



## the VISITOR

March 6, 2026  
Vol. 82, No. 29

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

### Happening Soon

#### 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
- CYF, 5pm, YFH

#### MONDAY, MARCH 9

- Energy Bus Work, 9am-12pm, Morris Parlor

#### TUESDAY, MARCH 10

- MDO Picture Day, 3rd Floor
- Bible Study, 10:30am, Morris Parlor
- Staff Meeting, 2pm, Morris Parlor
- Cabinet Meeting, 6:30pm, Morris Parlor

#### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11

- MDO Picture Day, 3rd Floor
- Midweek Connect, 10:30am, Zoom
- Ladies' Book Club, 11:30am, Morris Parlor
- Bible Study, 12pm, Brad's Office
- Bell Choir Rehearsal, 5pm, 3rd Floor
- Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 5:45pm, 3rd Floor

#### SATURDAY, MARCH 14

- Burns Night Fundraiser, 5:45pm, YFH

#### SUNDAY, MARCH 15

No Youth Group, Burns Night Rest Day!

- 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



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

## THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

### MARCH 8TH

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

JOHN 4:5-42

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! Tickets Available!**

**Burns Night Supper, Saturday, March 14**

We are now a week 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 is next 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 for volunteers in the Narthex this  
Sunday, 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. This month's PNO  
is scheduled for March 21 from 6:00 - 8:00  
p.m. (childcare drop off at 5:45 p.m.) at D.  
Rowe's Restaurant & Bar (1005 Club Village  
Dr). 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.

## Daylight Savings Time Begins This 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

## Prayers of Health & Healing...

- **James Carrier** is home following a stay at University Hospital after having a seizure on Saturday, February 28.
- **Billie Silvey** was readmitted to the hospital over the weekend for an infection.
- **Dana Heavin's** bladder removal surgery has been rescheduled for June 9.
- **Don Mosby** was back with us in worship on Sunday, March 1 after a long time healing following surgery on his colon.



### Birthdays

- **March 12** - Liam Rose
- **March 14** - Donna Houston (93!)

### Anniversaries

- **March 15** - Jim & Sally Estes

## 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!



## Easter Egg Hunt



### Annual Easter Egg Hunt on Palm Sunday, March 29 at Noon

The annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Palm Sunday, March 29 immediately following the second service at noon. Colorful, candy-filled eggs will be hidden around the church for our young friends to find. We are now collecting candy and stickers to fill eggs with—if you'd like to donate, please drop your donations off in the bin outside of the church office by Sunday, March 22. Please, no loose, unpackaged candy or candy with nuts!

## VAC Makes Move to Opportunity Campus



### VAC Moving to Opportunity Campus in March

This March, Voluntary Action Center will make the big move to the brand new and long-awaited VAC Opportunity Campus at 1300 Bowling St. They will move into the Cindy Mustard Resource Center (CMRC), named in honor of VAC's first executive director. At the CMRC, VAC will share space with Burrell and Clarity Healthcare. The CMRC is one of two buildings at the Opportunity Campus—the second building will be referred to as "The Hub" and will house the VAC Waypoint Shelter, Turning Point Day Center, and Loaves & Fishes. The Hub will open later this year. In a newsletter addressing the move, VAC's Chief Development Officer Stacie Pottinger wrote about the hopes for the future of VAC in this initial move to the CMRC and Opportunity Campus: "The CMRC will bring together VAC's existing services and programs in a dedicated, purpose-built space, alongside an on-site medical clinic equipped to address physical health, mental health, and substance use needs. Designed to foster coordination and accessibility, this building strengthens the support already in place, creating a low-barrier experience for those working toward stability and long-term progress."

This move will impact FCC's Mission & Outreach Team, as we will serve Loaves & Fishes and Breakfast for Our Brethren at The Hub once those programs have officially moved into the new building. More information will come soon about how this big and exciting move will impact FCC!

