

**This Week's Scripture and
sermon: Matthew 20: 1-16**

Rev. Dr. Chad McMullin

INFORMER

Forgiveness is foundational to our Christian faith. We talk about it every Sunday, whether from the pulpit or around the communion table. We teach our children to say, "I'm sorry," and "It's okay." Jesus teaches forgiveness, Paul writes about it, and Scripture is filled with stories of God's grace.

And yet, sometimes there are cracks in that foundation.

Peter's question to Jesus exposes one of them: "How many times am I supposed to forgive?" In other words, Where is the line? When is enough enough?

Jesus responds with a story about a man who owed his king an enormous debt—one he could never repay. When he begged for mercy, the king forgave the entire debt. He was free.

But then that same man encountered someone who owed him a much smaller debt. Instead of extending the forgiveness he had received, he demanded payment and had the man imprisoned.

The problem was not that this man had never experienced forgiveness. The problem was that he had been forgiven but continued to live as though he still owed.

Perhaps that is why Jesus' story is so uncomfortable—and so relatable. How many of us have been forgiven by God yet struggle to forgive others? How many of us have received grace but still live as though we are slaves to our past?

Maybe forgiveness was never meant to be merely a virtue we understand or a rule we follow. Perhaps forgiveness is something we first experience and then share.

Consider this: Would you call God a victim or victorious? Humanity rejected God, turned away from Him, and ultimately crucified His Son. If anyone could claim the role of victim, it would be God. Yet God chose victory—and forgiveness was the weapon He used.

Forgiveness is not weakness. It is not passive. It is not insignificant. Forgiveness is the weapon of the victorious God.

So perhaps the question is no longer, "How many times must I forgive?" Instead, we can ask, "How do I forgive from the heart?"

That question became very real for me when a woman pulled me aside after church. She told me she had been angry for years. Her husband had left her unexpectedly, moved in with a younger woman, and she had been living in her car for five years. She looked at me and said, "I'm tired of being angry, Pastor. It is ruining my life. What do I do?"

How would you answer her?

Would you point her to Jesus' words? Would you tell her, "Seventy-seven times"? Would you dare to place in her hands the weapon of forgiveness—the very weapon God used to move from victim to victorious?

Jesus calls us to forgive, not because the other person has earned it, but because we have already received it. God has forgiven us. We are free.

The question is: Will we live like it?

We are praying for You

Mary Allee, Betty Blackwell, Shirley Brown, Dava Brummitt, Lisa Demoss, George Geotz, Harper Jones, Michael Lucito, Tammy Martin, Barbara Mittenburg, Pat Newport, Rowena Pettet, Joyce Whitaker, LeRoy Wimer

Nursing Home and Shut-Ins

Essex: **Dava Brummitt**

E. W. Thompson: **Allan Fowler**

Primrose(Independent): **Joyce Whitaker**

Primrose(Assisted): **Dorothy Robertson, Rosalee Jordan**

Primrose(Enhanced Assisted Living): **Judy Parkhurst, Susan**

Daniels, Marion Thomas, Terry and Linda Gibbs

LeRoy Wimer, Lorene Downing

Sylvia Thompson: **Judy Steele, Margie Sowder, Lynda Alcorn, Merle**

Fisher, Donna Thompson, Margaret Johnson, Betty Blackwell

Veterans Home Warrensburg: **George Geotz**

Our friends in the Armed Services: Ryan Arnold, Tyler Bauer, Taylor Brown, Sam Braverman, Preston Butts, Daltin Butts, Kenneth French, Nicholas Holman, Adam Schock, Adriana Teiberis, Aaron Wagoner: Thank you for your service!



We now have a prayer request option on the website. It will go straight to our prayer team so they can be praying with and for you.

