



THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER



First Christian Church, Maryville, MO

fccmaryvillemo.com

July 03, 2024

Carnival Workers' Lunch

July 10 @ 11 am

Outreach/Evangelism is planning our annual Carnival Workers' Lunch and we would love it if you would join us. Come visit with our Carnival friends and let them know how much we appreciate their hard work to bring us joy.

If you know of someone who speaks Spanish and is available to translate, invite them along! We're working toward bridging the language gap to make our friends feel even more welcome this year. Come be a part of this special event!



July 8

Team
Planning/
Board
Meeting

6 pm



Did you know...

On July 3, 1863, the Battle of Gettysburg ended. Following three days of intense fighting—casualties numbered more than 50,000—the Battle of Gettysburg ended on this day in 1863 with a victory for the Union forces and was seen as a turning point in the American Civil War.



Small Group Study
will resume July 10

Wednesdays from 12-1 pm
Bring a sack lunch and join us

Keeping in touch with our church families



Sunday Mornings

Last Supper Leftovers
Sunday School Class
9 a.m. Room 106

Children's Sunday School
(K-4th Grade)
Youth Sunday School
(5th - 12th)
9 a.m. - 10 a.m.
Downstairs

10:30 a.m.
Service in the Sanctuary

Monthly Worship Attendance

June 942 June 2339
June 1637

The Christian Messenger is published bi-weekly. Information is due in by noon the Tuesday before publication.

The next issue is
July 18, 2024

First Christian Church
Disciples of Christ
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660.214.3414

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FCCMaryvilleMO

Our Community Prayer List...

Karla Parman
Emily McLain
Kay Davison
Mary Ross
Allen Davison

John Mires
Stephanie Marr
Scottie Schenkel
Doyle Watkins
Sue Schenkel

Prayer List Guidelines...

Names are added to the prayer list by request and remain on for two weeks unless we receive an update requesting to be left on. Please let us know what your request is and if we can share it with others. Contact the pastor or the church office at 660-214-3414 or officemanagerfccmaryville@gmail.com with prayer requests.



2024 Dates and Hostesses

Circle of Joy, our Women's Fellowship group,
Meets on the first Monday of the month
At 1:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
unless otherwise noted

Please contact hostesses to RSVP

Aug 5	Lenda Kling, Carol Peters
Sept 2	Linda Davison, Betty Praiswater
Oct. 7	Barb Pierce, Sandi Mull
Nov. 4	Donna Rickman, Karen Brown



Virginia will be on vacation
June 30 - July 5

Our Staff

Gina Johnson
Senior Pastor

Anita Dew
Organist

Virginia Ripple
Office Administrator

Pat Immel
Technical Director

Deena Poynter
Music Director

Peggy Dowis
Custodian

Pastor's Pen

A message from my heart to yours



Every year in this beautiful country we know as the United States of America we celebrate our independence with cookouts, family gatherings, and fireworks. Independence Day is a beautiful reminder and celebration of the freedom we have as citizens of this country. We should pause and give thanks for those who have and continue to make that possible. We should each do our part to honor our freedom and work together to make that freedom available to others.

So as we celebrate the gift of freedom in our country, that begs a question...what about the spiritual freedom we have within? What does it look like to have that freedom and make it available to others? Many people are searching for freedom; from pain, fear, financial strain, etc. Our true freedom is not found in external circumstances or solutions. It is found within!

The kingdom within is a place of ceaseless joy, unconditional love, and unchained freedom. When we choose to recognize the reality of our inner kingdom, we begin to tap into the power that lies within. We realize that we are not bound by tethers of the external world. The deeper we dive into the kingdom within, we discover that freedom is not a destination, but a journey. It is a remarkable journey of consciousness. Consciousness that is anchored in love and overflows into all aspects of our lives and those around us. When we recognize the unity and love that connects all of us, we experience freedom. We see that we are free to live and love without fear, doubt, or limitation. This freedom is not based on race, religion, economic status, gender, culture, etc. This freedom is shared by all humanity as children of God and it is our responsibility to bring that freedom forth.

So this 4th of July, let's remember and celebrate our freedom as a nation and our freedom as kingdom workers. As we bring the kingdom within here and now, we are free to be, to do, and to truly become all that we are created to be!

Blessed to be your Pastor,

Gina ♥

A Moment with Your Moderator

I'm just finishing my second quarter as Moderator, and time has flown by! I want to express my gratitude to all of you for your support. Thank you all.

This time of year has always been special to me because it's when I would prepare to go to the high school church camp at Crowder State Park. However, this year will be the first time since 2013 that I won't be able to attend, and I know I'm going to miss it. It all started when my oldest daughter, Emily, mentioned that they needed a counselor and asked if I would come spend a week at camp. I wasn't sure if I was the right person for the job or if I was spiritual enough to guide high schoolers in their search for God. However, as parents often do, I couldn't say no to my daughter, so I went to my first high school church camp. I also attended with Angie, Becky and Mitch and it was an incredible experience and something we will share forever!

