



the VISITOR

March 27, 2026
Vol. 82, No. 32

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

Happening Soon

PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 29

- Worship, 8:30 & 10:30am
- Congregational Meeting (Nomination Slate), 9:30 & 11:45am, Sanctuary
- 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
- Palm Parade, 9:45am, Bell Tower
- Easter Egg Hunt, 12:30pm, YFH

TUESDAY, MARCH 31

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

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1

- Midweek Connect, 10:30am, Zoom
- Bible Study, 12pm, Morris Parlor
- Coffman-Watson Meeting, 2pm, Pam Hunsaker's Home
- Officers Meeting, 5:30pm, Zoom
- Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 5:30pm, 3rd Floor

MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 2

No Bell Choir Rehearsal

- Maundy Thursday Service, 6:30pm

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 3

- Ecumenical Good Friday Gathering, 12pm, First Baptist Church

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 5

Easter Break for Sunday School & Youth Group

- Easter Worship, 8:30 & 10:30am
- Coffee Fellowship Hour, 9:30am, YFH
- Easter Brunch for Musicians & Pastors, 9:30am, YFH



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

PALM SUNDAY MARCH 29TH

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

MATTHEW 21:1-11

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)"*

Volunteers Needed! Spring Church Workday

The arrival of spring rains signals that it is time to give the Church's exterior grounds their annual shape up in preparation for the coming growing season as well as Easter Sunday! Join us this Saturday, March 28 from 9 a.m. until noon (or any portion thereof) to clean up, spruce up and shape up after a very tough winter! **Mary Daugherty & Peggy Veatch** will again lead our efforts, and **Fred Mottaz** will offer his truck & trailer to haul mulch! **Volunteers are asked to bring their own gardening tools, gloves, hats, sunscreen and drinking water.** At least two or three wheelbarrows, mulch forks and/or shovels will also be needed. **If you can join us on Saturday, March 28, please call or text Mike Randerson at 573-424-4858.** Hope to see you there! Our weather makeup day will be Saturday, April 4, same time.



Mike Randerson

Congregational Meeting

Congregational Meeting on Sunday, March 29 to approve Nom Com Slate

Our annual march Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, March 29 immediately following both services. This meeting is held annually to approve the nomination slate for the upcoming church year, which results from the hard and dedicated work of the Nominating Committee! Please join us on Sunday, March 29 to vote on the nomination slate for 2026-27. A copy of the slate has been included in this week's newsletter insert.



The Lovely Ladies of Park Ave

Several women of FCC help serve at The Wardrobe on the second Friday of each month. They fold, hang, and sell clothing and greet patrons with warmth and kindness. And thankfully - they enjoy one another's company! If you'd like to get involved with this fun group, contact **Linda Hutton** (573-268-8901) for more information.





News of the People & Places

Prayers of Health & Healing...

• **Mary Ann Atteberry** was discharged from the hospital and the Neighborhoods (rehab) early last week after a fall that broke two of her ribs.

Thank You...

Many thanks to **Cherry Hinderberger** for delivering the beautiful flowers from the church last Sunday and for her kind visit. Many thanks also for your thoughts and prayers as I continue to recuperate day by day. May God Bless You All.

Sincerely, **Sherry Kaye Dobbs**



Birthdays

March 30 - Russell DeVenney, Ryan Silverwood, Sarah Storm

April 1 - Josh Provenzano

April 2 - Elizabeth Restrepo

April 3 - Eric Arnett, Karen Poe

April 4 - Laura DeVenney, Christy Von Talge

Anniversaries

April 3 - Eric & Tammy Arnett

Youth Group Schedule

Join this Sunday!



Easter Egg Hunt • 12-2pm • March 29

No Youth Group (Easter) • April 5

Chi-Rho • 4pm • CYF • 5pm • April 12

CYF • 5pm • April 19



Burns Night Supper & Ceilidh

Another successful fundraiser for youth mission & service trips!

