

3rd Sunday of  
Advent  
"JOY"

# The Current Weekly

December 10th, 2025

A Note From

Pastor Laura

Dear Church,

The Candyland Christmas event last Saturday was a huge success. In my 20+ years of ministry, I've tried in vain to create an event where people from the community would come inside our church building and get to know us a bit (and find out that we're not scary or judgmental). I've never seen anything work as well as Candyland Christmas does. Because of our unique location in the heart of downtown Smithville, families actually sought us out as they followed the map to locations where they could bring their kids for some Christmas treats and surprises.

Angie Viebrock set up a fun hot chocolate station and had crafts for the kids to work on while the parents relaxed and warmed up a bit. I met quite a few families, and even talked to some of them about our worship times, our Children's Church and basic questions about who we are. I invited them to come on a Sunday morning (maybe even this Sunday for our Children's Christmas Program) or on Christmas Eve. Thanks to Angie and all the volunteers who made it happen!



This means that we can expect—and be extra aware—of guests who might come for the first time this Christmas season. All of you are our “welcoming committee” as you look for new faces to greet. We might need some extra hands to help with kids or kind souls who would be willing to give up your favorite pew so a new family can sit there. And, of course, inviting people to come with you to the Christmas Eve service at 5 pm is a perfect way to extend our hospitality to others, too.

This Sunday will be busy, but the good kind of busy. The Sunday School class will meet in the basement so that the kids and parents can meet for breakfast at 9 am and then rehearse for the Children’s Christmas program. Worship will be focused on JOY, and the candle we light will be pink. Feel free to wear pink to spread some joy yourself.



After worship, we’ll have our annual congregational meeting to approve the budget and proposed by-laws. These church meetings are a way for us to be transparent about how we intend to be good stewards of what God has given us. If you did not receive the proposed budget and by-laws, PLEASE get them and look them over this week and ask any questions you have before the meetings so that...

We can get right to our Fellowship Dinner! We have outstanding cooks here, and we will enjoy every yummy bite of food as we share a meal together.

Look for the announcement in this newsletter about what will happen in worship on Dec. 28th (you might be surprised)!

And lastly, someone told me they received an email that looked like it was from me, asking for gift cards. I will never send an email or text asking for gift cards or for you to wire money to me. The scammers are getting really good at tricking people, so please be aware. And always reach out to me if you get a message from “me” that doesn’t sound quite right.

Have a great week!

Pastor Laura  
[laura.guy@smithvillefirstchristian.org](mailto:laura.guy@smithvillefirstchristian.org),  
Cell: 913.515.3720

# announcements & EVENTS

First Christian Church  
Smithville



## **Children's Christmas Program & Breakfast for Kids: Sunday December 14th**

Sing with Us the Christmas Story is the Children's Christmas Program scheduled for December 14th during worship. We will have a [rehearsal](#) that morning at 9:00 am and [breakfast](#) will be provided for the children. Please come! Fellowship Dinner will also be this Sunday after our Congregational meeting.

## **Letter from our Property Chair: Brick Mortar Repairs**

*Dear Congregation,*

*This is Phil French, Property Chair. I'd like you know more details about a Capital Fund for mortar repair on the outside of our historic building. [Read the Proposal Here.](#)*

*THANK YOU!*

*Phil French*

## **Care Connections Christmas Cards: Sunday, December 14th**

Fill out a Christmas card with a nice note to send to our Care Connections friends. You can mail them yourself or we will mail them for you. Just leave them in the office.





### Christmas Choir: Rehearsal Dec 10th & 17th

Sing with us! Steven Cornwell, our music coordinator, is directing a special choir for the Christmas season. Rehearsals will be Wednesdays: Dec 10th, and Dec 17th at 6 pm in the Sanctuary. The choir will sing during our Sunday Services on Dec 14th and 21st.

### Sunday School: Advent til Dec 21st

Pastor Laura will be leading a four week Sunday School class during Advent. Meet in the Sanctuary at 9:15 am. All adults and youth are welcome. We'll meet in the basement on Dec. 14th.



### Women Together Event This Saturday, December 13th

We will go out for lunch and then go hear a Christmas concert by Steven's choir, Central Standard, at the Folly. Tickets are \$25 each for balcony seats. You can purchase tickets on your own for Dec. 13th, 2:30 pm show. Meet at the church at 11:30 am to carpool. Men are welcome, too!



### Church Office Holiday Hours

The church office will be closed Christmas day and the Friday afterwards.

### Coffee & Donut Fellowship Every Sunday at 10 AM

Hungry for some time chatting with old and new friends? Join us each Sunday at 10 AM (prior to Worship Service) for coffee, donuts, and fellowship! We are thankful for these sweet treats each week, and even more, the sweet time together. Come hang out with us on Sunday before service.





**December Food Pantry**

We are so thankful to you for supporting this ministry. Thank you for your generosity this year! The food pantry is open to anyone in the Smithville community on **Tuesdays from 8:30 - 11 AM**. We are so happy to close out the 30th anniversary of our food pantry this year with full blessings!

**Saturday, December 13th at 10:00.** We fill and deliver two cloth grocery bags of food to 85 families. Contact Cheryl Parks Hill with questions or to volunteer.

