



THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER

First Christian Church, Maryville, MO

fccmaryvillemo.com

October 1, 2026

October Featured Speakers

This month's guest speakers include:

Oct 4 Rev. Melody Smith

Oct 11 Guy Ebersole

Oct 18 Greg Thogmartin

Oct 25 Angela Linville

Be sure to join us in person or on Facebook Live 10:30 am every Sunday morning to hear more inspiring messages.

Missed Sunday's message, you can find the replay on our website at:
fccmaryvillemo.com/sermons.

We Want Your Input...

Church Family,

As Board Moderator, I need your input as we prepare for 2027. I want you to know how much I appreciate your continuing support for our church. It takes all of us locking arms in love and faith for a lay-led congregation to move forward successfully. I'm writing this letter because I need your input as we approach the new year. We are currently using guest speakers/pastors to deliver the Sunday message, and we have speakers lined up for the remaining Sundays in 2026. Financially, we are in a good position. Though we are not in a position to hire a full-time minister, we can consider hiring a part-time minister if that is something the congregation would like us to pursue. On **page 3 of this newsletter** you will find two options to consider. I've tried to list the advantages, disadvantages and cost associated with each option. Please consider each option and select the one you feel is the best.

Regards,
Bob Ferguson



Celebrate the true meaning of Christmas with hundreds of children in need (newborns - 12-year-olds) in Nodaway County. Last year, the organization served 127 families and 227 children by providing gifts to children with the donations received.

For more information, please contact: Terri Dawson 660-254-0941

Checks may be mailed to: Toys for Tots
PO Box 104

Maryville, MO 64468
Or Venmo:



October 13th thru December 14th

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

Beauty Bar, Clear Creek, Connections Bank, Daylight Donuts, Dollar General, El Maquey, Grays, Hangar, Hy-Vee gas and kitchen, Kawasaki, Maryville Forum, Mullock Health Care, Nodaway News Leader, Nodaway Valley Bank(s), Pagliai's, Pizza Ranch, Planet Sub, Rogers Pharmacy, Senior Center, Scooters, Southern Bank, Taco Johns, Haven Coffee & Goods

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



Sunday Mornings

9 a.m.

Sunday School Classes

10:30 a.m.

Service in the Sanctuary

Sunday Worship Attendance

Sept. 6	31	Sept. 20	28
Sept. 13	28	Sept. 27	27

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

The next issue is
October 15, 2026

**First Christian Church
Disciples of Christ**
201 West Third, Maryville, MO
660.214.3414
Text 833.374.9501

www.fccmaryvillemo.com
fccmaryvillemo@gmail.com



FCCMaryvilleMO

Keeping in touch with our church families

For Healing & Comfort...

Jason Ripple

Jon Nickerson

In Sympathy...

Family of Basil Lister

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 church office at 660-214-3414 or officemanagerfccmaryville@gmail.com with prayer requests.



Is your info up-to-date?

Has your family grown recently? Have you moved or changed your phone number in the last year? Do you have a new favorite picture of yourself?

If you answered yes to any of these, it's probably time to update your information in our directory. It's easy and only takes a few minutes. You can call or email to update your information or you can update it in the member app or on the member website.

Need some help figuring it out? Go to <https://help.instantchurchdirectory.com/article/1295-how-members-submit-updates-to-their-information> for more information or contact Virginia in the office at 660-214-3414.

Our Staff

Virginia Ripple
Office Administrator

Johnathan Morrison
Audio/Live Stream Lead

Anita Dew
Organist

Jay Ripple
Live Stream Intern

Peggy Dowis
Custodian

We Want Your Input...

Continued from page 1

On October 12, the First Christian Church Board will be discussing alternatives to how we approach our Sunday service for 2027 and they would like to know your preferences on the following options:

Option 1

Continue as a Lay Led Ministry with Guest Pastors/Speakers

We continue as we are today, filling the pulpit with guest pastors/speakers **without** going into "Search and Call" to find a part-time minister or partner with another church. This means:

1. Elders and lay members handle every part of the Sunday service.
2. We continue to schedule guest pastors and guest speakers to deliver the Sunday message.
3. We offer our own elders and lay members the opportunity to bring the message if a guest speaker/pastor is unavailable on a given Sunday.
4. Anyone who delivers the Sunday message – guest or member – receives a \$200 honorarium.
5. Elders provide pastoral care on a rotational basis.

Advantages:

- This is the most cost-effective option. Most of our annual surplus would be available for outreach, missions or savings reserve.
- Keeps full control and flexibility in our hands.
- Provides a variety of guest speakers/pastors and perspectives.
- Worship is led by people who know and love this church.

Disadvantages:

- Guest and pulpit supply preachers may not always be available
- Risk of burnout for the lay members and elders
- No consistent pastoral care
- Every duty between Sundays rests on volunteers
- Scheduling the pulpit week to week takes ongoing effort

Cost of option 1:

Compensation determined by the Church Board

52 Sundays x \$200 per guest honorarium = \$10,400

Option 2

Go to Search and Call to hire a Part-Time Minister

We continue as in Option 1 but also go into "Search and Call" with the Regional Minister to secure a qualified Part-Time or Bi-Vocational Minister.

We form a Search Committee to follow the search and call process, and with input from the congregation, submit a congregational profile to the Regional Minister. We will use this process to find, interview and hopefully hire a qualified Part-Time or Bi-Vocational Minister.

The Search Committee could also follow up with any qualified guest pastors/speakers and inquire about their possible interest in a part-time ministry position.

Advantages of using regular Part Time Minister:

- Delivers a more consistent weekly preaching, and presence.
- A part-time minister should help keep costs manageable.
- Ease some of the ongoing pressure carried by church leaders/volunteers.
- Would provide some level of pastoral care/hospital/nursing homes visits
- Could provide support for weddings, funerals, and counseling.

Disadvantages of using a Part - Time Minister:

- Adds a higher recurring cost that reduces, eliminates or slightly exceeds any budget surplus.
- Requires our church to use the region search and call process, which can be time consuming and requires a dedicated search and call team.
- Church Administration and most weekly duties remain with church leadership instead of a full-time pastor.

Cost of option 2:

Compensation/benefits, duties and time commitment would be determined by the church board and negotiated with prospective candidates on a yearly contract.

Part Time Minister: 40 Sundays = \$16,000 - \$18,000

**Let us know your choice by
Tuesday, Oct. 6.**

Respond by email
fccmaryvillemo@gmail.com

or take the survey:
rebrand.ly/FCC_pastor_survey





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



We will be closed
Monday, Oct 12th
for Indigenous Peoples Day /
Columbus Day

Seeing Our Stewardship

October 2026

General Fund

Beginning Balance	\$	12,450.13
Income	\$	7,500.60
Expenses	\$	9,346.56
Ending Balance	\$	10,604.17

Missions

Beginning Balance	\$	2,586.69
Income	\$	0.00
Expenses	\$	25.00
Ending Balance	\$	2,561.69