

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

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

**November 23, 2025  
Worship Service  
10:00 A.M.**

Worship Leader:  
Dale Dallmann

Scripture: Jeremiah 23:1-6,  
Luke 23:33-43

Lay Reader: Marilyn Sheffels

Ushers: Nancy Dallmann, Keith Storle

Accompanist/Music Director: Melissa Gilbert

Acolytes: Echo and Erika Greene

Sunday School: Erin Borland

Nursery: May Harris, Lily Yelvington

Coffee Fellowship: Peggy Floen, Bev Harris

Treats: Linda Grossman, Karen McElroy

UCC Tellers: Paul Haffeman, Nancy Zadick

Christ UMC Tellers: Rosemary Neilsen, 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.

To better focus our hearts, minds and spirit during Advent **there will not be a time for announcements during Sunday worship.** If you have a church announcement during the Advent season, please contact Holly so Eric can make a slide to play before worship, or to include in the worship bulletin or weekly newsletter. Rev. Sara

***In Our Thoughts and Prayers***

† Bill Gold is settling in at the Grandview, room #201, and welcomes visitors. JoAnn is in rehab on the fourth floor following surgery.

† Peggy Floen, having had to return to the hospital, was released and is home.



## ***Christian Education News***

Children will **begin in worship on November 23** and will share a children's message with worship leader **Dale Dallmann**. **Erin Borland** will lead Sunday School with the help of TBA. The lesson will be TBA. All children ages 5 through grade 6 are invited to attend Sunday School. **Nursery care for children through age 5 will be provided by nursery staff May and Lily.**

### ***Thanksgiving Baskets***

Wow! What fun we had in Sunday School organizing food for the West Elementary Thanksgiving Baskets! Kids and food were going every direction at once! Even "Flat Jesus", a paper doll rendition of the Savior, showed up and helped! **Now the bags are packed, and with a little extra food provided by the monetary donations we received, all the goodies will be delivered on Monday, November 24.** Thank you so much for your generosity! May all we do help others to have a tummy-filled, happy Thanksgiving!

### ***Shoebox Update***

What fun! Two wrapped shoeboxes and seven bags of donated items have already appeared for the Browning United Methodist Parish (BUMP) Christmas Shoebox Ministry! **Items for this ministry will be collected until December 7.** Then items will be packed and wrapped, ready to hit the road to Browning on December 15. Would you like to help? Here's how. **Pick up a flyer from the table in the narthex for instructions. Purchase items to donate. Donate dollars.** (A donation jar is also on the table in the narthex; or write a check to FCUCC and mark the memo "Browning" and place it in the offering.) **Buy items, fill and wrap a box of your own! Volunteer to pack and wrap boxes.** Very Important: **please mark items with age and gender if applicable.** What a joyful way to share the excitement of the birth of Baby Jesus!

### ***Christmas Pageant Rehearsal***

**Pageant Rehearsal will begin at 11:15 A.M. on Sunday, November 23. Music Director Melissa Gilbert will spend time with the cast, working on the songs for the performance.** Please be prepared for a slightly longer rehearsal –maybe until 12:30 P.M. Families are welcome to provide snacks for their kids for "rehearsal fuel". See you Sunday!



### ***Reverse Offering Stories of Generosity***

**Amount of money in envelope: \$5.00**

**What I did with the money:** I used the money to buy ingredients for chocolate chip cookies and then took the cookies to two neighbors.

**Why I chose this act of kindness:** One batch was to welcome a family to our neighborhood and the second batch went to a neighbor who doesn't get out much due to mobility issues.

**What did you gain or learn from this experience?** It feels good to make someone's day.

### ***Fishing for Volunteers***

First Congregational UCC's next turn to work at the FISH Food Pantry is just before Thanksgiving, **November 24-26, from 9:00 A.M.-11:00 A.M.** If you'd like to volunteer and distribute food to



families in need, please call Carol Davidson at (406) 836-1862. This could be a busy three days!!

