



# THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER



First Christian Church, Maryville, MO

fccmaryvillemo.com

December 19, 2024

## Congregational Vote

**10:15 am  
Dec. 29, 2024**

We will have a congregational vote before the service on Dec. 29. This vote will be to:

- Accept the 2025 Corrected Budget
- Accept the change in office hours to M-Th 9 am-3 pm, with 1 hour lunch; and closed on Fridays
- New officers filling open positions for 2025 (if needed)

If you have any questions or concerns regarding these ballot issues, please contact 2024 Board Moderator Kerry Meyers. Thank you.

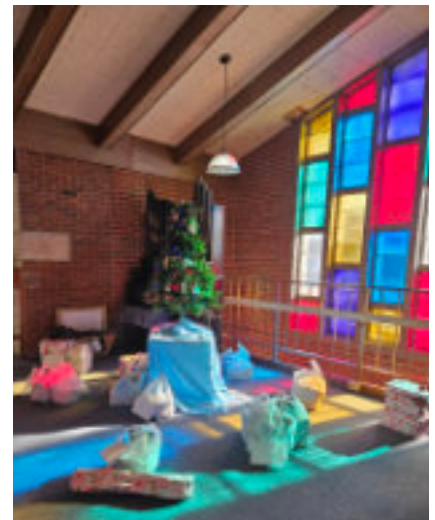
## FCC Family Tree

Have you brought in your family ornament yet? If not, there's still a little time before Christmas to help us decorate our FCC Family Tree.

We are celebrating all our families this year with a special Christmas tree! Bring an ornament (or two!) that you feel represents your family traditions and hang it on the tree by the main office between now and Dec. 24. All ornaments will be given back to you after Christmas.

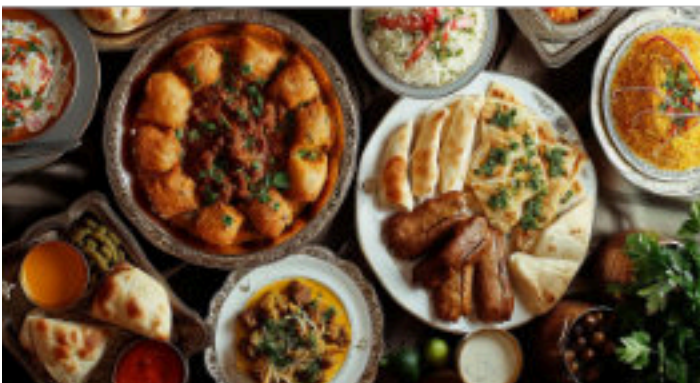
We have also blessed our Adopt-a-Family gifts beneath this tree and the families have picked them up for their own holiday celebrations.

Thank you to those who have brought ornaments in. What a blessing it is to see a new ornament "appear" when we're not looking and to wonder at the special memory it contains. And thank you to everyone who made donations for the Adopt-a-family program!



## 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Potluck

**Dec. 29 @ 11:30 am**

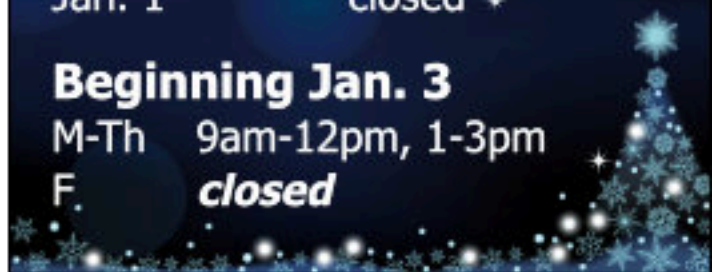


## Holiday Office Hours

Dec. 24	9 am-12 pm
Dec. 25-27	closed
Jan. 1	closed *

### Beginning Jan. 3

M-Th	9am-12pm, 1-3pm
F	<b>closed</b>





### 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

Nov. 24 .....44      Dec. 8.....39

Dec. 1.....37      Dec. 15 .....46

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

The next issue is  
**Jan. 2, 2025**

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

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fccmaryvillemo@gmail.com



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  
Steve & Heather F.  
Sandi Mull  
Elliot Punch

## 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

**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*



## It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year

**G**reetings My Beautiful FCC Family,

The holiday season is often described as the most wonderful time of the year. Family gatherings, decorations, festive parties, beautiful music, yummy goodies, white elephant gifts, and so much more. Now the human experience check...the holidays are also a whirlwind of chaos, a mix of beauty and brokenness that can leave us feeling immensely joyful and extremely overwhelmed. This time of year gives us the excuse to be at our best and worst as we face the complexities that reside in our hearts and minds. Especially since being in ministry the holiday season is such a paradox. On one hand, I stand in the hope of creating the perfect Christmas for everyone I love and celebrating the birth of Jesus who made all that I am possible through his demonstration of love. However, even standing fully in that, something unexpected happens to remind me that life is a gift of challenging lessons along with all the beauty and celebration. This year has had its fair share of challenges such as not having the financial resources I wish I had, juggling end-of-year commitments that demand my time and energy, and seeing people I wish I could do more for. And let's be real. As a mom, pastor, and simply being me, I add the pressure of wanting to make everyone happy, which I know is not my job and not expected, yet I go there.

