

# The Good News

Volume 2024

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Issue 09

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

**March 3, 2024**  
**Third Sunday in Lent**  
**Worship Service**  
**Holy Communion**  
**11:00 A.M.**

*"The Earth is the Lord's and everything in it." Psalm 24:1*



Minister: Rev. Lynne Spencer-Smith  
Scripture: Genesis 1:9-13; 2:4a-9, 15; Matthew 5:25-30  
Lay Reader: Joan Duncan  
Ushers: Steve Gettel, June Rovero, Susan Thomas  
Organist: Tyler Menzaes  
Handbell Director: Dennis Dell  
Acolyte: Alicia Light  
Elementary Sunday School: Betsy Rogstad  
Youth Sunday School: Cara Dunn  
Nursery: CJ Mollohan, Mackenzie Noble  
Fellowship: Verna Kessner, KimKay McCarty Martin  
Tellers: Paul Haffeman, Liz Lee

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

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## *Journey With Us Through Lent*

Upcoming Worship Theme Schedule and notes

**March 10** – Worship Creation Theme: Wood

**March 17** – Taizé Service; Worship Creation Theme: Seeds

**March 24** – Palm Sunday; Worship Creation Theme: Stones

**March 31** – Easter Sunday; Combined service with Christ United Methodist,  
9:30 A.M. Rev. Lynne Preaching

## *Moving Kelly Home*

The time has come to rally around and move **Kelly Q** back home after the house fire from one year ago. It will be an “all hands-on deck” day on **Saturday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>** beginning at **10:00 A.M.** **Meet at Kelly’s temporary home at 6470 Heaven’s View Lane.** We’ll be helping Kelly pack up all her belongings from this location, load them into our vehicles, and carry them into her refurbished home at **723 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. S. W.** Pick-up trucks will be greatly appreciated! We’ll just keep working until we get her moved so the more the merrier and the quicker we can get her home!

See the February 28 *Good News* for directions to Kelly’s temporary home.

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### *Christian Education News*

This week, both Youth and Elementary Sunday School students will begin the morning in class. **Youth students will gather in the parlor with Cara Dunn. Betsy Rogstad will meet with younger kids in Sunday School Room #4.** All children will join their families for the sacrament of Holy Communion and the conclusion of worship.

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### *Bibles and Acolytes*

Worship on February 25 was fun and exciting! One of the highlights was the presentation of Bibles to **eight** of the young people from our congregation! Traditionally, Bibles are presented to children in 4<sup>th</sup> grade. But this year we had some additional older kids who were not with us during their fourth grade years. See the February 28 *Good News* for who our Bible recipients were

Not only were Bibles presented in worship but acolytes were also commissioned. Previously, our congregation had four young people trained as acolytes. This year we added six new members to our acolyte ministry. Most were able to join us in worship and nine acolytes, both new and veterans, were commissioned to serve.

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### *“All About Baptism” Class*

Children and families—and any other interested folks—are invited to join Pastor Lynne on **Sunday, March 17** in the sanctuary for an informative class, “All About Baptism”. Lynne will share with attendees “why we do what we do and the way we do it” related to baptism and our church. **Gather in the sanctuary about 12:15 P.M. (after worship) for an interesting and engaging discussion.**

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### *Easter Baskets*

Once again this year, Sunday School and the Christian Education Board are sponsoring an Easter Basket Ministry to gift a few of our congregation members with Easter Baskets. Beginning this Sunday, find the display in the narthex near the elevator with colorful paper Easter eggs listing items needed to fill baskets. **Please purchase any items that catch your eye, then return them to the display by Wednesday, March 20.** You can also volunteer to deliver baskets too! Thank you to everyone who has embraced this ministry with such wonderful generosity over the years.

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## *In Our Thoughts and Prayers*

† Congratulations to **Brady & Katie Afflack** on the birth of their daughter, **Mary Anne**. Mary Anne joined big sisters **Bella** and **Ellen** on February 10.

