



THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER

First Christian Church, Maryville, MO

fccmaryvillemo.com

January 22, 2026



Sharing the Story



Elena Huegel sharea the Gospel through her award winning stories
Wednesday, Feb 4, and Sunday, Feb 8

by Sandi Mull

"I didn't know that Disciples had missionaries" was a comment I heard when Elena Huegel visited in the past. Disciples support mission ministry request of churches and Christian organizations in other countries. Elena, who grew up in Central Mexico where Disciples in this area did short term mission work, answered the call to mission ministry in Paraguay, Chile and now in Chiapas, Mexico. She currently coordinates a program entitled Roots in the Ruins, Hope in Trauma, in both Chile and Chiapas and,

recently, Global Ministry's honored her family's 125 years of mission ministry.

Elena helped establish and coordinate the Shalom retreat and camping center in Chile and has published several books, as well as received the First Place prize in the 2018 Eastern Mennonite University's Center for Justice and Peace-building Alumni Storytelling Contest.

At the Institute for Intercultural Studies and Research, Elena works with diverse groups, helping them work in harmony to achieve common objectives, such as promoting justice and working towards peace. She says, "I am called to lift up and honor the dignity that we all share as God's creation and to participate in the healing of all our relationships."

On February 4 and 8, she will share stories of her ministry in Chiapas, including learning from the wisdom and beauty of the Mayan and the Mexican cultures and that countries can learn from each other. She will share stories of people from different cultures coming together, sharing their stories of trauma healing, resilience development, nourishing of dignity, grief process accompaniment and exploration of paths of justice. During her guest appearance, she will share the challenges and blessings of working in Chiapas.



Welcome Home



FCC
MARYVILLE, MO
You belong here.

Sunday Mornings

9 a.m.

Sunday School Classes

10:30 a.m.

Service in the Sanctuary

Wednesday Evenings

6 p.m.

The Table, dinner service

Sunday Worship Attendance

Dec. 28	26	Jan. 11	37
Jan. 4	36	Jan. 18	24

Attendance at The Table

Dec. 17	22	Jan. 7	11
Dec. 25	33	Jan. 14	25

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the Tuesday before publication.

The next issue is
Feb. 5, 2025

First Christian Church Disciples of Christ

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Keeping in touch with our church families

Our Community Prayer List...

Bob Colville
Karla Parman
Pat Immel

Linville family
Jasmine Thompson



Caring & Connecting

We are launching a new ministry opportunity to show up and offer presence, prayer, and care to members of our congregation who are in nursing homes, homebound, or in a season where a visit would be meaningful. These visits are not about fixing or filling time but they are about caring and connecting with those who we hold dear.

We are inviting volunteers to be part of this ministry. Those who serve will do so on a rotating basis and will be paired with an elder or deacon for each visit. If you feel called to quietly sit, listen, pray, or simply show up in love, this ministry may be for you.

If you or someone you love would welcome a visit, whether in a nursing home, at home, or during a season of need we invite you to reach out. Communion is also available upon request.

If you are interested in serving or being served by this ministry, please contact Pastor Gina or the church office:

fccmaryvillemo@gmail.com

660.214.3414

Text 833.374.9501

Our Staff

Gina Johnson
Senior Pastor

Virginia Ripple
Office Administrator

Anita Dew
Organist

Peggy Dowis
Custodian

Kendric Santos-Briggs
Audio Lead

Chloe Petersen
Live Stream Lead

Pastor's Pen

A message from my heart to yours



What does faithfulness mean to you? I would imagine for some of us, the word brings up ideas of loyalty, devotion, commitment, consistency, promises, vows, etc. In my mind it always summons the presence of the late and great George Michael singing "Faith... you gotta have faith..." LOL. Okay but biblically speaking, faithfulness is about perseverance and steadiness. It's about locking in because you KNOW there is something greater than what's in front of you. There is promise, eternity, unending love and wholeness that was born in covenant with our God, Jehovah. It's that infinite understanding that no matter what the current moment looks like, good, bad, or indifferent; you still choose to remain anchored to God, even when the moment doesn't feel especially inspiring. Scripture says, "The Lord is faithful in all His words and gracious in all His deeds" (Psalm 145:13). Did you catch that? God's faithfulness isn't dependent on circumstances. It's simply who God is. And when we're invited into faithfulness, we're invited into that same rhythm. I will continue to seek, ask, and knock! I will continue to be bold and courageous for the Lord, my God is with me. I will continue to be present and rest in the stillness that I know comes from the Spirit.

