



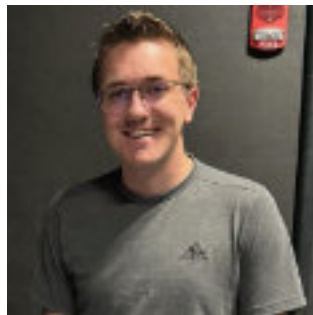
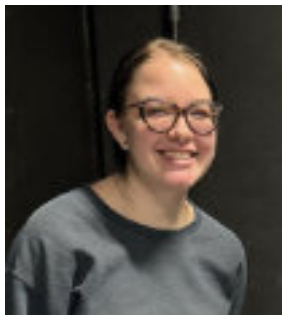
THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER

First Christian Church, Maryville, MO

fccmaryvillemo.com

April 2, 2026

Congratulations Graduates!



FCC Audio Tech Lead Kendric Santos-Briggs and FCC Livestream Lead Chloe Petersen are graduating and we want to celebrate their accomplishment with them! Join us for a celebratory

Graduation Brunch April 26 9:30 am

If you're unable to attend FCC's celebration of Chloe and Kendric, you're also invited to an

RSVP Graduation Party May 2 1:30 pm

Please let us know by email or phone call by April 26 if you will be attending the May 2nd graduation party.



Church Growth

| Month | Points |
|--|-------------|
| <u>March Highlights*</u> | |
| • Social Media comments/reactions/shares | 218 |
| • Worship Attendance | 198 |
| • Volunteer at service | 189 |
| • New web site visitors | 141 |
| • Giving (in-person) | 135 |
| • Attend small group | 112 |
| Total Month's Points | 1203 |



Seeing Our Stewardship

March 2026

General Fund

| | | |
|-------------------|----|-----------|
| Beginning Balance | \$ | 1,893.91 |
| Income* | \$ | 28,674.76 |
| Expenses | \$ | 16,901.58 |
| Ending Balance | \$ | 13,667.09 |

Missions

| | | |
|-------------------|----|----------|
| Beginning Balance | \$ | 1,383.29 |
| Income | \$ | 500.00 |
| Expenses | \$ | 455.11 |
| Ending Balance | \$ | 1,428.18 |

*Includes \$10,000 transferred from General Fund Savings

Welcome Home



Sunday Mornings

9 a.m.
Sunday School Classes

10:30 a.m.
Service in the Sanctuary

Sunday Worship Attendance

| | | | |
|--------------|----|--------------|----|
| Mar 8 | 30 | Mar 22 | 32 |
| Mar 15 | 30 | Mar 29 | 31 |

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

The next issue is
April 16, 2025

**First Christian Church
Disciples of Christ**
201 West Third, Maryville, MO
660.214.3414
Text 833.374.9501

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Keeping in touch with our church families

For Healing & Comfort...

Charles Breedlove

Is your info up-to-date?

Has your family grown recently? Have you moved or changed your phone number in the last year? Do you have a new favorite picture of yourself?

If you answered yes to any of these, it's probably time to update your information in our directory. It's easy and only takes a few minutes. You can call or email to update your information or you can update it in the member app or on the member website.

Need some help figuring it out? Go to <https://help.instantchurchdirectory.com/article/1295-how-members-submit-updates-to-their-information> for more information or contact Virginia in the office at 660-214-3414.



Our Staff

Gina Johnson
Senior Pastor

Peggy Dowis
Custodian

Virginia Ripple
Office Administrator

Kendric Santos-Briggs
Audio Lead

Anita Dew
Organist

Chloe Petersen
Live Stream Lead

Pastor's Pen

A message from my heart to yours



Ever since I have been a minister Easter has taken on a fresh perspective in my life. There are years where it feels familiar, you know the story, you know the movement, you know where it's going. And then there are years where it feels like you're seeing it again for the first time, not because the story has changed, but because something in you has. This year feels like that for me.

We gather to celebrate the resurrection, but I find myself sitting more deeply with what that actually means. It's not just a, "Yay, Jesus rose" but what did he reveal through it. When we truly sit with the resurrection, it begins to shift a way of thinking that may seem foundation in us. It doesn't just tell us that death was overcome, it shows us that death was never what we thought it was to begin with. Jesus didn't simply defeat death as if it were beating an opposing team. He revealed that it has no true hold. That what we call "ending" is not the end. That life is not contained to what we can see and put into words. As Scripture says, "death has lost its sting," and the more I reflect, the more I'm realizing; it never truly had one.

