

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 10, 2024
9:30 A.M.**



Worship Leader: Rev. Lynne Spencer-Smith
Scripture: Mark 12:38-44
Lay Reader: Dana Kirkmeyer
Ushers: Lila Byers, Susan Thomas
Acolytes: Lily Borland, Chase Schrader
Choir Director: Jason Webster
Accompanist: Victor Tsai
Sunday School: Betsy Rogstad
Nursery: Gracie Kuszmaul, May Harris
Fellowship: KimKay McCarty Martin, Verna Kessner
Treats: Liz Lee, Noël Walker
Tellers: Liz Lee, 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.

Thanksgiving Potluck
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



† **Jeanne Nobbs** is recovering at home from back surgery.
† **Revs. Lynne and Greg** following the unexpected and sudden death of their horse, Phoenix.
† **Steve Smith**, a member of the **LePard family**, is recovering from open heart surgery.



Christian Education News

Children begin in worship on November 10. Pastor Lynne will do a “Paper Bag” children’s message before children ages 5-5th grade go to Sunday School. **In class, Betsy Rogstad will lead a lesson about “Daniel and the Lions”.** **On November 17, children age 5-8th grade are invited to help organize food for the Thanksgiving Basket Ministry for West Elementary on our special Theme Day, “Caring For . . .Hungry Neighbors”.**

It’s Lily Borland’s turn to bring an item for the Children’s Message in the Brown Bag. Thanks, Lily!

Thanksgiving Basket Update

Thank you, thank you, thank you! All turkeys from the Turkey Board have disappeared! **Food items and monetary donations should be returned by Sunday, November 10, please.** Cash or checks can be placed in the offering plate with notation that the money is for Thanksgiving Baskets. Food items can be placed in the large tote in the narthex. The Christian Education and Christian Service Boards, who sponsor this annual event, greatly appreciate the generosity of all who help provide a nice Thanksgiving for 7 families at West Elementary. God bless you!

Fishing Volunteers

Christ United Methodist representatives worked at the Fish Food Pantry last week. They served 41 families consisting of 60 adults and 34 children. **It was a busy week with the distribution of 2,690 pounds of food!** There are a lot of hungry people in Great Falls. Volunteers were **Dee MacGillivray, Doris Motley, Jim Neilsen, and Rosemary Neilsen.**

Adopt-A-Project Update

Thank you to those who have picked up an “Adopt-A-Project” task and are working to complete them. There are just a few projects left from the “Adopt-A-Project” Board.

Which one will you choose?

Here are the projects that are looking for someone to claim them:



- Clean blinds in the main office
- Sunday School windows (inside and out) rooms 2 & 4 (north side)
- Sunday School windows (inside and out) rooms 1, 3, 5 & 7 (south side)
- Clean and re-mortar brick wall in front of church
- Interior door stops – replace rubber stops and tighten



Farewell to Phoenix



This past Sunday afternoon, Phoenix (our 22-year-old Appaloosa), galloped across the rainbow bridge. We don’t know for sure what happened to Phoenix, other than he was loping across the pasture to watch some neighboring horses one minute and within the next five at the most, he was gone. We suspect a stroke or heart attack. We know he knew he was loved and we were with him. We know he did not suffer. Phoenix has been laid to rest behind the run-in shed that was his home for the last 8 years. It’s a place

where he and I would hang out and watch the summer sunsets. Thank you for the many expressions of sympathy and support. It’s all much more than we could have imagined. **Rev. Lynne**

Updated Canoeing the Mountains Book Study Schedule

Please make note of the updated schedule for Canoeing the Mountains:

All sessions are at 10:30 A.M. in the Parlor

November 11: Chapters 7 - 11

November 25: Chapters 12 & 13

December 9 (last session): Chapters 14 & 15

United Women in Faith

United Women in Faith is a national organization focused on woman, children and youth. We are here to improve the lives of these folks through love, faith and courage. **Locally, we meet once a month on the 3rd Thursday at 1:00 P.M. in the fellowship hall.** Many times we will organize a fundraiser in order to accomplish our mission. Other times we simply work on projects and unite together in prayer and love. **United Women in Faith is an agency of The United Methodist Church- we welcome, in love, all women from all faiths!**

Pageant Rehearsals

Children who would like speaking roles in this year's Christmas Pageant should plan to attend the first rehearsal on Sunday, November 17 at 10:45 A.M. in the sanctuary. Scripts will be handed out and the group will do a read-through. Children with non-speaking roles (animals and Heavenly Host angels) do not need to attend. Adult helpers are also welcome! **Questions? Contact Janet Koostra, 406-727-8443 or janetkoostra@gmail.com.**

Upcoming Events

Spaghetti Dinner	November 8	5:30-7:00 P.M.
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.



