



the VISITOR

January 30, 2025
Vol. 82, No. 25

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

Happening Soon

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1

- Worship, 8:30 & 10:30am
- Coffee Fellowship Hour, 9:30am, YFH
- Adult Sunday School, 9:30am, Cinema
- K-5 Sunday School, 9:30am, 3rd Floor
- 6-12 Sunday School, 9:30am, Higbee
- Chi-Rho, 4pm, YFH
- CYF, 5pm, YFH

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3

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

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4

- Midweek Connect, 10:30am, Zoom
- Coffman-Watson Lunch, 12pm, Olive Garden (1300 Interstate 70 Dr SW)
- Bible Study, 12pm, *Virtually Only*
- Bell Choir Rehearsal, 5pm, 3rd Floor
- Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 5:45pm, 3rd Floor

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8

- Worship, 8:30 & 10:30am
- Coffee Fellowship Hour, 9:30am, YFH
- Adult Sunday School, 9:30am, Cinema
- K-5 Sunday School, 9:30am, 3rd Floor
- 6-12 Sunday School, 9:30am, Higbee
- CYF, 5pm, YFH



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

4TH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

FEBRUARY 1ST

"The Sermon"

MATTHEW 5:1-12

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)"*

Burns Night Supper & Ceilidh Rescheduled

Burns Night Supper & Ceilidh Rescheduled—Saturday, March 14

Due to the inclement weather over the weekend, church staff made the tough decision to reschedule the Burns Night fundraiser to Saturday, March 14. Pastor Topher will begin to reorganize for this even in February—if you are still interested in volunteering and know your availability the week

leading up to March 14, please reach out to Topher and let him know! Otherwise, keep your eye out for volunteer sign up sheets in the Narthex in late February/early March. If you have any questions about your tickets, donations, or volunteering for this event, please contact Topher at topher@firstchristian.org. Burns Night has been scheduled in place of the Baptism Lock-In, which has been rescheduled as a one day class & service project on Saturday, March 28. Please reach out to Topher for more information!



January 25 Worship

**Sunday Worship Cancelled, Abbreviated
Service Available Online**

Thanks to everyone for their patience as worship, church programming, and Burns Night



was cancelled over the weekend due to the inclement weather. For those who are not on the congregational email list or virtual worship email list, there is an abbreviated worship service available online on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/@firstchristianchurchcomo>.

On our YouTube page, you'll find both an abbreviated worship service prepared by Brad and a Children's Moment prepared by Topher.

Sign Up for Congregational Alerts

Join our Congregational Mailing List

If you aren't already receiving email updates from the Church Office about inclement weather, event re-scheduling, church office & building closings, etc. please sign up for our congregational e-mailing list! This is the best way to stay up-to-date with the most urgent updates from the church. This list is primarily used for inclement weather updates, but also for other important programmatic updates. Contact the Church Office at fcc@firstchristian.org to sign up.

FEBRUARY

Birthdays

February 4 - Susan Palmer

February 7 - Nathaniel Pine, Lorene Trickey (94!)



News of the People & Places

Sympathy...

• **Mary Tompson** passed away on Friday, January 23. Mary was 94 years old. Services for Mary will be held on Saturday, January 31 at First Christian Church at 11:00 a.m. Please keep Mary's family and friends in your prayers during this time of grief and transition.

Prayers of Health & Healing...

- **Helen Stemmons** was admitted to Boone Hospital on Thursday, January 22 for some swelling and heart issues. She returned home on Tuesday, January 27.
- **Dana Heavin** is scheduled to have bladder removal surgery on February 2.
- **Brad Stagg** has back surgery scheduled for Wednesday, January 28. The recovery timeline is currently unknown, but he will likely be out of the office for at least a week.

Office Updates...

- **Brad Stagg** will tentatively be out of the office from January 28 - February 7 as he recovers from his back surgery. All pastoral concerns should be directed to **Topher Endress** or the church office in the meantime.

Columbia Diversity Breakfast...

A few of FCC's elders represented First Christian Church at the annual Columbia Values Diversity Celebration breakfast. Pictured on the right are (L to R) **Jacki Davidson, Jennifer Alexander, Sarah Storm, and Eric Seaman.**



Thank You...

Thank you SO MUCH to everyone who donated winter weather gear to the Church Office last week. On Friday alone (ahead of the bitter cold & snow storm), we gave out 12 pairs of gloves, 10 pairs of socks, 15 pairs of hand warmers, 10 cups of coffee, 20 granola bars, and a variety of hats, ear muffs, pants, coats, etc. Thank you for supporting our neighbors and making even the smallest difference in their safety over the weekend.

Church Office Staff



Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday Service on Wednesday, February 18

Join us for an evening Ash Wednesday service on Wednesday, February 18 at 6:30 p.m. as we enter into the season of Lent. Ash Wednesday worship begins this season with a service of hymns, prayers, meditation, and the imposition of ashes. Childcare will be provided for infants - age 5. This service will be livestreamed for those unable to join us in person. Contact the Church Office if you would like a ride to the service on the church bus or through rideshare.



