



the VISITOR

August 22, 2025
Vol. 82, No. 4

OUR MISSION
**To know God and
follow Jesus Christ.**

Happening Soon

SUNDAY, AUGUST 24

- Coffee Fellowship Hour, 9am, YFH
- Worship, 9:30am, Sanctuary

MONDAY, AUGUST 25

- Loaves & Fishes, 4-6:30pm, 1509 Ashley St.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 26

- Bible Study, 10:30am, Morris Parlor
- Staff Meeting, 2pm, Morris Parlor

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27

- Midweek Connect, 10:30am, Zoom
- Bible Study, 12pm, Morris Parlor
- Chancel Bell Choir, 5pm, 3rd Floor
- Chancel Choir, 5:45pm, 3rd Floor

SUNDAY, AUGUST 31

- Coffee Fellowship Hour, 9am, YFH
- Worship, 9:30am, Sanctuary

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

Church Office Closed, Labor Day Holiday

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

- Bible Study, 10:30am, Morris Parlor
- Staff Meeting, 2pm, Morris Parlor

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

- Midweek Connect, 10:30am, Zoom
- Bible Study, 12pm, Morris Parlor
- Officers Meeting, 5:30pm, Zoom
- Bell Choir Rehearsal, 5pm, 3rd Floor
- Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 5:45pm, 3rd Floor

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

Regular Worship Schedule Returns

- Worship, 8:30 & 10:30am, Sanctuary
- Coffee Fellowship Hour, 9:30am, YFH
- K-5 Sunday School, 9:30am, 3rd Floor
- 6-12 Sunday School, 9:30am, Higbee
- Annual Church Picnic, 12pm, Cosmo Park



A congregation related to
**The Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)**
www.disciples.org

11TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

AUGUST 24TH

*"The Mediator of
a New Covenant"*

HEBREWS 12:18-29

REV. DR. BRAD STAGG, PREACHING

12TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

AUGUST 31ST

*"The Same Yesterday and
Today and Forever"*

HEBREWS 13:1-16

REV. DR. BRAD STAGG, PREACHING

2 WORSHIP OPTIONS

IN-PERSON AT CHURCH @ 9:30 AM

In-person worship in the Sanctuary.

AT-HOME, ONLINE: Tune in to our
livestream on Sunday mornings on YouTube,
or watch the recording of the live service—
available on Monday via email/YouTube
channel/FCC Facebook page.

*"First Christian Church
(Columbia, Missouri)"*

REGULAR

WORSHIP

SCHEDULE RESUMES

Sunday, September 7

8:30 & 10:30 Worship

9:30 Coffee Fellowship &
Sunday School

New Choir Schedule

Chancel Bells & Chancel Choir Meeting on Wednesday Evenings

The end of the summer has brought a new schedule for the Chancel Bells and the Chancel Choir. Both choirs will now meet on Wednesday evenings—the Chancel Bells will meet from 5:00 - 5:45 p.m.

weekly on Wednesdays, and the Chancel Choir will meet from 5:45 - 6:45 p.m. weekly on Wednesdays.



Annual Church Picnic

The annual Church Picnic will be held on **Sunday, September 7** at the Lamb Shelter of Cosmo Park (1615 Business Loop 70 W) from 12:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Everyone is invited to join us! The Fellowship Committee will provide the meat and drinks. All who join are encouraged to bring a side dish or dessert to share. Please join us for this afternoon of fellowship, food, and fun! If possible, please RSVP for the picnic by **Friday, September 5** online (<https://firstchristian.org/rsvp>) or using your pew pads on Sunday morning (PICNIC) so the Fellowship Team can purchase food accordingly.

THE FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE IS HOSTING: FCC'S ANNUAL PICNIC!

Please join us for an afternoon of food,
fellowship and fun!

Meat & Drinks provided
Please bring a side or dessert to share!

Sunday, September 7th @ 12:00 - 2:00
Lamb Shelter at Cosmo Park
1615 W. Bus. Loop 70, Columbia MO 65202



THIS IS A DOUBLE-ISSUE OF THE VISITOR!

KEEP IT HANDY UNTIL SEPTEMBER 5.



