

# THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER

First Christian Church, Maryville, MO

fccmaryvillemo.com

August 28, 2025



# Green Chalice Update

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Plans have been made and plants have been selected to move forward with our Green Chalice program. If you or someone you know is interested in helping put in the new plants on the east side of FCC on Buchanan Street, join us for our planting day Sept. 7 at 5:30 pm.





#### Church will be closed

Monday, Sept. 1

for Labor Day and

Thursday, Sept. 4 for staff needs

Office will be closed

Sept. 2-4

for Office Admin vacation



#### Did you know...

- The first idea of Labor Day became public in 1882 with a parade in New York City to celebrate union members.
- By 1887 Oregon, Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, and Colorado made Labor Day a state holiday.
- President Grover Cleveland signed an act in 1894 establishing Labor Day as a federal holiday. Most states had already passed laws establishing a Labor Day holiday.
- Labor Day also marks the perceived end of the summer season and the unofficial end of Hot Dog season, according to National Hot Dog and Sausage Council.



#### **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 Aug. 3 ......34 Aug. 17 ......3

| Aug. 334  | Aug. 1736 |
|-----------|-----------|
| Aug. 1031 | Aug. 2431 |

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

The next issue is **Sept. 11, 2025** 

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

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## Keeping in touch with our church families

#### **Our Community Praises...**

Back to school: students, faculty and staff

#### **Our Community Prayer List...**

JoAnn Nanninga Terry Ross
Maddie Kauffman Dave Shadinger
Emily McLain Jim Meyer
Karla Parman Marilyn Ripple
Linville family Nancy Tedesco



# 2025 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 otherwise noted

#### Please contact hostesses to RSVP

Sep. 1 Carol Peters

Oct. 6

Nov. 3

Dec. 1 Pastor Gina, Virginia Ripple



Have an event idea? Share it at

www. fccmaryvillemo. com/upcomingevents



**Gina Johnson** Senior Pastor

Virginia Ripple Office Administrator

> Anita Dew Organist

Peggy Dowis Custodian

Kendric Santos-Briggs Audio Lead

> Chloe Petersen Live Stream Lead



**Z**don't know about you, but I am not one who watches, reads, or even listens to the news all that **Z**often. Yes, I try to keep up with things in my local community, and every now and then I will explore things on a grander scale. I may check out an article or two about what's happening in our country, or even listen to a podcast. But the news is not my go-to for what my focus should be. For many people, however, it is. And it's not just wanting to be informed. It's becoming submerged in the happenings of our country until it goes beyond having a healthy knowledge base into something else entirely, like emotional swings, harmful interactions, and endless arguments. People get swept up in chasing their version of what it means to be a loyal citizen and in the process, lose their peace. People are beginning their day searching out headlines they already know will be negative and have real effects on their mind, heart, and body. It's been medically proven that constant exposure to negativity raises cortisol levels which messes with your ability to think, weakens your immune system, and increases anxiety. From a spiritual perspective this can dull the heart. You're not beginning the day with God's voice, but with the noise of the world. In Philippians 4:8 it says,

"Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable, if anything is excellent or praiseworthy, think about such things."

Paul wasn't suggesting we ignore reality, instead he was pointing us toward a higher one. Yes, it is good to be "woke" and in the know. Yes, we should carry compassion for our neighbor and awareness of what's happening in the world. But allowing the constant movement of our country's uncertainties to dictate your daily life will not make you more faithful. It will make you more fragmented. The world is fragmented and we are the movement to repair that fragmentation. I'll be the first to admit that I keep a healthy level of awareness, but I am also fully aware there's only so much one person can do from where they are. If I allow myself to spiral and spin over things I cannot control, I drift further not only from my role as a Christian in this world, but also from the trueness of myself. That is the very opposite of what Christ calls us to. We are called not to be swept away by the programming of the world's expectations. It's not what political party you're in, what your income level is, what region you live in, but to anchor ourselves in Christ. To be people of prayer, peace, and presence. So here's my encouragement...take a few minutes in your day to gain healthy understanding. Lift the needs of the world in prayer. Stay awake to injustice. But let your true focus be on the things that raise your consciousness, deepen your compassion, and remind you of your role as the Body of Christ right where you are. The journey to self will bear enough weight without trying to carry the full weight of the nation's headlines.

