



the VISITOR

December 10, 2021

Vol. 78, No. 31

OUR MISSION

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

Happening Soon

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12

- On-Site Worship, 8:30am
- Christian Edu. Classes, 9:30am
- Advent Sunday School, 9:30am
- On-Site Worship, 10:30am
- Christmas Pageant, 4pm, Sanctuary
- Tasting Party, 5pm, YFH

MONDAY, DECEMBER 13

- STARS Lights Tour, 6:30 - 8:30 pm

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14

- Bible Study, 10:30am, Morris Parlor
- Bell Choir Rehearsal, 5:30pm, 3rd Floor
- Cabinet Meeting, 6:30pm, Morris Parlor

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15

- Midweek Connect, 10:30am, Zoom
- Ladies Book Club Lunch, 12pm, LaHue House
- Bible Study, 12:00pm, Morris Parlor
- Choir Rehearsal, 5:30pm, 3rd Floor

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19

- On-Site Worship, 8:30 & 10:30am
- Christian Edu. Classes, 9:30am
- Advent Sunday School, 9:30am
- JYF/Chi-Rho/CYF Gingerbread Houses & Christmas Sock Party, 4-6pm, YFH



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

3rd Sunday of Advent

DECEMBER 12TH

"The Agency of Joy"

LUKE 3: 7 - 18

2 WORSHIP OPTIONS

IN-PERSON AT CHURCH @

8:30/10:30AM:

In-person worship in the Sanctuary.

AT-HOME, ONLINE: Watch the recording of the live service—available late on Sunday via email/YouTube channel/FCC Facebook page. *"First Christian Church (Columbia, Missouri)"*

Angels Spotted at Living Windows

This past Friday, December 3rd, several children of the church gathered on the East Lawn to reenact the story of the birth of Christ. A special thank you goes out to: Vicki Johnson, Hayley Batterson, Jeff Underwood, Megan & Cliff Judy, and Dr. Brad Stagg for coordinating participants, testing sound & lights, blowing leaves to make the church lawn nice and pretty, and quite simply making this year's Living Nativity happen! The crowds at Living Windows this year were big, and so many were blessed by the performances. Can't wait to do it all again next year!



FCC Brings Christmas to 50 People!

One of the annual Christmas traditions Outreach Ministry sponsors is the Holiday Project from the Voluntary Action Center. This year, FCC sponsored 50 people and a total of 16 families. A huge thank you to everyone's contributions to this ministry. It is because of you FCC was able to bring a special Christmas to 50 people! On Sunday afternoon, the CYF group shopped for 14 kids. Presents for 50 people are ready to be dropped off at VAC!

Thanks, *Elizabeth Mottaz*



FRIDAY NIGHT *HOLIDAY* CLASSIC!

"Miracle on 34th Street"

3rd Floor Cinema

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10TH AT 7PM

Fresh popcorn will be available, but bring your own beverage!



A Very Heifer Christmas!

A note from Sally Robinson

Christmas is a time to give help to those in need. So many of us have so much, and we want to share our Christmas cheer, so what better choice than the gift of bees? A gift of \$30 will provide a box and hive, and training in beekeeping so the beekeeper will earn income through the sale of honey and beeswax. Plus, beehives can as much as double some fruit and vegetable yields through natural pollination. Alex struggled to make a reliable income from beekeeping. Each beekeeper in his tiny town in Mexico worked alone, and not one made a steady profit. Then Heifer taught them to join together in a beekeeping cooperative. Alex and his neighbors gained both the expert training on how to manage a hive and the skills to market their honey to sell. Today, Alex owns the hives used by the 50-person cooperative.

Your Outreach Ministry Department will have a display in the narthex on Sunday, December 12. Come and look at the many different options you have in making your gift to Heifer. Remember every gift will multiply for years to come. What a wonderful way to bring joy to the world!



89th Annual Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 12th, 4:00pm

Join us on Sunday, December 12th at 4:00pm for our 89th Annual Christmas Pageant at First Christian Church. All participants should be there by 3:15pm and parents should stick around to help get kids in costumes. There will be a tasting party afterward at 5pm in Yonker Fellowship Hall, hosted by the wonderful Cherry Hinderberger and Carol Hughey.

A "white gifts" offering will be collected at this year's Pageant. All are encouraged to bring non-perishable canned/boxed food wrapped in white paper to be donated locally.



STARS Christmas Lights Tour

Monday, December 13th, 6:30-8:30pm

This year's STARS Christmas Lights tour will be led by the amazing Janelle

Patterson on Monday, December 13th.

The two hour exploration of Christmas lights will include a stop at the Von Talge's house and neighborhood to see their beautiful lights displays, as well. RSVP in the office to get one of the last spots!



Birthdays

Dec. 10 Marjorie Carter (92!)

Willie Mae Wheeland
Curtis Snow
Cheryl Unterschultz

Dec. 12 Will Bower

Cliff Tompson (92!)

Dec. 13 Virginia Ivey

Dec. 14 Susan Woodbury

Dec. 15 Buddy Boger

Darby Henry

Dec. 16 Joe Reardon

Hanna Weber

Anniversaries

Dec. 13 Laura Hutton Koch

& Frank Koch

Dec. 15 Russell & Laura

DeVenney



News of the People

Prayers of Sympathy...



