

Happy Retirement

After decades of service, our beloved Music Director Deena Poynter has decided to retire. Though she plans to keep volunteering, retirement will allow her to spend more time with family, especially the grandkids.

We will be celebrating her commitment to FCC on May 18 during worship and with a lunch to follow. Watch your email for more information as we get closer to the event!

HELP WANTED



Christian Ed Team is looking for individuals to help with Sunday school and the Nursery.



If you would like to help, please contact Gina Johnson at christianedfccmaryville@gmail.com

Prayer Walk Club
Finding connection through movement

East Crestview Path Walk

May 20
4:30-5:30 p.m.

Meet at the entrance to the walking path from East Crestview.

@Fccmaryvillemo FCCMaryvilleMo

Find us on
Instagram and Facebook

Welcome Home



FCC
MARYVILLE, MO

You belong here.

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

Apr. 13.....53 Apr. 27.....42
Apr. 20.....48 May 4.....37

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

The next issue is
May 22, 2025

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

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fccmaryvillemo@gmail.com



FCCMaryvilleMO

Keeping in touch with our church families

Our Community Prayer List...

JoAnn Nanninga
Maddie Kauffman
Emily McLain
Karla Parman
Linda Davison

Jody T.
Steve & Heather F.
Lenda Kling
Linville family

In Sympathy...

The Family of Joyce Davison

Thank You...

The Nodaway Chorale thanks you for allowing us to use your sanctuary for our "rehearsal home" for the recently-completed Spring 2025 season. The value of having a welcoming rehearsal space is incalculable. Thank you for your warm hospitality and for supporting the arts in our community.

Sincerely,

Jim Rash, Music Director/Executive Director Nodawy Chorale



2025 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

Jun. 2	Betty Praiswater	Aug. 4	Karen Brown
Jul. 7	Lenda Kling	Sep. 1	Carol Peters
		Oct. 6	

Our Staff

Gina Johnson
Senior Pastor

Anita Dew
Organist

Virginia Ripple
Office Administrator

Pat Immel
Technical Director

Deena Poynter
Music Director

Peggy Dowis
Custodian

From the Archives: May 11, 2023

Pastor Gina is currently on vacation. She will resume her articles with fresh perspectives and brand new lessons with the next The Christian Messenger issue, May 22. In the meantime, please enjoy this blast from the past.

Pastor's Pen

A message from my heart to yours



“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.” That’s the first verse of Ecclesiastes, Chapter 3, and many of us know it as one of the verses that inspired a famous song by The Byrds, “Turn, Turn, Turn!” What’s so special about this statement? Solomon wrote about it and people sing about it. Well, I am no expert but our lives are filled with so many different seasons. Seasons of change, seasons of joy, seasons of sorrow, seasons of waiting, etc. Sometimes the seasons of our life feel like our Missouri weather. I know many of us have been waiting for the season we’re in to change and I’m not talking about the weather. For some this current season of our lives has been a season of disconnect, fear, loss, and unexpected change. For others, it has been a season of reconnect, tackle the to-do list, and find an appreciation for things and people we may have taken for granted. No matter where we land, it’s important that we don’t get caught up in the things of this world and lose sight of what matters. Don’t get weighed down by difficulty, forgetting how we always have a choice to see the blessing. And don’t get lured into the wrong priorities and lose opportunities that you may never have again. If we are not mindful of what’s meaningful, we risk everything becoming meaningless, and if it lacks love; it is meaningless. I know things look different at times, so make sure to take some time to praise God for the blessings He has given us, take some time to love on your friends and family (even if it doesn’t look the same), go out and bless a stranger and just as important; take some time for you!

Blessed to be in this season with you,

Gina ♥

The Bulletin Board

Following the Progress of FCC's Leaders

The General Board changed the way meetings will take place going forward with teams now giving reports at the meeting as opposed to submitting reports prior to the meeting. The following are an abbreviated version of the minutes of the meeting of the Board on April 6, 2025.

