



the VISITOR

January 9, 2025
Vol. 82, No. 22

OUR MISSION
To know God and
follow Jesus Christ.

Happening Soon

SUNDAY, JANUARY 11

- 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
- Un-Decorate the Church, 12pm
- Chi-Rho, 4pm, YFH
- CYF, 5pm, YFH

MONDAY, JANUARY 12

- Nominating Committee, 6:30pm, Zoom

TUESDAY, JANUARY 13

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

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14

- Midweek Connect, 10:30am, Zoom
- Ladies' Book Club, 11:30am, Morris Parlor
- Bible Study, 12pm, Brad's Office
- Bell Choir Rehearsal, 5pm, 3rd Floor
- Stewardship & Finance Meeting, 5:30pm, Morris Parlor
- Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 5:45pm, 3rd Floor

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
- CYF, 5pm, YFH



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

BAPTISM OF THE LORD

JANUARY 11TH

*"The Lord's Chosen
Servant"*

ISAIAH 42:1-9

REV. DR. BRAD STAGG, PREACHING

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.



The church staff wishes to thank the congregation for every contribution made to this year's staff Christmas fund. We are so grateful for all of the ways this congregation cares for us, encourages us, and makes the work that we do possible. The care from the members of First Christian for their church staff has been and continues to be abundant!

With so much love and appreciation,

**Brad, Topher E., Topher O, Rochelle, Travis,
Justin, Erin, Maria, & the MDO Nursery Team**

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)"*

REGULAR WORSHIP SCHEDULE RESUMES

Regular Worship Schedule Returns

**Two Worship Services, Coffee Hour,
Sunday School, & Youth Groups Return
Sunday**

This Sunday, January 11, will be the return to our full worship schedule! We'll have two worship services at 8:30 & 10:30 a.m., and both coffee hour and Sunday School (Adults in the 3rd Floor Cinema, Grades 6-12 in Higbee, and K-5 on the 3rd Floor) at 9:30 a.m. Youth Groups will return with Chi-Rho (Grades 6-8) meeting at 4 p.m. and CYF (Grades 9-12) at 5 p.m. in Yonker Fellowship Hall. Youth Group this month will focus on our upcoming mission trip fundraiser, because until January 25, it's all hands on deck! The youth will take a well-earned break on Sunday, January 25 following the fundraiser.

2025 Giving Statements

Giving statements for 2025 will be mailed by the end of next week. Please contact **Justin DeWick** in the Church Office (businessmanager@firstchristian.org) if you'd like a mid-year pledge report for 2025-26 as well.

JANUARY

Birthdays

January 12 - Pat Hoehle (97!)

January 13 - Jeff Alexander, Anastasia Palmer

January 14 - Jesse Barnes

January 15 - Susan Ballard

January 16 - Lennon Veatch

January 17 - Carolyn Savoy

Anniversaries

January 18 - Cliff & Meg Judy



News of the People & Places

Prayers of Health & Healing...

- **Luke Stagg** had a successful back surgery on Tuesday, December 23 at Boone Hospital.
- **Carrie Batterson's** nephew, Landon Vishy, had 20 polyps that came back negatively as cancerous, but Landon and family still await news from a biopsy to determine if he has cancer.
- **Don Mosby** was admitted to Boone Hospital for a GI issue over the weekend, and had surgery on Monday, January 5.
- **Carol Slusher** was admitted to the hospital in Lexington, Mo for pneumonia and congestive heart failure.
- **Billie Silvey** is at Boone Hospital and in the ICU for a build up of carbon dioxide.

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...

What a wonderful choir our church has. Before Christmas they came and sang for me. Then I was surprised when they sang Happy Birthday. **Eric Seaman** brought communion and I also received several cards. Thanks so much to all of you.

Dorothy Baumgartner

Organ Renovation Update

More pipes to be reinstalled this week & upcoming weeks

Levsen Organ Company returned on Monday, January 5 to continue the work of reinstalling pipes in the organ. We look forward to next week when we'll have a better sense of the timeline for the completion of this project. Thank you all for your time, energy, and support during this extensive project!



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.