## The Wardrobe

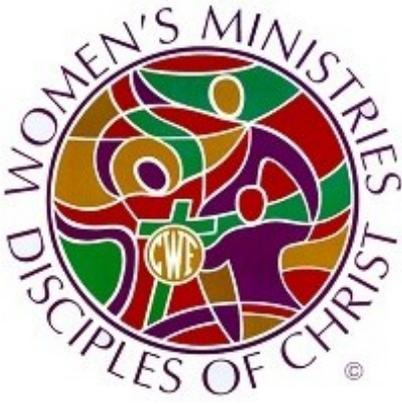
### The Wardrobe Pauses Donations in March

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)

## Energy Bus On the Move

Brenda Mosby's Energy Bus is on the move again! The current project is cleaning, arranging, and hanging religious and church art in Morris Parlor and the church building. If you're interested in helping or joining the energy bus for future projects, please contact **Brenda Mosby** (573-881-8385).



**To: The Women of First Christian Church and Friends who would like to honor them**

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.**

The Silent Bazaar is a major fundraiser that helps support the many worthwhile projects of CWF. This fundraiser brings in the majority of our budget, while we also receive some donations from CWF group offerings.

**Who do we donate money to?** The donations are divided between three areas:

- 1) **Church projects:** FCC Youth Projects & VBS, Loaves & Fishes, Breakfast for Brethren, Woodhaven, and the Disciples Mission Trip Fund.
- 2) **Local Women's/Children's Charities:** Coyote Hill, Mary Lee Johnston Community Center, Nora Stewart Early Learning Center, Sleep in Heavenly Peace, True North, Youth Enrichment, Voluntary Action Center, and Columbia Older Adult Ministries
- 3) **CWF Activities & Events:** Women's Brunches, Speaker Honorariums, study materials, Yearbooks, supplies, postage and other miscellaneous expenditures as needed.

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!

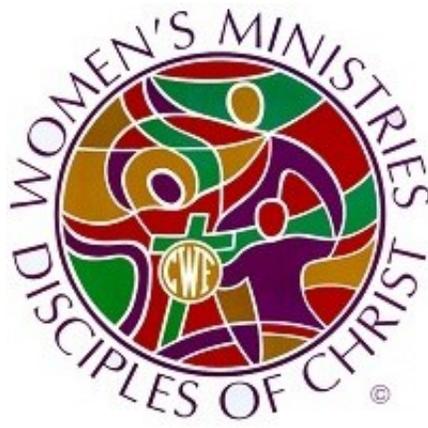
Please make checks payable to First Christian Church with a notation of CWF on the memo line, and if cash, place in an envelope marked "CWF Silent Bazaar".

**Return to the church office or place in the offering plate by Sunday, April 26th** so we can complete the 2026-2027 budget.

Thank you!

Blessings to all,

*Janelle Patterson, CWF President*



## **CWF Silent Bazaar**

*"Silent" because we are not asking anyone to make, buy or sell anything - how easy is that!  
Just a monetary donation - Cash or Check payable to FCC. (Note "CWF" on check's memo line.)*

*Turn in donations to the church office or through the Sunday Offering plate.*

**Now through Sunday, April 26th.**

Donations will go toward organizations and charities such as:

**Ronald McDonald House**

**Vacation Bible School**

**FCC Youth Mission Projects**

**Woodhaven**

**Coyote Hill**

**Voluntary Action Center**

**Nora Stewart Early Learning**

**Loaves & Fishes**

**Meals on Wheels**

**Breakfast for Our Brethren**

**Sleep In Heavenly Peace**

**True North Women's Shelter**

**Disciples Missions**

## Mid-America Summer Camps

### Mid-America Church Camp Dates Set for 2026!

Summer camp registration is open! More information about camps and registration can be found online at <https://www.mid-america-disciples.org/summer>. Information about registration will be made available in the upcoming months! As you plan for camp registration, remember that the church will pay half of the registration fee. Email **Justin** ([businessmanager@firstchristian.org](mailto:businessmanager@firstchristian.org)) with your children's names and which camp you plan to register them for so he can pay the Region accordingly.



