



**Worship: Second Sunday of Advent, Dec. 4**

This Sunday the Drennan Singers bring their marvelous melodious music to brighten our holy-day season of Advent and Christmas; come hear the ladies share their wonderful gifts of song and voice! How fulfilled are you this holiday season? Matthew's gospel shares our true fulfillment comes with a genuine relationship with Christ, who himself is the fulfillment of the prophets. Rev. Stagg reflects this Advent season on how Jesus fulfills. This Sunday he preaches from Isaiah 11:1-10 and Matthew 3:1-12 with his sermon "Fulfillment: Fruit of Repentance." Come find true fulfillment this Sunday in worship!

**Buy Heifer Gifts Sunday**

The World Outreach Department makes available each Advent the opportunity for unique gifts to be purchased through Heifer International. Give a gift that changes poverty and hunger in a far away place. Give a pig or cow, a rabbit or chicken. Want to know more? Go to [www.heifer.org](http://www.heifer.org) then buy with us as a church, in the narthex on Sunday, Dec. 4 and 11. Gift cards available.

**Warming Station**  
**Sundays, Dec. 11 - Feb. 26**  
**6 - 9 a.m.**  
 (lower level of the sanctuary building)

Volunteers needed:

- Hosts to visit, serve coffee and hot chocolate, be present.
- Drive the church bus to transport folks from Room at the Inn to FCC and then at 8:50 a.m. to Wilkes Blvd. Methodist Church.

Sign up in the Narthex, church office OR contact Janelle Patterson with questions: [kcat3@aol.com](mailto:kcat3@aol.com), cell #573-864-1151 or at home 573-445-9893.

**The Living Nativity**

**Friday, Dec. 2, 6 - 8 pm**

Now a tradition on the night of Columbia's Living Windows Downtown District event, our church presents the story of Jesus' birth. The story is depicted on the east lawn and sidewalk of the church utilizing members of the church, costumes, taped music with narration and special lighting. The Living Nativity will run every half hour from **6:00 - 8:00 p.m.** Refreshments and warmth will be served in Bethany Hall throughout the evening.

- \* Come by and take in the unique rendition of an ancient story. Bring a friend...
- \* Stay for hot chocolate and fellowship...
- \* There still might be a spot for a little angel or shepherd too...so it's never too late to join!
- \* **All who have signed up already: meet in the Narthex 20 min before showtime.**
- \* As a courtesy to those who are participating in the Living Nativity, **pizza supper will be offered from 5:00** on in Yonker Fellowship Hall. Come eat before costuming.



**Christmas Pageant & Tasting Party Dec. 11, 7 pm**

Excitement is building for the the annual Christmas Pageant that will take place on Sunday, December 11. Our newest baby birthed will be Jesus, 5th graders and parents as shepherds and senior girls as the angels. Three wise men are working on walking in kingly attire.

In preparation, song practice for children ages pre-k to 5th grade continues to take place on: **Sundays, Dec. 4 and 11.** Practice takes place during the 10:30 worship service, in the Children's Worship time before creative play. Leaders meet the children in the Children's Chapel and lead the groups in Pageant song practice.

We will assume all children in children's worship will be involved unless leaders are otherwise told by parents. The groups are as follows: Pre-K singing angels, K-1 rainbow bells, 2nd-5th singing choristers. In order to sing in the pageant the children need to be in a majority of the practices. Attendance will be taken. Thanks. Talk to Jimmy Spear with questions.

**Did you find in this Visitor?:**

- 5 expressions of thanks
- 4 ways to serve others this season
- 3 opportunities for hospitality
- 2 times the story of Jesus' birth is told
- 1 way FCC plays host to community music

## Bit from Brad

How will you prepare this Advent and Christmas season? Gift shopping, wrapping, and giving; Banquet meal planning, cooking, and serving; Card purchasing, writing, and sending; Light touring, carol singing, and mistletoe hanging; Tree trimming, stocking stuffing, and home decorating? Oh there are so many ways to prepare for this most wonderful season! How will you prepare?