Those serving this Week



Elders

- Megan Simon and Linda Kirk

Candle lighters

- Bryce & Cam

Deacons

- Lisa Ditzfeld
- Nita Bales
- Tyler Ditzfeld
- Kara Metzner
- Ronda McMullin
- Mendy Goss
- Austin Heubi
- Jeanean Longan
- Brian Leftridge

Lisa Ditzfeld
Ronda McMullin
Mendy Goss
Jeanean Longan

THIS WEEKS EVENTS



THURSDAY 17

12:15pm Foster Wrapping
5:30pm Yoga/FH
5:30pm Outreach
6:30 Praise Band

FRIDAY 18

Saturday 19

10am FH Booked

SUNDAY 20

9am Worship
10am Sunday School
11:10am Worship
Youth special coffee both services
7pm NA

Monday 21

Community Cafe/Mixed Age
6:30pm GS
Meals on Wheels

Tuesday 22

12 noon Brown Bag
1:30pm Prayer Group
Meals on Wheels

Wednesday 23

5:15pm SOLID
5:30pm FCC Kids
6pm Adult Bible Study
7pm Choir
7pm NA
Meals on Wheels

Welcome New Members of FCC



**TJ and Kelsey Reichert and
daughter Hadley**



John Smith



**Maddie, Michael, Genevieve, and Hendricks
Hohne**



and make disciples of all nations!
Matthew 28:19



SOLID Youth Mission:
Reaching the Youth
through CHRIST,
touching the community
with LOVE!

SOLID UPDATES:

- **Wednesday's SOLID meets at 5:15pm**

The suffering which we endure in this life is not uncommon to all on this planet.

We love our family, our friends, and our pets. If we understand that suffering is also expected in our walk with God then we can also expect him to walk with us. I'm thankful that the book of Ephesians the 4th chapter asks us to love one another and forgive even as Christ forgave and loves us.

When we walk that way, we will not feel all alone in our relationship to others or to our Saviour!

Wayne



Men's Fellowship!

Wednesdays
AT
FCC
GROW. CONNECT. SERVE.

5:15 PM >> **SOLID**

5:30 PM  **FCC KIDS**

6:00 PM  **ADULT BIBLE STUDY**

7:00 PM  **CHOIR**

Be here. Belong. Grow together.

Men's Breakfast

Start your Friday morning off with some good food, good fellowship, and prayer with other men.

THE FOURTH FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH.
7AM/FELLOWSHIP HALL



It is that time of year. Operation Christmas Child is in need of

-  **Beanie Babies**
-  **Toothbrushes**
-  **Draw String backpacks**

These items can be dropped off in the church office.



Relay for Life Sept. 26, 6-9pm.
First United Methodist Church
916 Thompson Blvd.

This Sunday Pat Jennings and a few other church members and youth will be in the church foyer. They will be selling luminaries and tickets for 3 quilts. Donations to the American Cancer Society will also be accepted. Please stop by our table and show your support. All proceeds go to cancer research and care.

Bible Study

FLIPPING THE SCRIPT

The core idea: We live by a cultural “script” that says power comes from status, security comes from self preservation, identity comes from performance and peace comes from control. From a Roman prison cell, the Apostle Paul flips this script entirely, offering a radical, upside-down way of experiencing community and resilient joy!

Week 1 — Life in Community

Philippians 1

We were created to do life together.

Week 2 — Joy Despite Your Circumstances

Philippians 2

Our joy comes from Christ, not our circumstances.

Week 3 — Trust the Lord in All Matters

Philippians 3

Trusting Christ produces the fruit of a transformed life.

Week 4 — Consider Others First

Philippians 4

Trading self-promotion for humility leads us toward true peace.

Whether you are a lifelong student of the Bible or brand new to your faith, this study is for you.

Four weeks. Four chapters. One invitation: Flip the Script.



**A 4-WEEK STUDY THROUGH
PHILIPPIANS**

**WHAT IF GOD WANTS US TO
SEE OUR LIVES DIFFERENTLY?
PHILIPPIANS CHALLENGES US
TO FLIP THE SCRIPT AND LIVE
FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF
CHRIST.**

Sept. 9 - Sept. 26 6pm

Children's Ministry Right Now Media Pick of the Month SUPERBOOK!

