



the VISITOR

November 28, 2025
Vol. 82, No. 17

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

Happening Soon

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, 4pm

MONDAY, DECEMBER 1

- Strategic Planning Department Meeting, 6:30pm, Morris Parlor

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2

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

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3

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

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5

- Living Windows, 6-8pm, East Lawn

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

Second Sunday in Advent

- 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
- Blue Christmas, 3pm, Sanctuary
- YG End of Year Party, 5pm, YFH



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

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

NOVEMBER 30TH

Hanging of the Greens

UPCOMING EVENTS



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.

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. Contact **Jessica Humble** if you're interested or available to help with this year's Living Nativity!



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)"*

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.



93rd Annual Christmas Pageant



Christmas Pageant &

Tasting Party on Sunday, December 14

Join us on Sunday, December 14 at 4:00 p.m. for our 93rd Annual Christmas Pageant! The annual tasting party will follow at 5:00 p.m. All are invited to bring a sweet or savory treat to share! A "white gifts" offering will be collected at this year's pageant. Traditionally, a white gifts offering is an offering of food (boxed or canned) for the youth group to donate locally. By wrapping the gifts to all look the same, the love and devotion of the giver becomes more important than the gift. All are encouraged to bring non-perishable canned or boxed foods wrapped in white paper to share.

DECEMBER

Birthdays

December 1 - Charlie Koelling

December 3 - Paula Hoenes, David Read

December 4 - Linda Ridgeway

December 5 - Carole Harris Randerson, Mike Randerson

December 6 - Debbie Garton, Alan Leach



News of the People & Places

Prayers of Health & Healing...

- **Dana Heavin's** bladder removal surgery has been rescheduled to February.
- **Dave Potthast** is back in an upright position following surgery for a torn retina and continues to slowly heal!
- **Charlie Koelling** is home following a heart cath on Friday, November 21. No stint is required, but he'll begin rehab in the upcoming weeks.
- **Jill Anderson**, one of our MDO teachers, had a heart issue this last week and is now home and back at work!
- Our Assistant Director of MDO, **Sam Dunning's** daughter, Fallon, had an outpatient surgery last week and is healing at home!

Recognizing Veterans...

- On Monday, November 10, Miz-zou recognized Veterans Day with their 99th wreath-laying ceremony at the Memorial Union archway. FCC's very own **Col. John Clark** shared his story of resilience and courage in North Vietnam from 1967-1973.



Thank You...

I appreciate very much the flowers brought to me by **Cherry Hinderberger** following my heart cath procedure. They are still alive and well!

Charlie Koelling



I wanted to express my gratitude and a thank you to the Good Samaritans **Elizabeth & Fred Mottaz** and **Topher Endress** who helped me on Sunday morning when I had a flat tire! Thank you!

Paula Slusher

VAC Holiday Project

Drop off VAC Holiday Gifts before Wednesday, December 3

Due to your generosity and VAC's need for additional people to be adopted, last week, FCC adopted 2 more families for a total of 12 families and 51 people. Thank you for making this important ministry possible! On Sunday, the youth will complete the shopping for all the families. Any gifts that need to be turned in can be done on Sunday, November 30 from 9:15-10:30 & 11:30-12:00 in Morris Parlor or in the church office during regular business hours by Wednesday, December 3. If you have any questions, please contact **Elizabeth Mottaz**.



Organ Renovation Updates

Levsen Returning Tuesday, December 2 to Install Pipes

After an unexpected two week hiatus, Levsen plans to return on Tuesday, December 2 to install the largest pipes back into the organ chambers. We are looking for heavy lifters to help make this happen! If you're available any time during the day on Tuesday, December 2 (9:30 a.m.—5:00 p.m.) please contact **Dan Gieseke** (dangieseke2@gmail.com) or **Topher Otake** (totake@firstchristian.org) for more information!

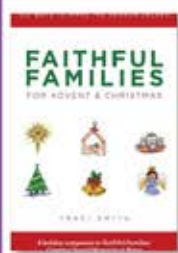


Save the Date!

Mother's Day Out

Christmas Program

Friday, December 19 at 5:00 pm



Advent Devotionals Available

Available in the Narthex or in the Church Office during office hours!

Mark Your Calendars...

December Ladies' Book Club

Ladies' Book Club Dessert on Wednesday, December 10

December Ladies' Book Club will meet for dessert at **Mary Daugherty's** home on Wednesday, December 10 at 2:00 p.m. We will discuss Rev. Topher Endress' book *Accompanying Disability*. Copies of this book are available for purchase or to borrow from the Church Office. Books are \$15 and checks should be made out to **Topher Endress**.

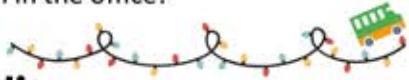


- ◆ **Location:** Mary Daugherty's Home (Contact Office for Address)
- ◆ **Date:** Wednesday, December 10
- ◆ **Time:** 2:00 PM
- ◆ **Need a ride?** Call Peggy Veatch, 573-230-5450
- ◆ **Willing to give a ride?** Call Peggy Veatch, 573-230-5450

STARS+ Christmas Lights Tour

Looking for Driver & Host for Annual Christmas Lights Tour

We are looking for a driver for our annual Christmas Lights tour! If you are interested in helping us this year by driving the church bus around town for the lights tour, please contact **Erin Perry** in the Church Office for more information. Sign ups for the tour will be available soon in the office!



Christmas Caroling

Choir looking for Caroling Locations on Sunday, December 21



The Chancel choir will carol again this year following the Christmas Cantata on Sunday, December 21. If you are interested in having carolers stop by your house, please contact **Topher Otake** at totake@firstchristian.org.

Christmas Cantata

Annual Christmas Cantata on Sunday, December 21

Celebrate "Christmas Joy" with a spectacular performance featuring the Chancel Choir of First Christian Church at this year's Christmas Cantata! The Cantata will be held during both services on Sunday, December 21. The choir will perform Dan Forrest's "Christmas Joy," three timeless yuletide melodies packaged together: *On Christmas Night; O, Come Rejoicing* and *Joy to the World!* We hope you'll join us for another unforgettable performance by the chancel choir!



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!

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

Scenes from Youth Group Friendsgiving...

Fun & good food had by all!





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

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 Part, 5pm

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Christmas Pageant, 4pm
Tasting Party, 5pm

MONDAY, DECEMBER 15

STARS+ Lights Tour, 6pm

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19

MDO Christmas Program, 5pm

Worship Serving Schedule

Sunday, November 30, 2025

OFFICE RECEPTIONIST: Don Mosby

WELCOME STATION: Carrie Batterson

FLOWER MINISTRY: Eric Seaman

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP: No Coffee Fellowship

EARLY SERVICE HELPERS:

Carole & Mike Randerson

COMMUNION PREP: Laura & Ryan Hunsaker

GREETERS: Susan Gray (N. DOOR),
Elizabeth Mottaz (S. DOOR), Gerald Ramsey
(ATRIUM), Susan Ramsey (PORTICO)

AV TEAM: Noah Stagg & Cole Freed

LITURGIST: Jessica Humble

8:30 ELDER: Cherry Hinderberger

10:30 ELDERS: Tori Pine, Eric Seaman, Fred
Mottaz (Balcony)

DEACONS: The Judy Team

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP:

No Children's Worship

OFFERING COUNTERS:

Jerry Miller and Jean Juba