



the VISITOR

November 14, 2025

Vol. 82, No. 15

OUR MISSION
To know God and
follow Jesus Christ.

Happening Soon

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16

- Christmas Bazaar, 8am - 2pm, YFH

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16

- 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
- CYF, 5pm, YFH

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18

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

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19

- Midweek Connect, 10:30am, Zoom
- Bible Study, 12pm, Morris Parlor
- CWF Board Meeting, 5pm, YFH
- Chancel Bell Choir, 5pm, 3rd Floor
- Officers Meeting, 5:30pm, Zoom
- Chancel Choir, 5:45pm, 3rd Floor

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23

- 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
- Youth Group Thanksgiving Potluck, 4pm



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

23RD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

NOVEMBER 16TH

"The Advent of Advent"

MALACHI 4:1-6

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)"

Annual Christmas Bazaar

This Saturday! Annual Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, November 15 from 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

We are so excited that the Christmas Bazaar is almost here! This year's bazaar will be held on Saturday, November 15 from 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. in Yonker Fellowship Hall. All are invited to shop for handcrafted gifts, art, crafts, and holiday items. You can also help us by spreading the word about this awesome event. Invite your friends and families, share flyers (these can be requested from the office!) or share the event online. Help support the church and these amazing vendors by showing up and giving this event an amazing turn out! We so look forward to working together and seeing the Columbia community at FCC!

First Christian Church
101 N. 10th - Downtown Columbia

Christmas
Bazaar



Saturday, November 15
8am - 2pm, Fellowship Hall

Arts & Crafts

from more than 25 vendors

Christmas Cookies & Sweets

Coffee & Sweet Breads

Served from 8am - 1pm



Decorate the Church

A Christian Women's Fellowship Project

Help Decorate the Church on Tuesday, November 25 at 5:30 p.m.

Can you believe that it's already time again to decorate the church for the Advent & Christmas season? The schedule for decorate is a little different this year—we'll be decorating the church on the TUESDAY prior to Thanksgiving. We'll gather at the church to set up at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, November 25. If you think you'll join us, please RSVP "Decorate" in the pew pads or by emailing the church office at fcc@firstchristian.org. Any and all help is appreciated! See you then!



Advent & Christmas Calendar

Our calendar of events for the Advent season is almost finalized! A few dates are posted on the backside of this newsletter, with a final list coming to you in the next few weeks.



News of the People & Places

Congratulations...

• We are celebrating with **Will & Donna Houston**, who, like Carol Slusher, just acquired their eleventh great-grand child! Owen William Smith was born to Adam and Lisa Smith of Ponder, Texas on October 24. His name made his great-grand-dad very proud!

Prayers of Health & Healing...

- **Dana Heavin** is fighting infections and is scheduled to have her bladder removed on Monday, November 17 at University Hospital.
- **Dave Potthast** had surgery on Monday, November 10 for a torn retina.
- **Charlie Koelling** is scheduled to have a cardiac catheterization on Friday, November 21 at Boone Hospital.
- **Mark Mills** continues to heal at home after having a collapsed lobe of his lung.

THE VIEW FROM HERE

The church kitchen has been getting a lot of use in the last month! Below are a few pictures from October's Loaves & Fishes, Breakfast for Our Brethren, and cookie prep for the Christmas Bazaar coming up this weekend!



Organ Renovation Updates

Levsen Organ Company returning November 10-14

The final leg of the organ project has begun this week as Levsen arrived on Tuesday with our newly restored wind chests to reinstall them and begin the process of cleaning and reinstalling the organ pipes. This process



may take several weeks, so we will be looking for a few volunteers with flexible schedules who may be able to assist Levsen with this project. We are looking for volunteers to assist throughout the week of November 17 - 20, with dates and times varying depending on where we are in the process. If you're interested in helping with this part of the renovation, please contact **Dan Gieseke** (dangieseke2@gmail.com) or **To-pher Otake** (totake@firstchristian.org) for more information! There will be a livestream available on our YouTube page as the organ is slowly put back together!

VAC Holiday Project

Adopt an Individual or Family for the VAC Holiday Project

WOW! In two weeks, FCC members have already sponsored 21 people in need for a special Christmas out of 43. We need your help and support to



make this ministry possible. Please consider clicking on the link <https://tinyurl.com/VACHoliday2025> or scanning the QR Code to provide a person with a special Christmas. There is additional information provided on the website or contact Elizabeth Mottaz with any questions.

