

# The Good News

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

## First Congregational United Church of Christ and Christ United Methodist Church

October 6, 2024

9:30 A.M.



Revs. Lynne and Dawn both participating in worship

Rev. Dawn preaching

Scripture: Matthew 25:14-30

Lay Reader: Karen Spencer

Ushers: Dale & Nancy Dallmann, Susan Thomas

Acolytes: Lily Borland, Zurie Goss

Choir Director: Jason Webster

Accompanist: Dean Jardee

Sunday School: June Rovero, Janet Koostra

Nursery: Gracie Kuszmaul, CJ Mollohan

Fellowship: Bill Tiskus, Dennis & Sue Turton

Tellers: Liz Lee, Nancy Zadick

In celebration of World Communion Sunday, the communion service will include a variety of breads and languages.



### *Christian Education News*

PLEASE TURN IN REGISTRATION FORMS FOR NURSERY, SUNDAY SCHOOL & PARENT INFORMATION. These were due September 29.

October 6 is Communion Sunday. **Children will begin in Sunday School, then join their families for the sacrament of Holy Communion and the conclusion of worship.** This week's lesson for children age 5-6<sup>th</sup> grade will be "David" lead by **June Rovero** with helper **Janet Koostra**. Nursery care is provided for children through age 5. October 13 will be Sunday School Theme Day, "Caring For. . . Unhoused Persons". Children through 8<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to Theme Day on October 13.

Thanksgiving Basket Ministry begins on Sunday, October 20.

## In Our Thoughts and Prayers



- † Our sympathy to **Karen McElroy** and family in the death of Karen's brother, **David Kruse**, 75.  
† Our sympathy to **Mike Seery** and family in the death of Mike's mom, **Patsy**, 98, who passed away September 30 in Missoula.  
† **Julie Fabrega** is in hospice care at her daughter's house following a stroke.  
† **Ray Young** is recovering from a broken hip after a fall.  
† Congratulations to **Mary Fry** on the birth of her granddaughter.
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### *Mental Health is a Universal Human Right*



This year's Neighbors In Need theme is *Mental Health Justice for All* "Mental Health is a Universal Human Right and provides us with an opportunity to re-ignite our efforts to build a more just world for all, dismantling the shame and stigma of mental health challenges."

A just world for all is a world where the human rights and well-being of people with mental health challenges are respected, no matter who you are or where you are in life's mental health journey.

We believe we all have a God-given right to support mental health:

1. The right to be protected from known harms to mental health; a universal right that applies to the entire population, but especially the vulnerable, including children and oppressed peoples.
2. The right to access quality and affordable care when a person is experiencing mental health challenges.
3. The right to freedom and dignity, including the right of choice for mental health care.

Visit [www.mhn-ucc.org](http://www.mhn-ucc.org) to learn more about these mental health principles.

Neighbors In Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion in the United States. We invited you to be part of God's work by supporting NIN this October. *Imagine Together* our efforts in building a more just world. Please mark your check in the memo line with NIN or follow the prompts in the QR code.



Our Stewardship Campaign for 2025 is underway! 141 pledge cards and Opportunities to Serve forms were mailed. **To date, we have received 33 pledge cards in the office.** Thank you to those who have already sent in their financial and time commitments for next year. **Consecration Sunday is October 20 and we ask that pledge cards and Opportunities to Serve forms are turned in by then.**

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### *Come and Pray!*

Everyone is invited to gather to pray at our monthly Prayer Meeting, held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month from 1:00-2:00 P.M. We meet in the parlor, catch up with one another and lift up prayers for ourselves and others and light a few candles along the way. **Our next meeting is Wednesday, October 9 at 1:00 P.M.**

This begins our unified newsletter and calendar mailing. The newsletter will continue to go out weekly on Wednesdays, the calendar once a month. Please let me know of articles you'd like in the newsletter. **The cut off to submit information will have to be Tuesdays at 10:00 A.M. of the week you want the information printed.** Thank you, Holly ([greatfallsucc@bresnan.net](mailto:greatfallsucc@bresnan.net))

