



**THE**  
December 7, 2018  
Vol. 77, No. 17

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

# VISITOR

**Our mission: to know God and follow Jesus Christ**



*The Lord is Coming*

## Seek!

### The 2nd Sunday in Advent, Dec., 9

The book of Malachi is the last book of the Old Testament and tells us there is one on the way who is above all others. We should seek him! Find out about this exciting message in Rev. Stagg's sermon "Seek The Lord!" The Peace Candle will be lit in both worship services as we continue in the Advent Season. See you Sunday!

### Commitment Sunday December 9<sup>th</sup>

Two goals were set by the Capital Campaign Steering Committee.

#1- 100% participation (every FCC family would make a gift or pledge to the campaign).

#2- Raise \$425,000 over the next three years to address Tier Two needs.

Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup> is our Capital Campaign Commitment Sunday. The funds raised in this campaign will go toward addressing the important and urgent Tier Two building needs. Please bring your completed commitment card to worship on December 9<sup>th</sup>. If you are unable to attend that day, you may bring your commitment card to the church office and place it in the confidential black box, or you may mail it to the church. Please continue to pray this week in how you can support this important endeavor.

#### Charitable Giving Workshop— THIS SUNDAY!

12:00-1:00pm Morris Parlor Lunch provided

Come learn about the new tax laws and opportunities to support First Christian Church through a legacy gift. Individuals should contact their tax professional regarding their specific situation.



### The 86<sup>th</sup> Christmas Pageant & Tasting Party Dec. 16 - 4pm

The Annual Christmas Pageant will be held Sunday afternoon December 16 at **4:00pm**. Please note the



time, as this is quite a bit earlier than years past; due to popular demand! 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 joyful replaying of such a glorious event.

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 sharable finger food-cookie-dessert-appetizer of holiday deliciousness.

All participants should be on the 3rd floor of the Education building at 3:30pm. Pre-school angels meet in the nursery at 3:30pm. Questions? Please contact Rev. Jimmy Spear.

### Buy Heifer Gifts Sunday



The World Outreach Department makes the opportunity available each Advent for unique gifts to be purchased through Heifer International. Give a gift that changes poverty and hunger in a faraway 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 this Sunday. Gift cards are available.

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## Bit From Brad

As I write this column, George H. W. Bush, the 41<sup>st</sup> President of the United States of America, lies in state at our nation's Capital building. After completing his presidency, George and Barbara Bush retired to Houston, where I was blessed to meet the President himself.

Dave Mason, a dear clergy friend invited me to a luncheon where the newly anointed Cardinal of the Galveston-Houston Diocese, Daniel Dinardo, was the guest speaker. My friend and host Dave Mason placed me at the same table as Craig Biggio, the recently retired second-base man for the Houston Astros. Big doin's for a guy like me! After the Cardinal spoke, Dave invited me for "pictures" with him, the Cardinal, and Biggio. Very exciting for me and after five minutes or so we were done and ready to go our separate ways for the rest of the day! A day to remember!

Then unexpectedly, Dave says, "Hey, everybody, let's go outside on the patio for some more pictures. Brad you come, too." Suddenly everything feels weird and awkward. We had had enough pictures. We were done, but Dave is our host so we oblige him. Dutifully, we troop out to the patio for more pictures. In single line we march: Dave leads, followed by the Cardinal, Craig Biggio and his wife go next, then another pastor friend, two of Dave's parishioners, and finally I bring up the rear. As Dave and the Cardinal round the corner of a garden wall, I hear from the back of the line Dave say in a rather familiar tone "Hey Mr. President!" Just as I made the corner there is President George H.W. Bush sitting at a black wrought iron patio table escorted by two Secret Service agents who quickly assess our presence only to hear the President say, "Hey Dave, how are you?" Apparently Dave not only hangs with Major League Hall of Famers and Catholic Cardinals, but also is fast friends with '41'!! "Mr. President, have you met the new Cardinal yet?" Dave asks. "No, I haven't," the President responded. Then with the Cardinal and Houston Astro legend present, President Bush turns to me and the others, asks us our names, shakes our hands and treats each of us just as importantly as Cardinal Dinardo and Craig Biggio.

His treatment was a testimony of his personal character and his value for all people regardless of backgrounds or politics. President George H.W. Bush cared deeply for each person he met. He knew Dave's politics were different than his own but still valued and cherished Dave and the strangers he met that day.

