

November 24th-30th, 2025



Dear Church,

One of the things I appreciate most about Smithville First Christian Church is how everyone comes together to help whenever there is a need. This was especially evident on Sunday when we had so many volunteers who came to decorate the building for Christmas. The worship committee brought yummy breakfast foods to feed the workers, and we were able to transform our sanctuary and other spaces so they are ready to welcome the Christ child.

We also saw that can-do spirit represented in the choir (12 people!) and the beautiful quilt that Threads of Faith made for baby Isolde. I also noticed that all the Angel Tree cards had been picked up! If you'd still like to help do some Christmas shopping for local kids, the school district also has a wish list. [You can see it here and sign up if you can help.](#)

Phil French, the Chair of our Property Department, has an update in this newsletter about the work that's being done on the exterior of our historic building. Please read through it and see if you'd like to give an extra gift to the church to help cover those costs.

Advent begins on Sunday. I will be teaching a Sunday School class in the sanctuary at 9:15 am. I hope you'll consider joining the class! We will also have little devotional books available for you to pick up on Sunday, with a weekly reflection and questions to ponder throughout the week. If you'd prefer, we always have copies of The Secret Place if you want to use them for your own daily devotions through Advent and beyond.

This Thanksgiving, I'm thankful for all of you!

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 to 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 repairs to the exterior brick and mortar. We have been searching for a qualified contractor to do this type of historic updating work for the last two years. At our September Board Meeting (Sept. 10) the Board voted to contract Alliance Restoration to do the work. The scope of work proposed is:

- *Pressure wash the brick and mortar*
- *Replace 5 metal window lintels (lintels are the metal support plate at the top of the window openings). That involves removing the brick above the windows, replacing the metal lintel and reinstalling the brick.*
- *Remove and replace previously incorrectly patched mortar joints. Usually this requires grinding out the old repair.*
- *Tuck point all areas as needed using mortar that is tinted to match the original 1927 mortar color. The original mortar profile will also be matched*
- *Repair the marquee sign in the SW yard*
- *Install metal flashing as needed*
- *Rent a man lift(s) as needed*
- *Apply a sealant to the finished brick and mortar*

For the above work, the cost estimate is approximately \$65,000 excluding permits and change orders. We expect the scope to increase as the work progresses because of unknown problems, but we hope that the final cost does not exceed \$80,000. If you have any questions about the work contact me. We have started a Capital Fund to pay for the mortar repair. If we don't receive enough donations to the Capital Fund, we will need to procure the balance from other sources.

After these exterior repairs, we can address interior damage that has occurred from rain water coming through the mortar. We have established a line item in our accounting of #2180 – Tuck Pointing to hold these capital funds until they are needed to pay the contractor. As of Oct. 31, we have \$7,750 in Line Item #2180. So we have already raised 10% of what we will need.

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.

THANK YOU!

Phil French

announcements & EVENTS

First Christian Church
Smithville



Christmas Choir

Sing with us! Steven Cornwell, our music coordinator, is directing a special choir for the Christmas season. Rehearsals will be Wednesdays: Dec 3rd, Dec 10th, and Dec 17th at 6 pm in the Sanctuary. The choir will sing during our Sunday Services on Dec 7th through 21st.



Angel Tree: November 30th, 2025

Thank you for purchasing gifts with Angel Tree again this year through the Salvation Army. It goes to children and seniors in need. To participate, take a paper tag from an Angel Tree and purchase gifts from the child's wish list. Sunday November 30th is our deadline to bring in gifts so they can be delivered in time for Christmas. [Virtual Salvation Army Tags](#) Link here.

Clothing Drive: November 2025

Christian Women's Fellowship will be collecting coats, hats, gloves, mittens and boots this season for those in need. Let's make a difference by participating in our Winter Coat Drive event. Donate your gently used coats and help someone stay warm during the cold winter months. Please put your donations in our "cooler" chest in the Fellowship Hall.



Advent Sunday School Class Starts on Nov. 30th

Pastor Laura will lead this 4-week class during Advent.
Meet in the sanctuary at 9:15 am.
All adults and youth are welcome!

FROM THE
MANGER 

Sunday School this Advent

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.

Candyland Christmas: December 6th

The Smithville Chamber of Commerce event takes place in Downtown. SFCC is sponsoring the event and 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 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.



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

The Children's Christmas Program is 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. Add this great event to your calendars today!

Church Office Holiday Hours

The church office will be closed Thanksgiving and the Friday afterwards, as well as Christmas day and the following Friday.

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.



Smithville Community
HOLIDAY
 food bags



Saturday
DEC 13
 Starting at 10:00 am

The Food Pantry will be filling Holiday Food Bags on Saturday, December 13 starting at 10:00 am. The bags will be filled and delivered to the doorsteps of our neighbors facing food insecurity this holiday season.

Volunteers appreciated starting at 10 am in the basement of the church.



December Food Pantry

The food pantry is filled with generous donations. So we are not asking for donations this week. Normally, donations can be dropped off Monday - Friday from 9 AM - 12 PM in the food cart located inside the parking lot entrance, or please fill up the mini pantry (outdoor blessing box) outside! 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.



Candlelight
 Christmas Eve
 Worship
 Wednesday, Dec. 24th
 5 pm

Share the beauty and meaning of Christmas with friends and family as we sing carols, hear the story of Christ's birth, and fill the sanctuary with candlelight.

Watch the Nov 16th Service: <https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1AR5p6DvGL/>

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

PRAISE & PRAYER *requests*



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!

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11, NIV

To submit a Prayer Request: <https://bit.ly/3WIOXyf>

Worship Service Schedule for November 30, 2025

Pulpit: Rev. Laura Guy
Elder: Angie Viebrock
Lay Leader: Jan Howard
Greeters: Jonica Merritt & John Merritt
Prep & Serve: Sandra & John Matthews

Serve & Clean-up: Linda Neer & Belinda Miller
Cash Counter: Susie Clower
Acolyte(s): Brinley & Beckett Milne
Nursery: Janice Roberts

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

**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>.*



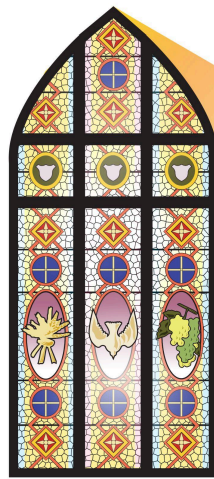
CONNECT WITH US:

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Smithville, MO 64089

OFFICE HOURS

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

office@smithvillefirstchristian.org



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FIRST
CHRISTIAN
CHURCH

www.smithvillefirstchristian.org