

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

Volume 2025

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Issue 09

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

**Spring Forward!**  
**First Sunday in Lent**  
**March 9, 2025**  
**10:00 A.M.**

*Rejoice  
Always*

Minister: Rev. Lynne Spencer-Smith

Scripture: Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Lay Reader: Liz Lee

Ushers: Dale & Nancy Dallmann

Acolyte: Kaeden Dunn

Accompanist: Victor Tsai

Choir Director: Jason Webster

Cantabellé Ringers Director: Dennis Dell

Sunday School: Janet Koostra, Sue Turton

Nursery: May Harris, Gracie Kuszmaul

Coffee Fellowship: Peggy Floen, Bev Harris

Treats: Vilma Ackerman, Rosemary Neilsen

Tellers: Steve Gettel, 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.



**Set your clocks ahead one hour**

**Sunday, March 9, 2025**

***In Our Thoughts and Prayers***



† **Ron Shipley** passed away on March 4. Holding **Carol, Melanie** and **Jason** in our prayers.

† **Paul Holland** remains at a rehab facility for his hip.

† **Verna Kessner** remains in hospice care following a stroke.

† The **Search and Call Committee** and the person whom God is preparing to be our next pastor.



### ***Christian Education News***

This week children will begin in worship. **They will share a message with Pastor Lynne and then join Janet Koostra and Sue Turton for Sunday School.** Offering will be used to help support our mission child in the Philippines, VJ Antonette. Please prayerfully consider contributing to this offering. Nursery care is also provided for children through age 5.

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### ***Join in JEOPARDY!***

**During coffee fellowship this Sunday, the Christian Education Board is sponsoring an all-church intergenerational JEOPARDY game!** Categories will include Bible related questions, denomination specific questions for both UCC and UMC, “Lynne-ked In”, and a category just for kids. **Teams will include an adult, a child, a UCC member and a UMC member. Dean Jardee will host the event and there will be prizes!** Plan now to join the fun!

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### ***Women’s Coffee***

**This Saturday, March 8 at 10:30 A.M. in the southwest corner of the backroom at Wheat Montana (1116 9<sup>th</sup> Street S.) Share your church history and favorite classic TV shows! Bonnie Lane will share some of her favorite poetry with the group.**

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### ***Storle Adoption***

You’re invited to attend the adoption of **Lacelyn Maureen** into the Storle family! **Lacelynn will officially join Keith, Allie, Anna, Anthony, Calvin, Cameron, Jaycee, and Rose on Wednesday, March 5 at 9:00 A.M. in the sanctuary. Wear yellow (Lacelynn’s favorite color)! Brunch will follow in Fellowship Hall.**

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### ***20<sup>th</sup> Annual Loaves & Fishes Dinner Auction***

**Friday, March 21, 2025**

**Our Savior’s Lutheran Church**

**1326 1st Ave. N.**

**4:30 P.M. – 6:30 P.M.**

**Free will offering**

**All proceeds support FISH, the emergency food program in Great Falls.**

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### **FISH Statistics for January 2025**

	January 2024	January 2025
Families	36	39
Singles	54	44
Adults	119	94
Children	46	50
Meals	2,475	2,160
Lbs. of Food	5,455	5,200



***During our One Great Hour of Sharing March Campaign,  
Be the Light by Dreaming God's Dream***

*"You're here to be the light, bringing out the God-colors in the world." Matthew 5:14*

Jesus called us to be light-bearers, sharing His blessings and living a life of discipleship. One way to heed this call is through our giving to **One Great Hour of Sharing**. By participating, we bring light to those facing hardships, support recovery efforts after disasters, empower global partners, and plant seeds of peace in war-torn areas. Let's raise our light high and cast it wide.

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***"For Such A Time As This"- Spring Retreat***

**Sign-ups continue for our March 22 retreat, with facilitator Rev. Sara MacGilvrva Branom.** This one-day event begins at 8:30 A.M. and runs through 4:00 P.M. Breakfast and lunch are provided. **Sign-up deadline is Sunday, March 16. Cost is \$20.00, which must be paid in advance.** Write checks to "FCUCC" and mark "Retreat" in the memo. Or put cash in an envelope CLEARLY marked with your name and "Retreat". Place payments in the offering. Or pay by PayPal at greatfallsucc.org. Facilitator Sara has a wonderful day planned for the group!



