



## the VISITOR

July 11, 2025  
Vol. 82, No. 1

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

### Happening Soon

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 9—16**

*CYF Mission Trip to Memphis*

**SATURDAY, JULY 12—15**

*DOC General Assembly in Memphis, TN*

**SUNDAY, JULY 13**

- Coffee Fellowship Hour, 9am, YFH
- Worship, 9:30am, Sanctuary

**TUESDAY, JULY 15**

- Bible Study, 10:30am, Morris Parlor

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 16**

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

**THURSDAY, JULY 17**

- Bell Choir Rehearsal, 5:30pm, 3rd Floor

**SUNDAY, JULY 20**

- Coffee Fellowship Hour, 9am, YFH
- Worship, 9:30am, Sanctuary

**TUESDAY, JULY 22**

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

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 23**

- Bible Study, 12pm, Morris Parlor
- Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 5:30pm, 3rd Floor

**THURSDAY, JULY 24**

- Bell Choir Rehearsal, 5:30pm, 3rd Floor

**SUNDAY, JULY 27**

- Coffee Fellowship Hour, 9am, YFH
- Worship, 9:30am, Sanctuary



A congregation related to  
**The Christian Church  
(Disciples of Christ)**  
[www.disciples.org](http://www.disciples.org)

### 5TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

**JULY 13TH**

*"The Good Neighbor"*

Luke 10:25-37

REV. DR. BRAD STAGG PREACHING

### 6TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

**JULY 20TH**

*"Sitting at Jesus' Feet"*

Luke 10:38-43

REV. DR. BRAD STAGG, PREACHING

### 2 WORSHIP OPTIONS

**IN-PERSON AT CHURCH @ 9:30 AM:**

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)"*

### CYF Mission Trip to Memphis

*CYF Mission Trip from July 9-16 in Memphis, TN*

The FCC CYF group left on Wednesday, July 9 to travel to Memphis for a combo mission trip/General Assembly.

During their time in Memphis, they will get to work through Serve901, a nonprofit that connects groups to service projects, while also attending sessions at GA and learning about how our denomination works overall. The DoC has pushed for more youth to be involved with the General Assembly for years, and now our youth will not only get to be present but many have been selected as 'at-large' voters! That means that FCC will get to play a large part in helping our whole denomination think about critical issues moving forward, all while learning and serving the community. Our kids are a gift to us, and now they get to be a gift to the whole denomination!



### Scholarship Sunday

**Scholarship Sunday Rescheduled: Sunday, July 27**

Scholarship Sunday has been rescheduled. Scholarship awards will be presented on Sunday, July 27 during 9:30 a.m. worship. All scholarship awards and letters will be mailed out in early July.

### Koelling Scholarship

**Charlie & Bettie Koelling Memorial Scholarship**

We are pleased to announce the Charles & Bettie Koelling Scholarship created in Bettie's memory this year by her beloved husband, Charlie, of nearly 78 years.

The first recipient of the Koelling Scholarship will be rewarded this month. This scholarship is available to all FCC students enrolling in higher education. We thank Charlie for his generosity and support of students and the pursuit of higher education, as well as all who have contributed to scholarships!





## Chi-Rho Day of Service

### *Successful Chi-Rho Day of Service on Monday, June 30*

On June 30, kids from the Chi-Rho youth group (plus some older helpers from CYF) spent their Monday caring for the church and our neighborhood. Five youth and two adult chaperones (huge shout out to **Stacy Silverwood** for her leadership and exemplary example of work ethic!) gave up a bit of summer freedom to take down the VBS decorations, clean out the church bus, pick up trash throughout our neighborhood, sanitize toys for MDO, and play some games. We talked about how FCC wants to be a good neighbor to the families using our excellent childcare, and how being invitational to our immediate neighborhood means being servant-minded. Thank you to **Aubrey, Lexi, Cole, Peyton, Faith, and Stacy**, for a wonderful day, great fun, and all your help serving the church!