Back in January, the weather forced us to make the hard call to postpone Burns Night. It was too icy and far too cold to be safe to ask people to be on the roads, but we knew that changing the date would potentially significantly dampen our spirits;

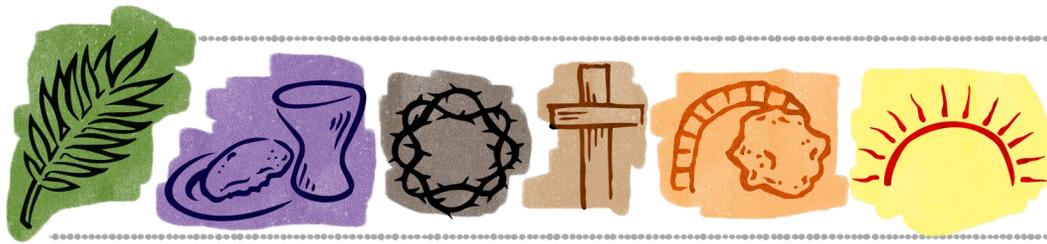


one of the best reasons for hosting Burns Night, instead of finding a different obscure holiday to celebrate, is that late January is often clear in social calendars. In switching to March, the earliest available date, I knew there would likely be more who would have to skip out thanks to a more crowded Spring schedule. Our goal with Burns is two-fold: raise significant amounts of money for the Mission Trip, and provide a night for people to engage in a fun community within the church setting. I am very pleased to report that despite the date shift, we achieved our goals! Yes, it was a bit smaller as some could no longer make the new date, and yes, it was a bit weird to celebrate a Winter holiday on warm Spring evening, but the feedback we received was that this was the smoothest, most efficient, and best Burns Night yet. Several guests who have attended multiple events in the past told me this year was their favorite, and in comparing number I think more folks stuck around for dancing than ever before!



I want to thank all those who came to help, both in January and in March, and all those who rolled with the changes. Your flexibility and willingness to adjust was incredible. We had folks donating goods for the raffle, baking, cleaning, and welcoming every person who came through the door - what a gift, to see the church coming together as a team and sharing their individual gifts as one Body. I am so grateful in particular that our church, and particularly our volunteers, deeply understand the connection between serving at a fundraising meal and sending our youth out to serve more widely. It is not lost on me how good it is that our congregation understands the value of caring for other people, and recognizes hospitality as an integral part of our witness to our city. So, for all those who came along, all those who volunteered, all those who offered artwork and scones and gift baskets and warm smiles, *thank you*. You are deeply appreciated.

Topher Endress



Holy Week

Palm Sunday

Palm Sunday Worship on Sunday, March 29

Palm Sunday will fall this year on Sunday, March 29. We will have our own FCC Palm Parade at 9:45 a.m. Palm parade participants will depart from the

bell tower at 9:45 a.m. to circle the building in a palm procession. Those who would like to process during worship but not around the building should gather in the Narthex at 10:25 a.m. to process down the center aisle at the beginning of 10:30 worship (during the prelude) to initiate the beginning of Palm Sunday worship.



Easter Egg Hunt

Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday, March 29 at 12:30 p.m.

The annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Palm Sunday, March 29 immediately following the second service at 12:30 p.m. Colorful, candy-filled eggs will be

hidden around the church for our young friends to find by Saturday, March 28. If you find yourself in the church on Saturday or Sunday and notice colorful eggs lying around, please leave them for our young friends to find on Sunday!



Maundy Thursday

Maundy Thursday Service on Thursday, April 2

Join us for this year's Maundy Thursday service, a service of Holy Communion and Tenebrae. This year's Maundy Thursday service will fall on

Thursday, April 2 at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. Childcare will be available in the second floor nursery. This service will be livestreamed and the link will be distributed the following day for those who cannot make it in person.



Good Friday

Ecumenical Good Friday Gathering at FBC

An ecumenical Good Friday gathering will be held on the lawn at First Baptist Church at 12:00 p.m. on Friday, April 3.



Easter Sunday

Easter Worship on Sunday, April 5 at 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.

Easter Sunday falls on April 5 this year. We will have two worship services on Easter morning at 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.

with music from the Tise Brass Quartet. There will be no Sunday School or youth groups on Easter Sunday. The Fellowship Team will host the annual brunch for musicians and pastors in the Fellowship Hall at 9:30 a.m. and offer treats for Coffee Hour. Those who purchased Easter lilies may take their lily home following worship on Easter morning.



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Columbia, Missouri

FOR ELECTION OF OFFICERS 2026-2027

Candidates below are presented for a vote by the Congregation on March 29, 2026
They are submitted by the Nominating Committee, and have been approved by the Administrative Board.

