



## the VISITOR

February 27, 2026  
Vol. 82, No. 28

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

### Happening Soon

#### SUNDAY, MARCH 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
- CYF, 5pm, YFH

#### MONDAY, MARCH 2

- MDO Picture Day, 3rd Floor

#### TUESDAY, MARCH 3

- MDO Picture Day, 3rd Floor
- Bible Study, 10:30am, Morris Parlor
- Staff Meeting, 2pm, Morris Parlor

#### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4

- Midweek Connect, 10:30am, Zoom
- Bible Study, 12pm, Morris Parlor
- Bell Choir Rehearsal, 5pm, 3rd Floor
- Officers Meeting, 5:30pm, Morris Parlor
- Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 5:45pm, 3rd Floor

#### FRIDAY, MARCH 6

*Mother's Day Out Not In Session*

#### SUNDAY, MARCH 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
- Chi-Rho, 4pm, YFH
- CYF, 5pm, YFH



A congregation related to  
**The Christian Church  
(Disciples of Christ)**  
[www.disciples.org](http://www.disciples.org)

## SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

### MARCH 1ST

*"The People We Encounter  
on Our Way to the Cross:  
The Seeker"*

### JOHN 3:1-17

REV. DR. BRAD STAGG, 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

**Volunteers Needed! Burns Night Supper,  
Saturday, March 14**

We are now about a month away from our  
rescheduled Burns Night Supper date! This  
event is a big opportunity for the youth to  
showcase their hard work and for FCC to  
share our rich community with the wider  
Columbia area. The rescheduled date for  
Burns Night will be Saturday, March 14, from 5:45 - 10:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Volunteers are needed to help cook the week  
of, to help clean dishes during the event, to  
clean up the night of, and to help run the si-  
lent auction. Anyone looking to volunteer  
should contact **Topher Endress** at  
[topher@firstchristian.org](mailto:topher@firstchristian.org). There will be a sign  
up sheet in the Narthex in the next few weeks,  
as well, but the BEST way to support the youth  
is to share this event with your friends and  
family - the more the merrier!

Tickets are still available for the event. Indi-  
vidual admission is \$40.00, but two tickets are  
discounted for \$70.00. Tickets for the dance  
(ceilidh) only are also available for \$20.00.  
You can purchase tickets in the Church Office  
during the week, or online: [https://bit.ly/  
burnsnight](https://bit.ly/burnsnight).



## Save the Date!

### Parent's Night Out

**Parent's Night Out on March 21**

Calling all parents and young adults of FCC -  
you are invited to the first Parent's Night  
Out of 2026! All younger adults of the  
church are invited to join us for a  
dinner out in Columbia for an evening of  
food and fellowship. Next month's PNO  
is scheduled for March 21 from 6:00 - 8:00  
p.m. (childcare drop off at 5:45 p.m.).  
Parents who would like to join but need  
childcare, please RSVP ahead of time to  
**Topher Endress** ([topher@firstchristian.org](mailto:topher@firstchristian.org))  
so we can arrange childcare ahead of time.  
More information coming soon!

### Daylight Savings Time

#### Begins Next Sunday (March 8)!

Don't forget to turn any of your digital clocks forward one hour on  
Saturday evening so we can see you bright and early on Sunday morning!





# News of the People & Places

*Celebrating 105 Years...*

• **Elizabeth Hensley** will turn 105 years old this February and all are invited to celebrate her on her birthday Friday, February 27 from 3:00-5:00 p.m. in The Fireside Room at Lenoir Woods (3710 Lenoir St).



## Birthdays

**March 3** - Sally Estes

**March 4** - Sharon Ronchetto

**March 5** - Brice Moeller, Khons Volmert

**March 6** - Andrew Janssen

**March 7** - Michael Taylor

**March 8** - Valerie Freed, Andrea Smith

## New Bell Choir Director

### *Welcoming Madi Myers as our new Bell Choir Director*

An update to our staffing configuration was approved at the Board Meeting on February 17, when the Administrative Board approved the hire of **Madi Myers** as our new Bell Choir Director. Our Director of Music Ministry, **Topher Otake**, has decided to step back from his role as Bell Choir Director in order to maintain a healthier work-life balance and provide effective leadership for both the bell choir and the chancel choir. We are very excited about the experience and excitement that Madi will bring to this new role, especially as Madi has been a beloved member of the chancel choir for since she was a student at the University. Madi will work under the supervision of Topher Otake, who will remain as the Director of Music Ministry. The transition will take place over the next few months. Any questions about this change in leadership can be directed to Topher Otake, Genie Rogers, or Brad Stagg.



2 Madison Myers went to the University of Missouri for a

Bachelor's Degree in Music, specializing in Opera and Voice. She has two cats and a big dog. If she is not working or making music, you can find her outside, playing Xbox, or listening to an audiobook. Please welcome Madi officially when you see her on Sunday morning!

## Staffing Update from the Board

Dear FCC Members and Friends,

Changes are coming to our church staffing. Our Associate Minister, Rev. Dr. Topher Endress has begun exploring a call to emergency services to become an EMT and Firefighter. His training began January 6, 2026. His training continues every Tuesday and Thursday evening as well as some Saturdays and Sundays. His first Sunday training began February 22; the other Sundays include: March 8 & 22; April 19; and May 3. He hopes to eventually be hired fulltime as an EMT and Firefighter in the local area.

To accommodate his new direction and trainings, Dr. Endress and the Administrative Board have agreed that his hours and pay will be reduced by 25% effective February 1, 2026, following Dr. Stagg's surgery and recovery. As such, his "regular" work days are Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, and Sundays with occasional Saturdays as needed, like for Burns Night, Pastor's classes, or mission trips.

