



the VISITOR

August 14, 2026
Vol. 83, No. 4

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

Happening Soon

SUNDAY, AUGUST 16

- Adult Sunday School, 8:30am, Morris Parlor
- Coffee Fellowship Hour, 9am, YFH
- Worship, 9:30am

TUESDAY, AUGUST 18

- Bible Study, 10:30am, Morris Parlor
- Staff Meeting, 2pm, Morris Parlor
- Cabinet Meeting, 6:30pm, Morris Parlor

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19

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

THURSDAY, AUGUST 20

- Bell Choir Rehearsal, 6pm, 3rd Floor

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23

- Adult Sunday School, 8:30am, Morris Parlor
- Coffee Fellowship Hour, 9am, YFH
- Worship & Backpack Blessings, 9:30am
- Back to School Bash, 11am, YFH & Parking Lot

MONDAY, AUGUST 24

- Loaves & Fishes, 4-6:30pm,
VAC Opportunity Campus (1300 Bowling St).

TUESDAY, AUGUST 25

- Bible Study, 10:30am, Morris Parlor
- Newsletter Mailing, 1pm, Morris Parlor
- Staff Meeting, 2pm, Morris Parlor

- Calendar Continued on Page 3 -



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

12TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

AUGUST 16

*"God's Irrevocable
Gifts & Calling"*

ROMANS 11:1-2A, 29-32

REV. DR. BRAD STAGG, PREACHING

13TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

AUGUST 23

*"Transformed By the
Renewing of the Minds"*

ROMANS 12:1-8

REV. DR. BRAD STAGG, PREACHING

2 WORSHIP OPTIONS

IN-PERSON AT CHURCH @ 9:30 AM

In-person worship in the Sanctuary.

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)"*

Blessing of the Backpacks & Back to School Bash

Blessing of the Backpacks, Back-to-School Bash, and Donation Drive on August 23

Mark your calendars for Sunday, August 23 for all things back-to-school: a blessing during worship, a post-worship celebration, and a donation drive all in one! All teachers, students, and all backpack wearers are invited to join us in worship on Sunday, August 23 for the Blessing of the Backpacks! Bring your backpack or work bag with you for the blessing, and we'll have special tags for you to take with you. Following worship, everyone is invited to FCC's Fellowship Hall & Parking Lot for a back-to-school bash. Lunch will be provided, there will be games, and a very special guest (think 7 foot tall live dinosaur)! Finally, to further celebrate the return "back to school," we are gathering donations to help Mother's Day Out and the Children's Education Department restock the 2nd & 3rd Floor with supplies for classes this fall! A donation list can be found on Page 2. We hope you can join us this August!



FCC Supper Club this September

Supper Club meeting at Bangkok Gardens on September 3

The FCC Supper Club is an opportunity for fellowship with other FCCers and to explore restaurants downtown (also with the benefit of free childcare for the evening). Join the Supper Club at Bangkok Gardens on Thursday, September 3 from 6-8 p.m. (childcare drop off at 5:45 p.m.). **Please RSVP to Erin Perry at**

fcc@firstchristian.org by Monday, August 31 if you'd like to join. When you RSVP, please note if you'll need childcare.



THIS IS A DOUBLE-ISSUE OF THE VISITOR!
KEEP IT HANDY UNTIL AUGUST 28.



News of the People & Places

Sympathy...

• **Pat Ritchie** passed away on Wednesday, July 29. Pat was 96 years old. A visitation was held for Pat at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, August 13 at Memorial Funeral Home, and a memorial service following at 1:00 p.m. Please keep Pat's son, **Steve Lawnick**, and family in your prayers during this time of grief and transition.



• Jack Alexander, father of **Jacki Davidson & Jennifer Alexander**, passed away on Thursday, July 30. A visitation and service were held at the Carter Funeral Home in Moberly, Mo on Sunday, August 9 and Monday, August 10.



Welcome to the World...

• Jessica Pesner, daughter of **Susan Klockow** and granddaughter of **Jane Anne Hackett**, gave birth to Leo Harlan Pesner on August 1 at 3:00 a.m., named after Leo's late great-grandfather **Harlan Hackett**.

Prayers for Health & Healing...

