The Church Bell

July 22, 2026

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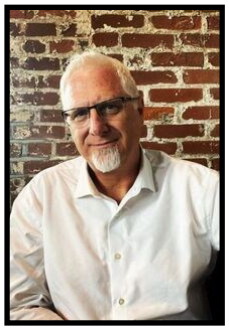
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
Disciples of Christ

327 East Capitol Avenue, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101-3003 (573-636-5157)

Preparing for a New Season



As I write this, we're already preparing for a wonderful and meaningful day in the life of our congregation. On **Sunday, August 30**, we'll celebrate **Gretchen's retirement** and give thanks for her faithful ministry among us.

Gretchen is selecting the music she would most like to hear and sing one last time as our Director of Music Ministry. Following worship, we'll gather for a meal together, receive a love offering in her honor, and invite everyone to share a card expressing your gratitude and memories of her years of ministry. It will be a joyful day of thanksgiving, and I hope you'll plan to be there.

As we prepare for worship over the coming weeks, I'd also encourage you to spend some time reading **Matthew 13–16.** Those four chapters will guide our worship, prayers, and sermons as we continue to listen for Christ's call in our lives.

You'll also notice that this week's newsletter contains a nearly complete **Fall Calendar** filled with opportunities for worship, learning, fellowship, and service. Take a few minutes to read through it and begin marking your calendar. September has a way of arriving faster than we expect—teachers certainly know that's true!

Looking ahead, we'll begin August by blessing backpacks as students and educators prepare for a new school year. Then, in September, we'll host our **East School Block Party,** one of the largest community events our congregation sponsors each year. With 600–800 neighbors joining us, it truly is an "all hands on deck" opportunity to serve our community with hospitality and joy. I hope you'll consider volunteering.

Finally, I want to lift up something especially close to my heart. On **September 13, FCC Kids and FCC Youth** will begin meeting again after worship. These ministries are among the most important things we do as a church because they help shape the faith of the next generation.

But they only happen when caring adults are willing to serve.
If you've ever wondered whether you have something to offer a child or teenager, the answer is yes. You don't have to be a Bible scholar. You simply need a willing heart and a desire to encourage young people as they discover God's love. The relationships you build may become memories they carry for the rest of their lives.

So let me leave you with a question: **What would it look like for you to be involved in FCC Kids and Youth?**

Dear FCC JCMO Friends,

Can you believe we're almost halfway through our Bible Together journey? When we launched this reading plan in February, we intentionally chose not to begin in January. We didn't want it to become another New Year's resolution, complete with the temptation to measure success by whether we managed to "keep up."

Instead, we wanted to create a shared rhythm of reading Scripture together, trusting that God would meet us along the way.

This summer has reminded me just how much I needed that perspective, too. Between vacations, church events, family activities, and all the ways summer disrupts our normal routines, I've struggled to stay on track myself. Some days I've read in the morning, some days late at night, and some days...I've simply missed. Maybe you've had a similar experience.

The good news is that God's invitation doesn't expire because we missed a day, a week, or even a month.

One of the beautiful things about Scripture is that it isn't a book we "finish." We return to these stories throughout our lives, and they continue to shape us in new ways. The goal was never to complete a checklist, but to become people who know God's story a little better, recognize Christ's voice a little more clearly, and allow the Holy Spirit to form us over time.

So as we enter the second half of our reading plan, I have just one encouragement: don't worry about catching up!

If you've read every assignment since February, wonderful! Keep going.

If you've fallen behind, don't spend your energy trying to make up the difference. Simply open to today's reading and join us there. The rest will still be there tomorrow, and God's grace certainly will.

As we approach the halfway mark, I'd also encourage you to take a moment to look back. Has there been a passage that surprised you or a story that stayed with you? Did you notice a connection between the Old and New Testaments that you hadn't before? Even if your reading has been less than consistent, I suspect God has been at work in ways you may not have recognized at the time.