In response to ensure the long-term viability of our ministry to families with children and youth, the Admin Board voted to create a new part-time Director of Children and Youth Ministries position. This new job description focusing exclusively on families with children and youth has been approved by the Board; a search committee to fill that position is currently being formed; and advertising about the availability of the position will begin immediately.

If you have questions or interested in greater details about the new position or the search, please feel free to reach out to Board Moderator Mark Mills, Administration (H.R.) Dept. Chair Genie Rogers, and/or Senior Minister Brad Stagg. If you wish to know more about Dr. Endress' future plans, feel free to contact Topher Endress.

Thank you in advance for your prayers for First Christian Church as we enter this new chapter of ministry to our children and youth, as well as for Rev. Dr. Topher Endress as God opens new doors for his life and ministry.

Sincerely,

**Mark Mills, Genie Rogers, and Brad Stagg**

## A Note from Topher

Dear FCC Family,

As some of you may have pieced together, I really like learning new things. Some, including much of my immediate family, might claim I even have a slight obsession with being a student. Well, even after 3 degrees, many years of study, and countless papers, lifelong learning remains important to me. For a long while now, I have felt God calling me into the space of emergency medicine and first responding, and so I have begun responding to that call the best way I know how - by becoming a student yet again.

Since January, I have been enrolled with the Boone County Volunteer Fire Protection District, working toward my national EMT license and my NFPA 1010 certification (for firefighting, tactical rescues, and Haz-Mat training).

Why this? Why now? These are great questions, and I am still processing them myself. At the end of the day, I have always believed God calls us to care for one another in every aspect: spiritually, emotionally, and physically. I've long recognized some gifts in myself that led me to this, and my past in working with unhoused and disabled folks provides a deep well for caring for the biggest users of emergency response. I look at this as an extension of chaplaincy work - meeting the needs of people in crisis and ministering to them through my presence (and sometimes high-flow oxygen and tourniquets). Having been in some medical crises before, I can see how God has been leading me to this work for quite a while; it's about time I started listening!

As the letter from the Officers explains, my schedule at FCC has changed in response to all this. I will still be preaching, teaching, and leading the youth, though! Once I have my credentials, I can start responding to calls on behalf of Boone County Fire, but will do so purely as a volunteer on my own time.

I'm excited to continue following God's calling in this, and am always happy to chat about any of this further with anyone!

*Topher Endress*

## The Wardrobe

Because of space limitations, please hold on to your donations for the Wardrobe from March 2-March 31. March 11-14th will be their 25 cent sale. To get ready for the new spring/summer season the Wardrobe will be closed from March 17th -March 31st. The Wardrobe will re-open April 1st .

Questions? Call **Linda Hutton** (573-268-8901)



## Youth Group Schedule

Join this Sunday!



CYF • 5pm • March 1

Chi-Rho • 4pm • CYF • 5pm • March 8

Burns Night Supper & Ceilidh • March 14

CYF • 5pm • March 15

No Youth Group • March 22

### *Rescheduled! Baptism Class & Service Project*

Saturday, March 28 • 10am-5pm

Contact **Topher Endress** for more information!

**BLUEGRASS  
GOSPEL  
SING-ALONG**

**Rocheport Christian  
Church**

**MUSIC BY GOOD TURN DAILY**

**FEBRUARY 28, 2026**

**5:00 PM**

## Upcoming March Administrative Meetings

*Mark Your Calendars! Meetings This Month*

There are several administrative meetings coming up this month to note on your calendars. The church Cabinet will meet on Tuesday, March 10 at 6:30 p.m. in Morris Parlor. The Administrative Board will meet on Tuesday, March 17 at 6:30 p.m. in Morris Parlor. The Stewardship & Finance Department will meet on Wednesday, March 18 at 5:30 p.m. in Morris Parlor. Finally, we'll have our annual Congregational Meeting to approve the nomination slate for 2026 on Sunday, March 29 immediately following both services. Please mark your calendars accordingly!





101 N. 10th Street  
Columbia, MO 65201

573-449-7265

email: [fcc@firstchristian.org](mailto:fcc@firstchristian.org)

web: [firstchristian.org](http://firstchristian.org)



WEBSITE



GIVE

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

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](mailto:brad@firstchristian.org)

Rev. Dr. Topher Endress, Associate Minister  
[topher@firstchristian.org](mailto:topher@firstchristian.org)

### Music Staff

Topher Otake, Director of Music Ministry  
[totake@firstchristian.org](mailto: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](mailto:businessmanager@firstchristian.org)

Erin Perry, Office Manager  
[fcc@firstchristian.org](mailto:fcc@firstchristian.org)

## Worship Serving Schedule

*Sunday, March 1, 2026*

**OFFICE RECEPTIONIST:** Carla Tanzey

**WELCOME STATION:** Steve Humble

**FLOWER MINISTRY:** Dave & Debbie Potthast

**COFFEE FELLOWSHIP:**

Scott & Shannon Schaefer

**EARLY SERVICE HELPERS:**

Stacia Schaefer & Mary Daugherty

**COMMUNION PREP:** Paula & C.K. Hoenes

**GREETERS:** Doug Smith (N. DOOR), Cindy Smith (S. DOOR), Peggy Veatch (ATRIUM), Larry Veatch (PORTICO)

**AV TEAM:** Dan Gieseke

**LITURGIST:** Cliff Judy

**8:30 ELDER:** Kurt Schaefer

**10:30 ELDERS:** Jennifer Alexander, Jacki Davidson, Ryan Hunsaker (Balcony)

**DEACONS:** The Potthast Team

**CHILDREN'S WORSHIP:** Jessica Humble

**OFFERING COUNTERS:**

Sarah Storm and Jean Juba