In our world today many people feel stretched and overwhelmed just looking at the news or the community in which they live. While others sit in a bubble protected by ignorance where they are slowly losing connection and awareness. However when we stand in the faithfulness to who we are in Christ and why we are here, it becomes more clear on how to demonstrate our faithfulness. We can show up in smaller, quieter ways such as continuing to care, choosing to take the higher road, and always embracing hope and perseverance when it would be easier to give in to emotional swings, numbness, or simply checking out. Paul encourages us with these words: "Let us not grow weary in doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up" (Galatians 6:9). Faithfulness isn't about seeing immediate results, it's about trusting that what has been planted will produce a harvest in its divine timing. So this week I invite you to sit with this...faithfulness doesn't mean doing more, it's about showing up with an open heart and staying true to who you are.

Blessed to Be Your Pastor,

Gina ❤



February



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 8:00 – 9:00 AM Sanctuary Open 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM Circle of Joy	2 4:00 – 6:00 PM Youth choir	3 6:00 – 7:00 PM Girl Scout Troop 3385	4 6:00 – 7:00 PM The Table	5	6 9:00 – 11:30 AM PEO
	7 9:00 – 10:00 AM Sunday School 10:30 – 11:30 AM Worship	8 7:00 – 9:00 PM Nodaway Chorale				
	9 6:00 – 7:00 PM Team Planning & Board Meeting	10 4:00 – 6:00 PM Youth choir	11 6:00 – 7:00 PM The Table	12 5:15 – 6:15 PM Girl Scout Troop 5720 6:00 – 7:00 PM Girl Scout Troop 2942	13	14 Valentine's Day
	15 8:00 – 9:00 AM Sanctuary Open Presidents' Day	16 7:00 – 9:00 PM Nodaway Chorale Optimist Board meeting	17 4:00 – 6:00 PM Youth choir	18 6:00 – 7:00 PM Girl Scout Troop 3385 6:00 – 7:00 PM The Table	19 10:00 – 11:00 AM Girl Scout Troop 3376 6:30 – 8:30 PM Optimist Club & Board	20
	22 8:00 – 9:00 AM Sanctuary Open 9:00 – 10:00 AM Sunday School	23 7:00 – 9:00 PM Nodaway Chorale	24 4:00 – 6:00 PM Youth choir	25 6:00 – 7:00 PM The Table	26 5:15 – 6:15 PM Girl Scout Troop 5720 6:00 – 7:00 PM Girl Scout Troop 2942	27
						28

What are you being called to?

greeter

serving
at
The Table

The Giving
Tree
worker

Scripture
reader

water
ministry

deacon

Oak
Pointe
helper

Nursery
worker

Vice
Moderator

children's
Sunday
school

Every opportunity here is a vital part of a healthy ministry. If you are interested in volunteering in one of these roles, please contact Pastor Gina for more information.



WEATHER CANCELLATION POLICY



The cancellation of church should be considered if the temperature is 10 degrees or below OR if there is a significant amount of snow.

The Minister, Moderator, Head of Property, The Office Administrator, Church Technical Director should discuss and make this decision no later than 6:30 a.m. on the morning of service (or three hours before the event).

If the decision to cancel service is made:

1. The Office Administrator will send notification email and text to the congregation by 7:30 a.m. on the morning of service (or two hours before the event).
2. The Office Administrator will place notice on Facebook and FCC website by 7:30 a.m. on the morning of service.
3. Technical Director will work with the Minister to provide an online alternative service if both agree.



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
201 WEST THIRD STREET
MARYVILLE MO 64468

Return Service Requested



Sharing the Story

Come and Hear
Missionary Elena Huegel
Share the Gospel through her
award winning stories of
trauma healing, resilience, dignity,
and grief in the exploration of
paths of justice.
Wednesday, Feb 4, at The Table
and Sunday, Feb 8,
during regular service.

See more details in our front page article.

Looking Ahead...

Jan. 28: The Table, 6 pm

Feb. 2: Circle of Joy, 11:30 am

Feb. 4: The Table, 6 pm, Guest Speaker Elena Huegel

Feb. 9: Board meeting, 6 pm

Feb. 11: The Table, 6 pm



If you're looking for a tangible way to share God's love, serving The Ministry Center is a beautiful place to start. We need 3 volunteers Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays during February from 1:15-4:15 pm.

Sign-up information is available as a sign-up sheet at our welcome table or go to rebrand.ly/Ministry-Center-Feb2026 to sign up using our sign-up genius.

We'd love to have you serve alongside us.