

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

Volume 2024

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Christ United Methodist Church Great Falls*



Worship Notes For November 17, 2024 9:30 A.M.

Worship Leader: Rev. Lynne Spencer-Smith

Scripture: Job 23:1-9, 16-17 and Psalm 90:12-17

Lay Reader: Dean Jardee

Ushers: Jenn and Zurie Goss

Acolytes: Ellie Bucher, Elvis Light

Choir Director: Jason Webster

Accompanist: Victor Tsai

Sunday School: Janet Koostra, Sue Turton,

Cara Dunn, Gwen Valley, Lila Byers

Nursery: Gracie Kuszmaul, May Harris

Tellers: Paul Haffeman, Nancy Zadick

Please note there is no coffee fellowship this morning. Come back this evening for our Thanksgiving Potluck at 5:00 P.M.

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.



Thanksgiving Potluck **This Sunday, November 17** **5:00-7:00 P.M.**

Hosted by our unified Fellowship Board, turkeys and hams are provided.
A sign-up sheet with a potluck breakdown is on the table in the narthex.
Invite your family and friends and plan to join us!

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

† **Carol Shipley and family** as they move to a transitional setting for **Ron**.

† Congratulations to **Lacey Hallett** who received a community award from the Chamber of Commerce.



Christian Education News

Children will begin in worship where Pastor Lynne will lead our second ever “Children’s Message in a Bag”! Then all children age 5- 8th grade are invited to Sunday School. **November 17 is our monthly Theme Sunday, “Caring For . . . West Elementary”**. Students and adults will work to organize food donations for the Thanksgiving Baskets going to seven families at West Elementary. **Nursery care is provided for children through age 5.**

It’s Chase’s turn to bring something in the Brown Bag for the Children’s Message. Thank you, Chase.

Christ United Methodist Charge Conference

The CUMC Charge Conference will be held at 7:00 P.M. on Monday, November 18, via Zoom. This is an annual meeting that is held each fall. This will be a joint meeting with First United Methodist Church to tell the District Superintendent what we have done this year in our churches and vote on the salary package for Pastor Dawn. Her appointment was made July 1 to June 30 where each church would pay a half time salary. We are checking to see if the Bishop would reduce Dawn’s time to $\frac{3}{4}$ but have not heard back yet. **For Methodist members joining this meeting, please check your email for the log-in information.**

United Women in Faith

The women of both congregations are invited to come to the monthly meeting of Women In Faith. **United Women in Faith will be meeting on November 21 at 1:00 P.M. in the Fellowship Hall.** This month we will be crafting gingerbread ornaments to be used in our Advent decorations. We will also be deciding where to send our annual mission giving. Two groups have recently come to the meetings to tell us about the needs at Mercy Home and Kairos Youth Homes. We always serve treats and coffee and we always have a great afternoon. Come and help!

Christmas Pageant Rehearsals Begin

It’s Christmas Pageant time again! **The first rehearsal begins at 10:45 A.M. in the sanctuary on Sunday, November 17 following worship.** The rehearsal will begin with children who have speaking AND non-speaking roles working with Jason Webster on music. Children with speaking roles will read through the script. Questions? **Contact Janet Koostra, 406-727-8443 or janetkoostra@gmail.com.** **The pageant performance is Sunday, December 15 during worship.** May this presentation of Holy Scripture bring joy and peace to our Christmas Season.

Christmas Poinsettias



Some of you may remember when we used live poinsettia plants as part of the sanctuary Advent and Christmas decorating. **We are reviving that tradition this season** and invite members of our congregations to participate (if you wish) in the following way:

Honor a loved one or just contribute to the beauty of our sanctuary this Christmas by donating **\$15** for a live poinsettia. Names of those who are honored will be included in our Christmas Eve bulletin. **Please send checks made out to UCC (with flower fund in the memo) and names of those to be honored to the church office no later than Sunday, December 15. You may also place checks and names in an envelope in the offering trays each Sunday.** Poinsettias will be displayed the entire Advent season.

October 31, 2024 Financial Highlights
First Congregational United Church of Christ

Income

Pledges Actual YTD	Pledges Budgeted YTD	Pledges Budgeted Total Year
\$149,824.84	\$155,968.33	\$187,162.00

Other Income

Actual YTD	Budgeted YTD	Budgeted Total Year
\$29,720.11	\$23,702.85	\$28,443.00

Memorial Board Donation

Actual YTD	Budgeted YTD	Budgeted Total Year
\$90,980.00	\$75,816.51	\$90,980.00

Total Income

Actual YTD	Budgeted YTD	Budgeted Total Year
\$270,524.95	\$255,487.69	\$306,585.00

