

## Show Down, Hoe Down, Chow Down

# A

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Success

Our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Show Down Hoe Dow Chow Down event was a great success with over 130 people present and 12 superb pots of chili to consume. Everyone had such a wonderful time we didn't even take time to cast votes on the best chili, so everyone's a winner this year!

It was our pleasure to have so many talented people provide an evening of entertainment and we look forward to seeing everyone at next year's SDHDCD!



# Pastor's Pen

*A message from my heart to yours*



Have you ever played that game in the car with your kids or friends where you let them call out random directions just to see where it would lead you? One person might say, "Turn right!" and another might yell, "U-turn!" and off you'd go, trusting the chaos of the moment. Sometimes their directions came with plenty of notice, making it easy to prepare for the turn. Other times, they came out of nowhere. They were fast and unexpected, almost impossible to follow. The funniest moments were when we found ourselves at a dead end or in a "sus" (suspicious) location. Then came the regrouping, the laughter, and decision time. Do we turn back, or do we get out and explore? Some of the places we ended up were worth pausing to enjoy for a while and others we decided were better left unexplored. But either way, the experience became its own kind of adventure.

Sometimes these random turns gave us a surprise as they reminded us of something from the past or they were like an arrow pointing to what's next. We never quite knew what we were going to get, but before we started, we all made an agreement...trust the process. We wouldn't quit. Whether there was a set destination or just a certain amount of time spent in the game. Either way, it was about trust, commitment, and staying in harmony with one another.

That little car game reminds me of life's own unfolding journey and the role of the internal voice of Spirit or what I call Consciousness. It's as if the "I AM" within us is saying, "If you're with Me, then trust Me." Sometimes we may misinterpret the instructions, or Spirit may lead us to a place simply meant for pausing and remembering before moving forward. Other times, we're guided somewhere brand new, and yes, every now and then, it may feel like a dead end. But remember, it's all part of the journey. If we stay in harmony, honor our commitment, and keep listening, we'll find that we are always being led exactly where we need to be, arriving in perfect divine timing.

It makes me think of the moment when Jesus said, "Follow me." (Matthew 4:19) Those two words sparked countless journeys of faith. The disciples, Mary, and so many others (men and women alike) chose to trust that voice. They didn't know where the next turn would take them, but they followed, believing that the One giving the directions knew the way. And that's the invitation that still echoes in every heart, mind, and soul that's willing to listen, "Trust Me. Stay with Me. We're going somewhere good." Life can be filled with missed turns, wrong turns, and unexpected turns, but you never know when that might just be Spirit saying, "Follow Me!"

Blessed to Be Your Pastor,

*Gina* ❤️



# Welcome Home



## 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

Sept. 28 .....	36	Oct. 12 .....	47
Oct. 5 .....	27	Oct. 19 .....	33

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

The next issue is  
**Nov. 6, 2025**

First Christian Church  
Disciples of Christ  
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660.214.3414

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



FCCMaryvilleMO

## Keeping in touch with our church families

### Our Community Prayer List...

Linville family  
Lenda Kling  
Shoba Brown's brother

Sandi Mull  
JoAnn Nanninga

### In Sympathy...

The Family of Jim Meyer  
The Family of Terry Ross  
The Family of Nancy DeMott  
The Family of Diane Houston  
The Family of Doyle Watkins

### Thank you!

Thank you all so very much with providing your services for the Celebration of Life for Nance DeMott. Gina, Anita, and all of your support and tech staff, you all did a wonderful job and we are forever greatly thankful.

