



THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER

First Christian Church, Maryville, MO

fccmaryvillemo.com

September 3, 2026

September Featured Speakers

This month's guest speakers include:

Sept. 6 Pat Immel

Sept. 13 Sandi Mull

Sept. 20 Greg Thogmartin

Sept. 27 Paula McLain

Be sure to join us in person or on Facebook Live 10:30 am every Sunday morning to hear more inspiring messages.

Missed Sunday's message, you can find the replay on our website at: fccmaryvillemo.com/sermons.

Seeing Our Stewardship

August 2026

General Fund

Beginning Balance	\$	10,938.80
Income	\$	11,406.00
Expenses	\$	9,895.13
Ending Balance	\$	12,449.67

Missions

Beginning Balance	\$	2,984.70
Income	\$	0.00
Expenses	\$	398.10
Ending Balance	\$	2,586.69

Who Packs Your Parachute?

Charles Plumb, a U.S. Naval Academy graduate, was a jet fighter pilot in Vietnam. After 75 combat missions, his plane was destroyed by a surface-to-air missile. Plumb ejected and parachuted into enemy hands. He was captured and spent six years in a Communist prison. He survived that ordeal and now lectures about lessons learned from that experience.

One day, when Plumb and his wife were sitting in a restaurant, a man at another table came up and said, "You're Plumb! You flew jet fighters in Vietnam from the aircraft carrier Kitty Hawk. You were shot down!"

"How in the world did you know that?" asked Plumb.

"I packed your parachute," the man replied. Plumb gasped in surprise and gratitude. The man pumped his hand and said, "I guess it worked!"

Plumb assured him, "It sure did – if your chute hadn't worked, I wouldn't be here today."

Plumb couldn't sleep that night, thinking about that man. Plumb says, "I kept wondering what he might

have looked like in a Navy uniform – a Dixie cup hat, a bib in the back, and bell bottom trousers. I wondered how many times I might have passed him on the Kitty Hawk. I wondered how many times I might have seen him and not even said 'Good morning, how are you,' or anything because, you see, I was a fighter pilot, and he was just a sailor."

Plumb thought of the many hours the sailor had spent on a long wooden table in the bowels of the ship carefully weaving the shrouds and folding the silks of each chute, holding in his hands each time the fate of someone he didn't know.

Now, Plumb asks his audience, "Who's packing your parachute? Everyone has someone who provides what they need to make it through the day."

Take time out to encourage and thank the people who provide the parachutes in your life.

—courtesy of churchletters.org





Sunday Mornings

9 a.m.

Sunday School Classes

10:30 a.m.

Service in the Sanctuary

Sunday Worship Attendance

Aug 9	31	Aug 23	32
Aug 16	29	Aug 30	36

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

The next issue is
Sept. 17, 2026

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Disciples of Christ
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Keeping in touch with our church families

For Healing & Comfort...

Jason Ripple

Jon Nickerson

In Sympathy...

Family of John Schenkel

Family of Bob Loch

Thank you...

Thank you so much for putting together the luncheon after Dad's service. It was such a thoughtful thing to do, and we really appreciated all the time and effort you put into making everything so nice. It was a wonderful way to have everyone together after the service.

The Breedlove Family



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

Virginia Ripple
Office Administrator

Johnathan Morrison
Audio/Live Stream Lead

Anita Dew
Organist

Jay Ripple
Live Stream Intern

Peggy Dowis
Custodian

The Bulletin Board

Following the Progress of FCC's Leaders

The following is a brief excerpt of the August Board minutes. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the FCC Leadership.

Finance Report: Finance Chair Coby Lamb reported that July contributions were the lowest monthly contribution total in the previous 18 months. July expenses were also unusually high due to several items. The month ended at approximately minus \$9,400 compared with a budgeted deficit of approximately \$1,000. Year-to-date contributions were approximately \$77,700 compared with the budgeted \$79,700, while the year-to-date deficit was approximately \$31,900 compared with the budgeted deficit of approximately \$33,000.

Coby also reviewed information received from the Christian Church Foundation concerning the Brown Fund. He suggested that Finance consider reviewing the investment approach during next year's planning and whether a somewhat less conservative allocation might be appropriate.

Trustees Report: Trustee Chair Linda Baker reported that the previously discussed transfer of funds had been completed. The current running balance was approximately \$9,000, with a projected balance of approximately \$7,300 after anticipated expenses. Based on normal contribution levels and the reduction in pastoral salary expenses, the expectation is that another transfer may not be necessary for the remainder of the year.

Team Reports:

- **Worship/Elders:** Office Administrator Virginia Ripple reported that the remaining pulpit supply schedule for 2026 is nearly complete, with only one open Sunday in November and one in December.

New Business:

Pulpit Supply/Search and Call Discussion: Moderator Bob Ferguson had planned to present options for 2027 pulpit supply and ministry staffing, but postponed the presentation because July's financial results made it difficult to estimate what the church may be able to afford in 2027. He will review the August and September financial results before the 2027 budget process begins in October.

The Board discussed several possible directions, including continuing the current lay-led ministry and guest speaker rotation, seeking a regular part-time minister, beginning a formal search-and-call process, or potentially sharing a minister with another congregation. Members noted that feedback regarding the guest speakers has been positive, but also expressed concern about the amount of work placed on a small number of church leaders and the possibility of burnout if the current arrangement continues long term.

No decision was made regarding future ministry staffing. The matter was tabled until additional financial information is available and will be revisited during development of the 2027 budget in October.

Nominating Committee/2027 Leadership: The Board discussed the constitutional expectation that a nominating committee be formed by September 1 to begin filling leadership vacancies for the following year. Considerable discussion followed regarding upcoming vacancies, term eligibility, and whether outgoing leaders might assist in identifying potential replacements rather than relying entirely on a separate nominating committee.

Several anticipated leadership needs were identified, including Elders, Diaconate members, a Trustee, Worship Chair, and Finance Chair. Some questions regarding individual term eligibility remained unresolved and will need to be verified. The Board also discussed informing the congregation about the positions that will need to be filled and providing information about what the various roles entail. Office Administrator Virginia Ripple will assist with preparing and distributing this information.

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



Disciples Mission Week 2026

September 8-13, 2026



Everyone has a place in God's Mission. Join us as we live out the call together!

Explore a full week of mission, service, and celebration. DHM is providing compelling and educational webinars for congregations on issues that are impacting our communities — Food Insecurity, Housing Insecurity, Healthcare Inequities, and Disability Equity. Through the HUB, we're providing the education and awareness your congregation needs to turn compassion into action.

Join us Tuesday through Friday evenings at 6:30 PM CT for four powerful webinar-style gatherings for free during Disciples Mission Week. Each one designed to deepen your understanding and fuel your congregation's mission to serve.

Register at: disciplesmissionhub.org/register-for-dmw-2026