Leaders
- Elementary Crew Leaders
- Kitchen Helpers
- Dessert Bakers
- Registration Helpers
- Decoration Helpers

Thank you so much for your participation! -- Jessica Humble

## Summer Means Double Issues of Visitor!

Seeing as the summer months are upon us, we will begin publishing double issues of the Visitor. Starting next week there will be a newsletter coming out two times a month. Take note of the following publication dates so you know if/when you need to submit anything you would like to have published over the summer ahead of time.

May 24, June 7, June 21, July 5, July 19, Aug. 2, Aug 16.

Thanks! — Your Humble Visitor Publication Team

## News of People & Places



### Many Thanks...

Dear Church Friends, Thank you so much for all the prayers, calls and cards following my recent thyroid procedure. I'm doing fine and now am waiting to have a procedure on my heart the 23rd of May. I'm really enjoying the red shawl knitted by Millie Bolman and delivered by Dr. Stagg. It was so kind of Eric Seaman to deliver flowers from the sanctuary on a Sunday afternoon.

Blessings to all, **Carol Slusher**

Thanks for all the nice calls and cards during my illness. Things are going okay and I hope to be back soon.

- **Doris Neidhardt**

### Prayers of Wellness and Healing

We continue to hold **Brad Beary** in our prayers as he continues his chemo treatments. **Cheryl Lightner** is now home from the hospital after bolstering her immune system. Continued prayers of healing for **Don Mosby** following his successful aortic valve surgery last week.

**Prayers of Sympathy** go out to the family of **Louise Meyer** following her passing on Tuesday, May 7, especially her son and daughter-in-law Wayne and Donna Meyer. The family is planning a private graveside service in the near future.

### Upcoming...

**Graduates will be listed** in the next edition of the Visitor. If your family member is graduating beyond our current senior class please let the office know—name, institution, degree.

**Senior and Teacher Recognition Sunday** is this Sunday, May 19th.

**Adult Class Book Study:** Sarah Read has led a book study over the last few weeks for adults focusing on the New York Times Bestselling book, "What Is the Bible?" by Rob Bell. The last class will meet **this Sunday in Bethany Hall at 9:30am.**

**FCC Brotherhood of Men** has their **weekly bible study** every Saturday, at 7am in Bethany Hall through June 8. The initial topic is "Masculinity: Will the Real Jesus Stand Up?" Meetings will last one hour and coffee will be included.

**STARS**—The group's next trip is next **Thursday, May 23.** They're heading to **Jefferson Barracks, Glass Blowing** in St. Louis and will have **lunch at Blueberry Hill.** RSVP "Stars May" in the pew pad or in the office.

**Friday Night Classics!** Dan and Holly Gieseke welcome you to the 3rd Floor Cinema as they host a screening of Alfred Hitchcock's "Vertigo" on **May 31 at 7:00pm.**

**Mark Your Calendar:  
One Worship Service**

**9:30 a.m.**

**May 26–Sept. 1**

[firstchristian.org](http://firstchristian.org)



# Breakfast for Our Brethren

Every Saturday in May

Yonker Fellowship Hall

In May, FCC is serving Breakfast for our Brethren every Saturday. A huge thank you to Colleen Nilges, Janelle Patterson, Chuck Scott, Will Houston, Fred Mottaz, Jeff Wheeland, and Harlan Hackett for their willingness to help cook and serve breakfast every Saturday. Not only are we providing a hot breakfast for people in need but also an opportunity for people to get clothes and personal items that are much needed. Thank you to Mary Moeller, Jean Juba, Debbie Potthast, and Richard & Faye Binsches for manning the clothing and personal items tables. Plus Sarah Storm for her continuous support of this ministry. If you would like to volunteer, we would love your help on **Saturday, May 18 or 25 (7-10 a.m.)!** Also, please stop by the table in the Narthex or the church office to sign up to volunteer or donate breakfast items for our last breakfast on May 25. Any and all help is much appreciated!



## Celebrating Dr. Brad Stagg

We are honored as a church to have our minister, Rev. Brad Stagg, receive his Doctorate this weekend in Chicago IL. from Garrett Theological Seminary. This is a big milestone in the life of Brad, his family, and our church.



To recognize the hard work he has put into this endeavor, it is traditional for congregations to present the minister with his doctoral robe. The robe is about \$500 which is our fundraising goal. The robe will be presented on June 16 in church with his parents and his family. Mark your calendars with more information concerning our "Recognition Day" in the next Visitor.

