



THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER



First Christian Church, Maryville, MO

fccmaryvillemo.com

February 1, 2024

NEW BEGINNINGS

Imagine a world where FCC makes an impact in the community around us. Now imagine your place in that world and this community. As we move through 2024, that's exactly what we'll be doing, going deeper, lifting higher, and reaching further to live our motto: All Are Welcome, Where Life Meets Love.

Beginning this month, our Vision Team will be meeting regularly to reflect on where we've been, where we are and what Spirit is moving us into, as well as ways for FCC to be seen in the community.

And in that same framework, we are cleaning house over the next couple of months. We're moving out old, unused furniture, clearing out accumulated bits and bobs in forgotten closets, and making room for new and exciting changes. Members can stop by and have first pick of the things we're recycling Feb. 15-19. Room location and hours to be determined.

One of those exciting new changes is coming from the Outreach/Evangelism Team who have found a

need in the community to house giveaway items. They've selected rooms 18 and 20 downstairs to begin their project and will have specific times for those in need to stop by to select items they can use. We'll have more information on this amazing program as it continues to unfold.

We're also considering ways to make our space an appealing place for guests to gather and hang-out, not just on a Sunday morning, but any time. We'll make this happen through updating furniture placement and re-thinking how we use our spaces. Since we'll have more guests use our facilities, we've updated our building use policy. If you're planning an event or know of someone who would like to reserve a room in our building, please see Office Administrator Virginia Ripple for an updated building use agreement packet.

As we move through this year, be sure to stay up-to-date on the fantastic happenings at FCC by checking out The Christian Messenger (either online or hard copy), our web site and our Facebook page.

Feb. 12



Team Planning

6 pm

Board Meeting

7 pm

Congregational Vote

We will have a congregational vote before the service on Feb. 4 to accept Ashok Kumar, Carol Peters, and Raajitha Vardhanapu as Diaconate for 2024. Please plan to attend and support these wonderful volunteers. Thank you!

Lent Outreach Appreciation Lunch

The table is set and you are invited to join us for lunch from 12-1 pm Feb. 14 as show our appreciation to our congregation.



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

Jan. 750 Jan. 2160
Jan. 14 service Jan. 2852
canceled

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

The next issue is
Feb. 15, 2024

First Christian Church
Disciples of Christ
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FCCMaryvilleMO

Thank you...

Thank you for your donation to the Angel Program at the Nodaway County Senior Center. We appreciate your continued support and generosity.

Thank you,
Nodaway County Senior Center

Our Community Prayer List...

John Praiswater
Pastor Terry Robinson
Karla Parman
Emily McLain

Kay Davison
Richard DeMott
Bob Colville
Waylon DeFreece

Active Duty...

Josh Carpenter
Kevin Schluter
Jimmy Costello

Sam Ferguson
Craig O'Brien

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

Feb 5	Valentine craft/"snack"-luck
March 4	Carol Peters, Sandi Mull
April 1	TBD
May 6	Betty Praiswater, Linda Davison
June 3	Joann Espey
July 1	Restaurant
Aug 5	Lenda Kling, Carol Peters
Sept 2	Linda Davison, Betty Praiswater

Our Staff

Gina Johnson
Senior Pastor

Anita Dew
Organist

Virginia Ripple
Office Administrator

Pat Immel
Technical Director

Deena Poynter
Music Director

Merlin Atkins
Custodian

Pastor's Pen

A message from my heart to yours



The Service of Seeing One Another

Sometimes we misunderstand what it means to see people especially with the eyes of Christ. In our world today, we confuse being seen with a need for attention or validation or some other form of external recognition. People will say I wish you would just see me. I wish you would just hear me. They're feeling so disconnected and caught in the separation that they are seeking affirmation from external eyes. They are seeking external gazes that say I don't judge you. I believe in you. I am rooting for you. I see things about you that are amazing. You're going to soar to great heights and you're going to accomplish great things! All these statements are beautiful and in the human experience it's natural to want to hear them. However, becoming dependent upon them still places us in a non-existent gap, an illusion that says we need external affirmation. I haven't found the right formula on how to remind people to continue to speak words of affirmation, beauty, and truth to others while not creating that false understanding that outside affirmation is necessary. You see for many of us this will be a hard truth to understand. We will continue to seek external affirmation and let our days and nights be governed by whether or not we received it.

Well, here's the good news, there are people who do get it, maybe not mastered it, but they get it. Those people have been placed among you to serve you by truly seeing you. This is not in the way that everyone else sees you. These people see you where you are and also see who you are beyond the limitations of this world. As you remember and reclaim who you are, perhaps you will recognize places where you are serving as the seer and places where you still need to let go of the need to externally be seen. Take a moment, look in the mirror, and see the true reflection of yourself. That reflection is Christ. Know that it's important to see each other and there are those who say I see you and it means far more than this external earthly incarnation could ever express.

I see you...

I see you and all the colors that you reflect

I see you standing in the showers of beautiful energetic light

I see you emitting a current of love and healing

I see your essence as it illuminates the space around you

I see the stories weighing you down that you continue to carry

I see that you have tucked trauma closely into your belongings

I see that you carry multiple identities to protect yourself

I see the falling away of all these illusions as you step further along your journey

I see you following the breadcrumbs, uncovering the treasure, and blissfully remembering

I see all that you are even when the world tells you you're not

I see the neutrality of everything you've ever said or done

I see you within this incarnation and I see you on the other side

I see you in the true freedom of releasing everything and stepping into freedom

Yes, I see you where others don't see you

I will continue to look upon you

I will continue to remind you who you are

I will continue to meet you where you are and encourage you

I will continue to place tools and gems along your path

I will continue to remind you that you have stored lessons for yourself along this journey

I will continue to show you the mirror that reflects who you really are

I see you and I am here to see you until you fully see yourself

Seeing you as Christ,

Gina ❤️



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

FCC
MARYVILLE, MO

CELEBRATING
**BLACK
HISTORY
MONTH**
FEBRUARY

"Each year from Feb. 1 to March 1, Black History Month is recognized in the U.S.
Set aside to commemorate the many contributions and accomplishments of Black Americans, the observation provides an opportunity to spotlight the sacrifices, heritage and luminaries that helped shape our country's history." –Sarah Lemire
today.com/life/holidays/black-history-facts-rcna132162

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