—The Family of Nancy DeMott



## 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

Nov. 3

Dec. 1 Pastor Gina, Virginia Ripple

## 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



# November



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 8:00 – 9:00 AM Sanctuary Open 9:00 – 10:00 AM Sunday School 5:30 – 8:30 PM Youth choir	27 4:00 – 7:00 PM Lor Kurth baby shower 7:00 – 9:00 PM Nodaway Chorale	28 4:00 – 6:00 PM Youth choir	29	30 5:00 – 6:30 PM Downtown Trick-or- Treat	31 Halloween	1
2 Daylight Saving Time ends 8:00 – 9:00 AM Sanctuary Open 9:00 – 10:00 AM Sunday School 10:30 – 11:30 AM Worship	3 1:30 – 2:30 PM Circle of Joy 7:00 – 9:00 PM Nodaway Chorale	4 Election Day 4:00 – 6:00 PM Youth choir 6:00 – 7:00 PM Maryville Garden Club 6:00 – 8:00 PM Girl Scout Leader meeting	5 6:00 – 7:00 PM Girl Scout Troop 3385	6 5:15 – 6:15 PM Girl Scout Troop 5720	7	8
9 8:00 – 9:00 AM Sanctuary Open 9:00 – 10:00 AM Sunday School 10:30 – 11:30 AM Worship	10 6:00 – 7:00 PM Team Planning & Board Meeting 7:00 – 9:00 PM Nodaway Chorale	11 Office Closed Veterans Day 4:00 – 6:00 PM Youth choir	12	13 6:00 – 7:00 PM Girl Scout Troop 2942	14	15
16 8:00 – 9:00 AM Sanctuary Open 9:00 – 10:00 AM Sunday School 10:30 – 11:30 AM Worship	17 7:00 – 9:00 PM Nodaway Chorale	18 4:00 – 6:00 PM Youth choir 5:00 – 5:45 PM Nodaway Chorale - Scholarship Committee	19	20 5:15 – 6:15 PM Girl Scout Troop 5720 6:00 – 7:00 PM Girl Scout Troop 3376 6:30 – 8:30 PM Optimist Club & Board	21	22
23 8:00 – 9:00 AM Sanctuary Open 9:00 – 10:00 AM Sunday School 5:30 – 8:30 PM Youth Choir of NWMO	24 7:00 – 9:00 PM Nodaway Chorale	25 4:00 – 6:00 PM Youth choir	26	27 Thanksgiving Day Office Closed	28 Office Closed Black Friday	29
30 8:00 – 9:00 AM Sanctuary Open 9:00 – 10:00 AM Sunday School	1 1:30 – 2:30 PM Circle of Joy 7:00 – 9:00 PM Nodaway Chorale	2 4:00 – 6:00 PM Youth choir	3	4 5:15 – 6:15 PM Girl Scout Troop 5720	5	6



## The Giving Tree

# Cleanup/Organization Day Nov. 15 9-11 am

Join us as we pour our attention and love into The Giving Tree and spend some time re-organizing items in this vital ministry.

We will be:

- Re-arranging furniture for better space utilization
- Labeling areas for better efficiency
- Organizing household items into easy-to-find groupings
- Folding and organizing bedding and other cloth items
- Deciding what items may need to be taken out of circulation

Drop in for a few minutes or stay for the whole time, you will be a welcome addition to our community efforts!



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

Find us at  
[youtube.com/@firstchristianmaryvillemo](https://www.youtube.com/@firstchristianmaryvillemo)

Remember to Comment, Like, & Subscribe today!

Have your newsletter sent  
directly to your inbox!



Subscribe today!

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

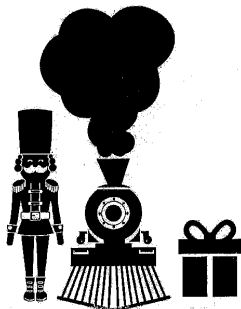


Find us on Instagram, Facebook  
and Blue Sky

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[@fccmaryvillemo.bsky.social](https://www.bsky.social/fccmaryvillemo)



## Toys 4 Tots of Nodaway County

For more information, please contact: Terri Dawson 660-254-0943

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

Maryville, MO 64468

Or Venmo: @Todays-CivicWoman



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 13<sup>th</sup> - November 30<sup>th</sup>**

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

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, Willow & Elm

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



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



### *How You Can Be Part of It:*

- **Sponsor a Night**— help provide or cover the meal
- **Serve**— join the kitchen, greeter, or set up/ take down teams at [fccmaryvillemo.com/ministries](http://fccmaryvillemo.com/ministries)
- **Show Up**— bring a friend and join the community
- **Pray**— support through your prayers for connection and impact

Go to [fccmaryvillemo.com/ministries](http://fccmaryvillemo.com/ministries) for more info.

### *Why It Matters...*

*The Table is FCC extending hospitality to our town—creating a space of belonging, nourishment, and community in the middle of the week.*



Scan this  
QR code or  
Mark your  
cash/check  
"The Table"  
to make a  
contribution

## **Looking Ahead...**

**Oct. 24:** 6-7 pm, Prayer Walk Club, St. Gregory's south parking lot

**Nov. 2:** Daylight Savings ends

**Nov. 3:** 1:30 pm, Circle of Joy

**Nov. 10:** 6 pm, Board meeting

**Nov. 11:** Veterans' Day, Office Closed

**Nov. 23:** Congregational Vote

## ***Congregational Vote***

We will have a congregational meeting before the service on Nov. 23 to discuss and vote upon the 2026 general budget, incoming leaders, and possible policy updates.