



# THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER

First Christian Church, Maryville, MO

fccmaryvillemo.com

March 19, 2026

## *Holy Week Schedule*

**Palm Sunday Brunch**

March 29 @ 9:30 am

**Maundy Thursday Service**

April 2 @ 6-7 pm

**Good Friday**

April 3

**Easter Service**

April 5 @ 10:30 am

## NCAA March Madness

Looking for a team to rally behind? Join First Christian Church as we cheer on UConn, Vanderbilt, and Missouri in the National Championship!

As part of our ongoing commitment to support and connect with Northwest students, we're participating in the Northwest Missourian's March Madness NCAA Bracket advertising. It's one small way we continue building community and showing up for those around us.

**Here's the exciting part—if UConn takes the win, FCC scores a FREE 2x2 full-color ad courtesy of the Northwest Missourian!** Should we win, we'll use that ad to further share with our community that we're here for them—offering connection, support, and a place to belong.

So tune in, turn it up, and bring your loudest cheers. As we come together in the fun, it's a great reminder of the joy and unity we share as a church family—rooting for something together! Let's cheer as one!



# OVERTURE



from *The Signature of All Things* by Jacob Böhme

*The whole host of heaven is set and tuned into one harmony; each angelical kingdom into a peculiar instrument, but all mutually composed into one music; into the only love-voice of God. Every string of this melody exalts and rejoices the other; and it is only a mere ravishing*

*lovely and delightful hearing. As it was before the times of this world in his eternal harmony, so also it continues in the creaturely voice in him in his eternity; and this is the beginning and the end of all things. And since Adam had quenched the light-world, the light-world was again incorporated with the name of Jesus*

*which came to pass in the conception of Mary. God became man, that he might again repair his glorious instrument which he had made for his praise, which perished, and would not sound according to the desire of his joy and love, and introduce again the true love-sound into the strings. He has introduced the voice which sounds in his presence again into us, his instrument; he is become what I am, and*

*has made me what he is, so that I may say, that I am the sound of his instrument and divine voice, at which now I rejoice in all my fellow-strings and voices, who with me are tuned and set as an eternal work, to the praise and glory*

*of God. Thus know ye now, my Fellow-Voices in the Praise of God, that I sound with my String played upon in the Spirit upon and in your Note, and thus sing I to you; that whatever Jesus has done through the Christ, viz. through his and my Humanity, the same he does yet today in me and in all my Fellow-Members. The Spirit of the Lord of Hosts has out of his Love planted*

*a new Branch in the human Property, which shall Root out the Thorns of the Devil, and make known his Child Jesus to all Nations, Tongues and Speeches, and that in the*

*Morning of the eternal Day.*

*Pastor's Pen*  
*A message from my heart to yours*

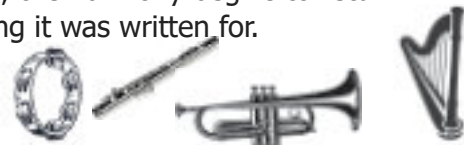


This past Sunday at the communion table, I shared with you a piece of writing that deeply resonates with me. The Signature of All Things by Jacob Böhme uses the image of musical instruments. When many instruments play together like a harp, a flute, or a trumpet they are all part of the same music, yet each instrument carries its own sound. The melody is one, but the expression is different depending on the instrument. Böhme says creation works in the same way. The divine life is like the music, and everything in existence is like an instrument through which that music is played. Plants, stones, animals, and human beings all carry the same underlying life, but each expresses it according to its own nature. The outward form we see is what he calls the "signature," the tone that the inner life produces. But over time the music became distorted. Humanity forgot the melody. The instruments were still there, but they were no longer playing in harmony with the divine life that created them. This is where Christ shows up in the story. Christ comes as the one who restores the music and the one who shows what a human life sounds like when it is fully aligned with the divine source again. In Jesus we hear the clear

