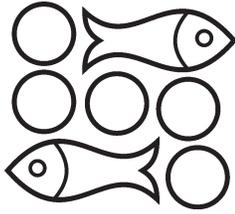




Will you Serve Loaves & Fishes on Monday, Dec. 26?



Our church is serving Loaves and Fishes Monday, Dec. 26th. This is “all welcome to volunteer” month, so if you can volunteer to:

- shop** (go get the food supplies and have them in the church kitchen for those who will cook)
- cook** (prepare the food for the 5:00 p.m.)
- serve** (5:00-6:30 p.m.) at Wilkes Blvd. UMC

Many have this day off. What a great way to share some post Christmas energy and serve others. Invite friends to join. Gather up your family. Let’s make it happen, church!

If you are able this night to serve, contact:
 Paula Hoenes
 Phone # 573-424-3165 or email
Cph@centurytel.net



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.

LIGHT
 OUT OF THE DARKNESS

Christmas Eve
 7:00pm

You are invited to be a part of this special celebration in service and song.

ONE NIGHT ONLY. THE MESSIAH IS BORN.

CHRISTMAS EVE – SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24

5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Sanctuary open for Personal Meditation & Communion

7:00 p.m. “Fulfillment of Light!”

A Service of Lessons & Carols, Communion & Candlelight featuring a Choral Cantata, “Light”

*Nursery childcare available

CHRISTMAS DAY - SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25

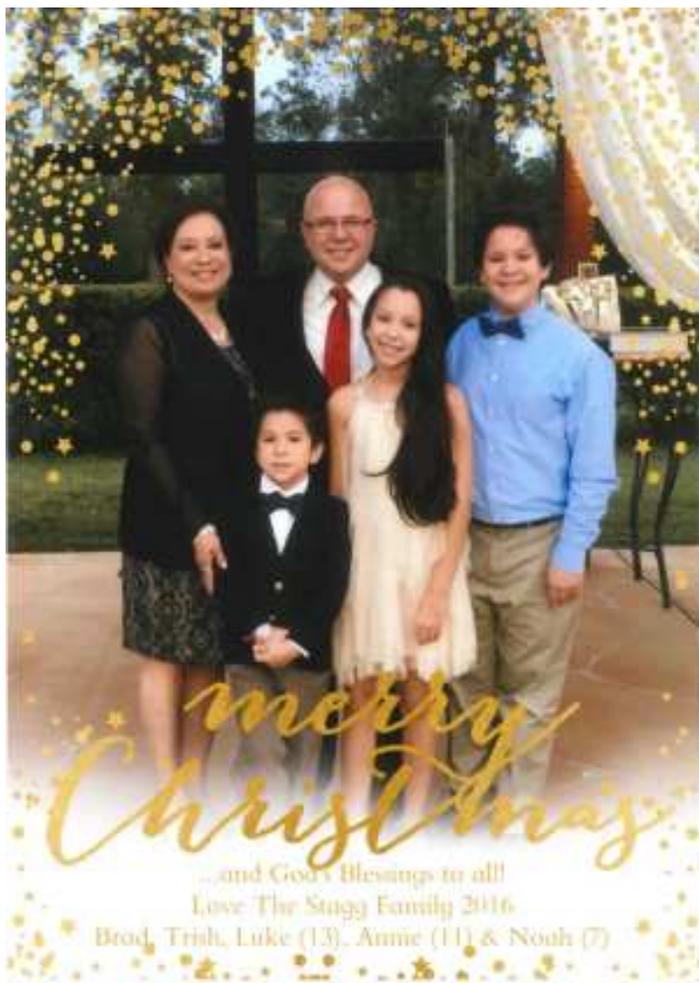
One Worship Service, 10:30 a.m.

(No Sunday School or Warming Station this day)

NEW YEAR’S DAY - SUNDAY, JANUARY 1

One Worship Service, 10:30 a.m.

(No Sunday School or Warming Station this day)



Your WOC Dollars at Work

Syria Crisis: Week of Compassion Committee Approves Largest Emergency Grant to Date