† Congratulations to **Don & Niki Bickel** on the birth of their great-granddaughter, **Nova Marie**, born December 5, 2023 to **Cassie Stroh** and **Darien Bickel**.

† Our sympathy to **Rev. Dawn Skerrett** in the death of her grandma, February 24, in Billings.

† **Liz Lee's** husband, **Kevin**, is recovering from having surgery.

† **Kelly McKeehan**, youth group leader with Christ United Methodist, is being treated for colon cancer and is recovering from surgery.

† **Diane Young** passed away Wednesday, 2/28, morning. She was in hospice care. Prayers for **Diane**, her husband **Ray**, daughter **Denise Jackson**, and sons **Chris** and **Steven**.

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## *Camp Sunday Re-Cap*

What a day! Lots of camp songs. Lots of energy. Lots of participation and great food. Lots of money raised for camp scholarships! Thank you to everyone who showed up, participated and contributed in so many ways. Thank you to the Fellowship Board for the great camp lunch of hot dogs, beans, chips and a spectacular "Bill" cake. The silent auction was a hit! **We had 59 items donated and over \$900 was raised for Church Camp Scholarships.** Now it's time to register for camp! The Montana-Northern Wyoming Conference Committee on Outdoor Ministry is offering four outdoor ministry opportunities this year:

### **You and Me Intergenerational Adventure Camp at Mimanagish**

July 5 – 8. Information and registration at: <https://www.mnwcucc.org/youme>

### **Youth Adventures Camp at Mimanagish**

July 9 – 15 for youth having completed grades 3 – 12.

Information and registration at: <https://www.mnwcucc.org/youth>

### **The Great Escape Adult Adventures at Christikon**

August 25 – 30. More information and registration available soon.

**Pride Camp**, Place and Date TBD. More information and registration available soon.

Camp scholarships will be available again. The amount will be determined soon. Depending on how many folks are interested in camp, we may be doing some additional fund raising.

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## *Relationship with Christ United Methodist Church Update*

The Church Council had a very helpful conversation after our Congregational Conversation on February 11. Lynne, Dick and Karen will be meeting this week to determine and organize the next steps that have emerged from both of those conversations. We hope to have more information to share with you next week. **One important Next and On-going Step is prayer.** Please keep this process and the folks who are engaging in it in your prayers, asking for wisdom and guidance.

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### *Women's Devotion and Coffee*

Back for more! Women's Devotion and Coffee group will start meeting again, beginning on **Saturday, March 9**. We will meet the second Saturday of the month at **Morning Light Coffee: 1701 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue S., 10:00 A.M.** with hostess **Joan Duncan**.



***Seeking Church Music/Choir Director  
First Congregational United Church of Christ  
2900 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue S., Great Falls, MT***

Wednesday evening rehearsals,  
Sunday morning worship, and special services  
Salary: \$8,000-\$10,000 DOE  
**Application Deadline is March 15, 2024**  
Start Date: May 2024



For a full job description or application, please email Karen Spencer, Vice Moderator at  
**[karen1spencer@charter.net](mailto:karen1spencer@charter.net)**

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***Coming Up***

**Friday, March 1**

1:30 P.M. Widows Support Group, Parlor

**Sunday, March 3**

10:30 A.M. Youth Sunday School, Parlor

12:15 P.M. Worship Board, Parlor

**Tuesday, March 5**

12:45 P.M. Reading, West Elementary

**Wednesday, March 6**

10:00 A.M. Bridge Group, FH

1:30 P.M. Pinochle, FH

6:00 P.M. Youth Group, SS Wing

6:00 P.M. Handbells, Choir Room

**NO CHOIR REHEARSAL**

**Thursday, March 7**

4:00 P.M. Joint Facilities, FH

**Friday, March 8**

1:30 P.M. Widows Support Group, Parlor

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