



the VISITOR

January 23, 2025
Vol. 82, No. 24

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

Happening Soon

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

MONDAY, JANUARY 26

- Nominating Committee, 6:30pm, Zoom

TUESDAY, JANUARY 27

- Bible Study, 10:30am, Morris Parlor
- Drennan Meeting, 1pm, Lenoir Woods
- Staff Meeting, 2pm, Morris Parlor

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28

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

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1

- 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
- Chi-Rho, 4pm, YFH
- CYF, 5pm, YFH



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

3RD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

JANUARY 25TH

*"From Fishermen to
Fishers of Men"*

MATTHEW 4:12-23

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)"*

Burns Night Supper & Ceilidh

Limited Tickets Available at the Door! Burns Night Supper on Saturday, January 24

Burns Night Supper & Ceilidh
is here! All are invited to
gather tomorrow night in the
Fellowship Hall for our annual
fundraiser for youth mission &
service trips. For those still
interested in this event,
limited tickets will be available
at the door tomorrow night.

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 still purchase tickets in
the Church Office during the day on Friday or online: <https://bit.ly/burnsnight>. All other
tickets should be purchased at the door. Join us tomorrow for an evening of music,
dinner, and dancing, all with a uniquely Scottish flair!



Burns Night 2026

Saturday, January 24

Buy tickets now:

[https://firstchristian.org/
burnsnight](https://firstchristian.org/burnsnight)



Nominating Committee

Last Chance! Nomination Forms due by this Monday, January 26

The second nominating committee meeting of the year is
scheduled for Monday, January 26. The purpose of this
Committee is to identify individuals in our Congregation eligible to serve as: Elders, Dea-
cons, 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 com-
mitment to continue their service. **For all who are not on the committee but are inter-
ested in making a nomination for leadership positions or special recognition awards
for this year's committee to consider, please use these forms and return them to the
Church Office or in the box in the Narthex.** All forms should be returned before the up-
coming Nominating Committee meeting on this upcoming Monday, January 26.



JANUARY

Birthdays

January 26 - Jan Keithley

January 28 - Jim Baumgartner

January 29 - Bryan Freed, Cole Galbraith, Cooper Mast

January 30 - Debbie Taylor

February 1 - Amy Marrero

Anniversaries

January 30 - Larry & Nora Dietzel



News of the People & Places

Prayers of Health & Healing...

- **John Clark** was released from the VA hospital early last week and is recovering at home.
- **Becky Beary's** brother, Danny, had a quadruple bypass surgery at Boone Hospital on Monday, January 19.
- **Mary Thompson's** health has taken a turn, and her family invites visitors while she is still well enough to receive people.
- **Carol Slusher** was released from the hospital last week and will recover at her son's house as she continues to build back her strength.
- **Billie Silvey** was released from the hospital last week and is recovering at home.
- **Brad Stagg** has back surgery scheduled for Wednesday, January 28. The recovery timeline is currently unknown, but he will likely be out of the office for at least a week.

Office Updates...

- **Brad Stagg** will tentatively be out of the office from January 28 - February 7 as he recovers from his back surgery. All pastoral concerns should be directed to **Topher Endress** or the church office in the meantime.

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 you no longer use and you're willing to share, we'd gladly take them! 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!



MDO Moments

Mother's Day Out Preschool ended 2025 on a joyful note—

our Christmas Program was a tremendous success! The sanctuary was filled with families and friends as our students and staff brought holiday songs, movements and sounds that



reflected the joyful spirit of the season to the MDO Community. For many of our little friends, this was the first time they had ever performed and they were both very brave and also full of excitement—we are so proud of them all! For many of our MDO parents and family members, this was the first time they had seen the inside of our beautiful sanctuary, and the arrival of the FCC Poinsettias together with the return of the sanctuary Christmas tree that very morning made a great backdrop for pictures of our little performers and their parents. Our program ended with an invitation to the FCC Christmas Eve service, and we saw two additional MDO families on Christmas Eve in response!

We're excited to announce a fresh new look for our two's classroom!

