



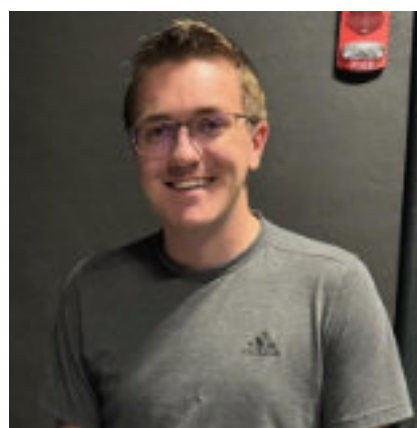
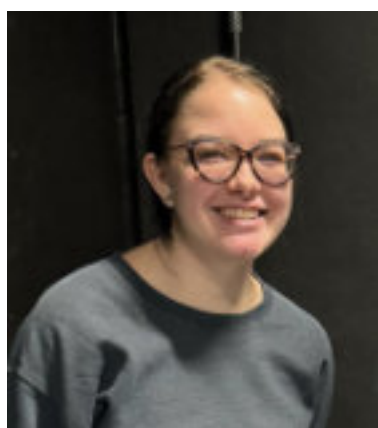
# THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER

First Christian Church, Maryville, MO

fccmaryvillemo.com

April 16, 2025

## *Congratulations, Chloe & Kendric!*



FCC Audio Tech Lead Kendric Santos-Briggs and FCC Livestream Lead Chloe Petersen are graduating and we want to celebrate their accomplishment with them! Join us for a celebratory

### **Graduation Brunch** **April 19** **9:30 am**

If you're unable to attend FCC's celebration of Chloe and Kendric, you're also invited to an

### *RSVP Graduation Party* *May 2* *1:30 pm*

Please let us know by email or phone call by April 26 if you will be attending the May 2<sup>nd</sup> graduation party.



A message from the past: Sept. 14, 2023

# Pastor's Pen

*A message from my heart to yours*



**H**ave you ever wondered why it's so hard to be still? If we are expecting something good, we are as anxious as kids on Christmas morning. If in the middle of an unknown, some are tirelessly trying to figure out what should be done. When circumstances are calm, some sit around waiting for the other shoe to drop, and when things are what one may call chaotic; people may frantically run around like a chicken with their head cut off.

I remember watching "Jeopardy" as a kid and enjoying the anticipation of "final jeopardy" as the tune played and the contestants wrote their answers. Some wrote calmly with all the confidence and assurance that they had it right and there was no need to worry. Others wrote as if they were certain, but would pause as if writing their answer slower would guarantee them a win, and other looked anxious as they had no idea what to write and would scribble an answer with moments to spare. Maybe that's how we view life. A question or a situation gets thrown at us and we feel the need to react instantly, even if what was needed was a delayed response, not an immediate reaction.

The good thing is, that we are not on a game show with a 30-second timer deciding our final fate. We have time. We have time to stop and step back. WE have time to surrender our anxiousness and we have time to release our fears and doubts. We have time to live in the moment joyfully and time to soak up the sun. I know sometimes in the middle of our problems and trials it is hard to recognize that we can be still!

In the book of Isaiah, chapter 30, the Israelites are once again allowing themselves to live in struggle. They are running all over the place caught up in their illusion of chaos instead of just being still. They can't seem to recognize right where they are is where they need to be... present. In the stillness, the Spirit will reveal itself and all that is needed will be seen because it's already there; you're already there. We are used to living lives of running, exhaustion, anxiousness, and questioning. People sometimes think of themselves as lost but there is no "lost", we are all on journey that starts right where we are. We don't need to continue these patterns. Let's shift into the stillness and be present! BE STILL and KNOW THAT I AM GOD!

Blessed to Be Still,

*Dina* ❤️



# The Giving Tree Turns 3

## Help Us Keep the Mission Growing

As many of you are aware, The Giving Tree ministry is a ministry that is very near and dear to my heart. We will be approaching our 3-year anniversary this upcoming June. I am grateful for the blessing this ministry has been to our community. This ministry has allowed us to see the hands and feet of Christ Jesus in action by helping serve people throughout Maryville and the greater Nodaway County with furniture and household items. In serving our clients, we also are blessed to be the light and love of Christ in conversation and invitation. In the early part of May, we will be blessed to work with the Maryville Leadership in doing some cleaning, organizing, and restructuring of the Giving Tree space. This will be a beautiful opportunity to collaborate with other individuals within our community who are dedicated to service and growth. As we have continued to love and serve the purpose of this ministry, we still recognize that we are in need of more workers. If we are not able to recruit other volunteers the operation of The Giving Tree will be compromised and possibly hinder our ability to do further service. I am asking that you would prayerfully consider stepping into one of the roles listed below. Each roll requires one individual, and that individual would be provided with adequate training to ensure success in their service to this ministry. Thank you for your consideration! Please contact me if you are interested in filling one of these roles. I am excited to see the continuation of this ministry and work alongside of you.

