



December 1st-7th, 2025



Dear Church,

I have heard so many positive comments about our new signs! It's amazing how much friendlier they make our building appear. As someone who sat in the parking lot over a year ago wondering where I was supposed to enter the building to meet with the search committee, I can tell you that a sign pointing the way would have been most helpful! I have also heard people ask where the restrooms are and even where the sanctuary is, both while standing in the Fellowship Hall. We are so thankful to the Hospitality Task Force, and especially to Phil French for making it happen.



The timing is perfect as we will be welcoming guests into our building this Saturday for Candyland Christmas from 1-5:30 pm. I will be on hand to introduce myself to the parents and help everyone get a cup of hot chocolate. I will also invite them to our Christmas Eve service at 5 pm on Dec. 24th. This family-friendly service will tell the story of Jesus' birth, sing some beloved carols, share communion, and pass the light of Christ throughout the sanctuary. Please invite friends and family to come experience the wonder of Christmas at Smithville First Christian Church.

Last Saturday, I emailed the documents for our congregational meeting to everyone on our active members email list. The congregational meeting will be after worship on Dec. 14th, so please take time to read through them so that you can ask your questions before the meeting. If you didn't receive that email, it might be in your spam

folder, or it could be that we somehow don't have your correct email address in our database. Let me or Polly know if you want to see those documents.

Lastly, I know it's a busy season, but we want to remember our shut-ins, the people who receive visits and calls from our Care Connections team. At a recent meeting of the volunteers, several people mentioned that they have lots of unused Christmas cards sitting around their houses, so we talked about asking people to bring in those cards and envelopes and several stamps, and we can have people fill out and send cards to our shut-ins to brighten their rooms. For the next two Sundays, please bring any cards you aren't using, along with as many stamps as you are able to donate, and we'll spend time during the coffee hour writing out little messages of comfort and joy to our members we don't get to see in person.

I hope to see you this week - maybe at choir rehearsal on Wednesday, Candyland Christmas on Saturday, or Sunday School and worship on Sunday!

Have a great week!

Pastor Laura

laura.guy@smithvillefirstchristian.org,

Cell: 913.515.3720



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. As you know, our original building is 98 years old. During that time, there have been a lot of amateur repairs to the mortar. Most of you know that for years now, we have had rain water coming through the mortar and damaging interior ceilings and walls. Time has caught up with us and we need to do some major repairsAt our September Board Meeting (Sept. 10) the Board voted to contract Alliance Restoration to do the work. If you would like to contribute to this Capital Fund, over and above your regular offerings from our annual giving plan, then please write #2180 on the memo line of your check and on your envelope. We look forward to enjoying our building for another 98 years! Thank you for building the future of our church together with this historic repair. [Read the Proposal Here.](#)

THANK YOU!

Phil French

announcements & EVENTS

First Christian Church
Smithville



Candyland Christmas: December 6th

The Smithville Chamber of Commerce event takes place in Downtown. SFCC will be a stop on the map. We will be providing a Christmas Ornament Craft Making station as well as providing a Hot Chocolate Bar for participants. This is a great opportunity to invite the community in and share some fun! We will set up the tables in the fellowship Hall at church to welcome visitors and friends through the day. We set up at noon, and the clean up will be quick - as close to 5:30 as possible. Sign up with Angie Viebrock to help from noon to 2:30 or 2:30 to 5:30.

Unused Christmas Cards: Dec. 7 - 14

Bring unused Christmas cards, envelopes and stamps to church on Sunday, December 7th and Sunday, December 14th so that we can fill them out and send them to our Care Connections friends.



Christmas Choir: Rehearsal Dec 10th

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 7th through 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.



Women Together Event: 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!

Children's Christmas Program: 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!



Congregation Meeting: December 14

We will have a Congregation Meeting on Sunday, December 14th immediately following Worship Service. The agenda will be approving the 2026 budget and proposed by-law changes.

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.



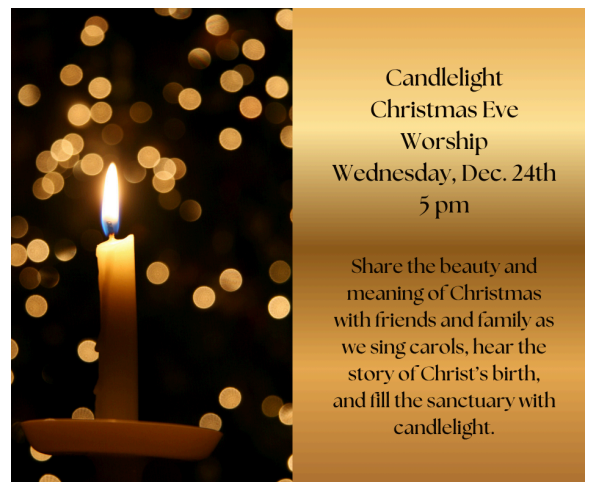
December Food Pantry

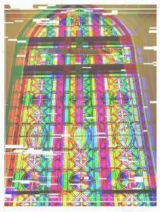
The food pantry is filled with generous donations. So we are not asking for donations this week but feel free to fill up the mini pantry (outdoor blessing box) outside! Normally, donations can be dropped off Monday - Friday from 9 AM - 12 PM in the food cart located inside the parking lot entrance. The food pantry is open to anyone in the 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! We are so thankful to you for supporting this ministry. **Saturday, December 13th at 10:00**. We fill and deliver two cloth grocery bags of food to 85 families. It takes

about 45 minutes to fill the bags and then people deliver them to the addresses in the bag. 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.



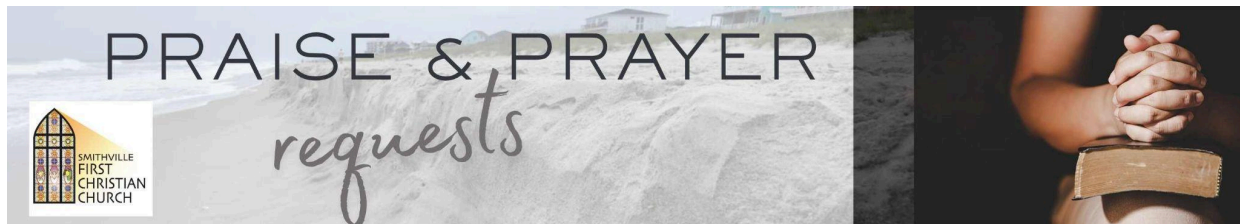


WATCH LAST SUNDAY'S SERVICE

Watch Last Sunday's Service:

<https://www.facebook.com/100064389504074/videos/2217084475448756>

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>

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." John 14:27, NIV

Worship Service Schedule for December 7, 2025 WORSHIP

Pulpit: Rev. Laura Guy
Elder: Susie Clower
Lay Leader: Cindy Kimber
Greeters: Linda & Les Neer

Prep & Serve: Chloe Easton and Jonica Merritt
Serve & Clean-up: Barbara Millard
Cash Counter: Janice Roberts
Acolyte(s): Needed
Nursery: Ruth Anne Porter



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

**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

office@smithvillefirstchristian.org



www.smithvillefirstchristian.org