

# THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER



First Christian Church, Maryville, MO

[fccmaryvillemo.com](http://fccmaryvillemo.com)

November 7, 2024

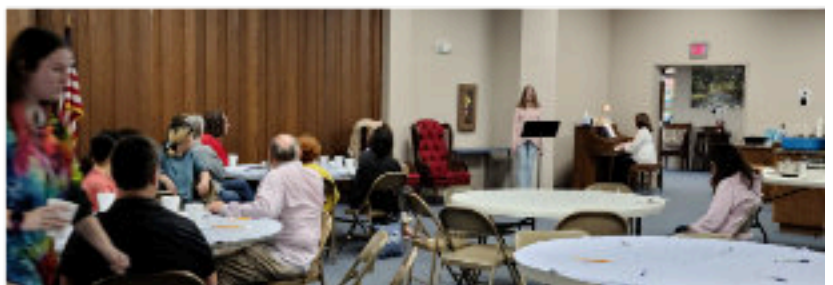
## Agape means Unconditional Love



The smell of tacos drew participants in as they settled in seats around cozy round tables to enjoy the event. What was going to happen? They knew there would be music and a meal, but what else would they be asked to do?

Moments later all 20 attendees discovered amid laughter and cheers what it meant to let down their guard and discover the stories within the others gathered there as they went from person to person asking fun and interesting questions in order to achieve a bingo on their "human bingo" card. It was a perfect ice breaker paired with a delicious meal and a fabulous solo performance by Elliana Wall to begin what would lead to deeper questions and sharing. From "drunk slugs" to tending our own internal gardens, the participants at last Sunday's first Agape dinner church chimed in to discuss what it means to show love to others and, ultimately, to ourselves.

If you were unable to attend this event, don't despair because it's happening for the next three Sundays from 6-7:30 pm. We'd love it if you could RSVP ([fccmaryvillemo.com/event-list](http://fccmaryvillemo.com/event-list)) so we can have enough food for everyone, but if your plans change last minute, know that you're still invited. Come share the love!





**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**

Oct. 13 .....	43	Oct. 27 .....	41
Oct. 20 .....	39	Nov. 3 .....	38

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

The next issue is  
**Nov. 21, 2024**

First Christian Church  
Disciples of Christ  
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FCCMaryvilleMO

# Keeping in touch with our church families

**Our Community Prayer List...**

Karla Parman  
Emily McLain  
Stephanie Marr  
Susan Hall-Furlong  
Mike Walker

Rob McDaniel  
JoAnn Nanninga  
Frieda Dougan  
Alan C.  
Sandi Mull

# Nov. 11

**Team  
Planning  
& Board  
meeting  
6 pm**



**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

Dec. 2 Sue Schenkel

## 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*



I don't know about you but when I think of November, I think of Thanksgiving! Then I am reminded of all the beautiful spaces in my life in which I get to be grateful. So I thought I would like to share my thoughts about gratitude. Gratitude is powerful! When practiced daily it can help transform the challenges in our life and how we navigate through them. When practiced daily gratitude can help bring healing and change our perspectives helping us to recognize the abundance we have. I believe being grateful helps us step into the true meaning of having abundance. Yet, even with these beliefs I still sometimes slip into a space where I try to escape my emotions and at the same time my gratitude is not my main practice and without fail, I always see the repercussions of that. Let me tell you a story...

In June of 2020, I closed on my first house purchase. It was amazing and we were all so grateful. Then within just a few months, I had several pipes burst, flooding spaces in our lower level, ruining carpets and belongings. As soon as one set of pipes would get replaced, it would happen again. This happened 4 times. In that same month the hot water heater went out. The following month, the fridge broke down, the dishwasher quit working, and we had to replace a toilet. These repairs seemed to drag on as they drained the bank account and my patience with warranties, repairmen, and myself. Even though we knew it could be far worse and we were thankful to get these items fixed, it didn't change the fact that there were several moments that felt frustrating, uncomfortable, stressful, and inconvenient. I didn't like feeling those things and as soon as I put them down they crept back in. I remember feeling tired and walking around wondering what else could go wrong. And if you know me I don't like being down on myself, others, or a situation no matter how challenging it may seem. I was hard on myself for not being more upbeat and optimistic. I tried shifting my focus and recognizing how much I had to be grateful for despite the challenges in front of me. I started reminding myself of how blessed I am, how the inconveniences are temporary and in fact compared to some of the other mountains I stared in the face, these were just lessons disguised as mole hills.