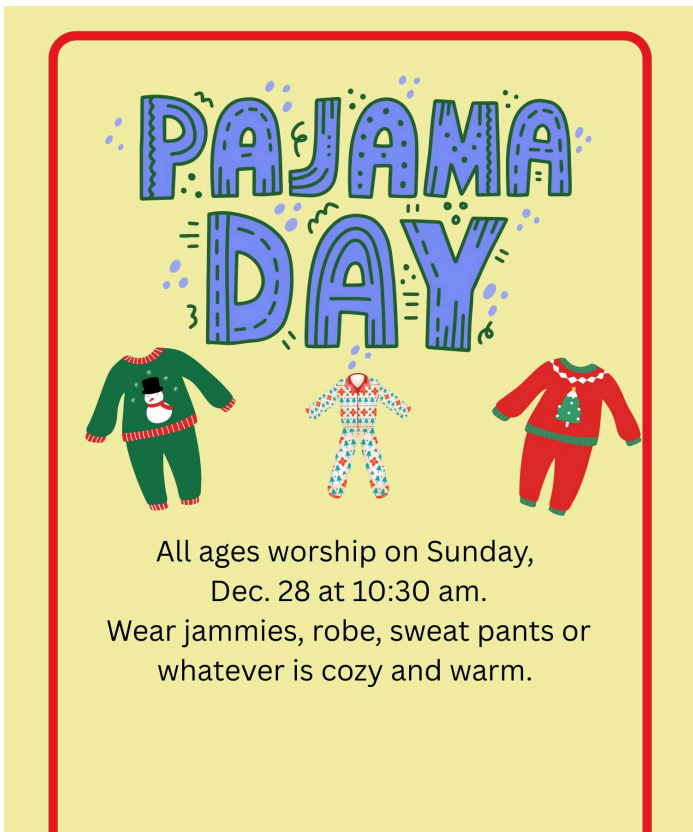
**Christmas Eve Service: Dec 24**

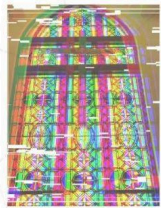
Please make plans to attend and invite friends to our Christmas Eve Worship at 5 pm on Dec. 24th. It will be a beautiful celebration of this most holy night.



**Dec. 28th Worship**

We will have a special all-ages worship service and hear more about the Christmas story. PLUS, to make it extra fun, it will be a Pajama Day! Wear your favorite cozy pajamas, a robe, or just comfy sweat pants. The children will take another noisy offering, so save your loose change.



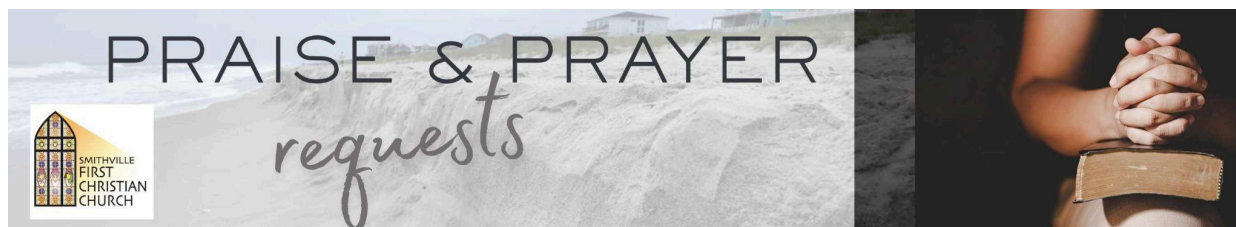


# WATCH LAST SUNDAY'S SERVICE

## Watch Last Sunday's Service:

<https://www.facebook.com/smithvillefcc/videos/760431060401689>

*Click here for website-->* [ALL ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS ARE ON OUR WEBSITE](#)



We've reopened the in person handwritten prayer box, however you can also share prayers or praises through the Prayer Request Form online. If you'd like a public prayer to be in a Sunday bulletin, make sure to send by Wednesday before. Handwritten prayers put in the prayer box at the back sanctuary by the office will be checked weekly. Let's all pray for each other and for the needs in our community! To submit a Prayer Request:

<https://bit.ly/3WIOXyf>

*"May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy! He that goes forth weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, bringing his sheaves with him." Psalm 126: 5-6, RSV*

## Worship Service Schedule for December 14, 2025 WORSHIP

**Pulpit:** Rev. Laura Guy  
**Elder:** Greg Atkins  
**Lay Leader:** Jan Howard  
**Greeters:** Janice Roberts, Mary Gordon

**Prep & Serve:** Sue Boswell, Larson Viebrock  
**Serve & Clean-up:** Jack Massie, Coen Hickman  
**Cash Counter:** Phil French  
**Acolyte(s):** Clay Hickman  
Lincoln Viebrock  
**Nursery:** Linda Neer

## Worship Service Schedule for December 21, 2025 WORSHIP

**Pulpit:** Rev. Laura Guy  
**Elder:** John Merritt  
**Lay Leader:** Susie Clower  
**Greeters:** Barbara & Bob Arnold

**Prep & Serve: Diane & Earl Soetaert**  
**Serve & Clean-up:** Cheryl & Argel Merideth  
**Cash Counter:** Greg Atkins  
**Acolyte(s):** Beckett & Briinley Milne  
**Nursery:** Joyce French

*\*If you are unable to serve, please find a replacement and update the office by Wednesday at noon. The Volunteer List can be viewed online by scanning this QR code or going to <https://bit.ly/4ktjhGm>.*

**CONNECT WITH US:**

**First Christian Church of Smithville, MO  
201 N. Bridge Street  
Smithville, MO 64089**

**OFFICE HOURS**

Monday thru Friday: 9 am - Noon  
Saturday/Sunday: Office is Closed  
Phone: (816) 532-0773

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**[www.smithvillefirstchristian.org](http://www.smithvillefirstchristian.org)**