Thank you for taking this journey together. Whether you've been here every day or you're just opening your Bible again for the first time in a while, you're welcome. That's what the Bible Together plan has always been about.

Love you all,

Rev. Heather

Hello friends and partners,

Below is an updated flyer for our **Loads of Love** program, and we would be grateful for your help spreading the word throughout your networks.

Loads of Love provides free laundry gift certificates to eligible individuals and families in our community through our partnership with Grace Episcopal Church and Capital Laundry. Each certificate helps ensure that families have access to clean clothes, dignity, and a fresh start.

If you are able, please share this information with your staff, volunteers, congregations, clients, or community groups.

Thank you for all your do to support our neighbors and community,

Kate Amick

Executive Director Common Ground

July Birthdays

Elizabeth Coffman 1
Wendy Miles 1
Jim Dunwiddie 5
Amelia Bell 7
Dan Gibson 7
Marilyn Langley 10
Kurt Toebben 10
Karen Shroyer 13
Don Lloyd 14
Bob Priddy 16
Blair Johnson 18
Hannah Schatz 20
Andrew Highland 20
Wanda King 21
Ron Jordan 22
Christoper Bell 22
Jon Schwartz 23
Forrest Chappell 24
Gretchen Huedepohl 26
Corey Dawson 27
Dawn Dunn 28
Jeanne Nelson 29
Amy Schwartz 30
Jonathon Prouty 31

PLAN AHEAD FOR UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE LIFE OF FCC!

August 1-Cornhole Tournament

August 3- Mary Circle 1:00

August 6-Mission Team 6:00

August 9- Green Team

August 11-Salvation Army Meal Prep 2:00

August 13- Widow's Group 1:00

August 24- Prayer Shawl Group 1:00

August 24- Faith Seekers 4:30

August 27-Elders Meeting 6:30

September 2- Cardmaking 5:30

September 3- Mission Team Meeting 6:00

September 7-Labor Day-Church Office Closed

September 8-Salavation Army Meal Prep 2:00

September 10-Widow's Group 1:00

September 11- East School Block Party

September 12-Elder Training 8:30-12:30

September 13- Youth Group Resumes

September 13-Green Team

September 15-Board Meeting 6:00

September 20-Homecoming Sunday

September 24-Elders Meeting 6:30

September 24-25-Project Homeless Connect

September 25-26- Wedding at the church

September 28-Prayer Shawls 1:00

October 1-Mission Team Meeting 6:00

October 5-Mary Circle 1:00

October 7-Cardmaking 5:30

October 8-Widow's Group 1:00

October 10- Elders Training 8:30-12:30

October 11-Minister Appreciation Day

October 11-Hayride 3:30

October 12-Faith Seekers 4:30

October 13-Salvation Army Meal Prep 2:00

October 22-Elders Meeting 6:30

October 24- Missing Pieces Concert

October 26- Prayer Shawl 1:00

October 26-Faith Seekers 4:30

November 8-Sam B Cook Organ Concert 4:00

November 15- Jigsaw Puzzle Contest 11:00

November 15- Liberte Concert 4:00

November 22- Blue Christmas Event

December 13-Choir Cantata during worship

Opportunities to help with the Food Pantry!

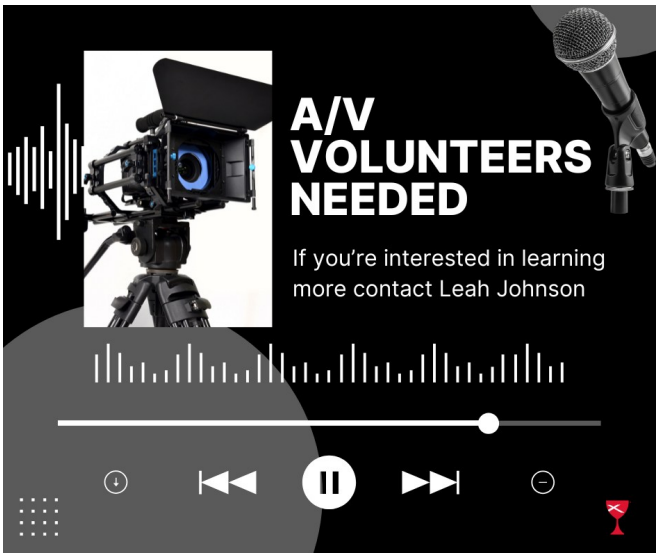
The family of Peggy Wiliamson thanks you for your expressions of sympathy and memorial offerings. She loved being a member of this church family, especially Mary Circle. As you remember her, remember her saying this "take it one day at a time."