I cut myself some slack as I learned to remember that at some point we all will have our fair share of challenges, breakdowns, break-ups, and reaching what we think is our breaking point. So what if we learned that in these tough times, it is our "braking" point! You know that point, where we need to tap the brakes, pause, let the feeling out and practice gratitude. Because even in what we perceive as the darkest time, there is still something to be grateful for. And you know sometimes we can't even recognize the gratitude without being stretched and challenged. So don't be hard on yourself, be in the feelings and get the lessons. Be patient with yourself and give yourself grace. I am reminded by the words of the apostle Paul, that I can rejoice in all circumstances, practice gratitude, and still feel all the feelings both up and down. I would like to challenge you to grab this understanding and use it to infuse gratitude into this beautiful season of holidays and Thanksgiving. When practicing gratitude, with an allowance that everything here is happening for us and not to us, we then grow in the gratitude for all the blessings great and small, no matter what situation they are disguised in.

So Grateful For You,

*Gina* ♥



# Congregational Vote

## Nov. 24

**We will have a congregational vote after the service on Nov. 24.**

### Church Growth

Month	Points
<u>October Highlights</u>	
• Social Media comments/reactions/shares	248
• Worship Attendance	240
• Small Group Attendance	106
• New Web Site Visitors	101
• Worship Volunteers	100
<b>Total Month's Points</b>	<b>1210</b>



### Seeing Our Stewardship

October 2024

#### General Fund

Beginning Balance	\$	14,760.87
Income	\$	18,445.25
Expenses	\$	24,048.58
Ending Balance	\$	9,157.54

#### Missions

Beginning Balance	\$	5,096.23
Income	\$	593.71
Expenses	\$	606.21
Ending Balance	\$	5,083.73

### Did you know...

The day is celebrated in the United States mostly by African-Americans. It is most celebrated in the state of Texas where it has been an official state holiday since 1980. Many other states recognize the day as either an official holiday or observance.



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# The Bulletin Board

Following the Progress  
of FCC's Leaders

The following is a brief update on what was discussed at the October 14 meeting:

- **Stewardship & Finance:** Chair Coby Lamb reported that our financial outlook is still poor, though the debt to income on paper is misleading as ear-marked funds are reported only as expenses and not also as income that counterbalances the expense.
- **Property:** Chair Allen Davison sent in a team summary and reported the team was in the process of selling the church van for \$19,000 and the 40 ft. Ladder for \$300. As of the printing of the newsletter, the van has been sold and we are awaiting payment. Kerry Meyers has been price shopping other insurance companies to see if we can get a better deal with coverage and price.
- **Outreach/Evangelism:** Chair Karla Parman sent in a team summary and reported that FCC has adopted Maryville Middle School for the school year. In September we provided snacks and drinks for their snack cart service and in October we provided the teachers a potato bar during the first day of parent/teacher conferences, which was appreciated. November is FCC's opportunity to serve at The Ministry Center. Sign up sheets are available on the welcome table or [bit.ly/FCCvolunteer\\_ministry\\_center](https://bit.ly/FCCvolunteer_ministry_center)
- **Worship:** Chair Guy Ebersole questioned if the livestream was being used effectively, or if it was contributing to low Sunday morning attendance. Office Administrator Virginia Ripple reported that the people tuning into the livestream were those who were ill or otherwise were unable to attend in-person services and that we have been seeing traffic from various places beyond Nodaway County, including a financial contributor from another city. She also reported that some of our YouTube shorts have been exceeding 500 views within 3 days of posting. All livestream and video editing is free and occurs in house, so at this time there is no regular expenses occurring.

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 the team leaders listed below.

## FCC Leadership

**Board Moderator:** Kerry Meyers

**Vice Moderator:** Jason Ripple

**Property:** Allen Davison

**Worship & Fine Arts:** Guy Ebersole

**Outreach/Evangelism:** Karla Parman

**Stewardship & Finance:** Coby Lamb

**Diaconate:** Pam Dougan

**Nominating Committee:** Terry Immel

# November is... AND

# American Indian Heritage Month

## National Epilepsy Awareness

- 1 in 10 people will have a seizure and 1 in 26 will develop epilepsy during their lifetime
- 3.4 million people live with epilepsy in the United States; 470,000 of them are children

## National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness

- Nearly 7 million Americans have Alzheimer's

- 70% of dementia caregivers say that coordinating care is stressful and two-thirds also have difficulty finding resources and support for their needs

## Diabetes Awareness

- Approximately 537 million adults (20-79 years) are living with diabetes
- 3 in 4 adults with diabetes live in low- and middle-income countries



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



Have an event  
idea? Share it at

[www.fccmaryvillemo.com/upcoming-events](http://www.fccmaryvillemo.com/upcoming-events)

We will be closed  
**Monday, Nov. 11<sup>th</sup>**  
for Veterans Day