



the VISITOR

April 17, 2026
Vol. 82, No. 35

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

Happening Soon

SUNDAY, APRIL 19

- 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, YFH
- Strategic Planning Department Leadership Retreat, 12:30-4pm, YFH
- Combined Chi-Rho & CYF, 5pm, YFH

TUESDAY, APRIL 21

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

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22

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

THURSDAY, APRIL 23

- Bell Choir Rehearsal, 6pm, 3rd Floor

SUNDAY, APRIL 26

- 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, YFH
- Combined Chi-Rho & CYF, 5pm, YFH

MONDAY, APRIL 27

- Loaves & Fishes, 4-6:30pm, RATI

Calendar Continued on Page 2



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

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 19TH

"Risking It All"

JOHN 20:19-31

REV. DR. BRAD STAGG, PREACHING

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 26TH

"Everything in Common"

ACTS 2:42-47

REV. DR. BRAD STAGG, PREACHING

2 WORSHIP OPTIONS

IN-PERSON AT CHURCH @ 8:30 & 10:30 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)"*

Fellowship Department's High Tea & Trivia

High Tea & Trivia on Sunday, May 3

Tis' time to dust off your finest plumage & sharpen that impressive mind of yours, for a truly delightful afternoon awaits! You are hereby summoned to sip, snack, and strut your stuff in the *Fellowship Department's Annual High Tea & Trivia* event where we offer:

- ◆ Proper High Tea snicky-snacks & drinks
- ◆ Rousing rounds of trivia across a variety of categories - with something for every age & every era of wisdom
- ◆ PRIZES! Trivia awards *and* a door prize: plenty of opportunities to win

Whether you consider yourself a trivia powerhouse or simply someone who enjoys a flaky scone in good company, this is the afternoon for YOU. Teams will be formed, alliances will be forged, and a top to toe good time shall be had by all. *Pinkies up, people. This is going to be fabulous.* Please RSVP online (<https://firstchristian.org/rsvp>) so the Fellowship Team can prepare accordingly.

We'll even help you start practicing now! Each week we'll feature a Trivia Question right here in the Visitor... because champions are made before they arrive! *(If we've stymied you, the answer can be found on page 3 - no shame whatsoever!)*



Department Budget Drafts

Due Monday, April 20

Send to **Justin DeWick** at
businessmanager@firstchristian.org.



WHICH NOVEL BY WILLIAM GOLDBERG
FEATURES CHILDREN INCLUDING JACK,
RALPH & PIGGY, STRANDED ON A
DESERT ISLAND?



THIS IS A DOUBLE-ISSUE OF THE VISITOR!
KEEP IT HANDY UNTIL MAY 1.



News of the People & Places

Prayers of Health & Healing...

- **Opal Stites** is home following a visit to the hospital.
- **Tom Hughey** was admitted to University Hospital on Thursday for testing and the removal of fluid build up. He is being sent home this week on hospice care.
- **Bryan Garton's** mother, Betty, fell and broke her elbow. She is at University Hospital and is awaiting surgery.
- **Dana Heavin** was in the hospital this week for an infection and is now recovering at home.

Office Updates...

- Our Office Manager, **Erin Perry**, will be out of the office Thursday, April 16 - Monday, April 20. Please contact our Business Manager, **Justin DeWick**, in the church office (businessmanager@firstchristian.org) if you need assistance.

First Christian Church Scholarships

Scholarships are now available through First Christian Church and through the Mid-America Region of Disciples for those who are currently in undergraduate programs or seeking higher education.



First Christian Church Scholarships

The applications for FCC Scholarships are now available for those members who are in undergraduate programs or higher education to apply. The deadline for applications is **Friday, June 5**. Applications can be found in the Church Office or by emailing fcc@firstchristian.org.