Perhaps there's a lesson for all of us there. Valuing others, even those different from us, maybe *especially* those different from us, is a way of life needing to be recaptured. In a day and time where so many parts of our culture seem fragmented, strained and divided, maybe this is the time in which we join the angelic chorus singing, "Peace on earth and goodwill to all people!"

This Advent season let's prepare for the Lord's coming by finding what we have in common with those we meet rather than noticing our differences. Let's be the first to offer a handshake and warm greetings! Indeed may "Peace on earth and goodwill come to all people!"

~Blessings, Brad

## News of People & Places



**Will you keep in prayer the following church friends this coming week:** Sue Wright was a patient in Boone Hospital and is now home preparing for an upcoming bypass surgery. Jeff Wheeland has untreatable blood clots and is in Texas to be with his family for the last time. Jeff is a dear friend and lover of Jesus Christ. We are with him in his time of need.

**Austin Dey** will be ordained into the Christian Ministry on Sunday, Dec. 9 at an 4:00 p.m. service at First Christian Church, Jefferson City. Austin attended FCC, Columbia for several years in childhood and was baptized among us in 1996. He served FCC, Jeff. City as Youth Minister a few years back and was known to our youth from counseling church camp and our joint CYF mission trips. He is a recent graduate of Vanderbilt Divinity School, Nashville, TN and was a recipient of First Christian Columbia's Brooker Memorial Ministry Scholarship.

### Notes Received...

Dear Friends,

Mary and I want to express our deep and sincere thanks to all of you for the encouraging support, the visits, the prayers, phone calls, cards and flowers during my recent illness. I am so pleased now to be back home working toward full recovery and looking forward to being able soon to offer a personal "Thank You" at church. Ours is truly a wonderful church with an amazing congregation and outstanding leadership. God bless you all.

Cliff Tompson

We would like to sincerely thank Jimmy and the families who volunteered to come over and rake our leaves. It was very much appreciated. It was hard to believe all the bags they filled that morning. It was trash day and they lined up about 20 bags in front of our house just before the trash truck came, Roy really was so thankful for your help in moving a mattress and box springs also. It was truly a blessing for our family. Thank you.

Roy & Joy Overacre

**Report for Sunday, December 2, 2018**  
**Attendance 191 (guests- 18) Total offerings: \$7618.25**

## Warming Station Needs

Warming Station hosts and bus drivers are still needed for Sundays in January, February, and on March 3. If you have questions about or can help with this important ministry, please call or text Sarah Storm @ 573/289-0072 or email [marions@centurytel.net](mailto:marions@centurytel.net).



## Holiday Cheerfulness at the Women's Brunch 2018



## Birthdays

**Dec. 10:** Marjorie Carter,  
Curtis Snow, Cheryl Unterschut, Willie Wheeland

**Dec. 12:** William Bower, Clifford Tompson

**Dec. 13:** Virginia Ivey

**Dec. 14:** Susan Woodbury

**Dec. 15:** Buddy Boger, Jerry Daugherty, John Flanders,  
Darby Henry



## Staff Christmas Fund



The Administrative Department provides an opportunity for church members and friends to contribute to 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 21. Please note the gift will be divided evenly among the staff members: ministers, office staff, music staff and custodian.

Debbie Taylor, Administrative Dept. Chairperson

## Holiday Events



**Soup Luncheon**  
with entertainment of stories  
and songs from the Mother's Day Out children

Tuesday, December 18

11:45 a.m. in Yonker Hall

Soups and beverages provided. Please bring a snack or dessert to share. RSVP on the Sunday Pew Pad "STARS" or in the church office.

## Adult Class on Sundays in Dec.

*Advent Study for Adults: MESSIAH*

The adult class will study the next four Sundays (Dec. 9-30), a study written by world-renowned Old Testament scholar Walter Brueggemann. The study takes a critical look at the four royal titles used in *Isaiah 9:2-7: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace*. We will be challenged to learn how the people understood those titles during Jesus' time and discuss how Jesus did or did not fulfill the titles. We will also reflect how Christians interpret Jesus as representing that title.

Walter Brueggemann is William Marcellus McPheeters' Professor Emeritus of Old Testament at Columbia Theological Seminary. An ordained minister in the United Church of Christ, he is the author of dozens of books and hundreds of articles. Our study will be facilitated by Rev. Jimmy Spear. Join us at 9:30am.