As part of the transformation to create more usable space in the MDO Suite, we said goodbye to the loft that no longer met today's classroom safety standards and uncovered a wall that would not have passed our annual state inspection. With the help of **Ryan & Jodie Silverwood**, we have covered



this wall in bright white shiplap, and the finished product is stunning! Not only does this update create a warm and inviting space for MDO two-year-olds, it also sets the tone for the new look of our Mother's Day Out Program. We can't wait for you to see how these small changes enhance the learning and play environment for our children.

Our MDO community is growing in the best way! I'm excited to announce that we are expecting a total of NINE new siblings in 2026! These little ones will be welcomed into young families who are already a part of Mother's Day Out, and we couldn't be happier for them all. Please join us in praying for healthy pregnancies and smooth transitions as we prepare to welcome these precious additions. *(cont'd on pg 3)*

MDO Moments (cont'd)

(cont'd from pg 2) Please also pray for MDO admin as we work to find the way to accommodate all of these families in our infant room(s).

We are truly grateful to the membership of First Christian Church for your continued support. While you may not be involved in the preschool's daily activities, your encouragement, prayers, and positive words mean so much to our staff and this program. Your foundation of support helps MDO continue to move forward with confidence, knowing our larger community stands with us as we nurture and grow together. We look forward to sharing more joyful moments with you soon!

Hayley Batterson



2026 DOC Peace Interns

The Disciples Peace Fellowship is now accepting applications for the 2026 Summer Peace Intern Program! The DPF Peace Intern Program provides a paid position (\$3,000 grant for the 12-week program) where DPF takes care of all the scheduling and pays for all of the travel arrangements.

DPF Peace Interns spend the summer serving as Ambassadors for Peace and Justice. In addition to serving on Program Staff at Church Camps throughout the United States and Canada, the 2026 Peace Interns will also have alternative service weeks where they work with Disciples Justice Ministry groups, Local Congregational Partners, and/or Ecumenical Peace Organizations to develop specific, pre-defined projects. Applications are due by Sunday, February 1, 2026. Find more information and apply online at disciplespeace.org/apply.

Youth Group Schedule

Join this Sunday!

YOUTH
GROUP

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

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

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

CYF (Devotional Night) • 5pm • February 8

Save the Date! Baptism Lock-In

Saturday, March 14-Sunday, March 15

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.



February 2026 Winter Talk

Center for Indigenous Ministries Hosting February Winter Talk

Hosted by Center for Indigenous Ministries (DOC), Winter Talk is dedicated to furthering the conversation on the Christian Doctrine of Discovery and its dismantling. All people are welcome to Winter Talk; a place and space of accountability to American Indignity where the Indigenous voice is principle in an exploration of the past, an understanding of the present, and a visioning of the future.

Winter Talk will be taking place in 2026 in Tulsa, Oklahoma, Sunday, February 1 – Tuesday, February 3 with a virtual option. Winter Talk 2026 speakers will include: Joshua Shawnee, Conrad M. Rocha, Lisa Barnett, and Crow Eddy.

Find more information about the gathering and how to register online: <https://centerforindigenousministries.org/winter-talk-2020/>.





101 N. 10th Street
Columbia, MO 65201
573-449-7265

email: fcc@firstchristian.org
web: firstchristian.org



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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 25, 2026

OFFICE RECEPTIONIST: Debbie Potthast

WELCOME STATION: Susan Gray

FLOWER MINISTRY: Brenda & Don Mosby

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP: The Gieseke

EARLY SERVICE HELPERS: Joe & Kim Reardon

COMMUNION PREP: Sharon & Steve Smith

GREETERS: Cindy Smith (N. DOOR),
Doug Smith (S. DOOR), Chris Fuemmeler
(ATRIUM), Tracy Fuemmeler (PORTICO)

AV TEAM: Dan Gieseke

LITURGIST: Laura Hunsaker

8:30 ELDER: Eric Seaman

10:30 ELDERS: C.K. Hoenes, Paula Hoenes,
Fred Mottaz (Balcony)

DEACONS: The Hunsaker Team

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP: Holly Gieseke

OFFERING COUNTERS:

Sarah Storm and Deb Batterson