News of the People & Places

Prayers of Health & Healing...

- **Tom & Carol Hughey's** son, Ronnie is healing from double-pneumonia. Please pray for the Hughey family as Ronnie heals from pneumonia, as well as Carol & Tom's son Ryan as he continues to heal from his leg extension surgery!
- **Mark Mills** will go through surgery to have one of his kidneys removed on August 25.
- **Steve Smith** is home from a stay in the hospital in Lenexa, Ks last week.

Thank You...

Thank you, **Anne & Archie Crousore**, for bringing me such a beautiful arrangement of flowers for my birthday! It was wonderful getting to visit with you. I felt blessed to have flowers from our worship service and the visit that came with them.



Don Mosby

Dear FCC, Thank you so much for awarding me with the Vera M. Purdy and H. Glenn Purdy Scholarship, as well as the Marvin and Marceline Shamberger Education Scholarship! I look forward to furthering my educational and artistic pursuits with the generosity and love provided to me by this community. I am so grateful! Best, **Delaney Batterson**

C.K. and I just want to thank all of you for your support & caring during this time. I know God is looking after us.

Suellen Wells

I am writing to express my thanks for the Purdy scholarship and Koelling scholarship that I received. This financial support will be so helpful as I begin my studies at the University of Toronto this fall, where I plan to study psychology. Thanks again for your generosity and support!

Thanks, **Amelia Leon-Rudy**

Debbie and David Potthast, you two are a blessing! All the work you do, yet have time to honor **Janelle** and me with flowers. Thank you so much! It was great having time to visit with you when you brought the flowers. Thank you again for being so gracious! Love through Christ,

Brenda and Don Mosby

The Wardrobe

Because of nearby construction, The Wardrobe will NOT be accepting donations the month of September. It will close Sept 18-30th. It re-opens October 1st with fall/winter inventory. Thank you for your continued support.

Linda Hutton



Scholarship Sunday

First Christian Church has had a long and deep commitment to education since its beginning in 1832. One way we express that commitment is through scholarships the church makes available each year to high school seniors and college students.

The Scholarship Committee had the privilege of reviewing 16 applications and awarding approximately \$10,900 in scholarship funds thanks to the generous donations from our church family. Funds donated are part of the church's permanent endowment with dividends used for annual scholarships.

FRESHMEN

Paige Freed – Brown, Miller, Shamberger Scholarships

Amelia Leon-Rudy – Purdy & Koelling Scholarships

Lillian McCormack – Purdy Scholarship

SOPHOMORES

Izzy Arnett – Koelling, Kubach, Shamberger Scholarships

Delaney Batterson – Purdy & Shamberger Scholarships

Kira Hoenes – Purdy & Shamberger Scholarships

Tiger Li – 175th Anniversary & Shamberger Scholarships

Cooper Mast - 175th Anniversary & Shamberger Scholarships

JUNIORS

Aleena Li – Brown & Shamberger Scholarships

Annie Stagg – Brown & Shamberger Scholarships

Lena Schaefer – 175th Anniversary, Brown, & Koelling Scholarships

Ella Rogers – Shrout & Shamberger Scholarships

SENIORS

Kameron Freed – Koelling & Ridgeway Scholarships

Joseph McCormack – Shamberger & Koelling Scholarships

Luke Stagg – Koelling, Shamberger, & Ridgeway Scholarships

GRADUATE SCHOOL

Abigail Reardon – Drennan & Shamberger Scholarships

We are grateful for the chance to share these special gifts with our hard working students, and a huge note of gratitude for our Scholarship Committee - **Topher Endress, Shannon Schaefer, Sam Endress, Seth McCormick, and Laura Hunsaker!**



Fall Sunday School Schedule

We are so excited to return to our regular worship schedule this fall beginning Sunday, September 7, with a host of Sunday School options during the 9:30 hour! Read below for more information about Sunday School classes, schedules, and teachers for this fall!

Children's Sunday School—Begins September 7

Children's Sunday School classes will run weekly starting September 7 to December 14. We are planning curriculum all about *building*, from building God's kingdom here to the physical buildings of the Bible! We are particularly excited by a toy brick (off-brand Legos) version of the roving Tabernacle in the desert, described in Exodus and Deuteronomy. Children grades K-5 will meet in the classrooms on the 3rd floor during the 9:30 hour weekly on Sunday mornings.

