



the VISITOR

December 12, 2025

Vol. 82, No. 19

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

Happening Soon

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14

Third Sunday in Advent

- Worship, 8:30 & 10:30am
- Coffee Fellowship Hour, 9:30am, YFH
- K-5 Sunday School, 9:30am, 3rd Floor
- 6-12 Sunday School, 9:30am, Higbee
- Adult Sunday School, 9:30am, Cinema
- Christmas Pageant, 4pm, Sanctuary
- Tasting Party, 5pm, YFH

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16

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

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17

No Chancel Bell Choir

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

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19

- MDO Christmas Program, 5pm, Sanctuary

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21

Fourth Sunday in Advent

- Christmas Cantata, 8:30 & 10:30am
- Coffee Fellowship Hour, 9:30am, YFH
- K-5 Sunday School, 9:30am, 3rd Floor
- 6-12 Sunday School, 9:30am, Higbee
- Adult Sunday School, 9:30am, Cinema
- Christmas Caroling, 12pm, Around Town



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

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 14TH

"Are You The One?"

MATTHEW 11:2-11

REV. DR. TOPHER ENDRESS, PREACHING



93rd Annual Christmas Pageant

Christmas Pageant &

Tasting Party on Sunday, December 14

Join us on Sunday, December 14 at 4:00 p.m. for our 93rd Annual Christmas Pageant! The pageant will be held in the sanctuary, and the event will be livestreamed for those who aren't able to attend in person. The beloved & annually delicious tasting party will follow at 5:00 p.m. All are invited to bring a sweet or savory treat to share! A **"white gifts"** offering will be collect-

ed at this year's pageant. Traditionally, a white gifts offering is an offering of food (boxed or canned) for the youth group to donate locally. By wrapping the gifts to all look the same, the love and



devotion of the giver becomes more important than the gift. All are encouraged to bring non-perishable canned or boxed foods wrapped in white paper to share.

2 WORSHIP OPTIONS

IN-PERSON AT CHURCH @ 8:30 & 10:30 AM:

In-person worship in the Sanctuary.

-OR-

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)"*

Christmas Caroling

Choir looking for Caroling Locations on

Sunday, December 21

The Chancel choir will carol again this year following the Christmas Cantata on Sunday, December 21.

If you are interested in having carolers stop by your house, please contact **Topher Otake** at totake@firstchristian.org.

Christmas Cantata

*Annual Christmas Cantata on
Sunday, December 21*

Celebrate "Christmas Joy" with a spectacular performance featuring the Chancel Choir of First Christian Church at this year's Christmas Cantata! The Cantata will be held during both services on Sunday, December 21. The choir will perform Dan Forrest's "Christmas Joy," three timeless yuletide melodies packaged together. We hope you'll join us for another unforgettable performance by the chancel choir!



Christmas Eve Worship

Wednesday, December 24

Sanctuary Open for Quiet Meditation, 5:00 p.m.

Candlelight & Communion Service, 7:00 p.m.



DECEMBER

Birthdays

December 15 - Buddy Boger

December 16 - Karen Hobson, Joe Reardon

December 17 - Julia Bower, Caden Snow

December 18 - Declan Judy, Kensly Vens,
Kaedon Wheatley

December 19 - Cliff Judy

December 20 - Chris Fuemmeler

Anniversaries

December 15 - Russell & Laura DeVenney (58 years!)

Christmas Special Offering

Christmas Offering taken on Sundays, December 14 & 21

The annual Christmas Special Offering will be taken this year on Sundays, December 14 & 21. The gifts given toward the Christmas special offering support the work of regional ministries. The work of regional ministry includes, but is not limited to, connecting congregations to each other; gathering Disciples in camps, conferences, and assemblies; nurturing the development of a new generation of pastors; assisting churches in calling new ministers; and witnessing to the power of God to make things new. Please consider giving generously to the Christmas Special Offering this year on Sundays, December 14 & 21.



News of the People & Places

Sympathy...

• **Roy Overacre** passed away on November 21 at the Marshall Living Center in Marshall, Mo. Roy was 77 years old. A service for Roy will be held on Friday, December 12 at 11:00 a.m. at Grand Pass Cemetery outside of Waverly, Mo. Please keep **Joy** and Roy's family in your prayers during this time of grief.



Thank You...

Hi First Christian Church,
Your recent gift of \$605.00 and 108.65 lbs of food came at exactly the right moment, and we cannot thank you enough.

As we shared in our recent message, the uncertainty around the availability of SNAP and WIC benefits has created a real and immediate hardship for many of our neighbors. Your donation is already helping us respond. Because of you, our shelves are being replenished, and we can continue meeting families with compassion and practical support when they need it most.

Voluntary Action Center



Staff Christmas Fund

Deadline for gifts on Monday, December 29

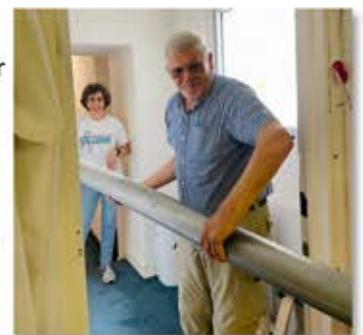
The Administrative Dept. provides an opportunity for church members and friends to contribute to a *Staff Christmas Fund*. The fund recognizes our excellent church staff during the Christmas season for their combined efforts in helping make our church one in which we can all take great pride. Checks should be made to First Christian Church with "Staff Christmas Fund" noted in the memo line. **The deadline for contributions is Monday, December 29.** This will be included in the staff's paycheck on Friday, January 2. Your generosity will be divided evenly among the staff: ministers, office staff, music staff, and custodian. Thank you! **Genie Rogers, Administrative Dept.**



Organ Renovation Updates

Levsen to Reinstall Pipes in December

Levsen officially arrived in Columbia on Monday, December 8 to continue their work on the pipe organ. The first step in the process is to install the largest pipes back into the organ chambers. Once the largest pipes are secure, they will begin cleaning and reinstalling the smaller pipes as the church works with Reinhardt to reinstall the wooden grates in the sanctuary. We may be looking for volunteers in December to help out, so those interested in being involved should contact **Dan Gieseke** (dangieseke2@gmail.com) or **Topher Otake** (totake@firstchristian.org) for more information.