Wow, what an incredible place! About 80 campers and ten counselors gathered at Crowder State Park for a week of worship and bonding. The sense of camaraderie was amazing. These kids truly had each other's backs, and it continued throughout the entire week, I didn't witness a single negative action or word exchanged between campers. We enjoyed activities like swimming, playing Nucum (a mix of volleyball and dodgeball), talent shows, serenading, and family groups where small groups of about eight campers discussed the day's lessons and talked about their everyday lives and challenges.

But the heart and soul of the camp was the nightly campfire. It was during these moments that true bonding occurred, where campers could share anything without fear of judgment or shame, knowing that their fellow campers had their back 100%. We heard stories of parental abuse and neglect, struggles with self-harm, betrayal by friends, concerns about the future, discussions about sexuality and how relationships were affected, and above all, we witnessed the never-ending love and support the group had for each other, simply by being there. Lastly, I want to share the closing ritual of the campfire each day. We would gather in a circle, rocking from side to side, and sing the old Grateful Dead song, "Lay Down My Sweet Brother," or also called "I Bid You Goodnight." It was a beautiful moment in the dark, with only the fire, with the presence of friends and God.

Lay Down my Sweet Brother, Lay down and take your rest.

I want to lay your head upon the Savior's breast

I love you, but Jesus loves you best.

I bid you goodnight, goodnight, goodnight

I bid you goodnight, goodnight, goodnight

I sometimes wonder what would happen if we, as adults, carried the same spirit of church camp into our everyday lives. What if we had each other's backs, offered unlimited support while on our individual journeys, minimized negative thoughts, and always looked for the good in everyone? What if we created a place where everyone is accepted for who they are, and we acknowledge the struggles they've faced.

I cannot express enough how grateful I am to have shared these camps with my children, counselors and campers. The counselors have become some of my closest friends, and the sense of closeness to God at camp is indescribable. As you can tell, the experience I had at camp is immeasurable. I just hope I was able to give as much as I received!!!

Best wishes. Enjoy your summer!

Kerry Meyers

The Bulletin Board

Following the Progress of FCC's Leaders

Did you know you can attend a church board meeting? It's true! You don't have to be a team leader, a moderator, vice-moderator, secretary, or have any other leadership role to participate in a board meeting. The meetings are open to everyone and everyone is encouraged to join in.

That being said, we know not everyone can attend a meeting due to scheduling conflicts, so, in an effort to make sure this community knows what's being planned and what decisions are being made, we are starting a new segment in the newsletter called The Bulletin Board in which we'll share plans and decisions made by our church leadership.

For our first post, we are diving into the June meeting to find out what our leadership discussed and decided.

- **The Giving Tree:** With the creation of The Giving Tree, Outreach/Evangelism Chair Karla Parman and Property Chair Allen Davison suggested we check into what, if any, additional insurance would be needed. Our insurance company, Brotherhood Mutual, reported back that adding the ministry to our current insurance policy will add \$340/year to our premium payment due to the increase in traffic in the facility. The Outreach/Evangelism Team have agreed to take the additional yearly payment from the Missions Fund account. Anyone bringing or receiving donated items will be required to sign a liability waiver that makes it clear that the church is not responsible for accidents, injury, or property damage and if the facilities are damaged, then it is the responsibility of the person(s) moving items to pay for those damages. The team also discussed scheduling dates for set up and organization, as well as regular dates outside of normal business hours. At this time the suggestion is the 1st Saturday from 8-10:30 a.m. and 3rd Thursday from 5-7:30 p.m. The Giving Tree also has its own website at fccthegivingtree.org and had its official ribbon cutting June 26 at 10 a.m.
- **Room 106:** New flooring and wall repairs were brought to the board's attention by Property Chair Allen Davison. Possible selections for the flooring and wall color have been made and await final decisions by The Last Supper Leftovers Sunday school class and the Property Team. Circle of Joy also donated \$7600 to the project and it was decided that Property will handle all the decisions of how money will be spent on the project. They have a bid from Jeremy Tobin on floating flooring, which he recommended, with labor costs of \$1475 and a bid on wall preparation for painting for \$300. The cost for the flooring includes removing the old carpet, as well.
- **Changes in Mission Funds distribution:** Outreach/Evangelism Chair Karla Parman reported they are going to a quarterly transfer of funds from offerings to missions and including the deposits from the Board of Extension and Christian Church Foundation in the regular 10% given to missions, which should relieve some stress on the General Fund while maintaining our desire to do outreach work. They will be reducing the financial amount given to the Ministry Center from \$350/mo (\$4200/yr) to \$200/mo (\$2400/yr) and do two canned food drives per year, one in June and one in January, as well as continuing to volunteer two months per year. They plan to continue giving \$100/mo (\$1200/yr) to North Star Advocacy and to do a yearly drive for things such as hygiene kits and other necessities, as well as continue giving \$125/mo (\$1500/yr) to the Senior Center until further research can be done on the organization's needs. They will be reducing FCC's giving to Mid-America from \$478/mo (\$5736/yr) to \$375/quarter (\$1500/yr) and matching congregational special Sunday offerings given to the General Church up to \$500 per special offering. These six special offerings are Easter, Pentecost, Week of Compassion,

