



# THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER

First Christian Church, Maryville, MO

fccmaryvillemo.com

August 17, 2023

## SPOTLIGHT

## Property

Our mission is to keep the church building well kept, nice looking and efficient. We maintain the outside parking and other areas and have talented members who willingly spend many hours working on what is needed to help keep cost at a minimum.

Some of our recent accomplishments include the following:

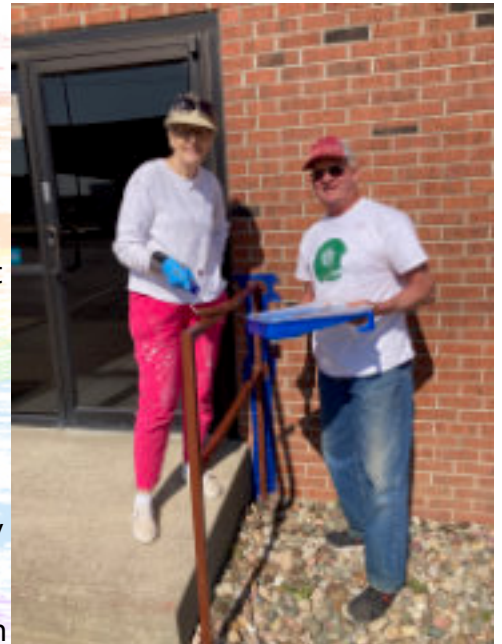
- Cleaned and repainted steps in the front and back entrances to the church.
- Repainted all the railings around the church and retaining wall by back steps.
- Made improvements to our church audio and video systems.

We will soon have handicap actuators installed on the front doors to provide easier access for those with mobility challenges when entering the church. Some of our future goals are to repair and paint the garage and paint the main office. We are also planning to install around 650 new energy-efficient fluorescent light bulbs, which will lower our electric bills. We will also be reimbursed the cost of the

bulbs by Everygy.

It's an ongoing process of evaluating suggestions and requests regarding what needs to be done for our church property.

When asked why he serves as the Property Team's leader, Allen Davison said, "I've been on the Property Team many years and I'm serving as Team Leader for the second year with plans to serve again next year. We have a great team and always welcome anyone who would like to serve the church and join our team."



## Blessing of the Backpacks Celebration

Join us as we bless all returning students and those who work in education at a special celebration during worship Aug. 27 at 10:30 am. Every student will receive a blessing and a small token of encouragement for the coming school year.



This is open to everyone in the community so if you know a student or someone in education, invite them to celebrate with us!

### 2023 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 noted

Please contact hostesses to RSVP

- |        |                         |
|--------|-------------------------|
| Sep 11 | Lenda Kling, Sandi Mull |
| Oct 2  | Lenda Kling, Ann Gibson |



# **Congregational Vote**

We will be voting to fill the vacancies in the Elders and Stewardship and Finance Chair.

We also celebrate and give our sincere appreciation to our new Nominating Team members Terry Immel, Pam Dougan, Virginia Ripple, and Ed Farquhar.

We thank you in advance for participating in this important part of our congregational life.

## Keeping in touch with our church families



### Sunday Mornings

**Last Supper Leftovers**  
9 a.m. Fellowship Hall

**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

July 16 .....	58	Aug 6 .....	73
July 23 .....	56	Aug 13 .....	59
July 30 .....	N/A		

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

The next issue is  
**Aug. 31, 2023**

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

www.fccmaryvillemo.com  
fccmaryvillemo@gmail.com



FCCMaryvilleMO

### Our Community Prayer List...

John Praiswater	Bob Colville
Marsha Bell	Kay and Gerald Davison
Pastor Terry Robinson	Lora Larabee
Curt Jeter	Stephanie Marr
Naoma and Lisa Smeltzer	Emily McLain
Steve Schmitz	Joyce Lee
Leonard Matthies	Joyce Davison
Theresa Schmitz	Sherry Rybolt
Karla Parman	Sharon Andrews
Bennett Porter	Rain Johnson
Bob Hull	

### In Sympathy...

The family of Dale Midland

### Active Duty...

Josh Carpenter	Sam Ferguson
Kevin Schluter	Garrett Pistole
Jimmy Costello	Cody Hermelink
Lane Hermelink	

### 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 pastor or the church office at 660-214-3414 or [officemanagerfccmaryville@gmail.com](mailto:officemanagerfccmaryville@gmail.com) with prayer requests.

## Our Staff

**Gina Johnson**  
Senior Pastor

**Virginia Ripple**  
Office Administrator

**Ali Buesing**  
Director of Youth Discipleship

**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*



19 "A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live also. 20 At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.