## Nursery Transition & Update

### *Nursery Overseen & Staffed by Mother's Day Out*

At the Administrative Board meeting on Tuesday, June 17, the Board approved a proposal to shift the management of the nursery from the Associate Minister to the Director & Assistant Director of Mother's Day Out. This shift of management allows for Mother's Day Out Staff to work in the nursery on Sunday mornings, which will significantly benefit the church as we will have fully trained childcare staff in the nursery on Sunday mornings. We are grateful that this transition further deepens the connection between the program during the week and the church on Sunday mornings. This shift in staffing aligned with a current nursery turnover as one of our nursery staff, **Amelia Leon-Rudy**, leaves for school in the fall. There will be more updates to come from the nursery, but we are grateful to see new faces join us each Sunday!

## 13th Annual Christmas Bazaar

### *Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, November 15, 2025*

Do you have art or crafts that you are interested in selling? Why not be a part of our Christmas Bazaar! Also, if you have a friend that you think would be interested, let her/him know of the event. This is going to be another great day! There will be a \$35 charge per booth.



Also, be thinking about your favorite cookie or candy recipe for sale in our "Cookie/Candy Caravan" as well as your favorite bread for us to slice and serve with coffee. It's going to be a fun day! Call **Brenda Mosby** at 573-881-8385. She would love to visit with you.

## Welcome New Member!

### *Welcoming Carla Tanzey!*

**Carla Tanzey** joined First Christian Church on Sunday, June 29. Carla has been attending the 8:30 service over the last few months, and had already jumped in to service with FCC through Breakfast for Our Brethren (one Friday she made us 300+ pancakes!) and Loaves and Fishes. We are so excited to officially welcome her into the community of FCC! The next time you see Carla, be sure to introduce yourself and offer her welcome!



## Want to Work on a Film?



This summer Luke Stagg, who was instrumental in helping FCC transition to online worship during the COVID pandemic, is looking for help to produce his final BFA project: a short film entitled "**Pool Party**" through Emerson College in Boston. This film project works with local Columbia film equipment and production companies and a volunteer crew and cast, mostly from Mid-MO. This is a fun "**Freaky Friday**" film about two high school boys swapping bodies and trying to win over the same girl at a pool party. While a zany teen comedy, the story is inspired by Luke's personal experiences with obesity, fat phobia, weight loss, and body image.



Listed below are multiple opportunities to support Luke in making this happen. All supporters and volunteers will be listed in the movie's credits.

### *Opportunities to Support:*

- Background Actors: needed to be "party goers" between the ages of high school to mid-20s. If you've ever wanted IMBD credits, here's your chance!
- Loaning/providing Supplies and Miscellaneous items
- Help with providing/preparing Meals/Snacks for any of the 10 days of filming
- Fundraising goal is \$8,000 to cover the cost of equipment rental and needed supplies for the set. If you know of any contacts that might be interested in supporting a local, upcoming filmmaker, please reach out. Executive Producer credits still remain!

If interested in providing or loaning any items for this endeavor, please respond to the email sent out with a link to the Sign Up Genius. For more information or questions, contact **Jessica Humble** at [HumbleJessica00@gmail.com](mailto:HumbleJessica00@gmail.com) or (573) 808-6394.



# Waves of Wonder VBS 2025

Wow! What an amazing week we had our Waves of Wonder VBS! We had 74 kids attend throughout the week between the MDO program and our evening program. Thank you to the MANY volunteers listed below that donated money, supplies, food, time and talents. We couldn't have done it without you!