This isn't something we force ourselves to believe or try to convince ourselves of. It's something that becomes clear as we begin to see what Jesus was demonstrating. That we are not merely bound to what is earthly and temporary, but held within something eternal. That life does not end in the way we have been taught to fear. That is the foundation of truth and a different level of freedom. It's not overwhelming, but comforting. It begins to change how we carry things, how tightly we hold onto fear, how we understand loss, and even how we move through our everyday lives.

I am in deeper reflection as I have the honor of baptizing two individuals this Easter who both hold very special meaning to me in two very different ways. There is something incredibly humbling about standing in that moment with someone. It's not about having all the answers or saying the perfect words. It's about witnessing someone step into something sacred, something personal, something that reflects both a releasing and a receiving. Baptism, like Easter, holds the same truth of celebrating a greater freedom in embodying eternal life. It is not about an ending, but about a recognition. A recognition of life that continues. It is deeper than circumstance because it is a connection to something eternal that was never actually lost. And I think that's why it moves me so much this year. Because Easter isn't just a celebration we attend. It's an invitation we're given. An invitation to see differently. To understand more deeply. To recognize that what we often fear in death is nothing to fear at all. So wherever this Easter finds you, I hope you'll allow yourself to be present to it and simply be open to what God may be revealing. Just imagine how differently you would live each day if you knew it could never be your last.

Blessed to Be Walking In Resurrection,

Gina ♥

The Bulletin Board

Following the Progress of FCC's Leaders

The following is a brief recap of the Board meeting March 10, 2026.

Finance Report: Finance Chair Coby Lamb reported that all line items were as expected. At present, everything is in line for a \$5,800 loss, which was expected. Coby explained that we are basically having a monthly \$10,000 deposit and \$15,000 expenses, which means we have approximately 18 months before the General Fund Savings is depleted.

Trustees Report: Trustee Chair Linda Baker reported that Proctor contacted us regarding an upcoming \$6,700 shortfall, so we transferred \$10,000 from General Fund Savings to General Fund Checking, as per our current financial usage policies. Linda reiterated that we cannot continue transferring money to cover deficits.

Team Reports:

Property Reports: Property Team Member Allen Davison reported the urinal in the men's bathroom in the hall across from the kitchen is too old to find parts for and would need to be replaced. The plan to fix it was tabled due to prohibitive prices. The dishwasher in the kitchen is back in working condition after Allen changed the settings on the pressure reducing valve to let water in. It now has instructions on the door for others to follow for use. The front entry lights were replaced by Mick Dougan and John Praiswater. All labor and materials were donated. The "no parking" sign for the west parking lot has rotted away, but the team hasn't decided what to do about it yet. Kerry Meyers donated siding for the garage, but property will need to get a bid for installation and bring it to the Board. Mick put pre-emergence around the rocks to keep weeds to a minimum.

Worship/Elders: Worship Chair Guy Ebersole reported the purchase of two new Lenten banners in the sanctuary that were purchased with the use of some of Ed Brown's memorial funds. There is a plan for the Elders to begin having a brief monthly meeting to make sure everyone is doing okay and briefly discuss the needs of church members. The monthly meeting plans will be discussed at the March 19 Elders' meeting.

Outreach/Evangelism: Pastor Gina announced the launch of a small study group that will explore a variety of topics on a weekly basis, meeting on Wednesday evenings from 6-7 pm; attendees are encouraged to bring a snack to share. The studies will be short-term, and will be very similar to what The Table was. The Giving Tree is still a strong ministry. Pastor Gina also reminded the Board that, while saving money is a concern, it is more important to invite people to church. She noted that invitation cards are available to leave on restaurant tables for those who may feel uncomfortable extending personal invitations.

Christian Life: Christian Life Chair Marsha Meyers reported they provided a traditional funeral lunch for Bob Colville's family, serving between 30 to 40 people. They also provided a light sandwich and dessert meal for Joan Farquhar's family following her funeral. There will be a date to clean out the kitchen and dispose of items that are no longer usable, or items we have too many of. The team will keep in mind that there is designated kitchen memorial money available if they see a need.