Margo Williamson, Travis Jackson and Family.

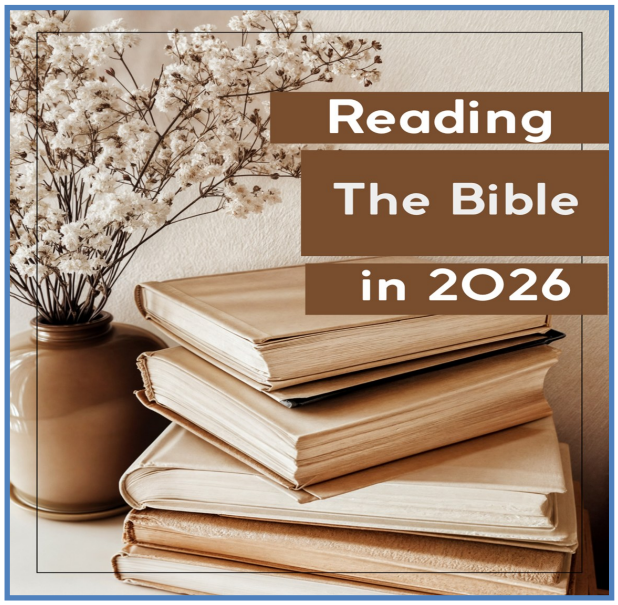
Thank You!

July Anniversaries

Stan & Dianna Payne 7/4
Joe & Suzy Johnston 7/7
Shawn Kelsch & Sharyl Kelsch 7/8
Ed Powers & Joy Powers 7/11
Bob Jordan & Sherry Jordan 7/16
Keith Jordan & Jacqueline Jordan 7/20



If you are interested in playing, sponsoring or helping with the Cornhole fundraiser, please sign up in the Gathering Area or contact the Church Office.



Week 26	Week 27
• 1 Kings 6; 2 Chron 3; 1 Timothy 1	• 1 Kings 10-11; 2 Chr 9; 1 Tim 6
• 1 Kings 7; 2 Chr 4; Psalm 44; 1 Tim 2	• Ecclesiastes 1-3; Psalm 45; 2 Tim 1
• 1 Kings 8; Psalm 30; 1 Tim 3	• Eccl 4-6; Psalm 125; 2 Tim 2
• 2 Chr 5-7; Psalm 121; 1 Tim 4	• Eccl 7-9; Psalm 46; 2 Tim 3
• 1 Kings 9; 2 Chr 8; 1 Tim 5	• Eccl 10-12; 2 Tim 4

COMMUNITY GARDEN

We're about half way thru July and the garden is producing really well. Green and jalapeño peppers, two sizes of tomatoes, cucumbers, green beans and several herbs.

It has proved attractive to neighborhood critters too! These two hungry guys have now been relocated across the river! They're likely not working alone so traps will be reset this week.

