

The Current Weekly

October 15, 2025

A NOTE FROM

Pastor Laura

Dear Church,

It felt like an epiphany last week when I realized that the decision to buy a pump organ had been a very controversial and even divisive one for the church back in 1896. Up until that time, the church had been a non-instrumental congregation. They believed that they should be modeled after the original early Church. Since the New Testament doesn't mention the Church using instruments, they thought they shouldn't either. So, the decision to add an instrument was actually a Biblical/ theological one! I can only imagine the passionate arguments made in favor and against the purchase of the organ. I would not be surprised if families left the church over it.

From our modern perspective, it seems like such a quaint and easy choice to make. But in the moment, it meant changing something foundational about who the church was. I believe they made the right choice, and I believe that the Holy Spirit guided them in that decision. And I also believe that they experienced some revival and growth as a result, even if some families left the church.

Which makes me very grateful to those saints who allowed God to breathe new life into the church. Without them, I don't think we'd be here today. I'm also personally grateful to the French family for saving the pump organ (Phil French says it lived in his mother's home for many years because she couldn't bear to see it destroyed once it was no longer usable). Kathy French gathered all the historical data on the organ, so I'm grateful to her, too. Her main source of information was a local reed organ expert named Charlie Robison who came to our church in 2018 to inspect the organ and confirm its date of shipment from the factory in Chicago.



First Christian Church(Disciples of Christ)
201 N. Bridge Street, Smithville, Mo 64089

1896 REED ORGAN

Excerpts From Church History Written In 1943

In 1943, Mrs. Ernest Carver (Leta) wrote a history of our congregation in observance of our Centennial Celebration. Here are excerpts from that document (**Bold type added**):

*Three buildings, all of brick, have been built... The first was erected in 1848...The church was **adverse to having music and musical instruments in their services...**The first church possessed **nothing but a tuning fork...**A second building...was dedicated on the second Lord's Day of August, 1886...The first musical instrument was bought by the congregation of the second church. **Many of the members frowned upon the idea of listening to church hymns played on a pump organ, but in spite of the trouble which arose the organ stayed put, and later on was replaced with a piano.***

And if you think the decision to bring in an organ was a controversial one, wait until you hear about the firestorm churches experienced when people first started proposing installing indoor plumbing! "We can't have people doing THAT in the Lord's house!"

May we learn our history so that we can be inspired to continue to seek revival and new understandings of how to be the church today.

If you'd like to help us celebrate our Bicentennial in 2027 - 200 years since people first started meeting together to form what would eventually become Smithville First Christian Church - send me an email.

We will plan activities and events throughout 2027 that will invite the community to come discover our history and be a part of our future!



Oh, and THANK YOU for the card and gift certificate I received in worship for Pastor Appreciation Month! It's so lovely to be appreciated, and I thank God for all of you!

See you Sunday,

Pastor Laura

laura.guy@smithvillefirstchristian.org,

Cell: 913.515.3720

announcements & EVENTS

First Christian Church
Smithville

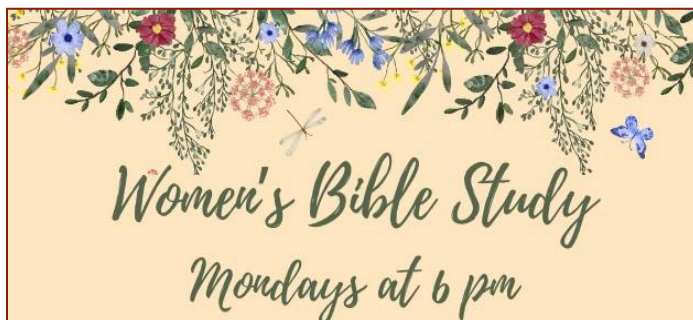
JOIN US AT SMITH'S FORK
HAUNTED CAMPGROUND
CAMPSITE 32
SAT. OCT. 18 FROM
3:30 - 6:30 PM
ALL STUDENTS 5TH - 12TH GRADE ARE
WELCOME! PLEASE WEAR A COSTUME!

