

The Good News

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Issue 32

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

E-Mail: greatfallsucc@bresnan.net

www.greatfallsucc.org

P. O. Box 6303, 59406

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

Worship Service

August 11, 2024

9:30 A.M.



Combined with Christ United Methodist

Minister: Rev. Paul Holland

Accompanist: Sharman Tokerud

Nursery: CJ Mollohan

Tellers: Paul Haffeman, Nancy Zadick

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

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

In anticipation of some “fill-the-house” memorial services last month, **John and Lynda Baker (Christ UMC members) repaired 28 broken sanctuary chairs!** Although these chairs are good quality, over their years they’ve seen some wear and tear. Some needed some L-brackets to reconnect the back to the posts, some needed some glue and crews. They all got some great TLC from John and Lynda. **Thank you so much, Bakers!**



Women’s Coffee

Join us this Saturday August 10, 10:30 A.M., at Morning Light (1709 9th Ave. S).

Church Camp Season... It's not over just yet!

There are two adult camps coming up:

Adult Adventure Camp at Christikon (just up the canyon from Mimanagish. August 25 – 30). Here's what the Committee on Outdoor Ministry has to say about it: The Great Escape Adult Adventure is scheduled **August 25-30**. It will be hosted by the MNWCUCC at Christikon deep in the Boulder River Valley. A wonderful schedule of activities is being offered for a final summer get-away in the mountains. Campers are invited to design their stay. 2 nights, 3 nights, 4 nights or 5 nights. Full information and registration are under the Camp Tab at www.mnwcucc.org.

What if Church Camp were a little more... Gay? An ecumenical pride camp at a retreat center south of Bozeman **August 30-September 2**. Queer church camp weekend for adults 18+. More information and registration at <https://www.mnwcucc.org/pride>.



Christian Education News

This Sunday nursery care will be provided for children through age 5. Christ Kids Bags and the Pray Ground feature quiet activities for children to use at their seats or at the table in the Pray Ground area. Coloring, drawing, books, stuffed toys and soft dolls are some of the items for children to use. Enjoy!

Teacher Meeting Coming Up

Calling all Sunday School teachers and those interested in becoming Sunday School teachers! **You are invited to join Christian Education Coordinator Janet Koostra and Rev. Lynne Spencer-Smith for a teacher meeting on Sunday, August 18th in the parlor at 10:45 A.M.** The fall teaching schedule will be available for folks to sign up and Rev. Lynne will present relevant information from the Safe Conduct Policy. You are welcome to get treats and a beverage from Coffee Fellowship to bring to the gathering. **Please contact Janet Koostra, janetkoostra@gmail.com or 406-727-8443.**



Summer Joint Worship Schedule

All services are at 9:30 A.M.

- August 18** Joint summer worship, UCC leadership, Choir singing, Baptism of Chase and Bailey Schrader
- August 25** Outdoor worship with joint leadership. Bring a chair and sun protection and gather on the front lawn of the church.
- September 1** Joint summer worship, Christ UMC leadership, Holy Communion

This will be the final Joint Worship for the year. Beginning September 8, we will continue with combined worship at 9:30 A.M. Services going forward in the fall will incorporate leadership and elements from both worship traditions over time.

September 8 Rally Day and first Unified Worship of the fall.

We will continue to worship at 9:30 A.M. with our friends from Christ United Methodist Church.

Safety, First!

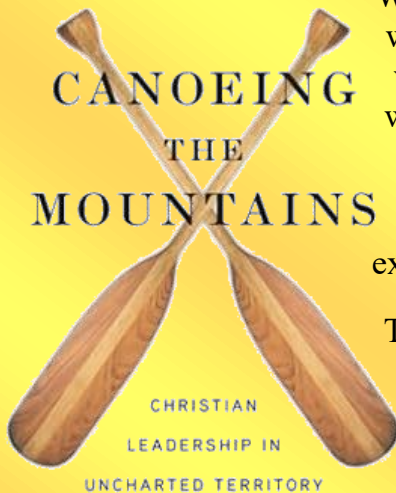
Church Council is forming a task force to investigate our church's safety and security needs. This may include conducting a safety assessment and developing policies and procedures necessary to prevent or address threats and emergency situations. Council invites interested members of both congregations to join. If you would like to be on the task force, **please let Holly in the office know by September 1st (greatfallsucc@bresnan.net or 406-453-4316).** Thank you!

*Rally Day
Garden Party!
September 8, 2024*



Save the date for our annual Post-Summer Rally Day on Sunday, September 8. **We will have our first fall unified worship at 9:30 A.M. with the choir singing.** After worship, we'll make our way to Fellowship Hall for food and fun. With the theme "Garden Party" be prepared for activities related to growth, flowers, yummy fruits and vegetables and, as always, fun for all. **Our friends from Christ United Methodist Church will be joining us in worship and for the festivities.**

TOD BOLSINGER
EXPANDED EDITION



Fall Book Study

When the Corps of Discovery headed into the west, they expected they would find a waterway to the Pacific Ocean. What they found instead was mountains. Lots of mountains. If they were going to make their way to the Pacific Ocean, they would have to adapt.

