



enter into
THE JOY!

matthew 25:14-30 nrsv



First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

Bartlesville, OK

Worship on Sunday, Nov. 15, 2020

10:30am - Sanctuary Worship

Posted after 12 noon - [YouTube](#) & [Facebook](#) Recorded Worship

Dear Church,

My neighbor put up his Christmas decorations on Saturday. He

even turned them on and has left them glowing every night since. In a “normal” year, I would have thought that he was pushing it. We’re not even to the middle of November yet, after all!

But this year *seems* different. It *is* different, no matter how much we want things to be the same. “Different” sometimes calls for creativity, for a new look at old ways, for flexibility, and for accommodation. I am a self-admitted Advent purist, wanting to ready my heart for the coming of Christ into the world for *4 full weeks* before I jump in with both feet. This year, I will be less of a stickler, I think, because this whole year has felt like in-between preparation time. We need to give ourselves permission to “enter into the joy,” as Jesus said.

Your worship team has been mulling over how the church will celebrate Christ’s birth this year, and it will not look exactly as it has in the past. I guess no two years are exactly the same anyway. Yet we *will* “enter into the joy” together. There will be decorations, and poinsettias, and Christmas music sung and played by our talented musicians. Whether you worship at home or at church, Christ will supply the joy.

So what are we waiting for – let’s light the lights!

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan".

A word about Christmas Eve –

In order to ensure that we are able to plan responsibly and safely for the Christmas Eve service, we will soon be talking with

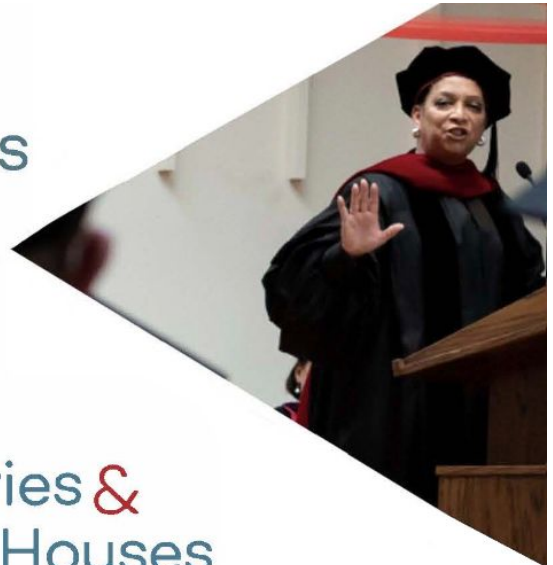
members about their families' plans. Please begin thinking about whether or not you and your family want to worship in person at FCC on Dec. 24, 5:30pm.



Higher Education &
Leadership Ministries
of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Colleges &
Universities

