



the VISITOR

December 11, 2020
Vol. 78, No. 108

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

Happening Soon

FRIDAY, DEC. 11

- Last day to drop of VAC gifts

SUNDAY, DEC. 13

- Coffee Hour, 9:30am, Zoom
- Christmas Pageant, YouTube
- Caroling to the home-centered

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 16

- Midweek Connect, 10:30am, Zoom
- Virtual Bible Study, 12pm, Zoom

FRIDAY, DEC. 18

- Friday Night Classic, 7pm, 3rd Floor

Happy Birthday!

- Dec 13 Virginia Ivey
Dec 14 Susan Woodbury
Dec 15 Buddy Boger, Jerry Daugherty
Dec 16 Joe Reardon
Dec 17 Julia Bower, Laura Estes,
Caden Snow
Dec 18 Kaedon Wheatley
Dec 19 Cliff Judy

Happy Anniversary!

- Dec 15 Russel & Laura DeVenney (53 yrs)



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

87th Annual Christmas Pageant

Sunday, Dec, 13th



Gather around the computer or screen and be ready to take in the first ever “virtual FCC Christmas Pageant.” All the usual characters will be present — masked and socially distant. Sing along to the carols and even get your canned food ready to donate! Here is the broadcast info:

Posted on YouTube after 2:00pm

An all-church email will be sent with the link OR check our YouTube channel.

THE CAST:

HOLY FAMILY: Teller and his parents
Scott and Shannon Schaefer

ANGEL: Ava Hoenes

SHEPHERDS: (5th graders & a parent)

Dietrich & Eric Arnett, Cole & Bryan Freed,
Abby & Tori Pine, Noah & Brad Stagg

WISE MEN: Richard Barnard,
Bryan Garton, Ryan Hunsaker

READERS: Olivia Johnson, Luke Stagg



• *The Light of Joy* •
3rd Sunday in Advent
December 13

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

“Planting Oaks”

Rev. Jimmy Spear, preaching

WORSHIP: TWO WAYS

AT-HOME ONLINE: Watch our recorded service on our YouTube channel at *“First Christian Church (Columbia, Missouri)”*

AT-HOME LITURGY: Provided on pg. 3

Christmas Eve

Start preparing for candlelight at home

This year, the Christmas Eve Service of Carols, Scripture, Communion and Candlelight will be broadcast on our YouTube Channel.

With just a few weeks until Christmas Eve, we are mindful of getting things ready at home for that special worship service. Here is what you will need:

Communion — like each Sunday, but perhaps get out the good dishes and special bread and juice.

Candles — lots of candles. Get a personal candle ready of some sort to light and hold during the close of the service. Make sure it isn't a dripper!

What time? The service will be available early on Christmas Eve for watching at your best time that evening. Are you a mid-nighter? Maybe before dark? Perhaps this year, you don't have to fit in dinner before or after church. Do it all! A Liturgy page will also be offered in the Visitor.



Staff Christmas Fund

Deadline: Friday, December 18

The Administrative Dept. provides an opportunity for church members and friends to contribute to a *Staff Christmas Fund* to recognize our excellent church staff during the Christmas season for their combined efforts in helping make our church one in which we can all take great pride. Checks should be made to *First Christian Church* with "Staff Christmas Fund" noted. Deadline for contributions is **Friday, December 18**. Your generosity will be divided evenly among the staff: ministers, office staff and music staff. Thank you!

-- *Bryan Garton, Board Moderator*

News of the People

Prayers...

Thelma Beem had surgery on Wed. Dec. 2, at Boone Hospital having her second leg worked on to improve her circulation. It was successful. **Mary Tompson** was recently diagnosed with breast cancer, but she and **Cliff** are encouraged since it hasn't spread. She will be looking into treatment and surgery soon. **Billie Silvey** continues to rehabilitate at Boone Hospital. **Glenda Clark** continues to rehabilitate at The Neighborhoods.

Weekly Holiday Zooms:

The **Wednesday Midweek Connect** Zoom group will have three weeks of festive stories, carols, bright sweaters, and shared goodness. All are invited. Contact the office to get the Zoom ID code email.

Gratitude...

Church family, I am so grateful for your prayers, cards, and letters — everything that helped me recover from COVID. I am getting better day by day and glad to be back home.

Frances Brown

Room at the Inn...

Columbia's winter overnight homeless shelter, **ROOM AT THE INN (RATI)** OPENS THIS SUNDAY, December 13 at 7:00pm.

