

The Good News of First Congregational UCC and Christ United Methodist Church

Volume 2024

Rev. Lynne Spencer-Smith
(406) 453-4316
greatfallsucc@bresnan.net
www.greatfallsucc.org

October 16, 2024

PO Box 6303, 59406

Issue 42

Rev. Dawn Skerritt
(406) 781-4524
revdawnskerritt@gmail.com

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

**Worship Notes For
October 20, 2024
9:30 A.M.**



***Stewardship Consecration
Sunday for both Congregations***

Rev. Lynne preaching

Scripture: Isaiah 35

Lay Reader: Melissa Zimmer

Ushers: Dale and Nancy Dallmann

Acolytes: Zurie Goss, Chase Schrader

Choir Director: Cindy Stevens

Accompanist: Victor Tsai

Sunday School: June Rovero, Linda Grossman

Nursery: Gracie Kuszmaul, Erin Borland

Fellowship: Peggy Floen, Bev Harris

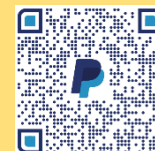
Tellers: Ed Venetz, Noël Walker

The service will be live-streamed on both church Facebook pages and a recording of the livestream will be available on YouTube later in the day and on the UCC website.



Mental Health is a Universal Human Right

Imagine reducing the stigma of mental health *together*. *Imagine together* that all people with mental illness feel welcome, supported, and valued. Some commonly held beliefs are that mental illness is a result of personal weakness, lack of faith, or poor upbringing. These misperceptions detract from the fact that mental illnesses are brain disorders and require medical treatment. **Please join Neighbors in Need (NIN) in supporting Mental Health Awareness by supporting those among us diagnosed with severe mental illness and those who are affected by the experiences of their family members.** Your donation may be made by check with NIN in the memo line and by following the prompts in the QR code. *Imagine together* our unique position as a faith community to offer kinship and include those who often find themselves on the periphery of society.





† Congratulations to **Ray & Colene Parker** on the birth of their grandson, **Harley**, October 11.

Consecrate

According to the dictionary on my computer, to consecrate something is to make or declare it sacred or to dedicate formally to a religious or divine purpose. It's something we do every Sunday when our offering is presented with a doxology and a prayer. We are dedicating our financial gifts and what they will accomplish for a divine purpose. **Our pledges, our opportunities to serve forms, our intentions and hopes for the coming year's ministry all become dedicated for a divine purpose.** This year's stewardship theme, "Imagine Together," at first comes across as something we do among ourselves. We've highlighted some aspects of the church through this year's stewardship videos:

- Imagine Together how we can support the children in our midst through Sunday School and Youth Group and the care for their families.
- Imagine Together how we can support our staff as they do the behind-the-scenes tasks that keeps the church running and enables the ministries to happen.
- Imagine Together what we can do as we combine hopes and resources from two congregations, working more in unity.
- Imagine Together the depth of community that is formed when we come together in Fellowship.

Once we consecrate our gifts and intentions for the coming year, it's no longer our own imagining. Once we dedicate our pledges and hopes for a divine purpose, we begin imagining with God what can be done to bring God's vision for our lives and the world to reality. Once we consecrate what we have imagined together, hold on, because we've turned it over to God. Have you ever noticed what God can do with human gifts? People get fed. People are comforted and reminded they are loved. Creation is cared for. Children are nurtured in body and spirit. Music is made. Lives and hearts are expanded. **It is time for us to consecrate our gifts and intentions for the coming year.** I can't wait to see what God will do with what we bring. I hope to see you this Sunday for consecration Sunday. If you can't make it in person, I hope you'll join us online. See you then! Rev. Lynne



Turkey Time!

October 20 is the kick-off of the Thanksgiving Basket Ministry for West Elementary, sponsored by the Christian Education Board and the Christian Service Board. **Check for the display in the narthex covered in paper turkeys.** Each turkey will list items needed to make up a traditional Thanksgiving feast such as cranberries, stuffing, potatoes, gravy and more. **Choose one or more turkeys, purchase the item(s) listed and return them to the church by November 10.** Some paper turkeys also list monetary donations. These are used to fill in any gaps from the basic Thanksgiving items. If money is left over, extras like milk, fresh fruit, bread, peanut butter, cereal and more are also included to make this special gift last longer than a single meal. Please write checks to "FCUCC" and mark "West Thanksgiving" on the memo line and place it in the offering plate. Cash can be placed in an envelope marked "West Thanksgiving" and also placed in the offering plate. Hats off to the Christian Service Board which provides turkeys and pies for this project every year. **Sunday School will organize the seven meals on Sunday, November 17 during class for delivery on November 22.** What a blessing that we *imagine together* to fill the tummies of families in need.

Christian Education News



This week, children ages 5-6th grade will start the morning in worship then go to Sunday School. **Leader June Rovero and helper Linda Grossman will share a lesson about King Solomon.** Nursery care for children from birth to age 5 will be available in the nursery.

Sunday School October Theme Day: “Caring For . . . Unhoused People”. For the program year 2024-25, the Christian Education Board has adopted a special theme, “Caring For. . .”. Once each month, kids have a special lesson focusing on this theme. On October 13, Sunday School learned a little about “Caring For . . . Unhoused People” through a Bible story and organizing eight bags of personal items to be donated to the First United Methodist ministry with the unhoused. Bags included toothbrush, toothpaste, toilet paper, tissues, water, hand lotion, lip balm, nail clippers, socks and granola bars. The bags will be blessed during the children’s message on October 20. Kids are never too young to help others!