The church (not just our own!) is facing similar challenges. What we have found along the church's journey in mission is not what we expected. It is uncharted territory!

Tod Bolsinger uses the lessons of Lewis and Clark and the Corps of Discovery to help guide churches through times of uncertainty into the future.

Together with Christ United Methodist Church, we will be offering a book study of "Canoeing the Mountains: Christian Leadership in Uncharted Territory" this fall. The course will be offered both in person and on Zoom. There will be six sessions, 2 weeks apart.

In-Person sessions will be Monday's beginning September 9 at 10:30 A.M. Zoom sessions will be Tuesdays beginning September 10 at 6:30 P.M. Each session will be 90 minutes (Zoom information will be published later).

Books can be purchased at your usual sources. You are encouraged to support local bookstores (they may have to order it for you so don't wait until the last minute) or online stores selling used books (betterworldbooks.com; bookshop.org, etc.).

137th Conference Annual Meeting
September 26-29, 2024

If you are interested in being a delegate to represent First Congregational United Church of Christ at this year's Conference Annual Meeting, **please contact Dick Kloppel or Karen Spencer.** Registration will be paid for by the church though delegates are in charge of their lodging. The Conference has reserved blocks of rooms, held at a discounted rate, at the following hotels:

Best Western Plus Clocktower Inn, 2511 1st Ave. N., Downtown Billings. \$169/night. To reserve, call 406-259-5611 and request CAM Conference group block.

Super Stay Plus by Best Western, 3040 King Ave. W., West End Billings. \$150/night. Reserve by calling 406-294-9090 and request CAM Conference group block.

Reservations must be made by September 1 for the discounted group booking rate.

Our Relationship with Christ United Methodist Church

At their June meeting, the Church Council decided to request that Christ UMC present a proposal that would outline what they would be looking for in a merger. We have received a proposal that basically spells out moving forward into a form of a federated church that would lead to the creation of a new organization to be shared by both congregations. The proposal spells out the following:

- Distinct UCC and United Methodist membership and identity would be maintained.
- Rev. Lynne would serve as pastor of the new organization as Rev. Dawn's time and call is shifted more towards First UMC.
- All future Pastoral leadership of one pastor would be determined by the UCC model of search and call.
- Ministries, programs, property and operating budget would be unified.
- Denominational (UCC and UMC) polity would be used to help each congregation transfer assets and combine resources.
- Relationships with each of the denominations would be maintained through membership, denominational financial support, and ongoing relationship with wider church leadership.

Christ UMC has asked that First Congregational UCC respond to them within 30 days of the proposal (7/25/24). The full proposal has been shared with the church council who will have a special meeting on August 11 at 6:30 P.M. to discuss the proposal, form a special committee to create a response. The response will be finalized at the regular Council meeting on August 19.

Rev. Lynne, Dick Kloppel and Karen Spencer met with Rev. Dr. Tony Clark, Transitional Conference Minister on July 30. Dick, Karen, Lynne and Tony met with CUMC leadership and UM District Superintendent, Karen McRae, met this past Tuesday, August 6. At that meeting, UCC leadership reminded our UM friends that, due to our congregational polity, change in the UCC happens slowly and calls for congregational involvement. All leadership is realizing that we will be entering into a time of holy experimentation as we try out several aspects of ministry before making permanent changes.

The Council and Christ UMC leadership realize that there are a lot of details to be worked out and it will take some time to proceed faithfully and honorably.

Because of our polity, no decisions will be made without congregational involvement.

Keep an eye on future newsletters for more information and how you can be involved.

UCC Council Members are:

Dick Kloppel, Moderator
Karen Spencer, Vice Moderator
Liz Lee, Clerk
Nancy Zadick, Treasurer
Dean Jardee, Member At Large
Peter Johnson, Member At Large
Carol Shipley, Business Affairs
Sue Turton, Christian Education
Lila Byers, Christian Service
Karen Venetz, Christian Service
Carol Davidson, Church Growth
KimKay McCarty Martin, Fellowship
Suzan Seery, Stewardship
Steve Gettel, Worship

Coming Up

**Rev. Lynne is on vacation through August 10.
Please contact the church office for pastoral needs during this time.**

Holly will be out of the office August 15-19.

Friday, August 9

4:00 P.M. Fellowship Board, Fellowship Hall

Saturday, August 10

10:30 A.M. Women's Coffee, Morning Light (1709 9th Ave. S)

Sunday, August 11

11:00 A.M. Christian Ed., Parlor

6:30 P.M. Special Council, Zoom

Monday, August 12

1:00 P.M. Church Growth, Fellowship Hall

6:00 P.M. Business Affairs, Zoom

Wednesday, August 14

1:00 P.M. Prayer Meeting, Parlor

1:30 P.M. Pinochle, Fellowship Hall
