



No. 17

**THE CHURCH VISITOR**  
**A NEWSLETTER FROM YOUR FRIENDS**  
First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
307 W. Jackson, Mexico, Mo. 65265  
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*Let's read and enjoy our Bibles.*

**Sunday, August 23, 2020:**  
**(Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost)**  
Exodus 1:8-2:10; Psalm 124; Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 16:13-20

**Sunday, August 30, 2020:**  
**(Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost)**  
Exodus 3:1-15; Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b; Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28

**Thoughts and Prayers**

As we finish up our prayers, we offer this one for Schools

**Holy One,**  
**As a new school year approaches,**  
**in circumstances none of us have lived before...**  
  
**Bless the decisions that will have to be made...**  
**by administrators, elected officials, staff,**  
**teachers, parents, grandparents, guardians,**  
**children...**  
**by all of us, really.**  
**Bless those decisions, for none of them will be right.**  
**And none of them will be wrong.**  
  
**How do we juggle distance learning,**  
**which doesn't work for everyone,**  
**with in-person learning,**  
**which isn't going to work for everyone?**  
**How do we balance the need to be back in class**  
**with the risk of being back in class?**  
**How do we bring people back**  
**when the numbers keep climbing,**  
**or keep people in homes that might not be safe**  
**or conducive to them?**

**For now we send out a dove, like Noah did,**  
**hoping for a green olive branch**  
**or some kind of sign that hope is just on the horizon,**  
**that the things in which we once found stability will**  
**return, or that new land will appear.**  
  
**Bless the edges on which we now stand,**  
**perilously leaning forward.**  
**Bless the moments in which we break down,**  
**unable to see possibility.**  
**Bless the times in which we need Grace,**  
**and the times in which we need to extend Grace.**  
**Bless our mixed feelings, the stress and the serenity**  
**together, grant to us trust in the stability of a**  
**single choice at a time, and the promise of your**  
**presence in the wake of every choice we make.**

**As we go back to school,**  
**may we go forward in prayer.**

**Amen.**

**Church Family**

What a year it has been, and we are just in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of it. I wanted to take a moment to say thank you for the way you have been flexible, made room and still found ways to support the church and each other. It is truly a sign of a caring loving Church.

We are all tired of hearing this, but I don't know what is coming next. We are having conversations about how to do programming especially with the schools being open. We are having conversations about what worship will continue to look like. We are also talking about what Christian Education looks like as well. It's an odd time to be in, where plans can change day by day. It makes programming difficult.

But the Church is more than programming, buildings and even traditions. It is the presence of God in the community. **That** we will always be. And we will always make plans to be exactly **That**. So continue to send cards, check on friends and family, find little things that make you smile and know God is good...and the Church will do all it can to help remind and show just that!

Pastor Zane



Back to School: *August 26*  
Let's wish all of our returning students  
a happy and successful year.

A sincere thank you to all the kind,  
caring friends who remembered me  
on my birthday with cards and calls.  
You made my day extra special.

*Blessings to all!*

Wilma Hase



A sincere thank you to  
Dorothy Snell, Carol  
Hinds, Ron Boswell, and  
Barbara Stuart for  
relieving me while I was  
on vacation.  
Shellonda Mann



## September Birthdays

9/3	Nora Bright	9/12	Sara Given
9/7	Tim Brandow	9/13	Annette Azdell
9/7	Sherry Medley	9/13	Sara Bright
9/8	Cooper Bledsoe	9/15	Zane Whorton
9/8	Tom Calaluce	9/18	Bill Azdell
9/8	Jackie Calaluce	9/22	Mary Gail Allen
9/8	Heather Elder	9/25	Russell Stephens
9/8	John Higgins	9/26	Donna Peak
9/9	Bette Sewell	9/26	Sharon Slater
9/10	Bob Williams	9/27	Howard Tanzey

We have one more week at VBS Focus 2020. This Sunday August 23<sup>rd</sup> from 7-8pm in the sanctuary and in person will be the last week of Focus 2020. We have had a great time with skits, music, games, Bible stories, and crafts. Thank you to everyone who has helped in so many ways to make it safe and possible for our kids and families.



Many of our high school 2020 graduates are headed back to school. Please keep them in your prayers as they head off on their journey. Ian Williams- University of Missouri, Kierra Jackson-University of Missouri, Chloe Sims- University of Missouri, Isaac Fox-Moberly Area Community College, Riley Given- University of Central Missouri, Aubrey Bunge- Central Methodist, Catie Bledsoe- University of Missouri, and Katie Paladin- Moberly Area Community College.

*Sara Bright—Youth Director*

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