



# THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER



First Christian Church, Maryville, MO

fccmaryvillemo.com

July 18, 2024

## National Ice Cream Day!

July 21  
1-3 pm

Celebrate National Ice Cream Day with us during this come and go ice cream social! This is a wonderful opportunity to share what makes FCC a great place to be, so bring the family, bring your friends, and stop by for a sweet treat.

## Church Growth

Growing the church is something we all talk about, but in order to grow, we need to understand where we are and where we're going. It helps to take attendance every Sunday, but there is so much more to our community that shows our health than just "butts in seats" on Sunday morning or what our contributions are each week. In this segment, we'll see the data that shows where we are and, from there, we'll be able to project where we want to go and brainstorm ideas of how to get there.

Here are a few new things we've begun looking at:

- Baptisms and Affirmation of Membership
- Sign ups for groups and events, as well as volunteers and attendance for those events
- Prayer requests shared and "plan your visit" inquiries
- Social media follows, comments, shares and reactions, as well as web site visits – both new and returning
- Small group attendance
- Building use, both new and returning groups/individuals

Each thing we track is assigned a point value. For

instance, a baptism or affirmation is worth 10 points whereas social media involvement is worth 1 point. That value is multiplied by the number of submissions, individuals or groups involved in that data group. This is then added together to get our weekly total and those are totaled for the month.

We began tracking our health in May with a total of 1,013 points. By the end of June our total reached 1,401. That's a significant increase! Now that we have a couple of data points to compare, we need to look at what happened that was different and if this was a one-off thing that's unpredictable, or if it's something we can and want to repeat.

Our leadership has plans to look over this data from month to month to see what our trends are and get a better picture of FCC's health. We'd like to invite you to journey along with us, check out the data as it's presented over the next six months, and decide for yourself if you like the direction FCC is headed. Together, we can be the change we want to see.



## 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 23 .....39      July 7 .....42  
June 30 .....32      July 14 .....48

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

The next issue is  
**Aug. 1, 2024**

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

www.fccmaryvillemo.com  
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FCCMaryvilleMO

### Our Community Prayer List...

Karla Parman  
Emily McLain  
Kay Davison  
John Mires

Stephanie Marr  
Doyle Watkins  
Susan Hall-Furlong

### Active Duty...

Josh Carpenter  
Kevin Schluter  
Jimmy Costello

Lane Hermelink  
Sam Ferguson  
Cody Hermelink

### 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



Find us on  
Instagram and Facebook



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## 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 really enjoy sitting out by a fire on a beautiful summer's night. It's amazing how a fire can start small, then grow large in a matter of moments. The flames are ignited as the warmth and light cannot be ignored. This reminds me of the Spirit fire that is within each of us. Maybe the fire started small, but then it ignited and really pushed its potential. Everyone could see your Spirit fire burning bright. Of course that only lasts so long and you have to build it up again.

As we navigate in the educational sandbox called life, it's easy to lose sight with our inner flame. We get distracted by looking outside of us and lose focus on keeping the flame burning bright. Our Spiritual fire is a reflection of our purpose and passion, even if it may flicker or fade; the good news is that it's never too late to reignite the flame.

Spirituality is a personal journey unique to each of us. It's about connecting with something greater than ourselves, finding meaning and purpose, and cultivating a sense of inner peace. When our Spiritual fire is burning bright, we feel more alive, more connected, and more at peace. So, how do we nurture that fire and in turn ourselves? Here are some steps to follow:

- Practice mindfulness and meditation to quiet the mind and listen to your heart.
- Connect with nature, art, or music that inspires and uplifts you.
- Explore spiritual teachings or philosophies that resonate with you.
- Surround yourself with people who support and encourage your journey.

Igniting your Spiritual fire and keeping it strong is a journey, not a destination. It's a process of discovery, growth, and transformation. You must allow, surrender, and remember who you are. As you tend to your inner flame, it will grow stronger, guiding you through life's challenges and illuminating your path forward.

Sharing My Fire,

*Gina* ♥

# The Bulletin Board

## Following the Progress of FCC's Leaders

There wasn't a Board meeting July 8, but that doesn't mean our leadership has been resting on their laurels. Progress is being made in several projects.

- **Room 106:** The flooring and wall colors have been selected and the sheet rock repairs are finished. Property has been busy getting bids for painting, but may decide to put together a small team to knock out painting the walls in the next few weeks. Once that's accomplished, they will tackle getting the flooring in and then moving the furniture from the sitting area outside the main office into room 106.
- **Property:** The Property Team, along with Chair Allen Davison, discussed ways to help offset the big increase in our liability, workers' compensation and building insurance premium which has increased \$500.00 per month. They also had Shell Service and Repair tow the boat off our property after being unable to locate and contact the owner.
- **Worship:** Worship Chair Guy Ebersole reported the purchase of two beautiful green banners that are currently hanging on the bell tower in the sanctuary.
- **Outreach/Evangelism:** The Carnival Workers' lunch was a success. The team, lead by Chair Karla Parman, served 24 people who expressed that this is an event they look forward to each year. They are also in the process of gathering the gifts for Christmas in the Summertime and ask that anyone who has not turned in their items do so by Sunday, July 21.
- **Christian Life:** Chair Barb Pierce and volunteers served lunch to 32 people at the Worship in the Park lunch with hot dogs and hamburgers and a variety of sides.
- **Stewardship/Finance:** Chair Coby Lamb and Treasurer Mary Walkup were asked if they would look a little deeper into contributions and see if there was any noticeable trends or anything we can pinpoint concerning the contributions. They found that our giving is up over six years with January 1<sup>st</sup>, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, April 6<sup>th</sup>, and May 2<sup>nd</sup>. According to the data, we are in the top 3 in 4 out of the 5 months so far this year! We had a dreadful April and we're not sure what to contribute to the low amounts for that month, but as we continue to monitor expenses and look to grow we have some encouraging news
- **Administration:** Office Administrator Virginia Ripple has been using a point-based data system to track church growth since May. Between May and June, we have jumped 388 points in growth. She will continue to chart our progress and report our monthly growth.

These hard working teams are always taking care of needs, making plans and moving forward with exciting new things, even when there's no meeting to prepare for. 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*

9



*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



## A look inside...

An invitation to bring a friend and eat ice cream, updates on what's happening in the community, birthday plans and more await inside this issue.