It's important to give careful reflection on how we prepare for Advent and Christmas, because too easily the hustle and bustle can rush "the reason for the season" right out the door. Platitudes easily pour out, "Christmas is for children!" "Christmas is about family and friends!" and "Put Christ back into Christmas!" All of which are very true; but when the words on our lips don't match the peace in our hearts or the joy in our spirit, that's when pausing, catching our breath, and mindfully remembering the intentionality of the season becomes most important.

How will you and I prepare for Christ's coming this year?

Truthfully, we live between two Advents; the first one when Jesus came to earth to ransom humanity from sin and death and the Second Advent in which Jesus comes again. If we only remember the First Advent, we get stuck in the past, caught in an endless cycle of material possession giving and getting, empty dinner parties, and self-absorbed, sappy sentimentalism. If we only remember the Second Advent, we risk devolving into apocalyptic weirdos fearful anything good exists on this planet, obsessed the anti-Christ lurks behind every leader, book, or movie. Remembering both Advents balance us between the assurance of Christ's historical ministry on earth and hope for his future return bringing God's perfect reign.

This Advent Season, make prayer, worship, and reflection, every bit as important as gifts, parties, and decorations. Reflection and prayer slow us down. Worship gathers us with other disciples. All three give space for the Holy Child to speak to us through the Holy Spirit. And when Christ speaks a word of grace, love, and/or forgiveness, we will find a fulfillment nothing else in this world can offer. It is this fulfillment that is my Christmas prayer for you this Season!!

Happy Advent!

~Blessings, Brad

## STARS

...the 55+ Fellowship Group

### Light Tour & Luncheon

All who are 55+ are invited to two seasonal fellowship events:

A tour of Columbia's best Christmas lights will take place on Monday, **Dec. 5, 6:00-8:45 p.m.** via the church bus. A refreshment stop is planned at the home of Mary Ann Atteberry. Pick-up at Lenoir is possible (talk to Carol or Jimmy). RSVP "LIGHTS" on the Sunday pew pad or in office. Meet at the church.

A luncheon of soup, breads, and potluck snacks will be paired with a program to include music by the children of Mother's Day Out. It will be held Wednesday, **Dec. 14, 12:00 p.m.** RSVP "LUNCH" on the Sunday pew pad or in office.

### Community Meal Needs

*Here is news of the monthly community meal offered by our sister church. If interested in donating or assisting, contact 5th Street Christian Church.*

Our December Community meal is fast approaching on December 10th from 11-2. Below you will find a list of items needed for the Community Meal.

Ham (preferably pre-sliced or spiral) (5 total)  
Rotisserie Chicken (5 total)  
Desserts (10 total)  
#10 Can of Green Beans (5 total)  
Rolls (Enough for 100 servings)

The menu consists of: Ham or Rotisserie Chicken; Green Beans; Mac 'n Cheese; Rolls; Sweet Tea; Dessert.

We are always in need of hats, gloves and scarfs to bless our homeless population. Thank you for your continued support and generosity.

~Rev. Angela Williams, Fifth St. Christian Church Outreach Ministry

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• **Church Dine-Out** •  
• **Friday, Dec. 2, 5:30 pm** •  
• **Bob Evans Restaurant** •  
• **Everyone Welcome!** •  
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### Future Fall Group Dates:

Dec. 4 Living Nativity  
Dec. 11 Pageant  
Dec. 18 CYF Christmas Caroling



### CYF went Shopping for VAC Project

Last Sunday evening 14 CYF youth group went shopping to complete the VAC Christmas Gift project. They shopped for 10 people on behalf of those who donated funds and didn't shop - spending \$1000 in 45 minutes. This trip is an annual excursion and has become a fun shared project. Thanks to Hartley Rogers for feeding the crew at Dairy Queen!

### DOC - Disciples on Campus

College group meets Wednesday nights 8:45-10 p.m. in Bethany Hall

DOC is making plans for their **Winter Break Mission Trip** set for January 2-7. They will learn and serve in Tulsa, OK and be housed at Harvard Ave. Christian Church.

