



the VISITOR

January 16, 2025
Vol. 82, No. 23

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

Happening Soon

SUNDAY, JANUARY 18

- Worship, 8:30 & 10:30am
- Coffee Fellowship Hour, 9:30am, YFH
- Adult Sunday School, 9:30am, Cinema
- K-5 Sunday School, 9:30am, 3rd Floor
- 6-12 Sunday School, 9:30am, Higbee
- Kitchen Sanitizing, 12pm, Kitchen
- CYF, 5pm, YFH

MONDAY, JANUARY 19

Church Office Closed, MLK Day

TUESDAY, JANUARY 20

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

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21

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

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24

- Burns Night Supper & Ceilidh, 5:45pm

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25

No Youth Groups, Burns Night Rest Day!

- Worship, 8:30 & 10:30am
- Coffee Fellowship Hour, 9:30am, YFH
- Adult Sunday School, 9:30am, Cinema
- K-5 Sunday School, 9:30am, 3rd Floor
- 6-12 Sunday School, 9:30am, Higbee



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

2ND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

JANUARY 18TH

"Like a Dove"

JOHN 1:29-42

REV. DR. TOPHER ENDRESS, 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)"*

Burns Night Supper & Ceilidh

Tickets Available! Help Volunteer! Burns Night Supper on Saturday, January 24

Can you believe that Burns Night is just over a week away? Our annual fundraiser for youth mission & service trips is upon us, and you can help make it happen! Volunteers are needed to help clean this kitchen this Sunday, cook this upcoming week, to help

clean dishes during the event, to clean up the night of, and to help run the silent auction. Anyone with connections to local businesses or who would like to donate goods/services for the auction should contact **Sam Endress**, and anyone looking to volunteer should contact **Topher Endress**. There will be a sign up sheet in the Narthex this Sunday, as well, but the **BEST** way to support the youth is to share this event with your friends and family - the more the merrier!

Tickets are now available for the event. Individual admission is \$40.00, but two tickets are discounted for \$70.00, with each additional ticket discounted to \$35.00 each. Tickets for the dance (ceilidh) only are also available for \$20.00. You can purchase tickets in the Church Office during the week, or online: <https://bit.ly/burnsnight>.

This year, the youth are heading back to Evansville, In for a third year. The youth are eager to see how the work they've begun over two separate trips since 2022 has been added to by other groups in the last few years. They will spend another week in the Tepe Park neighborhood, offering their time, muscle, and attention.



Burns Night 2026

Saturday, January 24

Buy tickets now:

<https://firstchristian.org/burnsnight>



Church Office Closed

Monday, January 19
Martin Luther King Jr. Day



2025 Giving Statements

Giving statements for 2025 were mailed out last Friday. Please contact **Justin DeWick** in the Church Office (businessmanager@firstchristian.org) if you'd like a mid-year pledge report for 2025-26, or if you didn't receive your statement.

JANUARY

Birthdays

January 21 - Pat Hoehle (97!)

January 23 - Jeff Alexander, Anastasia Palmer

January 24 - Jesse Barnes



News of the People & Places

Prayers of Health & Healing...

- **John Clark** was taken to the VA Hospital on Sunday following a medical emergency and is doing well. Thank you all for your support and compassionate response during worship on Sunday.
- **Jane Eckert** had a bad reaction to a spinal injection last week and continues to heal.
- **Don Mosby** had colon surgery on Monday, January 5 and returned home from the hospital on Thursday, January 8.
- **Carol Slusher** remains at Lafayette Hospital in Lexington, Mo and is getting stronger as she continues to recover from pneumonia and congestive heart failure.
- **Billie Silvey** remains at Boone Hospital for a build up of carbon dioxide.

Sympathy...

- **Elizabeth Restrepo's** husband, Ricardo Jose Restrepo Pinilla, passed away last year at home on November 18. A service will be held for Ricardo on Saturday, January 24 at the St. Thomas Newman Center at 10:00 a.m. Please keep Elizabeth and Ricardo's family in your prayers during this time!

Office Updates...

- **Brad Stagg** will be out of the office from January 14 - 20. All pastoral concerns should be directed to **Topher Endress** or the church office in the meantime.

Thank You...

We are blessed at First Christian Church to have such a wonderful family! Thanks for all the cards, calls and prayers while Don was in the hospital. Brad, thank you for your faithfulness in being with us during this time. The flowers from Sunday's service that **Cherry** brought were beautiful. Thanks to **Paula Hoenes** for her support at the hospital and the delicious food at home.