Finance Reports:

Office Administrator Virginia Ripple reported that March income was up, thanks to the Legacy Sunday event and the special music band that came to play on another Sunday, and spending was down by a difference of approximately \$200.

The question was asked as to why salaries were reported as being different from expected. Virginia, with Pastor Gina's help, related that due to the way weeks fall there are some months where there are five pay periods, but that no changes have taken place in regard to salaries at this time.

Trustees Report: Trustee Chair Linda Baker cautioned that we should remember to watch our spending and think about where we can cut back or make do.

Team Reports:

- **Property:** Property Co-chair Phil Poynter reported that he has donated the money to replace the fire extinguishers in the building. To re-charge them would have been \$75/extinguisher whereas buying new was \$45/extinguisher, so he has purchased all new. All extinguishers have a 12-year life and carry a 6-month warranty. Technical Director Pat Immel has been tasked with finding affordable new lighting to replace the current stage lights that are dying. The estimated amount is about \$2,000 and the plan is to use non-designated Memorial funds. It was also suggested to only use the stage lights for Sunday services.
- **Christian Education:** Pastor Gina reported that Kerry and Marcia Meyers donated the paint for the nursery and did most of the painting. Custodian Peggy Dowis deep cleaned the nursery and there are plans to purchase a few new items in the amount of approximately \$200 using designated Memorial funds. CE Chair Gina Johnson is planning to create a volunteer schedule for both the nursery and Sunday school, but we still need people to volunteer.
- **Worship/Diaconate:** Worship/Diaconate Chair Guy Ebersole reported that was decided not to do flowers for Easter in honor or in memory as we have in the past due to expense and the lack of interest in people taking their flowers home with them.
- **Outreach/Evangelism:** The Team consists of Karla Parman, Terry Immel, Sue Schenkel, Sandi Mull and Pastor Gina. There is no Outreach/Evangelism Chair at this time. Pastor Gina reported they contributed \$102 worth of items to the Taco 'Bout Appreciation meal for Teacher Appreciation Week. In June they will be working with a diverse group called Activate Your Power Now who will do a speaking engagement on June 7 and have been brainstorming ideas for a block party event June 29, also in cooperation with the Christian Life Team. The Giving Tree has been receiving donations and giving out items regularly and Deepika and the Indian students have enjoyed being active community members by sorting items. The current drawback is not having transportation to pick up donated items, though we don't want to become something like a moving company if we were able to offer that option.
- **Christian Life:** Chairperson Terry Immel reported that the Legacy Sunday luncheon went well with about 70 people being served.
- **Elders:** Office Administrator and Elder Virginia Ripple reported that she would be sending out a letter to the Elders requesting feedback on the ministry at Oak Pointe and asking if someone would be willing to step into the role as Interim Elder Chairperson.

Continued on next page

New Business:

Pastor Gina requested the Board consider voting on bringing someone onto the Board as a representative of The Giving Tree in hopes it becomes its own sub-nonprofit that belongs to First Christian Church in the future, then it can write for grants to spruce up areas of our church because they're Giving Tree-specific. Treasurer Donna Rickman was in favor of the idea, but cautioned we would need to set it up in accordance with the FCC Constitution, which would include a constitutional change, a Board vote and a congregational vote. After that, the chairperson would go through the same process as any other FCC team chair. The suggestion was to write into the description within the constitution that the chairperson must be a participating member of FCC.

Guy Ebersole moved that Pastor Gina be allowed to start the research process of how to position The Giving Tree ministry for becoming its own eventual 501c non-profit and that someone be selected to organize a team to oversee the day-to-day affairs of The Giving Tree ministry and submit reports to the Board. Donna Rickman seconded. Motion carried.

It was noted that the ministry's official first anniversary will be June 26 and that families who come through are tracked and invited to church events, including weekly worship services.

