



the VISITOR

October 9, 2026
Vol. 83, No. 10

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

Happening Soon

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11

- Worship, 8:30 & 10:30am
- Coffee Fellowship Hour, 9:30am, YFH
- Sunday School, 9:30am, 3rd Floor
- CYF & College: Car Maintenance, 5pm

MONDAY, OCTOBER 12

- Elders Meeting, 6pm, YFH

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13

- Bible Study, 10:30am, Morris Parlor
- Newsletter Mailing, 1pm, Morris Parlor
- Staff Meeting, 2pm, Morris Parlor
- Cabinet Meeting, 6:30pm, Morris Parlor

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14

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

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15

- Bell Choir Rehearsal, 6pm, 3rd Floor

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17

- Breakfast for Our Brethren, 6am-9am, Waypoint Shelter (1304 Bowling St)
- Sherry Kaye Dobbs Visitation & Memorial Service, 10am - 12pm, First Christian

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18

- Worship, 8:30 & 10:30am
- Coffee Fellowship Hour, 9:30am, YFH
- Sunday School, 9:30am, 3rd Floor
- Youth Group @ Shyrock's Corn Maze, 4pm



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

20TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

OCTOBER 11TH

*"The Peace Surpassing
All Understanding"*

PHILIPPIANS 4:1-9

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)"*

Breakfast for Our Brethren

**Sign Ups Available! Volunteer with BFOB Saturday
Mornings in October or Help by Donating Food**

First Christian Church serves breakfast every Saturday in the months of May and October for folks staying at the Waypoint Shelter at the Opportunity Campus. We are always looking for volunteers to help us with this fun and rewarding work! You can sign up now to serve on Saturday mornings in October or to donate food. Please check out the sign up sheets in the Narthex on Sunday mornings, or sign up online: <https://bit.ly/octoberbfof>. If you have questions, please contact Debbie Potthast (dapotthast@gmail.com) for more information.



Fall Church Work Day

Annual Fall Landscape Workday Set for Saturday, October 24

The return of Mizzou Football signals that it is time to give the Church's exterior grounds their annual fall grooming in preparation for the coming winter! Join us on Saturday, October 24 from 9:00 a.m. until noon (or any portion thereof) to clean up, spruce up and shape up after a very tough summer growing season! Volunteers are asked to bring their own gardening tools, gloves, hats, sunscreen, and drinking water. Two or three wheelbarrows, mulch forks or shovels will also be needed if anyone can provide them. If you plan to join us on Saturday, October 24, please call or text Mike Randerson at 573-424-4858 to RSVP. Hope to see you there! Our weather makeup day will be Saturday, October 31, same time. Please note: neither date conflicts with an MU home game!



Trunk or Treat

Our annual Trunk or Treat will be held this year on Sunday, October 25 from 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. in the church parking lot. We are looking for volunteers to offer trunks and/or single serve baked goods for the popular cake walk (think cookies, cupcakes, *not* cake) - please contact **Stacy Silverwood** (stacy@firstchristian.org) if you're interested! Candy donations are always welcome - please drop them in the donation bin outside of the church office on Sunday mornings or during the week.



News of the People & Places

Prayers for Health & Healing...

- **Don Mosby** will not need surgery following his stay in Boone Hospital, but will instead address his conditions with medications.
- **Donaleigh Richardson** was in the hospital last week with pneumonia and fluid around her lungs. She is now recovering at home.
- **Jill Anderson**, one of our MDO teachers, was discharged from Boone Hospital last week and will see an oncologist this week for a conclusive diagnosis and treatment plan. Please keep Jill, her daughter **Marissa** (also an MDO teacher) and their family in your prayers.

Sympathy...

- Services for **Sherry Kaye Dobbs** will be held on Saturday, October 17 with a visitation at 10:00 a.m. and a memorial service at 11:00 a.m. with a reception to follow in Yonker Fellowship Hall. Please keep **Marilyn Schappert, Jeanie Dobbs, Sue Dobbs, Carol Kvanvig** and the rest of Sherry Kaye's family in your prayers.

Birthdays

- **October 14** - Tracy Evers
- **October 15** - Megan Potthast
- **October 16** - Julie Hickey, Holly Wheatley
- **October 18** - Elizabeth Schultz, Lisa Snyder

Anniversaries

- **October 14** - Richard & Natalie Barnard C.K. & Paula Hoenes
- **October 17** - David & Julie Nichols



September Administrative Board Meeting Minutes

Minutes from September 15 Administrative Board Meeting

FCC's Administrative Board met on Tuesday, September 15. The new Board was opened by our new Moderator, **Jessica Humble**. As is our governing custom, the Board approved two motions, as it does at the start of every program year. First, it delegated hiring and termination authority to the MDO Director and the



2 Director of Music Ministry. Per the Bylaws, only



BOARD MEETINGS

the Board has the authority to hire or terminate employees. However, with the constant turnover of teachers, musicians, and section leaders, this would become too cumbersome for the Board, and so it formally delegates those responsibilities each year to those leaders. The second motion brought before the Board each year is the Board's affirmation to abide by all previously approved policies. While not necessary, it is considered a "best practice" for churches, comprised of volunteers, to reaffirm the policies set in place during prior Board terms. This practice formalizes fiduciary duty, particularly the Duty of Care, for the organization. As anticipated, both motions were unanimously approved.