Mid-America Disciples Christian Ministries Scholarship Fund

The Christian Ministries Scholarship Fund provides financial assistance for those preparing for Christian Ministries - both in seminary and undergraduate education. This fund is primarily aimed at supporting those persons from the Christian Church of Mid-America (CCMA) Region who are preparing for the Christian ministries. Apply for these scholarships online at <https://www.mid-america-disciples.org/christian-ministries-scholarship-fund> by **Sunday, May 31 at midnight.**

Annual Stewardship Campaign

What Shall We Bring Week 1 by Ryan Stem

Good morning!

Typically, when I'm up here, I'm usually singing for you, but today I've been asked to say a few words about First Christian and what this church means to me. When I first came here, it was a time in my life of changes and transitions and my heart was also open to finding a church home. When I had the chance to share my voice in song here, I had a feeling this would not be my last visit to this church. From the very first time I came to a service, I heard my story and a welcoming message in Brad's sermon, and I was overwhelmed by the welcoming spirit that I encountered here. I felt early on that I was invited to come on this journey as a Disciple.

What shall we bring?

Nearly 4 years later, singing in the choir has been an immense gift to me, and serving as a Deacon is a new gift for which I am grateful. When I've had a tough week, I know I can come here and sing these glorious hymns and serve you communion, and it uplifts my heart so much that I can't help but smile brightly with the same welcoming spirit that was shared with me from day one. So, when I think about what I can bring to First Christian in my own discipleship, I believe that when I sing, when I serve and when I give, I feel my spirit is truly restored and I know that I am at my best when sharing all the gifts that God has given me.

We are all on this spiritual journey together, being guided by the leadership of First Christian, and it is an incredible adventure that you all make possible. Each time you share your gifts with this church community, you are holding that door open for a new person, just like me, to enter, to find their place here and to devote all they are and have to this church. All I can say is my spirit is fed and nurtured and grows infinitely when I sing, when I serve and when I give to this church. During this time of stewardship, I pray that we may all find it in our hearts to give all that we have and all that we are to this blessed community of First Christian Church. Thank you!

Happening Soon

(continued)

TUESDAY, APRIL 28

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

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29

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

SATURDAY, MAY 2

- Breakfast for Our Brethren, 7-9am, RATI

SUNDAY, MAY 3

Commitment Sunday

- 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, YFH
- High Tea & Trivia, 4pm, YFH

Loaves & Fishes

Serving Dinner on Monday, April 27

This month's Loaves & Fishes serving date falls on Monday, April 27 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/aprilloaves26>. 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 June. Thank you all so much for making this ministry possible!



Breakfast for Our Brethren

Serving Breakfast Saturday Mornings in May

Breakfast for Our Brethren returns this May! First Christian Church serves breakfast each Saturday during the months of May & October to folks who stay the night at Room at the Inn. Those who volunteer help cook, serve, and/or clean up from 6-9 a.m. (or any time between)! We are starting to collect non-perishable items for next month like cereal, breakfast bars and canned fruit (peaches or fruit cocktail). If you'd like to sign up to donate food items or to volunteer, sign up using the sheets in the Church Office or online at <https://bit.ly/maybfast>. Feel free to reach out to **Debbie Potthast** (dapotthast@gmail.com) or **Erin** in the Church Office if you have any questions about serving or donating. We are so grateful for all of you for making this ministry possible!



CWF Silent Bazaar

Deadline for Donations Sunday, April 26

Spring is here and at this time, the Christian Women's Fellowship Board begins planning for the 2026-2027 budget. We begin with what we call a Silent Bazaar. **"Silent" because we are not asking anyone to make, buy or sell anything - how easy is that! Just this letter asking for your monetary donations.** We are hoping to raise \$2,000 to contribute to the 2026-2027 budget. Please give prayerful thought and consideration when giving your donation so we can join together in fulfilling the mission of our Church and in honoring Christian Women's Fellowship! Please make checks payable to First Christian Church with a notation of CWF on the memo line, and if cash, place in an envelope marked "CWF Silent Bazaar". **Return all donations to the church office or place them in the offering plate by Sunday, April 26th** so we can complete the 2026-2027 budget.