- **Mary Ann Atteberry** is home after being hospitalized due to a broken arm.
- **Sally Estes** is in the hospital in Kansas City receiving treatment for abdominal lymphoma. She is stable and is beginning five months of chemotherapy.
- **Cherry Hinderberger** is recovering from her successful knee replacement surgery on Friday, July 31.
- **Steve Humble** had a hernia repair surgery at University Hospital on Monday, August 10.
- **Ruth Ann McAtee** is recovering at home after a stay in the hospital with pneumonia.
- **Carol Slusher** was moved to John Knox in Higginsville, Mo for rehab following bowel surgery. Carol has been diagnosed with stage 2 colon cancer, but her family celebrates that no cancer was found in her lymph nodes!
- **Pat Wright** was admitted to the hospital for monitoring on August 8 after fluid was removed from his hearts and lungs.

Birthday Card Shower...

• **Susan Gray** will celebrate her 85th birthday on Friday, August 21! Cards are encouraged to celebrate this happy occasion - please send all cards to Susan Gray at 416 W. Lathrop Rd, Columbia



Thank You...

My thanks to Dr. Brad Stagg and my friends at First Christian Church. I appreciated your prayers, cards, and phone calls these past weeks. Special thanks for the "food train" and help with transportation for my treatments. Also to Brenda Mosby for bringing me flowers last week. You have all been such a blessing to me and my family. We send our love.

Susan Klockow & Jane Ann Hackett



Dear FCC,

Thank you for supporting my education by awarding me a scholarship. The scholarship will help me to continue towards my degree. I appreciate the continued support & guidance the church has given me throughout my life.

Sincerely, **Lillian McCormack**

Dear FCC Family,

Thank you so much for supporting my academic journey again. With your constant support in my school journey & my overall life journey, I have continued to chase my dreams & live my life for God & for my church family.

Thank you as always.

God bless, **Kameron Freed**

Dear FCC,

Thank you so much for awarding me this wonderful scholarship for my future academics! This church has been a rock in my life and I will continue to keep it with me through my college experience!

Paige Freed

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for the John Ridgeway Scholarship! I am so thankful to be a part of this church home and for all the support you have given me over the years. This scholarship will help me through my final year of college, and I truly appreciate your generosity and investment in my education.

With gratitude, **Ella Rogers**

Thank you for all of the cards and wonderful wishes for John's 80th birthday. They were very meaningful.

Sarah & John Yonker

Thank you to **Jay & Mona Stevenson** for their hard work giving our paraments and banners a nice refresh & clean! We are so grateful for **Mona's** incredible handiwork on display every Sunday making our sanctuary even more beautiful. Thank you both!

Birthdays

August 17

Elizabeth Mottaz

August 18 - Nora Dietzel, Sharon Smith

August 19 - Quinn Fullington, Carol Hughey,
Lillian Schaefer

August 21 - Susan Gray

August 23 - Janelle Patterson

August 24 - Paula Slusher

August 25 - Amelia Leon-Rudy

August 26 - Mary Daugherty

August 27 - Steve McCormack

August 29 - Ryan Hunsaker

August 30 - Henry Carrier

Anniversaries

August 18 - David Meyer & Ann Stone-Meyer

August 23 - Hartley & Kim Rogers

August 27 - Bob & Linda Hutton

AUGUST

Give Charitably With Your RMD!

Hello FCC Family! End of year and tax season are going to sneak up on us quick! Some of us may be required to begin taking Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) from your traditional IRAs. The best way to satisfy your RMD requirement and avoid including it in your annual income is with the Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD).

If you are aged 70-1/2 or older, you are eligible to transfer up to a statutory limit, \$108,000 for individuals and \$218,000 for couples in 2025, directly from your IRA to an eligible charity. Because the money never touches your hands, it is excluded from your taxable income — a much more powerful benefit than taking the RMD and then claiming an itemized deduction for a charitable contribution. This direct transfer satisfies your RMD requirement while supporting your favorite causes and lowering your taxable income for the year.

To secure the tax benefits of a QCD, your donation must clear your IRA account by the **December 31** deadline. Since processing can take time, it is essential to initiate the transfer early to ensure the funds leave your account before the end of the year. Please reach out if you have any questions about how to take advantage of this opportunity (businessmanager@firstchristian.org)!

Justin DeWick, Business Manager

Looking for A/V Volunteers!