- All the Amazon Wish List fillers
- All the Brown Bag fillers
- All the dessert & cookie bakers
- All the MDO Staff
- Topher Otake and the FCC Choir
- Hartley Rogers for the DQ ice cream
- CWF for their generous donation to VBS
- Eric, Tammy & Dietrich Arnett
- Deb Batterson
- Ben & Katie Carrier
- Topher & Sam Endress
- Valerie Freed
- Chris & Tracy Fuemmeler
- Holly Gieseke
- Cherry Hinderberger
- Karen Hobson
- Paula Hoenes
- Steve & Peyton Humble
- Basil Isle-Colon
- Vicki & Alex Johnson
- Amy Marrero
- David Meyer & Ann Stone-Meyer
- Brenda Mosby
- Rochelle Parker
- Janelle Patterson
- Erin Perry
- Kaitlyn Phee
- Edie Pigg
- Deb Potthast
- Abigail Reardon
- Scott & Shannon Schaefer
- Brad, Trish, Luke, Annie & Noah Stagg

**Jessica Humble, VBS Director**





# Mother's Day Out--The Summer of Connection and Community!

As July unfolds, MDO is fully immersed in the rhythm of summer – a dynamic period marked by continued engagement, outdoor exploration, and the vibrant energy of our young friends. While the school year is behind us (and also before us), the spirit of growth and discovery within our program remains as strong as ever!



We're delighted by the sustained interest in our program! **Registration for the upcoming school year** is ongoing, and we're seeing strong enrollment for August. We eagerly anticipate welcoming both new and returning children to what promises to be another enriching school year at MDO!

Our recent **Waves of Wonder** Vacation Bible School was a success! The church buzzed with infectious enthusiasm between 9am-1pm as even our youngest children participated in engaging activities, creative crafts, and joyful worship. Witnessing their genuine curiosity and uninhibited expression of faith was truly inspiring. A heartfelt thank you extends to our dedicated volunteers and our MDO teachers whose tireless efforts and passion were instrumental in making BOTH VBS programs such a memorable and impactful experience for so many young lives.

Our preschool serves as a vital extension of our church's outreach, providing a high-quality early educational environment for children from diverse backgrounds within our larger community. Many of these families are not formal members of our congregation, and their presence enriches our shared space with new perspectives and a wonderful vitality.

In the spirit of Christ's teachings, which emphasize boundless love and welcoming all, our preschool strives daily to embody these core values. We have a profound opportunity to demonstrate God's unconditional love and kindness to these young children and their families who utilize our facilities throughout the week. By consistently extending warmth, patience, and understanding, we actively live out our calling as Disciples, fostering an atmosphere where every individual feels genuinely valued, respected, and included. May we collectively ensure that our church building remains a beacon of unconditional love and acceptance for every person who walks through our doors.

# A Colorful Challenge: Find the Rainbows!

To celebrate the vibrant joy our MDO toddlers bring to our church, we have a fun challenge for our congregation! Our young artists have created **seven beautiful rainbows**, and we've hidden them in various spots throughout the church building.

Can you find all seven? Members who discover the location of all seven preschool-created rainbows can either take a photo with each one or simply send a list of their locations to [mdo@firstchristian.org](mailto:mdo@firstchristian.org). Everyone who

successfully completes the challenge will receive a special prize from the preschool! Happy hunting!

## New Leadership at FCC

### *New Elders & Deacons, and Admin Board Members 2025-26*

Each year, the beginning of a new fiscal year also marks the beginning of new leadership in the life of the church. This year, we are welcoming a new deacon chair and a host of new elders & deacons. Our newest elders include **Ben Carrier, Katie Carrier, Cliff Judy, Meg Judy, and Paula Slusher**. Our newest deacons include **Anne & Audra Crousore, Jerry Miller, Kathy Miller, Topher Otake, Ryan Stem, and Faith Silverwood**. We also are welcoming **Paula Hoenes, David Potthast, Debbie Potthast, and Natalie Barnard** into service on the Administrative Board! We are so grateful for the four years of dedicated service that **Debbie Potthast** has offered in the role of Deacon Chair, and with that we welcome **Ryan Hunsaker** to fill her very big shoes! Ryan will join **Eric Seaman** as our two chairs of the service boards (Elders & Deacons) at FCC. Thank you all for your dedicated leadership!

