



# THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER

First Christian Church, Maryville, MO

[fccmaryvillemo.com](http://fccmaryvillemo.com)

May 28, 2025



## *The Spirit Still Speaks*

### Learning to Notice the Voice of God

There are moments in life when we desperately want clear direction. We want certainty. We want answers. We want God to speak loudly enough that there can be no confusion about what comes next. Yet throughout Scripture, God often speaks differently than we expect.

The prophet Elijah encountered wind, earthquake, and fire, but God's voice came through what Scripture in the first book of Kings describes as a "gentle whisper."

Sometimes we are listening for dramatic signs while God is speaking through quieter things:

- a persistent sense of peace,
- a conversation we cannot stop thinking about,
- a stirring in our hearts,
- an unexpected opportunity,
- or a simple realization that it is time to move forward in faith.

The Holy Spirit is still active. Still guiding. Still comforting. Still nudging us toward love, courage, healing, and truth.

But listening requires attentiveness. Our world is full of noise. Notifications. Schedules. Opinions. Endless distractions. It becomes easy to move through entire days without creating any space to hear from God at all. Listening begins with slowing down.

It may be as simple as beginning the morning with a brief prayer: "God, help me notice Your presence today."

Or ending the evening by asking: "Where did I experience grace today?"

The Spirit does not always remove uncertainty, but the Spirit does remind us that we are not walking alone. Perhaps the invitation this summer is not to figure everything out immediately. Perhaps it is simply to become more aware of God's presence in the middle of ordinary life.

Because even now, in ways both quiet and powerful, the Spirit still speaks.



# Pastor's Pen

*A message from my heart to yours*



As I sat down to write this newsletter, I realized I had a lot of thoughts moving through my mind. Sometimes life becomes full in the most beautiful ways and other times life is moving so fast it's easy to go from thing to thing without a single pause. That's what I feel right now, so in that I ask myself, "What is the most important thing to say right now?"

But perhaps the answer is not always about finding the perfect thing to say as much as learning how to be more fully present in the moments we are already living and trusting what is meant to be said will reveal itself. I think that is part of what having faith teaches us too. Not only how to worship on Sunday mornings, but how to remain awake to the sacredness woven throughout daily life in every moment. I have seen that spirit of faith many times within this congregation. Sometimes in random acts of kindness, encouragement, shared meals, thoughtful conversations, prayers, and many other ways you all continue showing up for one another. So wherever these next weeks take us, my hope is that we keep choosing presence, gratitude, joy, and connection while the moments are still here to be lived.

Oh one more thing, don't underestimate the greater value of ordinary moments. Down the road, many of us won't remember every task we completed or even worry about what consumed our minds. But we will remember laughter, beautiful tears, moments of kindness and unexpected joy that left a mark of gratitude on our hearts. These moments may not be what life is all about, but they sure do make the experience worth being grateful for!

Blessed To Be Your Pastor,

*Gina* ♥

# June 8



**Board Meeting**  
**6 pm**

## Elders' Circle

Sunday,  
June 14

11:30 a.m.



# MOSAIC

LIFE · CARE

## Chronic Disease Self-Management Program

Tuesdays, June 23-July 28  
2-4 pm

Hospitality Room by the cafeteria  
Mosaic - Maryville

### Did you know...

The humble hamburger was invented back in the 19th century and has lit up our faces with every bite since! May 28<sup>th</sup> is Hamburger Day, so honor this culinary masterpiece by making it your goal to eat at least one hamburger; it's a great excuse after all!

# Seeing Our Stewardship

May 2026

### General Fund

Beginning Balance	\$	10,270.52
Income	\$	11,248.65
Expenses	\$	15,171.46
Ending Balance	\$	6,347.71

### Missions

Beginning Balance	\$	3,329.29
Income	\$	0
Expenses	\$	1,325.00
Ending Balance	\$	2,004.29

# Church Growth

Month	Points
<u>May Highlights*</u>	
• Social Media	218
• comments/reactions/shares	
• Worship Attendance	166
• Volunteer at service	141
• In-person giving	111
• New website visitors	106
<b>Total Month's Points</b>	<b>1067</b>

\*Totals do not include May 26-31



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and Blue Sky

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# June



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31 8:00 – 9:00 AM Sanctuary Open 9:00 – 10:00 AM Sunday School	1 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM Circle of Joy	2 6:30 – 7:30 PM Garden Club	3	4	5	6
7 8:00 – 9:00 AM Sanctuary Open 9:00 – 10:00 AM Sunday School 10:30 – 11:30 AM Worship	8 6:00 – 7:00 PM Team Planning & Board Meeting	9	10	11	12	13
14 Flag Day 8:00 – 9:00 AM Sanctuary Open 9:00 – 10:00 AM Sunday School 10:30 – 11:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM – 12:00 PM Elders' Circle 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM Pastor Gina's Last Day Potluck	15 6:00 – 7:00 PM PEO	16 7:00 – 8:00 AM Optimist Board meeting	17	18 6:30 – 8:30 PM Optimist Club & Board	19 Juneteenth	20
21 Father's Day 8:00 – 9:00 AM Sanctuary Open 9:00 – 10:00 AM Sunday School 10:30 – 11:30 AM Worship	22 Office Closed for Juneteenth	23	24	25	26	27
28 8:00 – 9:00 AM Sanctuary Open 9:00 – 10:00 AM Sunday School	29	30	1	2	3 Independence Day (substitute)	4 Independence Day

# Welcome Home



## Sunday Mornings

9 a.m.

Sunday School Classes

10:30 a.m.

Service in the Sanctuary

## Sunday Worship Attendance

May 3.....	27	May 17.....	28
May 10.....	37	May 24.....	35

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

The next issue is  
**June 11, 2025**

**First Christian Church  
Disciples of Christ**  
201 West Third, Maryville, MO  
660.214.3414  
Text 833.374.9501

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# Keeping in touch with our church families

## For Healing & Comfort...

Linda Davison

## 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?

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.

# Instant Church Directory™

## Our Staff

**Gina Johnson**  
Senior Pastor

**Peggy Dowis**  
Custodian

**Virginia Ripple**  
Office Administrator

**Johnathan Morrison-Keller**  
Audio/Live Stream Lead

**Anita Dew**  
Organist



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

**Coming Soon!**

**Mark your Calendar  
June 14  
for Pastor Gina's  
Last Day  
Potluck**

Watch for more details!

  

[fccmaryvillemo.com](http://fccmaryvillemo.com)

### Looking Ahead...

- June 1:** Circle of Joy, 11:30 am
- June 8:** Board meeting, 6 pm
- June 14:** Elders' Circle, 11:30 am
- June 14:** Pastor Gina's Last Day  
Potluck Lunch, 11:30 am

Have your newsletter sent  
directly to your inbox!



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