Dear Friends,

Each year, the Christian Service Board is honored to provide dinner twice annually for the **West Elementary parent/teacher conferences**, offering our dedicated teachers and staff an opportunity to nourish themselves after dismissing students and stepping right into their conferences with the parents. Additionally, we are **proud to support the LGBTQ prom each year** by providing snacks and refreshments. This year, these two events coincided, posing a unique challenge for us.

With several members of the Christian Service Board out of town, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to **Betsy Rogstad** for stepping in and taking over the organization of the LGBTQ prom. Your dedication and effort did not go unnoticed, Betsy. We also want to express our sincere thanks to **Sharon Oakland, Chris Ebeling, Sue Skees, Rosemary Nielsen, Janet Koostra, and Karen McElroy** for their invaluable contributions in shopping, delivery, baking, and setup for one or both of these events. Your commitment and hard work ensured that everything ran smoothly, and for that, we are deeply grateful. **Lila Byers and Karen Venetz express our forever gratitude to each and every one of you.** Your generosity and willingness to serve embody the spirit of our community and make a profound difference in the lives of many. Dreaming God's Dream



***Monthly Prayer Meeting***

**Wednesday, March 12**

**1:00 – 2:00 P.M.**

**Church Parlor**

Everyone is welcome participate.

We share joys and concerns, light candles, pray and bring support to one another.



## ***Christian Service Re-Scheduled***

Please note that the Christian Service Board will meet on **Monday, March 24<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 P.M.** in the church parlor and via Zoom. Thanks for working together to reschedule this.

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### ***Correction!***

The Grief Group will NOT meet on Wednesdays beginning in March. Rather, they will meet on **Mondays, beginning April 7, from 11:00 A.M.-12:30 P.M. in the parlor.**

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United  
Women  
in Faith

Save the dates! The United Women in Faith are meeting **Thursday, March 20 at 1:00 P.M. in the fellowship hall. Speaker is Carrie Parker with Helping Hands, a local non-profit.**

**On April 24 they will host a spring luncheon at noon.** Come and see Debby Clapshaw's photography of local birds. Free will offering to benefit missions of the church. **RSVP to Linda Larson by April 18, (406) 868-8409.**

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### ***Help Needed***

Our Sunday School is a fun and vibrant program in the ministry of our church, offering an extravagant welcome to children of many ages and abilities. **The success and continued weekly classes are dependent on adult volunteers who serve as teachers and helpers.** Curriculum is fun and user-friendly. Teachers and helpers sign up for just one week at a time, so the time commitment is modest. **The Christian Education Board needs volunteers from March 16 to May 18 in order to finish the program year with classes available each week.** Please prayerfully consider how you can help and **contact Janet Koostra, 406-727-8443 or janetkoostra@gmail.com if you can support our children's faith journey.**

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### ***The Fibers of Faith That Weave us Together***

Faith is a multi-faceted affair. It weaves together tradition, prayer, community, service, devotion, praise, contemplation, and justice. In other words, there's a lot that goes into faith. There's texture and color and dimension, beauty and fragility. It's like a tapestry!

"Fibers of Faith" is the theme that will be "woven" through worship during this year's season of Lent. We'll consider the fibers of the past and at least one of the origin stories that gives our faith the backing into which other aspects of faith are woven. Passion and devotion give dimension and strength. Covenanted relationship becomes the background upon which other threads of justice and compassion are woven. **Faith is never a finished product:** God is not only still speaking, God is still weaving. And, just as the best tapestries are extravagant, the tapestry of faith reveals the extravagance of God that is so easily misunderstood as an "idle tale." How will you see yourself in God's great tapestry of faith this Lent? Come and see.

(Disclaimer: I am no expert on fibers, weaving, spinning or tapestry. That means that my references to any of the above will be elementary and highly dependent on the internet to give me the background for this Lenten metaphor.)

See you on Sunday! Rev. Lynne



## *Coming Up*

### **Thursday, March 6**

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

### **Saturday, March 8**

10:30 A.M. Women's Coffee, Wheat MT

### **Sunday, March 9**

11:15 A.M. Bible Jeopardy after worship

### **Monday, March 10**

1:00 P.M. Church Growth & Vitality

6:00 P.M. Business Affairs, Zoom

### **Tuesday, March 11**

10:00 A.M. Mitten Makers

12:00 P.M. Joint Facilities

### **Wednesday, March 12**

10:00 A.M. Book Study, Parlor

1:00 P.M. Prayer Mtg., 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, March 13**

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

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