

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

Volume 2025

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Issue 06

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

## Sixth Sunday of Epiphany Worship Notes For February 16, 2025 9:30 A.M.



Minister: Rev. Lynne Spencer-Smith  
Scripture: Psalm 1, Luke 6:17-26  
Lay Reader: Dana Kirkmeyer  
Ushers: Joan Duncan, Noël Walker  
Acolytes: Ellie Bucher, Lily Borland  
Accompanist: Victor Tsai  
Choir Director: Jason Webster  
Cantabellé Ringers Director: Dennis Dell  
Sunday School: Betsy Rogstad  
Nursery: Gracie Kuzmaul, May Harris  
Treats: Linda Holland, Linda Redding, Marilyn Sheffels  
Tellers: Liz Lee, Jeanne Nobbs

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*

- † Our sympathy to **Doug and Pat Livingstone** in the sudden and unexpected of death of their daughter, **Lauren**. Condolences may be sent to 19394 E. 54<sup>th</sup> Place, Denver, CO 80249.
- † **Verna Kessner** is in hospice care following a stroke.
- † **Nancy Zbinden** is being treated for pneumonia.
- † The **Search and Call Committee** and the person whom God is preparing to be our next pastor.



## ***Bingo!***

**The Fellowship Board is hosting Bingo after worship this Sunday, February 16. Cards can be purchased for \$1.00/ea. Prizes will be awarded. Proceeds will go towards scholarships for the 2025 Camp Season.**

## ***"Soup-er Bowl of Caring" Wins***

Soup-er Bowl of Caring was a Soup-er Success! What a fantastic response to this year's offering and bake sale! **It may be our best response ever!** The offering received at the sanctuary doors totaled \$351.46! The bake sale raised \$373.65! **Our grand total is \$725.11, all to benefit the FISH Food Pantry.** We also received several cans of food. FISH buys most food from the Community Food Bank for about .35/lb. **Our donation will translate into over 2,000 lbs. of food to help tackle hunger in Great Falls.** Thank you for participating! What a great team effort!



## ***Quilt Raffle***

**Christ United Methodist's Women in Faith is sponsoring a quilt raffle.** The queen sized quilt is on display in Fellowship Hall and will be raffled during coffee fellowship on Mother's Day, May 11. **Tickets are 1/\$1.00 or 6/\$5.00.** All proceeds will benefit local charities. Please see Jeanne Nobbs or Carolyn Dowdy for tickets. Need not be present to win.

## ***Say Cheese!***

**Don't forget to have your picture taken for the new pictorial church yearbook!** Just a couple more Sundays remain in the month! **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, feel free to send a digital photo to Eric at [tech@greatfallsucc.org](mailto:tech@greatfallsucc.org).** Don't forget to include your name!

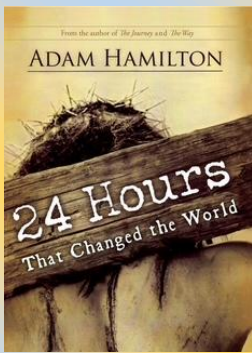


## ***Christian Education News***

This week, children will begin in worship. After a Brown Bag Children's Message with Pastor Lynne, kids will go to Sunday School. Betsy Rogstad will lead a lesson about "Jesus Stills a Storm". **Sunday School offering from February 16 through Easter will be given to VJ Antonette, our Global Ministries sponsor child.** Sunday School welcomes children from age 5 through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Nursery care is provided for children through age 5. Both Sunday School children and nursery children must be signed out by an adult. Thank you!

**Children's Message Brown Bag Steward: Saint Dunn**





## ***Lenten Book Study***

**Beginning Wednesday, March 5 at 10:00 A.M. We meet on Wednesdays in the church parlor for 1.5 hours and all are welcome.** This session will be led by **Retired Pastor Paul Holland**. We are going to look at Adam Hamilton's book ***24 Hours that Changed the World***. **Cost is \$9.00.** Please let Lois Baker know if you would like a book ordered.

## ***Help Our Local Kids***

Dear Members of Christ United Methodist Church and First Congregational United Church of Christ,

We are reaching out to you with a heartfelt request to support the children of West Elementary School. Many of these young students arrive without essential items, and together, we can make a meaningful difference in their lives. Please consider donating to our West Elementary mid-year drive. Here's what we need:



- **Food Pantry Items:**

- Cans of Chef Boyardee, vegetables, fruit
- Tuna, cream of chicken and mushroom soup
- Stew, tomato soup, chicken noodle soup
- Can openers
- Jelly, mac and cheese, ramen
- The school receives cheese and peanut butter.
- Everything helps

- **School Supplies:**

- Notebooks, pencils, pens, backpacks, crayons, markers
- Any school essentials for students who arrive late in the year

- **Clothing:**

- All sizes, for both boys and girls
- New or gently used clothes that can help a child get through the day with comfort and confidence

By contributing these items, you can help ensure that every child at West Elementary has the nourishment and tools they need to succeed. Your generous donations will go a long way in making their school year brighter and more hopeful. Thank you for always coming together as a church community and supporting these wonderful children. Please leave items in the box marked for West Elementary in the narthex. Thank you for your kindness and generosity.