As we continue to be more intentionally invitational to Pre-K kids and families, we are interested in expanding to a Pre-K specific class again. This will require more teacher volunteers, as well as more dedicated outreach to friends and families we know with kiddos age 5 and younger. Please reach out to **Topher Endress**, **Shannon Schaefer**, or **Hayley Batterson** for more information as we move forward this fall!

Youth Sunday School—Begins September 7

Youth Sunday School will return on Sunday, September 7! Throughout the Autumn, the youth will look at the gospel of John using a few resources, but primarily using Jennifer Carcia Bashaw's *John for Normal People*. From their website: "This commentary unpacks questions of authorship, dating and redaction history, and explores the historical, cultural and social contexts within which the Fourth Gospel was written. But it is through her creative approach to narrative criticism that Bashaw uncovers Jesus as the author of John's Gospel understood him." Youth grades 6-12 will meet in the Higbee Room in the basement during the 9:30 hour weekly on Sunday mornings.

Adult Sunday School—Begins September 14

The Adult Sunday School class will kick-off this fall on September

14 during the 9:30 hour. The kickoff will include a recap of what's been covered in previous classes, an introduction to how the class is structured, and breakfast to share before the class officially dives into new content!

The Adult Sunday School Class will return their focus to the series *The Chosen* this fall. *The Chosen* is a powerful series that brings the Gospels to life by showing the ministry of Jesus through the eyes of the people who encountered Him. With rich storytelling and authentic characters, it draws you into the cultural and spiritual world of the New Testament, making familiar stories feel fresh and personal. Each Sunday, we gather and do a short recap of the previous week's episode and topics we discussed. Then we watch a portion of an episode and discuss how the episode relates to our lives today. The class will kick off by watching Season 3, Episode 6.

Adult Sunday School FAQs

- **Is there homework?** No! Our class is discussion-based.
- **Do I have to talk?** Only if you want to!
- **Will I be behind if I've not watched the first two seasons?** Nope – we're hosting a breakfast and recap of the series up to where we're starting this fall on Sunday, September 14 from 9:30-10:30 in Yonker Fellowship Hall – please join us!
- **Who are the leaders?** Katie Carrier, Ben Carrier, and Fred Mottaz

Who Are Our Sunday School Leaders?

Adult Sunday School (Katie and Ben)

Katie grew up in New Franklin and Ben grew up in Parkville. Katie and Ben met at Mizzou during Katie's freshman year. They both graduated from Mizzou's accounting school and were married in Columbia in August 2014. After spending five years in Kansas City working for a public accounting firm, they moved to Zurich, Switzerland for two years and then back to Kansas City for a year

before settling down in Rocheport where they currently live with their children – James (4), Henry (3), and Anna (1). Their hobbies include spending time with family, traveling, skiing, and attending Mizzou, Cardinals, and Chiefs games. They found FCC in March of 2022 after visiting many area churches and felt an immediate sense of belonging thanks to the warm, welcoming parishioners, thought-provoking sermons, and traditional style of service.



Adult Sunday School (Fred)

Fred Mottaz also leads the Adult Sunday School Class. Fred served in the church office for 17 years as the Business Manager, is currently a church Elder and Trustee, and has served as the Elder Chair, a faithful property & landscaping volunteer, and a dedicated member of FCC. Fred has also previously offered Adult Sunday School classes focused on books by Max Lucado, and has supported Katie & Ben from the beginning of this current series on *The Chosen*. Listening to and learning from Fred is a gift you don't want to miss!



Youth 6-12 Sunday School (Topher)

Topher is currently the Associate Minister here at FCC, and is our guru for all things youth. Topher earned his M.Div from Vanderbilt Divinity School (Nashville, TN) in 2015 and his PhD from the University of Aberdeen (Scotland, UK) in 2021. Despite stints in TN, TX, and the UK, he considers himself solidly Midwestern, having grown up in Evansville IN. An avid runner and Lego builder, Topher loves exploring the trails and wilderness of Missouri with his wife Sam and their sons Wilson and Grover. He has a passion for disability inclusion and justice and loves dreaming with churches and ministry partners on ways to welcome more people! He is also notably obsessed with Brian Wilson and the Beach Boys—ask him sometime about the song “Sloop John B.”



