



the VISITOR

November 21, 2025

Vol. 82, No. 16

OUR MISSION

To know God and
follow Jesus Christ.

Happening Soon

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

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25

No Tuesday Bible Study

- Drennan Meeting, 1pm, Lenoir Woods
- Staff Meeting, 2pm, Morris Parlor
- Decorate the Church, 5:30pm

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26

No Wednesday Bible Study

- Midweek Connect, 10:30am, Zoom
- Chancel Bell Choir, 5pm, 3rd Floor
- Chancel Choir, 5:45pm, 3rd Floor

THURSDAY & FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27-28

Office Closed, Thanksgiving Holiday

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30

First Sunday in Advent

- Hanging of the Greens, 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 VAC Shopping, 4-6pm



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

24TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

NOVEMBER 23RD

LUKE 23:33-43

REV. DR. BRAD STAGG, PREACHING

Decorate the Church

Decorate the Church on

Tuesday, November 25

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!



Living Nativity

Living Nativity on Friday, December 5

Join us for The District's "Living Windows" as FCC displays a "Living Nativity" on the East Lawn (10th Street)!

Our Living Nativity will utilize FCC youth, costumes, and taped music with narrations and special lighting. Keep an eye out in the upcoming weeks for sign ups to help with this year's Living Nativity!



Church Office Closed

Thursday & Friday,
November 27 & 28
Thanksgiving Holiday



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)"



Hanging of the Greens

Hanging of the Greens during both services on Sunday, November 30

A long-standing tradition of the church is the annual "Hanging of the Greens" service held on the first Sunday during Advent. We will light the Advent candles, sing hymns and carols, hang the greens around the Sanctuary, and decorate and light the Chrismon tree. Our annual Hanging of the Greens service will be held during both the 8:30 & 10:30 services on Sunday, November 30. Due to the organ renovation, lighting and decorating the Chrismon tree may be pushed to a future Sunday instead.

Blue Christmas Service

Sunday, December 7th at 3:00 p.m.

Join us for a quiet service of hope and healing for those whose burden may be heavy this Christmas season. For anyone who experiences grief during the holiday season or those who have experienced loss over the years that make holidays difficult or different, this service is for you. Join us on Sunday, December 7 at 3:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.





News of the People & Places

Prayers of Health & Healing...

- **Dana Heavin's** bladder removal surgery has been "paused" indefinitely until there's an appropriate date to reschedule.
- **Dave Potthast** continues to heal at home from his surgery for a torn retina. Prayers for Dave's comfort during this time, and for Debbie as she acts as a very caring nurse!
- **Charlie Koelling** is scheduled to have a cardiac catheterization on Friday, November 21 at Boone Hospital.
- **Steve Smith** successfully had a pacemaker put in on Monday, November 17.

VAC Holiday Project

Adopt an Individual or Family for the VAC Holiday Project

A huge thank you to those who have already signed up to adopt a person/people for the Holiday VAC Project, but we still need your help! We only need 6 more people to adopt for a total of 43) with Christmas gifts. Please consider clicking on the link <https://tinyurl.com/VACHoliday2025> or scanning the QR Code to select a person. 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. You can drop off gifts this Sunday, November 23 8:00-10:30 am and 11:30-12:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall on the stage. If Sunday doesn't work for you, you can drop off at the church office November 22-December 3 (during regular church office hours). Thank you for your continued service to this important ministry!



ISO: Burns Night Auction Items

Gift Cards Needed for Auction Table at Burns Night

We are already preparing for this year's Burns Night Supper & Ceilidh fundraiser! This annual fundraiser raises money for our youth summer mission trips. One way we raise funds each year is with an auction table offering a variety of alluring items for folks to bid on throughout the night. We often ask local businesses for gift cards to offer in the auction. One way you can help us this year is helping us collect gift cards! While you're around town in the upcoming weeks, purchase a gift card to your favorite restaurant or shop that we can share in the auction and share it with us in the offering plate or in the office during the week. Thank you in advance for your support!



13th Annual Christmas Bazaar

Cookies, Crafts, and Another Successful Christmas Bazaar!

Thanks to everyone who helped with another successful Christmas Bazaar! The fellowship hall was buzzing all day on Saturday with the excitement of a little over 300 people walking through to purchase cookies and gifts for the holiday season. We are so grateful for all our vendors, volunteers and shoppers for supporting this fun event every year! To everyone who came to help make breads, treats, and cookies on site - THANK YOU for all your flexibility and willingness to work hard! We appreciate you all so much!

Brenda Mosby



NOVEMBER

Birthdays

November 25 - Chanda Hughey

November 28 - Clara Judy

Organ Renovation Updates

Wind chests reinstalled, wiring and pipes next on the list

Last week, Levsen (with the help of **Bob Hutton, Dan Gieseke, Dan Backues, Mike Randerson, and Henry Braeske**) reinstalled the newly constructed wind chests into the organ chambers. The team cleaned



and installed a few pipes, as well as began the process of rewiring the organ & connecting the wind chests. We're hopeful to clean and reinstall more pipes this week. The schedule will continue to shift and change over the next few weeks, but 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!

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). 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. These generous gifts to this annual offering makes a difference in the lives of our students, and it makes a difference in the world!

Poinsettia ORDERS

On Sundays, December 14 & 21, our sanctuary will be even more beautiful with poinsettias placed there in honor or in memory of loved ones. To order, complete the information below and return the slip, along with your contribution to the church office.

The poinsettias will be ordered by the church and placed in the sanctuary for you. They may be picked up after the 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service.

Please return this form to the church office by:

Monday, December 8

(or e-mail your info to fcc@firstchristian.org and put your payment in the payment drop box in the office)

I (we) are giving # _____ total Poinsettia(s) at **\$8.00** each.

In **MEMORY** of: _____

AND/OR

In **HONOR** of: _____

Please list the following name or family as donor: _____

Youth Group Schedule

Join this Sunday!

YOUTH
GROUP

Thanksgiving Potluck • 4-6pm • November 23
VAC Holiday Shopping • 4-6pm • November 30
End-of-the-Year Holiday Party • 4-6pm • December 7

STARS+ Christmas Lights Host

Looking for a host for the STARS+ Group during Christmas Lights Tour

We are looking for a "host" for the STARS+ group as they journey around Columbia next month on the Christmas Lights Tour. The host would invite folks into their home for a snack & restroom stop, offering a sweet treat and something warm for the group to drink. The Christmas Lights Tour is set tentatively for Monday, December 15. If you're interested in hosting our group, contact the Church Office (fcc@firstchristian.org).



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

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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Christmas Cantata (both services)

Worship Serving Schedule

Sunday, November 23, 2025

OFFICE RECEPTIONIST: Debbie Potthast

WELCOME STATION: Susan Gray

FLOWER MINISTRY: Dan & Holly Gieseke

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP: Kim & Hartley Rogers

EARLY SERVICE HELPERS:

Kathy Ramser & Mark Goodwin

COMMUNION PREP: Anne & Audra

Crousore and Allie & Aubrey Schomaker

GREETERS: Elizabeth Mottaz (N. DOOR),

Edie Pigg (S. DOOR), Jacki Davidson

(ATRIUM), Karen Hobson (PORTICO)

AV TEAM: Chris Fuemmeler

LITURGIST: Tracy Fuemmeler

8:30 ELDER: Stacia Schaefer

10:30 ELDERS: Katie Carrier, Ben Carrier,
Sarah Storm (Balcony)

DEACONS: The Hunsaker Team

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP: Hayley Batterson

OFFERING COUNTERS:

Cindy & Doug Smith and Sarah Storm