"THE GARDEN" is a cartoon-comedy/adventure series aimed at children ages 3-8. It stars a loveable lion named LENNY and a sweet little lamb named LUCY who live in a miraculous garden where ANYTHING can grow! If they plant a trumpet – BOINK! – they get a trumpet tree! If they plant a donut – BOINK! They get a donut bush! The possibilities are endless. Each and every day they get a new assignment from GOD (who they call 'The Boss,' hey, they work for Him after all) but they don't usually get the task correct on the first try. However, through various scriptures, Bible stories and original songs in each episode they eventually learn more about THE WORD OF GOD and how to tackle the challenges that lie ahead of them.

So come along and join Lenny & Lucy in 'The Garden'...it's where the Gospel grows!



RIGHT NOW MEDIA STUDIES

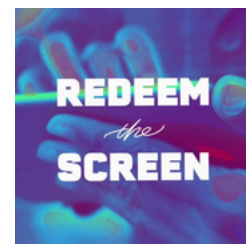
FCC



Here are two ways to
sign-up for Right Now Media.
Click the code or scan the QR code
to get signed up and start
exploring RNM



<https://app.rightnowmedia.org/join/FirstChristianChurchMissouri>



Redeem the Screen
ASG Right Now Media Pick for September
KYLE IDLEMAN

Our screens dominate our lives. In a unique way, they hold the power to bring us together yet can also keep us isolated from those physically around us. With a click, we can connect with family and friends or join a debate over an issue that interests us. Screens bring information and inspiration, but they can also carry temptations and stresses.

What kind of power do you give to your screen? Do you use it to assist in your calling, or does it distract you from your calling?

In this three-part series, pastor Kyle Idleman will teach us how to redeem the screen. Join him as he applies the truths of Romans 12 to our lives, showing us the power of Jesus to transform us. Rather than allowing our screens to conform us to the world, in Jesus we can make screens a tool to change the world.



Dates to Remember

FCC kids will be each Wednesday
at 5:30pm

Nov. 25 - Break for Thanksgiving
See you the Wed. after (Dec 2)

Dec. 16th - Christmas Pageant

Kids are working on this all semester.
Please let us know if your kids will not
be able to make it this day.



A cool moment shared from FCC Sunday School. The lesson was on Jesus telling parables about the kingdom of God, and at the end I had the kids use playdoh to create Kingdoms of God. All of them did a pretty good job at it, but this one was the best. Ezzie rolled her playdoh into a tiny ball like a mustard seed. While the others were creating castles and heavenly places, she really listened to the lesson and Jesus' words and made a mustard seed to represent the Kingdom of God.



September Memory Verse:
The Lord is good to everyone.
He showers compassion on
all his creation
Psalms 145:9



Calling all Women!!

WOMEN'S MINISTRY OF FCC
JOIN US FOR A

Watch Party

FOR THE LADIES NIGHT OF
REFLECT
= Women's Conference =
FROM ELEVATION CHURCH

 September 25th

 THE EVENING BEGINS
AT 5:30PM
and will last
approximately 2 hours.

 Come with your
bible and notebook
ready to worship and
hear a word that all of
us ladies can benefit
from young or old.

 We will have
snacks and
beverages
for everyone
to enjoy.

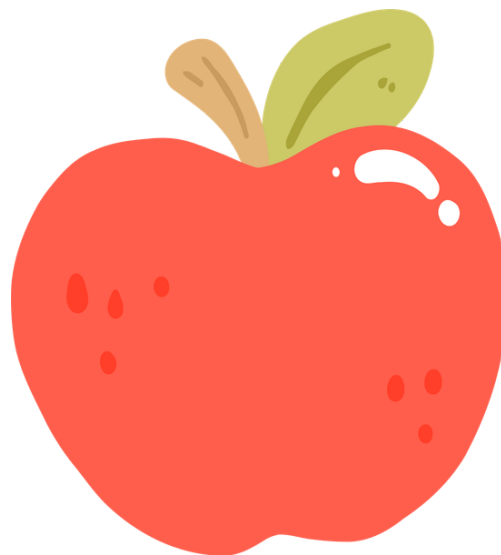
PLEASE RSVP FOR THE CONFERENCE AT
elevationchurch.org/reflect
Your RSVP helps Elevation Church prepare
for an amazing experience for everyone!

 CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE
660-826-5300

 Please let us know
if you plan to attend so we can be sure
and have enough goodies for everyone.

Let's worship together and be refreshed in His presence! ♥

*Be still
and know
that I am God.
PSALM 46:10*



Weekly Yoga Class

Every Thursday at 5:30pm.
Fellowship Hall
Begins August 6.

The class will be led by certified yoga instructor Nikki Freeman. Bring your own mat and water as those will not be provided. Cost is \$10/pp and per class with cash, Venmo or Paypal as payment options.



Create & Connect – Ladies Craft Night

Create & Connect: A Relationship-Building Craft Night

Thursday, October 1, 2026 • 6:30 p.m. • Gathering Area

Join us for a warm and creative evening as we learn how to make a meaningful craft using pages from old bound books.

This simple, relaxing project is a wonderful way to spark conversation and build new connections.

If you have an old book you'd like to recycle, please bring it along. If not, we will have some available.

Come ready to create, connect, and enjoy a gentle night of fellowship with other women in our church family.





Your FCC Staff



660-826-5300

Rev. Dr. Chad McMullin
Senior Minister

Rev. Chance McMullin
Associate Minister

Darrin Hartman
Traditional Worship
Leader

Amy Tilley
Contemporary Worship
Leader

Wayne Smither
Youth Director

Mendy Goss
Children's Coordinator
**Ellie Fiorino, Reese
Green, Grace Homan
and Liliya Nine**
Nursery

Sheri Webb
Admin. Asst.

Weekend Totals

Sept. 13, 2026

9am 194

11am 151

Online 442

If you wish to check out
our Digital Bulletin while
worshipping; go to
first4god.com
scroll down to Worship Online,
click Digital Bulletin. Scripture
and list of songs will be posted.

Church information page





BRICK ORDERS ARE OPEN!
 Leave Your Legacy at FCC!
 Brick orders will be available for the next few weeks.

 Order forms & sign-up sheet
 Available on the table outside the sanctuary.

 Please return your completed order form and payment to the church office.

Don't miss your opportunity to be a part of our church's story!

FINISHING WELL
 Guidance for Life's Later Chapters
 Every season of life matters. Join us for a 4-week series designed to help us prepare wisely, care well for those we love, and face the future with faith, grace, and peace.

Wednesdays at 6:00 PM

-  **Oct. 7 — Difficult Conversations**
-  **Oct. 14 — Legal Preparations**
-  **Oct. 21 — Financial Preparations**
-  **Oct. 28 — Funeral Planning**

Whether you're preparing for your own future or walking alongside someone you love, **Finishing Well** is for you.




"Songs of the Soul"

Sedalia Symphony Orchestra Fall Concert
 Heckart Performing Arts Center
 2010 Tiger Pride Blvd.
 October 12 th , 7:30 PM

Make plans to join us for a stirring program of hymns and spirituals in an orchestra setting performed by guest artist Cameron "Cam" Cory, Director of Music and Principal Organist at Chapelwood Methodist, Houston, TX. Tickets are \$35 each, payable to FCC. Sign-up sheet will be in the foyer outside the sanctuary, or you may notify Sheri in the church office of your attendance. If interested in dinner prior to the concert, please indicate it on the sign-up sheet. We'll meet at El Tapatio at 5:30 pm.

Are You 55+ Adventurers Ready to Wander into Fall?

We have several fun activities planned for the next upcoming months you will not want to miss! To get a sneak peek at what those are, you are invited to attend a fall kick-off dinner to be held September 29 th , 6:00 PM. The only criteria to attend is to be age 55 or older. This will be a wonderful opportunity to meet and fellowship with others you may or may not know.

Please use the Sign-up sheet found in the foyer outside the sanctuary or call Sheri in the church office to let us know you will be attending! This helps us know how to prepare the food and set-up. Please sign up by September 25 th.

You might notice the change in appearance of our logo. We removed the word "club" and added the word "adventures." We want to make sure that ALL senior folks feel welcome to attend any future events planned and they will be a great adventure for you!