



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

## Blue Christmas Worship Service



*A service of hope and healing*  
Sunday, December 8  
4:00pm



### What is a Blue Christmas?

A "Blue Christmas" is a quiet, reflective and meaningful worship service offered in the season of Advent.

The Christmas season can be a time when we are in need of reassurance and comfort. For some of us, there is grief over the loss of a loved one, a struggle with illness, or the experience of other losses such as job, relationships, or community. Perhaps we wonder how we will get through the holidays. If this description strikes a chord with your spirit right now, be sure to join us for a "Blue Christmas Worship Service - A Service of Hope and Healing," **THIS Sunday, Dec. 8 at 4pm.**

Those looking for comfort, hope, wholeness and renewal will be able to go into the coming weeks with the support they need for the holidays. Join us for a time of quiet reflection and meaningful words, prayers and music.



### Buy Heifer Gifts

*Narthex - Sundays, Dec. 8 & 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 Sundays, Dec. 8 and 15.

## The Second Sunday of Advent

*Isaiah 11:1-10*  
*Dr. Stagg, preaching*

*A home of PEACE*

Join us for the second Sunday of Advent as Dr. Stagg continues our Advent Series, The House of God, based on the prophet Isaiah. To prepare for Christmas, we will ponder Isaiah's vision of a perfect King and ideal kingdom in his sermon, "A Home of Peace."

Hymns of the day will include the bright *Awake and Greet the New Morn* and *Blessed Be the God of Israel*. The 10:30 service will sing a new hymn — *All Earth is Waiting*. It is lovely and we can't wait for you to hear it! We hope to see you on Sunday.

## THE HOUSE OF GOD

**Poinsettia Order Forms** for this advent season are available in the Narthex & Church Office. Please have your form and money (\$8/plant) turned in by **Monday, December 9.**

Advent Devotionals are available in the Narthex to guide the spirit through this holy season. Take one for a friend too! Interested in an Advent Devotional that is tied to Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*? Pick one up and sign up to share in watching the classic Christmas movie in late December.

### Christmas Pageant Practice

*Continues, Sundays, Dec. 8, 15*

*10:30 Service - Children's Worship*

Children ages pre-K to 5th grade will practice their songs and bell ringing for the **annual Christmas Pageant on Dec. 15 at 4:00pm.** All practices will take place during 10:30 worship as a part of their Children's worship time on the **first three Sundays of December.** Pre-K will practice in the nursery. K-2 will ring rainbow bells, grades 3-5 will sing. Practice is necessary to participate.



# The FCC Warming Station

Every Sunday Morning, 6:00-9:00am  
December 15 - March 15

FCC will host guests from Room at the Inn (RATI) on Sunday mornings from **December 15, 2019, through March 15, 2020**. Guests from RATI arrive around 6:45-7am and depart (by Church bus) around 9am for Wilkes Boulevard Methodist Church where guests will be served breakfast. A sign-up sheet will be available in the Narthex!

We need YOUR help in making this ministry happen! Volunteers are needed to serve as:

**Warming Station Bus Driver:** Arrive at FCC no later than 8:30am to prepare the bus for departure at 8:50am. A CDL license is not required. To drive the FCC bus, you must be (1) a Church member, (2) over 25 years old, (3) provide a copy of your current driver's license to the Church office and (4) become familiar with the operation of the Church bus.

**Warming Station Hosts** (2 per Sunday): Arrive at FCC at 6:00am to start preparation of coffee and hot water. NO food is served. We provide papers and magazines for guests to read. Guests mingle and talk among themselves; we join in conversation if included.

If you feel this is a ministry in which you would like to serve, please check your calendars to determine your availability. If you have any questions about driving the Church bus, contact the Church office @ 449-7265. If you have any other questions OR wish to go ahead and sign up now, contact Sarah Storm (call/text 289-0072 or email [marions@centurytel.net](mailto:marions@centurytel.net)).