Blessed to Be Right Here,





# September \*\*\*



| Sun   | Mon   | Tue  | Wed                      | Thu  | Fri                      | Sat   |
|---|---|--|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|---|
| 31  | 1   | 2  | 3                        | 4  | 5                        | 6   |
| 8:00 – 9:00 AM<br>Sanctuary Open<br>9:00 – 10:00 AM<br>Sunday School<br>5:00 – 9:00 PM CPH  | Office Closed Labor Day 1:30 – 2:30 PM Circle of Joy  | Office Admin on vacation  4:00 – 6:00 PM Youth choir  6:00 – 7:00 PM Maryville Garden Club | Office Admin on vacation | Office Admin on vacation   | Office Admin on vacation | 2:00 – 8:00 PM<br>Sunday Night<br>Supper Club |
| 7 8:00 – 9:00 AM Sanctuary Open 9:00 – 10:00 AM Sunday School 10:30 – 11:30 AM Worship 3:00 – 4:00 PM Auxiliary set-up 5:00 – 9:00 PM CPH 5:30 – 7:30 PM Green Chalice planting | 9:00 AM – 12:00<br>PM Hospital<br>Auxilary<br>6:00 – 7:00 PM<br>Team Planning &<br>Board Meeting<br>7:00 – 9:00 PM<br>Nodaway Chorale | 9<br>4:00 – 6:00 PM<br>Youth choir   | 10                       | 11<br>5:15 – 6:15 PM Girl<br>Scout Troop 5720<br>6:00 – 7:00 PM Girl<br>Scout Troop 2942 | 12                       | 13  |
| 14<br>8:00 – 9:00 AM<br>Sanctuary Open<br>9:00 – 10:00 AM<br>Sunday School<br>10:30 – 11:30 AM<br>Worship<br>5:00 – 9:00 PM CPH   | 15<br>7:00 – 9:00 PM<br>Nodaway Chorale   | 16<br>4:00 – 6:00 PM<br>Youth choir  | 17                       | 18<br>6:30 – 8:30 PM<br>Optimist Club &<br>Board   | 19                       | 20  |
| 21<br>8:00 – 9:00 AM<br>Sanctuary Open<br>9:00 – 10:00 AM<br>Sunday School<br>10:30 – 11:30 AM<br>Worship<br>5:00 – 9:00 PM CPH   | 22<br>7:00 – 9:00 PM<br>Nodaway Chorale   | 23 4:00 – 6:00 PM Youth choir 6:00 – 8:00 PM Girl Scout Leader meeting                     | 24                       | 25<br>5:15 – 6:15 PM Girl<br>Scout Troop 5720<br>6:00 – 7:00 PM Girl<br>Scout Troop 2942 | 26                       | 27  |
| 28<br>8:00 – 9:00 AM<br>Sanctuary Open<br>9:00 – 10:00 AM<br>Sunday School<br>5:00 – 9:00 PM CPH  | 29<br>7:00 – 9:00 PM<br>Nodaway Chorale   | 30<br>4:00 – 6:00 PM<br>Youth choir  | 1                        | 2  | 3                        | 4   |



Celebrate the true meaning of Christmas with hundreds of children in need (newborns - 12 year olds) in Nodaway County. Last year, the organization served 105 families and 227 children by providing gifts to children with the donations received.

#### October 13th - November 30th

#### **Barrels & donation jars will be at the following Maryville businesses:**

Clear Creek, Connections Bank, Daylight Donuts

<u>Dollar General,</u> El Maquey, Grays, Hangar, Hy-Vee gas and kitchen, <u>Kawasaki,</u>

<u>Maryville Forum,</u> Mullock Health Care, <u>Nodaway News Leader</u>, Nodaway Valley

Bank(s), Pagliai's, Pizza Ranch, Planet Sub, Rogers Pharmacy, <u>Senior Center</u>,

Scooters, Southern Bank, Taco Johns, Willow & Elm

Ways to help: monetary contribution, donate new toys, sponsor a toy drive or request to collect toy donations

# **TOP 4 REASONS TO PARTICIPATE**



# Respond Today!



Click Hore

http://muext.us/NWMOsurvey

#### You care about your community!

- Be heard . . . regionally and by county!
- Successful communities listen to their residents. Maximize NWMO
  is a multi-sector initiative inviting, inspiring, and guiding the region
  and local communities to be as successful as possible. Gathering and
  providing this info will help!
- Identify what makes NWMO special in everyone's eyes.

#### 2. Your voice has impact!

- Help leaders determine what your expectations, needs, and dreams are instead of leaving them to lead by assumption.
- Short- and long-term decisions will reflect the survey's (YOUR) feedback.
- Be a part of the solution by sharing your thoughts. This is an opportunity for your ideas and opinions to be heard.