Children's K-5 Sunday School (Hayley)

Hayley Batterson (Miss Hayley) has supported children's ministry at First Christian Church for the last seventeen years as a Sunday School teacher, a Children's Worship leader, a VBS teacher & helper, our go-to Children's Moment volunteer, and chair of the Christian Education (Children & Youth) Department. Hayley is currently serving on staff at FCC as the director of our Mother's Day Out Program, and we are so blessed to have her intentionally inclusive and thoughtful leadership at FCC & MDO. Those who love Miss Hayley love to laugh, and probably have tiny figurines of Jesus somewhere in their homes, pockets, or cars. Ask Miss Hayley about “little Jesus” this fall!!



Welcome, New Members!

Welcoming Jane Eckert to FCC!

Jane Eckert officially joined First Christian Church on August 1, celebrating it with us in worship on Sunday, August 17. Jane is transferring to FCC from The Crossing, and has been attending worship over the last few months. We are grateful to her pew-mates **Perry & Helen Stemmons** for their welcome and kindness as she first arrived at First Christian Church!



We also celebrated the baptism of **Basil Isle-Colón** on Sunday, August 17. Basil joined FCC in July, and asked to be baptized at the church following her confession of faith. It was an honor to baptize Basil in her new church home. It was a beautiful and holy Sunday indeed!



REGULAR WORSHIP SCHEDULE RESUMES

Regular Worship Schedule Resumes September 7

Our regular worship schedule resumes on Sunday, September 7 following Labor Day Sunday. We will return to two services at 8:30 & 10:30 a.m. with a host of activities in between at 9:30 a.m. Children's & Youth Sunday Schools will return on September 7, with the children meeting in the 3rd floor classrooms and the youth in the Higbee Center. Adult Sunday School will return the following Sunday, September 14 with a kick-off breakfast. Coffee Fellowship Hour will return to the 9:30 hour in Yonker Fellowship Hall with coffee and snacks available to anyone in need of their daily fix. We are super excited to introduce something **new** to the schedule this fall: **Quiet, Meditative Time in the Church Library!** While this isn't a scheduled program, we wanted to offer a third option for the 9:30 hour to meet spiritual needs that aren't social. The library will now be "open" on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. to offer space for anyone looking for quiet time to read, meditate, or relax before/after worship. Of course, the library is always open to anyone interested in perusing the shelves for a good book, but we want to especially encourage folks during the 9:30 hour to take advantage of the resource and gift that is the church library! Take your coffee and snack from coffee hour and spend quiet time in the library to prepare your spirit for worship and the coming week!

Loaves & Fishes

Serving Dinner on Monday, August 25

This month's Loaves & Fishes serving date falls on Monday, August 25 and we are looking for volunteers to help prep, deliver and serve food! Volunteers are needed at Room at the Inn (1509 Ashley St) from 4:00 - 6:30 p.m. for serving and cleaning dishes. We are also in need of two co-serving leaders, who will act as point people for transporting food, serving and cleaning up at Room at the Inn. There is an online sign-up available, if you'd like to see where volunteers are still needed: <https://bit.ly/augloaves25>. If you can't join us this month, but want to be added to the Loaves & Fishes email list, contact **Erin** in the Church Office and you'll hear from us in October. Thank you all so much for making this ministry possible!



Church Office Closed

Monday, September 1 (Labor Day)

AUGUST

Birthdays

August 25 - Amelia Leon-Rudy, Roy Overacre

August 26 - Mary Daugherty

August 27 - Steve McCormack

August 28 - Beth Nelms

August 29 - Ryan Hunsaker

August 30 - Henry Carrier

August 31

Jessica Humble

September 1

Mary Ann Atteberry

September 3 - Barbara Li

September 4 - Mary Tompson (94!)

September 6 - Marsha Rawlings, Perry Stemmons (95!)