Go to RoomAtTheInnComo.org or text/call Sarah Storm at 573-289-0072 for information on how you can help!

Christmas Offering for Christian Church in Mid-America

Our gifts support the work of regional ministries this Christmas. The Christian Church in Mid-America ministry works to:

- Connect congregations to each other
- Gather Disciples in camps, conferences, and assemblies
 - our 40 kids at church camp!
- Nurture the development of a new generation of pastors
- Assist churches in calling new ministers
- Interpret the global mission of the Church
- Represent the Church in ecumenical gatherings
- Counsel and pray with those who are troubled of spirit
- Lead the Church to address racism
- Inspire leaders to experiment and create

The Christmas Special Day offering supports all of these and many other ministries of our region, please give generously. Donations can be sent to the church office.

Poinsettia Sunday

The poinsettias adorning our Sanctuary this Sunday and for the rest of the season were given in honor and memory of loved ones.



- Kathy Barreto & Patti Freeman** in memory of **Jeff Wheeland**
Anne Campbell in memory of **Jim Campbell** and **Mary Richardson**.
Coffman-Watson Group in honor of the church staff members who have worked so hard for everyone at FCC during the COVID Pandemic.
Bob Dixson in memory of **Joanie Dixson**.
Susan Gray in memory of **Tom Gray** and granddaughter, **Kate Watkins**.
The Guy Family in memory of **Jerry & Connie Guy**.
Elizabeth Hensley in memory of **Eugene Hensley**.
Pat Hoehle in memory of "Wilkie" **Hardin, E. Wilkerson**.
Steven Humble Family in memory of **Pat Humble** and **Jean & Bill McCracken**.
Linda & Bob Hutton in honor of **Genie Rogers & Family; Peggy Veatch & Family; Sarah Storm & Family; Lorene Trickey & Family**.
Nannie Lou Mallett, Michelle & Jeff Allen, Mike & Debbie Mallett & Their Families in memory of **J.E. (Bud) Mallett**.
Don & Brenda Mosby in honor of **First Christian Church office staff**.
Fred Mottaz Family in memory of **Ellen Mottaz; Waldo & Emaleta Mottaz; Geraldine Martin; Cora Lee Riley**.
Doris Neidhardt in memory of husband, **Paul J. Neidhardt; granddaughter, Meadow Woodbury**.
Margaret Pfander in memory of **Mattie & Clyde Crosswhite**.
Karen Poe in memory of husband, **Curtis Don Poe; son, Curtis Dean Poe**.
Diana Provenzano in memory of **Tommy Gay Evans; in honor of Frances Brown**.
Barb Rothenberger and Family in memory of **Ray Rothenberger**.
Bette Scavone in memory of husband, **Nat Scavone; parents: J.R. & Lillian Keene; grandparents: T.J. & Mary Holloway**.
Marilyn Schappert, Jeanie, Sherry Kaye & Sue Dobbs, and Carol Kvanvig in memory of their parents **Ralph & Sherry Dobbs**.
Doug & Cindy Smith in honor of their grandchildren: **Sam, Ben, Chloe, June & Ellen**.
Brad & Trish Stagg in memory of **Trish's mom, Mary Martinez Gonzales; Trish's aunt, Cora Gutierrez**.
Tommy Tomlin in memory of **Anne & Charlie Tomlin**.
Cliff & Mary Tompson in honor of **Sue Underwood**.
Suellen & Richard Wells in memory of **Sue & Russell Shaw; Kenneth S. Davis**.



Home Worship for December 13 In the season of Advent, we offer this at-home worship

experience. (Different from the YouTube version.) Find a place — space to sit. Pick a view, be comfortable. Light a candle nearby. Gather a Bible, maybe a hymnal. Get your tablet/internet device/tape player/CD and prime a hymn or carol of the season for listening. Get communion—grape juice, wine, any beverage and cracker will do! Be in the spirit of the Holy!

WORD & PRAISE

OPENING PRAYER

Your song is joy, Singer of Creation, for you are Joy—
joy that fills the empty with good things;
joy that sings light into the darkness;
joy that echoes with angelic song;
joy that births hope in the midst of despair.
Open my lips to sing your praise and receive your
melody in my life. I am ready for your coming,
the coming of Joy. Amen.

LIGHT.

The light of JOY is before us. Light three candles,
one for hope, a second for peace, and a third for the
joy of God given in the promise of Messiah.