#### 3. Be the county with the most participation!

- 2025 results will be compared with 2020 results and made available
  publicly on <a href="www.maximizenwmo.org">www.maximizenwmo.org</a>. They will be shared with leaders
  throughout the region in each of our 18 counties. Several hundred
  responses are needed from each county to ensure the results are
  statistically valid. Every person's response matters!
- Living in the Age of Acceleration and a post-COVID-19 world has changed what we thought we knew.
  - Help plan and act on how to make our communities in NWMO the best places to live, learn, work, and play.
  - Decision-makers are working to meet the needs of those seeking a beautiful place they can belong and stay connected to technologyadvanced opportunities. Help them help you and your family's future generations!

© 2025. The Community Foundation of Northwest Missouri | cfnwmo.org | 816.232.2022 | Maximize Northwest Missouri | maximizenwmo.org | together@maximizenwmo.org



Have an event idea? Share it at

www. fccmaryvillemo. com/upcomingevents



# The Bulletin Board

The following is a brief update on the discussions and actions by the FCC Board at their regular meeting on Aug. 11, 2025.

**Finance Reports:** Finance Chair Coby Lamb presented an explanation of the different accounts on the balance sheet provided by Proctor & Associates, and explained that our physical assets such as the building and fixtures were not included on the balance sheet. He explained that some expenses were down and that there were three pay periods in July. Coby commended the property team, Office Administrator Virginia Ripple and Pastor Gina in making sure expenditures were manageable. He also reported that Finance and Trustees did meet to move \$1,800 from non-designated funds from the Special Fund to cover a \$100 shortfall in the General Fund, but that this was much better than the \$49,000 transferred in 2024. Pastor Gina added that this was something to be celebrated, stating that average weekly contributions to be approximately \$2,000.

**Trustees Report:** Trustee Linda Baker reported that they had planned to transfer \$20,000 from the Chalice Fund to the General Fund, but after some discussion it was decided to transfer \$5,000 instead to cover a potential shortfall in August, which she felt was great. Pastor Gina added that it was a celebration that we had not had to make any other transfers this year until early August.

#### **Team Reports:**

- **Property:** Property Co-chair Marcia Jordan reported that property did not meet in June or July because there were no pressing issues to discuss, which was a positive thing. Moderator Jason Ripple inquired about the possibility of prorating the electricity. Marcia agreed to check into it.
- **Christian Education:** Pastor Gina reported that mid-week small group study will begin again soon and that Christian Education Chair Gina and she have been discussing some ideas that may be presented to the Board in September or October.
- Outreach/Evangelism: Pastor Gina reported that we don't currently have a team chair, but there is a team of people who coordinate the outreach/evangelism events. We had great support for the Carnival Workers' Lunch and Christmas in the Summer in July, and the Prayer Walk Club is still going. Pastor Gina has taken over coordinating and overseeing The Giving Tree donations and client requests and Caring & Sharing client appointments. There are a discussions in progress for time to celebrate outreach and a Christmas project. She reminded everyone that "you can't actually outreach without sharing the love and message of God. You can't share the love and message of God without outreaching, and so that's why there are outreach and evangelism."
- **Christian Life:** Chair Terry Immel reported that the indoor picnic June 29 went well and that the next event the team is planning will be more traditional meal. A date for that will be announce soon.

#### **New Business:**

• **Personnel:** Chair Bob Ferguson reported that the personnel team completed the second quarter staff reviews by July 1. In the process they realized we did not have job descriptions for the Audio Lead and the Live Stream Lead people, which was rectified. The Board approved the new descriptions.

Bob reported that changes were also made to the Office Administrator's job description, potentially bringing the job down to a 20 hour a week hourly position. After some experimentation, Office Administrator Virginia Ripple and Personnel Chair Bob Ferguson concluded that it was possible to do the core requirements of the job in 20 hours. The main advantage would be annual savings of approximately \$6,600 per year. The cons included shorter office hours, a loss of vacation and sick leave, and the end of current creative projects such as YouTube videos, Facebook/Instagram reels, and other social media campaigns aimed at gaining an audience beyond Sunday mornings. Bob recommended that the job description for Office Administrator remain a 26 hour per week position with office hours changing to 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and a one hour lunch with any salary compensation to be determined annually during the budgeting process.

Pastor Gina stated that she had requested Virginia offer her views on the changes, to which she stated that she is happy with the new 26-hour job description with the updated office hours and the retaining of vacation and sick leave. Her main concern with cutting the hours to 20 per week and becoming an hourly employee rather than salaried was that it does not leave room for what she considers the mission work of the job—visiting with people who drop in, the creative marketing through social media, and being a

sounding board to the minister. As a salaried employee, she would feel free to spend whatever time was needed to complete both the core responsibilities and the mission-oriented extras without concern of it costing the church more than it can currently afford. Chairperson Bob reiterated that what the Board would be voting on was a job description and not in any way a contract and that the current pay would remain in effect until such time as the Board revisited the church budget. He also reminded the Board that contracts are for an entire year. The Board voted and accepted the new Office Administrator job description.

