
The Good News

Volume 2021

September 1, 2021

Issue 33

E-Mail: greatfallsucc@bresnan.net

Rev. Lynne Spencer-Smith
(406) 453-4316

www.greatfallsucc.org

P. O. Box 6303, 59406

like us on Facebook at First Congregational United Church of Christ-Great Falls, MT

Worship for September 5, 2021



Led by First Congregational United Church of Christ, this final joint worship for the summer will be held in person in the sanctuary at 9:30 A.M. AND will be live-streamed on Facebook.

A recording of the live-streamed service will be available on YouTube later in the day.

An abbreviated, pre-recorded service will air on NBC at 9:30 A.M.

This will be a communion service! For those who will be participating in worship virtually, be sure to have some form of bread and appropriate beverage on hand.

Because COVID numbers continue to be at concerning levels in Cascade County we will be adhering to as many precautions as possible:

- Enter only through the main narthex doors
- Register with our ushers upon arrival
- Face masks will cover nose and mouth throughout the service
- Distance seating (6 feet between folks who are not part of your “pod”)
- Offering will be collected at the doors
- Remain seated for the postlude and exit, keeping distancing in place
- The ventilation system will be up and running

If you are not feeling well or have reason to believe you have been exposed to COVID-19 in the preceding 10 days, please stay home and take advantage of any of our virtual worship offerings.

A Note About Fellowship

We LOVE our fellowship time. We love visiting with our friends and catching up with what’s going on in each other’s lives. We love the hospitality extended by our Fellowship Board and their helpers. We love the food! Because we love all this stuff so much, we tend to forget that we need love each other’s health and continue to observe the COVID good-health protocols. Since it’s so hard to drink coffee and eat cookies through a mask, the masks come off, removing one of the most important means of protection so we have to be more diligent about the others. To help ensure the health of everyone, remember to keep that 6-feet-of-distance between you and your friends. We’ll keep the ventilation system running through our Fellowship time. The one thing we DO NOT want to share at Fellowship is the Corona virus!

When We Return for Non-Joint Services

As we prepare to move out of the joint worship service schedule, please keep in mind that we will need to clear the sanctuary and narthex as quickly as possible in order to do some cleaning and sanitizing between services. We don’t want to stifle conversation and fellowship after worship but ask that it be done outdoors or in Fellowship Hall. Thank you for the ongoing work to keep every one safe and healthy.



Christian Education News

This week the Christian Education Board is discussing the fall program year for Sunday School and nursery. If you would like to comment, please contact **Janet Koostra, 727-8443** or janetkoostra@gmail.com, or a member of the Christian Education Board: **Betsy Rogstad (chair), Sue Turton, Janelle Patton, Tom Spencer, Christian McClelland and Dean Jardee.**

“Renewed!” A Theme for Worship and Discussion

We’ve been quarantined, masked, distanced, separated, Zoomed, and have become skilled in ordering everything from groceries to clothing online. Although we’re still doing much of that, we’re also re-gathering and re-turning to some of what we did before the Corona Virus pandemic descended upon us. As we emerge into our new ways of being, our worship themes for the first seven weeks of the fall will focus on “Renewed!” (See list of the weekly worship themes below.)

We’ll further connect with our sense of being “Renewed!” through weekly small group discussions. They will give us the opportunity to dig more deeply into each week’s theme and create a space into which we will explore ways to carry the sense of renewal into everyday life. The small groups will be offered in person as well as on Zoom. In order to make sure we have sufficient small group facilitators, please register to attend. Register by contacting the church office, Rev. Lynne or signing up at church.

The worship services will be designed to create a space into which you can rest in questions with God as individuals and where we as a congregation can be invited into our future. The small groups will help us explore those questions more deeply.

At the conclusion of the series, those who participated in the small groups will participate in a unified evaluation session via Zoom on November 3rd at 7:00 P.M.

Renewed! – September 12

The theme is introduced as we gather for worship on Rally Day.

From Fear – September 19

Fear is a strong force that stifles growth and renewal. From what fears are we being released as we move into the future God intends for us? For what purpose is God calling you forth from fear?

From Separation – September 26

We have spent the last 18 months experiencing various forms of separation. Even though some separation continues in many forms, God continues to call us away from separation into connectedness. From what forms of unnecessary separation might God be wanting to renew us?

In Community – October 3 (World Communion Sunday)

World Communion Sunday celebrates the world-wide Christian community, our union through Christ with people around the world. How is God working through community to give you renewal? Where do we experience deep community as we live into our faith?

By Hope – October 10

Emily Dickinson writes of hope: “Hope is the thing with feathers that perches in the soul and sings the tune without the words and never stops at all.” What might God be wanting to renew in you with the feathers of hope?

For Creativity – October 17

The writer of Ephesians writes about the gifts for ministry that are given to each of us. How do we discover what those gifts are and what is holding us back from using them to the fullest? What’s the one thing you’ve always wanted to do through faith and what is keeping you from doing it?

For Wonder – October 24

Have you ever watched a young child explore something for the first time? Have you ever seen something so beautiful it takes your breath away? Have you ever found yourself in a situation that is so unbelievably wonderful that you stop in your tracks just to take it in? These are all indications of the gift of wonder and it is where worship begins. How might God be calling us into renewed wonder as a church? As individuals? As a denomination?
