



**Worship: Third Sunday of Advent, Dec. 11**     **Christmas Pageant & Tasting Party**     **Dec. 11, 7 pm**

How fulfilled are you this holiday season? Matthew's gospel shares our true fulfillment comes when we receive Christ devoid of preconceived expectations, allowing God's reign to rule within us rather than our own. Rev. Stagg reflects this Advent season on how Jesus fulfills. This Sunday we continue examining John the Baptist's expectation for Christ, reflecting on James 5:7-11 and Matthew 11:2-15 with his sermon, "Fulfillment: God's Timing." Come find true fulfillment this Sunday in worship!

The Annual Christmas Pageant will be held Sunday evening, December 11. The tradition is long standing and brings out a full sanctuary of folks. We will hear again the ancient story and see the portrayal of the holy family, shepherds, angels and wise men by children and adult friends from the congregation. With carols sung and instruments played, we will all have a chance to partake in the night's joy.

A "white gifts" offering will be collected in support of the Central Missouri Food Pantry. All are encouraged to bring nonperishable canned/boxed food wrapped in white paper. Monetary donations will also be accepted. This tradition reminds us of the importance of the giving, and not the type of gift.

A huge **tasting party** in Yonker Fellowship Hall will follow the pageant. All are encouraged to bring a finger food-cookie-dessert-appetizer type of holiday deliciousness to share.

All participants should be on the 3rd floor of the Education building at 6:30 p.m. Preschool angels meet in the nursery at 6:30 p.m.

**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. 11. Gift cards available.



**2016 Living Nativity**

A brisk night, stars in the sky, and big crowds made this year's Living Nativity a great evening. Our kids big and small, along with some faithful parents made the scene come together. Hundreds of people watched over the two hours and were welcomed to Bethany Hall for hot drinks and cookies. Next up - the indoor version at the Pageant!



**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 the custodian.



## Scholarship Sunday

Sunday, December 18 will be the chance for the church to honor those who will receive church scholarship funds for this academic year. \$8,200 will be awarded to the group in the 10:30 a.m. worship service.

This year is special as we will award the Norma Miller/Drennan Singers Scholarship for the first time. Norma's son Craig will be present to help begin this tradition.

## Can we talk 2017 yet?

Why yes, we can.

Next year we will do decorating and set up of the church for advent differently. For many years the responsibility has rested on a couple families to see the jobs done. There is a new spirit around the place that would suggest a different approach.

Picture it: The Sunday before Thanksgiving. Evening. Simple supper served in fellowship hall. Children led in the creating of unique advent crafts and activities. Adults working in teams to get the trees, greens, and "nativity hut" out and set up. Many churches in America have taken this approach for generations -- FCC Columbia will try it out in 2017! It will prove to be most festive!

## Making the Nativity Work

Thanks are in order for all those who in some way helped with the Living Nativity:

**Jeff Underwood:** light/sound setup

**Jeff Wheeland, Max Schaefer, Makali Hawkins, Steve Humble:** hospitality

Moms in charge of costumed kids: **Valerie Freed, Vicki Johnson, Trish Stagg, Amy LaHue, Jessica Humble** --- they plus **Jason Gregory, Bryan Freed, Steve Humble, Eric Arnett** on putting it all away.

Some of these folks are, along with chairperson **Jennifer Alexander**, a part of the Advent Department. If we left your name off, sorry -- but it was a full night!

**Janelle Patterson** gets extra BIG thanks for stepping in to help out set up Bethany Hall for last Friday night's Living Windows hospitality AND for helping see it through to the end that night. No leader stepped forward and we appreciate Janelle's willingness to extend her time at church that night while still being a part of the Women's Brunch on Saturday with 6:30 a.m. set up/cooking team.

## 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, cell #573-864-1151 or at home 573-445-9893.

## FCC Celebrates 35 Years with Festival of Sharing

Your simple act of dropping your old eye glasses in our church Festival of Sharing basket has totally changed people's lives! A farmer can now see to grow his own crops; a mother can finally see her children's faces. First Christian members donated 41 pairs of prescription glasses this year. These go with the other 2599 pairs donated through the Festival in 2016 to Merida Foundation in Jefferson City who distributes them to poor Mayan Indian villages in Mexico. For 35 years FCC has participated in many projects for the interdenominational Festival of Sharing. Its goal is to promote and support projects and programs that respond to hunger, poverty, and injustice in the world.



