



the VISITOR

December 5, 2025

Vol. 82, No. 18

OUR MISSION

To know God and
follow Jesus Christ.

Happening Soon

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

Second 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
- Blue Christmas, 3pm, Sanctuary
- YG End of Year Party, 5pm, YFH

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9

- Bible Study, 10:30am, Morris Parlor
- Staff Meeting, 2pm, Morris Parlor
- Cabinet Meeting, 6:30pm, Morris Parlor

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10

- Midweek Connect, 10:30am, Zoom
- Bible Study, 12pm, Morris Parlor
- Desserts with Ladies' Book Club, 2pm, Mary Daugherty's Home
- Chancel Bell Choir, 5pm, 3rd Floor
- Stewardship & Finance Meeting, 5:30pm, Morris Parlor
- Chancel Choir, 5:45pm, 3rd Floor

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



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

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 7TH

*"The Prince of Peace's
Kingdom"*

ISAIAH 11:1-9

REV. DR. BRAD STAGG, PREACHING

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)"*

UPCOMING EVENTS



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 collected 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.

Living Nativity

Living Nativity on Friday, December 5

Join us for The District's
"Living Windows" as FCC
displays a "Living Nativity" on
the East Lawn (10th Street)!

Our Living Nativity will utilize
FCC youth, costumes, and taped music with
narrations and special lighting. We hope
you'll join us this evening for this special
annual performance!



Blue Christmas Service

Sunday, December 7th at 3:00 p.m.

Join us for a quiet service of hope
and healing for those whose bur-
den may be heavy this Christmas
season. For anyone who experiences grief
during the holiday season or those who
have experienced loss over the years that
make holidays difficult or different, this
service is for you. Join us on Sunday,
December 7 at 3:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.



Ladies' Book Club

*Ladies' Book Club Dessert on
Wednesday, December 10*

December Ladies' Book Club will
meet for dessert at Mary Daugh-
erty's home on Wednesday, December 10
at 2:00 p.m. We will discuss Rev. Topher
Endress' book *Accompanying Disability*.
Copies of this book are available for pur-
chase or to borrow from the Church Office.



DECEMBER

Birthdays

December 8 - Alexandra Estes, Gabriel Palmer,
Kenzie Von Talge

December 10 - Curtis Snow, Cheryl Unterschultz

December 12 - Will Bower

December 13 - Virginia Ivey

December 14 - Debbie Schultz, Susan Woodbury

Anniversaries

December 12 - Kathy Ramser & Mark Goodwin

News of the People & Places

Thank You...

I have received lab reports from my recent cancer surgery. The cancer found was early Stage 1 and completely removed. All surrounding tissue was cancer free so we have much to be thankful for. Ken and I are very grateful for your cards, prayers and loving support that have helped us so much. Wishing each of you a blessed Christmas,

Nancy Watson

Thank you for the flowers, brought by **Eric Seaman**, for my birthday. They made my day!

Charlie Koelling

I want to thank **Dan Gieseke** for the flower delivery, and I want to thank everyone for their prayers and cards. I am doing very well!

Steve Smith



Christmas Special Offering

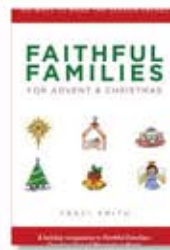
Christmas Offering taken on Sundays, December 14 & 21

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

2 this year on Sundays, December 14 & 21.



Advent Devotionals Available

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

News from Mother's Day Out

Updates Coming to Mother's Day Out

For more than 40 years, Mother's Day Out Preschool at First Christian Church has been a place where our youngest children—ages 8 weeks to 5 years—are cherished, nurtured, and prepared for a lifelong love of learning. Families treasure MDO for its joyful, play-based classrooms, its strong sense of community, and the gentle foundation of safety, kindness, and gratitude it provides. These same principles are now extended to children and young families on Sunday mornings in our church nursery.