When you adopt a person or family, you can choose to shop for their gifts, or you can send in a financial donation to the church office and the CYF group will shop for you. When adopting a person, the suggested amount for gift(s) is \$75. You may also choose to give to the project without adopting a person, so the cost of adoption is not prohibitive. **Money and gifts need to be turned in by Wednesday, December 3.** Gifts may be dropped off in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, November 21 between 8:00-10:30 a.m. and 11:30-12:00 p.m. or brought by the Church Office the week of November 22-December 3 (during regular church office hours). We are also in need of a few strong, able bodied people to help deliver the gifts on Wednesday, December 10. If you have questions, please contact **Elizabeth Mottaz**.

NOVEMBER

Birthdays

November 17 - Rich Montgomery

November 18 - Dalton Whipple

November 19 - Laura Hunsaker, Ryley Silverwood

November 21 - Laura Crane, Jamie Estes

Anniversaries

November 17 - Jeff & Jennifer Alexander

November 19 - Marion & Sarah Storm

November 21 - Tom & Carol Hughey
Darren & Tori Pine

THANKSGIVING SPECIAL OFFERING



SUPPORTING
HIGHER EDUCATION



Bringing Students and Resources Together

Thanksgiving Special Offering

Thanksgiving Special Offering taken on November 16 & 23

Our annual **Thanksgiving Offering** will be taken this year on Sundays, November 16 & 23. The Thanksgiving Offering benefits the Colleges, Universities, Seminaries, and Divinity Houses affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Higher education has been an important focus for Disciples since the very beginning of the movement.

Throughout our history, Disciples have founded institutions of higher learning to educate students and form leaders to make a difference in the world. The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is still committed to higher education. Your gift to the Thanksgiving Offering helps support the education of thousands of students at our fifteen colleges and universities as well as our seven seminaries and divinity houses.

Support for Disciples Mission Fund and gifts to the Thanksgiving Offering are a critical part of the ongoing collaborative work of church and higher education that is such a foundational part of the heritage of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Your generous gifts to this annual offering makes a difference in the lives of our students, and it makes a difference in the world.



Administrative Board Meeting
Tuesday, November 18 @ 6:30 p.m.

Youth Group Schedule

Join this Sunday!

YOUTH

GROUP

CYF • 5pm • November 16

Thanksgiving Potluck • 4-6pm • November 23

VAC Holiday Shopping • 4-6pm • November 30

End-of-the-Year Holiday Party • 4-6pm • December 7

SUGARCANE

JOIN THE FAITH COMMUNITY
SCREENING TOUR

SUGARCANE, the award-winning debut feature documentary from Julian Brave NoiseCat and Emily Kassie, is a groundbreaking investigation into an Indian residential school, shedding light on years of forced separation, assimilation and abuse that Indigenous children experienced at the hands of Church and government. This urgent and timely film brings the hidden story of cultural genocide to audiences worldwide while celebrating the resilience of Native people as they work to overcome cycles of intergenerational trauma.

RBCC Documentary Screening

"Sugarcane" Film & Discussion at RBCC on November 16

Join Rock Bridge Christian Church on Sunday, November 16 from 6:00 - 8:30 p.m. to watch the documentary *Sugarcane*, with a discussion to follow. *Sugarcane* is a groundbreaking investigation into an Indian residential school, shedding light on years of forced separation, assimilation and abuse that Indigenous children experienced at the hands of Church and government. The film and discussion will take place in the Fellowship Hall at Rock Bridge Christian Church (301 Green Meadows Circle). Please RSVP to the church (office@rockbridgecc.org) if you plan to attend.

BLUEGRASS GOSPEL SING-ALONG

Rochepoint Christian
Church

MUSIC BY GOOD TURN DAILY

NOVEMBER 22, 2025

5:00 PM



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

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15

Living Nativity, 6-8pm

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25

Decorate the Church, 5:30pm

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Hanging of the Greens (both services)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5

Living Nativity, 6-8pm

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Blue Christmas Service, 3pm
End of Youth Group Party 4-6pm

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Christmas Pageant, 4pm
Tasting Party, 5pm

Worship Serving Schedule

Sunday, November 16, 2025

OFFICE RECEPTIONIST: Tracy Fuemmeler

WELCOME STATION: Meg & Cliff Judy

FLOWER MINISTRY: Cherry Hinderberger

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP: Marcia Smith

EARLY SERVICE HELPERS:

Steve & Sharon Smith

COMMUNION PREP: Amy & Jeff LaHue

GREETERS: Cindy Smith (N. DOOR),

Doug Smith (S. DOOR), Larry Veatch

(ATRIUM), Peggy Veatch (PORTICO)

AV TEAM: Cliff Judy

LITURGIST: Dan Gieseke

8:30 ELDER: Steve Smith

10:30 ELDERS: Jennifer Alexander, Jacki

Davidson, Fred Mottaz (Balcony)

DEACONS: The Underwood Team

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP: Jessica Humble

OFFERING COUNTERS:

Jean Juba and Janelle Patterson