Seminaries &
Divinity Houses



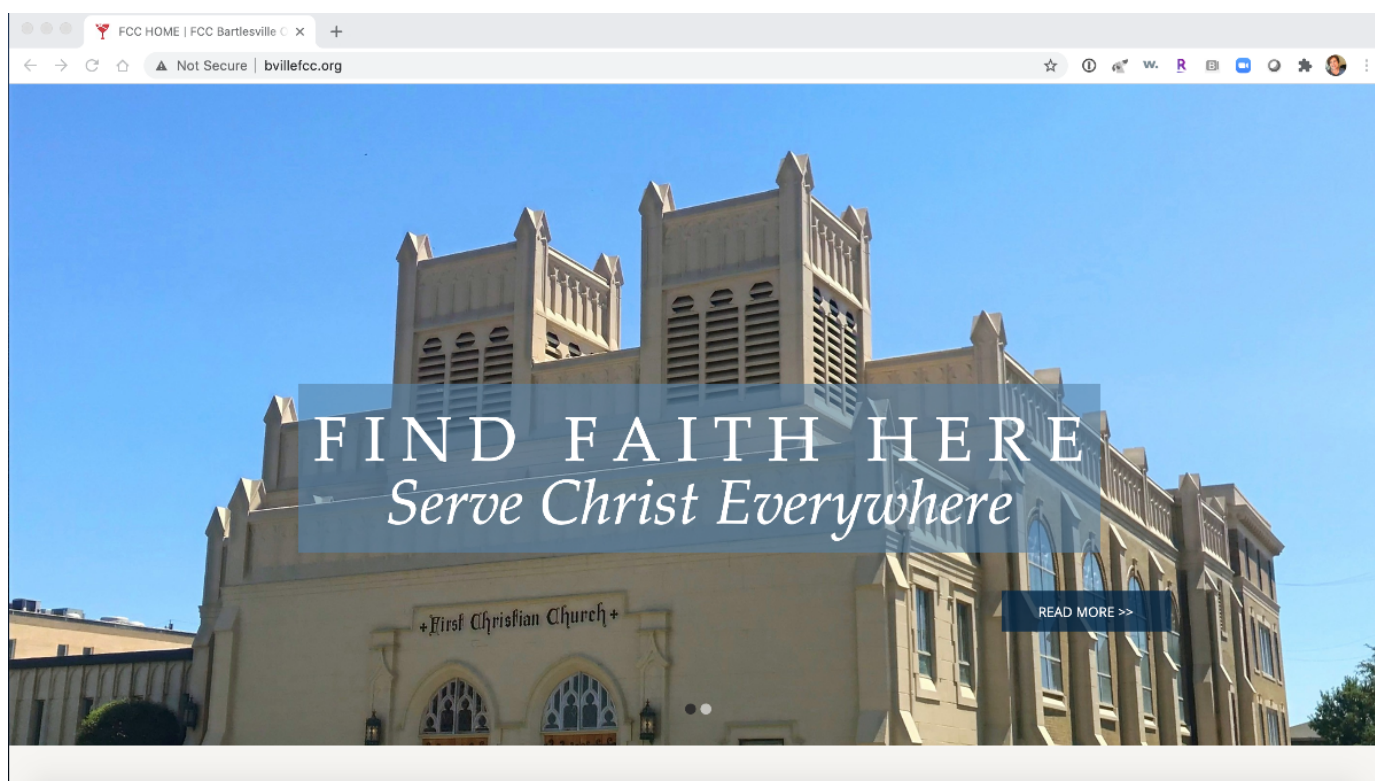
2020  Thanksgiving Offering
REJOICE
A special day offering of
Disciples Mission Fund

From the very beginnings of the movement, Disciples have founded institutions of higher learning, encouraging students in their intellectual pursuits. The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is still committed to higher education.

On November 15 and 22, Disciples churches across the US and Canada will collect the Thanksgiving offering. In the midst of national and global challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, our higher education institutions are facing unprecedented challenges and need our support now, more than ever. Even as they work diligently to ensure safe and healthy learning environments, the financial realities

faced by many of our schools is adding additional stress to students, faculty and staff.

This November, please give generously to this year's Thanksgiving offering. Your gifts make a world of difference as Disciples continue our legacy of supporting education and our institutions of higher learning.



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- Newsletters
- Calendar
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... and more!

Our Worship Together

Nov. 15, 2020

10:30am - Sanctuary Worship @ FCC
Sunday Afternoon - [YouTube](#) or [Facebook](#)

Prelude & Lighting of Candles

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Welcome & Announcements

~

Call to Worship

~

Joys & Concerns

Send your joys or concerns to Rev. Susan by phone or [email](#) during the week.

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Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer

~

Special Music

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Scripture: Matthew 25:14-30

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Message – “Enter into the Joy!”

~

Service of the Table

Offering

Communion Meditation & Elder Prayer

The Lord's Supper

~

Benediction & Postlude

Getting Ready for On-Line Worship

1. Gather something to use for **communion** -- bread and juice, crackers and soda, whatever you have on hand.
 2. Get your **Bible** (or Bible app) if you like to read along.
 3. There are TWO ways to worship virtually on Sunday afternoon:
 - [Facebook](#)
 - [YouTube](#)
-

Tithes & Offerings:

First Christian Church

PO Box 1177

Bartlesville, OK 74005

Lift Up Your Hearts!

Please keep these in your prayers this week:

Hospital and medical workers, coronavirus patients - ICU beds full in Tulsa

Family and friends who either have coronavirus or have been exposed. We pray for them as they await test results, undergo treatment, and begin recovery.

