



THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER

First Christian Church, Maryville, MO

fccmaryvillemo.com

June 11, 2025

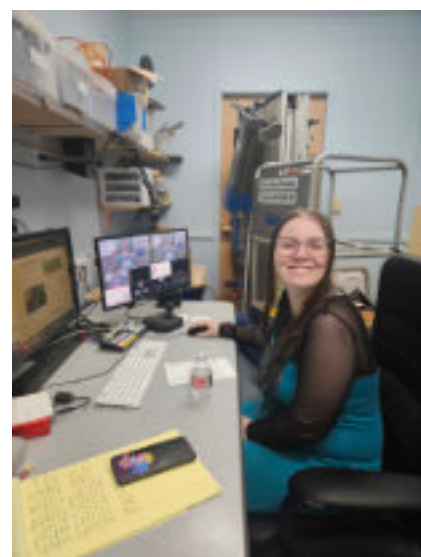
Welcome Aboard!



Meet our new tech team:

John Morrison (left) is our new A/V Manager who will be in charge of all things sound, lighting, and livestream. John is a Junior at Northwest and plans to be with us until he graduates.

Jay Ripple (right) is an MHS senior and will be running our live stream under John's supervision.



**Coming
June 21**

FCC is moving to a new worship experience as we welcome a rotation of guest speakers to our pulpit — pastors, teachers, and thoughtful voices from a variety of backgrounds that promise to enrich our faith.

Gather with us on Sunday mornings to hear guests Guy Ebersole, Sandi Mull, Bob Ferguson, Dale Stewart, Greg Thogmartin, Angela Linville, Kirby Marks, Paula McLain, Jeremy Poynter, Pat Immel, and others who will bring us messages that will give us reason to pause and reflect.

The heart of FCC has always been its people, and that won't change as we expand our understanding and our faith with new voices and new perspectives, so we welcome everyone to join us in this new and exciting chapter in our worship experience.

Dear First Christian Church Family,

First, let me say that I love you all very much, and I am grateful.

Pastor's Pen
A message from my heart to yours



As I prepare to close this chapter with you, I have found myself reflecting on all that you have given me over these past years. You have given me laughter when I needed it most. You have given me opportunities to grow, to serve, to learn, and to teach. With you all, I have become a better pastor and have learned more about myself and how to hold this honorable divine role in serving others. I know who I AM in ways that have not always been clear and you all have each played your part to help me grow spiritually. You have trusted me with your stories, your celebrations, your challenges, your questions, and your hearts. That is a gift I will never take lightly. For all that you have given me, I would like to leave you with a little borrowed wisdom that has stayed with me for many years. It comes from Jim Valvano, and every time I hear it, I am reminded of what a rich and meaningful life can look like:

"To me, there are three things we all should do every day. We should do this every day of our lives. Number one is laugh. You should laugh every day. Number two is think. You should spend some time in thought. Number three is you should have your emotions moved to tears, could be happiness or joy. But think about it. If you laugh, you think, and you cry, that's a full day."

I have always felt the truth in that message. Those three simple practices can bring forth not only a full day, but a fuller life. Yet every time I hear Jim's words, there is a little voice inside me that says, "That's beautiful... I think we are still missing two."

Number four, serve someone and number five, tell someone you love them.

Serving someone doesn't always have to be grand; it can be found in the ordinary moments of life, such as holding a door, sending an encouraging text, spending time with your children, volunteering in your community, donating food to a pantry, checking on a neighbor, offering a listening ear, or simply showing up when someone needs you. When you're serving someone, it's not about what you're doing but the heart and presence that you bring into it. I have found that serving others reminds me of what matters. It begins with God, extends to ourselves, and flows outward to our families, our friends, our neighbors, and our communities.

And tell someone you love them. As many of you have heard me say before, the reason I feel the beautiful sadness of leaving is because I have loved deeply here, and I have been loved deeply in return. Love creates a space to be seen, it transforms us into the truth of who we are and strengthens us by reminding us that none of us are meant to walk this journey alone. Too often we carry love in our hearts without taking the time to express it, so whenever you have the chance, say the words, write the note, make the call, give the hug, and let the people in your life know they are loved.

So laugh often. Think deeply. Let your heart be moved. Serve someone. Tell someone you love them.

If you can do those five things, I think you'll find not only a full day and a fuller life, but a life well lived. Thank you for allowing me to walk alongside you. Thank you for your trust, your kindness, your laughter, your prayers, your support, and your love. Thank you for sharing your stories with me and allowing me to share mine with you. As I write this final newsletter article, sitting in my usual spot in Virginia's office, I find myself smiling more than crying. My heart is full of gratitude for the years we have shared, the memories we have made, and the love we have exchanged along the way. Thank you!

I love you very much.

Blessed to Be Your Pastor,

Gina ❤️

Welcome Home



Sunday Mornings

9 a.m.
Sunday School Classes

10:30 a.m.
Service in the Sanctuary

Sunday Worship Attendance

May 17	28	May 31	30
May 24	35	June 7	27

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

The next issue is **June 25, 2025**

**First Christian Church
Disciples of Christ**
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660.214.3414
Text 833.374.9501

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Keeping in touch with our church families

For Healing & Comfort...

Carolyn Dew
Karla Parman
Betty Praiswater

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 church office at 660-214-3414 or officemanagerfccmaryville@gmail.com with prayer requests.

Is your info up-to-date?

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? Contact Virginia in the office at 660-214-3414.



Our Staff

Gina Johnson
Senior Pastor

Peggy Dowis
Custodian

Virginia Ripple
Office Administrator

Johnathan Morrison
Audio/Live Stream Lead

Anita Dew
Organist

Jay Ripple
Live Stream Intern



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

**This
Sunday!**

**Don't Miss
Pastor Gina's
Last Day
Potluck**

Watch for more details!

fccmaryvillemo.com

Looking Ahead...

June 14: Elders' Circle, 11:30 am

June 14: Pastor Gina's Last Day
Potluck Lunch, 11:30 am

June 21: Father's Day

June 22: Office closed for Juneteenth

Have your newsletter sent
directly to your inbox!



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