



the VISITOR

December 19, 2025

Vol. 82, No. 20

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

Happening Soon

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
- Choir Christmas Caroling, 12pm

MONDAY, DECEMBER 22

- Loaves & Fishes, 4:30pm, RATI

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23

- Staff Meeting, 2pm, Morris Parlor

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24

Church Office Closes at Noon,

No Wednesday Bible Study or Choirs

- Midweek Connect, 10:30am, Zoom
- Quiet, Meditative Service, 5pm
- Candlelight & Communion Service, 7pm

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25

Church Office Closed, Christmas Day

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28

No Coffee Hour, Sunday School, Youth Groups

- One Worship Service, 9:30am



MERRY
Christmas



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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 21ST

Christmas Cantata

"CHRISTMAS JOY!"



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 Eve Worship

Wednesday, December 24

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

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

Special WORSHIP SCHEDULE Christmastime Worship

Christmas Eve & One Service on December 28

Can you believe Christmas is already here?

This year, we invite you to join us for
Christmas Eve as we open the sanctuary for
quiet, guided meditation at 5:00 p.m. or for
our traditional candlelight & communion ser-
vice at 7:00 p.m. The church office will be
closed on Christmas Day, but we will return
on Sunday, December 28 for **one service at
9:30 a.m.** There will be no Sunday School or
Coffee Hour that day for the holiday week.

We'll return to our regular worship schedule
with 8:30 & 10:30 worship, adult Sunday
School and coffee hour on January 4.

Children's & Youth Sunday School will return
on January 11.

Church Office Closed

Thursday, December 25

Merry Christmas!



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 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 To-
pher Otake at totake@firstchristian.org.



DECEMBER

Birthdays

December 22 - Marilyn Schappert

December 25 - Dorothy Baumgartner (99!)

December 26 - Jodie Silverwood

December 27 - Linda Chandler, Emma Hawkins

Anniversaries

December 24 - Wayne & Donna Meyer (53 years!)

December 27 - Gerald & Susan Ramsey (56 years!)



News of the People & Places

Sympathy...

• **Kathy Dains**, author of *Guided by the Hand of God: The History of First Christian Church*, passed away on Sunday, December 7. She was 89 years old. A service for Kathy was held on Friday, December 12 in Appleton City, MO. Please keep Kathy's family in your prayers during this time. Copies of *Guided by the Hand of God* are available in the office for anyone interested.



Prayers of Health & Healing...

• **Judith Escoffier**, the mother of MDO teacher **Kim Politte**, is in the hospital with heart issues.

Become FCC's Flower Ministry Coordinator

We are in need of someone to oversee the Flower Ministry at First Christian Church. This individual would be in charge of obtaining sign-up donations of chancel flowers for Sundays throughout the year and arranging the schedule for church members who will arrange and deliver the flowers. The coordinator occasionally checks the flower ministry room to make sure there are enough flower vases to use for delivery, and arranges our annual poinsettias and easter lilies around the sanctuary. Our members who are ill or have 90+ birthdays find these chancel flower bouquets of love much appreciated. Consider giving your time to this valuable and loving service to FCC! The coordinator would work closely with the Office Manager and flower ministry volunteers for support. Our team of flower arrangers and deliverers are wonderful, dedicated members of the church, and we are grateful for everyone who participates in this meaningful ministry!



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.



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 Department Chair

Burns Night Supper & Ceilidh

Burns Night Supper & Ceilidh on Saturday, January 24



Although we are still in the thick of Advent, with Christmas on the horizon, it is also the time to start thinking about our annual Burns Night fundraiser! We will gather for a dinner and dance on January 24, raising funds for our Chi Rho, CYF, and College mission trip to Evansville, IN. Tickets are available now at firstchristian.org/burnsnight or in the office, and volunteers are always needed for evening-of help in the kitchen and in soliciting items for our silent auction and raffle. Please contact **Topher Endress** for questions about tickets, volunteering, auction items, or anything related to this important fundraiser!



93rd Annual Christmas Pageant

Advent Department & Volunteers Offer Another Successful Pageant

While there may not have been scaffolding in the original nativity (that we know of), the spirit of Christmas was still alive and well in the sanctuary this past Sunday. Singing, bell ringing, and story telling filled the sanctuary on Sunday night during the 93rd Annual Christmas Pageant. A massive thank you goes to **Jessica Humble**, the organizer of this year's pageant! We are also so grateful to **Hayley Batterson**, **Elizabeth Mottaz**, and **Jennifer Alexander** who work just as hard as our youth to put on a good show as they practice singing & bell ringing. Thank you to **Topher Endress** and **Hayley Batterson** for rounding up pageant volunteers. We are also so grateful to **Cherry Hinderberger** & **Carol Hughey** who pulled off another beautiful Tasting Party. We collected several white gifts this year to donate to blessing boxes around town, and \$100 to donate to the Food Bank. Thank you for your generosity and support of this time-honored tradition!



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!



VAC Holiday Project

Thank you SO MUCH to everyone who donated, shopped for, and supported this year's VAC Holiday Project! We were able to support 12 families and 51 individuals this year (after adding two more families to our list following a surge in financial support) due to the combination of those who adopted and offered financial support. The biggest shout outs this year go to our amazing organizers **Elizabeth Mottaz** & **Janelle Patterson**, who organized our paperwork, set up Morris Parlor, helped shop for gifts, tabled for sign-ups, AND drove & dropped off the gifts! We are also grateful to the **Chi-Rho** & **CYF groups**, who shopped for several families at the beginning of December, as well as the **Church Cabinet** for carrying each gift from Morris Parlor to the Fellowship Hall before their meeting last week. Thank you for your abundant generosity and support of this gift to the Columbia community!



Office Donation Bins

Collection for Services for Independent Living

The Church Office is collecting items for Services for Independent Living in December & January. Services for Independent Living (SIL) empowers people with disabilities, seniors, and veterans to maximize their independence in the community. SIL is currently asking for donations of a variety of personal hygiene items, listed here: shampoo, conditioner, body wash/bar soap, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, lotion, lip balm, hand sanitizer, wet wipes, disinfectant wipes, dish soap, bed pads, and laundry soap/pods. We will donate these items at the end of January, so please consider giving generously to this collection!





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 Dunning, 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

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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28

One Worship Service, 9:30am
No Sunday School, Youth Group, Coffee Hour

Worship Serving Schedule

Sunday, December 21, 2025

OFFICE RECEPTIONIST: Carrie Batterson
WELCOME STATION: Susan Gray
FLOWER MINISTRY: Poinsettia Sunday
COFFEE FELLOWSHIP: Kim & Hartley Rogers
EARLY SERVICE HELPERS: The Reardons
COMMUNION PREP:
Tracy & Chris Fuemmeler
GREETERS: Kathy Miller (N. DOOR),
Jerry Miller (S. DOOR), TBD (ATRIUM), Don
Mosby (PORTICO)
AV TEAM: Tiger Li
LITURGIST: Kameron Freed
8:30 ELDER: Eric Seaman
10:30 ELDERS: Meg Judy, Cliff Judy, Tracy
Evers (Balcony)
DEACONS: The Underwood Team
CHILDREN'S WORSHIP: Jessica Humble
OFFERING COUNTERS:
Jean Juba and Janelle Patterson