New Nursery Staff Member Needed

After a year of caring for the church’s nursery-aged children, **CJ Mollohan will be leaving to relocate in Idaho.** If you know anyone who might be interested in this job, please contact Janet Koostra janetkoostra@gmail.com or 406-727-8443. **Applicants must be at least 16 years old, available on Sunday mornings and willing to have a background check.** Thank you!

Halloween Party Right Around the Corner!



Come one, come all to our all-church, intergenerational Halloween Party, sponsored by the Christian Education Board! **Following worship on October 27, head to Fellowship Hall for special treats, activities, a Halloween photo backdrop, prizes and a piñata!** Costumes for young and old are encouraged (but not required). It’s sure to be a howling good time! *P. S. Why didn’t the skeleton cross the road? He didn’t have the guts!*



As Rev. Lynne prepares to step into the pastoral roll for Christ United Methodist, she is hoping to get to know those members a bit better. Christ UMC leadership is sponsoring three informal opportunities to facilitate some “getting to know you” time.

Monday, October 21, 1:30 – 3:00 P.M. (Fellowship Hall)

Tuesday, October 22, 1:30 – 3:00 P.M. (Fellowship Hall)

Thursday, October 24, 5:30 – 7:00 P.M. (Parlor)

Signing up is helpful but not required. Let Lois Baker know if you plan to attend one of the sessions. Or just show up. We’ll make sure there’s a place for you.



Service of Remembrance- Sunday, November 3, 9:30 A.M.

Names are read. A bell is rung. A candle is lit. We remember.

Our All Saints observance is an annual remembrance of those who have died over the past year and also a time to remember those who have gone before us at other times in our lives. **If you would like to remember someone special who has died during the last year (November 2023 – November 2024) please contact Holly and let her know the name and your relationship to them. Requests will need to be received by October 30.** Then, join us in worship the morning of November 3. The names will be read. A bell will be rung. A candle will be lit. You will also have time to come forward and light a candle for those who have been important in your lives.

September 30, 2024 Financial Highlights
First Congregational United Church of Christ

Income

Pledges Actual YTD	Pledges Budgeted YTD	Pledges Budgeted Total Year
\$135,233.73	\$140,371.50	\$187,162.00

Other Income

Actual YTD	Budgeted YTD	Budgeted Total Year
\$27,356.57	\$21,332.12	\$28,443.00

Memorial Board Donation

Actual YTD	Budgeted YTD	Budgeted Total Year
\$90,980.00	\$68,234.86	\$90,980.00

Total Income

Actual YTD	Budgeted YTD	Budgeted Total Year
\$253,570.30	\$229,938.47	\$306,585.00

Expenses

Actual YTD	Budgeted YTD	Budgeted Total Year
\$220,226.80	\$229,275.49	\$305,700.00



Thank you to all who support the church through financial gifts. As a way to keep everyone informed, the Business Affairs Board will be providing periodic financial updates in the Good News. Here's where we stand in regards to overall income and expenses in relation to our budget. If you'd like to see the detailed financial report as of the end of September, scan the QR code or follow the link below.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ycw5NZnUguFEArM_tj_CsviT_88-oQRW/view?usp=sharing

Veteran's Day Spaghetti Dinner
Hosted by Christ United Methodist

November 8, 2024
5:30-7:00 P.M.
Fellowship Hall

Come and honor a military loved one
Cost is \$15.00/individual or \$30.00/families

Take-out meals available

Tickets for sale after church



The Mitten Makers sewing group will meet on the following Tuesdays at 10:00 A.M. in Fellowship Hall: October 22, November 12, November 26, and December 10. More dates will be added after the first of the year. There's been some very productive days thus far, but all hands needed on deck to complete mittens before Christmas.



Did you know...? Every year in October, Congo Week activities engage global communities in advocating for peace, justice, and stability in the region while promoting the responsible consumption of minerals sourced from the Democratic Republic of Congo.



The Book Corner

Have you read any good books lately? Are there some you'd like to recommend? Feel free to pass along your recommendations and reviews through the church newsletter. Rev. Lynne has one to get us started...

Wholehearted Faith, by Rachel Held Evans

Rachel Held Evans presents a collection of writings from her own life and journey of faith from a devout Evangelical Christian childhood to a devout Episcopalian. She weaves deep scholarship together with poignant stories of her own life and that of others to present topics that encourage, challenge and comfort. In her accessible way, Rachel Held Evans takes some of the most challenging issues of faith (why she is Christian, wilderness, grace, loving enemies, sabbath and more) and sheds new light on them.

This was the book Rachel was working on at the time of her tragic death in 2019. Together with her friends, her husband completed the book, added some work from various unpublished essays and had it all published in 2021. I (Rev. Lynne) listened to an audio version of the book which was read by her husband and those friends who nurtured her along the way. Hearing the voices of those who knew and loved her reading her words made the experience even more cherished.

Coming Up

Thursday, October 17

1:00 P.M. United Women in Faith, FH

Friday, October 18- NO Grief Support

Sunday, October 20

3:00 P.M. UCC Stewardship Board, Zoom

Monday, October 21

10:30 A.M. Canoeing the Mountains, FH
Discussing chapters 4-6

6:30 P.M. UCC Church Council, Zoom

Tuesday, October 22

10:00 A.M. Mitten Makers, FH

Wednesday, October 23

10:00 A.M. CUMC Bible Study, Parlor

1:30 P.M. Pinochle, FH

4:00 P.M. Christ UMC Leadership, FH

6:00 P.M. Handbell Rehearsal, Sanctuary

6:00 P.M. Youth Group Coffee Shop

7:15 P.M. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

Friday, October 25

1:30 P.M. Grief Support, Parlor