Minister's Report:

Pastor Gina began by praising staff members for a job well done. Music Director Deena Poynter is retiring, effective the last of May, and we will be honoring her service on May 18, briefly in worship and then with a luncheon celebration afterward. Technical Director Pat Immel, who is retiring from Northwest, has given time, heart, and talent to FCC. Custodian Peggy Dowis has been doing a stellar job, as always, including redoing several chairs for the nursery and making sure everything that can be recycled is.

Office Administrator Virginia Ripple has been making video shorts that have begun reaching over 1K views and is also putting together in book form a collection of Pastor Gina's sermons from 2024. She has done all of this without cost. Pastor Gina said that it affirmed what she does, spreads that ministry, attracts people to who we are here at this church, and supports the mission of what we're doing here.

The Board meets on the second Monday of each month. If you or someone you know would like to be a part of this important group of leaders, please see Nominating Chairperson Terry Immel or Pastor Gina.

FCC Leadership

Board Moderator: Jason Ripple

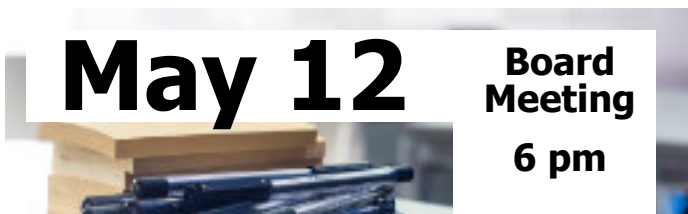
Property: Phil Poynter, Marcia Jordan

Worship/Diaconate: Guy Ebersole

Christian Life: Terry Immel

Christian Education: Gina Johnson

Treasurer: Donna Rickman

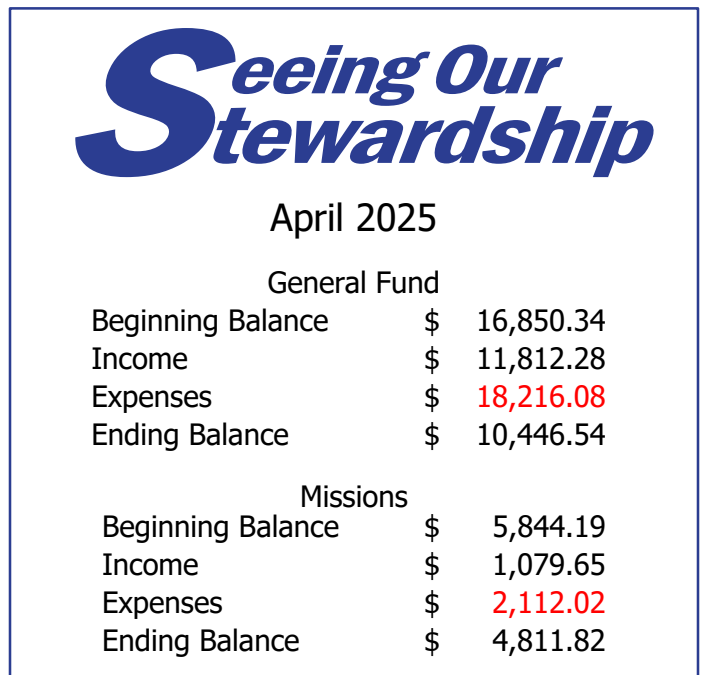


May 12 Board Meeting
6 pm



Church Growth

Month	Points
April Highlights	
• Social Media comments/reactions/shares	334
• Worship Attendance	278
• Volunteer at service	100
Total Month's Points	1190



Seeing Our Stewardship

April 2025

General Fund	
Beginning Balance	\$ 16,850.34
Income	\$ 11,812.28
Expenses	\$ 18,216.08
Ending Balance	\$ 10,446.54

Missions	
Beginning Balance	\$ 5,844.19
Income	\$ 1,079.65
Expenses	\$ 2,112.02
Ending Balance	\$ 4,811.82



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

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.



Looking Ahead...

May 12: Board meeting, 6 pm

May 11: Mother's Day

May 18: Retirement Celebration for Deena Poynter

May 20: Prayer Walk Club, 4:30 pm, East Crestview walking path



**Office
Closed
May 26**