

# 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

December 24, 2024  
PO Box 6303, 59406

Issue 52  
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 December 29, 2024 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas 9:30 A.M.



Worship Leaders: Dale Dallmann, Dana Kirkmeyer  
Ushers: Betsy Rogstad, Susan Thomas  
Acolyte: Zurie Goss  
Accompanist: Victor Tsai  
Coffee Fellowship: Peggy Floen, Bev Harris  
Treats: Russ & Shirley Davis, Karen McElroy  
Tellers: Steve Gettel, 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.

### *In Our Thoughts and Prayers*



† Family and friends of **Michael Obenauer**. Michael passed away December 21. He had served as an Associate Conference Minister of the Montana-Northern Wyoming Conference for a while.

† Family of **Gary Stewart** who suffered fatal injuries in an auto/pedestrian accident last week. Gary was a member of First UMC and participated in many of our musical offerings.

† Gratitude for the support of the **Mitten Makers!** \$1,200 was raised and taken to Longfellow school to support their gift card program.



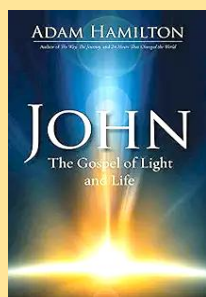
Let's do something a little different this week! Worship this Sunday (12/29) will be an informal time of singing, scripture and sharing. We'll hear parts of the Christmas story (one more time). We'll sing some of the favored Christmas hymns (one more time). AND, there will be opportunity for you to add to the story. Scattered throughout the service you will get to tell your story based on prompts that refer to the story of the birth of Jesus. Be thinking about the following and bring your story to make it part of the whole story.

- Where have you experienced “Good-News-Birthing” this year?
- Who are the “Wise Ones” who have inspired you in life?
- What gift would you love to give to Jesus?
- What might God be calling you to do in your journey of life to “bear” Christ into the world?



### *Christian Education News*

**There is no Sunday School and no nursery care on Sunday, December 29.** Both will resume on January 5. On January 5, children will begin in Sunday School, then join their families for the Sacrament of Holy Communion and the conclusion of worship.



### *Bible Study to Begin*

The bible study group that has been meeting for years on Wednesday mornings will begin again on January 8 at 10:00 A.M. We meet in the church parlor for 1.5 hours and all are welcome. The next session will be led by Retired Pastor Paul Holland. We are going to look at Adam Hamilton's study of John. The book is entitled *John: The Gospel-Light and Life* by Adam Hamilton. **Please purchase your own book for the class. Cost is \$15.52.**

### *Women's Coffee*

**Saturday, January 11 at 10:30 A.M. at Miss Kitty's (2501 6<sup>th</sup> Ave. N).  
What one small thing brings you happiness every day?**



### *2024 Giving Deadline*

With the holidays fast approaching, the current year ending, and a new one coming up: **please remember that donations meant for the 2024 tax year, whether pledged or unpledged, must be received in the office by December 31, 2024.** Fulfilling current pledges before the end of the year is most appreciated. **If you are unsure about your pledge, please call the church office.**

Going into the New Year... With the unified budget underway, **please continue to make donations to your respective church:** First Congregational UCC or Christ UMC. Thank you.

**The next newsletter will be mailed on January 8.  
Office hours may be reduced December 24-January 3. Before stopping by the church,  
please call ahead of time to make sure we are open.**

**Rev. Lynne will be out of town December 27 – January 2.  
She will be available by email, phone and text. For immediate pastoral care needs,  
contact Rev. Eric Finsand (Our Savior's Lutheran Church) 406-799-7788.**

**Worship Notes For  
January 5, 2025  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Christmas  
Celebration of the Epiphany of the Lord  
Celebration of Holy Communion  
9:30 A.M.**



Worship Leader: Rev. Lynne Spencer-Smith  
Scripture: Isaiah 60:1-6, Matthew 2:1-12  
Acolytes: Bailey & Chase Schrader  
Accompanist: Victor Tsai  
Nursery: May Harris, Gracie Kuszmaul  
Sunday School: Janet Koostra  
Coffee Fellowship: Dennis & Sue Turton, Bill Tiskus  
Treats: Dean Jardee, Sandy Nicolai  
Tellers: Carol Shipley, Nancy Zadick

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.

---

### ***UCC Congregational Meeting and Conversation***

**All members of First Congregational United Church of Christ are encouraged to attend a special Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 5, following worship in the sanctuary.** The purpose of the meeting is to provide feedback on the unification of ministries with Christ United Methodist Church. There will be updates from leadership conversations. We will discuss and vote on establishing an exploration committee to explore some of the technical aspects of formalizing a unification of the two congregations. This is the only item of business.

---

### ***Call to Annual Meeting***

**First Congregational United Church of Christ-Great Falls Council has scheduled the 2025 Annual Meeting for Sunday, January 19 following worship.** We will conduct the business of the congregation, vote on the 2025 unified budget, install board members and officers, and discuss other items of interest to the congregation. **The meeting will be followed immediately by the annual meeting of the Memorial Fund Corporation.** All members and friends of First Congregational United Church of Christ and Christ United Methodist Church are strongly encouraged to attend and participate, **keeping in mind that only members are able to vote.**

---



This  
Christmas  
end a quarrel.  
Seek out a forgotten  
friend. Dismiss suspicion,  
and replace it with trust.  
Write a love letter. Share some  
treasure. Give a soft answer. Keep  
a promise. Find the time. Forgo a grudge.  
Forgive an enemy. Listen. Apologize if you  
were wrong. Seek to understand. Examine your  
demands on others. Think first of someone else.  
Be kind; be gentle. Appreciate. Laugh a little. Laugh a  
little more. Express your gratitude. Gladden the heart of a  
child. Welcome a stranger. Take pleasure in the beauty and the  
wonder of Earth.  
Speak your love.  
Speak it again.  
Speak it yet.  
Once again.

- Howard Hunter

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from your church staff:

Rev. Lynne, Rev. Dawn, Holly, Janet, Eric, Josh, Victor, Dennis, Jason, Gracie and May

---

### *Coming Up*

#### **December 27-January 2**

Rev. Lynne out of town

#### **Monday, December 30**

Annual Reports Due

#### **Wednesday, January 1, 2025**

Happy New Year! Office Closed

#### **Thursday, January 2**

4:00 P.M. Joint Facilities, FH

5:30 P.M. Search & Call Comm., Parlor

#### **Sunday, January 5**

10:30 A.M. UCC Conversation, Sanctuary

#### **Monday, January 6**

1:00 P.M. Church Growth, FH

1:00 P.M. Christian Service, Parlor

#### **Wednesday, January 8**

10:00 A.M. Bridge, SS Wing

10:00 A.M. Book Study, Parlor

1:00 P.M. Prayer Mtg., Parlor

1:30 P.M. Pinochle, FH

6:00 P.M. Youth Group

6:00 P.M. Handbells

7:15 P.M. Choir Rehearsal