FAITHFUL FAMILIES
FOR ADVENT & CHRISTMAS



Advent Devotionals Available

Available in the Narthex or in the Church Office during office hours!

November Financial Report

October Year to Date 2025 Monthly Financial Report

1. Income Sources General Operations
 2. Tithes and Offerings \$180,097
 3. Rental and Other \$31,545
 4. Permanent Funds \$75,088 (excludes funds marked for Scholarships)
 5. **Total Usable Income \$286,730**
1. Expenses General Operations
 2. Administrative \$166,508
 3. Property \$46,154
 4. All Other \$33,166
 5. **Total Expense \$245,378**
1. Mother's Day Out
 2. MDO Income \$143,787
 3. MDO Expense \$165,027
 4. **MDO Net (\$21,509)**
1. Columbia Older Adult Ministry
 2. COAM Income \$49,300
 3. COAM Expense \$44,645
 4. **COAM Net \$4754**
1. Net Income General and Mother's Day Out
 2. General \$41,352
 3. MDO (\$21,509)
 4. COAM \$4,754
 5. **NET Income \$24,597**
1. Capital Campaign
 2. Income \$32,524
 3. Expense (\$99,796)
 4. Current Balance (\$67,272)
 5. Expenses beyond balance paid with transfers from the repair account and some directed donations specific to the organ project.

Comments and Notes for October Year to Date

- \$40,000 cash reserve from permanent funds available for cash flow needs due to timing of payroll.
- General expenses YTD are running just slightly under budget.
- We have not had to utilize the line of credit for the organ and we don't think we will have to. We have enough in our repair account to pay the last invoice and we continue to collect towards the final pledged total for our cap. campaign. With a little over a year left we have already collected 75% of our funds so we are confident we will meet our goal. As those funds come in we will be replacing funds into the repair account.
- MDO revenue is meeting budget expectations. Costs have run high and we expect to recoup between \$14k to \$18k in December due to decreased payroll costs. In January MDO will open new infant spots that are full which will also help increase net revenue. Monthly meetings with MDO leaders and Stewardship & Finance to review performance and move to break even continue.

November Financial Report (cont'd)

- Each month has had higher than budgeted pledge revenue until October which is the first month we did not meet budgeted pledge revenue. YTD we are ahead of budget and prior year.
- Rental Income for Bethany Hall has started.

Stewardship & Finance Department

Annual Living Nativity

Successful Living Nativity on Friday, December 6

Living Windows brought another large crowd to FCC's East Lawn where the youth and volunteers of FCC put on four amazing "Living Nativity" performances! Each show got better and better as our youth (and adults!) tried out different roles, sharing the spotlight as Mary, the three wisemen, and angels. A few FCC adults jumped in throughout the night, with an extremely convincing Herod (played by **To-pher Endress**) and mother-daughter angel

duo (played by **Vicki & Olivia Johnson**). We are so grateful for the Advent Department, led by **Jessica & Steve Humble**, for their hard work to pull this event off every year! Thank you to everyone who helped dress and organize our youth in the Narthex, our crowd-fillers, and to everyone who stopped by to visit and cheer on our youth!



Loaves & Fishes

Serving Dinner on Monday, December 22

This month's Loaves & Fishes serving date falls on Monday, December 22 and we are looking for volunteers to help deliver and serve food! There is an online sign-up available, if you'd like to see where volunteers are still needed: <https://bit.ly/decloaves>. 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 February. Thank you all so much for making this ministry possible!





Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Columbia, MO
Permit No. 75

101 N. 10th Street
Columbia, MO 65201
573-449-7265
email: fcc@firstchristian.org
web: firstchristian.org

Electronic Service Requested



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

2025 Advent Calendar

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Christmas Pageant, 4pm
Tasting Party, 5pm

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19

MDO Christmas Program, 5pm

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Christmas Cantata (both services)
Choir Christmas Caroling, 12pm

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24

Christmas Eve

Sanctuary Open for Quiet Meditation, 5pm
Candlelight Communion Service, 7pm

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25

Christmas Day

Church Office Closed

Worship Serving Schedule

Sunday, December 14, 2025

OFFICE RECEPTIONIST: Janelle Patterson
WELCOME STATION: Valerie Freed
FLOWER MINISTRY: Poinsettia Sunday
COFFEE FELLOWSHIP: Edie Pigg
EARLY SERVICE HELPERS: Joe & Kim Reardon
COMMUNION PREP: Laura & Ryan Hunsaker
GREETERS: Debbie Potthast (N. DOOR),
David Potthast (S. DOOR), Holly Gieseke
(ATRIUM), Dan Gieseke (PORTICO)
AV TEAM: Dan Gieseke
LITURGIST: Katie Carrier
8:30 ELDER: Kurt Schaefer
10:30 ELDERS: Paula Slusher, Jessica
Humble, Janelle Patterson (Balcony)
DEACONS: The Judy Team
CHILDREN'S WORSHIP: Hayley Batterson
OFFERING COUNTERS:
Cindy & Doug Smith and Deb Batterson