

The Good News

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

Worship for October 24, 2021 “Renewed! For Wonder”



Serving in Worship
Lay Reader: Colene Parker
Ushers: Syneva Heupel, Bill Walters

Scripture: Psalm 8

In-Person worship will be offered in the church sanctuary at 9:30 A.M.
The service will be live-streamed on Facebook.

A recording of this version will be available on YouTube later in the day.

An abbreviated version of this service will be available on the local NBC TV station at 9:30 A.M. (note that it may be on your TV guide as something other than our church's worship service.)

Remember to wear your facemask to completely cover your nose and mouth throughout the service and try to observe some physical distancing.

Plan to leave the sanctuary as soon as possible after our service to allow our friends from Christ United Methodist Church to prepare for their worship at 11:00 A.M.

There will be Coffee Fellowship in Fellowship Hall after the service.

Trunk or Treat is Cancelled

Trunk or Treat, which was scheduled for Saturday, October 30, is cancelled. The Christian Education Board could not enlist enough volunteers to decorate cars and very few families expressed interest in participating. We hope everyone has a fun and happy Halloween!



Christian Education News

Children begin in worship October 24th. During Sunday school younger kids will have more fun learning about “Jonah and the Big Fish”. Older kids will discuss the history of the United Church of Christ. This is the second week of our Thanksgiving Basket Offering Project. This week, children are asked to bring Mashed Potato Mixes. Last week we made a great start with two dozen cans of vegetables and two boxes of cereal. This project will continue through November 21st and baskets will be delivered on November 22nd to 6 families in need. **Families who are not attending church in person can donate by contacting Janet Koostra at 727-8443.**

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.**



people come and go in military life and leadership changed at the church and my husband and I created a life here in Great Falls as he got out of the military. I had always wondered about the Congregational Church that sat behind DQ. Would it be the same as my church back home?

Well, I found out that my co-worker and friend, Jesse Patton, belonged to the church and I asked to join him and his family one Sunday. I walked into the church and everyone here was so friendly. Church began and the first hymn we sang was one I knew from the old hymnal and I started to cry. It was emotions that I didn't expect and took me by surprise because at that moment I knew I was home at UCC and it just felt right being there. It felt like it did when I would go to church every Sunday with Mom and grandma.

UCC has taken our family in. Lily loves to go to Sunday school here and even my husband whose faith has been challenged so many times in the past 10 years we have been here in Great Falls has made this his home. I want to thank the congregation for taking us in and making us feel welcome and I look forward to many years of service as I feel that my faith will grow even more in this congregation.

Unfailing Love- Neighbors In Need

The Neighbors in Need offering supports the United Church of Christ's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Two-thirds of the offering is used by the United Church of Christ's Justice and Witness Ministries to fund a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. Through ucc.org/justice, our national Justice and Witness Ministries office offers resources, news updates, and action alerts on a broad spectrum of justice issues. Working with members of the UCC Justice and Peace Action Network (a network of thousands of UCC justice and peace advocates), Justice and Witness continues its strong policy advocacy work on issues such as the federal budget, voting rights, immigration, health care, hate crimes, civil liberties, and environmental justice. Neighbors in Need also supports our American Indian neighbors in the UCC. One-third of the offering supports the UCC's Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM). Today there are 20 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban, multi-tribal congregation in Minneapolis, Minnesota. These churches and their pastors are supported by CAIM.



Our special offering will be collected 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/>.

Neighbors in Need helps make Unfailing Love possible.
For this to occur, it needs your support.



Town Pump has again selected FISH to be part of the 2021 campaign "MONTANANS HELPING MONTANANS" (formerly Be a Friend Indeed, Help Those In Need). This is the 20th year for Town Pump's support of local food banks. **From now through November 30th, Town Pump will match each dollar collected by FISH up to \$25,000.**

Our FISH offering is collected on the first Sunday of each month.
Donations made through the church will be sent to FISH and will count towards the goal of 25,000.

“The Way Home”

Over the next few newsletters, I'll be sharing more information about my upcoming sabbatical that will take place from May 23 – August 21, 2022.

Margaret Silf explores a variety of aspects of Celtic Spirituality in her beautiful book, “Spaces.” She uses the idea of a journey called “The Way” to unfold the various Celtic symbols and practices. “The Way” is a process about growing and becoming who we really are.

I chose this image of “The Way” as a basis for my sabbatical plans. By temporarily stepping out of my role as pastor, I hope to use the time to celebrate this “Way” of growth and becoming. I'll be enjoying Greg's company throughout the sabbatical so we will be taking this journey of growth and becoming together.

There will be a variety of opportunities to nurture that journey that I will share with you over the coming weeks. In the meantime, here's some thoughts for you to ponder should you like to engage on your own “Way.”

The Way invites us to consider the sacred spaces in our lives, those places where we recognize the presence of holiness in distinct manner. Sacred spaces are not limited to physical, tangible locations:

a certain park bench; a hiking trail; a beach; a church sanctuary. Sacred spaces can also be a space of time when an experience moves us to recognize God's presence in profound ways: hearing a piece of music at just the right time; a particular experience with communion or baptism; an important conversation; an act of compassion. What sacred "spaces" have you encountered in your life? Was there someone that led you to that space? How might you carry the sacred essence of that space into your everyday life?

I invite you to return to these questions over the next few days for deeper reflection. Perhaps journal your responses or use the questions to engage in conversation with someone else.

Welcome to the journey.

Rev. Lynne

