



September 21 - 27, 2025

A NOTE FROM *Pastor Laura*

A Note From Our Pastor

Dear Church,

I wish I could adequately describe what I experienced at the Walnut Valley Festival in Winfield, KS last weekend. This was my third time attending the festival, and every time I am astounded at the rich diversity of people who attend the 3-day bluegrass music extravaganza. There are grandparents and great-grandparents who love to sit in their camp chairs and listen to world-class performers at all four stages; and families with kids who love to dance (and play in the mud); and teenagers who bring their instruments and pick up tips from the pros; and young adults who stay up all night in the campground and jam with people playing all kinds of instruments at all different skill levels. There are peace signs and tie-dye shirts and overalls and muck boots everywhere you look, and we're all singing along with the bands, whether we know the songs or not.



There's something pretty magical about it, as if it's a little glimpse of what we could be if we all stopped being angry at each other. I've heard more than one person describe it as "my church." And I get that. There is definitely something hopeful and spiritual about people sharing a common love of music.

But I wouldn't call it "church." Because on Sunday afternoon, everyone leaves Winfield and goes back to the "real world" and the relationships we formed over the past three days disappear. Maybe we'll see each other next year, but what happens when life gets tough in the remaining 51 weeks of the year? That's why we need a real church with real people who might not always agree with us, but they'll be there for us whenever life knocks us down. Going to an incredible festival where everyone is kind and loving and sings together in harmony (at least during the day - I can't speak to what happens in the campground when people are trying to sleep) is a great once-a-year experience. But if we want real, rubber-meets-the-road community, we will find it in our church, every week of the year.

I can't wait for the all ages service on Sunday. We'll have fun together and learn what God has to tell us through a talking donkey! Bring your loose change for our noisy offering!

See you Sunday,

Pastor Laura

laura.guy@smithvillefirstchristian.org,

Cell: 913.515.3720

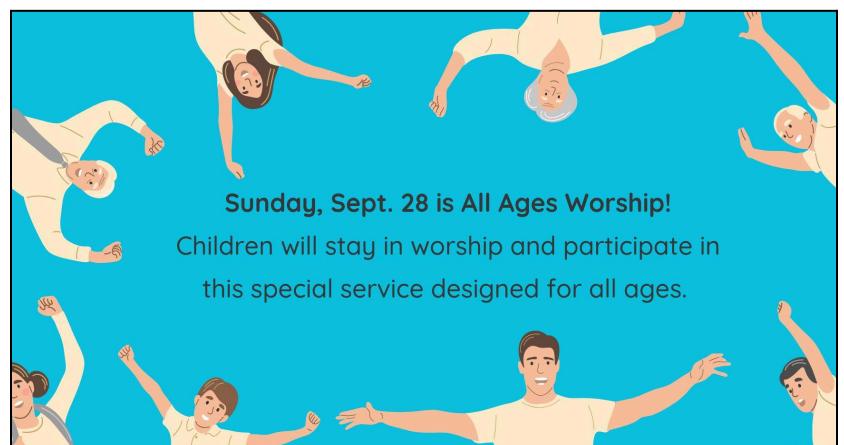


Meet Pastor Laura

Pastor Laura has a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall for anyone who didn't get to meet with her in the spring. Find a time that works for you, or let her know a better time for you to meet.

This Sunday Come for All Ages Worship: September 28

Sunday, September 28th is All Ages Worship! Children will stay in worship and participate in this special service designed for all ages. Bring in your loose change for a "noisy offering" the



children will collect for Heifer International.



Northland NetWORKS for Good: Oct. 3 - 4

A new community organizing group is forming called Northland Networks for Good. Anyone interested may attend their free training event on Oct. 3 & 4 at Turning Point, 1900 NE Englewood Rd, Gladstone, MO 64118.

- Friday, Oct. 3: 6-8:45 pm, Dinner and Program
- Saturday, Oct. 4: 8:30-11:30 am, Brunch and Training

Join us for a two-day hands-on workshop led by Paul Turner, Regional Supervisor with the South and West Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF) and former Lead Organizer of AMOS (A Mid-Iowa Organizing Strategy).

Paul helps communities organize for real, lasting change. He will guide NNG through organizing a group of founding member institutions who are ready to launch a grassroots movement rooted in justice, equity and collective power. All costs covered by Northland NetWORKS for Good. [CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP](#)



Women Together Autumn Craft Day

Sunday, Oct. 5th
After worship
11:45 - 2 pm


Meagan Jacoby will lead us in making fall-themed candle holders using dried leaves and flowers. Bring a jar or glass vase and a light lunch item to share - sandwiches or a salad. We'll use items from God's beautiful creation to make a new beautiful thing!

