



the VISITOR

August 8, 2025
Vol. 82, No. 3

OUR MISSION
To know God and
follow Jesus Christ.
Happening Soon

SUNDAY, AUGUST 10

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

TUESDAY, AUGUST 12

- Bible Study, 10:30am, Morris Parlor
- Staff Meeting, 2pm, Morris Parlor
- Stewardship & Finance Committee Meeting, 5:30pm, Morris Parlor
- Cabinet Meeting, 6:30pm, Morris Parlor

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13

- Midweek Connect, 10:30am, Zoom
- Ladies Book Club Choosing Lunch, 11:30am, The Club at Old Hawthorne
- Bible Study, 12pm, Morris Parlor
- Chancel Bell Choir, 5-5:45pm, 3rd Floor
- Chancel Choir, 5:45-6:45pm, 3rd Floor

THURSDAY, AUGUST 14

- COAM Board Meeting, 5:30pm, Morris Parlor

SUNDAY, AUGUST 17

- Coffee Fellowship Hour, 9am, YFH
- Worship, 9:30am, Sanctuary
- Church Energy Bus Meeting, 10:45am, YFH

TUESDAY, AUGUST 19

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

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20

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

SUNDAY, AUGUST 24

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

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

9TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

AUGUST 10TH

"Going Beyond"

EPHESIANS 3:14-20

REV. DR. TOPHER ENDRESS, PREACHING

10TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

AUGUST 17TH

*"The Pioneer
and Prefecter"*

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

Ladies Book Club Choosing Lunch

Ladies' Book Club Choosing Lunch on Wednesday, August 13

On August 13 at 11:30 a.m. Ladies' Book Club will have its annual Choosing Lunch at The Club at Old Hawthorne, and I'm excited about the book submissions I am getting from you. I am trying to get a private room for us, but this may not be possible. Lunch must be paid by credit card, as The Club will not accept cash. Please let me know if you will be coming, so that I can tell the staff in advance - my email address is meg4vteach@yahoo.com (all lower case). Please feel welcome to join us. We have great discussions! The reading list for Ladies' Book Club will be in upcoming issues of the newsletter. We will continue to meet in Morris Parlor at 11:30 a.m. beginning the second Wednesday in September.

Peggy Veatch

New Choir Schedule

Chancel Bells & Chancel Choir schedule change—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.



THIS IS A DOUBLE-ISSUE OF THE VISITOR!

KEEP IT HANDY UNTIL AUGUST 22.



News of the People & Places

Sympathy...

• **Richard Wells** passed away on Wednesday, July 30. There will be private services held for Richard & his family. Richard was 89 years old. Please keep **Suellen & Rick Wells, The Hoenes Family (C.K., Paula, Ava, & Kira)** and the rest of Richard's family in your prayers during this time of grief and transition.



Prayers of Health & Healing...

- **Tom & Carol Hughey's** son, Ryan, had a successful leg extension surgery on Wednesday, July 23 and is healing at home.
- **Mark Mills** will go through surgery to have one of his kidneys removed on August 25.

Out Of the Office...

- **Brad Stagg** will be on vacation from Monday, July 28—Sunday, August 10. All pastoral concerns should be directed to **Topher Endress** or the Church Office in the meantime.

Thank You...

Dear FCC Community,
Thank you so much for your continued support of my education through scholarship funding. As I start my master's in education policy at Duke this fall, I am so appreciative to have the support of the congregation, both financially and, more importantly, as a community I am very fortunate to be part of. I am so grateful!

Abigail Reardon

Dear First Christian Church,
Thank you very much for awarding me the Shrout and Shamberger Scholarships! I feel very lucky that First Christian is still giving me so much after 20 years! I appreciate all your love and support and hope everyone is having a lovely summer.

Respectfully, *Ella Rogers*

CWF Yearbooks Available

Available in the Church Office & By Request

The 2025-26 Christian Women's Fellowship Yearbooks are available now in the Church Office! The CWF yearbooks include information about the CWF groups, group directories, meeting times, and the operating budget and board. If you'd like a copy of this year's yearbook, they will be available in the CWF nook near the elevator on the first floor landing and by request in the Church Office any time. You can send a request for a year-
2 book to fcc@firstchristian.org or stop by during the week!



THE VIEW FROM HERE

What a wonderful summer it's been! Here are a few pictures from church activities and updates that didn't quite make the headlines.

