

The CHRISTIAN MESSENGER

SPOTLIGHT

Evangelism

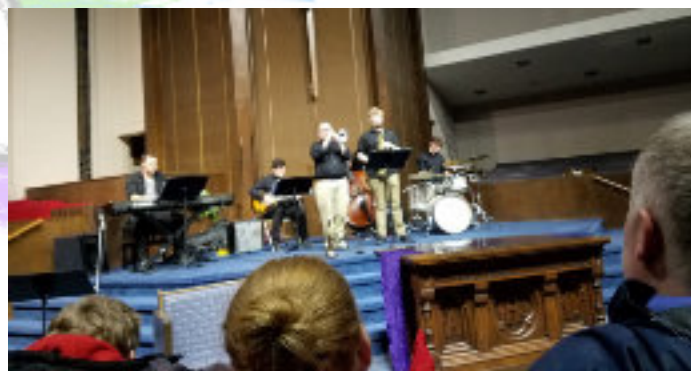
Evangelism's mission is to cultivate a spirit of evangelism and witness as ambassadors of the congregation by spreading the Spirit and Words of Christ to all who come to worship within our church—both regular attendees and visitors. We endeavor to encounter Christ within every person, treating all with love and respect. We serve to develop the Congregation's response to persons seeking a relationship to God and the church, within and outside of our church walls.


We have given out numerous gift bags to first time visitors and written many notes to both visitors and current attendees of our church services. In the past, we've also played host to groups like the Northwest Jazz Ensemble and put together a High Tea for our church women.

Recently, we have equipped church members with invitations to mail to others asking them to join us in our services and made available encouragement cards for members to give out as a way to uplift others, especially those who may not have a church home. During July, we are going to have jokes and

other humor put on the outside video sign that we hope catches the eye of passersby. We also plan to work together with other church teams to hold a Homecoming Celebration in the Fall.

When asked why she not only volunteers for the Evangelism team, but also serves as its leader, Deena Poynter said, "I am always ready to try to serve in as creative ways as possible. I very much like people and wish to develop relationships with as many people as I can."





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

July 10	Barbara York (11:30 a.m. at A&G Restaurant, Please RSVP by July 9 to Barb York)
Aug 7	Barb Pierce (Rose Hill, 1st & Main) (RSVP by July 31)

CARNIVAL WORKERS' LUNCH

July 12 at 11 a.m.

Sign up sheet for food and help on the welcome table.





Sunday Mornings

Prayer and Share
9 a.m. Room 106

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.
Down Stairs

10:30 a.m.
Service in the Sanctuary

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

The next issue is July 20, 2023

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

Thank you...

Dear First Christian Church,
Thank you for your continued financial support of North Star Advocacy Center! Your \$600.00 donation for the first half of 2023 has helped us assist more victims of violence than ever. We are grateful for your generosity to enable us to provide necessities to our clients.

Sincerely,
Linda M. Mattson
Executive Director

Our Community Prayer List...

John Praiswater	Bennett Porter
Marsha Bell	Bob Hull
Pastor Terry Robinson	Rain Johnson
Curt Jeter	Bob Colville
Naoma and Lisa Smeltzer	Kay and Gerald Davison
Steve Schmitz	Sue Schenkel
Leonard Matthies	Lora Larabee
Theresa Schmitz	Stephanie Marr
Vanessa Parsons	Sharon Andrews
Karla Parman	Deluxe employees

In Sympathy...

The family of Lavelle Rickabaugh

Active Military...

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

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 with prayer requests.

Our Staff

Gina Johnson
Senior Pastor

Anita Dew
Organist

Virginia Ripple
Office Administrator

Pat Immel
Technical Director

Ali Buesing
Youth Program Director

Merlin Atkins
Property Manager

Deena Poynter
Music Director

Pastor's Pen

A message from my heart to yours



I really appreciate the amount of choices we get to make in life. There may be some things that we don't get to choose so I think it's important that when we have a choice; we make the one that is most aligned with the Spirit.

There are times in our lives that our circumstances lead us to believe that we are experiencing "hell" or some kind of persecution. We think everything around us is crumbling and something/someone is out to get us. We start to give in to this so-called persecution falling into preset paradigms and compromising our mindset. We tell ourselves a story that ends with our hands tied and feelings that are not serving anyone including ourselves. We move to the state of "woe is me," or we thoughtlessly react, cursing the person or thing who has come after us. It may seem like I am making light of how people feel; I'm not. I too have allowed the circumstances of life to appear hard, as if they could overtake me. However, I realize every adversity is an opportunity, every perceived act of persecution is a chance for a blessing, and every circumstance on my journey has a valuable lesson to be learned. Life is full of gifts and if we reframe the way we look at things, think about things, and respond; we will be able to see the gifts more and more.

Paul instructed Christ-followers to speak words of life over those who harass, trouble, and persecute. This can also be applied to unforeseen troubling circumstances. He says to "bless and do not curse them." To react to a situation or person with the intention of cursing or retaliating is acting from a place of woundedness not love.

It can be easy to fall in the natural trajectory that goes like this...

You are wounded or threatened, intentional or not and you withdraw. You focus on the external, distancing yourself, creating a false dialogue with the wounded self (ego) that will quickly confirm your bias and lead you to a place of cursing, along with inner and/or outer manifestation of revenge, pain, or bitterness. This can have effects on the physical body as well.