Women's Craft Day: Sunday, October 5th

Women Together Autumn Craft Day is Sunday, Oct. 5th, After worship (11:45 - 2 pm). Meagan Jacoby will lead us in making fall-themed candle holders using dried leaves and flowers. Bring a jar or glass vase and a light lunch item to share - sandwiches or a salad. We'll use items from God's beautiful creation to make a new beautiful thing!

Youth Group Activity: Sunday, October 5th

We're having a combined Youth Activity with Smithville United Methodist Church for 5th - 12th Grade Students on Sunday, October 5th from 6:30 - 7:30 pm at the Methodist Church. We will put together games for the 5th Quarter. It will be a fun evening! Bring a friend!



Youth Group Activity
All Students 5th - 12th Grade Are Welcome

Sunday, October 5th
6:30 - 7:30 pm

at Smithville United Methodist Church
505 US HWY 169 N
Smithville MO 64089

We will put together games for 5th Quarter

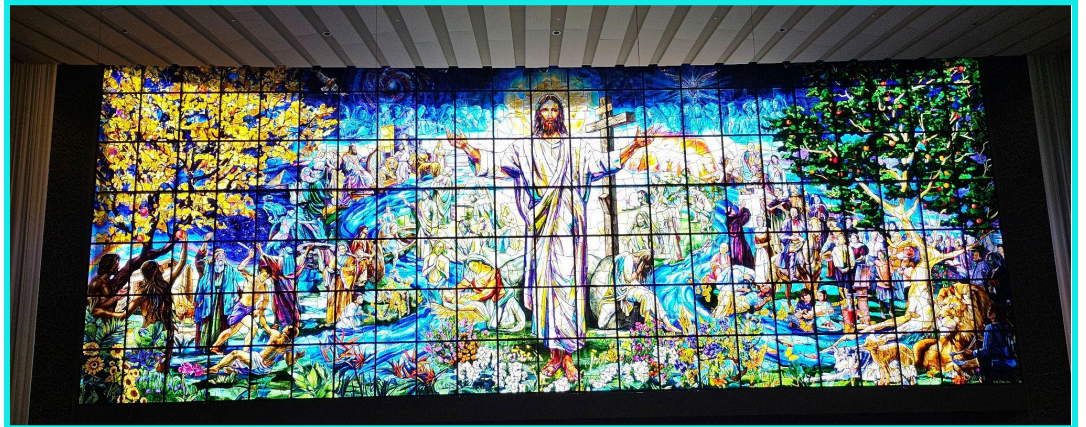
BRING A friend

Join Us!

SUMC First Christian Church
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Church of the Resurrection Tour: Saturday, October 11th, 2 pm

Our first tour of the sanctuary at Church of the Resurrection was such a big hit that we've scheduled another one! The tour will be **Saturday, Oct. 11th at 2 pm** at the Leawood Campus of Church of the Resurrection, 13720 Roe Ave, Leawood, KS 66224. Don't miss this



opportunity to see a sanctuary and stained glass window that were built to be a destination hundreds of years from now. We can carpool from church at 1 pm, and we'll return around 4 pm. The sign up sheet is in the Fellowship Hall.



Candy Donations for Haunted Campground

We will be participating in the Haunted Campground event again this year and are requesting that candy donations be dropped off at the church by **Sunday, October 12th**.

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.**





5th Quarter Event Volunteers:

October 24

Volunteers needed from **8 pm to 11 pm** at Smithville Downtown Heritage Park for the 5th Quarter. It is an event after home football games organized by Community in Action to provide a drug and alcohol free activity after games. We are sponsoring the event on Oct 24th with Smithville United Methodist Church. The organizing committee met and has an Amazing Race theme with specific activities and games attendees must complete. We are committed to providing 12 volunteers that evening. Please contact Angie Viebrock at 816-805-8501 or viebroca@gmail.com if you can help out.

Bingo Night: Sunday, October 26 at 6 pm

Back by popular request! Our next Bingo night will be Oct. 26th. Make our game even more fun by donating Bingo prizes for all ages. Please bring them by noon on the day of the event.. Feel free to wear a costume (or just a silly hat) and have fun playing Bingo and eating spooky snacks. ALL AGES ARE WELCOME! Please no costumes that might scare young children (or the pastor).