## Christmas Caroling



**All New! - Independent, by Small Group**

You are invited to form a small group and bring a little joy of Christmas to some of our older members through Christmas caroling. The small group format is new this year. When you have a group collected, contact Rev. Spear for times and locations where caroling would be a welcomed gift in the weeks prior to Christmas. We can provide song sheets too!

## Youth & Children in December

### Pageant Practice Continues: Dec. 9 & 16

Children ages pre-K to 5th grade will practice their songs and bell ringing for the annual Christmas Pageant on Dec. 16 at 4:00pm. All practices will take place during 10:30 worship as a part of their children's worship time on **Dec. 9 and 16**. Pre-K will practice in the nursery. K-2 will ring rainbow bells, grades 3-5 will sing. Practice is necessary to participate.



**The Visitor**  
**First Christian Church**  
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**Ministerial Staff:**

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

**Music Staff:**

Mary Bancroft, Coordinator of Music & Organist  
maryebancroft@yahoo.com  
Dr. Laura Schweibacher, Interim Director of Choirs  
lmayes66@yahoo.com

**Mother's Day Out Pre-School:**

Tracy Westhoff, Director  
tracy@firstchristian.org

**Columbia Area Older Adult Ministry:**

Rev. Sally Robinson, Chaplain  
sallyarobinson16@gmail.com

**Support Staff:**

Robert Floyd, Office Manager  
fcc@firstchristian.org  
Fred Mottaz, Business Manager  
fred@firstchristian.org  
Keith Picker, Custodian

**Return Service Requested**

**SERVING SCHEDULE SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9**

**Bus Driver:** Carol Slusher **Office Receptionist:** Don Mosby  
**Welcome Station:** Chris Creasy and Valerie Freed  
**Flower Ministry Arranging/Delivery:**  
Perry & Helen Stemmons

**Servers for 8:30 Worship Service**

**Worship Assistants:**  
Will & Donna Houston and Jerry Daugherty  
**Elder:** Mary Daugherty  
**Offering Counters:** Mary Daugherty and Kim Reardon

**Servers for 10:30 Worship Service**

**Communion Prep:**  
Jerry & Kathy Miller and Jeff Underwood  
**Greeters:**  
Doug Smith (N. Door) Cindy Smith (S. Door)  
Steve Humble (Atrium) Jessica Humble (Portico)

**Banner Bearers:** Ryley Batterson and Paige Freed  
**Candle Lighters:** Ann Volmert and Aubrey Schomaker  
**Liturgist:** TBD  
**Elders:** Brenda Mosby, Dan Backues, Tracy Evers  
**Deacons:** The Beary Team **Ushers:** The Burnam Team

**Children's Worship:**  
Eric Arnett (Ldr.), TBD (Hlpr.)  
**Offering Counters:** Deb Batterson and Debbie Taylor

**CHURCH CALENDAR DECEMBER 9-DECEMBER 15**

**Sunday, December 9**

- Capital Campaign Commitment Sunday
- Coffee Hour Fellowship, 9:20-10:20am
- Sunday School Classes, 9:30am
- Capital Campaign Charitable Giving Workshop, 12:00-1:00pm, Morris Parlor
- DOC College Ministry, 8:30pm, Bethany Hall

**Monday, December 10**

- Church Office Staff Meeting, 2:00pm, Keystone Room
- Drennan Singers Rehearsal, 5:30pm, Sanctuary

**Tuesday, December 11**

- Tuesday Bible Study, 10:30am-12:00pm, Morris Parlor
- Cabinet Meeting, 6:30-7:30pm, Morris Parlor

**Wednesday, December 12**

- Brummett-Harrah Luncheon., 11:30am-1:00pm, Olive Garden Restaurant
- Ladies' Book Club, 12:00pm, Bethany Hall
- Wednesday Bible Study, 12:05-12:55pm, Morris Parlor
- Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 5:30-6:30pm, 3rd Flr. Choir Room
- Chancel Bell Choir Rehearsal, 6:40-7:40, 3rd Flr. Bell Room

**Thursday, December 13**

- STARS- A Christmas Carol, 2:00-6:00pm, Lyceum Theater
- Men's Ministry Core Group Mtg, 6:30-7:30pm, Bethany Hall