- Both the **bell choir** and the **chancel choir** took a vacation from rehearsal this summer. In June, the bell choir and friends shared a fun dinner together at Murray's, and in July, the choir celebrated with ice cream at our favorite DQ on the Business Loop!



- The Property Department was hard at work this summer. In July, we replaced



- our kitchen freezer and refrigerator, both of which were over 20 years old (our new appliances are built to last just 10 years, but knowing **Brenda Mosby & Janelle Patterson**, we'll get at least



- 15 out of them). Back in May, we realized the closet doors in the Fellowship Hall needed to be replaced, and **Bob Hutton** spent the last week installing and staining them.



- Several members of First Christian Church and other Disciples churches helped celebrate **Rev. Sally Robinson's** 20 years of ministry with Columbia Older Adult Ministry at the end of July. Treats and ministry updates were shared at Love Coffee. It was amazing to hear others share the impact of Sally's ministry and we are SO proud to have Sally on our team!



Memphis 2025

Memphis is well known for blues music, Elvis, and excellent Southern (fried) foods. For one week in July, it was also the host of our denomination's General Assembly and the site our annual youth mission trip.

5 rising seniors (**Audra Crousore, Alex Johnson, Brady Marrero, Sam Pine, and Jodie Silverwood**) and two chaperones (**Kim Potthast and Topher Endress**) braved the road construction and made their way down on July 9, ready to start working bright and early on July 10 at Manna House, a Catholic Worker's hospitality house. There, they cleared overgrown brush, served coffee, provided hygiene bags, and organized laundry/showers for folks living on the streets. From there, they joined other service groups for a lunch meal at Four Way, a historic diner that regularly hosted Civil Rights leaders next to the iconic People's Grocery. Later, they learned from the CEO of City Leadership about how groups are working now to make major changes to the Memphis landscape by investing in sustainable education and non-profit support.

Friday was spent working for Week of Compassion, gathering with folks from across the DoC to build a house for a rural Kentucky family who was impacted by a devastating tornado. Our group, one of around 10 total but the only actual youth group, was responsible for 34% of the work completed - our youth know how to work hard! They build frames and packed them to be sent to the site in KY where another Week of Compassion team will put them together.

Saturday saw us head to the opening of General Assembly, where a resolution written by **Topher** was accepted unanimously by the assembly. The text of this resolution is available in the office, for those interested. That evening, the group served a meal at a church service designed for unhoused folks experiencing mental health issues, also offering to-go bags of hygiene products. After, we

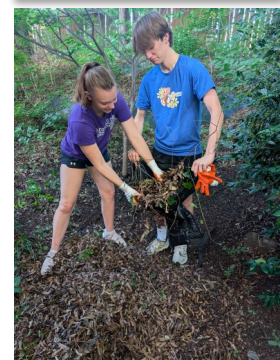
headed back to GA for worship alongside a few thousand of our new Disciples friends, including a powerful sermon by Rev. Dr. Bernice King (Civil Rights leader and daughter of MLK Jr.) The width and diversity of God's kingdom was well on display!

Sunday, they worshiped with Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church before heading to a guided tour of the National Civil Rights Museum. We were inspired by learning about so much sacrifice and resolve in the face of violence. That evening, we were invited to a local Mexican restaurant by the group helping organizing our service work (City Leadership/Serve901), which included time with Daniel Harris, a disability rights advocate and artist.

Monday was busy at GA, with workshops in the morning on intergenerational church work and accessibility work happening at the denominational level. After, the group went to Landmark Urban Farms to help clear space for a crop of purple-hulled beans - urban farms help combat the significant level of food insecurity across the city. Tuesday was similar, with work at Green Leaf Learning Farm. The physical labor was tough in the heat, but it was well worth it to know that our time contributed to bringing nutritious food options to folks who lack access to grocery stores.

From the worship at GA to the learning, from meals and card playing to pulling weeds, the youth put their whole selves into every activity. Yes, they got to do some fun things (including the Bass Pro Pyramid and City Museum of St. Louis on the way home), but they went on this trip because they wanted to work hard for other people. We are blessed to have such eager, curious, and hard-working youth in our congregation, and all who went are very grateful to FCC for financially, spiritually, and practically supporting us on this trip! Thank you to everyone who offered prayers during our time there, and thank you all for making work like this possible!