John 14:19-20

**H**ave you seen Jesus lately? Would you recognize him if you did? Hold on to those questions and walk with me.

When you consider God, what adjectives pop in your mind? Are they words like powerful, majestic, and almighty? Isn't that interesting that God and Jesus are one, yet Jesus did not come to the earth with worldly wealth, majesty, or authority. On the contrary, Jesus' life was polar opposite of worldly concerns and agendas. He did not share in the present values of the ruling authorities. Jesus showed up not in strength but in weakness. Jesus was born a Palestinian Jew. His community was marginalized and his people oppressed. He spent the early years as a refugee in Africa in order to escape political genocide. His early years were spent in a village that was nondescript and he had an ordinary working-class family.

In later years, he witnessed the tension of organized religious systems. He did not succumb to the worldly obsessions with wealth, pleasure, power, and recognition. He worked to help those who saw themselves as weak and powerless. He cared for the widow and the orphan. He did not speak condemnation. He spoke of freedom from the identity of sinner. So what does God look like?

Like Jesus!

Jesus was, is, and always will be the embodiment of God and so are We! Jesus is God and the fullness of humanity. Guess what?

That's who we are created to be! As you move through this life's incarnation, are you bold enough to see Jesus every time you look in the mirror? Are you compassionate enough to see Jesus every time you look at someone else? Once we can recognize and own the fullness of who we are as divinely created beings, then we can begin to not only See Jesus, we can Be Jesus.

Living in Oneness,

*Gina* ♥



# I is for Ignite

## Aug. 27 @ 8 p.m.

Get ready to put on your cross-trainers and walk your prayers around town because this month's Evangelism letter is I and we are planning to Ignite the Night with an evening Prayer Walk/Run Aug. 27 beginning at 8 p.m.

According to health experts, being physically active has many benefits including improving or maintaining your overall health. Thirty minutes per day is recommended, but even short walks more frequently can be beneficial. And walking with others can turn exercise into an enjoyable social occasion.

Prayer can calm your nervous system, shutting down your fight or flight response. It can make you less reactive to negative emotions and less angry. What better way to get healthy and connect with the Spirit than a Prayer/Walk Run.

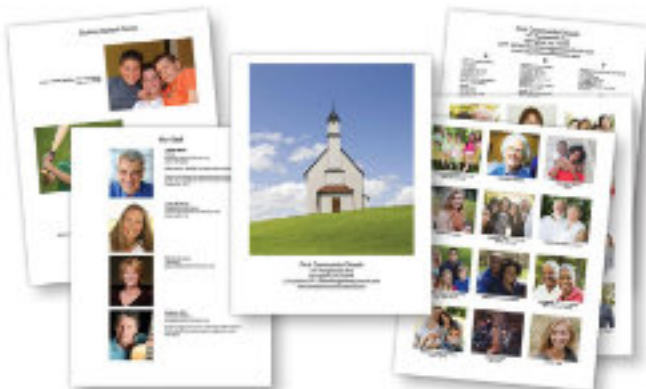
More details will be coming soon, so be sure to watch our social media, emails, and newsletters.



## It's Almost Here

We are hard at work on a new directory and have some exciting new things coming to help us keep in contact with our church community. We'll have more information as we get closer to our release date, but in the meantime please take a moment to fill out a form at <https://bit.ly/3QEWQ78>, scan the QR code, or pick a form on the welcome table so we have the most up-to-date information.

If you do not have a picture you would like to submit for the directory, or feel uncomfortable taking a selfie, you can set up a time between Aug. 22-25 between 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 to 3:30 p.m. to come into the office for someone to take one for you. If those dates and times don't work for you, please contact the church office.



# Free Rummage Giveaway Day

## Aug 19

### 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

Get involved with this great community event by donating your gently used:

- Furniture
- Kitchen items
- Miscellaneous

If you plan to bring large furniture, please make arrangements for that furniture to be moved to the parking lot on the day of the event. Anything left will be donated unless you request we notify you beforehand and have made plans to pick it up before Sunday morning.

We also need volunteers to be on-hand for excellent customer service and to meet and greet the people in our community! There will be:

- No Sorting
- No Pricing
- IT'S ALL FREE!

Everyone can volunteer! Get involved with this great community event by filling out this short form letting us know when you're available at <https://bit.ly/Event-Volunteer-Signup>. Or you can let us know in the church office (660) 214-3414 as soon as possible.

Help us make this the best community event yet by bringing your gently used items AND volunteering a block of time to serve.





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

# MINISTRY CENTER

FOOD PANTRY & CLOTHING ROOM

New and gently used towels are needed at the Ministry Center, all sizes. You can drop them off at the center.

Thank you for your generosity!



Find us on Instagram  
And Facebook

@Fccmaryvillemo

FCCMaryvilleMo

Have your newsletter sent  
directly to your inbox! Call or  
email us today!



660.214.3414  
fccmaryvillemo@gmail.com

## Did you know...

The Bible is the most-read book in the world. This best-selling book sees up to 100 million copies sold or donated annually. Approximately 20 million copies are sold each year in the U.S. alone. Ironically, the Bible is the most stolen book in the world. Bibles are regularly taken from hotels, hospitals, bookstores, and other locations.