- **Biennial Registration:** Office Administrator Virginia Ripple reported that Proctor & Associates was in the process of submitting FCC's biennial registration and was requesting information on who to list as registered agent and secretary. She explained this is a registration we, as a non-profit, must do every two years and we needed the Board's approval for a change of registered agent and secretary. Treasurer Donna Rickman agreed to be the registered agent and Virginia suggested listing herself as secretary temporarily until a Board Secretary was voted into office. The Board voted to approve the recommendations.
- **New Vision:** Board Moderator Jason Ripple requested that Board Members be in consideration of how they see our church, specifically what it might look like in a year or two from now. He gave his personal example of seeing it as a welcoming place where people like to come and spend time, not necessarily just for our service or for Sunday school, but for meetings or just to gather as friends and hang out or spend time in a quiet, comfortable place. He proposed revisiting the subject at the next Board meeting as a minivisioning process, inviting them to also ask their spouses for their thoughts.

#### **Minister's Report:**

Pastor Gina shared plans to partner with Board Moderator Jason Ripple and a few selected individuals to begin looking at team job descriptions with the support of team chairs and members, so that they better describe the teams' mission and roles with an eye toward future growth, as well. As part of an initiative toward church growth, Pastor Gina also shared that she is working toward starting a new church service to begin in November. She will present her full plans to the Board in September to answer questions at that time.

Pastor Gina also reported that, through engaging in many pastoral care visits, she has heard that the consensus is a good feeling in the congregation about where things are going and that many feel we're ahead even though it may not look like it sometimes. There are a couple of places she would like to continue with mending and reconciling in some relationships, but beyond that she feels like we're in a good place of planting seeds that will grow.

She reported that she has someone in mind to come aboard as a Trustee and that she is looking for someone to be Vice Moderator and Board Secretary. She requested Board members consider assisting Finance Chair Coby Lamb when it comes time to look at the budget, which will be soon. She also brought to the Board's attention that she will be inquiring amongst teams who will be chair in the coming year.

# FCC Leadership

**Board Moderator:** Jason Ripple

**Property:** Allen Davison, Marcia Jordan **Worship/Diaconate:** Guy Ebersole

Christian Life: Terry Immel

Christian Education: Gina Johnson

**Treasurer:** Donna Rickman **Trustee Chair:** Linda Baker

| Church Grow  | <b>7th</b> Points |
|--|-------------------|
| <ul> <li>August Highlights*</li> <li>Volunteer at service</li> <li>Worship Attendance</li> <li>Social media</li> </ul> | 171<br>156<br>124 |
| comments/reactions/shares Total Month's Points *Does not include Aug 25-31 totals                                      | 837               |

# Seeing Our tewardship

#### August 2025

| General Fund      |    |           |  |  |  |  |  |
|-------------------|----|-----------|--|--|--|--|--|
| Beginning Balance | \$ | 4,768.73  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Income*           | \$ | 14,673.30 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Expenses          | \$ | 11,825.15 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Ending Balance    |    | 7,616.88  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Net Gain          | \$ | 2,848.15  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Missions          |    |           |  |  |  |  |  |
| Beginning Balance | \$ | 1,962.97  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Income            | \$ | 0         |  |  |  |  |  |
| Expenses          | \$ | 200.00    |  |  |  |  |  |
| Ending Balance    | \$ | 1,762.97  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Net Loss          | \$ | 200.00    |  |  |  |  |  |

\*Includes \$5,000.00 transferred from Chalice Fund



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH 201 WEST THIRD STREET MARYVILLE MO 64468

Return Service Requested

# 90th Birthday Card Shower

Rhonda Schmidt invites you to participate in a card shower for

# Richard DeMott

to celebrate his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on Sept. 1!

Please mail your card to:

Richard DeMott 1202 Heartland Rd, Apt R105 St. Joseph, MO 64506

#### Looking Ahead...

Sept 1: Labor Day, office closed

**Sept 2-4:** Office Administrator on vacation, office closed

**Sept 7:** Green Chalice planting, 5:30

**Sept 8:** Board meeting, 6 pm



# Miss Sunday's message? Never fear! We're on YouTube!

Find us at

YOUTUBE youtube.com/@firstchristianmaryvillemo

Remember to Comment, Like, & Subscribe today!