



December 20, 2019
Vol. 77, No. 62

THE VISITOR

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Our mission: to know God and follow Jesus Christ

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.)

****Did you order a poinsettia? Pick yours up after worship!**

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Matt. 1:18-25 & Isaiah 7:10-16
Dr. Stagg, preaching

Our Advent Sermon Series, "The House of God" from the prophet Isaiah, continues as we study Matthew 1:18-25 and Isaiah 7:10-16. Dr. Stagg's sermon, "An Experience of Love" considers how God's presence – made manifest in a child named Emmanuel, "God with us," – reveals God's love. No matter how difficult life is or how dark our days, God is with us, always, because God loves us. To prove that love, God sent the world his only Son, Jesus, so we might be saved! As the final stanza of *O Little Town of Bethlehem* reminds us:

"O Holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; cast out our sin, and enter in; be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell; O come to us, abide with us, our God, Emmanuel."

Brass Quartet and the Chancel Bells will be special musical features this Sunday. Hymns for Sunday include *Joy to the World*, *While Shepherds Watched*, and *What Child is This*.

The First Sunday After Christmas

December 29 - 10:30am ONE SERVICE
Rev. Jimmy Spear, preaching

The dreams of Joseph as told in the text from Matthew 2:13-23 will guide the sermon for the day as we uncover the rest of the story. The story of what *happens next* to Jesus and his family following the birth narrative and visit of the Magi will not be lost on us in the days following Christmas. We will continue to celebrate his birth and be mindful of his story as it finds its way into our lives and present context.

A special book called "Refuge" will be shared with the children and Travis McFarlane will be at the piano. Hymns of the day will include *The First Noel*, *Go Tell It on the Mountain*, and *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*. The service will be more casual – a combination of the 8:30/10:30 worship styles. Come and be with us!

UN-Decorate FCC

Sunday, Jan. 5 4:30pm



The sanctuary looked GREAT for the advent and Christmas season. Soon will come the time to put all the decorations away. Help us put all the decorations away for another year.

The items to put away include:

- Sanctuary Chrismon tree, greens and nativity
- Outdoor stable and Bethany Hall decorations
- Yonker Hall Christmas tree

See you at 4:30pm on Sunday, January 5th!

An experience of LOVE

THE HOUSE OF GOD

www.firstchristian.org
E-mail: fcc@firstchristian.org
www.facebook.com/FirstChristianColumbiaMO



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



Snow on the 87th year

When snow hit the day of our beloved annual Christmas Pageant we were all disappointed when it was called off. As I made my way home that afternoon, the roads were worse and continued to be in the days to follow. School was out for two days and two STARS holiday luncheons did not take place. We made the right decision.

When a tradition is as time honored as our Pageant we hate to miss it. But we also realize that in it's 87 year history there is bound to come a snow day. This may have been the first. We did consider a reschedule but after consulting the various participants and families it became clear the window for the Pageant had closed for 2019.

Here is also what I know — our children learned the songs important to the season and now carry them to Christmas. The story was not lost this year as many of our youth and children had a chance to participate in the telling of the story at The Living Nativity. I have been reminded by many church folks this week, "we will have the Pageant next year!" The readers and Wise Men are all a "yes" for 2020 as are our two shepherds who will be invited back to join next year's 5th graders. Our



baby Jesus this year was to be the grandson of Bryce and Mary Moeller coming from Union, Mo. Little Luke is pictured here, just so you know again of the peace and love found in a little one. He is precious. Perhaps little Luke is a reminder to us of Jesus, the baby birthed again in our hearts, and for this year our mind's eye and pageant memory.

-- Jimmy Spear, Associate Minister

WHITE GIFTS! If your white gifts were ready for the offering last week, bring them this Sunday. A grocery cart will be in Yonker Fellowship Hall to welcome any canned food donations.

A special devotional guide was offered this year connected to C. Dickens' "A Christmas Carol." Those who chose that devotional and anyone else in need of hearing the old tale told this season are most welcome.

Screening of a Holiday Classic:

"A Christmas Carol"

3rd Floor Cinema

Sunday, Dec. 22 - 4:30pm

Hot Chocolate will be served.

Treats are welcomed.

50¢ soda available in Yonker Hall.



News of the People

Prayers of Support and Wellness for...

Sharon Winner as she begins chemotherapy; **John Rogers** as he recovers from knee replacement surgery; **Colleen Nilges' brother, Dennis Lafferty**, as he begins aggressive cancer treatments; **Thelma Beem**, as she is home recovering after last week's successful cardioversion; **Jordan Mills Barnes**, as she recovers from a tonsillectomy.



Prayers of Sympathy extended to...

Shannon Schaeffer in the death of her grandfather, Thomas Crowe, who died Dec. 14 in southeast Mo.; **Christy VonTalge** in the death of her grandmother, Eleanor McCabe, who died Dec. 10 in Champaign, Il..

Notes of Gratitude...

I wish to thank all my wonderful friends at FCC for the beautiful flowers and goodies. And **Jessica Humble** for bringing them. What a wonderful week I've had. The best! Again, my many thanks to all of you. Blessings for a wonderful New Year.

-- Marjorie Carter

I am so grateful to everyone for the prayers, flowers, cards, calls and visits I've received since my recent fall. The bones are mending slowly and I'm eager to get back to church. Your kindness and caring have meant so much. You are truly special.

-- Jean Juba

Others News...

Nominating Committee notebooks packets will be available for pick up in the church office starting **THIS SUNDAY, Dec. 22**. (Need a binder? Speak with Laura in the office.) The committee's first meeting will be Mon., Jan. 6, at 6:30pm in Keystone.