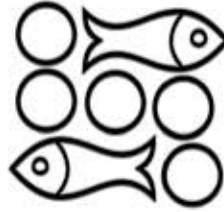


Christian Outreach in Columbia...and Beyond

# Serve Dinner at Loaves & Fishes

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

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**.

## VAC Angel Tree Christmas Project

Gift collection THIS SUNDAY, Dec. 8th

All those who adopted a person/family this season can drop off gifts and checks for the holiday meal on December 8th in the Fellowship Hall by the stage from 8:15-10:45am.

Some folks have elected to fund the CYF shopping trip for 10 individuals and the youth look forward to that opportunity this coming Sunday evening.

Questions? Contact Elizabeth Mottaz or any member of the Church in Society Dept. Thank you for your participation and generous giving in our adopting 49 people!



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

December 8 - December 21 Unitarian Universalist Church  
2615 Shepard Blvd

- Dec. 8** - Alexandra Estes, Gabe Palmer, Kenzie Von Talge
- Dec. 10** - Marjorie Carter (90!), Curtis Snow, Cheryl Unterschultz, Willie Wheeland
- Dec. 12** - Cliff Tompson (90!), Will Bower
- Dec. 13** - Virginia Ivey      **Dec. 14** - Susan Woodbury

### THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS



Make sure your calendar is marked:

87th Christmas Pageant & Tasting Party  
Sunday, December 15 — 4:00 pm

# News of the People

## Prayers of Sympathy...

Our prayers of sympathy are extended to: **Kathy and Jerry Miller** in the death of Kathy's father, Doyle Moore of Coatsville, Mo.; **Emily and Chuck Scott** in the death of Emily's brother, Jim McCanne on Nov. 27.



Prayers of sympathy are extended to the family of **Gary Unterschutz** who died on Dec. 2 after a bicycle accident. We hold his family **Cheryl, Emily, Erich, and Cheryl's mother Sue Haynes** in thought this week. Services pending as of printing.

## A Note of Gratitude...

Thanks more than you know to all our wonderful friends at FCC! We would love for you to know how much we appreciate all the support and encouragement we received during our recent simultaneous hospitalizations. It seemed as if each time things got harder for us or more discouraging, we would receive a new stack of cards in the mail, phone calls, beautiful flower arrangements, or visits from our many friends and dedicated ministers. Thanks again for keeping us going and looking at the bright side.

-- *Cliff and Mary Tompson*

## December Holiday Stars

### Light Tour - Lunch @ Broadway - Lunch @ FCC

Join the STARS this season — come be bright and full of cheer — these friends offer a hearty welcome! You can RSVP in the church office for any of the events below or give a reservation on the Sunday pew pad for the following events:

- Annual Christmas Light Tour **Monday, December 9**. Meet at church at 6:00pm.
- The Broadway Christian Church Senior Fellowship Holiday Meal, **December 16 at noon**. The catered meal costs \$10 per plate. RSVP by Dec. 10.
- Annual Holiday Luncheon at FCC, **Tues., Dec. 17 at noon**, Preschool songs with our soup and potluck style feast.



## 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*



## Welcome, New Member!

On Sunday, November 24 the congregation welcomed new member, **Karen Hobson** during 10:30 worship. Karen has worshipped with us for over a year and was already involved with recent Election Day Lunch and Christmas Bazaar events.



Karen is originally from southwestern Pennsylvania. She and husband, George are retired and have lived in Columbia 19 years, after moving from Waynesville, Mo. Karen spent 27 years as a registered dietitian in the US Army, retiring at the rank of Colonel. Friends convinced her to come out of retirement to spend a recent 10 years working for the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services in Jefferson City. The Hobsons have three dogs and Karen is an avid cook and sewer. Welcome, Karen!

## YOUTH GROUP!



### CYF Gingerbread House Build

**Vote for your favorite this Sunday!**  
The houses will be displayed in Yonker Hall—check them out before and after worship.