A special offering basket will be available after church this Sunday, May 19 or you can mail in your donation to the church office. A small donation from each family should help us to meet our goal quickly. Thank you. -- Genie Rogers

## Pancake Breakfast

A Men's Ministry FUNDRAISER for the FCC Scholarship Fund (donations welcomed)



**Sunday, June 2 at 10:30 am**

**Yonker Fellowship Hall**

**menu: Pancakes, Sausage Juice/Coffee**

## All Church Canoe Float Trip

Sunday, June 30th

Float the Current River down at Shannondale with friends from church. All ages welcome. Children and youth must be accompanied by an adult. Please RSVP interest to Pat Rybolt at [pat@musicsuite.net](mailto:pat@musicsuite.net).



## Ladies Book Club's Last Meeting of the Year

13 is a lucky number when it's a gathering of ladies who are sharing a wonderful book ("Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine" by Gail Honeyman) in a beautiful spring garden on a rainy day in May. Mary Daugherty welcomed us into her garden, offering lemonade, iced tea, cookies and bird song and flowers. We always look forward to this meeting and lovely setting.

The next meeting will be in August when we choose books for the coming year. Regular meetings begin Wed. Sept. 2. We have already decided on 2 titles ("Where the Crawdads Sing" by Delia Owens and "Educated" by Tara Westover) and since they are so very popular, this will give our readers a head start. There will be 8 books total on our reading list for this Fall. Join us in the Fall!





**May 21** - Jim Estes, Amy Green, Billie Silvey, Andrew Stormer

**May 22** - Linda Hamilton

**May 25** - Evan Holliday, Vicki Johnson

**May 26** - Genny Brown



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

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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:**

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

**SERVING SCHEDULE SUNDAY, MAY 19**

**Bus Driver:** Carol Slusher  
**Office Receptionist:** Carole Harris Randerson  
**Welcome Station:** Pat Rybolt and Jeff Underwood  
**Flower Arranging/Delivery:** Nannie Lou Mallett and  
 Diana Provenzano

**Servers for 8:30 Worship Service**

**Worship Assistants:** Brice and Mary Moeller, Eric Seaman

**Elder:** Carol Hughey

**Offering Counters:** Mary Moeller and Sarah Storm

**Servers for 10:30 Worship Service**

**Communion Prep:** Liam Rose, Brad and Kohns Volmert  
**Greeters:** Bonnie Fay (N. Door) – Richard Barnard (S. Door) Ron Longaker (Atrium) – Judy Longaker (Portico)  
**Banner Bearers:** Gabe Palmer and Kaedon Wheatley  
**Candle Lighters:** Alex Johnson and Sam Pine  
**Liturgist:** Tracy Evers  
**Elders:** Dan Backues and Tracy Evers –  
 Cindy Rose, Balcony  
**Deacons:** The Underwood Team  
**Ushers:** The Rose Team  
**Childrens Worship:** Jessica Humble (Ldr)  
 Stacy Silverwood (Hlpr)  
**Offering Counters:** Diana Provenzano and Debbie Taylor

**CHURCH CALENDAR MAY 19 - MAY 25**

**Sunday, May 19**

**Commitment Sunday**  
**Senior & Teacher Recognition**  
**Department Budgets Due**  
 -Coffee Hour Fellowship,  
 9:20- 10:20am, Yonker Hall  
 -Christian Education Classes,  
 9:30am

**Monday, May 20**

MDO Graduation  
 -Church Office Staff Mtg,  
 2:00-3:00pm, Keystone Rm  
 -Evangelism Dept. Mtg,  
 6:30-7:30pm, Keystone Rm

**Tuesday, May 21**

MDO Graduation  
 -Tuesday Bible Study, 10:30-  
 11:30am, Keystone Rm  
 -Aktion Club Movie Night,  
 4:30-7:30, Yonker Hall  
 -Scholarship Committee Mtg,  
 6:00pm, Keystone Rm

**Wednesday, May 22**

-Wednesday Bible Study,  
 12-12:55pm, Bethany Hall  
 -Brummett-Harrah Group,  
 1:30pm, Lenoir  
 -Chancel Choir Rehearsal,  
 5:30-6:30pm, Choir Rm  
 -CYF Mission Trip  
 Youth/Parent Mtg, 7:00pm

**Thursday, May 23**

-STARS Jefferson Barracks &  
 Glass Blowing, St. Louis  
 -CAOAM Advisory Board,  
 5:30-6:30pm, Yonker Hall  
 -Open and Affirming Mtg,  
 6-7:30pm, Bethany Hall

**Saturday, May 25**

-Men's Bible Study,  
 7:00-8:00am, Bethany Hall  
 -Breakfast for the Brethren,  
 7:00-10:00am, Yonker Hall

**Report for May 12, 2019**

**Attendance: 161 (8:30 service– 42) Total offerings: \$5,695**