Janelle Patterson, CWF President

Youth Group Schedule



Join this Sunday!

Combined Chi-Rho & CYF (Mission Trip Prep)

April 19 & April 26 @ 5:00 p.m.

High Tea & Trivia

May 3 @ 4:00 p.m.

End of Year Youth Group Party

May 10 @ 6:00 p.m. at the Endress Haus



Birthdays

- **April 21** - Eli Barnes
- **April 22** - Eden Crane, Bobbi McCormack, Annie Stagg
- **April 23** - Joshua Garton, Abby Holman
- **April 25** - Anna Carrier, Millard Thomas
- **April 27** - Trish Stagg
- **April 28** - Pam Hunsaker, Lena Schaefer
- **April 29** - Sherry Dobbs, Roy Fullington, Jade Mooney, Susan Ramsey
- **April 30** - Aleena Li
- **May 1** - Riley Barnes, **Jane Ann Hackett (92!)**

Anniversaries

- **April 21** - Ashton & Cassie Long
- **April 22** - Dan & Holly Gieseke
- **April 27** - Karen & George Hobson (52 years!)
- **April 30** - Matt & Hayley Batterson

In Search Of...



The Church Office Wants Your Old Office Supplies!

There are so many ways to support the work of the church, and random donations is one of them! Right now, the Church Office is looking for lightly used or new crayons for the Children's Worship materials on Sunday mornings, as well as few collections of paper clips for the counters to use on Sunday mornings. If you are spring cleaning and want to get rid of crayons or paper clips, please consider the church!

Those who use the Atrium or 2nd floor bathrooms on Sunday mornings may have also noticed that we have started collections for paper towel and toilet paper rolls. These will be used for preschool crafts, so please share if you have any! All donations should be dropped off in the Church Office.



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 573-449-7265
 email: fcc@firstchristian.org
 web: firstchristian.org



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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
 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, April 19, 2026

OFFICE RECEPTIONIST: Tracy Fuemmeler
WELCOME STATION: Meg & Cliff Judy
FLOWER MINISTRY: Jess & Steve Humble
COFFEE FELLOWSHIP: Edie Pigg
EARLY SERVICE HELPERS:
 Mary & Laura Daugherty
COMMUNION PREP:
 Sarah Storm & Eric Seaman
GREETERS: Steve Humble (N. DOOR),
 Jessica Humble (S. DOOR), Doug Smith
 (ATRIUM), Cindy Smith (PORTICO)
AV TEAM: Noah Stagg
LITURGIST: Ben Carrier
8:30 ELDER: Kurt Schaefer
10:30 ELDERS: Brenda Mosby, Becky
 Baumgartner, Sarah Storm (Balcony)
DEACONS: The Underwood Team
CHILDREN'S WORSHIP: Jessica Humble
OFFERING COUNTERS:
 Jerry Miller and Janelle Patterson

Worship Serving Schedule

Sunday, April 26, 2026

OFFICE RECEPTIONIST: Janelle Patterson
WELCOME STATION: Susan Gray
FLOWER MINISTRY: Eric Seaman
COFFEE FELLOWSHIP: The Fuemmeler
EARLY SERVICE HELPERS: TBD
COMMUNION PREP:
 Anne & Audra Crouso
GREETERS: Peggy Veatch (N. DOOR),
 Larry Veatch (S. DOOR), Edie Pigg (ATRIUM),
 Elizabeth Mottaz (PORTICO)
AV TEAM: Cliff Judy
LITURGIST: Jessica Humble
8:30 ELDER: Steve Smith
10:30 ELDERS: C.K. Hoenes, Paula Hoenes,
 Fred Mottaz (Balcony)
DEACONS: The Hunsaker Team
CHILDREN'S WORSHIP: Hayley Batterson
OFFERING COUNTERS:
 Jean Juba and Sarah Storm