Loaves & Fishes

Serving Dinner on Monday, February 23

This month's Loaves & Fishes serving date falls on Monday, February 23 and we are looking for volunteers to help deliver and serve food! There is an online sign-up available, if you'd like to see where volunteers are still needed: <https://bit.ly/felbloaves>. 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 April. Thank you all so much for making this ministry possible!



Lost & Found: Critters & Cups

Look for your item in the Church Office Lost & Found

Have you taken anything to church recently that didn't return home?

The Church Office has a Lost and

Found that is filled with

cups, scarves, critters

(pictured on the right),

jewelry, and more! If you

have lost anything recently

and would like to take a

look, stop by the church office during the week or on Sunday mornings to take a peek.



Looking for Drivers

Help offer a ride on Sunday morning!

We have a church member in need of a weekly ride to the 10:30 worship service, and we're looking for a few more drivers to help us on Sunday mornings! Please contact **Erin** in the Church Office either at (573) 449-7265 or fcc@firstchristian.org.



Youth Group Schedule

Join this Sunday!



Chi-Rho • 4pm • CYF • 5pm • February 1

CYF (Devotional Night) • 5pm • February 8

CYF (Board Games & Cards) • 5pm • February 15

Chi-Rho & CYF Combined • 5pm • February 22

The Student Becomes the Teacher: Youth are all invited to "bring" a skill they can teach the group.

Rescheduled! Baptism Class & Service Project

Saturday, March 28 • Time TBD

Contact Topher Endress for more information!

February Administrative Meetings

Cabinet Meeting

Tuesday, February 10 @ 6:30 p.m.

Administrative Board Meeting

Tuesday, February 17 @ 6:30 p.m.

CWF Board Meeting

Wednesday, February 18 @ 5:00 p.m.

Nominating Committee Meeting

Monday, February 23 @ 6:30 p.m.



Christian Nationalism Book Study

Mid-America Region Book Virtual Book Study on *The Bible According to Christian Nationalists* five Mondays in March

The Anti-Racism/Pro-Reconciling Justice Ministries team of the Mid-America Region of the Disciples is sponsoring a virtual five-week book study in March. All are invited and encouraged to participate in the discussion of Brian Kaylor's *The Bible According to Christian Nationalists: Exploiting Scripture for Political Power*. The gatherings will take place from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. via Zoom on Monday evenings March 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30.



The study will be facilitated by Jeff Moore, PhD, of Webster Groves Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Jeff is Affiliate Professor of Biblical Studies and Theological Method at Eden Theological Seminary in St. Louis, MO. Find information about the study and registration online: <https://bit.ly/midamericabookstudy>



Week of Compassion Offering

Week of Compassion Special Offering on February 15 & 22

Each year in February, Disciples of Christ congregations across the United States and Canada collect a Special Offering for Week of Compassion. Funds received through the offering enable Disciples through Week of Compassion to respond to disaster when it occurs, working with partners to provide solidarity grants to meet urgent needs of emergency supplies, water, shelter, and food.

The annual Special Offering – observed in most churches during the last two Sundays in February – is set aside for congregations to lift up and celebrate this important work that we do together not just in domestic and international disaster response, but in refugee and immigrant response, and sustainable development funding worldwide.

We ask you to consider giving generously to this special offering in February. As you consider a gift to this special offering, take a moment to read and reflect with this year's invocation, written by Rev. Stephen Underwood of Kansas City:

"God who makes a way, you have called us to this place, into a community of healing and reconciliation. We are gathered in answer to your invitation, not of our own initiative but as a people beckoned by your compassion into a new way of life. As we gather together, help us to open our ears to the words of Jesus, open our hearts to the love that heals, reconciles, and renews, and open our hands with readiness to go from this place and do what you have called us to do. Let our prayers, our songs, and our joyful communion be a prelude to the worship we offer with our whole lives, and may our time as a gathered body strengthen the bonds that tie us to another in the fellowship of the Spirit. Amen."

Read more about the work of Week of Compassion and this year's Special Offering online at <https://weekofcompassion.org>.



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

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web: firstchristian.org



WEBSITE



GIVE

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

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

Worship Serving Schedule

Sunday, February 1, 2026

OFFICE RECEPTIONIST: Janelle Patterson

WELCOME STATION: Steve Humble

FLOWER MINISTRY: Dan & Holly Gieseke

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP: Carla Tanzey

EARLY SERVICE HELPERS:

Cherry Hinderberger & Marcia Smith

COMMUNION PREP: Eric & Dietrich Arnett

GREETERS: Cindy Rose (N. DOOR),
Bud Batterson (S. DOOR), David Potthast
(ATRIUM), Debbie Potthast (PORTICO)

AV TEAM: Cliff Judy

LITURGIST: Jacki Davidson

8:30 ELDER: Mary Daugherty

10:30 ELDERS: Steve Humble, Jessica
Humble, Dan Tevis (Balcony)

DEACONS: The Potthast Team

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP: Hayley Batterson

OFFERING COUNTERS:

Sarah Storm and Cindy & Doug Smith