Haunted Campground: Saturday, October 18

All Students 5th - 12th Grade are welcome! Smithville Haunted Campground, Campsite 32. Wear your costume and come pass out candy, Little Jesus', and church information at the Viebrock Families Campsite. Arrive at 3 pm Park at [Grace Church](#) and walk over to the campground to avoid traffic and parking issues, or carpool. **The event runs from 3:30 - 6:30 pm.**

Women's Bible Study: October 27th

New Women's Bible Study continues **on Monday nights at 6 pm** (whenever there isn't a Board Meeting). Sheila Gerling and Jonica Merritt will be hosting. We will be reading together "Trustworthy" by Lysa Terkeurs. The book and CD are based on 1 & 2 Kings (available to purchase online). Our next meeting is **Monday, Oct 27th**. The group meets through Nov. 10, then starts again in 2026, so come on out and help us choose the study for January as well!



5th Quarter Event Volunteers: Sunday October 19th Prep for Friday the 24th

5th Quarter is coming up SOON! We are going to have a combined youth group Sunday from 6:30 - 7:30 pm at the Smithville United Methodist Church. Volunteers are encouraged to come as well to make sure we are organized. We need volunteers from 8 pm to 11 pm at Smithville Downtown Heritage Park for the 5th Quarter after home football games. Community in Action provides a drug and alcohol free activity after our games. We are cosponsoring with Smithville UMC. We are committed to providing 12 volunteers that evening. Contact Angie Viebrock at 816-805-8501 or viebroca@gmail.com to help out.



Costume Bingo Night:

Sunday, October 26 at 6 pm

It's time for BINGO again! Join us on Sunday, Oct. 26th at 6 pm. We'll combine snacks, (non-scary) costumes and prizes for a fun all-ages Halloween event. Bring a friend and wear a costume - or just a silly hat. We'll provide all the snacks, BINGO cards and prizes. If you have any new or gently used items that someone might like for a prize, you can donate those until the morning of Oct. 26.



SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Time



Talent



Treasure

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.



Coffee
Time

Weekly Fellowship

Sundays 10 am




October Wish List

- Stuffing Mix
- Rice and Pasta Sides

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Donations can be dropped off at the church:
Mon. - Fri. from 9 AM - 12 PM
The food pantry is open to anyone in the community
Tuesdays from 8:30 - 11 AM



Food Pantry
Smithville
First
Christian
Church

October Food Pantry

Donations of stuffing mix and rice and pasta sides would be appreciated in October. Donations can be dropped off **Monday - Friday from 9 AM - 12 PM**. The food pantry is open to anyone in the community on **Tuesdays from 8:30 - 11 AM**.

The Tall Oaks Gala

The Tall Oaks Gala is the biggest fundraiser of the year to support our church camp. Make plans now to attend this year's Gala on Friday, Nov. 14 at 5 pm at Tall Oaks.

<https://givebutter.com/c/TOgala2025>

ONCE UPON A TIME
at the
Tall Oaks
Gala
at Tall Oaks Manor
12778 189TH STREET
LINWOOD, KS 66052
NOVEMBER
FRIDAY 14 5:00 PM
2025

Watch the October 12 Service:

<https://www.facebook.com/share/v/19Xqj2UekA/>

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



We've reopened the in person handwritten prayer box made by our very own woodworker Argel Merideth! 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!

"God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth." John 4:24:, NIV

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

Worship Service Schedule for October 19, 2025

Pulpit: Laura Guy

Elder: John Merritt

Lay Leader: Cheryl Merideth

Greeters: Shirley French & Denney French

Prep & Serve: Diane & Earl Soetaert

Serve & Clean-up: Lndra & John Matthews

Cash Counter: Phil French

Acolyte(s): Brinley Milne & Beckett Milne

Nursery: Linda Neer

Laptop: Tom Massie

**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>.*



Worship Service Schedule for October 26, 2025

Pulpit: Laura Guy

Elder: Jennifer Schoonover

Lay Leader: Susie Clower

Greeters: Glenda Cantwell & Carol Summers

Prep & Serve: Linda Neer & Belinda Miller

Serve & Clean-up: Linda Prout

& Kathy Hamilton

Cash Counter: Greg Atkins

Acolyte(s): Keaton & Case Crosby

Nursery: Janice Roberts

Laptop: John Merritt

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