Paul knows this trajectory and instructs the Church in another way, a way to change the trajectory: "bless those who persecute you." To bless another is to speak wellness and hope over another. This blessing trajectory looks like this...

You are wounded or threatened, pause, and seek the Spirit to empower you, turn inward to reframe what has taken place, take steps back to re-humanize the other. Allow your challenge, hurt, and pain to be an opportunity for strength, love, and healing. Have the inner dialog that allows for forgiveness and return to that place where you remember that God's purpose in everything is LOVE. Respond with a blessing over this person/situation and know that you are growing and receiving a gift. Blessing another is a means by which the wounded heart is no longer held captive by bitterness or defeat but is reclaimed by LOVE.

Reclaiming the Love,

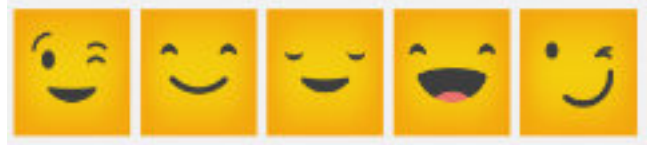
Gina

"L" is for Laughter

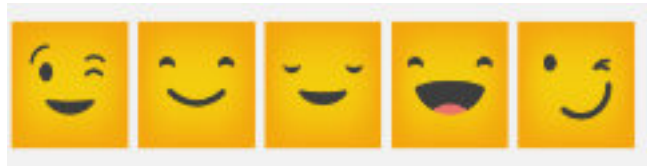
Madeleine L'Engle said, "A good laugh heals a lot of hurts." We've all heard the saying that laughter is the best medicine, but science has proven that that's no joke.

According to an article on Helpguide.org, "Laughter strengthens your immune system, boosts mood, diminishes pain, and protects you from the damaging effects of stress." Not only do we derive great physical health benefits, but it also "draws people together in ways that trigger... emotional changes in the body."

For the month of July, Evangelism is focusing on the letter "L" for laughter. We will be posting jokes and humorous quotes in various places, such as on the video screen outside, in the newsletter, emails, even bottom of the bulletin to celebrate the healing quality of humor as it brings us together in community.



Blessed are the flexible,
for they shall never be
bent out of shape.



A Heart for Children

Do you have a heart for children? Do you love to learn about God's word? Well you're just who we're looking for. We need caring, curious leaders who want to learn alongside our young people in Sunday School and during our Children's Time with God.

The Sunday school lessons are prepared in advance by Director of Youth Discipleship Ali Buesing, or, if you feel Spirit-led and creative, you can feel free to design your own lesson plan. Take some time to chat with the kids at the beginning as they arrive, then dive into the lesson. Sunday school is from 9 to 10 a.m., but it's okay if you get done early because we have a well-loved recreation room just across the hall from the Sunday school room you can use to either let the kids free-play or gather together to play a game of your choosing.



The Children's Time with God is a 5-minute lesson during the Sunday service. You can choose to do something to work with the message for that Sunday (just ask Pastor Gina or contact the church office) or you can let the Spirit move you and do something completely different. You can also choose to do your own creative mini-lesson or, if you'd like some help or have no clue where to begin, let Ali lend you a hand.

Whether you need a little help or have a great idea already, we'd love for you to join the Christian Education team. If you're ready to jump in, please contact Christian Education Team Leader Deb DeMott,

Director of Youth Discipleship Ali Buesing, Pastor Gina, or contact the church office today!



Women From the Bible Series

From Deborah to Junia and many other in between women have made valuable contributions to our faith journey.



We are featuring a video series of Women From the Bible with a cast of our own FCC talent during the 10:30 worship service. Each week we will introduce you to a different woman from the Bible as told from her perspective, focusing on their stories and contributions to humanity.

If you're interested in learning more about some of these women, check out *Tell Her Story* by Nijay K. Gupta. Sandi Mull is considering doing a study based on the book in the fall, so now would be a great time to it.

Be sure to gather with us on Sunday morning to learn more about these fascinating and brave Women From the Bible.

Join the Christian Life Team

If you enjoy good food and want to show your neighbors how much you love them through the gift of food, then you'll find a great place with this team. We're looking for vivacious, community-loving members to join our team.

We plan and put together events like the picnic part of Worship and Picnic in the Park and pot luck lunches after church. We're also the team who reaches out when a loved one passes away to provide a meal after the funeral so the family has one less thing to have to consider during their time of grief.

You don't have to be a chef or master baker to be a part of the Christian Life Team; you just need a heart that wants to love your neighbor. We'll guide you through all the rest.

If you're interested, please contact Christian Life Team Leader Marsha Meyers or Nina Nickerson. Or you can contact the church office at officemanagerfccmaryville@gmail.com or call us at 660-214-3414.



Find us on



Instagram and Facebook



@Fccmaryvillemo

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

**Christmas in the
Summertime**

Gifts need to be returned to the chapel individually wrapped so each child has five gifts by Sunday, July 23.

Thank you!

Christian Life Team is looking for individuals to help with funeral dinners as they arise throughout the year. If you would like to help, please contact Marsha Meyers marshagoodmeyers@gmail.com

Or the Church Office fccmaryvillemo@gmail.com

Six more volunteers needed for the Funeral Dinner Team

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

660.214.3414
fccmaryvillemo@gmail.com

If God is your co-pilot,
maybe it's time
you switched seats.