## Congregational Meeting

### *Congregation Passes FY26 Budget*

Thank you to all who joined us for the congregational meeting on Sunday, June 29 to pass the FY26 budget! We are grateful to those who joined us on Sunday, as well as those who shared their concerns, questions, or feedback for us to address during the meeting. Your attention to the budget and the budget narrative is invaluable to us as we find the best path forward. The budget for FY26 has been passed, but we want everyone to feel like any additional questions or feedback will be heard. In an effort to keep this line of communication open, please reach out to **Mark Mills** ([mark.mills@cumulus.com](mailto:mark.mills@cumulus.com)) or **Jessica Humble** ([humblejessica00@gmail.com](mailto:humblejessica00@gmail.com)) for more information or if you had any additional questions.



# News of the People & Places



## Sympathy...

- **Debbie Garton's** father, Maynard Browning, passed away on Monday, June 30. Services for Maynard were held in Nevada, Mo on Monday, July 7. Please keep Debbie & the Garton family in your prayers during this time of grief and transition.

## Prayers of Health & Healing...

- **Coleman Rogers** was injured last week while fixing a car, resulting in two stitches for an injury to his face.
- **Hartley Rogers** is recovering following carpal tunnel surgery last week.
- **Carol Slusher** spent time in the ER last week for fluid around her heart and lungs.
- **Paula Slusher** is able to put weight on her foot! She will continue to wear her boot for the next few weeks.
- **Donaleigh Richardson** was in the hospital over the weekend for fluid-like symptoms and testing.

## Heading out of town...

**Topher Endress** will be out of the office until Wednesday, July 16 on the CYF Mission Trip to Memphis, Tn. He will then be on vacation from Thursday, July 17 - Friday, July 25. **Erin Perry** will be out of the office on Monday & Tuesday, July 14 & 15 to attend General Assembly in Memphis as well.

## Thank You...

Thanks to **Fred Mottaz** for the lovely bouquet and nice visit we received to celebrate our 71st anniversary. It's nice to be remembered by our church family. **Will & Donna Houston**

## Birthdays

- July 14** - Anne Campbell
- July 15** - Tamy Arnett, Kathy Miller
- July 16** - Connie Street
- July 17** - Cullen Snow
- July 18** - Kim Boger, Judy Cunningham
- July 19** - Sonya Carney, David Ross
- July 20** - Tom Hughey
- July 22** - Gerald Ramsey
- July 23** - Judy Longaker
- July 24** - Audrey Snyder
- July 25** - Larry Dietzel, Jennifer Rose Hallam, Julia LaHue
- July 27** - Derrick Evers, Bradley Volmert

## Anniversaries

- July 16** - Jeff & Jenny Hallam
- July 18** - **Bud & Debbie Batterson (61 years!)**  
Mark & Janet Mills, Brad & Trish Staggs
- July 19** - Russ & Linda Chandler



# COAM 20th Anniversary

## COAM Celebrating 20 Years on July 31 at Love Coffee

Columbia Older Adult Ministry once again thanks the Administrative Board and the members of First Christian Church for nesting us in the church for 16 years now. COAM is celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year with a party and a new logo reveal on July 31, 2025 at Love Coffee from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. All are invited. RSVP to Sally @ 573-819-5043 or [sally@olderadultministry.org](mailto:sally@olderadultministry.org). At the event we will ask for 20 people to pledge to give \$20.00 per month. We also have a new website to be revealed soon. COAM has contracted with Floating Axe – Ellis Benis to maintain the website for us.

COAM continues to serve in the following communities weekly:

- ♦ The Arbors by Bluff Creek Terrace
- ♦ The Bluffs Retirement Community
- ♦ EverTrue Lenoir Woods
- ♦ The Neighborhoods by Tiger Place

These communities twice monthly:

- ♦ Colony Pointe and The Arbors by Colony Pointe
- ♦ Tiger Place
- ♦ Westbury Senior Living
- ♦ Unbridled Living of Columbia (formerly known as The Terrace)

We continue to seek new partnerships with local congregations. For the second year we have secured the services of Mark Palmer and Vicki Schrader for assistance in marketing and development work. They are also helping me look at what succession planning will look like in the future.