Love and prayers to our Church Family,

Brenda and Don Mosby



Nominating Committee

Nomination Forms due by Monday, January 26

The first nominating committee meeting of the year has been rescheduled and will be held on Monday, January 12. The purpose of this Committee is to identify



individuals in our Congregation eligible to serve as: Elders, Deacons, members of the Administrative Board and Executive Officers; to communicate with them to determine their willingness to serve; and to prepare a Nominating Report for the Administrative Board. The Committee is also tasked with contacting Service Board members who are at three-year intervals in their tenure to determine their commitment to continue their service, and with recommending members for "Special Service Awards." To aid them in their work, this year's nomination form has been included in this week's newsletter (see insert). **For all who are not on the committee but are interested in making a nomination for this year's committee to consider, please use this form and return it to the Church Office or in the Narthex.** Additional forms will be made available in the Church Office and in the Narthex on Sunday mornings.

Winter Weather Gear Donations

As a downtown church, we have several folks who stop by looking for a variety of resources. While limited in the resources we can offer, it's nice to have a few practical items on hand, especially during the winter time - gloves, belts, thick socks - that are easy to store and give out when needed. If you have any extra items this winter that no longer fit or you no longer use that you're willing to share, we'd gladly take them off your hands! We'll also soon be in need of several short sleeve shirts (men's L-XXL) for the spring & summer, if you have any to share. All donations can be left in the Church Office with Justin or Erin. Thank you for your generosity and support!



Organ Renovation Update

Levsen Organ Company to return Monday, January 19

Levsen Organ Company spent all of last week replacing pipes and connecting them to our new windchests that were



installed in December. They plan to return on Monday, January 19 to continue this work. We continue to inch closer and closer to completion!

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

2026 NOMINATION FORM

ELDERS, DEACONS, and JUNIOR DEACONS

The 2026 Nominating Committee solicits your suggestions for congregational members to fill the offices of Elder, Deacon, and Junior Deacon on the Service Boards, as well as your nominees for "Honorary" Elders or Deacons (if any). Please indicate your nominee/s below, and return this form to any member of the committee or to the Church Office by January 26, 2026. Your suggestions and your prayerful concern will be greatly appreciated. According to our Church BYLAWS, qualifications and duties include:

ELDERS and DEACONS

Qualifications: Faithfulness in worship and study, leadership and service, good stewardship in proportion to income, Christian character and moral and spiritual example, and a willingness to fulfill the duties of the office. An Elder shall be at least thirty years of age and shall have been a member of the congregation for at least two years. A Deacon shall be at least eighteen years of age and shall have been a member of the congregation for at least one year."

Duties: Both Elders and Deacons are to promote the work of the Church through service as a member of Functional Departments as needed; assist in evangelistic visitation; be an example in Christian character and faithfulness; and perform such other duties as shall promote the growth and welfare of the Church. In addition, Elders preside at the Lord's Table; provide for the spiritual oversight and development of individual members of the congregation; assist in the conduct of worship, the ordinance of baptism and in the serving of communion to the homebound. Deacons prepare and serve Communion and assist the Elders in the development and care of individual members of the congregation.

JUNIOR DEACONS

Qualifications: Same as for Deacons EXCEPT members must be in grades 9-12 as of July 1, 2026.

Duties: The duties will correspond with those of the Deacons.

HONORARY ELDERS or DEACONS: "A member of the congregation whose exemplary life and service, in this or other congregations, merits special recognition..."

NAME OF NOMINEE: _____

OFFICE: *Please check the position for which your nomination is being made:*

(FOR THE SERVICE BOARD): ELDER _____ DEACON _____ JR. DEACON _____

(FOR HONORARY): ELDER _____ DEACON _____

Why are you nominating this person? *(Attach a letter of support or use the back of this form):*

OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE CHURCH AWARDS

The Nominating Committee also requests nominations for Outstanding Service Awards.

PERSON YOU WISH TO RECOGNIZE: _____

Why are you recognizing this person? *(Attach a letter of support or use the back of this form.):* _____

Signed _____ Date _____

Please return this form to any member of the Nominating Committee or to the Church Office by January 26, 2026.

Youth Group Schedule

Join this Sunday!



