



December 13, 2019  
Vol. 77, No. 61

# THE VISITOR

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Our mission: to know God and follow Jesus Christ

## The 87<sup>th</sup> Christmas Pageant & Tasting Party

Sunday, Dec. 15 - 4:00pm  
Sanctuary & Yonker Hall



The Annual Christmas Pageant in it's 87th year will be held THIS SUNDAY afternoon, December 15 at **4:00pm**. Participants include 5th graders and parents as shepherds, pre-school angels, a senior archangel, and 3 very wise men of the church.

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 for robing and costuming. Pre-school angels meet in the nursery at 3:30pm. Questions, contact Rev. Jimmy Spear.

**There will be NO Visitor the week of Christmas.**

Articles that need to be published before then must be submitted by **NEXT MONDAY, Dec. 16**. (NOTE: There will be a Visitor published the week of New Years.) Please plan accordingly. Thank you!



## Buy Heifer Gifts

Narthex - Sunday, Dec. 15.

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 at church, in the Narthex on Sunday, Dec. 15.

## The Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 35:1-10

Dr. Stagg, preaching

Our Advent Sermon Series, The House of God based on the prophet Isaiah, continues as we study Luke 1:46-55 and Isaiah 35:1-10. Dr. Stagg's sermon, "A Return to Joy" considers the role of joy as building our spiritual and communal House of God. Come discover how the ancient Judeans were surprised by God's message of joy in the midst of their dark times; a needed message that God delivers us at our darkest hour! Joy to the World, the Lord is come!

This week's hymns include *Angels We Have Heard on High*, *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*, and *Once in Royal David's City*.

A return to JOY

## THE HOUSE OF GOD



The Special Christmas Offering will be collected in both services again **THIS SUNDAY**. We take two weeks to offer "Moments for Mission" and to collect these special offerings.

The Christmas Offering supports the Regional Church — **The Christian Church in Mid-America**. FCC Columbia is a vital part of the Regional Church — giving and receiving of gifts of ministry, camp, clergy renewal and care and much more. Stop in Yonker Hall this Sunday to see a short video created for this offering — some of our people are in it!

[www.firstchristian.org](http://www.firstchristian.org)

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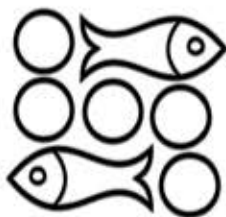
## Serve Dinner at Loaves & Fishes

Monday, Dec. 23 - 5:00-6:30pm  
Wilkes Blvd. Methodist Church



Christian Outreach in Columbia...and Beyond

What a great way to give to the community in the season of sharing what matters most: join us as we prepare and serve the dinner meal at Loaves & Fishes just before Christmas! A team is forming. Contact the church office to volunteer by Sunday, Dec. 15.



## Future Serving at Loaves & Fishes

Survey Will Expand Food Outreach  
Turn yours in by Sun., Dec. 15!

The Church in Society Department seeks the congregation's input as to interest in our serving at Loaves and Fishes in 2020. In order to serve the six nights of meals (every other month on the 4th Monday) there will need to be committed teams of volunteers to cook, transport and serve.

The department will try a team model in 2020 — utilizing all those who always show interest — placed on teams designated with certain months to serve. This will do away with the cumbersome approach of asking for volunteers six times a year.

There will need to be enough volunteers AND team leaders to form several teams for this critical outreach ministry to thrive in 2020. We are good at this ministry and thus are now taking it a step in a new organizational direction.

A four-question survey will be sent out with the weekly Visitor email for electronic reply and available in the office/narthex in paper form. We hope to have them in by Dec. 15.



**Russell & Laura  
DeVenney**

Dec. 15, 51 Years

**Jim & Anne  
Campbell**

Dec. 20, 51 Years

**Congratulations!**

## BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK



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

**Dec. 16** - Joe Reardon

**Dec. 17** - Julia Bower, Laura Estes, Caden Snow

**Dec. 18** - Declan Judy, Robert Martin,  
Kaedon Wheatley

**Dec. 19** - Dana Flora, Cliff Judy

## Staff Christmas Fund

The Administrative Dept. 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 20.** Please note the gift will be divided evenly among the staff members: ministers, office staff, music staff and custodian.

