

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
201 W. THIRD
MARYVILLE, MO 64468



TIME SENSITIVE
for delivery April 1-4, 2020



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Contact Us
First Christian Church
201 West Third Street
Maryville MO 64468
(660) 582-4101
Fax: 660-224-2189
Office Hours:
9 a.m.-12 p.m. and 1-5 p.m.
Monday-Friday
Join us this Sunday:
8-9 a.m.
Sanctuary open for Prayer
8:30 a.m.
Worship online
on our FaceBook Page

Where Life Meets Love

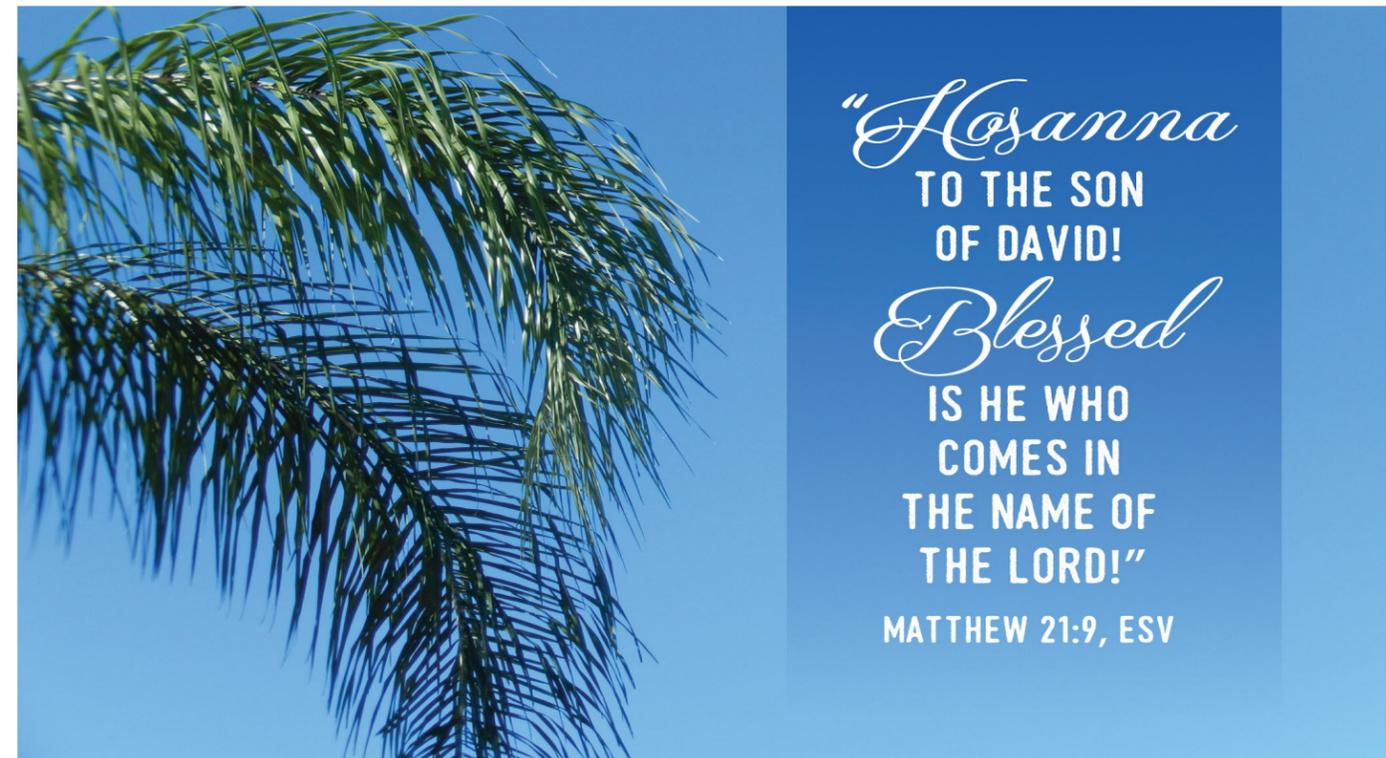


THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER



Maryville First Christian Church Newsletter

April 2, 2020



Worship with us online Sundays at 8:30 a.m.