### Room at The Inn Opening December 4

Room at the Inn (RATI) will be opening its doors at 7 p.m. on Sunday, December 4. This is a community-wide ministry and there are many ways to help AND we need your help! Go to [roomattheinncomo.org](http://roomattheinncomo.org) for:

- Volunteer information and volunteer signup instructions (many shifts are available from early morning to overnight and some as short as 1 hour!).
- Volunteer information and volunteer signup instructions for laundry duty. Boone Hospital is doing our laundry this year; volunteers are needed to sort and drop off bagged laundry at Boone Hospital between 7 - 10 a.m. Monday - Friday and 6 - 9 p.m. Sunday (and pick up any clean laundry if ready).
- Donation list (last item under "Get Involved" tab). Donation List is also posted on the FCC bulletin board outside of Church office and the Church-in-Society bulletin board located in Yonker Fellowship Hall.
- For more information or help in signing up, call **Sarah Storm at 573-289-0072**.

## News of People & Place

**Frances Brown** is now home after a hospital stay last week. **Cliff Tompson** is now home continuing to recuperate. **Debbie Potthast** is in our prayers as she begins another round of immunotherapy and testing in these weeks as the cancer has returned.

Congratulations to **Kim Leon and Ken McRae** who were married on Wednesday, November 23 at their home.

**Rhyan Loos** is a 6 1/2 year old girl whose family attends Mothers Day Out Preschool. She was diagnosed last year with Neuroblastoma, stage 4. She has gone through many many treatments and last month was Cancer Free. This month she was found to have a golf ball size tumor on her brain. We ask that you please pray for her surgery to be successful and for her to be, once again, cancer free.

**Childcare workers** are still being sought. Please forward any names of possible candidates to Jimmy Spear. We would also welcome any volunteers for the following times: Christmas Eve: 6:30-8:30 p.m.  
New Year's Day: 10:00 – 11:45 a.m.



## Happy Birthday

Dec. 4

Brenda Martin  
Linda Ridgeway

Dec. 5

Carole Randerson  
Mike Randerson  
Erik White

Dec. 6

Deborah Garton  
Alan Leach

Dec. 7

Erica Watson

Dec. 8

Alexandra Estes  
Gabriel Palmer  
Kenzie Von Talge

Dec. 10

Marjorie Carter  
Curtis Snow  
Cheryl Unterschut  
Willie Wheeland

## Report for Sun., Nov. 27, 2016

**Offering** - \$5,660

**Attendance** - 210 (includes: early service- 52, visitors- 11)



## Columbia Handbell Ensemble December 9th at 7:00 p.m. FCC Sanctuary

Tickets are \$10 at the door; \$7 in advance and \$1 for kids 12 and under. For advance tickets contact Ed Rollins: 442-1149 (rollins@fbc-columbia.org). This concert is sure to put you in the holiday spirit!

### Thanks!

We would like to thank everyone who bought the dinners for us. Freda really enjoyed seeing and talking to everyone who bought out the dinners. She would like everyone to come out and visit, but please call first.

~Freda Martz and Mary Dewey

What a wonderful church we belong to! It is not possible to describe my feelings of thanks and appreciation for all of the love and support you have shown me following my fall at home and my subsequent hospitalization and my rehab period at Lenoir. I am sure the visits, the flowers, the phone calls and cards, the meals, the prayer shawl, your prayers and your support and encouragement have been major factors in my recovery. They have certainly lifted my spirits and made it possible for us to complete our move to our new home at Lenoir. The word "thanks" is not adequate but it is the best word I know.

~Cliff Tompson

I wanted to express my thanks to you all for the wonderful support for the Thanksgiving Baskets and the Community Meal. We served close to 100 meals in addition to serving a large amount of homeless individuals. We were able to provide 17 families with a Thanksgiving Basket.

A special thanks to the young teens at First Christian for collecting and making sure that everything was successfully delivered. Thank you with all my heart.

~Rev. Angela Williams,  
Fifth Street Christian Outreach Ministries

## Gift Wrapping Reminder

Drennan Group is wrapping for Coyote Hill kids' Christmas gifts on Mon., Dec. 5th, 1-3 pm, First Presbyterian Church, 16 Hitt Street. Park south of the Church, use south door, take elevator to top floor. Bring scissors and scotch tape. Would appreciate donations of rolls of Christmas paper, boxes, and bags. EVERYONE IS INVITED. Come and have fun with us, and help the kids at The Hill to celebrate a blessed Christmas. Questions: call Sharon Winner, 239-2900.