-- Debbie Taylor, Administrative Dept. Chairperson



## Bit From Brad

As this is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent in which we focus upon "Joy," what joys are you experiencing this Advent & Christmas season?

I always find FCC's Living Nativity a joyful occasion each year! Children reenacting the first Christmas and all the wonderful moments that spontaneously occur — angels flapping their arms better than any professional ballerina, shepherds breaking into the "Orange Justice" or do a "Dab" or whatever is the latest cool dance move, or when a passing family asks if their preschooler can don a costume and join the Nativity! Those are the moments that make each year sheer joy for me.

This year was no exception, as passing cars would lower their windows to listen to the narration and you'd see a grandmother smiling ear to ear, a child's eyes wide with amazement, a parent's nostalgic yearning to return to church. In those moments, the Living Nativity came alive in the eyes of those witnessing the tableau! We had a good turnout too: 40 visitors for the 1<sup>st</sup> showing; 55 visitors at the 2<sup>nd</sup>; 65 visitors at the 3<sup>rd</sup> showing, and 100 visitors at the 4<sup>th</sup> and final showing for a total of 260 visitors to the Living Nativity! The Host Team serving cookies and drinks estimate that 200 were served out of Bethany Hall. And one family came up to me and Jimmy promising they would soon join us for worship. What brings YOU joy this Christmas season?

May Christ bless you with His holy presence, filling you with hope, peace and joy!  
Blessings, *Dr. Brad*



## Room at the Inn Schedule for '19-'20 Season

December 8 - December 21 Unitarian Universalist Church  
2615 Shepard Blvd

## WARMING STATION BEGINS THIS SUNDAY

6:00-9:00am, Higbee

# CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

## TUESDAY DEC. 24

**5:00PM** – Sanctuary Open for Personal Meditation & Communion  
**7:00PM** – A Service of Lessons & Carols, Communion & Candlelight  
*(Childcare available.)*

## News of the People

### Prayers of Sympathy...

A service celebrating the life of **Gary Untershutz** will be held in the church sanctuary on Monday, December 16 at 10:30am. A reception in Yonker Hall to greet his family Cheryl, Emily and Erich will be follow the service.



### News of People and Places...

Please take a few moments to enjoy the Christmas decorations in the CWF area near the elevator door (pictured right). Thanks to **Joyce Stanley and Carol Hughey** for their love and care for this portion of our lovely church.



**Communion Connection** will take place this Sunday. Elders will be commissioned in 10:30 Worship to take communion and fellowship to those who are home-centered in this season.

## Living Nativity

Thank you to everyone who came out to participate in our annual part of the downtown Columbia Living Windows. The Living Nativity has garnered larger crowds each year. Downtown was a buzz with walkers of all ages.

Our 4 shows representing the birth story of Jesus were full of excitement — we were never sure how each one would go but they kept getting better! The group of children and youth that participated took their roles to heart. Thanks to many parents who helped navigate costumes and stage cues.

The hospitality time in Bethany Hall welcomed over 200 people — church members, friends, and community members. A great array of homemade cookies made the hot drinks on a cold night so much better!



The STARS (pictured above) recently enjoyed the sights of the town with their annual light tour. Thanks to **Ron and Judy Longaker** for hosting a perfect refreshment stop along the way. The STARS have one more event still open for RSVP — the annual Holiday Luncheon at FCC, **Tues., Dec. 17 at noon.**, MDO preschool songs with our soup and potluck style feast.

Thanks to **Elizabeth Mottaz** and her team of Church in Society Dept. folks for making the Voluntary Action Center holiday gift program a success. There were many hours involved to make the process of gifting the 49 individuals a streamlined and efficient endeavor.

Thanks to **Jeff Underwood** for assisting Jimmy Spear on Friday afternoon to set up the outdoor living nativity lights and sound and also for the Tuesday morning loading and delivery of the VAC gifts across town.

