

January 28th, 2026

# A NOTE FROM *Pastor Laura*

Dear Church,

Thank you to everyone who “tuned in” on Sunday to worship online. It was great to see how many people we had worshipping together while we all stayed safe in our homes. The technology didn’t work on my computer exactly the way I had hoped it would, but I figured out how to livestream from my phone instead. So it more or less worked out.



I’ve had several people ask me if we can add a greeting time back into the worship plan on Sundays. We’re going to start doing that this Sunday. There are two considerations with a greeting time: 1) It can’t go too long, and 2) guests sometimes feel uncomfortable during the greeting. To address these concerns, we’ll invite you to greet those around you (less than 1 minute total) and to wave to anyone you don’t know and tell them your name. Wearing a nametag helps, too! For the people you know, feel free to give handshakes or hugs or waves.

Sometimes this moment is called the passing of the peace, and in those churches, people generally turn to one another and say, “the peace of Christ” or “peace be with you” (or reply “and also with you”). But that is very insider, church-y language. Besides, it’s more important that guests get to know a familiar name and face. So a wave and smile and sharing your name is friendly, but not too friendly.

I’m preparing my talks on “Death and the Afterlife” for Bread and Broth Lenten Study, but I want to know your questions. Some possible topics we can cover:

Does Heaven exist?  
Does Hell exist?  
How do we end up in one place or the other?  
What is resurrection? Is it the same thing as Heaven?  
Is there a purgatory or limbo?  
Will our pets be in Heaven?  
What is a near death experience?  
What can we learn from them?  
Is Heaven only for Christians?  
What if someone isn't baptized yet? What do we want included in our funeral? Our obituary?  
What will our legacy be?



Please let me know your questions! You can email them to me at [laura.guy@smithvillefirstchristian.org](mailto:laura.guy@smithvillefirstchristian.org) or leave them in the office.

And here's a [link to a new song](#) we'll be learning during our Lord's Prayer series. Start listening and singing along.

See you in worship!

p.s. The office reminds us that contribution statements for 2025 tax preparation are available to pick up on Sunday.

**Pastor Laura**

[laura.guy@smithvillefirstchristian.org](mailto:laura.guy@smithvillefirstchristian.org),

Cell: 913.515.3720

**Lent Season Begins:**  
**Wednesday, February 18th**

Lent is a season of forty days of contemplation, prayer and fasting beginning with Ash Wednesday and then going to Easter. This year we will again be doing a Bread & Broth meal and study on Wednesday nights at 5:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Please sign up to provide food. Children and Youth break out sessions available.



## Letter from Sandra Matthews: Dear Church Family,

*Thank you for the cards, prayers, and kind words about my mother's recent death. While it is very difficult to lose her so close after losing dad, we are consoled by the fact they are together again in heaven. Your generous support and thoughts are very much appreciated.*  
*Sandra Matthews*



## Online Giving Update: Tuckpointing & Memorial Funds

Remember this letter ([Read it again here.](#)) from December with a message from our Property Chair, Phil French? It was about an upcoming repair to bring our historic brick and mortar up to date with tuckpointing. We asked for donations to this fund, but this fund wasn't available to select online as an option. Now it is even easier to donate to our Tuckpointing fund or to our Memorial Fund online. Just select which fund you want when you log in or go through our [website link](#). We are excited about these legacies for the future. Thanks so much for your generosity.

## Would You like to join the Property Committee? Phil French

This committee does everything from minor repairs to working with contractors on major projects. There is always something to do around the building. Plus we have a lot of future projects on our 'wish list. I recruit others when a job requires more than one person. Would you like to volunteer? We could use help with Wi-Fi Thermostat watch or even a **"Landscaping Committee."** Some of the volunteers who have worked on our landscaping in recent years include Rader Miller, Meagan Jacoby, Linda Neer, Susie Clower, Janice Roberts and Cheryl Parks-Hill.



## Would you like to join the Property Committee? Continued

The Women's Service Group purchased and planted three (3) nice trees on the North side of the building in the fall of 2025. Thank you so much.

When the City's RiverWalk Project is completed along the North side of our property (in 2026?) the appearance of our landscaping will become even more important due to people walking and biking on the path. As part of the RiverWalk Project, the City might create a rest area in the NW corner of our property near the South end of the bridge under an existing large tree. That could create some landscaping opportunities in addition to our regular work.

- trim bushes and trees,
- pull weeds, remove volunteer tree sprouts, remove dead shrubs,
- maintain landscape rock,
- pick up dead limbs and trash in the yard. Maintaining the playground
- grass seeding

**Monitoring Wi-Fi Thermostats Remotely** - We have five (5) Trane thermostats that are connected to the internet and control the operation of our furnaces and air conditioners year around. These thermostats save our church A LOT OF MONEY on utilities because the spaces are heated or cooled only as needed. We could use 2 volunteers to help monitor the church calendar and bulletin and set thermostats remotely for upcoming events. That is done by using the Trane app on your smart phone. It will take some coordination if we have multiple volunteers. But two heads are better than one. Each thermostat has its own weekly schedule on the app.

### Church Cleanup Day: Sunday February 15th

Find your favorite lemon polish and duster and let's make the church sparkle for Lent and Easter! Sign up for the area you want to clean, and bring your own supplies from home. We do have some new bottles of wood polish and wax here!

A poster for Church Cleanup Day on Sunday, Feb 15, after potluck. The poster features a list of areas to be cleaned: Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall, Entryways, and Bathrooms. It also includes an illustration of cleaning supplies like a broom, mop, bucket, and spray bottles. The text 'B.Y.O.S. Bring Your Own Supplies' is written at the bottom.

**SUNDAY, FEB 15**  
**AFTER POTLUCK**

**Church  
Cleanup  
Day**

- ✓ Sanctuary
- ✓ Fellowship Hall
- ✓ Entryways
- ✓ Bathrooms

**B.Y.O.S.**  
*Bring Your Own Supplies*

## Coffee & Donut Fellowship Every Sunday at 10 AM

Chat and chew, get to know new friends and old. Join us each Sunday at 10 AM (prior to Worship Service) for coffee, donuts, and fellowship! What a sweet time together. Come hang out with us on Sunday before service.

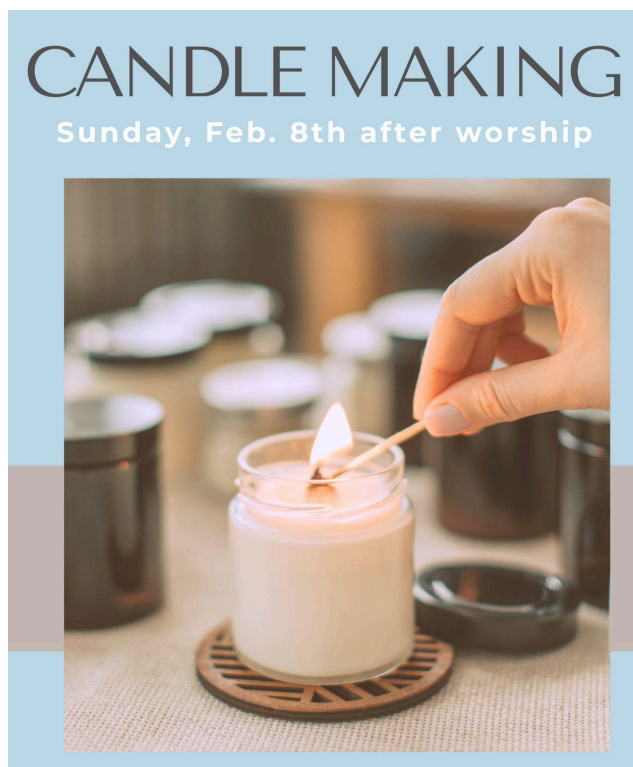


## January Food Pantry

Thank you CWF for collecting soup for "Souper Bowl Sunday." The food pantry is open to anyone in the Smithville community on Tuesdays from 8:30 - 11 AM. Contact Cheryl Parks Hill with questions or to volunteer.

## Women's Event: Candlemaking: Sunday Feb 8th

Women of all ages are invited to make a poured candle as a fun craft project. Meagan Jacoby will bring the supplies and lead us in making our own unique candle. Please bring a medium glass container for an 8 oz candle. We also request a \$5 donation to cover the costs of the supplies (or \$10 if you want a larger candle). We'll share a potluck lunch before we start crafting together.





Ramadan  
Presentation & Dinner  
Sunday, Mar 15  
6:30 pm

Smithville First Christian Church  
201 N. Bridge St.  
Smithville, MO 64089  
[www.smithvillefirstchristian.org](http://www.smithvillefirstchristian.org)

**Ramadan Friendship Meal:**  
**March 15th 6:30 pm**

Save the Date - Our Turkish friends from the Dialogue Institute will give a presentation about Ramadan, and then they will break their fast by sharing a traditional Turkish meal with us..



PRAISE & PRAYER  
*requests*

SMITHVILLE  
FIRST  
CHRISTIAN  
CHURCH

---

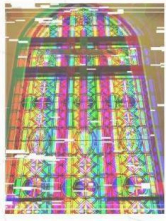
We've reopened the in person handwritten prayer box, and put out prayer cards in the pews and in the back of the sanctuary, however, you can also share prayers or praises through the [Prayer Request Form](#) online. If you've shared prayer requests with an elder, but want your prayer to be in a Sunday bulletin, make sure to send it to us through our online form by Wednesday before. Let's all pray for each other and for the needs in our community together. Where two or three are gathered, God is there! To share a Prayer

Concern: <https://bit.ly/3WlOxyf>.

"Humble Yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up."

James 4:10, NIV

---



# WATCH LAST SUNDAY'S SERVICE

**Click here for website-->ALL ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS ARE ON OUR WEBSITE**

Watch Last Sunday's Service: <https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1EmFW3bPzY/>

## Worship Service Schedule for Feb 1, 2025 WORSHIP

**Pulpit:** Rev. Laura Guy  
**Elder:** Angie Viebrock  
**Lay Leader:** Kathy Hamilton  
**Greeters:** Marilyn Simrall, Sue Lake  
**Prep & Serve:** Amy Heath, Danny Heath

**Serve & Clean-up:** Barbara Millard, Larson Viebrock  
**Cash Counter:** Susie Clower  
**Acolyte(s):** Brinley & Becket Milne  
**Nursery :** Linda Neer

## Worship Service Schedule for Feb 8th, 2025 WORSHIP

**Pulpit:** Rev. Laura Guy  
**Elder:** Greg Atkins  
**Lay Leader:** Jan Howard  
**Greeters:** Jan Heath, Susie Clower  
**Prep & Serve:** Cheryl & Argel Merideth  
**Serve & Clean-up:** Sue Boswell, & Volunteer

**Cash Counter:** Greg Atkins  
**Acolyte(s):** Kyla Kays  
**Nursery:** Linda Prout

*\*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>.*



**Follow us Online**



**SMITHVILLE  
FIRST  
CHRISTIAN  
CHURCH**

smithvillefcc @smithvillefcc

Office Hours  
Monday -Thursday: 9 am - 1 pm