Burns Night Prep • 5pm • January 18

Burns Night Ceilidh & Supper • 5:45pm • January 24

No Youth Group (Burns Night Rest Day) • January 25

Chi-Rho • 4pm • CYF • 5pm • February 1

Save the Date! Baptism Lock-In

Saturday, March 14-Sunday, March 15

MLK Weekend 2026

Celebrating MLK Weekend in Columbia

Celebrate and remember the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. at a few different events coming up this month, beginning this evening! The Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) is hosting an MLK Weekend Kick-Off Musical at Progressive Missionary Baptist Church (702 Banks Ave). This will be a meaningful night of praise and worship beginning at 6:30 p.m. Another notable SCLC event this weekend is a Leadership Conference & Community Summit on Saturday, January 17 from 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. at the Columbia Event Center (3301 Lemone Industrial Blvd). The Daniel Boone Public Library will host a volunteer fair from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. to honor the legacy of MLK Jr. for community members to find new ways to engage in the Columbia community. The volunteer fair will be held in the Friends Room on Monday, January 19. Finally, the University will host a Martin Luther King Jr. Showcase on Tuesday, January 27 at 6:00 p.m. at the Missouri Theater (203 S. 9th St). The showcase will feature Step Afrika! the world's leading authority on the art form of stepping. MU Engage says that Step Afrika! shows "are much more than dance shows; they integrate songs, storytelling, humor, and audience participation." Please consider joining the Columbia community at some of these events this month as we remember together all of the ways our communities, our relationships, and our lives have been transformed by the work and words of Martin Luther King Jr.

Officers Meeting

Wednesday, January 21 @ 5:30 p.m.

Drennan (CWF) Meeting

Tuesday, January 27 @ 1:00 p.m.



Looking for Drivers

We have a church member in need of a weekly ride to the 10:30 worship service, and we're looking for a few more drivers to help us on Sunday mornings! Please contact **Erin** in the Church Office either at (573) 449-7265 or fcc@firstchristian.org.



Winter Meditations With Older Adults

Free Webinar Series Presented by Older Adult Ministries

Wednesdays from
January 21-February 11
12:00pm ET/11:00am CT



Winter Meditations from NBA

Webinar Series from Older Adult Ministries at NBA

Save the Date: The National Benevolent Association's collaborative partner Older Adult Ministries is hosting the Winter Meditations With Older Adults webinar series starting Wednesday, January 21st!

This four-part virtual series, featuring speakers Rev. Kimberly Weir and Mid-America's very own Rev. Dr. Paul Koch, will lead attendees through a meditation and prayer to expand and deepen spiritual connections. Winter's chill can make us cold, sometimes with a chill of heart as well as body. Chase the cold by spending an hour each week immersed in positive images, warm thoughts and meaningful conversation. You will feel wrapped in a blessing the rest of the week.

Subsequent sessions will occur each Wednesday through February 11th, all being held at 12:00pm ET/11:00am CT. Register today at <https://buff.ly/8wVW5q8>.

21 Days of Prayer

Reconciliation Ministry Invitation to 21 Days of Prayer

Reconciliation Ministry invites you to save the date and join us for 21 Days of Prayer, beginning **January 19, 2026**. Centered on the theme, "Beyond Discovery: Love in Community," this sacred time of prayer launches each year during Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend online on the Reconciliation Facebook page, grounding our journey in a legacy of reconciliation, spiritual practice, and the ongoing pursuit of justice.





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

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web: firstchristian.org



WEBSITE



GIVE

Electronic Service Requested

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, January 18, 2026

OFFICE RECEPTIONIST: Carla Tanzey

WELCOME STATION: Meg & Cliff Judy

FLOWER MINISTRY:

Mary Daugherty & Karen Hobson

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP:

Scott & Shannon Schaefer

EARLY SERVICE HELPERS:

Sue Fink & Mary Daugherty

COMMUNION PREP:

Trish Stagg & Elizabeth Mottaz

GREETERS: Jacki Davidson (N. DOOR),
Karen Hobson (S. DOOR), Susan Gray
(ATRIUM), Trish Stagg (PORTICO)

AV TEAM: Janelle Patterson & TBD

LITURGIST: Ben Carrier

8:30 ELDER: Kurt Schaefer

10:30 ELDERS: Hayley Batterson, TBD,
Cindy Rose (Balcony)

DEACONS: The Underwood Team

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP: Jessica Humble

OFFERING COUNTERS:

Janelle Patterson & Jean Juba