We are looking for A/V volunteers to serve in 2026

-2027! There is a small but mighty crew that runs our livestream and records our



AUDIO-VISUAL ---team---

worship services every Sunday. This crew also makes sure everyone in both the room and on the livestream can hear properly - we are each indebted to these folks for keeping worship so accessible! However, we are always looking for more folks to join the team. Those interested will be trained on cameras and the sound system. Please contact **Erin Perry** in the Church Office if you're interested in learning more.

2026-27 CWF Yearbooks

CWF Yearbooks Now Available

The latest edition of the Christian Women's Fellowship Yearbook is officially available!

The CWF yearbooks include

information about the CWF groups, group directories, meeting times, and the operating budget. Pick your copy up in the Church Office during the week and on Sunday mornings, or from the CWF nook in the first floor elevator alcove. You can also request a copy by sending an email to fcc@firstchristian.org.



Woodhaven Looking for Volunteers

Woodhaven has been in the Columbia community since 1964. They were first on a campus by Nifong Park serving children. In the 1990's they moved off campus to individual homes to be part of the community of Columbia. The individuals, now adults, continue to be served by Woodhaven. Some of the homes are looking for individuals or groups to come



and help them with their landscaping, pulling weeds, planting flowers, helping them to make their home look great. By using volunteers this will help their funds go further to support the individuals served by not having to pay landscapers to come do the work. If you would like to be a volunteer, please contact Jeff Kitch at 573-875-6181 or

jkitch@woodhaventeam.org.

Happening Soon

- Continued from Page 1 -

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26

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

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27

- Bell Choir Rehearsal, 6pm, 3rd Floor

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30

- Adult Sunday School, 8:30am, Morris Parlor
- Coffee Fellowship Hour, 9am, YFH
- Worship, 9:30am
- Youth & Children's Teacher Training, 10:45am

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

Electronic Service Requested



WEBSITE



GIVE

First Christian Church

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

Church Staff

Rev. Dr. Brad Stagg, Senior Minister
brad@firstchristian.org

Stacy Silverwood,
Director of Youth & Children's Ministries
stacy@firstchristian.org

Music Staff

Tophier Otake, Director of Music Ministry
totake@firstchristian.org

Dr. Rochelle Parker, Organist
Travis McFarlane, Early Service Musician
Madi Myers, Bell Choir Director

Mother's Day Out Pre-School

Hayley Batterson, Director
Sam Dunnings, Assistant Director

Columbia Older Adult Ministry

Rev. Sally Robinson, Director

Support Staff

fcc@firstchristian.org
Maria Clark, Weekend Custodian
Justin DeWick, Business Manager
Erin Perry, Office Manager

Worship Serving Schedule

Sunday, August 16, 2026

OFFICE RECEPTIONIST: Debbie Potthast

WELCOME STATION: Carrie Batterson

FLOWER MINISTRY:

Mary Daugherty & Fred Mottaz

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP:

Shannon & Scott Schaefer

COMMUNION PREP: Barbara & Tiger Li

GREETERS: David Potthast (N. DOOR),
Carrie Batterson (S. DOOR), Debbie Potthast
(Atrium), Rebecca Bailey (PORTICO)

AV TEAM: Cliff Judy

LITURGIST: Jessica Humble

9:30 ELDERS: Allie Schomaker, Hayley
Batterson, Tracy Evers (Balcony)

DEACONS: The Underwood Team

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP: Stacy Silverwood

OFFERING COUNTERS:

Jean Juba and Janelle Patterson

Worship Serving Schedule

Sunday, August 23, 2026

OFFICE RECEPTIONIST: Carrie Batterson

WELCOME STATION: Rebecca Bailey

FLOWER MINISTRY: Paula Hoenes

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP: C.K. & Paula Hoenes

COMMUNION PREP:

Jeff Underwood & Ryan Stem

GREETERS: Sally Robinson (N. DOOR),
Janelle Patterson (S. DOOR), Dan Gieseke
(Atrium), Holly Gieseke (PORTICO)

AV TEAM: Noah Stagg

LITURGIST: Dan Gieseke

9:30 ELDERS: Steve Humble, Jessica
Humble, Paula Hoenes (Balcony)

DEACONS: The Hunsaker Team

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP: Stacy Silverwood

OFFERING COUNTERS:

Deb Batterson and Jerry Miller