The CYF gathered last Sunday and spent about 90 minutes building their own Gingerbread House creations.

There are a few cottages, mid-century moderns, some that depict tornado damage and even a red-doored Disciples church!



- Dec. 8:** CYF 6-8:00pm Shopping for VAC gifts and fast dinner.
- Fri., Dec. 13:** Chi-Rho Eat & Movie *Jumanji 2* on opening night.
- Dec. 15:** Christmas Pageant, 4pm
- Dec. 22:** CYF—TBA



**The Visitor**  
**First Christian Church**  
 101 N. 10th Street  
 Columbia, MO 65201  
 573-449-7265  
 fcc@firstchristian.org

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

**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 8**

**Bus Driver:** Kim Leon  
**Office Receptionist:** Diana Provenzano  
**Welcome Station:** Valerie Freed  
**Flower Arranging/Delivery:** Steve & Jessica Humble  
**Servers for 8:30 Worship Service**  
**Worship Assistants:** Carol Hughey and Mary Daugherty  
**Elder:** Mary Daugherty  
**Offering Counters:** Doug Smith and Sarah Storm  
**Servers for 10:30 Worship Service**  
**Communion Prep:** Becky Baumgartner, Richard & Allie Schomaker  
**Greeters:** Amy LaHue (N. Door) – Mary Jane Anderson (S. Door)  
 Steve Humble (Atrium) – Jessica Humble (Portico)  
**Banner Bearers:** Ryley Batterson and Cole Freed  
**Candle Lighters:** Ann Volmert and Aubrey Schomaker  
**Liturgist:** Brenda Mosby  
**Elders:** Brenda Mosby and Dan Backues - Hayley Batterson, Balcony  
**Deacons:** The McCormack Team **Ushers:** The Burnam Team  
**Children's Worship:** Eric Arnett (Ldr.) TBD (Hlpr.)  
**Offering Counters:** Cindy Smith and Sarah Storm

**CHURCH CALENDAR DECEMBER 8 - DECEMBER 14**

**Sunday, December 8**

-Christmas Offering collected in both services  
 -Coffee Hour Fellowship, 9:20-10:20am, Yonker Hall  
 -Blue Christmas Service, 4:00pm, Sanctuary  
 -CYF, 6:00-8:00pm, Shopping for VAC & Dinner

**Monday, December 9**

-Church Office Staff Meeting, 2:00-3:00pm, Keystone  
 -STARS Christmas Light Tour, 6:00pm

**Tuesday, December 10**

-Tuesday Bible Study, 10:30-11:30am, Morris Parlor

**Wednesday, December 11**

-Ladies Book Club: Lunch @ the Club House, Old Hawthorne  
 -Wednesday Bible Study, 12:00-12:55pm, Bethany Hall  
 -Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 5:30-6:30pm, Choir Room  
 -Cabinet Meeting, 6:30pm, Morris Parlor

-DOC (Disciples on Campus)—on break. Finals week breakfast TBA

**Thursday, December 12**

-Chancel Bell Choir Rehearsal, 5:30-6:30pm, Bell Room  
 -CAOAM Advisory Board, 5:30pm, Bethany Hall

**Friday, December 13**

-Chi-Rho Youth Group Eat and Movie: Jumanji. Time TBA.

**Good Music for the Best Season**

**Handel's Messiah Sing Along** - Sunday, Dec. 8., 7:00pm  
 California High School, Performing Arts Center, Calif., MO  
 A community music event—bring your score and sing along.  
**Advent Pipe Organ** - Free Concert, Tuesday, Dec. 10, Noon  
 Missouri United Methodist Church, 9th St, Downtown

**Report for November 17, 2019**

Total offerings: \$6,733

**Report for Dec. 1, 2019**

Attendance: 168  
 (8:30 service - 42)

**Report for November 24, 2019**

Attendance: 161 (8:30 service - 38)  
 Total offerings: \$4,558