In This Issue

- Hosanna!
- A Word From Our Pastor
- Board Meeting
- Hey, Peeps!
- It's So Bazaar
- Letter from the Region
- Camp is Coming Up
- Ways to Give



It feels like I have been 'saying' a lot recently, and by recently I mean 6 out of 7 days a week! I am almost out of words! (And being out of words for a preacher is a very bad thing!)

So what WORD do we still need to hear? What WORD will fix the problems or restore normal life or give you and I some comfort?

I think the WORD is **LOVE**. In the middle of this pandemic where is God: *God is love*. In the midst of global uncertainty where do we turn: *God is love*. I am afraid and lonely and need someone to help: *God is love*. I don't know if I can make it through to the end: *God is love*.

God is love shown in the faces of determination of the nurses and doctors and aides and janitors and techs and EMT's and support staff who see in overwhelming clarity the pain and the panic in the peoples' eyes and instead of running away, they run towards the sick and the dying.

God is love shown in the workers who are trying to re-stock shelves and move inventory across the country, the world even, and are exposed to the virus without protective garments on and still they do their job so we can get our supplies.

God is love shown in the emails written and cards sent and funny videos passed on and the phone calls received and the food left on the porch and the medicines fetched so our families and friends and neighbors and strangers alike feel, even at 6 feet distance, that someone cares, someone remembers, someone is hearing their cry.

God is love is the simple idea of feeding the 'least of these' one day a week and then others bringing food to feed them again next week and next week and next week.

God is love is the reality that breaking bread and drinking from the cup in our homes is just as real and powerful as when we do it in the sanctuary.

LOVE. Pass the **LOVE**. Be the **LOVE**. That is the word.

Staying safe as we all should be-

Pastor Craig

Need to contact me?
Phone: 252-281-3721
E-mail: craig.skg@gmail.com

Join Pastor Craig each day on his facebook page (Craig Kirby-Grove) at 2 p.m. as he shares stories written by his father



- 1 Diane Houston
- 2 Maria Lundvall
- 3 Marcia Jordan
Coby Lamb
- 13 Elizabeth Amerine
Marshall Shell
- 14 Greg McGinness
- 16 Anita Dew
- 21 Aidan Hughes
- 25 John Praiswater
- 28 Dennis Parman
- 30 Tristan Ridler

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

*The next issue is
April 16, 2020*



*We ARE NOT holding reg-
ular services or other ac-
tivities, BUT the church
still needs your support to
continue its ministry.
PLEASE continue to give!*

**Cash and Checks can be
mailed in*

**Automatic withdrawal for
checking accounts, debit
and credit cards with
forms available by calling
or e-mailing the church*

**Mobile app at
www.givelify.com/givers*

Keeping in touch with our church families

Thank You...

Thank you so much for the card, kind words and prayers. Recovery is going well even if not as fast as I would like.

Rick Tuttle

Allison Blackford's father

Active Military...

Jimmy Costello, nephew of Anita Dew, Ellen Ferguson, Nina Nickerson

Kevin Schluter
Austin Wymer

Sympathy...

The friends and family of Fred VonBehren

Sandi VonBehren
617 Pierce Avenue
Maryville MO 64468

The friends and family of Joanne Irwin

Viginia Ripple
1307 East Third
Maryville MO 64468

Our Community Prayer List...

Please pray a special prayer for:

Mary Walkup

Ron Heller

Betty Ashford

Adena Clayton, Barb Pierce's Aunt

Naoma Smeltzer, Lisa's mother

Mike Patrick, Danielle Johnson's uncle

Troy Walker

Billy Campbell, Vicky Dougan's father

Geneva Harris

Judy Pillow, Danielle Johnson's mother

Don McLain, Paula's father

Mildred Patterson, Danielle Johnson's grandmother

Natalie Erickson, Teresa Blackford's niece

Prayer List Guidelines...

We pray and care for one another in the name of Christ. **Names are added to the prayer list by request and remain on for two weeks.**

Notification biweekly or an update is required for someone to remain on the list. Please share briefly the prayer need if appropriate as this assists us in offering prayers and pastoral care. If you do not want your name listed or mentioned publicly, please tell a pastor and you will be placed on the private Staff Prayer List. Contact a pastor or the church office at 660.582.4101 or fccmaryvillemo@gmail.com with prayer requests.