Ladies Book Club

Resumes on Wednesday, January 14 at 11:30 a.m. in Morris

Below you'll find the second half of the Ladies Book Club reading list for 2025-26. All are invited to join the book club on the 2nd Wednesday of the month in **Morris Parlor at 11:30 a.m.** Bring a sack lunch and prepare for a good conversation!



The following is this spring's schedule and book list:

- ♦ **Jan. 14** - *All the Colors of the Dark* by Chris Whitaker
- ♦ **Feb. 11** - *Winter Garden* by Kristin Hannah (Edie Pigg)
- ♦ **Mar. 11** - *Long Way Home* by Lynn Austin (Betty Montgomery)
- ♦ **April 8** - *The Secret Way of Julia Child* by Diana Chambers (Debbie Schultz)
- ♦ **May 14** - *The Flower Sisters* by Michelle Collins Anderson (Barb Rothenberger)

Happy reading, all! See you on Wednesday!

Nominating Committee Meeting

Monday, January 12 @ 6:30 p.m.

Stewardship & Finance Meeting

Wednesday, January 14 @ 5:30 p.m.



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!



Chi-Rho • 4pm • CYF • 5pm • January 11

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

Burns Night Supper & Ceilidh

Tickets Available! Burns Night Supper on Saturday, January 24



This new year and the beginning of January is "go time" for Burns Night prep, as FCC youth turn their attention to their upcoming summer mission trip! 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. To raise the support needed for this trip, we are hosting our 4th Annual Burns Night and Ceilidh! The last three years have been a lot of work, but for a great payoff that can't be measured in just dollars and cents. This event is a big opportunity for the youth to showcase their hard work and for FCC to share our rich community with the wider Columbia area. This year, Burns Night will be January 24, from 5:45 - 10:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Volunteers are needed to help cook the week of, 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 beginning January 4, 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. 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>.

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



Being Well: Sacred Practices for the Journey



Rev. Joselyn
Spence, LPC, ATR,
RYT-500



Cameron
Cunningham,
M. Div.

**Thursday, January 15th
12:30pm ET/11:30am CT**

Register at
www.nbacares.org/events



National
Benevolent
Association

NBA Sacred Practices Workshop

National Benevolent Association Workshop on January 15

Start off your 2026 wellness on the right foot with the National Benevolent Association! The National Benevolent Association is the health and social services general ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Join NBA on Thursday, January 15 for the Being Well: Sacred Practices for the Journey workshop! Hosted by NBA's Mental Health and Wellness program, this interactive workshop invites clergy and leaders to step into the new year with intentional rhythms that nurture body, mind, and spirit. It will offer both practical and spiritual practices designed to sustain holistic wellness, and participants will discuss the realities of leadership wellbeing and discover ways to cultivate resilience, wholeness, and renewal- equipping them with sacred practices that carry beyond the workshop and into the year ahead. This is not limited to church leaders - this is for every person interested in engaging spiritual practice in their lives of work and ministry.

The 90-minute workshop commences at 12:30pm ET/11:30am CT. There is no cost to attend but registration is required.

Visit <https://buff.ly/BTgnBdn> to sign up today!



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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, January 11, 2026

OFFICE RECEPTIONIST: Debbie Potthast

WELCOME STATION: Valerie Freed

FLOWER MINISTRY: Cherry Hinderberger

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP:

Tracy & Chris Fuemmeler

EARLY SERVICE HELPERS:

Laura & Mary Daugherty

COMMUNION PREP:

Allie, Richard, & Aubrey Schomaker

GREETERS: Larry Veatch (N. DOOR),

Peggy Veatch (S. DOOR), Elizabeth Mottaz
(ATRIUM), Edie Pigg (PORTICO)

AV TEAM: Cole Freed & Noah Stagg

LITURGIST: Chris Fuemmeler

8:30 ELDER: Cherry Hinderberger

10:30 ELDERS: Eric Arnett, Jessica Humble,
Paula Hoenes (Balcony)

DEACONS: The Judy Team

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP: Hayley Batterson

OFFERING COUNTERS:

Deb Batterson and Cindy & Doug Smith