



the VISITOR

October 3, 2025

Vol. 82, No. 9

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

Happening Soon

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5

- Worship 8:30 & 10:30am, Sanctuary
- Coffee Fellowship Hour, 9:30am, YFH
- Quiet, Meditative Time, 9:30am, Library
- K-5 Sunday School, 9:30am, 3rd Floor
- 6-12 Sunday School, 9:30am, Higbee
- Adult Sunday School, 9:30am, Cinema
- Youth Groups: Mid-Mo Pride Parade & PrideFest, 12pm
- Christmas Bazaar Meeting, 1:30pm, YFH

MONDAY, OCTOBER 6

- Coffman-Watson Restaurant Night

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7

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

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8

- Midweek Connect, 10:30am, Zoom
- Ladies' Book Club, 11:30am, Morris Parlor
- Bible Study, 12pm, Morris Parlor
- Chancel Bell Choir, 5pm, 3rd Floor
- Chancel Choir, 5:45pm, 3rd Floor

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11

- Breakfast for Our Brethren, 7-9am, RATI

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12

- Worship 8:30 & 10:30am, Sanctuary
- Coffee Fellowship Hour, 9:30am, YFH
- Quiet, Meditative Time, 9:30am, Library
- K-5 Sunday School, 9:30am, 3rd Floor
- 6-12 Sunday School, 9:30am, Higbee
- Adult Sunday School, 9:30am, Cinema
- Burns Night Volunteer Mtg, 12pm, YFH
- All Youth Corn Maze, 4pm, Shyrock's



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

17TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

OCTOBER 5TH

*"Apprenticeship:
Rekindling Power, Love,
Self-Discipline"*

2 TIMOTHY 1:1-14

REV. DR. BRAD STAGG, 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)"*

Breakfast for Our Brethren

Volunteer with BFOB Saturday Mornings in October!

We have had an amazing turn out for sign ups and donations for this month's Breakfast for Our Brethren! We are so grateful to everyone who has donated food, time, and energy to this cause. If you would like to donate food or your time to Saturday morning breakfasts, there are sign up sheets in the Narthex on Sunday mornings or you can sign up online at <https://bit.ly/octoberb4ob>. The SignUp Genius will be updated every week as we need more food

donations, but you can sign up to serve any time. It's essential for serving volunteers to sign up in advance so we know that we have enough hands to serve each Saturday morning! Contact the Church Office (fcc@firstchristian.org) if you have any questions.



Burns Night Volunteer Meetings

Burns Night Supper Fundraiser Second Volunteer Informational Meeting October 12

Our annual youth mission trip fundraiser is coming up in January, and even though it feels like *forever* from now, we all know it'll be here in no time! Rev. Topher has planned two volunteer informational meetings for those who are interested in getting involved. The second of these volunteer info meetings will be held on Sunday, October 12 immediately following worship at noon in the Fellowship Hall. The first volunteer info meeting was held virtually over Zoom on Thursday, October 2.

PrideFest Parade

Annual PrideFest Parade on Sunday, October 5 at Noon

Mid-Missouri PrideFest is coming up this weekend and

PrideFest is hosting their fourth annual pride parade on Sunday, October 5 at noon! The route of the parade will begin at the Armory, heading east on Ash and up 9th Street. This route will be important if church lets out later than usual - 9th Street will be closed for any who wish to exit after church. Alternatively, you can use the 10th Street exit instead! All are also invited to avoid the traffic and road blocks all together by joining the Open & Affirming Department watch the parade as it passes! Youth Groups will meet at noon to watch the parade, and then walk to Rose Park to explore PrideFest afterwards to explore PrideFest booths and activities.





News of the People & Places

Welcome to the World...

• **Maria Clark's** daughter, Nyla Davis, gave birth to her son, Nazari Blair at 11:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 23. Nyla and Nazari are both doing well. Prayers for Grandma Maria's sleep, health, and happiness in the meantime!

Welcome to the Family...

• **Holly & Dan Gieseke** celebrated with their son and daughter-in-law, **Steve Gieseke** and Heather Koenig, at Steve & Heather's wedding on Saturday, September 27 in Kansas City, Mo!

Prayers of Health & Healing...