We began using Bloomerang to track our donations and donor giving. Once I fully learn all the ins and outs it will be a great resource for me in mailings and fundraising opportunities. I have been keeping track of the people I visit at each community or at least have contact with during a worship service, Bible study, devotions or one-on-one visits. In the past 6 weeks it has been 742 contacts.

Again **thank you** for supporting Columbia Older Adult Ministry by nesting us!

**Rev. Sally Robinson**

## Our Favorite Handypeople



Thank you to **Jeff Underwood** who fixed another church toilet and solved a crisis with a water fountain filter. Thank you to **Chris Fuemmeler** for using his expertise and nice toolbox to fix a window in Bethany Hall. Thank you to **Bob Hutton** for taking care of everything in between and answering all of Brenda & Erin's calls!





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101 N. 10th Street  
Columbia, MO 65201  
573-449-7265  
email: [fcc@firstchristian.org](mailto:fcc@firstchristian.org)  
web: [firstchristian.org](http://firstchristian.org)

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THIS IS A DOUBLE-ISSUE  
OF THE VISITOR!  
KEEP IT HANDY UNTIL JULY 25.

## First Christian Church

*Our Mission: To know God  
And follow Jesus Christ.*

### Ministerial Staff

Rev. Dr. Brad Stagg, Senior Minister  
[brad@firstchristian.org](mailto:brad@firstchristian.org)

Rev. Dr. Topher Endress, Associate Minister  
[topher@firstchristian.org](mailto:topher@firstchristian.org)

### Music Staff

Topher Otake, Director of Music Ministry  
[totake@firstchristian.org](mailto: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](mailto:businessmanager@firstchristian.org)

Erin Perry, Office Manager  
[fcc@firstchristian.org](mailto:fcc@firstchristian.org)

## Worship Serving Schedule

*Sunday, July 13, 2025*

### OFFICE RECEPTIONIST:

Carole Harris-Randerson

**WELCOME STATION:** Valerie Freed

**FLOWER MINISTRY:** Brenda & Don Mosby

**COFFEE FELLOWSHIP:** The Fuemmeler

### COMMUNION PREP:

Valerie & Kameron Freed

**GREETERS:** TBD (N. DOOR),

TBD (S. DOOR), Jerry Miller (ATRIUM), Kathy  
Miller (PORTICO)

**AV TEAM:** TBD

**LITURGIST:** Tracy Fuemmeler

**9:30 ELDERS:** Eric Arnett, Brenda Mosby,  
Fred Mottaz (Balcony)

**DEACONS:** The Judy Team

**CHILDREN'S WORSHIP:** Jessica Humble

### OFFERING COUNTERS:

Deb Batterson and Cindy & Doug Smith

## Worship Serving Schedule

*Sunday, July 20, 2025*

**OFFICE RECEPTIONIST:** Carrie Batterson

**WELCOME STATION:** Cliff & Meg Judy

**FLOWER MINISTRY:** Dan & Holly Gieseke

**COFFEE FELLOWSHIP:** The Gieseke

**COMMUNION PREP:** Jessica & Steve Humble

**GREETERS:** Don Mosby (N. DOOR),  
Bud Batterson (S. DOOR), Ryan Silverwood  
(ATRIUM), Stacy Silverwood (PORTICO)

**AV TEAM:** TBD

**LITURGIST:** Tracy Evers

**9:30 ELDERS:** Dan Backues, Fred Mottaz,  
Dan Tevis (Balcony)

**DEACONS:** The Underwood Team

**CHILDREN'S WORSHIP:** Holly Gieseke

### OFFERING COUNTERS:

Sarah Storm and Jerry Miller