tone of love, truth, courage, and surrender to God. His life becomes the guiding note that helps humanity remember the melody we have always carried and were meant to carry. We see this pattern echoed in the story of Esther. Esther steps into the king's court at the risk of her life to save her people. She becomes an instrument of courage and restoration in a moment when everything seems uncertain. With her willingness to step forward the right note is sounded in the middle of chaos. And then in the Easter story we see the fullest expression of restoration. Jesus walks straight through betrayal, suffering, and death, and yet the divine life rises again. Resurrection is the ultimate reminder that the melody of God cannot be silenced. The music of life, love, and redemption continues. And that's where we come in, our part is to become instruments that are tuned again, to listen for the melody of the divine life, and allow it to move through us. Each of us carries a "signature," a tone that only we can bring into the symphony of the world. When we live with courage like Esther, love like Christ, and awareness of the divine life moving through us, the harmony begins to return. Slowly but surely, the orchestra of creation remembers how to play the song it was written for.

Blessed to Play My Part with You,

*Gina* ❤️



# Welcome Home



## Sunday Mornings

**9 a.m.**

Sunday School Classes

**10:30 a.m.**

Service in the Sanctuary

## Sunday Worship Attendance

Feb. 22.....	23	Mar 8 .....	30
Mar 1 .....	34	Mar 15 .....	30

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

The next issue is  
**April 2, 2025**

## First Christian Church Disciples of Christ

201 West Third, Maryville, MO  
660.214.3414  
Text 833.374.9501

[www.fccmaryvillemo.com](http://www.fccmaryvillemo.com)  
[fccmaryvillemo@gmail.com](mailto:fccmaryvillemo@gmail.com)



FCCMaryvilleMO

## Keeping in touch with our church families

### Praises...

Rain Johnson is moving to Warrensburg, MO, end of March to begin a new, exciting chapter of her life.

We welcome Edgar Ascencio Castillo, who will be joining us through baptism on Easter Sunday.

### In Sympathy...

Family of Joan Farquhar

Family of Mary Ross

### Thank you...

Dear Church,

Thank you for all your care of my dad through the years and for a delicious meal in his honor. This church has been such an important part of Bob's life for more than half a century and the people were key to that.

Love,

Cara & the Colville Family

Dear Friends,

On behalf of Global Ministries, thank you for your recent gift of \$250. As indicated, your gift will be used in its entirety for "Roots in Ruin." Gifts like yours help manifest the bold vision that all God's people and creation share in God's abundant life. Global Ministries partners with more than 250 international organizations in over 90 countries to strengthen and empower communities around the world.

Your generosity helps nurture community growth and global well-being as we live out our mission: To receive and share the Good News of Jesus Christ by joining with global and local partners to work for justice, reconciliation, and peace.

Thank you for your faithful support and continued generosity.

With Gratitude,  
Cynthia Newman  
Acting Director of Strategic Engagement/Asst Vice President Global Ministries

## Our Staff

**Gina Johnson**  
Senior Pastor

**Peggy Dowis**  
Custodian

**Virginia Ripple**  
Office Administrator

**Kendric Santos-Briggs**  
Audio Lead

**Anita Dew**  
Organist

**Chloe Petersen**  
Live Stream Lead



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



You're invited to our Palm Sunday / 5th Sunday Brunch on March 29 at 9:30 AM! Everyone is welcome—no sign-up needed to attend.

If you'd like to bring a dish, you can sign up here: <https://rebrand.ly/Brunch2026>. Suggested items: juice, cinnamon rolls, bagels & cream cheese, donut holes, sausage/egg casserole, or anything you'd like to share.

We hope to see you there!

## Looking Ahead...

**Mar. 29:** Palm Sunday

**Mar. 29:** 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Potluck Brunch,  
9:30 am

**Apr. 2:** Maundy Thursday Service, 6-7  
pm

**Apr. 5:** Easter Sunday

**Apr. 6:** Office closed for Easter

Have your newsletter sent  
directly to your inbox!



Subscribe today!

[fccmaryvillemo.com/news-letter](https://fccmaryvillemo.com/news-letter)