Coffee & Donut Fellowship & Puzzles Every Sunday at 10 AM

Hungry for some time chatting with 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 most of all, time together. Come hang out with us on Sunday before service.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

time



talent



treasure



September Wish List

- Cream of Mushroom Soup
- Rice and Pasta Sides

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

September Food Pantry

Cream of mushroom soup and rice and pasta sides would be appreciated. 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>

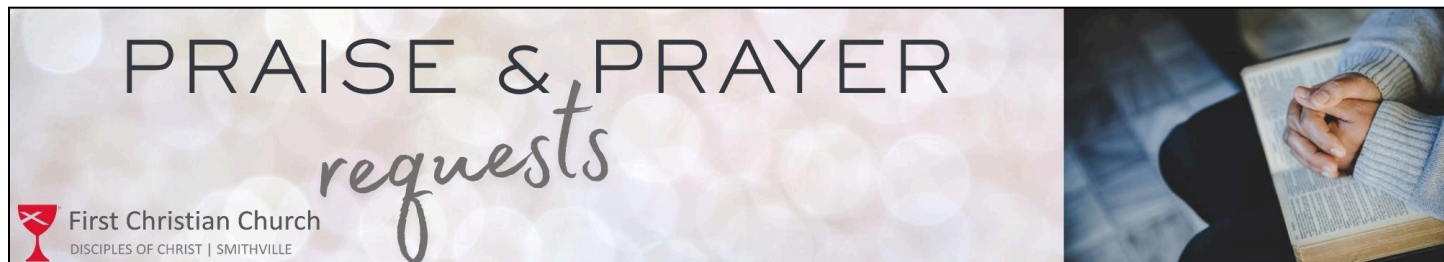


Watch Last Sunday's Service



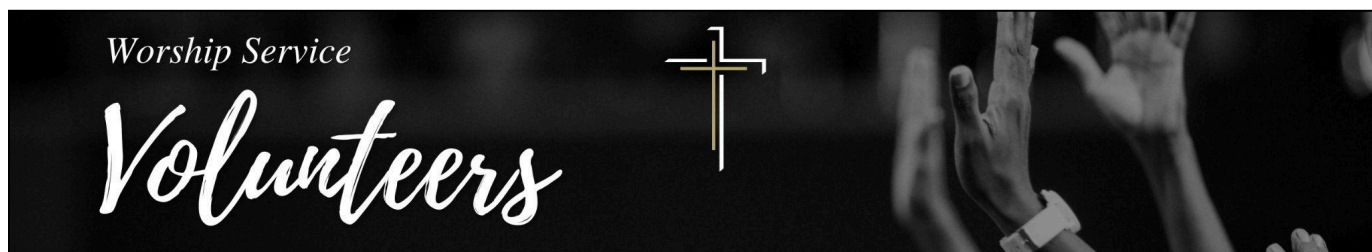
Watch the September 21 Service:

<https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1F4wUU4X4p/>



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 too. 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 and prayed for. Let's all pray for each other and for the needs in our community!

"And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it." John 14: 13-14, NIV



Worship Service Schedule for September 28, 2025

Pulpit: Laura Guy
Elder: John Merritt
Lay Leader: Cheryl Merideth
Greeters: Jonica Merritt & John Merritt
Prep & Serve: Linda Neer & Kathy Hamilton

Serve & Clean-up: Linda Prout & Belinda Miller
Cash Counter: Janice Roberts
Acolyte(s): Beckett Milne & Brinley Milne
Nursery: Suzanne Becker
Laptop: Tom Massie

Worship Service Schedule for October 5, 2025

Pulpit: Rev. Laura Guy
Elder: Greg Atkins
Lay Leader: Kathy Hamilton
Greeters: Jonica Merritt & John Merritt
Prep & Serve: Sue Boswell & Becky Crosby

Serve & Clean-up: Cheryl & Argel Merideth
Cash Counter: Susie Clower
Acolyte(s): Keaton Crosby & Case Crosby
Nursery: Joyce French
Laptop: John 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

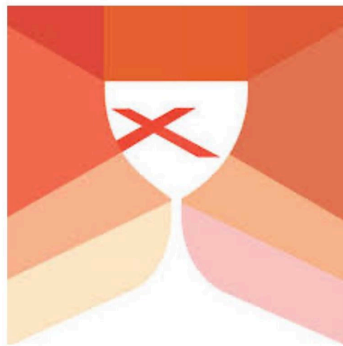
office@smithvillefirstchristian.org
www.smithvillefirstchristian.org

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

Office Hours:

Monday thru Friday: 9 am - Noon
Saturday/Sunday: Office is Closed

Phone: (816) 532-0773



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