## Staff Christmas Fund

The Administrative Department will make available to the church membership a Staff Christmas Fund honoring our excellent church staff during this Christmas season for their combined efforts in helping make our church one in which we can all take great pride.

Checks should be made to First Christian Church with "Staff Christmas Fund" noted on them. Deadline for contributions is Friday, December 23. Please note the gift will be divided evenly among the staff members: ministers, office staff, music staff, and custodian.

## Prayer Shawl News

The Prayer Shawl Ministry will not be meeting in December as the third Wednesday falls too close to Christmas. We encourage you to join us when we resume on January 18 at 9:30 a.m. at Millie Bolman's house. We always welcome new members!





# The Visitor

## First Christian Church

101 N. 10th Street  
Columbia, MO 65201  
573-449-7265

### Ministerial Staff:

Rev. Brad Stagg, Senior Minister  
brad@firstchristian.org  
Rev. Jimmy Spear, Associate Minister  
jimmy@firstchristian.org

### Music Staff:

Mary Bancroft, Coord. of Music & Organist  
maryebancroft@yahoo.com  
Adriene Floyd, Director of Chancel & Bell Choirs  
singers.and.ringers@gmail.com

**Mother's Day Out:** Tracy Westhoff, Director  
tracy@firstchristian.org

### Columbia Area Older Adult Ministry:

Rev. Sally Robinson, Chaplain  
sallyarobinson16@gmail.com

### Support Staff:

Kay Beissenherz, Administrative Assistant  
fcc@firstchristian.org  
Fred Mottaz, Business Manager  
fred@firstchristian.org  
Keith Picker, Custodian

**Minister Emeritus:** Dr. John J. Yonker

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## Return Service Requested

# The Mission of First Christian Church: to know God and follow Jesus Christ

## SERVING SCHEDULE Sunday, Dec. 04

*Van Driver:* Eric Seaman  
*Office Receptionist:* Richard Barnard  
*Flower Ministry - Arranged by:* Frances Brown  
*Delivered by:* Frances Brown  
*Welcome Station:* Lexy Bell and Trish Stagg

### **Servers for 8:30 Worship Service**

*Worship Assts:* Roy and Rachael Fullington, Steve Smith  
*Elder:* Donna Houston  
*Offering Counters:* Sarah Storm and Kim Reardon

### **Servers for 10:30 Worship Service**

*Communion Preparation:* Bryan & Debbie Garton, Jeff Wheeland  
*Liturgist:* Gabe Palmer  
*Elders:* Erin Bower, Tommy Tomlin, Steve Humble  
*Deacons:* The Garton Team *Ushers:* The Mountjoy Team  
*Greeters:* Laura Crane (*N. Door*), Larry Burnam (*S. Door*),  
Bud Batterson (*Atrium*), Lorene Trickey (*Portico*)  
*Banner Bearers:* Lillian McCormack, Amelia Leon-Rudy  
*Candlelighters:* Kira Hoenes, Ella Rogers  
*Children's Worship:* Julie Nichols (*ldr.*) Carolyn Snow (*hlpr.*)  
*Offering Counters:* Cindy Smith and Jerry Miller

## CHURCH CALENDAR Dec. 4 - 10

### Sun., Dec. 4

- Drennan Singers, both services
- Bell Choir, 8:30 a.m., Bell Room (3rd floor Ed. Bldg.)
- Coffee Hour, 9:20-10:20 a.m., Yonker Hall

### Mon., Dec. 5

- Newsletter deadline & Church Staff Mtg., 2:00 p.m.
- STARS Christmas Lights Tour, 6:00 p.m., meet at Church

### Tues., Dec. 6

- Tuesday Morning Bible Study, 10:30 a.m., Morris Parlor

### Wed., Dec. 7

- Wed. Bible Study, 12:05-12:55 p.m., Bethany Hall
- World Outreach Mtg., 5:00 p.m., Keystone Room
- Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 5:30 p.m., Sanctuary
- DOC (college group), 8:45-10:00 p.m., Bethany Hall

### Thr., Dec. 8

- Downtown Clergy Mtg., Noon, Morris Parlor
- College Town Hillbillies, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Bethany Hall

### Fri., Dec. 9

- Columbia Handbell Ensemble Concert, 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary