

The Current Weekly

January 7th, 2026

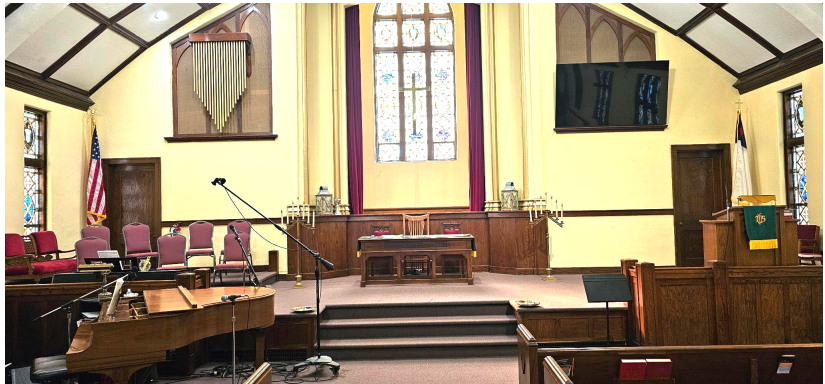
A NOTE FROM

Pastor Laura

Dear Church,

A big thanks to all the volunteers who stayed after worship to take down the Christmas decorations on Sunday. Everything was packed away by noon! I'm constantly amazed at your willingness to jump in and help whenever we put out the call.

I confess, however, that the sanctuary feels empty and sparse now. It was so pretty with all the greenery and flowers. But that emptiness is simply a fresh page for God to write our next chapter. Who knows what songs and prayers and baptisms and laughter and tears might fill that holy space in the coming year?



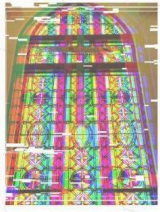
The next three weeks of sermons will cover the time from Jesus' birth until the start of his ministry. This Sunday, we'll read the story of when Jesus was lost in the Temple. Next week, we'll look at his baptism. And on the last Sunday in January, we will hear his first sermon.

I shared my father-in-law's joke last Sunday that you all had perfect attendance in church in 2026! He also reminded his congregation in each new year that they could make 52 decisions whether to come to church or make one decision that they will be in worship every week they are in town and healthy enough to come. I always appreciated that reminder. The decision to come to worship should never start with, "Do I feel like going today?" but should be, "I wonder what God might reveal to me in worship today." Your presence and words of comfort or encouragement that you share with others could be just what someone else needs to hear. Whether you come in person or online, you matter to God and to this congregation (and to me)!

Pastor Laura

laura.guy@smithvillefirstchristian.org,

Cell: 913.515.3720



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/1ByC6kbQpo/>

CANDLE MAKING

Sunday, Feb. 8th after worship



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.

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.

Church Cleanup Day

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

SUNDAY, FEB 15
AFTER POTLUCK

Let's make the church sparkle in preparation for Lent and Easter! Sign up for the area you want to clean, and bring your own supplies from home.



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.

Threads of Faith: Looking Back at 2025 SEW Exciting –Polly McCann

I sat down to find out more about the The Threads of Faith ministry this month with Cheryl Merideth. The group meets on Thursdays from 9 am am to 3 pm.

This past year they have expanded the outreach of SFCC through making welcome gifts distributed to new families in the area by the Smithville Chamber of Commerce (thanks to the efforts of Pastor Laura). Out of traditional cotton quilting fabric, they've designed and created 20 new items a month this quarter: like plastic bag holders, ornaments and pocket prayers which hold a business card telling about their "craftivism" work.

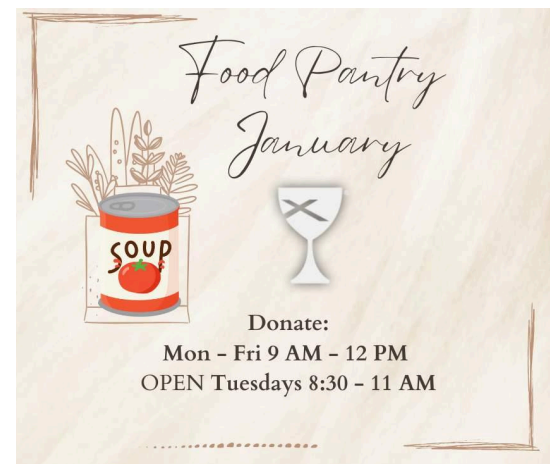


Some of the other gifts they regularly create are: felt prayer blankets (34 this past year!) and Baby Blessing Quilts (3). They are then presented to families (image on right) during our service. Other new projects this year have included creating comfort pillows for the sanctuary as well as for people experiencing surgery.

Cheryl says that the group has grown this year from 6 members to ten. Anyone is welcome. They appreciate you letting them know when someone needs a prayer blanket or a blessing quilt. You can contact Cheryl Merideth or Shirley French shirley.french@yahoo.com or [Cheryl libbysparky@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Cheryl.libbysparky@sbcglobal.net). Their mission: *To use the gifts God has given us, combined with prayer, to "love one another". We hope the items we create are a physical reminder to the recipients that they were made in prayer, compassion, and love. Each item is prayed over, that God's love will enfold the recipient. "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. For just as the sufferings of Christ flow over into our lives, so also through Christ our comfort overflows."* 2 Corinthians 1: 3-5

January Food Pantry

"As we begin a new year, we want to thank everyone for your continued support of our food pantry. We wish everyone a healthy and happy 2026. Happy New Year!"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.



Ramadan Friendship Meal: March 15th

6:30 pm

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.



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

Smithville First Christian Church
201 N. Bridge St.
Smithville, MO 64089
www.smithvillefirstchristian.org

Church Office Hours Have Changed:

In 2026, Church office hours will change to **Monday through Thursday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.** *Our inclement Weather Policy is that the Church and Food Pantry will be closed when Smithville School District is closed due to weather.

Welcome to our New Children & Youth Leader

Polly Alice McCann our administrative assistant will be switching her hours to Monday to Thursday from 9 am to 1 pm so she can join us on Sundays as our Children and Youth Leader. She has over twenty years experience teaching grades preK through High school and College. She did independent study and internships through Bethel Seminary. She has written several children's books. Even though both her kids are in college, her favorite thing is still to tell stories. Children's Church will be upstairs right after the Lord's Prayer & the Gloria Patri. She's looking forward to being a part of the weekly family ministry here at Smithville First Christian Church. "Thanks for welcoming me this year when I started in June and for all the Christmas gifts and cards. I feel very at home and really enjoy being here!"





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'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/3WIOXyf> .

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. For just as the sufferings of Christ flow over into our lives, so also through Christ our comfort overflows."

2 Corinthians 1: 3-5, NIV

Worship Service Schedule for January 11, 2025 WORSHIP

Pulpit: Rev. Laura Guy
Elder: Susie Clower
Lay Leader: Jan Howard
Greeters: Connie Murphy, Donice Ratliff
Prep & Serve: Barbara Millard, Cheryl Lewis

Serve & Clean-up: Coen Hickman, Jack Massie
Cash Counter: Phil French
Acolyte(s): Clay Hickman, Lincoln Viebrock
Nursery: Linda Prout

Worship Service Schedule for January 18, 2025 WORSHIP

Pulpit: Rev. Laura Guy
Elder: John Merritt
Lay Leader: Cheryl Merideth
Greeters: Shirley French, Denney French
Prep & Serve: Diane Earl Soetaert

Serve & Clean-up: Sandra & John Matthews
Cash Counter: Greg Atkins
Acolyte(s): Becket & Brinley Milne
Nursery: Jonica Merritt

**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