



# THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER



First Christian Church, Maryville, MO

fccmaryvillemo.com

October 10, 2024

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Show Down, Hoe Down Chow Down Success!



continued on next page



**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**

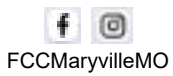
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Sept. 22 .....44	Oct. 6 .....34

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

The next issue is  
**Oct. 24, 2024**

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Disciples of Christ  
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*Keeping in touch with our church families*

**Our Community Prayer List...**

- |                    |                 |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| Karla Parman       | Virginia Keever |
| Emily McLain       | Linda Davison   |
| Stephanie Marr     | Frieda Dougan   |
| Susan Hall-Furlong | Alan C.         |
| Mike Walker        | JJ              |
| Fred Peters        | Sandi Mull      |
| Rob McDaniel       | Jean            |
| JoAnn Nanninga     |                 |

**2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Show Down, Hoe Down  
Chow Down Continued**

FCC celebrated it's second annual Show Down, Hoe Down, Chow Down event last Sunday with a "bring your best (or worst!) chili" contest and a talent show with a variety of acts from ukulele playing to jokes to dancing, piano and violin playing, and a storyteller.

Our winner for the chili contest was Chili #5 Vegan Chili and we raised \$121.38 for our continued building revitalization program.

Thank you to everyone who cooked, cleaned, shared your talent or worked behind the scenes! And we especially thank our audience.

If you missed the opportunity to participate this year, either to throw down your best chili recipe or to show off your talent, be sure to be on the look out for our 3rd Annual Show Down next year. See you then!



**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

- |        |                            |
|--------|----------------------------|
| Nov. 4 | Donna Rickman, Karen Brown |
| 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*



As we embark on this magnificent journey called life, we are invited to tap into the infinite wellspring of abundance that surrounds us. Like artists with vibrant brushes, we can paint prosperity onto the canvas of our reality, cultivating a masterpiece of financial freedom, spiritual richness, and heartfelt joy. It's stewardship month and I want to encourage you all to think about what it means to be good stewards of what we have while fully embracing the prosperity that God has for you. It's practicing the Art of Abundance. Abundance is not just a state of having; it's a state of being. It's an energetic frequency that resonates within, echoing the universal truth that we are enough, we have enough, and we are worthy of receiving as Children of God. As we align with this frequency, our lives become a kaleidoscope of opportunity and generosity.

Giving is the first stroke on the canvas of abundance. When we generously share our time, talents, and resources, we open the floodgates for receiving. Like a river flowing effortlessly, abundance circulates, nourishing every aspect of our lives.

Gratitude is the palette that paints our world with vibrant hues. As we acknowledge the blessings already present, we attract more goodness, more love, and more prosperity. Like a sunflower turning toward the sun, we orient ourselves toward the light of abundance that comes from Spirit.

As I mentioned on Sunday, our mindset is the canvas upon which our reality unfolds. When we choose to see abundance, rather than scarcity, we unlock the doors to limitless possibility. We become the master artists of our destiny, crafting a life that reflects our deepest desires. Receiving is the final brushstroke, completing the art of abundance. As we open our hearts and hands to receive, we allow God to shower us with blessings. You have an invitation to Paint Prosperity.

- Give generously, sharing your unique gifts with the world.
- Cultivate gratitude, acknowledging the blessings already present.
- Shift your mindset, choosing abundance over scarcity.
- Receive with an open heart, allowing the universe to shower you with goodness.

Embody this affirmation!

*"Prosperity flows through me, nourishing every aspect of my life."*

As you paint prosperity onto the canvas of your life, remember that abundance is not just a destination; it's a journey. Every brushstroke, every color, every vibration contributes to the majestic masterpiece that is your life.

Blessed to be Your Pastor,

*Gina* ♥





# Breast Cancer Awareness Sunday

# Oct. 13 Wear your Pink!

*Trunk or Treat*  
*Oct. 30*  
*5-6:30 p.m.*

Calling all ghosts and ghouls!  
 We're raising our spirits again  
 and could use an extra hand  
 (It's okay if you need to dig it up first!)

**We need:**

- bags of individually wrapped candy
- car trunks
- volunteers to man the trunks

Drop off your candy at the church and call or email if you would like to volunteer or have a car trunk we can borrow for the event.