March 31, 2020

God's Beloved,

As our treasured Holy Week and season of Easter approach, we share in lamentation, as did the Hebrew exiles, that we are not able to worship together in the temple. Though some have suggested that worshipping in packed sanctuaries on Easter Sunday would serve as great national defiance*, we dig deep into the well of our faith to release the wellspring of deeper blessing. Immanuel - God is with us and God's love is already imprinted on our hearts!

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. Romans 5:1-5 (NRSV)

Let us honor the true Easter miracle by first living and accepting the experiences of Holy Week. We begin with shouts of Hosanna "God save us!" and now we share in the journey of defiling, desecration, denial, betrayal, condemnation, crucifixion and ultimately dying. The conquering of death first acknowledges that there was death. As pastors and Disciples whose hearts grieve for those whose strength was overcome by the virus, for the martyrs who cared for the sick, for the traumatized who faced depleted lifesaving stockpiles and who had to turn ice rinks into morgues, we know many will remain in The Way of the Cross. Barbara Brown Taylor writes in Learning to Walk in the Dark:

...Discover the power hidden in the heart of the pain. Though this teaching is central to several of the world's great religions, it will never have broad appeal, since almost no one wants to go there. Who would stick around to wrestle a dark angel [see Genesis 32:22-31] all night long if there were any chance of escape? The only answer I can think of is this: someone in deep need of blessing; someone willing to limp forever for the blessing that follows the wound.

Easter will spring anew! As we know, the Easter calendar is set by an ancient Roman formula that honors the first of spring, sister moon, and subsequent sabbath. The date is not exactly arbitrary but speaks to us that Easter, and our festival for worshipping in packed pews, arrives when the world is ready to claim new life and when light has overcome darkness. Christ's wounds were still visible but the cross of crucifixion was transformed to a symbol of hope and faith.

One ray of Easter light that is already evident is seeing the best in our local, regional and general church coming together. We have been blessed by an avalanche of resources, ideas, and tools for transformation - not just for weathering this crisis but for sustaining our congregations in the future. We will have learned, Death has lost its sting.

Serving Jesus with you,

Ron Routledge, Regional Minister
ron.ccma@sbcglobal.net

Paul Koch, Regional Minister
paul.ccma@sbcglobal.net

*Or that since we are God's elect we can resume our normal way of life in receiving divine protection, or that the most vulnerable people in our churches and family should be sacrificed for the sake of the economy, or that the pandemic is the wrath of God...



General Fund
March 2020

Beginning Balance- \$ 3,378.98
Income \$20,637.77*
Expenditures \$16,013.88*
Ending Balance \$ 1,244.91*

*unreconciled

Worship Attendance
Not held

Discipleship Classes
Not held



As of March 31
Total Pledges: 41
Total Pledged:
\$126,004.00



Craig Kirby-Grove
Pastor

Lisa Smeltzer
Office Administrator

Deena Poynter
Music Director

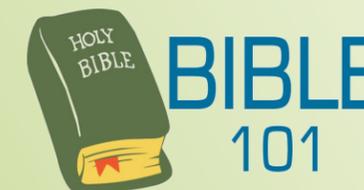
Anita Dew
Organist

Delaney Lynam
Bell Choir Director

Merlin Atkins
Property Manager



2020 Summer Church Camp information is ready as is SIGN UP! Get your dates and spots set now. The church pays for HALF the registration cost (and will provide more if necessary, see Pastor Craig or the Christian Education Committee for details.) **May 10 Deadline**



We tried, probably shouldn't have, but we did anyway but now **Bible 101** is OFF until we can safely gather again. Continue reading Exodus and beyond!



Board Meeting on April 7, 2020

The Board will meet, just not in person. A ZOOM call/meeting will be set up and everyone who has a computer or smartphone should be able to 'attend'. The time limit is 40 minutes!!! So, when the church office sends out the Minutes of the last meeting and the Financial Report, be sure you have read them BEFORE we meet! If your committee or ministry has something for the Board to consider, please get your information/request/etc. to the church office and we will send it out prior to the ZOOM time so again, we all have a chance to read and prepare a response. If you don't have a computer, ZOOM allows you to call in and to hear and be heard in the meeting as well.