Vicki Johnson's mother, Janice Bencoter passed on Wednesday, December 1st. The visitation will take place at Baue Funeral Home in O'Fallon, Mo on Sunday, December 12th from 4-8pm and her funeral will be on Monday, December 13th at 11am at the same location. Keep **Vicki, Olivia, and Alex Johnson** close to your heart and in your prayers.

Prayers of Health and Healing...

Gary Tatlow continues to recover at Boone Hospital after his surgery last week.

Karen Hobson had ankle replacement surgery on Wednesday, Dec. 8th. She'll be in a cast for at least 6 weeks.



Associate Minister Search Team Update

Here's what's happening since we last shared:

* Search Co-Chairs:

- Determined our vetting process - Brad, Eric and Holly will conduct the initial review/meeting/intro and bring in the full Search Team when we are ready to do a deeper dive.

* Search Team:

- Added the Job Description and Congregational Profile to the church website, promoting the position.
- Dr. Brad is reaching out to seminaries and other denominational contacts for potential recruits.
- Strategizing our list of interview questions.
- Creating an FCC 'Look Book' to help promote our church and Columbia in general - for use with recruiting efforts.

* Candidate Update:

- Paul Koch, our Regional Minister, was excited to share a candidate with us, but that person was already moving down a different path.
- Larry Colvin (covering for Paul's sabbatical) shared an interested candidate with us, however her strengths were centered on pastoral care only - we didn't feel our children/youth-centric position would be a good fit for her or for us.
- We met with another candidate whose skills and experience very closely match with our needs on 11/19/21, and had a great initial conversation! However, she was presented with a unique post-graduate opportunity and will be following that journey instead.

As always, we appreciate your patience and prayers as we work through the process. Please know that we are right on track and are in full alignment with the Regional Minister in terms of a timeline. Things are moving right along!

Christmas Offering for Christian Church in Mid-America

December 12th & 19th

This year, the annual Christmas Offering will be collected on Sundays December 12th & 19th.

All gifts toward this offering support the work of our regional ministry, The Christian Church of Mid-America. Our regional ministry works to: connect congregations to each other; foster faith development; gather Disciples in camps, conferences, and assemblies; assist churches in calling new ministers; lead the Church to address racism; inspire leaders to experiment and create; and witness to the power of God to make things new. The Christmas Special Day offering supports all of these and many other ministries of our regions.



New Roof on Bethany Hall

Last week, construction on the roof of Bethany Hall began! Missouri Builders continue working this week. Big thanks to the Property team at FCC for arranging these projects and for keeping the church building fresh and new!



Staff Christmas Fund

The Administrative Dept. provides an opportunity for church members and friends to contribute to a *Staff Christmas Fund*. The fund recognizes 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. **The deadline for contributions is Sunday, December 19.** Your generosity will be divided evenly among the staff: ministers, office staff, music staff, and custodian. Thank you!

-- Genie Rogers, Administrative Dept. Chairperson

Mid-America Men & Friends

Saturday, December 11th, 9am - 3pm

Mid-America Men & Friends are gathering on Saturday, December 11th at Bethany Hall for an all-day retreat in partnership with Illuman of the Ozarks. This gathering will be spiritually purposeful and well worth your time commitment to receive "something more" in your journey to be a whole Christian man. Want more information about how to RSVP and the schedule? Contact the church office at (573) 449-7265 or at fcc@firstchristian.org.

Christmas Hymns CD

On Sale in the Narthex

Travis McFarlane is now offering amazing CDs of Christmas Hymns for a suggested donation of \$10. All proceeds will go toward funding more musicians to play at the 8:30 services. CDs will be available in the Narthex this Sunday at both services!



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

Music Staff

Daniel Shafer, 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

Support Staff

Erin Perry, Office Manager
fcc@firstchristian.org
Fred Mottaz, Business Manager
fred@firstchristian.org

2021 Advent Calendar

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12TH

Christmas Pageant, 4pm
Tasting Party, 5pm

Monday, December 13th

STARS Christmas Lights Tour, 6:30pm

Sunday, December 19th

JYF/Chi-Rho/CYF Gingerbread House
& Christmas Sock Party, 4-6pm

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24TH

Meditation Service, 5pm
Candlelight Communion Service, 7pm

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25TH

Christmas Day

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26TH

One Service at 9:30am

Worship Serving Schedule

Sunday, December 12th, 2021

RIDESHARE DRIVER: Eric Seaman
OFFICE RECEPTIONIST: Sue Underwood
WELCOME STATION: Valerie Freed
FLOWER ARRANGING/DELIVERY: Poinsettia
Sunday
COMMUNION PREP: Chris & Candace Stomer
GREETERS: Debbie Potthast (N. DOOR), Mary
Jane Anderson (S. DOOR), Steve Humble
(ATRIUM), Jessica Humble (PORTICO)
SOUND BOARD OPERATOR: Janelle Patterson
BANNER BEARER: Noah Stagg
CANDLE LIGHTER: Dietrich Arnett
ELDERS: Mary Daugherty (8:30)
Brianna Pooler, Dan Backues (10:30)
CHILDREN'S WORSHIP: Holly Gieseke
OFFERING COUNTERS: Sarah Storm and Jean
Juba



All Youth Groups
**Gingerbread House &
Christmas Sock Party**

Sunday, Dec. 19th, 4 - 6pm