

# The Good News

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Rev. Lynne Spencer-Smith

(406) 453-4316

E-Mail: [greatfallsucc@bresnan.net](mailto:greatfallsucc@bresnan.net)

[www.greatfallsucc.org](http://www.greatfallsucc.org)

P. O. Box 6303, 59406

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



**9:30 A.M.**

Minister: Rev. Lynne Spencer-Smith

Liturgist: Sara Branom

Ushers: Hank and Sara Branom

Fellowship: Sue and Dennis Turton

Tellers: Carol Shipley and Sue Skees

**4:30 pm**

Service of Lessons, Carols and Candlelight

Ministers: Revs. Lynne Spencer-Smith and Greg Smith

Christ Candle Lighters: The Goss Family

Ushers: Jenn and Zurie Goss

Tellers: Carol Shipley and Ed Venetz

**Serving for Both Services:**

Choir Director: Cindy Stevens

Accompanist: Tyler Menzales

The services will be live-streamed on Facebook and a recording of the livestream service will be available on YouTube later in the day.

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## ***FISH Thanks***

Once again our FISH week turned out great with our amazing volunteers! Thank you so much to **Jack Armstrong, Harry & Connie Brauer, Lila Byers, Carol Davidson, Peggy Floen, Bev Harris, Syneva Heupel, Bonnie Lane, Steve & Karen McElroy, Sandi Nicolai, Janet Olson** and **Nancy Zbinden**! Our next turn will be either the last week in January or the first week in February. Watch for upcoming notices!



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## ***Christian Education News***

We will not have Sunday school on December 24 or December 31. Sunday School will resume on January 7. Make note, this is when our worship service time switches to 11:00 A.M. Merry Christmas!



### ***Good News of Great Joy***

I would like to offer my heartfelt prayers of gratitude to all who made this year's Christmas Pageant possible. Bushels of thanks to all the children and their families for weeks of rehearsals and wonderful work on dialog! Huge thanks to **Rev. Lynne Spencer-Smith** for costume construction and **Jon Borland** for set construction! Three cheers for Tom Spencer and Erin Borland for props! Hurray for the tech crew! Applause for the adult kid-wrangers! Yahoo for the choir! I so appreciate everything participants did to make the pageant such a fantastic success! Thank you, thank you, thank you! May God bless you all abundantly! Merry Christmas!

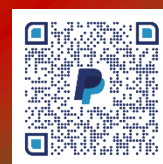
With love, Janet Koostra



Each year during our Christmas Eve service, two organizations are selected as recipients of your generosity. This year, the **West Elementary Food Pantry** and **Veterans of the Cross** have been chosen. The Veterans of the Cross Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas checks each December to our lower-income retirees. What a great way to say "Thank you."

West Elementary is one of the lowest socioeconomic schools in our district. Our church has been very generous to West Elementary but they continue to have significant needs. **The Christian Service Board will match your contribution to the food pantry up to \$200.00 to help fill the pantry for when the kids return to school after the holidays.** Many students are receiving special care during Christmas so let us ensure they continue to feel love and care into 2024.

Christmas offering donations can be brought to church or you can use the QR code to access our PayPal page. Please remember to indicate the designation of your gift in the "note" section on PayPal. **You are welcome to contribute to one or both.**



### ***Upcoming Worship Schedule***

December 24	9:30 A.M.	Christmas Eve morning service
December 24	4:30 P.M.	Christmas Eve service of Lessons and Carols and Candlelight
December 31	10:00 A.M.	Joint service with Christ UMC, UCC leadership
January 7, 2024	11:00 A.M.	Begin new worship time for 2024

### ***Merry Christmas from the Staff of First Congregational United Church of Christ***

May your Christmas be blessed with goodness and joy. May the celebration of the birth of Christ fill you with hope. May the coming year be one of peace, love and justice for all.

Merry Christmas!

Rev. Lynne, Holly, Janet, Eric, Cindy, Tyler, Dennis and Josh



**Sunday, December 24**

9:30 A.M. Christmas Eve morning worship

4:30 P.M. Christmas Eve Service of Lessons, Carols and Candlelight

**Monday, December 25**

MERRY CHRISTMAS! (Church office closed)

**Wednesday, December 27**

NO CHOIR OR HANDBELL REHEARSAL

**Sunday, December 31**

10:00 A.M. Joint Worship with Christ UMC, UCC leadership

**Monday, January 1, 2024**

HAPPY NEW YEAR! (Church office closed)

**Tuesday, January 2**

12:45 P.M. Reading, West Elementary

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