September 7 - Richard Martin

Anniversaries

August 27 - Bob & Linda Hutton

September 3 - Mike Randerson & Carole Harris-Randerson

September 7 - Jay & Chris Creasy

Perry & Helen Stemmons (73 years!)

SEPTEMBER

Ladies' Book Club

Ladies' Book Club chose 9 books for the coming year. Beginning September 10, we will meet every 2nd Wednesday of the month through May. We do not meet June or July. Our meetings will be in Morris Parlor (2nd floor) at 11:30 a.m. Bring a sack lunch or maybe go out to lunch afterwards. There is warmth in this group and lively discussions. Come join us.



The following is this year's schedule and book list:

- ♦ **Sep. 10th** - *Frozen River* by Ariel Lawton (Amy LaHue)
- ♦ **Oct. 8th** - *House on Endless Waters* by Emuna Elon (Marcia Smith)
- ♦ **Nov. 12th** - *The Briar Club* by Kate Quinn (Linda Hutton)
- ♦ **Dec. 10th** - December Lunch & *Accompanying Disability* by Rev. Dr. Topher Endress (Peggy Veatch)
- ♦ **Jan. 14th** - *All the Colors of the Dark* by Chris Whitaker (Mary Daugherty)
- ♦ **Feb. 11th** - *Winter Garden* by Kristin Hannah (Edie Pigg)
- ♦ **March 11th** - *Long Way Home* by Lynn Austin (Betty Montgomery)
- ♦ **April 8th** - *The Secret War of Julia Child* by Diana Chambers (Debbie Schultz)
- ♦ **May 13th** - *The Flower Sisters* by Michelle Collins Anderson (Barb Rothenberger)



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WEBSITE



GIVE

First Christian Church

*Our Mission: To know God
And follow Jesus Christ.*

Ministerial Staff

Rev. Dr. Brad Stagg, Senior Minister
brad@firstchristian.org

Rev. Dr. Topher Endress, Associate Minister
topher@firstchristian.org

Music Staff

Topher Otake, Director of Music Ministry
totake@firstchristian.org

Dr. Rochelle Parker, Organist
Travis McFarlane, Early Service Musician

Mother's Day Out Pre-School

Hayley Batterson, Director
Sam Dunnings, Assistant Director

Columbia Older Adult Ministry

Rev. Sally Robinson, Director

Support Staff

Maria Clark, Weekend Custodian
Justin DeWick, Business Manager
businessmanager@firstchristian.org

Erin Perry, Office Manager
fcc@firstchristian.org

Worship Serving Schedule

Sunday, August 24, 2025

OFFICE RECEPTIONIST:

Carole Harris-Randerson

WELCOME STATION:

Susan Gray

FLOWER MINISTRY:

Cherry Hinderberger

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP:

The Schaefers

COMMUNION PREP:

Sarah Storm & Topher Otake

GREETERS:

Steve Humble (N. DOOR), Jessica Humble (S. DOOR), Cindy Rose (ATRIUM), Janelle Patterson (PORTICO)

AV TEAM:

Cliff Judy

LITURGIST:

Stacia Schaefer

9:30 ELDERS:

Dan Gieseke, Katie Carrier, Sarah Storm (Balcony)

DEACONS:

The Hunsaker Team

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP:

Jessica Humble

OFFERING COUNTERS:

Janelle Patterson and Jerry Miller

Worship Serving Schedule

Sunday, August 31, 2025

OFFICE RECEPTIONIST:

Janelle Patterson

WELCOME STATION:

Carrie Batterson

FLOWER MINISTRY:

Jessica & Steve Humble

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP:

The Gieseke

COMMUNION PREP:

Barbara & Tiger Li

GREETERS:

Jerry Miller (N. DOOR), Kathy Miller (S. DOOR), Dan Gieseke (ATRIUM), Holly Gieseke (PORTICO)

AV TEAM:

Noah Stagg & Dan Gieseke

LITURGIST:

Cole Freed

9:30 ELDERS:

Steve Evers, Tracy Evers, Fred Mottaz (Balcony)

DEACONS:

The Potthast Team

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP:

Holly Gieseke

OFFERING COUNTERS:

Deb Batterson and Jean Juba