

The Good News

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

Worship for October 3, 2021 Holy Communion “Renewed in Community”

Serving in Worship
Lay Reader: Susan Thomas
Ushers: June Rovero, Suzan Seery



We will continue to gather for in-person worship in the sanctuary. It's World Communion Sunday! A day designated to celebrate the inter-connectedness of the world-wide church.



For those who will be participating in worship through the television, Facebook or YouTube, you'll want to be sure and have some bread and appropriate beverage on hand.

The televised service will be a repeat of portions from last year's World Communion Sunday service and will air on NBC at 9:30 A.M. The live service will be streamed on Facebook at 9:30 A.M. and will be available on YouTube later in the day on Sunday.



CROP Walk

Fall is in the air! It's time to get our walking shoes on to help end hunger, one step at a time. **CROP WALK is this Sunday, October 3rd.** The event begins at Elks Riverside Park with registration at 1:00 P.M. and walking at 1:30 P.M. You can pledge in person or online at <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2021/event/greatfallsmt>. This year's donations will go to Helping Hands Ministry, a local charity that benefits our local and individuals and groups in need.



Christian Education News

Sunday school is off to a nice start! In the first three weeks of fall programming, 15 children representing eight families have attended Sunday school. Two of these families have also had four children in the nursery. All adults and children over age 2 wear masks, windows are open for better ventilation and cleaning takes place after each worship. **Sunday, October 3rd is Communion Sunday.** Children will begin in Sunday school then join their families for the sacrament of Holy Communion at the conclusion of worship. Communion is served in individually wrapped packages that contain a wafer and juice for each person. Younger children will finish the story of David. Older children will begin looking at “The Unofficial Handbook of the UCC”. Children will also discuss how to use this fall's Sunday school offering. **For more information, please contact Janet Koostra, Christian Education Coordinator, at 727-8443 or janetkoostra@gmail.com.**



We had a somewhat busy FISH week last week at the Food Pantry! Our UCC Congregation is so great at volunteering for everything! Thank you to these volunteers for helping to distribute food to families in need: **Barb Armstrong, Jack Armstrong, Harry and Connie Brauer, Lila Byers, Carol Davidson, Dennis Dell, Maribeth Doan, Peggy Floen, Sharon Kiffe, Bonnie Lane, Liz Lee, Sharon Oakland, Janet Olson, Karen Spencer, Bonnie Warren and Nancy Zbinden.** Our next FISH week is December 13-17.

Unfailing Love- Neighbors In Need

This year's offering is focused on supporting organizations and projects that are serving homeless and immigrant neighbors and communities. One-third of Neighbors In Need (NIN) funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the United Church of Christ's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to provide funding grants to UCC churches and organizations leading justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects in their communities.



Our special offering comes on October 31st. Donations can be mailed to the church with the memo NIN, donated through the United Church of Christ national website: <https://www.ucc.org/neighbors-in-need-special-mission-offering/>, or through our own Great Falls United Church of Christ website with the memo NIN, <https://greatfallsucc.org/>.

Gay Straight Alliance at East Middle School



The Christian Service Board has become aware of a club meeting at East Middle School. **The Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) currently consists of 15-20 students who attend monthly meetings. Funding through the PTA is not available** and with the GSA aligning perfectly with our Open and Affirming mission and outreach, the Christian Service Board is seeking donations that would provide snacks, supplies, tickets for different events, etc. Donations can be sent to the church at PO Box 6303 with the memo GSA or through the website at greatfallsucc.org.

Gift Cards for our Young Adults

Do you know of a young adult who could use some love from the church? Let us do just that! **Kids, grandkids, nieces, nephews, those in the military or college, a young mother or father or neighbor-** they are all deserving of God's love... and a care card from the church! **Please let the office know current name and address in time for cards to be received by October 23rd.** If you care to, throw a few donation dollars towards this cause. A few dollars can go a long way!

Clear the Clutter!

The United Methodist Women (UMW) are having their annual Rummage Sale this Saturday, on **October 2nd**. Bring any donations to the church fellowship hall on Thursday or Friday afternoon. They are not selling any clothing this year but already have a lot of special items to sell from storage. There are many craft items for all of your projects. Stop by and support the UMW's missional giving. **The hours for the sale are 8:30 A.M.-2:00 P.M.** Please wear a mask.



Tuesday, November 2, 2021

5:30 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.

Fellowship Hall.

\$10 per person

\$25 for a family

Bob Dowdy will be making his famous spaghetti sauce.

Anyone can contact me to purchase tickets.

Someone will be selling tickets each Sunday following church.

Thanks, Carolyn Dowdy

True Colors

I remember when I learned that when the leaves change colors in the fall, they are really showing their true colors. All that chlorophyll that has been pumping through their little leaf-veins was covering up the reds and oranges and yellows of the true color of the leaf. It was doing its job to feed and nurture the leaf and the tree from which it grew. Before this knowledge, I was always sad to see autumn come. It felt like death was descending all around.

I was excited when I learned that the colors of autumn are really about the leaves showing their true colors in one last extravagant “Hurrah!” before they were released to float through the air and return to the earth. What a great metaphor for our own uncovering or unveiling—we let go of whatever it is that hides our true colors so that we can be seen for who or what we are. Like the leaves, when we relax the things that are about getting a job done, our true selves are more likely to emerge and shine. Don’t we all discover more of our own true nature when we slow down and let the mechanisms of our own productive lives rest? Haven’t we all discovered that, when given (or taking) the time to slow down, our souls are allowed to emerge and maybe even be on brilliant display? Imagine how excited God is to see us slow down, power down our “jobs” and see that God created us to be emerge and be on full display.

Part of the invitation to live fully into life is to practice setting aside or turning off that which keeps our true selves from coming forth. We tend to get so good at keeping the “chlorophyll” of our own lives going, we don’t often recognize what is hiding underneath it when it emerges.

That’s what Sabbath is about—turning off our “work” so that God’s creative work in us can come forth. It’s why I often begin worship with an exercise in letting go, breathing in, paying attention and resting in God. It’s a simple way to engage in our own autumn transformation that opens us up to our true selves and allows that true self to be the one we bring to worship.

May the true colors of the leaves around us this autumn serve as nature’s invitation for you to show your true colors.

Have a blessed week.

Rev. Lynne



Dear First Congregational Church Great Falls,

Camp was such fun! Thank you for providing a special part of the experience! Thank you for the exceptional support to Outdoor Ministry. Camp Group Leader Janet Koostra was a super advocate and great contact. Great Falls sent youth to each level of youth camp and had campers at You & Me Camp as well as well as Creative Hearts and Fishing Camp. Kudos!

Trudi Downer, Program Director
Montana-Northern Wyoming Conference