The 2019 CYF Gingerbread House Contest: The votes are in! **Olivia Johnson's log cabin, Annie Stagg's little cottage, and Julia LaHue/Holly Wheatley's candy temple** were high vote-getters. Thanks to everyone who voted!



A new addition to this year's event was a group of handbell ringers located in the bell tower. With our nativity lasting 15 minutes each half hour our corner of downtown was gifted with handbell music for the remaining 15 minutes. Members of FCC who are a part of the Columbia Handbell Ensemble made this piece happen. Thanks to all who helped make this another successful and memorable year!



## YOUTH GROUP!

Groups are on break until January. Join in on the Christmas Pageant, Dec. 15, 4pm. Dec. 22: CYF-TBA.

*The CYF spent \$1300 in just one hour buying gifts on your behalf for the VAC Christmas Project last Sunday evening!*



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

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

**Music Staff:**

Michael Sauer, Director of Music Ministry, Chancel Choir & Bells  
 michael@firstchristian.org  
 Travis McFarlane, Early Worship Service Musician

**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:**

Laura Shirey, Office Manager  
 laura@firstchristian.org  
 Fred Mottaz, Business Manager  
 fred@firstchristian.org  
 Keith Picker, Custodian

**Return Service Requested**

**SERVING SCHEDULE SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15**

**Bus Driver:** Dan Gieseke  
**Office Receptionist:** Carole Harris Randerson  
**Welcome Station:** Bob Dixon  
**Flower Arranging/Delivery:** Poinsettia Sunday  
**Servers for 8:30 Worship Service**  
**Worship Assistants:** Will & Donna Houston, Karen Poe  
**Elder:** Susan Gray  
**Offering Counters:** Kim Reardon and Mary Moeller  
**Servers for 10:30 Worship Service**  
**Communion Prep:** Pat Rybolt, Dan & Deidre Wipke Tevis  
**Greeters:** Janelle Patterson (N. Door) – Don Mosby (S. Door)  
 Joyce Stanley (Atrium) – Laura Crane (Portico)  
**Banner Bearers:** Noah Stagg and Dietrich Arnett  
**Candle Lighters:** Cullen Rose and Alex Johnson  
**Liturgist:** Bragg Stanley  
**Elders:** Genie Rogers and Jean Hall - Cindy Rose, Balcony  
**Deacons:** The Underwood Team **Ushers:** The Rose Team  
**Children's Worship:** Jessica Humble (Ldr.) TBD (Hlpr.)  
**Offering Counters:** Deb Batterson and Harlan Hackett

**CHURCH CALENDAR DECEMBER 15 - DECEMBER 21**

**Sunday, December 15**

- Christmas Offering collected in both services
- Communion Connection Sunday, 10:30 Worship
- Warming Station, 6:00-9:00am, Higbee
- Coffee Hour Fellowship, 9:20-10:20am, Yonker Hall
- Christmas Pageant & Tasting Party, 4:00pm, Sanctuary & Yonker

**Monday, December 16**

*Deadline for Double Issue of Visitor*

- Broadway CC Senior Fellowship Holiday Luncheon, Noon
- Church Office Staff Meeting, 2:00-3:00pm, Keystone
- Evangelism Dept. Meeting, 6:30pm, Keystone

**Tuesday, December 17**

- Tuesday Bible Study, 10:30-11:30am, Morris Parlor
- STARS Holiday Luncheon, Noon, Yonker Hall

**Wednesday, December 18**

- Wednesday Bible Study, 12:00-12:55pm, Bethany Hall
- Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 5:30-6:30pm, Choir Room
- DOC (Disciples on Campus) Finals week breakfast TBA

**Thursday, December 19**

- New and Vital Church Team, 10:30am-2:00pm, Keystone
- MDO Christmas Program, 12:30pm, Yonker Hall
- Chancel Bell Choir Rehearsal, 5:30-6:30pm, Bell Room

**Friday, December 20**

- MDO Christmas Program, 12:30pm, Yonker Hall

**Report for December 8, 2019**

**Attendance: 156**  
**(8:30 service - 48)**

**Total offerings: \$10,032**

**Report for December 1, 2019**

**Total offerings: \$3,680**