*Prayer Walk Club*  
 Finding connection through movement

**Labyrinth Walk**  
 Oct. 16  
 6:30-7:30 pm  
 1307 E. 3<sup>rd</sup> St.

*Parking available on Newton & Alvin  
 or in rear alley. Carpooling suggested.  
 Contact Deena Paynter for more details.*

## Seeing Our Stewardship

September 2024

### General Fund

Beginning Balance	\$	4,901.70
Income	\$	26,102.78
Expenses	\$	16,243.61
Ending Balance	\$	14,760.87

### Missions

Beginning Balance	\$	4,996.63
Income	\$	329.60
Expenses	\$	200.00
Ending Balance	\$	5,096.23

## Church Growth

Month	Points
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### August Highlights

- Social Media comments/reactions/shares 212
- Worship Attendance 216

**Total Month's Points 981**

### September Highlights

- In-person Giving 108
- Volunteer in service 118
- New web site visitors 118
- Attend small group 120
- Soc. Media comments/reactions/shares 254
- Worship Attendance 278

**Total Month's Points 1447**



# The Bulletin Board

## Following the Progress of FCC's Leaders

September 9's meeting circled mostly around finances, which is on everyone's mind, especially as we begin our annual stewardship campaign. The following is a brief update on what was discussed:

- **Stewardship & Finance:** Chair Coby Lamb reported that the Property Team is \$800 under budget for August and recognized all the work Allen Davison, Mick Dougan, and Marsha Jordan have done to help keep costs down. As of the meeting date, the church has run over budget \$56,500 for 2024. The Trustees have moved funds to cover the general spending budget, but Coby wasn't sure what else could be done. The discussion turned to projections on what the future might look like given the reduction in contributions and members with interest in contacting the Regional Minister for advice. Strategies are being discussed to reduce spending and increase our online presence to aid in inviting people within the community and beyond into our church community. It was also noted that there are more people requesting to use the facilities for meetings, which demonstrates that the wider community is becoming aware of FCC's presence. Office Administrator Virginia Ripple has been tracking various metrics showing that, while our finances and Sunday attendance may not show growth, it is there in other places. (*see church growth chart previous page*)
- **Nominating:** Chair Terry Immel stressed that the nominating committee is doing the best it can to fill vacancies, but it has been difficult due to the reduction in the number of members within FCC. Pastor Gina shared that she has been talking with groups to identify those willing to continue serving in their current roles.
- **Personnel:** Vice-Moderator Jason Ripple shared that the annual staff performance reviews have been completed with no one feeling the need to reach out to him for a conflict resolution meeting. Pastor Gina shared that Deena Poynter will be retiring from her paid position as Music Director in May 2025.

We are currently in our time of prayerfully considering how we steward both our time and our finances. The leadership has been and will continue to find areas within our budget and within our serving to make adjustments to continue moving into the future we believe we are called to. During this time, and even into the next year, we hope you look within yourself to discover what FCC means to you and own what it is that keeps you coming back. Share that with people you meet, your friends and family. It is within each of us to make this dream a reality.

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

**Christian Life:** Barb Pierce

**Outreach/Evangelism:** Karla Parman

**Stewardship & Finance:** Coby Lamb

**Diaconate:** Pam Dougan

**Nominating Committee:** Terry Immel



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

# MMS Oct. 23

## Teacher Appreciation Meal

FCC's Outreach/Evangelism Team adopted Maryville Middle School's teachers during the 24-25 school year as their mission and they've already begun.

In September they teamed up with the Sunshine Committee to help provide healthy and fun snacks for the teachers and for October, FCC will be providing a potato bar teacher's meal during Parent/Teacher Conferences Oct. 23. The Outreach/Evangelism Team will be providing the potatoes and bottled waters, but we need help from *you*. If you can provide some "fixin's" (bacon bits, sour cream, shredded cheese, etc.), veggie or fruit tray, salad, or dessert, please bring them to the church no later than noon Oct. 23.

Let us know what you'd like to provide by going to [https://bit.ly/MMS\\_teacher\\_appreciation](https://bit.ly/MMS_teacher_appreciation)

