

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 December 1, 2024 1st Sunday of Advent Holy Communion 9:30 A.M.



Worship Leader: Rev. Lynne Spencer-Smith
Scripture: Jeremiah 33:14-16, Luke 21:25-36

Lay Reader: Susan Thomas

Ushers: Dale Dallmann, Susan Thomas

Acolytes: Kaeden Dunn, Lily Borland

Advent Candle Lighting: The Dunn Family

Accompanist: Victor Tsai

Sunday School: Erin Borland, Janet Koostra, and more!

Nursery: Gracie Kuszmaul, May Harris

Coffee Fellowship: Peggy Floen, Bev Harris

Treats: Dean Jardee, Sharon Suek, Louise Toole

Tellers: Paul Haffeman, Carol Shipley

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.

Don't Have a Box?

A cardboard container for the Browning Shoebox Christmas project is in front of the information table in the narthex. Suggested items received by Sunday morning will be sorted, placed into shoeboxes and wrapped in Sunday School. **Please use the provided labels to mark items for gender and age group.** Empty shoeboxes are also available for filling. If you would like to contribute to the effort, **give funds directly to Linda Holland.** All items and shoeboxes are due on December 12.

In Our Thoughts and Prayers



† **Nancy Dallmann** is recovering from having knee surgery on November 25.

† **Peter Johnson** is recovering from having knee surgery on November 26.



Christian Education News

On December 1, children begin in Sunday School. This week will be our Theme Sunday for December, “Caring For . . . Others at Christmas”. Children will hear about the Christmas Shoebox Ministry from Linda Holland. Then the class will fill and wrap shoeboxes with gifts for children in Browning. This ministry is an annual project in the Methodist denomination. Children will join their families for the sacrament of Holy Communion and the conclusion of worship. Nursery care will be provided by Gracie and May.

Children’s Message – There will be no Children’s Message this Sunday. Children begin in Sunday School and join the congregation for Communion.

Pageant Rehearsal

Christmas Pageant Rehearsal begins at 10:45 A.M. in the sanctuary following worship this Sunday. If children want a snack from coffee fellowship, please help them so they can QUICKLY be ready for rehearsal. Families, please help your actors by practicing lines every day! A video with this year’s version of “Go Tell it on the Mountain” should be in your inbox soon! **Note: rehearsals will be on SATURDAY on December 7 and 14 in the sanctuary at 10:00 A.M.** Please contact Janet Koostra, janetkoostra@gmail.com or 406-727-8443 with questions!



Christmas Poinsettias

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.



West Elementary Christmas

The gift-giving tree for West Elementary is located in the narthex. **Imagine Together** spreading joy and making a lasting impact in the lives of others. Each year at Christmas, the UCC Christian Service Board adopts families at West Elementary; each year, your generosity fulfills the children’s wishes. **The need has grown this year, and we have adopted three families.** If you wish to fulfill a child’s wish, please select a tag, purchase the gift, and return the gift wrapped with the tag securely attached to the church no later than Monday, December 16. Thank you for sharing your love and joy.

Fishing for Volunteers

UCC week at the FISH Food Pantry is December 2-6 from 9:00-11:00 A.M.

If you would like to distribute food to families in need that week, please call Carol Davidson at 406-836-1862.



Save the date and make your plans for our annual Christmas Eve Service!

Service of Lessons, Carols and Candles

*This will be a unified service,
an offering for both congregations, friends and families.*

Tuesday, December 24

4:30 P.M.

World AIDS Day Observances and Events

World AIDS Day is observed every year on December 1.

This year, there are several community events related to observance and education.

➤ **World AIDS Day Service and Re-Dedication of AIDS Memorial Rock**

Offered by The Great Falls Progressive Ministerial Association

Sunday, December 1, 2:00 P.M.

Central Christian Church – 1025 Central Avenue

The AIDS Memorial Rock has been relocated to Central Christian Church from its original location at the former Metropolitan Community Church

➤ **“How to Survive a Plague”**

Documentary film by David France about the early days of AIDS.

Tuesday, December 3, 6:00 P.M.

Great Falls Public Library

Doors open at 5:30 P.M. – Documentary starts at 6:00 P.M.

➤ **A Little White Party for World AIDS Day**

Saturday, December 7, 7:00 – 10:00 P.M.

Luna Coffee, 9 5th Street N.

HIV and Hep C tests available from 7:00-8:00 P.M. provided by Alluvion



Special Conference Meeting – December 8, 1:00 P.M. via Zoom

The Montana-Northern Wyoming Conference Board of Directors has approved to hold a special meeting of the Conference on **December 8, 2024** to vote on becoming a signatory Conference to the STAR Coalition Resolution. The documents for the meeting can be viewed on the Conference Website: <https://www.mnwcucc.org/>. Click on “Events” for a drop-down menu for all related material. Please join us for this meeting to support the STAR (Small Town and Rural) Ministries.

Zoom Registration

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMtc-CgrTkuG9YMgke4rkEBtkZw-vUDLw09>

According to the Conference bylaws, **we are allotted 4 lay delegates**. Clergy attend as clergy delegates. **If you are interested in participating as a delegate to this meeting, please contact Rev. Lynne or the church office.**

The Unified Journey – An Update

Have you noticed anything new this fall as we have continued along a Unified Journey? Here's some things that I've noticed:

- People! There are lots of people in worship! There are fewer and fewer empty seats in the sanctuary (and, no, we're not removing any!).
- Stewardship – Both churches are reporting some good outcomes from the Stewardship campaign. The UCC's results are just a tad lower than last year's final (we understand there are still a few outstanding pledges that would really help out). Christ UMC's membership has more than doubled their pledges from last year! Whoo hooo!
- Collaborative projects (West Elementary Thanksgiving baskets, Browning Shoebox Christmas gifts, West Elementary family Christmas gifts, Thanksgiving pot-luck, and the Adopt-a-Project) are all receiving a great response from both congregations.
- Fellowship – there are fewer and fewer UCC and UM tables. Folks are mixin' it up!
- A unified budget is being prepared and will be presented at a unified congregational budget hearing on December 8, following worship.

What can you do?

- Pray – for our churches, the leadership and your own role in the process.
- Participate – show up and try out some new things. Meet some new people and get better acquainted with one another.
- Communicate – have concerns or joys? Be sure to share them with leadership and stay up to date with information as it comes through announcements and newsletters.
- Contribute – time, thoughts, finances.
- Give thanks for the leadership folks from both congregations. They're putting in a whole lot of time and energy into this process.
- Receive – the blessings of what God might be wanting to give you along the way.

Watch for more updates in next week's newsletter.

Have a blessed and safe Thanksgiving. Rev. Lynne

Coming Up

Thursday, November 28- Happy Thanksgiving

The office will be closed Thursday and Friday

Sunday, December 1

10:45 A.M. Unified Worship Board, Parlor

10:45 A.M. Pageant Rehearsal, Sanctuary

Monday, December 2

9-11 A.M. FISH Week, December 2-6

1:00 P.M. Christian Service Board, TBD

Wednesday, December 4

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

1:30 P.M. Pinochle, FH

6:00 P.M. Youth Group

6:00 P.M. Handbell Rehearsal

7:15 P.M. Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 5

4:00 P.M. Joint Facilities, Fellowship Hall

Friday, December 6

1:30 P.M. Grief Support, Parlor

Saturday, December 7

10:00 A.M. Pageant Rehearsal, Sanctuary