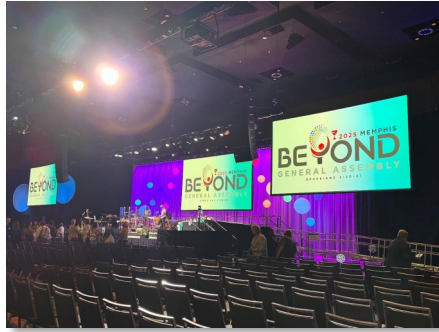
Topher Endress



General Assembly 2025

Reflections from General Assembly 2025

Nothing says community like hundreds of people getting hotel breakfast in identical red badges and lanyards all across downtown Memphis, ready to start another exciting and early morning at



General Assembly! This year's Assembly was held at the Renasant Convention Center in downtown Memphis, Tn from Saturday, July 12 - Tuesday, July 15. The days were filled with fellowship meals, workshops, worship opportunities, business sessions, and time spent wandering around in the exhibit hall learning about the ministries of the church and buying plenty of DOC church merch!

During General Assembly, the denomination gathers for Business Sessions in which those gathered hear reports from the ministries of the wider church, but also vote on resolutions constructed by DOC churches and organizations that offer both symbol commitments of the wider church, but also provide practical suggestions for individual congregations to follow and commit themselves to. One of the first resolutions passed this year was GA-2512, Concerning Christian Church (DOC) Congregations Receiving a Silver Chalice Designation. This resolution was co-sponsored by our friends at The Christian Church in Mid-America, and implored congregations and regions to implement the necessary steps to live into our Silver Chalice Covenant to lift up ministry to, for, and with older adults.

This resolution found its roots in one of National Benevolent Association's programs, called "Innovative Conversations" that our friend **Rev. Sally Robinson** was involved in. This program revealed a need for supporting those congregants who are currently the backbone of Disciples congregations across the country - our older adults. Like Green Chalice ministries or Open & Affirming Ministries,

congregations are now able to become "Silver Chalice" ministries, once they have met the requirements for the ministry. Silver Chalice churches will have access to a designated Silver Chalice Mentor to walk through the process, encourage brainstorming and to implement what style of Silver Chalice ministry would best fit in our congregation and the resources available to us. This resolution encourages congregations across the denomination to show their dedication to older adults by committing themselves to the work of Silver Chalice ministry, by supporting educational and advocacy initiatives that affirm and defend the right of older adults to health, social security, participation, independence, and adequate housing, as well as to be protected from discrimination, abuse, and any other form of violence, and to ensure that older adults live with dignity, respect, and love.

One of my favorite reports from the Business Sessions (and the most touching), came from the Interim Executive Director of Disciples Women, Rev. Dr. Debra Reid. Disciples Women is the national organization that organizes and supports individual congregation's Disciples Women & Christian Women's Fellowship groups. Disciples Women celebrated their 150th anniversary in October of 2024, and we celebrated



that anniversary with them at this year's assembly. The interim director passionately shared about the transformative power of the love that Disciples women bring to the table of "church", because when a Disciples woman is in the building, **love** is in the building. Sitting next to two beloved FCC Disciples Women, I couldn't help but feel emotional about the legacy of strong and service oriented women still so present in the bones of this church. Looking around FCC any given Sunday, it is impossible not to be overwhelmed by the power of our amazing and dedicated Disciples Women.



I'll continue to share about the resolutions from this year's assembly in upcoming newsletters, but all church reports and business items can be read online in the Program and Business Docket at <https://ga.disciples.org/resolutions-businessitems/>. Feel free to contact the Church Office for more information or if you'd like assistance finding reports or resolutions in the meantime!



Erin Perry

Organ Renovation Updates

Pipes to Return Mid-September

The first chapter of the organ renovation project is complete!

All pipes and chests have been removed from the organ chambers and Levsen Organ Company has returned to Iowa to install electric valves in the organ chests. While Levsen and team



were in the organ chambers, they discovered that the pedal bellows (what keeps the pedal notes of the organ console consistent in volume/sound and actually gives the power to keep the pedals sounding) have taken on moisture from the vent that goes into the organ chamber. Levsen asked us to approve both the re-leathering of the pedal bellows, as well as replacing the shade motors (the motors control the shades and determines how quickly the shades will open and close, which will impact the variety of the volume of the organ and allows you to change the volume in a timely fashion) for an additional \$13,750. The Administrative Board approved the repair on Tuesday, July 22.