This week (Dec. 15) our hearts have been wrenched again by the crisis in Syria, especially in Aleppo, as conflict intensified. The media continues to remind us that this is one of the worst humanitarian crises in the world today. Over 12 million people have been displaced since the war began in 2011. In the last several weeks, Week of Compassion has provided emergency grants to our partners through Global Ministries to support Syrian refugees through the winter months. Just this week, the Week of Compassion Committee approved an emergency grant to provide nearly \$250,000 from our unrestricted Compassion In Action Fund for the global refugee crises surrounding the Middle East. The need is vast and varied: From those still in war-torn areas inside Syria, to those who have fled and are staying in refugee camps throughout the Middle East, to those who have sought asylum throughout Eastern Europe. The grants approved by the Week of Compassion Committee provide support to refugees and migrants in each of these areas, and respond to the unique needs identified by partners on the ground. Within Syria, especially in Aleppo, funds provide immediate food and water relief, delivered through our network of church partners who create a collaborative network of compassion in dire circumstances. Although there has been a ceasefire in Aleppo, violence has not ceased. As of Thursday morning, our partners remain in Aleppo providing food and water even as the situation develops. During this time we are called as church to respond to our sisters and brothers in need. We hold the suffering of the Syrian people in prayer and we continue to pray that all people come to live in peace. Your generosity and support allows our church to be present with the suffering and in solidarity with the vulnerable. In this season of Advent, we await Christ's coming into the world. As we wait, we prepare Christ's way through our actions: comforting the weeping, healing the wounded, feeding the hungry, and protecting the vulnerable.

~World Outreach Department

Volunteer Opportunity: Warming Station OPENINGS

<u>Jan. 22</u>	<u>Jan. 29</u>	<u>Feb. 12</u>	<u>Feb. 19</u>
2 hosts	1 host	2 hosts	2 hosts
1 bus driver		1 bus driver	1 bus driver

Sunday mornings: hosts arrive at 6:15 a.m., guests present 6:45-9:00 a.m. Hosts get hot drink supplies to Higbee area and prepare. Drivers transport guests via church mini-bus to Wilkes Blvd. Church at 8:50 a.m.

Call the church office to volunteer or contact warming station organizer Janelle Patterson: kcat3@aol.com, cell #573-864-1151.



Thanks so much for your kind and uplifting cards and letters. Being a widow and now an orphan makes a church family so important and special.

~Cherry Hinderberger

Volunteer Opportunity: ROOM AT THE INN

Can you help a night or two or early morning at **Room at the Inn (RATI)**? This community-wide ministry welcomes many helpers. Go to the sign up website" www.roomattheinncomo.org for:

Volunteer information and signup instructions (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. on Monday – Friday and 6 – 9 p.m. on Sunday (and pick up any clean laundry if ready).

A 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 @ 573-289-0072.**



Craig Miller's Presentation of the first Norma Miller/Drennan Singers' Scholarship to Matthew Hoepfner—December 18, 2016

Thank you, Jimmy Spear and Micki Kirkham for inviting me to this very special occasion of honoring my mom, Norma Miller, by presenting the very first *Norma Miller/Drennan Singers' Scholarship*.

First, I would like to say it's great to be home in this church. The memories I have of growing up in this church from years in the nursery with Moray Loring, to leading worship with Muriel Leach in Children's Worship hour, spending Sunday afternoons in Chi Rho and Youth Group, being a King and Shepherd in the annual Christmas Pageant with Connie Guy to performing many, many Sunday's with my mom on trumpet. I can't tell you and thank you enough for the support you have shown me throughout the years and how much of a positive impact it has had on my life. I am currently the Director of Bands at Park Hill South High School and the Adult Orchestra Conductor at the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection with Pastor Adam Hamilton in Leawood, Kansas. I cannot tell you how many times I have referenced my experience here at First Christian Church, whether about hymns we have sung, or a song I have performed on trumpet for this congregation. Your support and nurturing of my musical experience continues to be so very important in my spirit journey. Thank you, First Christian Church, for helping make me who I am today.

Prior to my mom's death, she made me promise many things—as if she knew her time was short. One of those was to use any memorial gifts that might be left in her name for something that lasts. She said, "Do not buy *things*, but use any gifts for the good of people." There is nothing more lasting than education. My mom was an amazing and meticulous teacher who still teaches me every day of my life. She taught music to many of us, as well as students with learning disabilities at Lee Elementary School. When she passed away suddenly in 2009, we established a *Norma Miller/Drennan Singers' Music Scholarship* to be awarded to someone who made a significant contribution to the music ministry of First Christian Church.

Mom had an extensive and loving commitment to the music program and Christian Education here in First Christian Church. In addition to creating and leading *The Drennan Singers* for nearly three decades, she was President of the Church Board, and was also Director of Christian Education. Mom's musical gifts to First Christian Church included playing the piano and scheduling and rehearsing church musicians for early morning worship each Sunday from 1975-2009. She often played with Mary Bancroft for the 10:30 service, as well as for other events, such as weddings, funerals, and weekly services at Lenoir and The Bluffs. She would never take money for her services.