MUSIC AND WORSHIP

UPCOMING SPECIAL MUSIC IN WORSHIP

***July 26** FCC Worship Team
***Aug. 2** Tim and Lisa Coday "Press On"
***Aug. 9** Ken Kehner and Gretchen Huedepohl, piano/organ duet incorporating several well-known hymns
***Aug. 16** Forever Faithful Women's Sextet (anthem TBD) and Dr. Alison Robuck, oboist
***Aug. 30** **Gretchen's last Sunday** will feature more music than usual, blending traditional and contemporary worship music. Special musical offerings by the Chancel Choir include "Come with Joyful Singing" and "Soon and Very Soon," featuring soloist Curtis Sudduth; Dan MCClard, trumpeter, accompanying hymns and sharing a solo; Laurie Janeczko, flutist, offering the communion song, "How Beautiful"; Ken Kehner and Gretchen playing yet another organ/piano duet on "Simple Gifts"; and FCC Worship Team leading a couple favorite songs. I hope you'll be present to worship with heart, mind, and soul!

Please Pray for OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Brooks Jarrett, brother of Annie Jarrett
Greg Maire, friend of Sharon Gonder
Greta Patten and her son Zeke
Walt Wilde-Cindy Blosser's Brother in Law
Bruce Senior
Letha Piper
Russ Kesel
Michelle Bennett
Bender and Falter families
Trish Alexander
Wade Parks
Bill Marshall

Please call the office at 573-636-5157 or email at fccjcmooffice@gmail.com if you would like continued prayers.

Did you know that you can request to have Communion brought to you if you are unable to attend Church? Our Elders will bring you Communion if you are homebound. This could be for a short period of time (recovering from illness, etc.) or if you are unable to attend Church for a longer period of time. Communion can be brought to you if you are in a residential setting as well.
Just contact the Church Office and we will help to set up this for you.

Our Members in Care Centers

HEISINGER-
WILMA COLLINS
1002 WEST MAIN JC MO 65109

LENOIR WOODS 3710 LENOIR ST.
COLUMBIA MO 65201
MARILYN BIESEMEYER

OUR HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

MARIAM CRADDOCK,
640 Murphy's Ford Road,
Centertown, MO 65023

OUR OUT-OF-TOWN MEMBERS

BETTY SCHRAMM,
6335 Maurer Rd. Apt 323
Shawnee, KS 66217

BETTY SCHULTE
13458 Burgess,
Riley Township MI 48041

EVA PRATT
3251 Pine Tree Dr. Cabin 16
Columbia, MO 65201

BOB MURPHY
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Chilhowee, MO 64733

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AFTER HOURS EMERGENCIES:
Please contact Rev. Michael Dunn at 713-447-5954.

For **non-emergency** church-related items after working hours, Monday thru Thursday, 8AM to 5PM, we have an answering machine. Please feel free to call the church (573-636-5157) at any time and leave a message.

NOTE: IF YOU LEAVE A MESSAGE ON THE ANSWERING MACHINE ON FRIDAY, SATURDAY, OR SUNDAY, IT WILL NOT BE CHECKED UNTIL MONDAY MORNING. THANK YOU.

The next *Church Bell* will be sent August 5, 2026
(Articles are due by noon the Friday before)

Login with Facebook

Zoom Meeting Room meeting ID is **2202286773.** If you need the password, please contact the church office at 573-636-5157 or one of our leaders. To join in on our free conference calls, dial (716) 427-1083 and enter access code 444928.

Loving God, Loving Planet, Loving Neighbor
Green Team
FCC JCMO
Psalm 8 & 24:1-2

We are a Green Chalice Congregation focused on creating a more sustainable environment both within First Christian Church, Jefferson City, MO and in the wider community.

Who Are We? We call ourselves Disciples, a community of believers who follow Jesus by Worshiping God,
Growing in Faith, Serving our Community.
Bound to each other in Christ's love,
we discover our life together through *sharing* life with the world.

CIRCLE OF COMPASSION
Week of Compassion

You may give online at firstchristianjcmo.org/donate

WEBSITES YOU NEED TO STAY CONNECTED

Mid-America Updates: http://www.mid-americadisciples.org/newsletter-signup/
Disciples News Service Updates: http://disciples.org/dns/subscribe-to-dns/

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