Reminder: all of our services are livestreamed and recorded on both church Facebook pages (<https://www.facebook.com/greatfallsucc> or <https://www.facebook.com/christumcgf>) FCUCC website (<https://greatfallsucc.org/>), or FCUCC YouTube Channel (<https://www.youtube.com/@firstcongregationaluccgrea9068>)

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### ***Montana-Northern Wyoming Conference Annual Meeting (UCC) Re-Cap***

First Congregational UCC – Great Falls was well represented at this past weekend’s Conference Annual Meeting (CAM) in Billings. Lay delegates were **Dean Jardee, June Rovero, Carol Shipley, Karen Spencer, and Ray Young**. Attending as Board of Directors members were **Hank Branom** (Moderator) and **Denise Jackson** (Chair, Committee on Outdoor Ministry). Clergy Delegates included the **Revs. Sara MacGilvra Branom and Lynne Spencer-Smith** (also Board of Director member).

Reports and the full packet of CAM materials can be found on the Conference Website: <https://www.mnwcucc.org/> - under the “CAM” tab.

#### **The business items that were voted on included:**

- The election of the Rev. Dr. Tony Clark as our settled Conference Minister. Tony has been serving as a transitional conference minister. A service of celebration and installation will be held at a later date.
- The adoption of a budget for 2025 with budgeted expenditures of \$350,423.00
- Election of a slate of nominees for Conference leadership.

#### **Highlights of the meeting (from our representatives) include:**

- A workshop on “Truth-telling in Community – Settler Stories and Indigenous Stories”, by Rev. Laura Folkwein and Dr. Laurie Walker. The workshop brings family settler stories alongside indigenous stories from the same period as a way to realize how the stories are told differently and reflect the different lenses through which we tell our family stories.
- Hank Branom concluded his term as Conference Moderator.
- The grace shown to those displeased with National including a gentle invitation to take the opportunity to work with National as a rural representative.
- The joy of meeting old and new friends.
- Discovering (or re-discovering) the depth of community and support.
- Insights and interactions with national UCC staff members the Rev. Dr. Renee Jackson (Minister for Ministerial Formation with MESA) and the Rev. Dr. Brooks Berndt (Minister for Environmental Justice)

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### ***Housed Great Falls***

**Connect with Housed Great Falls (HGF) for a family-friendly Pajama Party fundraiser on October 5 at 6:00 P.M., First United Methodist Church downtown (610 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. N).** Join us for pizza, snacks, silent auction, and good company. Suggested donation is \$5.00 per person. Winter is coming - help others by bringing thermal underwear/long johns or other cold weather gear including hats, gloves, boots, socks, and blankets for Great Falls’ unhoused community members. **Donations will be collected at the Pajama Party.**

## ***Youth Group News***

We are so grateful for all of our youth, our leaders, our parents, and our churches in their support of our youth group. We are looking forward to a great year! **Drivers are needed on October 9 to the Applestem Corn Maze (no youth drivers).** Registration must be signed and on file with the church to attend. Keep an eye out for further details. **On October 15, Youth Group will meet downtown for Mission Night from 5:00-7:00 P.M. There is no Youth Group on October 16.**

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### ***Coming Up***

#### **Thursday, October 3**

4:00 P.M. Joint Facilities, FH

#### **Friday, October 4**

1:30 P.M. Grief Support, Parlor

#### **Saturday, October 5**

6:00 P.M. Housed Great Falls Benefit, First United Methodist Church downtown

#### **Monday, October 7**

10:30 A.M. Canoeing the Mountains, FH- Discussing chapters 2 and 3

1:00 P.M. Christian Service, Parlor

#### **Tuesday, October 8**

10:00 A.M. Mitten Makers, FH

#### **Wednesday, October 9**

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

1:00 P.M. Prayer Meeting, Parlor

1:30 P.M. Pinochle, FH

6:00 P.M. Youth Group at the Corn Maze

6:00 P.M. Handbell Rehearsal, Sanctuary

7:15 P.M. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

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### ***Save the Dates***



Halloween Party – Sunday, October 27



Veteran's Day Spaghetti Dinner – Friday, November 8

Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner – Sunday, November 17

Christmas Pageant – Sunday, December 15



Easter – Sunday, April 20