• **Bryan Garton's** parents, Bill & Betty Garton, have both been moved to a nursing facility in Nevada, Mo. Prayers for Bill, Betty, and Bryan as they each adjust to this transition.

• **Helen Stemmons** fell and broke her femur last week, which required a partial hip replacement on Friday, September 26. She continues to recover at Boone Hospital and will then be moved to a rehab facility once she's discharged.

• **Brad Stagg** will get a spinal injection this week to help relieve his back pain.

Thank You...

Thank you for the flowers. They certainly brighten my life at a dim time. The arrangement was beautiful and the thought was even moreso. I will always love First Christian Church. Thank you!

Thank You!

Rich Montgomery

Fall Church Work Day

Church Work Day on Saturday, October 18 from 9am-12pm

The arrival of fall & football are also our signals that it is time to give the Church's exterior grounds their annual shape up in preparation for the winter ahead. Join us on **Saturday, October 18 from 9:00 a.m. until noon (or any portion thereof)** to clean up, spruce up and shape up the church grounds after the summer growing season and late summer/fall drought! Mary Daugherty & Peggy Veatch will again lead our efforts, and Fred Mottaz will offer his truck & trailer to haul mulch! **Volunteers are asked to bring their own gardening tools, gloves, hats, sunscreen and drinking water.** At least two or three wheelbarrows, mulch forks or shovels will also be needed. **If you can join us on October 18, please email, call or text Mike Randerson ASAP at dmranderson@mchsi.com or 573-424-4858.** Our weather makeup day will be Saturday, October 25,



2 same time. Hope to see you there! *Mike Randerson*

OCTOBER

Birthdays

October 7 - Pamela Hoepfner, Meg Judy
October 8 - Marcy Douglas, Michael Snyder
October 9 - Mona Stevenson
October 10 - Alex Johnson, Julie Nichols
October 11 - Brady Marrero, Joy Overacre

Anniversaries

October 8 - Kelly Schmidt & Seth McCormick
October 10 - Carolyn & Curtis Snow
October 11 - Ryan & Laura Hunsaker

Schiffman Ethics in Society Lecture

Jim Obergefell to give annual lecture on October 23, 2025

Jim Obergefell, the plaintiff in the landmark Supreme Court marriage equality case Obergefell v. Hodges, will offer this year's Schiffman Ethics in Society Lecture. The lecture is scheduled this fall on October 23, 2025 at Columbia College. Obergefell's lecture is titled "Purposeful, Ethical Activism: Navigating Complex Moral Terrain in a Divided Society."



Save the Date! Trunk or Treat

Trunk or Treat on Sunday, October 26 from 4-6pm

Dress up, bring your friends, and join us in the church parking lot this year on Sunday, October 26 for some trunk-or-treating, treats, games, and fun! The event will take place in both the church parking lot and Yonker Fellowship Hall from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. Join us for the entirety or just a portion of that time for fun and good treats!



Help make Trunk-or-Treat happen for FCC Youth! As we prepare for next month, we are looking for volunteers who want to decorate their trunks and offer candy to our trick-or-treaters, or share donations of treats for our cake walk and additional candy donations! Please email **Rev. Topher** at topher@firstchristian.org if you would be interested in making treats for the cake walk or decorating your trunk. **We only need five more trunks to meet our goal!** There is currently a donation bin outside of the Church Office for candy donations leading up to Trunk or Treat. Candy without nuts is preferred!

Annual Reconciliation Offering

Reconciliation Offering Taken on September 28 & October 5

For more than 40 years, Disciples have worked to have a visible ministry to address racism in society through the Reconciliation Ministry. Gifts to the Disciples Reconciliation Ministry, through its annual special offering or throughout the year, support programs and initiatives aimed at dismantling racism. The Reconciliation Ministry is not supported by Disciples Mission Fund, but its annual special offering is recognized by the denomination for congregations to offer their support. The Reconciliation Special Offering will be taken on Sundays, September 28, 2025, and October 5, 2025. Your advocacy and financial support are always so appreciated!



Loaves & Fishes

Serving Dinner on Monday, October 27

This month's Loaves & Fishes serving date falls on Monday, October 27 and we are looking for volunteers to help prep, deliver and serve food! Volunteers are needed at Room at the Inn (1509 Ashley St) from 4:00 - 6:30 p.m. for serving and cleaning dishes. We are also in need of two co-serving leaders, who will act as point people for transporting food, serving and cleaning up at Room at the Inn. There is an online sign-up available, if you'd like to see where volunteers are still needed: <https://bit.ly/octloaves25>. If you can't join us this month, but want to be added to the Loaves & Fishes email list, contact **Erin** in the Church Office and you'll hear from us in December. Thank you all so much for making this ministry possible!



Chautauqua Comes to Christmount

SPEAKERS • WORKSHOPS
DISCUSSION GROUPS
CONCERTS

October 20-24, 2025
Black Mountain, NC

More info at Christmount.org



2025 Keynote Speaker:
Rev. Dr. Topher Endress

Engaging us with creative and provocative messages addressing the understanding that no matter our abilities or differences, we are companions on the journey toward authentic communion with God & neighbor

Registration is open! www.christmount.org

Youth Group Schedule

Join this Sunday!



YG @ PrideFest • 12pm • October 5
YG @ Shyrock's Corn Maze • 4-6pm • October 12
Meeting in the Fellowship Hall

Chautauqua Comes to Christmount

Rev. Topher heads to Christmount this October

In 2024, Topher was asked to serve as the 'featured preacher' for Chautauqua Comes to Christmount, a Disciples of Christ training and retreat at our DoC retreat and conference center in Black Mountain/Asheville, NC. However, just before he was due to leave, Hurricane Helene made landfall and destroyed significant parts of Asheville and the surrounding areas - including Christmount itself. After a year of rebuilding, programs are beginning again, and Topher will head to North Carolina this October for attempt number two!

The Chautauqua Comes to Christmount conference is modeled after the Chautauqua Institution, Chautauqua, NY, which began in the 1870s as a training camp for Sunday School teachers. They have grown into an interfaith community dedicated to exploring religious, social and political issues of our times. In 2016, Christmount launched their first version, and still continue to use music, worship, prayer, storytelling, and book/movie discussions to help faith leaders dive deeper into a faithful response to modern issues.

This year's theme is "Companions on the Journey...A Gathering of Spirits & A Festival of Friends," with a focus on how, despite our inherent diversity or ability, we are all companions on the journey toward authentic communion with God & neighbor. Topher will also lead a workshop called "Narrating and Teaching: Sharing Stories Faithfully," built on some ideas from his recent book. Christian Howes, a jazz violinist, Dean Phelps, a Disciples minister and singer/songwriter, and Chinobay, a Ugandan musician, will offer concerts each night. Other workshops include "Adapting for Autism" by Jon Blalock (Director of Adapted Programs at Christmount, which includes the Disciples' largest summer camp program for special needs students) and "Together They Breathed," an exploration by Rev. Sherri and Tim Lowly of how raising a daughter with profound disabilities has shaped their lives.

To learn more, or even join Topher in the mountains, check out <https://www.christmount.org/chautauqua-comes-to-christmount>



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WEBSITE



GIVE

First Christian Church

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

Ministerial Staff

Rev. Dr. Brad Stagg, Senior Minister
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Rev. Dr. Topher Endress, Associate Minister
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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, October 5, 2025

OFFICE RECEPTIONIST: Tracy Fuemmeler
WELCOME STATION: Steve Humble
FLOWER MINISTRY: Anne Crousore
COFFEE FELLOWSHIP: The Hoenes'
EARLY SERVICE HELPERS: Kim & Joe Reardon
COMMUNION PREP: Laura & Ryan Hunsaker
GREETERS: Karen Hobson (N. DOOR),
Jacki Davidson (S. DOOR), Trish Stagg
(ATRIUM), Susan Gray (PORTICO)
AV TEAM: Cliff Judy
LITURGIST: TBD
8:30 ELDER: Eric Seaman
10:30 ELDERS: C.K. Hoenes, Paula Hoenes,
Sarah Storm (Balcony)
DEACONS: The Potthast Team
CHILDREN'S WORSHIP: Hayley Batterson
OFFERING COUNTERS:
Cindy & Doug Smith and Sarah Storm