## All Church Christmas Caroling Sunday, Dec. 18

Everyone is invited to bring Christmas joy to some of our older members through Christmas Caroling. We gather at church at 4:00pm and organize into groups to go out to community living environments and homes. By 6:30 we are back to church for a post-caroling supper and fellowship.

### Future Fall Group Dates:

Dec. 11 Pageant  
CYF and Chi-Rho Youth will help with the offering at the Pageant. They will meet leaders in Narthex at 6:30 p.m.  
Dec. 18 CYF Christmas Caroling - 4-7 p.m.

youth  
@ fcc

### DOC - Disciples on Campus

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.

## STARS

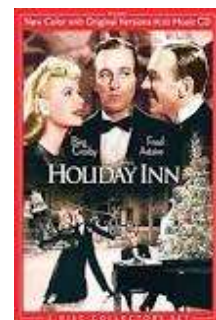
...the 55+ Fellowship Group

A **luncheon** of soup, breads, and potluck snacks will be paired with a program of stories and music by the children of Mother's Day Out. It will be held **Wednesday, Dec. 14, 12:00 p.m., Yonker Fellowship Hall.**

RSVP "LUNCH" on the Sunday pew pad or in the office.



## Friday Night Movie Classics



"Holiday Inn"  
Friday, Dec. 16th  
7:00 p.m.

3rd Floor Cinema at FCC

Popcorn provided.  
Join us and bring a friend.  
Hosted by Dan & Holly Gieseke.



## STARS Christmas Light Tour



It was a fun crew this year on the STARS light tour. New lights, good friends and hot cider... Thanks to Mary Ann Atteberry for hosting us for a half-way refreshment stop.

### News of People & Place

Our sympathy is extended to **David Chrismon** on the death of his son Dale. Services were held on Monday, Nov. 5 at Memorial Funeral Home.

Prayers are continuing for **Shirley Park** who is working with doctors to determine a treatment plan for a recent diagnosis of a malignant lumpectomy.

Thanks to the **Mark and Janet Mills** family for putting up/taking down the sanctuary decorations; **Jay and Jack Creasy** for setting up/taking down the Living Nativity hut. *Note on page 2 of this Visitor for news how it will be done next year!*

### Getting to Know Church Departments

The ministry and mission of First Christian Church are carried out through the organizational structure of an Administrative Board, Cabinet, and Departments. In the coming months the *Visitor* will offer descriptions of these departments that the congregation would take greater ownership in knowledge of them.

#### STUDENT MINISTRY:

(Amy LaHue, chairperson)

The department will provide and promote fellowship, study, mission, and worship opportunities for children and youth in four age groups: **Grades 3-5:** Junior Youth Fellowship (JYF); **Grades 6-8:** Chi-Rho Youth Group; **Grades 9-12:** CYF; **College students (see below):** DOC (Disciples on Campus).

The Department works with staff and adult leaders to create and support all four groups, giving specific oversight to:

- *adult partner selection*
- *mission travel*
- *program-related needs to JYF, Chi-Rho, CYF*
- *program-related needs to DOC*
- *fundraising for mission*
- *annual scholarship disbursement*

*Note: DOC-College students in local colleges and universities (University of Missouri, Columbia College, Stephens College, Moberly Area Community College) and is a shared ministry of Broadway Christian Church and our First Christian Church.*

## Help the church and help yourself too!

The end of the year is rapidly approaching, and with it comes the charitable giving season. Here is a tax efficient alternative to consider and assist you in your church (annual pledge as well as capital campaign) and charitable giving objectives.

The law is now permanent to allow you to give a direct gift of your required minimum distribution (RMD) from retirement plan accounts if you are 70 ½ years of age or older.