Rita & Larry Barnes

Shirley Brewer (mother of Suzanne Shiflet's daughter-in-law)

Gary Brown – recovering from surgery

Hollie Carlson (friend of Margery Maple)

Loretta Chaney

Lee Cooper

Rick Davis (friend of Debbie Lansford)

Richard Franks

Dick Hall

Jim Hugger

JoAnn Lansford (aunt of Debbie Lansford; sister-in-law of Harriett Lansford)

Faye Marlowe

Kyle McCallum

Ladonn Miller (Charlotte Spencer's cousin's wife)

Kathy Miller (friend of Debbie Lansford)

Janelle Moritz (cousin of Debbie Lansford)

Sally Neel (friend of Margery Maple)

Bob Peaster (cousin of Gay Cooper)

Charlotte Spencer (recovery from failed surgery)

Chester Spencer

Janie Thompson

Upcoming Birthdays

Ken Armstrong 11/11, Edna Earl Painter 11/11, Gaylene McCallum 11/12, Robert Bright 11/19, Larry Glass 11/19, Barbara O'Gara 11/25

Contact the church at minister@bvillefcc.org or 918-520-9507 to add or remove someone from this list. Please ask the person to be listed (or the person's parent, caretaker, or guardian, as applicable) for permission as a courtesy.



Sunday's Lectionary Readings November 15, 2020

[Judges 4:1-7](#)

[Psalm 123](#)

[1 Thessalonians 5:1-11](#)

[Matthew 25:14-30](#)



Sunday, Nov. 15

Sanctuary Worship @10:30am. Wear a mask, distanced seating.

Virtual Worship - Posted to [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#) Sunday afternoon.

Monday, Nov. 16

Prayer Group @1pm - Fellowship Hall

Bible Study @2pm - Fellowship Hall

New Beginnings Small Group @6pm - Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, Nov. 18

New Beginnings Small Group @2pm - Fellowship Hall

Thursday, Nov. 19

Elders' Meeting @5:30pm - Fellowship Hall

Administrative Board Meeting @6pm - Fellowship Hall

Saturday, Nov. 21

New Beginnings Small Group @10am - Fellowship Hall

Pastoral Care – Call Rev. Susan at 918-520-9507 (mobile) or your Shepherding Elder (list is included in the end section of your church directory)

Prayer Concerns – E-mail minister@bvillefcc.org or call 918-520-9507

Weekly Devotion Sunday, November 15, 2020

by Timothy Merrill

Triumph is just UMPH added to try. —Anon.

In 1763, a child was born in Germany near Heidelberg to Johann and Marie. He was the youngest kid in a family of four boys. As a child, he worked in his father's butcher shop, and he also sold milk.

When he was 16, he joined his brother George in London, working in his uncle's flute and piano factory. While there, he learned to speak English.

In 1784, after the American Revolution, John, as he now called himself, left London for New York City. He intended to work with Henry, another brother who had established a butcher shop in the city. But purely by accident, he bumped into a fellow who was dealing in furs. One thing led to another and by the late 1780s, young John had a

flourishing fur shop and was selling at a great profit to stores in London and elsewhere.

And that's how John Jacob Astor founded what would become one of the storied families of America's history. Astor was the scion of the fur trade for many years. But later in life, he diversified his interests and began to make considerable sums of money in New York real estate. And here is a story about one such transaction.

One day, Astor sold a lot near Wall Street for \$8,000. The buyer, confident that he had outsmarted Astor, could not resist a little self-congratulations after the signing of the papers. "Why, in a few years, this lot will be worth \$12,000," he gloated.

"True," said Astor, "but with your \$8,000, I will buy 80 lots above Canal Street, and by the time your lot's worth \$12,000, my 80 lots will be worth \$80,000. (*There are a number of versions about this story of Astor's real estate dealings, perhaps apocryphal, but it was accepted as true during his lifetime.*)

In today's Bible reading from Matthew 25, Jesus tells the story of a master who gave three servants some money to invest. Two of the servants were very much like John Astor of our story. They made a lot of money. They gave it to their lord. The master was pleased. But the third servant simply held on to his master's money. He didn't lose any money, but he didn't earn any either. The master was not pleased.

God has given us, like the master gave his servants, some investment capital. It might be different from person to person "according to the grace given to us," says the apostle Paul in Romans 12:6.

Let's thank God that we are trusted with God's work in the world. Let

us use every gift God has given us to increase the work on God on earth. Our Lord and Master will be pleased!

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