SERVICE BOARD NOMINEES

(for an indefinite term)

Elders

Pat Wright

Deacons

Izzy Arnett
Carrie Batterson
Karen Hobson
Joe Reardon
Kim Reardon
Carla Tanzey
Suellen Wells

Junior Deacons

(for a one-year term)
TBD

EMERITUS AND HONORARY

Elder Emeritus

Susan Gray
Larry Veatch

Deacon Emeritus

ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD NOMINEES

(for a three-year term)

Elder (1)

Jacki Davidson

Deacons (3)

Elizabeth Mottaz
TBD
TBD

Chair of Elders

(for a one-year term)
Eric Seaman

Chair of Deacons

(for a one-year term)
Ryan Hunsaker

Trustee

(for a three-year term)
Fred Mottaz

OFFICERS of the

Administrative Board/Congregation
(for a one-year term)

Moderator: Jessica Humble

Vice-Moderator: TBD

Secretary: Tracy Fuemmeler

Treasurer: Tracy Evers

Administrative Board Recap

A brief survey of Administrative Board Actions from March 17

The Administrative Board met Tuesday, March 17, 2026 to receive reports and administer the business of the church. **MDO**



Director Hayley Batterson provided a detailed report of MDO ministries including: passing their annual state inspection, current full enrollment, and a Fall waitlist of nearly 120 students. Way to go, Hayley!

C.K. Hoenes, Stewardship & Finance Department Chair, shared the Annual Stewardship Campaign Schedule for 2026-2027. The campaign commences on April 12; department budgets are due April 15; Commitment Sunday is May 3; Cabinet votes on the Budget on Tuesday, June 2; the Administrative Board votes on Tuesday, June 9, and the Congregation votes to approve on Sunday, June 21.

Levens Organ Company continues working thoroughly on repairing the organ. Rod Levens, Jr., part owner and project manager shared disappointing news on Thursday after the Board meeting that Levens no longer believes the work will be completed by Easter Sunday as originally thought.

The Board unanimously approved a motion from the Property Department to contract with United Mechanical Services (UMS) to perform yearly maintenance making two service calls per year on the church's 15 HVAC handlers for an amount of \$4,582. UMS provides flexible payment plans. The Board recommends paying monthly as this expense was an unbudgeted item for the 2025-26 fiscal year, minimizing the payout for this year.

Allie Schomaker presented the Nominating Committee's Slate for officers, elders, deacons, board members, youth deacons, and emeriti. This slate was approved and will come before the Congregation at the congregational meeting on Sunday, March 29.

The Search Committee to find the new part time Director of Children's and Youth Ministries was announced by Moderator **Mark Mills**. Chairs and members are: Co-Chairs – **Genie Rogers** and **Valerie Freed**; members: **Jordan Barnes**, **Katie Carrier**, **Shannon Schaefer**, **Stacy Silverwood**, and **Trish Stagg**; Ex officio are **Mark Mills** and **Brad Stagg**.

Bryan Garton wrote in an extensive report on progress made to date by the Strategic Planning Department. This report will be shared in next week's newsletter.

Last Chance!

Easter Lily



Order Form

Easter lilies will be ordered through the church's Flower Ministry. If you would like to furnish a lily for Easter Sunday, fill out the form and return it to the church office with \$8.00 for each lily no later than Monday, March 30.

Total Easter Lilies given # _____ @ \$8.00 each

In Memory of:

AND/OR

In Honor of:

Please list the following name or family as the donor:



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





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

Electronic Service Requested



WEBSITE



GIVE

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, March 29, 2026

OFFICE RECEPTIONIST: Debbie Potthast

WELCOME STATION: Carrie Batterson

FLOWER MINISTRY:

Mary Daugherty & Jacki Davidson

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP: The Marcia Smith

EARLY SERVICE HELPERS:

Mike & Carole Randerson

COMMUNION PREP: Holly & Dan Gieseke

GREETERS: David Potthast (N. DOOR),
Debbie Potthast (S. DOOR), Dan Gieseke
(ATRIUM), Holly Gieseke (PORTICO)

AV TEAM: Tiger Li

LITURGIST: Dan Gieseke

8:30 ELDER: Mary Daugherty

10:30 ELDERS: Vicki Johnson, Hayley
Batterson, Dan Tevis (Balcony)

DEACONS: The Underwood Team

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP: Holly Gieseke

OFFERING COUNTERS:

Janelle Patterson and Jerry Miller