Blessings,

*Gina*

- **Giving Tree Organizer** - This person's responsibility is to come in when items have been received and place them in their proper space or rearrange if necessary to make space. They will also come in once a month to make sure everything is in order.
- **Giving Tree Client Server** - This person's responsibility is to come in meet clients at their scheduled time, provide them with paperwork, and assist them with selecting items or guide them in dropping off items for donation. (ALL appointments will be made through the Office Administrator and only on the scheduled days set by our Giving Tree hours of Operation.)
- **Giving Tree (Sat) Client Server** - This person will have the same role as above with the exception of performing their role on 1 Saturday a month.
- **Giving Tree Photo Taker** - This person's responsibility is to come in when items have been received, take photos of the items, and email/text them to the Office Administrator for posting within 2-3 days of receipt.
- **New Giving Tree Hours:** Tuesdays 10 am-12 pm, 1:30-2:30 pm and 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday 9 am-12 pm



# May



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 8:00 – 9:00 AM Sanctuary Open 9:00 – 10:00 AM Sunday School	27	28 4:30 – 6:00 PM Youth choir	29 6:00 – 7:00 PM Small Group Study	30	1	2
3 8:00 – 9:00 AM Sanctuary Open 9:00 – 10:00 AM Sunday School 10:30 – 11:30 AM Worship 2:00 – 4:00 PM Youth Recital	4 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM Circle of Joy 7:00 – 7:30 PM Nodaway Chorale National Anthem Team rehearsal	5 Cinco de Mayo 5:00 – 6:15 PM Nodaway Chorale Board of Trustees 6:30 – 7:30 PM Garden Club	6 6:00 – 7:00 PM Small Group Study	7 5:15 – 6:15 PM Girl Scout Troop 5720	8	9
10 Mother's Day 8:00 – 9:00 AM Sanctuary Open 9:00 – 10:00 AM Sunday School 10:30 – 11:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM – 12:00 PM Elders' Circle	11 6:00 – 7:00 PM Team Planning & Board Meeting	12	13 6:00 – 7:00 PM Girl Scout Troop 3385 6:00 – 7:00 PM Small Group Study	14 6:00 – 7:00 PM Girl Scout Troop 2942	15	16
17 8:00 – 9:00 AM Sanctuary Open 9:00 – 10:00 AM Sunday School 10:30 – 11:30 AM Worship	18 3:00 – 7:00 PM PEO	19 7:00 – 8:00 AM Optimist Board meeting	20	21 5:15 – 6:15 PM Girl Scout Troop 5720 6:30 – 8:30 PM Optimist Club & Board	22	23
24 8:00 – 9:00 AM Sanctuary Open 9:00 – 10:00 AM Sunday School	25 Office Closed Memorial Day	26	27	28	29	30
31 8:00 – 9:00 AM Sanctuary Open 9:00 – 10:00 AM Sunday School	1 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM Circle of Joy	2 6:30 – 7:30 PM Garden Club	3	4	5	6

# Welcome Home



FCC  
MARYVILLE, MO

*You belong here.*

## Sunday Mornings

**9 a.m.**

Sunday School Classes

**10:30 a.m.**

Service in the Sanctuary

## Sunday Worship Attendance

Mar 22 .....	32	Apr 5.....	42
Mar 29 .....	31	Apr 12.....	25

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

The next issue is  
**April 30, 2025**

**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



# Caring & Connecting

The Caring & Connecting teams are made up of individuals who feel called to step in and make a real difference—offering presence, prayer, and care to those in our church family who may be feeling isolated, overlooked, or in need of connection. For many, a simple visit is more than a kind gesture—it's a reminder that they are not alone.

Right now, there are people in our congregation who would be deeply encouraged by someone willing to show up.

If you feel even a nudge to be part of that, we invite you to attend our **Caring & Connecting training meeting on April 20 at 6:00 pm in Fellowship Hall.** During this time, you will:

- Learn what it means to step into this meaningful ministry
- Discover practical tools for impactful, heartfelt visits
- Gain a clearer picture of what it looks like to serve at Oak Pointe

**Please RSVP by 1:00 pm on Monday, April 20 so we can be ready to equip you.**

Someone is waiting for connection. Will you be the one to show up?

We hope to see you there.

## Have your newsletter sent directly to your inbox!



### Subscribe today!

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

## 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



**GOT OLD  
TENNIS  
SHOES?**

**We want them!**

From **April 13 to May 20**, we are helping Deena Poynter and our Hopkins friends with their fundraiser for the Roxy. The only thing asked of you is to **donate your used sneakers/tennis shoes (no other kinds of shoes)**. These shoes are sent to a company called Gotsneakers, that recycles the shoes, and pays the Roxy organization an amount for each pair of shoes.

**A donation bin will be located at FCC outside the main office.**

This is such a great fundraiser, because it helps the organization raise money and also keeps these shoes from going to landfills.

Please check your closets and for any sneakers you could donate for this fundraiser, and send this to everyone in your orbit! Thank you in advance.

### Looking Ahead...

- Apr. 19:** Kendric & Chloe Graduation Celebration, 9:30 am
- May 4:** Circle of Joy, 11:30 am
- May 10:** Elders' Circle, 11:30 am
- May 11:** Board meeting, 6 pm

## Hymn Sing Sunday April 26

What's your favorite hymn? If you'd love to hear it sung by the whole congregation, now is your chance.

Submit your favorite hymn by April 22—we'll do our best to include as many as possible.

Come ready to lift your voice and praise together!