



the VISITOR

December 26, 2025

Vol. 82, No. 21

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

Happening Soon

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28

No Coffee Hour, Sunday School, Youth Groups

- One Worship Service, 9:30am

TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30-31

No Bible Study or Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, JANUARY 1

Church Office Closed, New Year's Day

SUNDAY, JANUARY 4

- Worship, 8:30 & 10:30am
- Coffee Fellowship Hour, 9:30am, YFH
- Adult Sunday School, 9:30am, Cinema

MONDAY, JANUARY 5

- Nominating Committee, 6:30pm, Zoom

TUESDAY, JANUARY 6

- Bible Study, 10:30am, Morris Parlor
- Staff Meeting, 2pm, Morris Parlor
- Special Administrative Board Meeting, 6:30pm, Morris Parlor

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7

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

SUNDAY, JANUARY 11

- Worship, 8:30 & 10:30am
- Coffee Fellowship Hour, 9:30am, YFH
- Adult Sunday School, 9:30am, Cinema
- Children's Sunday School, 9:30am, 3rd Floor
- Youth Sunday School, 9:30am, Higbee
- Chi-Rho, 4pm, YFH
- CYF, 5pm, YFH



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

1ST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY

DECEMBER 28TH

"A Voice Was Heard in Ramah:

*Lamentation, Violence and
Christian Response"*

MATTHEW 2:13-23

REV. DR. TOPHER ENDRESS, PREACHING

2ND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY

JANUARY 4TH

"Inheritance"

EPHESIANS 1:3-14

REV. DR. BRAD STAGG, PREACHING

2 WORSHIP OPTIONS

IN-PERSON AT CHURCH @ 9:30 AM

(8:30 & 10:30 AM ON THE 4TH):

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)"

Christmastime Worship

One Worship Service on December 28

Don't forget! This Sunday, December 28 we will gather for worship for **one service at**

9:30 a.m. There will be no Sunday School or Coffee Hour on Sunday for this 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 and Youth Groups will return on January 11.

Undecorate the Church

The sanctuary looked absolutely amazing for the Advent and Christmas season (special shout out to **Jessica & Steve Humble** and **Holly & Dan Gieseke** for their impressive work with the Christmas tree), but now it's time to restore the space to its previous glory. Help us put all the decorations away for another year. We'll be gathering to "un-decorate" the church on Sunday, January 11 immediately following worship.



Special WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Youth Groups Return January 11

Youth Groups Return in January

Youth Groups will return on Sunday, January 11 with Chi-Rho (Grades 6-8) meeting at 4 p.m. and CYF (Grades 9-12) at 5 p.m. in Yonker Fellowship Hall. On Sunday, January 18, CYF will meet at 5 p.m. for Burns Night prep. All youth will be "all hands on deck" for Burns Night on Saturday, January 24. The youth then will take a well-earned break on Sunday, January 25!

Church Office Closed

Thursday, January 1

Happy New Year!



THIS IS A DOUBLE-ISSUE OF THE VISITOR!

KEEP IT HANDY UNTIL JANUARY 9.

JANUARY

Birthdays

December 29 - Paula Kurtz (92!), Becky Baumgartner, Kevin Crane, Scott Schaefer

December 30 - Jan Davis, Jerry Miller, Fred Mottaz

January 1 - Eva Bright, John Clark, Steve Gieseke

January 3 - Debbie Potthast

January 4 - Paige Freed, James Hoffman

January 5 - Lindsey Ingebritson, Hillary Nichols

January 6 - Allison Hardesty

January 8 - Bryan Garton, Sam Pine

January 10 - Samantha Fullington, Ava Hoenes, Darren Pine, Cindy Rose

Anniversaries

December 31 - Josiah & Anne Crousore
Rich & Pamela Hoeppner

January 1 - Barbara & Richard Li

January 5 - John & Julie Hickey (52 years!)

Carla & Howard Tanzey

James & Debbie Taylor

January 8 - Ryan & Stacy Silverwood

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



Organ Renovation Update

Grates reinstalled, scaffolding down, sanctuary ready for Christmas

Last week, Reinhardt Construction returned to FCC to reinstall the grates in the sanctuary, take scaffolding down, and restore our sanctuary to its previous glory - and it is wonderful to have the sanctuary "back" for Christmas! A huge thanks to **Bob Hutton** and team (**Jeff Underwood, Dan Backues, Fred Mottaz, Mike Randerson**) who spent time on Tuesday afternoon dusting and cleaning the grates before they were reinstalled. Levsen Organ Company will return in January to finish the work of reinstalling the organ pipes. We can't wait to have our organ back and running in the new year!



News of the People & Places

Prayers of Health & Healing...

• **Luke Stagg** has back surgery scheduled for Tuesday, December 23 at Boone Hospital.

Thank You...

• Thank you to the amazing Advent volunteers, **Jessica & Steve Humble** and **Dan & Holly Gieseke** who arrived at the church early on Friday morning to put up our glorious Christmas Tree in time for the cantata and Christmas Eve! They hauled "the big ladder" up to the sanctuary TWICE to make sure it looked just right. Thank you all for your hard work!

Year End Giving

Any gifts to be given for the year end should be dropped off in the church office by noon on Wednesday, December 31.



Special Board Meeting

Board Meeting Scheduled for January 6, 2026

There will be a special Administrative Board meeting held on Tuesday, January 6 at 6:30 p.m. in Morris Parlor. An email with business items and a zoom link will be sent out to the board ahead of the meeting.



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!

Your Support Changes Lives!



