



# THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER



First Christian Church, Maryville, MO

fccmaryvillemo.com

December 05, 2024

## 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Potluck

### Dec. 29 @ 11:30 am



## Holiday Office Hours

Dec. 24 9 am-12 pm

Dec. 25-27 closed

Jan. 1 closed

## Beginning Jan. 3

M-Th 9am-12pm, 1-3pm

F *closed*

## Student Aid: Caring for Our Future by Lending A Hand In The Now



The world needs bright young minds to lead us into an even brighter future. Stephen Efurhieuwe is one such student. Stephen wanted to jump in and become a member of FCC after his first Sunday with us two years ago and is now struggling to complete his degree in Cybersecurity this year due

to a family situation back home.

If you would like to help Stephen meet his tuition needs, please send cash or checks to First Christian Church with the memo "Stephen tuition". We will send all donations directly to Northwest Missouri State University and request that any money above what is needed for this Fall's tuition be used toward his Spring tuition. Thank you for your generosity!



## Seeing Our Stewardship

November 2024

General Fund	
Beginning Balance	\$ 9,157.54
Income*	\$ 31,542.39
Expenses	\$ 15,312.87
Ending Balance	\$ 25,387.06
Missions	
Beginning Balance	\$ 5,083.73
Income	\$ 1,549.00
Expenses	\$ 183.00
Ending Balance	\$ 6,449.73

\*Includes van sale



**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. 10 .....54      Nov. 24 .....44  
Nov. 17 .....38      Dec. 1.....37

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

The next issue is  
**Dec. 19, 2024**

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

www.fccmaryvillemo.com  
fccmaryvillemo@gmail.com



FCCMaryvilleMO

# Keeping in touch with our church families

## Our Community Prayer List...

Karla Parman	JoAnn Nanninga
Emily McLain	Frieda Dougan
Stephanie Marr	Steve & Heather F.
Susan Hall-Furlong	Sandi Mull
Mike Walker	Elliot Punch
Rob McDaniel	

# Church Growth

Month	Points
<u>November Highlights</u>	
• Social Media	276
<i>comments/reactions/shares</i>	
• Worship Attendance	252
• Event Attendance	106
• New Web Site Visitors	150
• Giving	177
• Small Group Attendance	104
<b>Total Month's Points</b>	<b>1428</b>



## Small Group Study

Wednesdays 12-1 pm

Bring your lunch and join us as we dive deeper into spiritual studies.

Nov. 13	Dec. 4
Nov. 20	Dec. 11
	Dec. 18



## Our Staff

**Gina Johnson**  
Senior Pastor

**Anita Dew**  
Organist

**Virginia Ripple**  
Office Administrator

**Pat Immel**  
Technical Director

**Deena Poynter**  
Music Director

**Peggy Dowis**  
Custodian

# Pastor's Pen

*A message from my heart to yours*



I'm sure most of us remember the song lyric, "All I want for Christmas is my two front teeth!" That stirs a question in my mind, what do I want for Christmas and what do you want for Christmas?

There are so many stories in the Bible in which people knew exactly what they wanted. Elisha knew what he wanted from Elijah. When Elijah asked him, he boldly declared his desire for a double portion of the Spirit. Samson, in his final moment, cried out to God, not for vengeance, but for strength and redemption. Jacob longed for love so deeply that he offered years of his life to win Rachel's hand. And Bartimaeus, a blind man sitting by the road, voiced the most profound request when Jesus asked what he wanted: "Rabbi, I want to see."

When you read these stories I hope you are reminded that true longing and desire goes beyond the surface of materials and external opportunities. The more we claim and embody our connectedness with Spirit we will recognize that the desires of our hearts come from a place of alignment with God, Source, the Universe, etc. In that recognition, we find that we are longing for things that manifest and come to fruition out of hope, peace, joy, and ultimately Love!

In a season where gift lists and the latest and greatest are constantly advertised before us, we might get tempted to focus on the material world of haves and have nots. So I challenge you to look deeper and ask the question, what does your soul truly long for? And are you truly willing to see that you already have it within you, waiting for you to take hold of it? Advent is a great space for sacred pause and preparation. It's a season of anticipation and reflection, where we realize the things that truly fulfill us will never be found in a box under a tree. We can unwrap the most meaningful gifts when we sit in the presence of Christ, surrendering our striving and allowing ourselves to feel that Spirit that fills us. This time of year regardless of whether you celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Diwali, Holi, etc. I invite you to look beyond the wants that the world tries to define and ask yourself if your desires align with God.

In the stillness of this season, I find myself longing for something of profound truth and meaning, which is to see and be as Jesus would be; to be an expression of unconditional love. My prayer for you is that you, too, will discover what your spirit is truly desiring and find it fulfilled in yourself through the empowerment and love of the universal Christ. As we journey through this season and many to come, let's remember that the greatest gifts are those that transform our hearts and draw us closer to the Divine that is in us ALL! Let's celebrate with gratitude, knowing that in Christ, we already have all we'll ever need.

Blessed to Celebrate the Season with You,

*Gina* ♥



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

# FCC Christmas Adopt-a-Family



As part of our Outreach Mission, First Christian Church has chosen to adopt ten families in the Nodaway County area who could use a little extra love this holiday season.

There are two ways you can help this year:

## Option 1

- Make a donation of \$40 (or more), memo: Adopt-a-Family
- All donations need to be in by Dec. 1

## Option 2

- Call the church office for a child's name and age (660-214-3414)
- Purchase gifts (limit \$40/child)
- Bring the unwrapped gift back to the church before Dec. 11

**Dec. 9**

**Team  
Planning  
& Board  
meeting  
6 pm**



**Christmas  
Eve Service**

**Dec. 24  
7:30 pm**