We are now waiting for Reinhardt Construction to begin repairing damages to the organ chamber. Reinhardt will begin addressing water damage and other issues in the organ chamber to prepare the space for restoration in the next few weeks. We're grateful for the skilled hands and collaborative spirit of both Levsen and Reinhardt as they work together on this important project.

The hope is for Levsen to return in mid-September to clean the organ pipes, and return both pipes and organ chests. We will need the same number of volunteers for this process, but it will be a much lengthier process, as each pipe will be cleaned and then put back individually. If you are available during the day on Tuesdays-Thursdays in mid-September and interested in assisting in this process, please contact **Dan Gieseke** (dangieseke2@gmail.com) or **Topher Otake** (totake@firstchristian.org).

Upcoming Meetings



Stewardship & Finance Meeting

Tuesday, August 12 @ 5:30 p.m.

Cabinet Meeting

Tuesday, August 12 @ 6:30 p.m.

Energy Bus Meeting

Sunday, August 17 @ 10:45 a.m.

Birthdays



August 11 - Brianna Pooler

August 12 - Stacy Silverwood, James Taylor

August 13 - Teller Schaefer, **Tommy Tomlin (98!)**

August 14 - Janet Mills, Zeke Mottaz

August 15 - Elayna Mottaz

August 16 - Dana Heavin, Louis Janssen, Joyce Stanley

August 17 - Elizabeth Mottaz

August 18 - Norta Dietzel, Sharon Smith

August 19 - Quinn Fullington, Carol Hughey,
Lillian Schaefer

August 21 - Susan Gray

August 23 - Janelle Patterson

August 24 - Denice Adkins, Paula Slusher

Anniversaries

August 11 - Bragg & Joyce Stanley (52 years!)

August 23 - Hartley & Kim Rogers

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!

Energy Bus!

We need to start the Energy Bus moving again. You may not have been on it last year. But those of us that were, cleaned and organized the kitchen. There are areas in the Church that need our attention. Let's have a meeting, of those who are interested in being a passenger, on Sunday, August 17 after church service in the Fellowship Hall.

Looking forward to having a bus full of friends! If you are unable to come to the meeting but would like to help, give me a call—(573) 881-8385!

Brenda Mosby (Bus Driver)





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

Sunday Morning Staff

Maria Clark, Weekend Custodian
Izzy Arnett, Nursery Staff
Amelia Leon-Rudy, Nursery Staff
Cheryl Stevens, Nursery Staff

Mother's Day Out Pre-School

Hayley Batterson, Director

Columbia Older Adult Ministry

Rev. Sally Robinson, Director

Support Staff

Justin DeWick, Business Manager
Erin Perry, Office Manager

Worship Serving Schedule

Sunday, August 10, 2025

OFFICE RECEPTIONIST: Debbie Potthast

WELCOME STATION: Steve McCormack

FLOWER MINISTRY: Dave & Debbie Potthast

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP: Karen Hobson

COMMUNION PREP:

Janelle Patterson & Chuck Scott

GREETERS: Edie Pigg (N. DOOR), Karen Hobson (S. DOOR), Elizabeth Mottaz (ATRIUM), Jacki Davidson (PORTICO)

AV TEAM: Chris Fuemmeler

LITURGIST: Meg Judy

9:30 ELDERS: Jeff, Katie Carrier, Tracy Evers (Balcony)

DEACONS: The Judy Team

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP: Holly Gieseke

OFFERING COUNTERS: Jean Juba and Janelle Patterson

Worship Serving Schedule

Sunday, August 17, 2025

OFFICE RECEPTIONIST:

Carole Harris-Randerson

WELCOME STATION: Steve Humble

FLOWER MINISTRY: Paula Hoenes

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP: The Fuemmeler

COMMUNION PREP: Tori & Sam Pine

GREETERS: Trish Stagg (N. DOOR), Susan Gray (S. DOOR), Susan Ramsey (ATRIUM), Gerald Ramsey (PORTICO)

AV TEAM: Luke Stagg

LITURGIST: Dan Gieseke

9:30 ELDERS: Becky Baumgartner, Jeff Underwood, Paula Hoenes (Balcony)

DEACONS: The Underwood Team

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP: Hayley Batterson

OFFERING COUNTERS:

Sarah Storm and Deb Batterson