## Youth Group Schedule

Join this Sunday!



Chi-Rho • 4pm • CYF • 5pm • March 8  
Burns Night Supper & Ceilidh • March 14  
No Youth Group • March 15  
No Youth Group • March 22

### Rescheduled! Baptism Class & Service Project

Saturday, March 28 • 10am–5pm  
Contact **Topher Endress** for more information!

## Disciples Women Young Women's Initiative Scholarship

Disciples Women's Ministries (DWM) and Higher Education Learning Ministries (HELM) partnered to launch the Young Women's Initiative Scholarship for 2026. The scholarship will assist graduating seniors with plans to further their education by attending college or trade school. Four scholarships will be awarded in May. More information can be found online: <https://bit.ly/discipleswomensscholarship>.

## Rock Bridge Christian Church Book Study

Join the Rock Bridge Christian Church Adult Faith Formation team at the March & April monthly book study as they read *The Bible With and Without Jesus: How Jews and Christians Read the Same Stories Differently*, by Amy-Jill Levine. This is an opportunity to learn about Old and New Testament stories and hear what other Disciples think! The book study group will discuss chapters 1-6 on March 17 and chapters 7-13 on April 21 with a simplified, discussion only format starting at 6:30 p.m. at Rock Bridge Christian Church (301 W Green Meadows Rd).



## Volunteers Needed! Children's Worship

Our steadfast Children's Worship leaders, **Jessica Humble**, **Hayley Batterson** and **Holly Gieseke** have been faithfully guiding our little ones for lo these past 25 years, and it's time for them to take a well-deserved rest. Now, we need **YOU** to step up and bring your energy, creativity, and love to this vital ministry!



If you have a heart for kids and a passion for sharing God's love, this is your moment to shine! ✨ Join us in making a lasting impact on the next generation.

**Volunteer today** and be a part of something truly special. **Topher** will show you the ropes and we can continue this incredible legacy for our kids! Those interested in supporting the future of Children's Worship should contact **Topher Endress** at [topher@firstchristian.org](mailto:topher@firstchristian.org).

## Disciples Women's Ministries Young Women's Initiative Scholarship 2026



**Accepting Applications:  
March 1<sup>st</sup> – April 30<sup>th</sup>**

**APPLY NOW!** 

**Eligibility Requirements:**

- Member of a Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) congregation.
- High school senior entering a community college, trade school or four-year college or university in the Fall 2026 semester.
- Recommendation from her pastor or congregational board moderator/president.

More information:  
<https://www.discipleshomeissions.org/disciples-womens-ministries-young-womens-initiative-scholarship/>



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



WEBSITE



GIVE

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  
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](mailto:fcc@firstchristian.org)  
Maria Clark, Weekend Custodian  
Justin DeWick, Business Manager  
Erin Perry, Office Manager

## Worship Serving Schedule

*Sunday, March 8, 2026*

### OFFICE RECEPTIONIST:

Carole Harris-Randerson

**WELCOME STATION:** Valerie Freed

**FLOWER MINISTRY:** Paula Hoenes

**COFFEE FELLOWSHIP:** Dan & Holly Gieseke

### EARLY SERVICE HELPERS:

Volunteers Needed

**COMMUNION PREP:** Amy & Jeff LaHue

**GREETERS:** Edie Pigg (N. DOOR), Elizabeth Mottaz (S. DOOR), Karen Hobson (ATRIUM), Jacki Davidson (PORTICO)

**AV TEAM:** Dan Gieseke & Dan Backues

**LITURGIST:** Elizabeth Mottaz

**8:30 ELDER:** Eric Seaman

**10:30 ELDERS:** Jeff Underwood, Fred Mottaz, Paula Hoenes (Balcony)

**DEACONS:** The Judy Team

**CHILDREN'S WORSHIP:** Holly Gieseke

### OFFERING COUNTERS:

Deb Batterson and Jerry Miller