Through the interchange of [Christ's] blessings and our misfortunes, we become one loaf, one bread, one body, one drink, and have all things in common.

—Martin Luther, *Treatise on the Blessed Sacrament*

WORSHIP SCHEDULE for LENT

**April 5
Palm Sunday**
8 a.m. Sanctuary open for prayer
8:30 a.m. Worship online

**April 9
Maundy Thursday**
7 p.m. online

**April 10
Good Friday**
The Last Seven Words of Christ
beginning at 9 a.m.

**April 12
Easter**
8:30 a.m. Worship online

**AT THE PRESENT TIME
DISCIPLESHIP CLASSES
ARE NOT MEETING**



Adult Discipleship Classes

Last Supper Leftovers
Room 20

Prayer and Share
Room 106



Pre K-K
Room 17

Lower Elementary
Room 14

Middle School
Pastor's Study

High School
Pastor's Study



City of Maryville Order

The City of Maryville has ordered a 'Shelter in Place' for all citizens in the town. Only 'essential' workers need to be out and about. The church will be open, i.e. Lisa and Pastor Craig will be in the Office Monday-Friday. That means we will answer the phone if you call, we will read the mail if you send us something, we will respond to your emails. But for everyone's safety, don't come to the church unless it is very important and you need to see Lisa or the Pastor face to face (which can happen, just at a distance of at least 6 feet between us!) If you are bringing food for the Thursday meals, please take it to the kitchen.

Offering/Tithes

Well done, FCC Maryville! We cannot meet and yet you all have been sending in your offerings and tithes and gifts via the mail and the other formats available. Please continue to support the ministry and mission of the church and please remember that 'giving' is a spiritual practice on par with prayer and bible study. There are several ways to do that:

- 1) Mail checks to the church
First Christian Church
201 West Third Street
Maryville MO 64468
- 2) Drop checks or cash off in the church office OR in the gold mailbox just inside the front door
- 3) Sign up for automatic withdrawal for checking accounts, debit and credit cards by requesting a form be sent to you. Call the church office at 660-582-4101 and Lisa will get you the paperwork. Or e-mail her at fccmaryville@gmail.com.
- 4) Use our mobile app at www.givelify.com/givers. Questions? Call Pastor Craig at 660-582-4101 or 252-281-3721

**WE WILL BE CLOSED FOR EASTER
GOOD FRIDAY April 10
EASTER MONDAY April 13**



Fall Bazaar and Yard Sale Donations Needed

Now is the perfect time to go through the garage, the attic, and your closets and find all those things that are taking up space in your home. Donate them to the fall Yard Sale! And if time is weighing heavy on your hands, make something for the yard sale. Anyone can contribute; make a craft, quilt, or jewelry for the Bazaar, or practice your baking. And it's a great idea for those of you who have children at home. Wow us with something unusual. (And remember to take Care, Share and Shelter in place)



Please let the office know when you are meeting each month



Circle of Joy,
our Women's Fellowship group,
meets on the second Monday of the month
at 1:30 p.m. *unless noted*

**FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH
(UNLESS NOTED)
FELLOWSHIP HALL**

8:45-10 A.M.

ALL MEMBERS AND VISITORS ARE WELCOME

<u>DATE</u>	<u>HOST COMMITTEE</u>
April 5	CANCELED
May 3	Evangelism
June 7	Chancel Choir
July 5	Circle of Joy
August 2	Prayer and Share
September 6	Property
October 4	Elders
November 1	FCC Staff
December 6	Christmas Crunchies*

*potluck

April 13	CANCELED
May 11	Barb Pierce
June 8	Joann Espey
July 13	Jo Ann Nanninga
August 10	Barb York
September 14	Ann Gibson
October 12	Sandi Mull, Cara Colville
November 9	Linda Davison
December 12**	Connie McGinness, Barb Pierce, Sue Schenkel

* in Fellowship Hall
** Christmas Luncheon in Fellowship Hall at 11:30 a.m.