Due to cashflow limitations and a deficit budget, the Stewardship & Finance (S&F) Department brought forth a motion to formalize not paying our non-local organizations, which provide care to the nation and the world, as set forth in last year's budget. Due to the financial losses accrued by MDO and the church's need to cover those losses with its own reserves, S&F recognizes that the church cannot continue sustaining further losses. As MDO presented a surplus budget, it is believed that MDO will no longer sustain further losses. While S&F cannot guarantee, it does hope to double its support of national and international agencies in the coming year much like staff raises were made up this past year. It believes that strategic cash support of MDO is more important at this time than for non-local agencies. Hearing S&F's motion and rationale, the Board voted unanimously to approve their motion.

The Board also received a report from Dan Gieseke, chair of the Tier Three Capital Campaign to fund the organ repairs. Dan reported that Levsen has completed all repairs, except for the final tuning which awaits cooler weather and the installation of chimes. As such, the final payment will be paid to Levsen, pending S&F approval that all stipulations have in fact been met. Furthermore, Dan announced that 91% of all pledges have been received to date and with the Campaign concluding on December 31, 2026, efforts will be made to secure the remaining pledges through letters, encouraging folks to complete their pledges.

The meeting flowed quickly finishing in 47 minutes, much to everyone's appreciation!

Sincerely, *Dr. Brad*

Strategic Planning Update

Strategic Planning Updates & Meetings to come this Fall

Our congregation's strategic planning process continues to make meaningful progress, and we are grateful for the many members who have contributed their time, ideas, and prayers along the way.



Over the past several months, the Strategic Planning Team's writing team has developed a purpose statement that reflects who we are and who God is calling us to be. The team has also drafted a set of strategic goals that align with that purpose and will help guide the future ministry and mission of First Christian Church.

We are now in the next phase of the process. Six expert teams are currently developing specific strategies and actions that will help achieve the goals. Their work is expected to be completed by October 16.

Once the strategies have been completed, the Strategic Planning Team will host a series of in-person and Zoom listening sessions in late October and early November. These gatherings will provide an opportunity to share the proposed purpose statement, strategic goals, and recommended strategies with the congregation. Most importantly, they will give members an opportunity to ask questions, offer insights, and help shape the final plan.

Following the listening sessions, a congregational meeting will be scheduled to gather additional feedback and gauge congregational support for the proposed direction. The Strategic Planning Team will then review the input received, identify a realistic and manageable number of strategies for implementation, and present the final plan to the Administrative Board for approval.

The last step will be the formation of implementation teams that will help move the plan from vision to action by carrying forward the work associated with each strategic goal.

We are excited about the progress that has been made and encouraged by the spirit of collaboration that has characterized this process. Please continue to keep the Strategic Planning Team and the work ahead in your prayers as together we seek God's guidance for the future of First Christian Church.

Bryan Garton, Strategic Planning Department Chair

Youth Group Schedule

Join this Sunday!



CYF & College: Car Maintenance

October 11 @ 5:00 p.m.

All Youth: Shyrocks Corn Maze

October 18 @ 4:00 p.m.

All Youth: Trunk or Treat

October 25 @ 4:00 p.m.

CYF & College: W2s & Taxes

November 1 @ 5:00 p.m.

Fall Youth Events

Just a quick couple of reminders:

- **Sunday, October 18:** Trip to Shyrocks Corn Maze: If you want to ride the Church bus; meet at church by 3:45 p.m. and we will leave promptly at 4:00 p.m. All JYF & CYF youth will be paid for - parents and younger siblings are welcome to come with us, but you will need to pay for yourself. Admission is \$13 for ages 13 and up, \$11 for ages 5-12.
- **Sunday, October 25:** Trunk or Treat: Our annual trunk or treat will run from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. If you plan to bring a trunk, please let me know so I have a rough estimate of how many we will have (though if you show up on the 25th with a trunk you are still welcome to participate). Please plan to have your trunk here no later than 3:30 p.m. so we can block off the parking lot. We are also taking candy donations outside of the office! This is always such a fun event and we always have a great time. If you need ideas for a trunk reach out and I will be happy to help!



Save the date
ALTHEA W. AND JOHN A. SCHIFFMAN
Ethics in Society
Lecture
OCTOBER 29, 2026
5:30 p.m.
LAUNER AUDITORIUM
COLUMBIA COLLEGE | 1001 ROGERS ST. | COLUMBIA MO



BART EHRLMAN



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First Christian Church

*Our Mission: To know God
And follow Jesus Christ.*

Church Staff

Rev. Dr. Brad Stagg, Senior Minister
brad@firstchristian.org

Stacy Silverwood,
Director of Youth & Children's Ministries
stacy@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

Mothers Day Out Preschool

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, October 11

OFFICE RECEPTIONIST: Janelle Patterson

WELCOME STATION: Cliff & Meg Judy

FLOWER MINISTRY: Eric Seaman

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP: Marcia Smith

EARLY SERVICE HELPERS: Kurt Schaefer
& Mary Daugherty

COMMUNION PREP: Eric & Dietrich Arnett

GREETERS: Holly Gieseke (N. Door),
Dan Gieseke (S. Door), Chuck Scott
(Atrium), Bud Batterson (Portico)

AV TEAM: Dan Gieseke

LITURGIST: Elizabeth Mottaz

8:30 ELDER: Stacia Schaefer

10:30 ELDERS: Paula Hoenes, C.K. Hoenes,
Fred Mottaz (Balcony)

DEACONS: The Judy Team

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP: Stacy Silverwood

OFFERING COUNTERS:

Jean Juba and Sarah Storm