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

Volume 2025 Rev. Lynne Spencer-Smith (406) 453-4316 greatfallsucc@bresnan.net www.greatfallsucc.org January 29, 2025 PO Box 6303, 59406

Issue 04 Rev. Dawn Skerritt (406) 781-4524 revdawnskerrit@gmail.com

like us on Facebook: First Congregational United Church of Christ-Great Falls, MT Christ United Methodist Church Great Falls

> Fourth Sunday of Epiphany Worship Notes For February 2, 2025 9:30 A.M.



Minister: Rev. Sara MacGilvra Branom Scripture: Luke 4:21-30 Lay Reader: Noël Walker Ushers: Hank Branom, Bill Tiskus Acolytes: Chase Schrader, Lily Borland Accompanist: Victor Tsai Choir Director: Jason Webster Communion Servers: Dana Kirkmeyer, Karen Spencer, Janet Koostra, Noël Walker, Carol Davidson Sunday School: **Teachers Needed** Nursery: Gracie Kuszmaul, May Harris Coffee Fellowship: KimKay McCarty Martin, Verna Kessner 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.



Say Cheese!

Come and get your picture taken for the **new pictorial church yearbook**! Starting this Sunday and continuing all four Sundays in February, **look for Eric in the fellowship hall after worship**. He'll be to your right as you come through the door. Sit and enjoy some fellowship while you wait! For

those not in the area, watch for details on how you, too, can have your picture in the yearbook.

In Our Thoughts and Prayers † Ray & Colene Parker as Ray has been in the hospital with heart-related issues. † Janet Koostra is on the mend from a respiratory virus. Get well soon!



Christian Education News

February 2 is Communion Sunday so children will begin in Sunday School, then join their families for the Sacrament of Holy Communion and the conclusion of worship. February 2 is also the day Sunday School families

should let Janet Koostra know if they would like to help with the February 9 "Soup-er Bowl of Caring" bake sale. Please also let Janet know if Sunday School families --both kids and adults—would like to participate in a Secret Pen Pal letter exchange during March & April.

Fish Thank You's

We had a short 4-day week at the FISH Food Pantry this past week. Thank you so much to these wonderful volunteers: Jack Armstrong, Elaine Balzer, Harry & Connie Brauer, Lila Byers, Carol Davidson, Peggy Floen, Bev Harris, Mende Kloppel, Steve & Karen McElroy, Sandy Nicolai and Dennis & Sue Turton. We gave out 1,307 pounds of food in those 4 days! Our next turn to work is April 7-11. Hope to see you then!

United Methodist Confirmation

Hello Youth! What is church? Who was Jesus? Why should you be part of it all? Designed to bring us together in conversation, Confirmation will provide space for you to explore your faith and ask big questions you have about God and the church (we all do no matter the age!).

Confirmation is the Christian Education required of youth who seek membership in the United Methodist Church. It's so much more than that. Sometimes youth participate in Confirmation courses without the desire or intention of membership and that's okay too. It's designed to give you a basic understanding of the history and theology of the church and navigate being a faithful follower of Christ and help you form a life-long walk of faith.

My favorite part is learning how to articulate our faith stories, so that we can share them with others! Ideally, this course is designed for 7th-10th graders, but will allow high schoolers of any age to join this year, as I haven't had a course offered for some of our juniors and seniors. This course is 7 weeks long on Sundays from 3-5 p.m. at First United Methodist Church starting on February 16 and running through the end of March. Attendance is required to complete the course. Please email Pastor Dawn to register at revdawnskerritt@gmail.com.

Sending love and light, Pastor Dawn

Search and Call Committee News Surveys Needed from Everyone!

We've had a good return of the surveys but need more. If you haven't completed one, paper copies are available in the church office. You may also use the following link for an electronic copy:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Pk7Y15ni2MX1vmDFnYMFcQaljvEfzC6E/view?usp=sharing

Paper and electronic copies should be returned ASAP. Please bring paper copies to the church and send electronic surveys to Dale Dallmann, dogger.drd@gmail.com. Since we are exploring unification, the committee needs surveys from members and friends of both congregations. It is important for the Search and Call Committee to get input from as many members and friends as possible so the profile is as accurate and transparent as we can make it. Please be sure to include your name so the committee can follow up with all members and friends of both congregations. Thank you for your cooperation and help with this survey.



Four Chaplains Memorial Service Sunday, February 2 at 2:00 P.M. Church Sanctuary

This non-denominational service celebrates the true story of four World War II U.S. Army Chaplains. Sponsored by American Legion Post 341, this service honors those men who joined together despite their different beliefs. In February of 1943, the

U.S.A.T Dorchester sunk in the cold Atlantic. Lt. George Fox, Lt. Alexander Goode, Lt. John Washington, and Lt. Clark Polling, brought hope in despair and light in darkness. Quickly and quietly, they spread out among the soldiers, trying to calm the frightened, tend the wounded, and guide the disoriented toward safety. When the ship went down, the four chaplains, who had given their life jackets to others, linked arms offered prayers. Of the 902 men aboard the U.S.A.T Dorchester, only 230 survived.

Grief Share

Are you grieving the death of a spouse or know someone who is? Your life has changed forever. The daily emotions and challenges can seem too hard to bear. Join Linda Redding for an encouraging seminar on Tuesdays, February 4 and 11, 1:30-3:00 P.M., in the church parlor. For more information, please contact Linda at lindakredding@hotmail.com or (406)868-1282.



Women's Coffee

New venue! Our next women's coffee is Saturday, February 8, 10:30 A.M. at Wheat Montana (1116 9th Street S.). Look for us at the round table. Share your favorite types of books to read and your favorite author.

Bingo!

The Fellowship Board is hosting Bingo after worship on Sunday, February 16. Cards can be purchased for \$1.00/ea. Prizes will be awarded. Proceeds will go towards scholarships for the 2025 Camp Mimanagish season. Mark your calendars and bring your family and friends!





UMCOR

umcmission.org

As countless families and communities face the overwhelming aftermath of the California wildfires, UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) is supporting the efforts of conference disaster response ministries across the region. Evacuees are receiving food and other essential supplies. Trained volunteers are preparing to assist where it is safe to do so. Please pray for all those impacted by this disaster, as well as first responders and volunteers. The road to recovery will be long, but together, we can bring hope and healing.

Coming Up Rev. Lynne on vacation until February 3

Thursday, January 30

5:30 P.M. Search and Call, Parlor

Sunday, February 2

10:45 A.M. Worship Board, Parlor

10:45 A.M. CE Board, Conference Room

Monday, February 3

1:00 P.M. Christian Service, Parlor

Tuesday, February 4

1:30 P.M. Grief Group, Parlor

Wednesday, February 5

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

10:00 A.M. Book Study, Parlor

1:30 P.M. Pinochle, Fellowship Hall

6:00 P.M. Youth Group

6:00 P.M. Handbells

7:15 P.M. Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, February 6

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

5:30 P.M. Search and Call, Parlor

Saturday, February 8

10:30 A.M. Women's Coffee Wheat Montana (1116 9th Street S.)