This strategy (made a permanent rule at the end of 2015) enables you to meet your charitable objectives while holding onto the money in your savings. A Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) is an income tax-free gift from an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) to a qualified charity. When a donor reaches age 70 ½, QCDs can be used to satisfy all or part of the donor's Required Minimum Distribution (RMD). While a withdrawal from an IRA is usually considered income, a QCD up to \$100,000 is excluded from taxable income. To qualify as a QCD, the gift must be made to a public charity. QCDs may help you further your charitable goals while simultaneously lowering your tax bill. An additional benefit is that since you do not report it as income, it does not increase your adjusted gross income which is used to calculate Medicare premiums. This strategy enables you to meet your charitable giving objectives including meeting your pledge to the capital campaign or for your annual pledge to the church, while avoiding taxation on the IRA distribution and also enables you to retain your money to reinvest, for other objectives or for living expenses.

Conclusion:

As we approach year end, these strategies could be beneficial to members of the congregation that may not be aware of these tools. It is important to consult with your investment and tax professional to see if these strategies will benefit you.

### Report for Sun., Dec. 4, 2016

**Offering - \$10,747**  
**Attendance - 235** (includes: early service- 60, visitors- 8)



<p><u>Dec. 12</u> William Bower Cliff Tompson</p> <p><u>Dec. 13</u> Virginia Ivey</p> <p><u>Dec. 14</u> Susan Woodbury</p>	<p><u>Dec. 15</u> Buddy Boger Jerry Daugherty John Flanders Darby Henry</p> <p><u>Dec. 16</u> Joe Reardon</p> <p><u>Dec. 17</u> Julia Bower Laura Estes Caden Snow</p>
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# 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. 11

*Van Driver:* Russ Palmer  
*Office Receptionist:* Don Mosby  
*Flower Ministry - Poinsettia Sunday*  
*Welcome Station:* Chris Creasy and Valerie Freed

### Servers for 8:30 Worship Service

*Worship Asssts:* Tommy Gay Evans, Jerry and Mary Daugherty  
*Elder:* Jerry Daugherty  
*Offering Counters:* Bob Hutton and Mary Daugherty

### Servers for 10:30 Worship Service

*Communion Preparation:* Russ and Monica Palmer, Ruth Ann Obrecht  
*Liturgist:* Diana Provenzano  
*Elders:* Fred Mottaz, Debbie Taylor, C.K. Hoenes  
*Deacons:* The Beary Team *Ushers:* The Burnam Team  
*Greeters:* Doug Smith (*N. Door*), Cindy Smith (*S. Door*), Steve Humble (*Atrium*), Jessica Humble (*Portico*)  
*Banner Bearers:* Paige Freed, Gabe Palmer  
*Candlelighters:* Annie Stagg, Ava Martin  
*Children's Worship:* Jessica Humble (*ldr.*) Amy Marrero (*hlpr.*)  
*Offering Counters:* Deb Batterson and Diana Provenzano

## CHURCH CALENDAR Dec. 11 - 17

### Sun., Dec. 11

- Warming Station, 6:00-9:00 a.m., FCC Higbee Center
- Bell Choir, 8:30 a.m., Bell Room (3rd floor Ed. Bldg.)
- Coffee Hour, 9:20-10:20 a.m., Yonker Hall
- Christmas Pageant & Tasting Party, 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary & Yonker Fellowship Hall

### Mon., Dec. 12

- Newsletter deadline & Church Staff Mtg., 2:00 p.m.

### Tues., Dec. 13

- Tuesday Morning Bible Study, 10:30 a.m., Morris Parlor
- Cabinet Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Morris Parlor

### Wed., Dec. 14

- STARS Christmas Luncheon, 12:00 p.m., Yonker Hall
- Wed. Bible Study, 12:05-12:55 p.m., Bethany Hall
- Church in Society Mtg., 5:00-6:00 p.m., Yonker Hall
- Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 5:30 p.m., Morris Parlor
- DOC (college group), 8:45-10:00 p.m., Bethany Hall

### Fri., Dec. 16

- Friday Classic Movie Night, 7:00 p.m., FCC Cinema, (3rd floor, Educ. Bldg.), showing "Holiday Inn"

### Sat., Dec. 17

- Columbia College Commencement, 12:00 p.m.

