



## the VISITOR

September 19, 2025

Vol. 82, No. 7

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

### Happening Soon

#### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

- 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
- Chi-Rho, 4pm, YFH
- CYF, 5pm, YFH

#### TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

- Bible Study, 10:30am, Morris Parlor
- Drennan Meeting, 1pm, Lenoir Woods
- Staff Meeting, 2pm, Morris Parlor

#### WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

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

#### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

- Mizzou Homecoming Parade Parking Lot Fundraiser, 6am-2pm

#### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

- 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
- CYF, 5pm, YFH



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

## 15TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 21ST

### "Apprenticeship: Prayer"

1 TIMOTHY 2:1-7

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

### New Location & Looking for Donations for October

Every May & October, members from the Mission & Outreach Department and a number of dedicated volunteers show up to the church early on Saturday mornings to serve breakfast to our unhoused and food insecure neighbors. Last fall, the team shared



that the number of our unhoused neighbors using this resource had risen significantly over the prior year, and since then we've seen the number of individuals served on Saturday mornings at Breakfast for Our Brethren double. Breakfast for Our Brethren is a service that we offer in tandem with five other downtown congregations, and while FCC has made it through this increase unscathed, other churches have experienced major stress throughout this process. With the rising numbers, there has also been an increase in conflict and tense situations that individual volunteers haven't felt entirely equipped to navigate. After a conversation between John Trapp from Room at the Inn and the participating churches in May, Saturday Morning Breakfast Café/Breakfast for Our Brethren has officially moved to Room at the Inn on Saturday mornings to benefit both RATI clients and participating churches. Our small but mighty crew from First Christian Church will begin serving out of Room at the Inn this October! We are tentatively excited, but know that there will be a few hiccups as we figure out how to transition to a new system and new kitchen.

On the other hand, since July, our budget for breakfast has changed. *(cont'd on pg 2)*

## Homecoming Parking Lot Fundraiser

### Mizzou Homecoming Parade Fundraiser on Saturday, September 27

This year, the church is hosting a Mizzou Homecoming Fundraiser by offering our parking lot during the MU Homecoming Parade at the cost of \$20 per spot! The parking lot will be open from 6 a.m. - 2 p.m. for individuals and families to use as prime parking for the annual homecoming parade. If you'd like to volunteer to help make this fundraiser happen or support in any way, contact the Church Office at [fcc@firstchristian.org](mailto:fcc@firstchristian.org). There will also be a sign up sheet in the Church Office on Sunday morning if you'd like to sign up.







# News of the People & Places

## Prayers of Health & Healing...

- **Marilyn Schappert's** sister, **Sherry Kaye Dobbs**, was moved from the CICU to a regular room at University Hospital, receiving treatment for serious pneumonia. No visitors, please!
- **Chris Fuemmeler** is home after a successful partial-knee replacement surgery on Tuesday, September 9
- **Ryan Stem's** Aunt Lyn Stinnett returned home this week after saying in the hospital here in Columbia.

## Thank You...

Thank you so much for the scholarship! It means a lot to have so much support from my church—so many churches don't seem to have an interest in the education of their congregations.

**Aleena Li**



Dear First Christian Church,

Thank you so much for awarding me with the scholarship this year. I am so grateful for the FCC Family and everything the church has done for me and other young members. This money helped me buy all of my school supplies for the year. Thank you so much.

**Lena Schaefer**

Special thanks go to **Carrie Batterson**, **Paula Hoenes**, and **Peggy Veatch** for helping water the church landscape this past week.

**Mary Daugherty**

To My FCC Family,

Thank you so much for the generous support I have received from you all for my BFA thesis film. The meals and snacks you all provided kept the cast and crew energized through our intense nine-day shoot. Your donations were very much appreciated and helped me toward my fundraising goal to produce this film. Your bedding and air mattresses allowed our crew, coming from Los Angeles, Pennsylvania, Florida, and Kansas City, to be well rested after filming, sometimes wrapping at 4 AM. When it looked like I may not be able to make my movie after losing my location one day before the crew arrived, so many of you came forward with possible locations and solutions— an extra special thanks to **Debbie Potthast** for connecting me with the person who ended up letting us film at their property! I am currently working on post-production (editing, sound, VFX, etc.) this semester as part of my BFA class. You all have been so supportive of my family and me since we joined this church 13 years ago. I am forever grateful for my church family!

**Luke Stagg**

# Breakfast for Our Brethren (cont'd)

(cont'd from pg 1) Following the congregational meeting in June, the amount of money in our outreach budget was reduced to benefit the overall finances of the church. However, breakfast marches on! We are *so incredibly grateful* to everyone who donates food, time, and energy to this cause, but we want to call on our financial donors at this time. We are looking for new avenues of support this year, and would love to assist folks in getting involved! There are sign up sheets in the Narthex on Sunday mornings with essential items for breakfast that you can sign up to shop for, or sign up to financially provide for and we'll do the shopping! Contact the Church Office ([fcc@firstchristian.org](mailto:fcc@firstchristian.org)) if you have any questions. We have our first round of food donations up on SignUp Genius, as well as opportunities to serve on Saturday mornings! It helps us *a lot* if folks who like to serve sign up in advance, so we know that we're prepared ahead of time for Saturday! Sign up online at <https://bit.ly/octoberb4ob>.



# Welcome New Members!

## Welcoming Kathy Ramser & Mark Goodwin

Kathy Ramser and Mark Goodwin joined First Christian Church on Sunday, September 14 after visiting with us for a over a month. Kathy and Mark are transferring from First Christian Church in Warrensburg, MO. We are so excited to see Kathy & Mark engage in community here at FCC! Please offer them an official "welcome" the next time you see them!



# SEPTEMBER

## Birthdays

- **September 23** - Cheryl Stevens
- **September 24** - Ashley Chandler, Steve Lightner
- **September 25** - David Nichols
- **September 26** - Mimi McRoberts
- **September 27** - Becky Beary
- **September 28** - Richard Li

## Anniversaries

- **September 24** - Shane & Erin Bower
- **September 28** - Lloyd & Brianna Pooler



## Strategic Planning Department

### *Strategic Planning Department Begins Their Work*

In June 2024, the Administrative Board approved the addition of a Strategic Planning Department to the department roster of the church. Beginning in June 2025, we officially have a chair of the department and a full roster of members. The purpose of this department is to create a Strategic Plan for our congregation, help the current governance structure implement the Plan, evaluate the Plan's implementation, and use that feedback to generate the next Plan.

**Bryan Garton**, who has experience leading strategic planning at Mizzou, will lead the department as the chair. The current members of the department are **Bryan Garton** (Chair), **Katie Carrier**, **Ryan Hunsaker**, **Cliff Judy**, **Scott Schaefer**, **Allie Schomaker**, **Paula Slusher**, **Mark Mills** (ex officio), **Jessica Humble** (ex officio), and **Rev. Dr. Brad Stagg** as staff.

The first order of business for the department is to search, interview, and recommend to the Board a consultant or consulting firm to lead FCC in an unbiased process. They are looking for an experienced, seasoned consultant or firm with a proven track record in working with a variety of Protestant congregations, particularly established, historical Disciples of Christ churches. We'll continue to update the congregation as they move forward in their work together!

## 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!

2025 Reconciliation Ministry - Special Offering



Beyond Brokenness - Building Beloved Community  
Sunday, September 28th - Sunday, October 5th



## Youth Group Schedule

*Join this Sunday!*



Chi-Rho • 4-5pm (starting September 21)

CYF • 5-6pm (starting September 14)

Meeting in the Fellowship Hall

## Disability Justice Panel & Book Discussion at First Baptist Church

### *Discussion & Panel at First Baptist on September 30*

Join the Racial Justice

and Inclusion Team at

First Baptist Church for



a two-part event from

6:00-8:00 p.m. on disability justice at First Baptist on Tuesday, September 30. The first part will begin at 6:00 p.m. and will include a discussion of *Accompanying Disability* by First Christian's very own Topher Endress. The second part of the event will begin at 7:00 p.m. and include a disability justice panel comprised of folx with disabilities in and around our church. Please note that the disability justice panel is for the entire community, including those who did not read *Accompanying Disability*. We're looking forward to continuing the discussion of ways our church can become more accessible to all who enter our place of worship!

## RBCC Labyrinth Retreat

### *Labyrinth Retreat on Saturday, September 20*

Save the date for the annual Labyrinth

Retreat, September 20, 9:45 a.m. - noon

at Rock Bridge Christian Church. This is a

free retreat, open to all, and no labyrinth

experience is necessary. Folks will gather

at 9:45 for coffee and snacks, followed

by a brief presentation introducing labyrinths and ways to use them as spiritual practice. We will then have time for participants to do a labyrinth walk (indoors in the sanctuary or outdoors on our outdoor labyrinth, weather permitting), and explore various stations that will be set up, including finger labyrinths, labyrinth books, journaling, and a labyrinth craft. Participants will choose which activities they want to participate in. We will gather at the end for a brief closing. RSVP to Kim Leon ([kimberlykleon@gmail.com](mailto:kimberlykleon@gmail.com)) by September 17 so they can plan materials & snacks accordingly.







101 N. 10th Street  
Columbia, MO 65201

573-449-7265

email: [fcc@firstchristian.org](mailto:fcc@firstchristian.org)

web: [firstchristian.org](http://firstchristian.org)



WEBSITE



GIVE

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Columbia, MO  
Permit No. 75

Electronic Service Requested

## 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, September 21, 2025*

**OFFICE RECEPTIONIST:** Carrie Batterson

**WELCOME STATION:** Meg & Cliff Judy

**FLOWER MINISTRY:** Dan & Holly Gieseke

**COFFEE FELLOWSHIP:** The Giesekes

**EARLY SERVICE HELPERS:** Eric Seaman & TBD

**COMMUNION PREP:**

Jeff Underwood and Steve & Jess Humble

**GREETERS:** Tracy Fuemmeler (N. DOOR),

Chris Fuemmeler/TBD (S. DOOR), Cindy

Smith (ATRIUM), Doug Smith (PORTICO)

**AV TEAM:** Dan Gieseke

**LITURGIST:** Laura Hunsaker

**8:30 ELDER:** Kurt Schaefer

**10:30 ELDERS:** Vicki Johnson, Hayley

Batterson, Ryan Hunsaker (Balcony)

**DEACONS:** The Underwood Team

**CHILDREN'S WORSHIP:** Jessica Humble

**OFFERING COUNTERS:**

Cindy & Doug Smith and Janelle Patterson