This past year has been one of renewal and growth, and we are excited about the future. As part of that journey, MDO is working to restore and enrich our preschool spaces for the next generation. Projects include updated flooring, playground improvements, new classroom furniture, and support for a scholarship fund. You will hear more about these specific projects in the new year.

Every gift—large or small—directly impacts the children and families we serve. Thank you for keeping MDO in your prayers and for considering how you might be part of this legacy of joy, safety, and learning.

Inclement Weather Policy

Winter weather is unpredictable. So - how do you know if events with First Christian are canceled? Look on the local TV Stations for church closings & cancellations — we will be listed as "First Christian Church, Columbia." Check carefully — if it doesn't say Columbia, it's not us! FCC also follows the direction of Columbia Public Schools — if schools are closed because of inclement weather, so are any programs at church. The church office adjusts as able. You can also check our Facebook page for updates. Church services will almost always be held, but virtual worship will also be available to those who can't make it to church. If you'd like to receive our weekly virtual worship link to your inbox, visit the church website at firstchristian.org/online-worship.



Mark Your Calendars...



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: *On Christmas Night*; *O, Come Rejoicing* and *Joy to the World*! 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.

Christmas Eve Worship will be held this year on Wednesday, December 24, with two opportunities at 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. At 5:00 p.m., the sanctuary will be open for quiet and guided meditation time. Our traditional candlelight & communion service will be held at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. All are welcome and invited to join us in worship this Christmas.

Last chance!



On Sundays, December 14 & 21, our sanctuary will be even more beautiful with poinsettias placed there in honor or in memory of loved ones. To order, complete the information below and return the slip, along with your contribution to the church office.

The poinsettias will be ordered by the church and placed in the sanctuary for you. They may be picked up after the 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service.

Please return this form to the church office by:

Monday, December 8

(or e-mail your info to fcc@firstchristian.org and put your payment in the payment drop box in the office)

I (we) are giving # _____ total Poinsettia(s) at **\$8.00 each**.

In **MEMORY** of: _____

AND/OR

In **HONOR** of: _____

Please list the following name or family as donor: _____



Cabinet Meeting

Tuesday, December 9 @ 6:30 p.m.

Organ Renovation Updates

Levsen Returning in December to Install Pipes

Due to inclement weather and staff health, Levsen rescheduled their plans to return to Columbia the first week of December to later in the month. When they arrive, they plan to install the largest pipes back into the organ chambers. We are looking for



heavy lifters to help make this happen! If you're available in the upcoming weeks and are interested in helping out, please contact **Dan Gieseke** (dangieseke2@gmail.com) or **Topher Otake** (totake@firstchristian.org) for more information!



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

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5

Living Nativity, 6-8pm

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Blue Christmas Service, 3pm
End of Youth Group Party, 5pm

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Christmas Pageant, 4pm
Tasting Party, 5pm

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19

MDO Christmas Program, 5pm

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Christmas Cantata (both services)
Choir Christmas Caroling 12:30 pm

Worship Serving Schedule

Sunday, December 7, 2025

OFFICE RECEPTIONIST:

Carole Harris-Randerson

WELCOME STATION: Steve Humble

FLOWER MINISTRY: Anne Crousore

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP: The Gieseke

EARLY SERVICE HELPERS:

Carole & Mike Randerson

COMMUNION PREP:

Natalie & Richard Barnard

GREETERS: Chris Fuemmeler (N. DOOR),

Tracy Fuemmeler (S. DOOR), Janelle

Patterson (ATRIUM), Cindy Rose (PORTICO)

AV TEAM: Janelle Patterson & Dan Backues

LITURGIST: Meg Judy

8:30 ELDER: Cherry Hinderberger

10:30 ELDERS: Allie Schomaker, Mark Mills,
Dan Tevis (Balcony)

DEACONS: The Pothast Team

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP: Holly Gieseke

OFFERING COUNTERS:

Deb Batterson and Janelle Patterson