So today, we honor my mom's service to this church by presenting the first scholarship in her name and in the name of her beloved *Drennan Singers*. The endowment funding for this scholarship originated from gifts given to the Norma Miller Memorial, estab-

lished in 2009 and since then, the *Drennan Singers* and many others have continued to make on-going contributions to the scholarship fund. I especially want to thank Lorene Trickey and Brenda Mosby for their tireless efforts in growing the scholarship fund. Several First Christian Church families who love music and my mom have moved established funds and/or requested that family memorials be given to the *Norma Miller/Drennan Singers' Scholarship* endowment fund. These families include:

Pat Lawnick-Ritchie, Marian and Ferd Roy Lightner, Harold Rosebaum, George R. Ross, Gary Rybolt, Odette Schaffer, Frances Seltsam, Mildred Todd, Meadow Woodbury.

Thank you all for your generous support. Thank you, *Drennan Singers* and Gene Kirkham for keeping my mom's memory alive and allowing us to be able to begin the awarding of our annual scholarship. And, thanks to the members of the congregation as a whole who continue to make contributions to this scholarship so we can help support our youth as they pursue a degree in higher education. We hope that your generosity will continue, so that we might increase the amount of each annual award.

Today we honor Matthew Hoepfner to be the first recipient of the *Norma Miller/Drennan Singers' Scholarship*. Matthew is an amazing musician who was selected as a member of the prestigious Missouri All-State Band as a flute player. He was drum major at Rock Bridge High School and is currently working on an engineering degree at Missouri S & T in Rolla, while continuing his music by participating in multiple musical ensembles. Not only do Matthew's accomplishments make him a perfect recipient of this scholarship, but when I Facebook-stalked Matthew, I found a quote on his website I know my mom would have loved:

"I love all of my instruments. Music is my life, and I wouldn't want it any other way!"

Matthew, thank you for your contributions to the music ministry of this church and congratulations on being selected as the first recipient of the *Norma Miller/ Drennan Singers Scholarship*.



Pictured here from Sunday: Drennan Singers Micki McGuire Kirkham (l) and Brenda Mosby (r) with scholarship recipient Matthew Hoepfner and Craig Miller.

One Worship Service - 10:30 a.m.

Van Driver: Carol Slusher

Office Receptionist: Gene Taylor

Flower Ministry - Arranged by: Jacki Davidson

Delivered by: Jacki Davidson

Welcome Station: Jan Davis and Steven Humble

Communion Preparation: Steve, Tracy and Derrick Evers

Liturgist: Sarah Read

Elders: Harlan Hackett, Dan Backues, Marilyn Schappert

Deacons: The Hunsaker Team *Ushers:* The Scott Team

Greeters: Dan Backues (*N. Door*), Lisa Zimmer (*S. Door*),

Susan Klockow (*Atrium*), Amy LaHue (*Portico*)

Banner Bearers: Carleigh Snow, Chase Hofmann

Candlelighters: Kate Volmert, Lena Schaefer

No Children's Worship this day

Offering Counters: Gene Taylor and Jerry Miller



Sun., Dec. 25

- NO Warming Station, Sunday School or Coffee Hour
- One Worship Service, 10:30 a.m.

Mon., Dec. 26

- Church office closed for Holiday
- No Newsletter this week

Tues., Dec. 27

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

Wed., Dec. 28

- Wed. Bible Study, 12:05-12:55 p.m., Bethany Hall
- Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 5:30 p.m., Morris Parlor

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

One Worship Service - 10:30 a.m.

Van Driver: Eric Seaman

Office Receptionist: Carole Randerson

Flower Ministry - Arranged by: Cindy Rose

Delivered by: Fred Mottaz

Welcome Station: Lexy Bell and Trish Stagg

Communion Preparation: Eva Bright, Valerie Freed, and

Mike Mountjoy

Liturgist: Tommy Tomlin

Elders: TBA

Deacons: The Garton Team *Ushers:* The Mountjoy Team

Greeters: Jerry Miller (*N. Door*), Kathy Miller (*S. Door*),

Angela Nance (*Atrium*), Russ Palmer (*Portico*)

Banner Bearers: Jack Bower, Delaney Batterson

Candlelighters: Lillian McCormack, Annie Stagg

Children's Worship: Jessica Humble (*ldr.*) TBA (*hlpr.*)

Offering Counters: Deb Batterson and Gene Taylor



Sun., Jan. 1

- NO Warming Station, Sunday School or Coffee Hour
- One Worship Service, 10:30 a.m.

Mon., Jan. 2

- Office closed for holiday
- Newsletter deadline
- DOC (college group) mission trip Monday-Saturday

Tues., Jan. 3

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

Wed., Jan. 4

- Wed. Bible Study, 12:05-12:55 p.m., Bethany Hall
- World Outreach Mtg., 5:00 p.m., Keystone Room

Fri., Jan. 6

- Church Dine-Out, 5:30 p.m., Bob Evans Restaurant
Everyone Welcome!