But I don't stay there. I get to find the lesson, navigate the emotions, and lift up the gratitude. This is where the beauty of Christmas and Jesus really start to come into focus. You see, this isn't about the gifts, the decorations or tension free family gathering. It's about celebrating the amazing gifts we've been given such as hope, peace, joy, and love. These gifts are embodied in Jesus Christ. When I remember this truth, the chaos loses its force and the pressure goes back to where it belongs...non-existent. Staying centered and present isn't always easy, especially when life is making its list of demands but those demands don't have to defeat us. When we succumb to the drama and things feel like they're falling apart, pause and pray. Find the lesson and the joy in the circumstance. Remember you can't please everyone, so stop trying to do so. Lastly and definitely not least, in all the challenges, there is always something to be grateful for. The true experience of Christmas is found not in the absence of difficulties but in the presence of Emmanuel.

So, join me in releasing the story of chaos and embrace the celebration. This is a time to not only celebrate the beautiful gift of Jesus, it's also the time to celebrate the beautiful gift of you!

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year! I love you all and I am SO grateful and blessed to be Your Pastor!

*Gina* ❤️ 🎄 🏠



# January



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31 Fifth Sunday Celebration New Year's Eve 8:00 AM–9:00 AM Sanctuary Open 9:00 AM–10:00 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM–11:30 AM Worship	1 Office Closed New Year's Day	2 Office Closed	3 4:30 PM–7:00 PM Praise Team rehearsal	4	5	6 9:30 AM–10:30 AM PEO
7 8:00 AM–9:00 AM Sanctuary Open 9:00 AM–10:00 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM–11:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM–12:30 PM Elders' Meeting	8	9 5:30 PM–6:30 PM Youth Chorus of NW MO	10 4:30 PM–7:00 PM Praise Team rehearsal	11 6:00 PM–7:00 PM Troop 2942	12	13
14	15 Office Closed Martin Luther King Jr. Day 1:00 PM–2:00 PM Troop 3376	16 7:00 AM–8:00 AM Optimist Board meeting 5:30 PM–6:30 PM Youth Chorus of NW MO 6:00 PM–7:00 PM Board meeting	17 4:30 PM–7:00 PM Praise Team rehearsal	18 3:00 PM–5:00 PM PEO 6:00 PM–7:00 PM Optimist Club	19	20
21 Youth Sunday 8:00 AM–9:00 AM Sanctuary Open 9:00 AM–10:00 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM–11:30 AM Youth Sunday Worship	22 9:00 AM–2:30 PM MCCA	23 5:00 PM–6:30 PM Nodaway Chorale Board of Trustees 5:30 PM–6:30 PM Youth Chorus of NW MO	24 4:30 PM–7:00 PM Praise Team rehearsal 7:00 PM–8:00 PM Music rehearsal	25 3:00 PM–4:00 PM PEO 6:00 PM–7:00 PM Troop 2942	26	27
28 Praise Team Sunday 8:00 AM–9:00 AM Sanctuary Open 9:00 AM–10:00 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM–11:30 AM Praise Team Sunday	29	30 4:00 PM–5:00 PM Optimist 5:30 PM–6:30 PM Youth Chorus of NW MO	31 4:30 PM–7:00 PM Praise Team rehearsal 7:00 PM–8:00 PM Music rehearsal	1 First Day of Black History Month 5:30 PM–8:00 PM Optimist	2	3 9:30 AM–10:30 AM PEO

# The Bulletin Board

## Following the Progress of FCC's Leaders

As 2024 comes to a close, FCC leadership begins the process of changing hands, though the current leadership is still working hard to continue making FCC run smoothly. Here are the highlights of the final meeting of 2024.

- **Stewardship/Finance:** Chair Coby Lamb noted contributions were up for November and the van sale helped reduce the deficit for the year.
- **Property:** Pastor Gina reported that the insulation should be installed soon and that the money for it is already included in the Special Fund account from funds raised this year. Suggestions were made for the use of the garage from The Giving Tree storage to renting it out. No plans were decided upon at this time.
- **Nominating:** Chair Terry Immel reported that the committee has filled the positions it was able to.
- **Circle of Joy:** Pastor Gina reported that there were 12 people present and they played Christmas Music Bingo.
- **New Business:** The water ministry will continue through 2025 with a donation request being made to the congregation in January and June and a love offering container made available on the fridge. The suggestion was also made to add a label with the church's information to the bottles. Moderator Kerry Meyers noted that the Minister's Health Insurance Stipend for \$7,200 had accidentally been left off the proposed 2025 budget and will need to be voted on by the congregation Dec. 29. This item has been regularly paid and it not a new item.

Below are the incoming officers for 2025, as well as the outgoing officers for 2024. If you have any questions or concerns please address them to these wonderful leaders.

## 2024 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

## 2025 FCC Leadership

**Board Moderator:** Jason Ripple

**Property:** Phil Poynter, Marcia Jordan

**Worship/Diaconate:** Guy Ebersole

**Christian Life:** Terry Immel

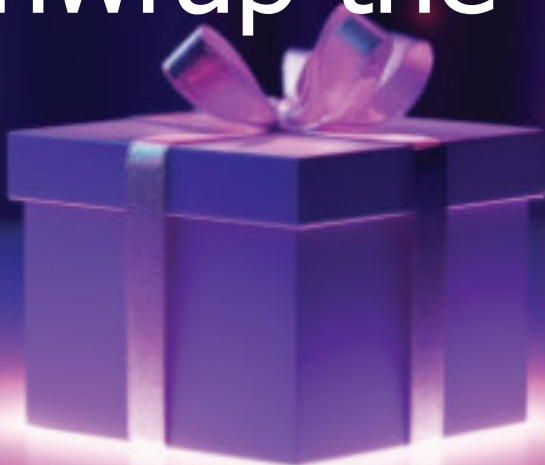
**Christian Education:** Gina Johnson

**Treasurer:** Donna Rickman



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

Join us on  
Christmas Eve as we  
"Unwrap the Greatest Gift"



Dec. 24  
7:30 pm