Speak the words, “O Come, O Come Emmanuel.”

Once In Royal David's City

*Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that Mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.*

*Christ came down to earth from heaven
love incarnate for us all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor, the scorned, the lowly,
lived on earth our Savior holy.*

*Jesus is our childhood's pattern;
day by day like us he grew,
he was little, weak, and helpless,
tears and smiles like us he knew;
Thus he feels for our sadness,
and he shares in all our gladness.*

*And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love;
for that child who seemed so helpless,
lives and reigns in heaven above;
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.*

By Cecil F. Alexander (1848)

Tune: IRBY Chalice Hymnal #165

READ SCRIPTURE. Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

MEDITATION. *Planting Oaks of Righteousness.*

Last week landed us hearing the prophecy on wilderness and the comfort of God in making that wilderness passable and easier. Today, the prophet Isaiah speaks about comfort differently. Not much has changed since last Sunday except the warnings about being together at Christmas and the increase of horrible numbers of COVID cases and deaths. To this story of ours, enter the text from Isaiah. We find in it great imagery of decorating life and faith with the works of God. There is talk of the “Year of the Lord’s favor” — could this be a thing? Comfort for those who mourn — is this possible? Good news to those who are oppressed and broken-hearted God — serious?

It seems that according to the prophet, God has given instruction about planting. The planting of God and the success of an earth that sprouts will become a harvest of righteousness. The holy of holies is planting what is like a mighty oak in the life of the follower, in the hearts of those who mourn, in the ways of the oppressed and broken. Could we be a part of this people? It is not just about our current plight in 2020. The prophet speaks to us as it has to generations of God’s people who need a reminding. God is keen to remind this generation like those before us, that it is justice and right doing that will be connected to God in covenant.

The garden image returns at the end of the passage reminding us that as we have potential to be a mighty oak of faith, we are part of a community that is sown to spring up before others bringing life and praise. What do you see growing in this Advent season? Is there a way, a time, a place even for you to be planted with the potential of becoming not just a plant, but a great and mighty oak of faith? With God, all things are possible. We wait and keep awake to see what the Advent of God among might bring for us and the world. Amen. (-js)

PRAYER & GREAT THANKSGIVING

BE IN PRAYER. Offer prayer to God in thanks, in confession. Express your needs, share the needs of others. Just say what is in your heart. Amen!

GIVE AN OFFERING. What is it that you can give today? To God, to another, to yourself. Either pause worship and go do it, or make the commitment of giving that will happen today!

COMMUNION. (Words of Institution & Lord’s Prayer)

The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body that is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way, he took the cup also, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood.” Speak and partake of the elements. Then pray, *Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.*

BENEDICTION. Go, bringing the news of peace and hope, of healing and love. Go and the God of peace will always go with you. Amen.



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

Return 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. Jimmy Spear, Associate Minister
jimmy@firstchristian.org

Music Staff

Michael Sauer, Director
Dr. Rochelle Parker, Organist
Travis McFarlane, Musician

Mother's Day Out Pre-School

Tracy Westhoff, Director
tracy@firstchristian.org

Columbia Area Older Adult Ministry

Rev. Sally Robinson, Director
Kim Leon, Assistant Director

Support Staff

Laura Hunsaker, Office Manager
laura@firstchristian.org
Fred Mottaz, Business Manager
fred@firstchristian.org

Friday Night Classics!

3rd Floor Cinema

Friday, Dec. 18, 7pm

Fresh popcorn served and
50¢ soda available in
Yonker Hall.

RSVP required to ensure
safe spacing—email or call
the office to reserve a seat!



YOUTH GROUPS

As COVID conditions change our plans, parents will get an email prior to any youth gatherings. The CYF will receive news and plans via their GroupMe text.

DOC

COLLEGE GROUP

Tuesdays, 7:30pm
(location in GroupME)

Sunday Coffee Hour *Zoom or Phone at 9:30am*



The four Sundays of Advent will feature a new fellowship opportunity: *virtual coffee hour!* Join us on ZOOM for a time of fellowship in the 9:30 hour. Bring your coffee, get your toast ready, and jump online to visit with other folks. **Dec. 13, 20, 27**

Join Zoom Meetings: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87436739020> ZOOM ID: **874 3673 9020**
Dial by phone 312.626.6799 and enter meeting ID: 874 3673 9020

The numbers for all of it are above. So, if you can, watch worship on YouTube before or after coffee hour – just like we used to do so long ago. See you Sunday at 9:30am.