Celebrate! A party to celebrate the completion of work on the church building — Tier 1 and 2 Capital Campaigns is set for **Jan. 12 following 10:30 worship**. We will take time to also celebrate the great Bob Hutton, Property Dept. Chair. Join us!



DOC (Disciples on Campus)

Winter Break Mission Trip

The Disciples on Campus college ministry group will take its annual Winter Break Mission Trip to Memphis, TN the week of **January 6-11**. The 13 member mission team consists of college students from Columbia schools who attend DOC and those from FCC and Broadway who are away at school. Co-leaders are Rev. Jimmy Spear and Rev. Nick Larson (Broadway CC). The group will stay at Kingsway Christian Church in the Germantown area and serve with several local organizations that assist the needs of the homeless, HIV/AIDS community and food resource centers.

SERVING SCHEDULE SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22

Bus Driver: Dan Gieseke
Office Receptionist: Jeff Wheeland
Welcome Station: Trish Stagg
Flower Arranging/Delivery:
 Poinsettia Sunday

Warming Station

Hosts: Jeff Wheeland
 Sarah Storm
 Bus: Marion Storm

Servers for 8:30 Worship

Worship Assistants: Jerry & Mary Daugherty, Eric Seaman
Elder: Cherry Hinderberger
Offering Counters:
 Mary Daugherty, Sarah Storm

Servers for 10:30 Worship

Communion Prep: Elizabeth & Elayna Mottaz, Eric Seaman

Greeters: Cliff Tompson (N. Door) – Mary Tompson (S. Door) Bud Batterson (Atrium) – Carol Slusher (Portico)

Banner Bearers:

Sam and Abigail Pine
Candle Lighters: Jodie Silverwood and Brady Marrero

Liturgist: Dan Gieseke
Elders: Richard & Pam Hoepfner - Jeff Underwood, Balcony

Deacons: The Hunsaker Team
Ushers: The Scott Team

Children's Worship: Hayley Batterson (Ldr) TBD (Hlpr)

Offering Counters: Janelle Patterson and Jerry Miller

SERVING SCHEDULE SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29

Bus Driver: Carol Slusher
Office Receptionist: Pat Rybolt
Welcome Station: Steve Humble
Flower Arranging/Delivery:
 Chris Creasy

Warming Station

Hosts: Mike Randerson
 Sarah Storm
 Bus: Marion Storm

Servers for 10:30 ONE SERVICE

Communion Prep: Bill & Sonya Carney, Ryan Hunsaker

Greeters: Jeff Wheeland (N. Door) – Natalie Barnard (S. Door) Jane Anne Hackett (Atrium) – Susan Klockow (Portico)

Banner Bearers: Kenzie Von Talge and Ryley Batterson

Candle Lighters: Cole Freed and Noah Stagg

Liturgist: Kurt Schaefer

Elders: Chris & Jay Creasy - Fred Mottaz, Balcony

Deacons: The Potthast Team

Ushers: The Rose Team

Children's Worship:
 Cindy Rose (Ldr) TBD (Hlpr)

Offering Counters: Diana Provenzano and Cindy Smith

CHURCH CALENDAR DECEMBER 22 - JANUARY 4

Sunday, December 22

- Warming Station, 6:00-9:00am, Higbee
- Brass Ensemble plays in both services
- Coffee Hour Fellowship, 9:20-10:20am, Yonker Hall
- Chancel Bell Choir plays, 10:30 Worship
- Lenoir Healthcare Worship, 3:30pm
- “A Christmas Carol” Movie Screening, 4:30pm, 3rd Flr. Cinema

Monday, December 23

- Church Office Staff Meeting, 2:00-3:00pm, Keystone
- Loaves and Fishes, 5:00-6:30pm, Wilkes Blvd. Methodist

Tuesday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

- Sanctuary open for Meditation, 5:00pm
- Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 7:00pm

Wednesday, December 25 - Christmas Day

Church Office Closed

Sunday, December 29

- Warming Station, 6:00-9:00am, Higbee
- Coffee Hour Fellowship, 9:20-10:20am, Yonker Hall
- Christian Education Classes, 9:30am

Monday, December 30

- Church Office Staff Meeting, 2:00-3:00pm, Keystone

Wednesday, January 1 - New Years Day

Church Office Closed - No MDO

Friday, January 3

- Church Dine Out, 5:30pm, Bob Evans

Staff Christmas Fund

DEADLINE EXTENDED TO DEC. 24th!

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 has been EXTENDED to Tues., Dec. 24.** Please note the gift will be divided evenly among the staff members: ministers, office staff, music staff and custodian.

-- Debbie Taylor, Administrative Dept. Chairperson

YOUTH GROUP!

Groups are on break until January.
 Stay tuned for info about 2020 plans!



Ben & Beth Nelms
 December 27 - 56 Years
 Congratulations!



Season Schedule

Go online to sign up to volunteer:
<https://roomattheinncomo.org/volunteer>

December 8 - December 21

Unitarian Universalist Church
 2615 Shepard Blvd

December 22 - January 4

Fairview United Methodist Church
 3200 Chapel Hill Rd.

- Dec. 22** - Marilyn Schappert
- Dec. 25** - Dorothy Baumgartner (93!), Susan Ripley
- Dec. 27** - Linda Chandler, Emma Hawkins
- 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
- Jan. 3** - Debbie Potthast
- Jan. 4** - Paige Freed





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 Rev. Jimmy Spear, Associate Minister
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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

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Thanks to John Michael Sullivan (See Luke 2:1-16) 12-23-2005
AT LEAST WE CAN SAY THAT HE WAS BROUGHT UP IN A STABLE HOME

This is a **DOUBLE ISSUE** of the **Visitor!** Save it for reference as there is none next week.



The church office will be **CLOSED on Christmas Day** and **New Years Day** in observance of the holidays.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

--FCC Clergy & Staff