Expenses

Actual YTD	Budgeted YTD	Budgeted Total Year
\$243,502.25	\$254,750.54	\$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 October, scan the QR code or follow the link below.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1RcZBCZ_VfjV9UGv0YFE4k9X8sKZo7p9Y/view?usp=sharing

UCC Stewardship Update

77/137 pledges received for a total of \$180,360

Of those 77:

34 increased	\$13,900
29 same	\$38,520
9 decreased	\$3,922
5 new from last year	\$2,320

Last year's totals were 83 pledges totaling \$187,162.00



Upcoming Events

Thanksgiving Potluck	November 17	5:00 P.M.
CUMC Charge Conference	November 18	7:00 P.M.
United Women in Faith	November 21	1:00 P.M.
Christmas Pageant	December 15	9:30 A.M.
Christmas Eve Service	December 24	4:30 P.M.



Women's Coffee Update

Thank you to our ladies who attended last Saturday's coffee as Miss Kitty's. The topic was hobbies and collections. **We were shown beautiful samples of needlepoint, paintings (even on a cup and necklace), drawings, embroidery, and handmade Christmas cards.** Collections of fuzzy cats, spoons and thimbles from travels were shared by others. Other hobbies were gardening, reading and knitting. Thank you to **Bev Harris** for sharing "Cat Facts" and her cat bag with cat newspaper clippings. What a fun time we had!

Photographer Needed



Are you a photographer who loves to take pictures? We are looking for a small group of people to update our Pictorial Directory. First Congregational last updated theirs in 2018 and we'd like to get started ASAP! **What a great way to merge the faces of our two congregations!** If you'd like to spearhead this project, grab your cell phone or digital camera, and contact **Carol Davidson at 406-836-1862**, or let Holly know in the office.

Coming Up

Friday, November 15

1:30 P.M. Grief Support, Parlor

Sunday, November 17

5:00 P.M. Thanksgiving Potluck, FH

Monday, November 18

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

7:00 P.M. CUMC Charge Conf., Zoom

Wednesday, November 20

10:00 A.M. Bridge Players, SS Wing

1:30 P.M. Pinochle, FH

4:00 P.M. CUMC Leadership, Parlor

6:00 P.M. Youth Group/HS Coffee

6:00 P.M. Handbell Rehearsal, Sanctuary

7:15 P.M. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

Thursday, November 21

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

Friday, November 22

1:30 P.M. Grief Support, Parlor

Shoebox Christmas

You are invited to participate in the annual shoebox Christmas event, a mission of the Blackfeet United Methodist Parish in Browning, MT. The Blackfeet United Methodist Parish serves the people who live on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation. The majority of the present-day residents living on the Blackfeet Reservation are bloodline descendants of the original indigenous inhabitants of this area. At Christmastime, there is a collection of shoeboxes filled with age-appropriate items for male and female, aged birth to adult. **The boxes will be collected now through December 10 before being delivered to Browning beginning December 15.** Use the labels listed below indicating if your box is for male or female and the age group. These labels will also be on the table in the narthex and have ideas listed for gifts.

MALE OR FEMALE 0-12 MONTHS

Basic transport needs, basic diapers, powder, cream, bath wash, towels, layette sets, clothes, soft toys, teething toys, blankets, bed sets, changing cloths/wipes

MALE OR FEMALE 12-24 MONTHS

Pull-Ups, bath wash, towels, pajamas, clothes, learning toys, physically stimulating toys

MALE OR FEMALE 1-3 YRS. OLD

Bath wash, towels, tooth care, pajamas, clothes, gloves, mittens, hat, scarf, sweaters, sweatshirts, thermal underwear, snow suit, learning toys, physically stimulating toys, books that can be read to them (nursery rhymes)

MALE OR FEMALE 4-6 YRS. OLD

Bath wash, towels, tooth care, pajamas, clothes, gloves, mittens, hat, scarf, sweaters, sweatshirts, thermal underwear, snow suit, learning toys , physically stimulating toys, books to be read to them (Golden Oldies, Three Bears, Three Pigs)

MALE OR FEMALE 7-12 YRS. OLD

Bath essentials, self-care essentials, gloves, mittens, hat, scarf, sweaters, sweatshirts, thermal underwear, snow suit, learning toys (Legos, board games), physically stimulating toys (balls, marbles, jacks), books to read (adventure, nature)

MALE OR FEMALE 13-18 YRS. OLD

Bath essentials, self-care essentials, gloves, mittens, hat, scarf, sweaters, sweatshirts, thermal underwear, snow suit, board games, physically stimulating toys (balls), books to read (adventure, nature, mystery)

MALE OR FEMALE ADULT

Self-care essentials, gloves, mittens, hat, scarf, sweaters, sweatshirts, thermal underwear, snow pants, books to read (adventure, nature, mystery, self-help)