Reflecting on the impact of youth mission trips

When I first started at FCC, one of the first tasks was figuring out if there was any way to fit in a last-minute mission trip for the youth. Typically, these events are planned 8-10 months out, but my hiring date gave us less than 3 months to pull something together. Luckily, and through the grace and influence of the Spirit, **Stacy Silverwood** agreed to help chaperone, despite having never met me!

Although I hadn't lived there for quite some time, I still knew a good amount of ministers in town and was pretty familiar with most of the major nonprofits, so I thought a trip would at least be possible. I called every church I had served in, worshiped with, or just played basketball in, and found a willing host. Then, service opportunities started to flood in. People called friends and neighbors on our behalf, and our schedule filled up completely. Despite the short planning runway, we ran out of room for all the work offered up!

Our trip quickly found a theme in "revitalization." Often in mid-to-large cities, low income neighborhoods will undergo quick turnarounds, with older homes demolished in favor of fancier apartments. This causes a spike in housing prices, which can be good for people who are able to sell, but also causes a quick rise in rent and property tax, which forces others out. There is also, as we learned, a historic connection to redlining and racial discrimination in these neighborhoods. Evansville has its share of similar problems, but one group was working to do ministry work that was "revitalizing" neighborhoods without falling into the trap of pricing residents out.

As we served alongside them, we discovered how the prayerful way they worked on homes and rebuilt in the poorest neighborhood in the city, Tepe Park, was helping decrease crime, increase school attendance, and provide safe outlets for families - all without accidentally pricing out long-term residents. When the goal was to create a community, not turn out a huge profit, they could go slower, build better relationships, and work with the neighbors to meet real needs. We got to see this work first-hand, and much of our week was spent doing physical labor *and* learning from these neighbors.

Two years ago, we returned to Evansville. We saw the work we began on some houses finally completed, with one we helped tear rotting walls out of transformed into a move-in ready home for a family. Walking the neighborhood was shocking in

a great way - entire blocks looked restored! As we spent another week engaging this work, we could see how building community takes not just hard work, but lots of patience.

Now, as we seek to return this summer, we are eager to see how the work we've begun has been added to by other groups in the last two years. We hope to see more transformation (and less poison ivy). Not just because this particular neighborhood in a mid-sized city two states away is somehow uniquely important, but because it speaks to the Kingdom that God offers us. As kids grow and leave for colleges or jobs near and far, they are tasked with being a living stone in God's beloved community - caring for others through hard work and relationship building. Critically, it takes lots of patience. Having a dedicated site where we have been able to see the fruit of labor and patience together is an incredible gift for our youth as they head to their next communities. I hope and trust that they will carry the lessons learned from Tepe Park to Columbia, and beyond to wherever the Spirit takes them next.

That's partly why I'm passionate about Burns Night. Yes, I love any excuse to bust out my kilt, and yes, I love the sticky toffee pudding, but really, any event that raises money to get these mission trips off the ground is worth our full attention. Burns Night is a way to showcase our youth, the work they are doing, and the ways they are bringing God's light into communities across the country. So please, come and join the fun! It supports a phenomenal group of kids doing great things. If you can volunteer on the day-of, especially in the kitchen (and washing dishes), or can help find items for the silent auction, it will go a long way toward making the night - and the trip - a great experience for all. Please reach out, I'm more than happy to get you involved, and would love to share more about this ministry!

Topher Endress

Burns Night 2026

Saturday, January 24

Buy tickets now:

<https://firstchristian.org/burnsnight>



JAN. 24

**BURNS
NIGHT**

**DINNER AND
CEILIDH DANCE**

@ FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

5:45-10 PM

[FirstChristian.org/BurnsNight](https://firstchristian.org/BurnsNight)

A youth service fundraiser





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

Worship Serving Schedule

Sunday, December 28, 2025

OFFICE RECEPTIONIST: Don Mosby
WELCOME STATION: Susan Gray
FLOWER MINISTRY: Dave & Debbie Potthast
COFFEE FELLOWSHIP: No Coffee Hour
EARLY SERVICE HELPERS:
Mary & Laura Daugherty
COMMUNION PREP: Tori & Abby Pine
GREETERS: Stacy Silverwood (N. DOOR),
Ryan Silverwood (S. DOOR), Chuck Scott
(ATRIUM), Carrie Batterson (PORTICO)
AV TEAM: Cliff Judy
LITURGIST: TBD
8:30 ELDER: Mary Daugherty
10:30 ELDERS: Steve Evers, Tracy Evers,
Allie Schomaker (Balcony)
DEACONS: The Hunsaker Team
CHILDREN'S WORSHIP:
No Children's Worship
OFFERING COUNTERS:
Sarah Storm and TBD

Worship Serving Schedule

Sunday, January 4, 2026

OFFICE RECEPTIONIST: Tracy Fuemmeler
WELCOME STATION: Steve Humble
FLOWER MINISTRY: TBD
COFFEE FELLOWSHIP: Paula & C.K. Hoenes
EARLY SERVICE HELPERS:
Natalie & Richard Banard
COMMUNION PREP:
Amy Marrero & Ryan Stem
GREETERS: Steve Humble (N. DOOR),
Jessica Humble (S. DOOR), Gerald Ramsey
(ATRIUM), Susan Ramsey (PORTICO)
AV TEAM: Chris Fuemmeler
LITURGIST: Paige Freed
8:30 ELDER: Cherry Hinderberger
10:30 ELDERS: Jeff Underwood, Tori Pine,
Ryan Hunsaker (Balcony)
DEACONS: The Potthast Team
CHILDREN'S WORSHIP: Holly Gieseke
OFFERING COUNTERS:
Sarah Storm and Jean Juba