Your UCC and CUMC Christian Service Board

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## ***UCC Confirmation***

Plans are under way for a UCC Confirmation program. **The class sessions will be held in four one-day retreat settings, 9:00 A.M.-3:00 P.M. on March 1 & 22 and April 5 & 26.** Students who wish, will be confirmed during worship on May 4. Please keep the students in your prayers: **Liam Brewer, Kaeden Dunn, Zurie Goss, Anthony Storle, Calvin Storle, Ashton Turton, and Jullian Valley.**

Can you help with confirmation? **Rev. Lynnee looking for some adult helpers for the confirmation classes.** If you can come and help out on any of the above dates for a morning or afternoon session (or all day!), please contact Rev. Lynne. You will not have to do any of the planning but you may be asked to help facilitate an activity or discussion. **Adult participants will be required to have a background check on file with us.**

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### *Ash Wednesday Service- March 5, 5:00 P.M.*

“From dust you have come and to dust you shall return.”

**Ash Wednesday begins the Lenten Season.** We will once again be offering a service of meditation centers and imposition of ashes. The meditation centers will be changed up a little bit to keep things fresh and interesting. **The service will begin at 5:00 P.M. and go until about 5:45 P.M.** Following the service, there will be a **Stone Soup Supper**, organized by the Fellowship Board. Be watching for more information.

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### *Fellowship Board*

With unexpected health and family challenges, **the Fellowship Board is looking for a few members to fill in for a 2025 term and a 2027 term.** The Fellowship plans and coordinates social events, plans for refreshments after church and brainstorms other fun activities (such as Bingo this Sunday!). **If you would like to see what it’s all about or step in for one of these terms, please call KimKay McCarty martin at (701) 260-2833. They are meeting this Friday, February 14 at 4:00 P.M. in the Fellowship Hall.** Feel free to join in!

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### *Save the Date! Spring Retreat*

"For Such A Time As This"  
**Saturday, March 22, 2025**  
**8:30 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.**



First Congregational United Church of Christ-  
Christ United Methodist Church

**Facilitator: Sara Branom**

Stay tuned for more information!

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**United  
Women  
in Faith**

**Women in Faith are meeting on Thursday, February 20 at 1:00 P.M. in Fellowship Hall. They will be making tie-quilts to go out in the community. All women are welcome to come and join this missional and fellowship group.**

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### *Christ UMC January Financial Report*

January Income	\$6,145.00
January Expenses	\$2,048.65
Net Income for January	\$4,247.83
Checking Balance January 31	\$59,587.48
Year to Date Income January 31	\$4,247.83

The January expenses were \$1,000.00 for the property appraisal,

\$1,000.00 to UCC, and payroll taxes for 2024. Thank you for your continued support of our churches. Happy Valentine's Day to everyone and God's blessing to each of you.

Jeanne

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***2024 Year-End Financial Highlights***  
***January 1, 2024-December 31, 2024***  
***First Congregational United Church of Christ***

**Income**

Pledges Actual YTD	\$191,019.00
Pledges Budgeted Total Year	\$187,162.00

**Other Income**

Actual YTD	\$27,054.00
Budgeted Total Year	\$28,443.00

**Memorial Board Donation**

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

**Total Income**

Actual YTD	\$309,053.00
Budgeted Total Year	\$306,585.00

**Expenses**

Actual YTD	\$287,337.00
Budgeted Total Year	\$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. If you'd like to see the detailed financial report as of December 31, 2024, scan the QR code or follow the link below.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/15vtSCyVWRWnejkRPeokwMPuxjoo2lMe0/view?usp=sharing>

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***Coming Up***

**Thursday, February 13**

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

**Friday, February 14**

4:00 P.M. Fellowship Board, FH

**Sunday, February 16**

3:00 P.M. Stewardship Board, Zoom

3:00 P.M. CUMC Confirmation, FUMC

**Monday, February 17**

6:30 P.M. Church Council, Zoom

**Wednesday, February 19**

10:00 A.M. Bridge, SS Wing

10:00 A.M. Book Study, Parlor

1:30 P.M. Pinochle, FH

6:00 P.M. Youth Group

6:00 P.M. Handbells

7:15 P.M. Choir Rehearsal

**Thursday, February 20**



1:00 P.M. Women In Faith, FH  
5:30 P.M. Search and Call, Parlor