Coffee Time

The Women's Coffee Group will meet at **10:30 A.M. THIS Saturday, November 9 at Miss Kitty's (2501 6th Ave. N).** Topic is hobbies or items we've collected. Bring a sample of your hobby or collection to share with the group.

You're Invited

Women's Christmas Tea

December 14, 2024

1:00 P.M.

First United Methodist Church

610 2nd Ave. N

Please RSVP by November 18, 2024 to Vibecka Olson, 406-781-0297



Planned Giving

We have a newly formed team dedicated to facilitate learning and inspiration for planned giving.

What is planned giving and how is it different from my annual pledge?

Planned giving is mostly about making plans to share your assets with the church after your death. There are several ways you can do this and the planned giving team hopes to equip you with all kinds of information about that in the coming months. Perhaps the most obvious would be to include the church in your will or as a beneficiary in life insurance policies, stocks, etc.

Why planned giving in the church?

It is no secret that church membership is declining all over the place (and it has been for quite some time). That means that there's fewer folks contributing to the church. *Studies show, that for every contributing person who leaves the church through death, five new members are needed to replace that person's financial contribution to the church.* Planned giving helps extend your support of the church into the future. Planned giving helps you create a legacy.

Who is on our planned giving team?

Suzan Seery, Chris Ebeling, Sue Turton, Paul Haffeman, Linda Caricaburu and Rev. Lynne

Night Without a Bed

Join Family Promise of Great Falls on November 21 at The University of Providence Student Center for an educational evening for all ages. Planned in part with the help of local high school leaders, **Night Without a Bed brings together 16 partner organizations to educate visitors about the services available within our community for those struggling with homelessness.** There will be snacks and prizes for games, as well as a lot of interesting conversation about ways in which people can get involved in the community.

The event is free of charge and lasts from 5:00-8:00 P.M.

Coming Up

Thursday, November 7

4:00 P.M. Joint Facilities, FH

Friday, November 8

1:30 P.M. Grief Support, Parlor

4:00 P.M. Fellowship Board, Parlor

5:30 P.M. Spaghetti Dinner, FH

Saturday, November 9

10:30 A.M. Women's Coffee, Miss Kitty's

Sunday, November 10

10:45 A.M. Christian Ed. Board, Parlor

Monday, November 11- Office Open

10:30 A.M. Canoeing the Mountains, FH

1:00 P.M. Church Growth, Parlor

6:00 P.M. Business Affairs, Zoom

Tuesday, November 12

10:00 A.M. Mitten Makers, FH

Wednesday, November 13

1:00 P.M. Prayer Meeting, Parlor

1:30 P.M. Pinochle, FH

6:00 P.M. Youth Group

6:00 P.M. Handbell Rehearsal, Sanctuary

7:15 P.M. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

Across the Deadline

Because of our newsletter publishing timeline, the deadline for articles and the actual distribution of The Good News straddles the time that we will know (possibly) the outcome of this year's election. I'm straddling the line between hopes and fears and outcome. I'm straddling the line between campaign and results. What will be different on either side of that line? What will be the same? I can't say much about what will be different because we don't yet know the outcome of all of the elections.

I can say a few things about what will be the same about our church and our society:

- First and foremost, God will still be madly in love with creation and the people within it... All of them. Let us remember that within every home behind the now outdated political yard signs there are people whom God loves just as much as you.
- The great commandments still stand: Love God with all you've got and love your neighbor as yourself (note that neighbors include those you might think are hardest to love, according to Luke 10:25-37).
- We will continue to care with and for one another because it's so ingrained in our spiritual DNA we really can't (or won't) do anything different (even though it might be really hard).
- There will still be people in need of love, acceptance, comfort, food, clothing, shelter, hope and peace and our purpose as Christians is to do whatever we can to be the hands and feet and heart of Jesus to anyone in need.
- There will still be places in our society in need of justice and God still expects it to come rolling down like the waters (Amos 5:24).
- As a unified congregation, we will still worship, sing, pray, laugh, cry, and serve together.

I'd suggest we concentrate on the sameness that exists on either side of the election line. We might find that what is different isn't as frightening as we thought it might be.

Be kind to yourselves and to one another as this week continues to unfold. Rev. Lynne

