



the VISITOR

May 1, 2026
Vol. 82, No. 36

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

Happening Soon

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
- Fellowship Tea & Trivia, 4-6pm, YFH

TUESDAY, MAY 5

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

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6

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

THURSDAY, MAY 7

- Bell Choir Rehearsal, 6pm, 3rd Floor

SATURDAY, MAY 9

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

SUNDAY, MAY 10

- 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
- End of Year Youth Group Party, 6pm, Endress House (3405 Bray St)



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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 3RD

"Ultimate Sacrifice"

ACTS 7:55-60

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)"*

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!)***



WHICH GOLFER WON THE 1999 US
OPEN TOURNAMENT & DIED LATER
THAT SAME YEAR IN A PLANE CRASH?



Coming Soon! Summer Worship Schedule

One Service at 9:30am

May 24 - September 6

Memorial Day Sunday—Labor Day Sunday



News of the People & Places

Sympathy...

• **Tom Hughey** passed away on Wednesday, April 15. Services for Tom will be held on Saturday, May 16 at First Christian Church at 2:00 p.m. with a reception to follow. A visitation will be held from 12:30 - 2:00 p.m. Tom was 73 years old. Please keep **Carol Hughey, Cherry Hinderberger,** and the rest of Tom's family and friends in your prayers during this time of grief and transition.



Prayers of Health & Healing...

• **Bryan Garton's** mother, Betty, had elbow replacement surgery on Thursday, April 16 and continues to recover.

Congratulations...

• **Andrew Alka** celebrated his last Sunday as a section leader for First Christian on Sunday, April 19 as he has officially accepted the position of Director of Music Ministries at Bethel Church in Columbia. Congratulations to Andrew, and we'll miss him very much!

See You Later ...

• **Paula Kurtz** is moving to Glendale, AZ to be near family. She will miss her home of 70+ years in Columbia very much.

Office Updates...

• **Rev. Dr. Brad Stagg** will be on vacation from Thursday, May 7 - Wednesday, May 13. All pastoral matters should be directed to **Rev. Dr. Topher Endress** or the Church Office during that time.

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 collecting non-perishable items for this 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 **2** so grateful for all of you for making this ministry possible!

Annual Stewardship Campaign

What Shall We Bring Week 2 by Bryan Garton

I want to begin with two brief stories.

What shall we bring?

The first is about a young person who inherited a garden. She could have simply enjoyed the fruit that was already present. Instead, she chose to improve the soil, plant new trees, and clear paths so others could also enjoy the garden. She understood something important: the garden didn't really belong to her. She was entrusted with it for a reason, and her responsibility was to leave it more fruitful for those who would come after her.

The second story comes from the land. Farmers who see themselves as true stewards of the soil don't focus only on this year's harvest. They nurture soil health, prevent erosion, and plan for sustainability so the land will remain productive for future generations. They understand they are caretakers – not just consumers – of a gift that has been placed in their hands.

That is stewardship.

Stewardship is the practice of managing what has been entrusted to us – **our time, our talents, our resources** – not as owners, but as faithful managers. True stewardship is forward-looking. It asks not just, "*How do we preserve what we have?*" but "*How do we help it grow, thrive, and serve others?*" And stewardship bears fruit: joy, generosity, and **a church prepared for the future.**

At First Christian Church, we are stewards of God's house. Each of us has been entrusted with gifts: **wisdom, skills, creativity, experience, and time.** And now we've been invited into an important season of stewardship together.

We are beginning our strategic planning process, asking, **where is God leading us next?** This process will shape our shared vision and lead to clear goals for the years ahead. And those goals will require people – teams of faithful stewards – to bring them to life.

So today, I ask: Please embrace stewardship not just through giving, but through **engagement.** Offer your **voice.** Offer your **insight.** Offer your time and talents as opportunities arise. Be part of **listening, dreaming, and serving.**

Together, like good stewards, may we tend the garden God has entrusted to us, so that First Christian Church continues to grow, flourish, and serve for generations to come.

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-americadisciples.org/summer>. Information about registra-

tion will be made available in the up-

coming months! As you plan for camp registration, remember that the church will pay half of the registration fee. Email

Justin (businessmanager@firstchristian.org) with your children's names and which camp you plan to register them for so he can pay the Region accordingly. If you have any questions about church camp or the registration process, our veteran parent **Valerie Freed** is available and willing to offer advice (v_freed@yahoo.com)!



Graduation Sunday

Celebrating our Graduates on Sunday, May 17

We will celebrate Graduation Sunday on Sunday, May 17. We will recognize our graduating high school senior and their

accomplishments during worship at 10:30 a.m. on May 17.

We would also like to celebration all of our "promotions" and graduates! If you have a graduate (college, grad school, preschool, etc.) that you'd like us to recognize, please send us information about your graduations by Friday, May 10 so we can feature them and all of their accomplishments in an upcoming newsletter!

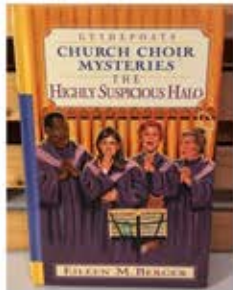


Church Library Spotlight

Small Delights to be found in the Church Library

As we head into the summer months, our church library team encourages each of you to come and pick out some summer reading! *The Church Choir Mysteries* is one of many sweet & light choices in the library: When young choir member Amy Cantrell becomes the victim of a suspected poisoning, Gracie Parks is determined to investigate,

especially when Amy, who appeared to be recovering, vanishes from the hospital. Check out *The Church Choir Mysteries* and more this Sunday in the church library!



Youth Group Schedule



Join this Sunday!

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

May 3 - Nathaniel Leon-Rudy

May 4 - Aubrey Schomaker,
Drake Tevis,
Deidre Wipke-Tevis

May 6 - Delaney Tevis

May 9 - Grover Endress, Tori Pine

May 10 - Laura Hutton, Wayne Meyer

Anniversaries

May 2 - Scott & Shannon Schaefer



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-americadisciples.org/christian-ministries-scholarship-fund> by **Sunday, May 31 at midnight**.



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WEBSITE



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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, May 3, 2026

OFFICE RECEPTIONIST: Mike Randerson

WELCOME STATION: Steve Humble

FLOWER MINISTRY: Anne Crousore

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP: The Gieseke

EARLY SERVICE HELPERS: Kim & Joe Reardon

COMMUNION PREP:

Stacy, Ryan, & Jodie Silverwood

GREETERS: Karen Hobson (N. DOOR),
Jacki Davidson (S. DOOR), Trish Stagg
(ATRIUM), Susan Gray (PORTICO)

AV TEAM: TBD & Dan Backues

LITURGIST: TBD

8:30 ELDER: Eric Seaman

10:30 ELDERS: Steve Humble, Jessica
Humble, Dan Tevis (Balcony)

DEACONS: The Potthast Team

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP: Holly Gieseke

OFFERING COUNTERS:

Jean Juba and Sarah Storm