News of People & Place

Congratulations to **Ben and Beth Nelms** who celebrate their 54th wedding anniversary on December 27th.

Prayers in this week extended for:

Colleen Nilges in the death of her mother **Helen Lafferty** of Princeton, IL. Services were held in that town on Dec. 13.

Mary and Mike Bancroft in the death of Mary's brother, **Robert Douglas** of Springfield, MO. Robert passed earlier this fall. A service is planned for late January at FCC, Columbia.

Debbie Potthast shares good news from cancer testings: lungs are clear of malignancy, brain spots are still being monitored. Prayers continue!

David Polach has shown improvement since start his monthly chemo treatments and will continue for several months.

The single digit temperatures and potential ice cancelled the annual **Christmas Caroling** last Sunday afternoon. The **CYF (high school youth group)** will not let this hinder their sharing of tidings. They will be taking a couple hours of their first day of break (Wednesday, 21st) to head out to carol to those who are home bound.

Special note: an additional thanks goes to **Janelle Patterson** for helping with the Tasting Party which followed the Christmas Pageant on December 11th.

Report for Sun., Dec. 18, 2016

Offering - \$6,645
Attendance - 122 (includes: early service - 20, visitors - 4)

Dec. 25

Dorothy Baumgartner
Susan Ripley

Dec. 27

Linda Chandler
Emma Hawkins
Michael Taylor

Dec. 29

Becky Baumgartner
Kevin Crane
Paula Kurtz
Shirley Park
Scott Schaefer



Dec. 30

Jan Davis
Jerry Miller
Fred Mottaz

Jan. 1

Eva Bright
Steve Gieseke
Jeri Sheppard

Jan. 3

Debbie Potthast

Jan. 4

Paige Freed

Jan. 5

Lindsey Chandler
Hiliary Nichols

JYF (grds 3-5) &
Chi-Rho (grds 6-8)
4:30-6:00 p.m.
CYF (grds 9-12)
6:00-7:30 p.m.



Group Mtg. Schedule:

Jan 8 CR & CYF
Jan 15 NO youth – MLK wknd
Jan 22 CR & CYF
Jan 29 JYF & CYF
Feb 5 CR & CYF
Feb 12 JYF & CYF
Feb 19 (Pres Wknd – movie outing, an overnight, something like that)??
Feb 26 JYF & CYF
Mar 5 CR & CYF
Mar 12 Talent Show/Potluck
Mar 12 JYF & CYF – G. Sale Set Up
Mar 17-18 Garage Sale
Mar 19 CR & CYF
Mar 26 NO youth – Spg Brk

Thanks to the “Wrappers”

Thanks to the nine Drennan Group members and guests who had fun wrapping the Christmas presents that had been donated for the children at Coyote Hill Christian Children's Home. A very worthwhile service project and our efforts are very much appreciated. The prize goes to Susan who figured out how to wrap a bicycle! Thanks to all~Sharon Winner

Friends, as the week comes approaching the birth of Christ, and as it has been most cold in these days, the following hymn is one not so popular but yet oh so beautiful in verse and tune. Look it up on the internet/ youtube for a good version – you will find it to be lovely. Merry Christmas

~Jimmy Spear

See Amid the Winter's Snow

See amid the winter's snow,
born for us on earth below,
see, the gentle Lamb appears,
promised from eternal years.

Refrain:

Hail that ever blessèd morn,
hail redemption's happy dawn,
sing through all Jerusalem:
Christ is born in Bethlehem.

Lo, within a manger lies
he who built the starry skies;
he who, thronèd in height sublime,
sits amid the cherubim. *Refrain*

Say, ye holy shepherds, say,
what your joyful news today.
wherefore have ye left your sheep
on the lonely mountain steep? *Refrain*

“As we watched at dead of night,
lo, we saw a wondrous light;
angels singing ‘Peace on earth’
told us of the Savior's birth.” *Refrain*

Sacred Infant, all divine,
what a tender love was thine,
thus to come from highest bliss
down to such a world as this. *Refrain*

Teach, O teach us, holy Child,
by thy face so meek and mild,
teach us to resemble thee,
in thy sweet humility. *Refrain*

Words: Edward Caswall (1814-1878), 1851

Music: HUMILITY by John Goss, 1871

Weather Closings

Remember in the winter months – if Columbia Schools are closed, so are the programs of First Christian Church. The church office will be open as able. On Sundays when bad weather presents itself watch the local TV stations and facebook page for cancellations and adjustments in our worship schedule.

The Visitor

First Christian Church

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

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
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Columbia, MO
Permit No. 75

Ministerial Staff:

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

Return Service Requested

Music Staff:

Mary Bancroft, Coord. of Music & Organist
maryebancroft@yahoo.com
Ariene 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