Continued on next page

Reconciliation, Thanksgiving and Christmas. Congregational giving to these offerings, in general, are less than \$200.

- **Stewardship/Finance:** Stewardship/Finance Chair Coby Lamb reported that contributions were up to \$18,600 in May, but our yearly income is a deficit of \$34,578.70. Our insurance premium will be increasing about \$500/month, which is unrelated to adding The Giving Tree, and is due to an update in Brotherhood Mutual's coverage requirements for all clients. Board Moderator Kerry Meyers has been investigating ways to save on our insurance needs through changing deductibles. Coby and Treasurer Mary Walkup have been gathering data regarding contribution trends and plan to have a report for the July meeting. There was also a discussion regarding the \$180,000 invested between the Board of Church Extension and the Christian Church Foundation with Kerry letting everyone know we are unable to use any of the initial investment since they are entitlements and church policy prohibits it. Changes in the way the church tithes to our Mission Fund were also brought up and Kerry explained that we weren't taking the deposits to the fund from our investments into account, which meant we were actually giving more than 10% to Missions. Going forward we will be depositing 10% of quarterly contributions, minus the investment deposit.
- **Trustees:** Although Trustee Chair Linda Davison had no formal report, Stewardship/Finance Chair Coby Lamb suggested having a meeting to discuss transferring funds to cover payroll. Board Moderator Kerry Meyers reminded everyone that moving funds from the Board of Church Extension and the Christian Church Foundation is up to the Trustees, but there are people with expertise who could support them in making these decisions.
- **Youth:** Pastor Gina will be pulling together a group to read scholarship applications by the end of the month. There is still the plan to have VBS in the fall and Gina will share more when we get closer to that time.
- **Circle of Joy:** President Carol Peters said there were 11 members in attendance at the last meeting for lunch at the Palms where they discussed where they went to grade school.
- **Minister's Report:** Pastor Gina thanked everyone for all they are doing. She noted there has been some nervousness about the Q & A dinner and that she had visited with someone who asked if she and Office Administrator Virginia Ripple are running the church. She explained that she meets with Board Moderator Kerry Meyers weekly to discuss plans and, if there were an Elder chair, she would meet with that person weekly as well. Gina gave some context about the Queers and Allies title for the event, noting that she didn't realize that queer was considered an offensive term in the past. The Q & A name was suggested by some of the presenters. Gina reiterated she talks to many people on a regular basis.

And there you have it. It's surprising that so much can be covered in a span of one hour, but FCC's leadership has committed to working things out in their teams ahead of time, then bringing their plans back to the board to share ideas and to make decisions. If you have any questions regarding what each team is planning, or if you'd like to jump on board to help make those decisions, reach out to the team leaders listed below.

FCC Leadership

Board Moderator: Kerry Meyers

Vice Moderator: Jason Ripple

Property: Allen Davison

Worship & Fine Arts: Guy Ebersole

Christian Life: Barb Pierce

Outreach/Evangelism: Karla Parman

Stewardship & Finance: Coby Lamb

Diaconate: Pam Dougan

Nominating Committee: Terry Immel

look who's

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Bob is turning Ninety!

Join us to celebrate Bob at a come and go
reception

Sunday, July 21

2:00pm- 5:00pm

Homestead Community Room

1730 N Clayton Ave, Maryville



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
201 WEST THIRD STREET
MARYVILLE MO 64468
Return Service Requested

Seeing Our Stewardship

June 2024

General Fund

Beginning Balance	\$	7,534.42
Income*	\$	34,272.66
Expenses	\$	17,714.88
Ending Balance	\$	24,358.83

Missions

Beginning Balance	\$	7,534.42
Income	\$	50.00
Expenses	\$	630.00
Ending Balance	\$	6,954.22

* includes \$21,876.61 from Future Ministries



We will be closed
July 4 & 5
for Independence Day

FCC will be open July 1-3,
though the office will be closed.
If you need information or have a
question, please contact Pastor Gina
at 757-775-0074.