



THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER



First Christian Church, Maryville, MO

fccmaryvillemo.com

December 07, 2023

Advent

The Story of Amazing Love



Worship Team Leader Guy Ebersole created a spectacular setting for this Advent's inaugural worship, The Story of Amazing Love, on Dec. 3.

The beautiful service, led by Pastor Gina, included scripture and the bringing in of several symbols of Christmas such as the Christ candle, wreaths, poinsettias and chrismos to finish decorating the tree. Songs included a solo by Rain Johnson, several selections performed by the Adult Choir and instrumental music by tuba player John Salehi accompanied by Deena Poynter.

The Christian Life Team provided a delicious potluck lunch following service.



Nina & Paul Nickerson and Terry Immel prepare to serve the potluck lunch



Members and visitors enjoy a special meal after the worship service



Pat Immel and Travis and Ohmi Johnson visit with Guy Ebersole during the potluck lunch



Phil Poynter engages Gina and Rain Johnson in conversation during the potluck lunch



Members and visitors alike enjoyed several casseroles and desserts at Sunday's post-Advent worship potluck lunch prepared by the Christian Life Team.



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. 1264	Nov. 2634
Nov. 1954	Dec. 3.....58

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

The next issue is
Dec. 21, 2023

**First Christian Church
Disciples of Christ
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FCCMaryvilleMO



Welcome to the Family!

We welcome Raajitha Vardhana and Ashok Kumar as members of First Christian Church. Both Raajitha and Ashok are Northwest students and have been active regular visitors.



Moving On

Steven Owings has been a part of the Praise Team and Adult Choir and has done several solo performances for our worship services for several years. We will miss his talents and his sunny personality, but we wish him well on his continuing journey in music education.

Keeping in touch with our church families

Our Community Prayer List...

John Praiswater
Pastor Terry Robinson
Naoma and Lisa Smeltzer
Karla Parman
Bob Colville
Emily McLain

Darla Thompson
Kay Davison
Karen Brown
Richard DeMott
JoAnn Nanninga

Active Duty...

Josh Carpenter
Kevin Schluter
Jimmy Costello

Sam Ferguson
Craig O'Brien

Our Staff

Gina Johnson
Senior Pastor

Virginia Ripple
Office Administrator

Deena Poynter
Music Director

Anita Dew
Organist

Pat Immel
Technical Director

Merlin Atkins
Property Manager

Pastor's Pen

A message from my heart to yours



Here we are, the first week of Advent and a season of preparation. When a new baby is on the way, Mommy's and Daddy's need to prepare and that's exactly what we are going to do. We are going to turn inward to prepare our hearts for a celebration of a very special birth. Each day of the celebration will be a gift and a step closer to knowing who we are. We forget that it's more than a time to give gifts and have company over. This is a time to celebrate a very special delivery. The birth of Jesus, the Christ-child. This is not only an opportunity to recall his birth, it is a time to remember ours. What does it mean to be born into this life as a Child of God, an extension of Christ? I invite you to explore this amazing story of love that begins with hope and with the birth of a baby in a manger. Each day I invite you to sit down and remember the meaning of the journey through Advent. As you move through each day, visualize the Nativity scene depicting Christ's birth. Enjoy how each element played a specific role in the beautiful story of salvation. Remember that you too have a significant part to play in the story. Your part is love. Let this be a way to connect with your inner child and feel the magic of Christmas come alive. Take your time and cherish these moments! It's a gift to yourself to remember, celebrate, and feel the divine love that exists in each of us! This Advent and Christmas let's discover the true meaning behind the birth of Jesus and how in that very special moment in a stable our lives were transformed.

Filled with Hope,

Gina ❤️



Congregational Vote Update

On Dec. 3, at the beginning of our 10:30 a.m. service, we had a Congregational Meeting to vote on those who have agreed to fill church leadership positions of Moderator, Secretary, Treasurer, Trustee, Worship Chair, Property Chair, Christian Life Chair, Outreach/Evangelism Co-Chairs, Elder, Diaconate and Youth Diaconate; a proposed change to the Constitution and By-Laws; and the annual budget.

We are pleased to announce that everything passed. Thank you for your participation.



Maryville Treatment Center Cookies

Cookies need to be delivered to First United Methodist Church by noon Dec. 12. Thank you to everyone who signed up to make this mission happen!



Adopt-a-Family

As part of our Outreach Mission, FCC has chosen to adopt 13 families in the Nodaway County area. We will give each family a HyVee food voucher and a small gift bag for the parents in each family.

Would you help us make this holiday gift complete?

- Choose a child's card from the display at church
- Purchase a gift
- Wrap your selection and attach the card to the outside of the gift
- Bring the gift back to the church before Dec. 15




Maryville
Public Library

BOOK FAIR

Saturday, December 9, 1-3 p.m.

Maryville Public Library

509 North Main, Maryville, MO

Featuring

7 area authors and Usborne Books!

Kandi Hughes

Jason Offutt

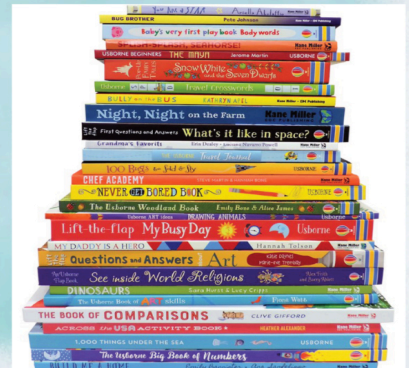
Lauren Leach-Steffens

Amy Houts

Diane Goold

Virginia Ripple

Irene Alexander





Nodaway Chorale

Presents A Holiday Concert

December 10, 2023

4 pm

Schneider Performing Arts Center

Maryville High School

1501 S. Munn , Maryville, MO

Free Admission

Tax deductible donations welcomed at concert.

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SPECIAL GUEST PERFORMERS



Maryville High School Spectrum

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10th Street Brass

10th Street Brass will share holiday music prior to the concert.

Come support our FCC family in MHS Spectrum and the Nodaway Chorale and enjoy a wonderful performance of holiday music!



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

FCC
MARYVILLE, MO

Holiday Ham Handout



December 22nd
Second Harvest Food Drop
Located at: First United Methodist Church
102 N. Main Street
Maryville, MO
Enter lot off of North Buchanan Street
Starts at 9:00 am
While supplies last



Merry Christmas!

**Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service
7 pm**

Regular Service, Dec. 24 at 10:30 am