New Business:

Property Insurance: Kerry Meyers brought to the Board's attention the question of the church's current property insurance increase and explained proposed changes to reduce the payments. In 2025 we switched from Brotherhood Mutual to Church Mutual. The premium was \$17,462. In 2026 the rate increased to \$24,388. Insurance companies require large properties to keep an 80% insurance to the cost of construction to replace the building as it stands, which is why we have \$4 million on a church we would probably not build back in the same way as it sits now. However, to receive full claim payment, you have to maintain 80% of the

Continued on next page

value to rebuild. They also require a 1% wind and hail deductible, which means \$40,000 for us. The insurance company gave us the option to lower the coverage, which would still be an increase, but not as large of one. The question was raised in the Property Team meeting as to why the church carries insurance rather than just liability and what it would mean to only carry liability. The premium would be reduced to \$1,744 per month, but Church Mutual would require the entire Board to sign a letter confirming that this was what First Christian Church wanted.

Kerry's recommendation was to reduce the coverage to the 80% coverage and 1% wind and hail deductible. Pastor Gina reminded the Board that, in the event of a catastrophe, the church's permanent funds would be available to help cover the deductible and support rebuilding efforts. After discussions regarding carrying the lower insurance or reducing to liability only the Board came to a consensus to accept Kerry Meyers' recommendation to request Church Mutual reduce our coverage to the minimum 80% with the 1% wind and hail deductible. Motion carried.

Building Use Agreements: Office Administrator Virginia Ripple reviewed the required forms for facility use with the Board. All groups must complete a general request form, along with a supplemental form for the use of audio-visual equipment or other church-owned property, which must be approved by the appropriate Church Team Leader (e.g., A/V Leads for audio-visual equipment, the Worship Chair for candlesticks, and the Christian Life Chair for kitchen items such as crock-pots). All forms must be signed, and a \$75 deposit must be received before use of the facility or church property is approved. The deposit is the same for both FCC members and non-members and is refundable unless designated as a donation or needed to cover damages or cleanup. Pastor Gina noted that a few minor issues with some groups were addressed promptly and have not recurred. Any group in violation of the space agreement is contacted and asked to correct the issue as soon as possible. If the issue cannot be resolved or violations continue, further steps will be taken, including the possibility of revoking their use of the space.

The policy currently states that all groups must be approved by the Board, so Pastor Gina read the list of groups using the facility, all of which are in good standing. All current groups were approved.

Minister's Report:

Pastor Gina expressed her thoughts on what the financial status of First Christian Church could mean for her family. While she has not been actively looking at other churches to date, she will begin paying more attention to those that are sent her way. However, she believes that, other than financially, the church is doing well because those who are here are giving all they can—heart, soul and wallet. While she may encourage people to give more, she emphasizes that she means giving through participation—showing up and inviting others to take part in our ministries and events. She has received a lot of good feedback recently, including from people who are no longer attending First Christian. Pastor Gina requested that if anyone has an idea of how we can keep doing better, they “lead the charge.”

She reported that Worship Chair Guy Ebersole has been doing a great job following her along for Easter season sermons. Chloe Petersen, Kendric Santos-Briggs, and she will be meeting with Personnel to determine next steps as they transition out following their graduation. She also stated that Property has plans to continue improving the rooms downstairs. She will be taking time off after Easter.

Pastor Gina restated the idea is to keep moving forward with the confidence that we are here as an entity and a mission of Christ.

FCC Leadership

Board Moderator: Bob Ferguson
Stewardship/Finance: Coby Lamb
Worship/Elders: Guy Ebersole

Christian Life: Marsha Meyers
Treasurer: Donna Rickman
Trustee Chair: Linda Baker



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



Elders' Circle

Sunday,
April 12

11:30 a.m.

April 13



Board Meeting
6 pm

Looking Ahead...

Apr. 5: Easter Sunday

Apr. 6: Office closed for Easter

Apr. 6: Circle of Joy, 11:30 am

Apr. 12: Elders' Circle, 11:30 am

Apr. 13: Board meeting, 6 pm

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