### **2026 Budget**

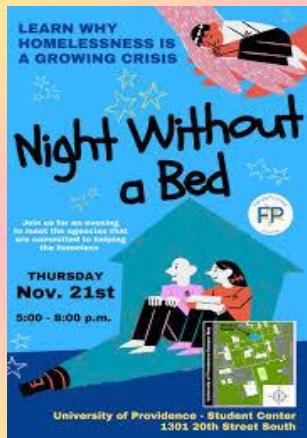
The Business Affairs Board is holding a budget hearing after worship on Sunday, December 7. The preliminary proposed 2026 budget will be presented, including projected income. This will be an opportunity to learn more about the finances of the church and to present ideas on allocating our resources. The Board will meet the following night to make changes based on information gathered at the hearing. Then, a revised proposed budget will go to the congregation for a vote at the January annual meeting. **Hate to miss fellowship time? You are in luck! It will be brought into the sanctuary so you can snack and drink while we meet!**

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### **Pledge Update**

The 2026 Stewardship Campaign continues. Members of the Stewardship Board have begun calling folks from whom we have not yet heard. **Last year, we had 107 combined pledges between First Congregational United Church of Christ and Christ United Methodist Church for a total of \$258,080.00.** This year's pledge packets went to both churches for a single campaign. **To date, we have received 89 pledges totaling \$218,332.00.** If you intend to financially support the CHURCH, its STAFF and its continued MINISTRIES, please return your pledge cards as soon as possible. Adjustments to pledges already turned in can be made by calling or emailing the church office at (406) 453-4316 or [greatfallsucc@gmail.com](mailto:greatfallsucc@gmail.com). Thank you.

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### **Night Without a Bed**

This annual event will be presented on November 20, from 5:00-8:00 P.M. at The University of Providence Student Center. The event has gained momentum over the years with more than 20 organizations committed to hosting a table of information for visitors. It is open to all ages, and you will leave armed with knowledge to help someone experiencing homelessness. Horizon Credit Union has generously donated funds to provide visitors with food that the Great Falls Lion's Club will be cooking and serving.

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### **Christmas Poinsettias**

Honor a loved one or just contribute to the beauty of our sanctuary this Christmas by donating \$15 for a live poinsettia. Names of those who are honored will be included in our Christmas Eve bulletin. **Please send checks made out to UCC (with flower fund in the memo) and names of those to be honored to the church office no later than Sunday, December 21.** You may also place checks and names in an envelope in the offering trays each Sunday. Poinsettias will be displayed the entire Advent season.

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### **Shadow Runners**

#### **Molly Baskette**

[Jesus replied,] "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses... to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8 (NRSV)

Every year, a few hundred intrepid runners take on the Western States Endurance Run. Starting near

Lake Tahoe, the route takes them 18,000 cumulative feet over the Sierra Nevadas and down to historic gold country of Northern California, through snow at higher elevations and temps of up to 110 at lower ones.

If the runners lose too much weight during the race, they are pulled out due to the risk of heatstroke and renal failure. My first question: why would you do such a thing voluntarily? My second question: how is it even possible for a human body to complete such a task?

Toward the end of the race, as runners come close to civilization again, shadow runners join them. Shadow runners are local runners who can't aid the participant in any material way, but simply run alongside them for morale. Those shadow runners give many of the weary ultramarathoners the witness and draft they need to finish the race.

The best descriptor I ever heard for the Holy Spirit is "strength beyond ourselves." After his resurrection and victory tour, Jesus promises the Holy Spirit's power to his disciples, then disappears into a cloud. Ten days later, as they are doubtless growing weary and frightened that he is gone forever, the Spirit shows up on cue. Fueled by this "shadow runner," ordinary humans begin to do wondrous, previously impossible feats. Holy-Spirit-fueled miracles continue to this day. Extraordinary acts of kindness, courage, and generosity. System-shifting revolutions by people of faith, who can go the distance.

**Prayer:** Shadow-Runner, we started strong, but it's been a big ascent in hot times, and we doubt we can make it to the finish line. Come and cheer us, Strength-Beyond-Ourselves, and tell us we're almost there.

About the Author: Rev. Molly Baskette is the lead pastor of First Church Berkeley UCC and the author of books about church renewal, parenting, spiritual growth and more.



## India

The Center for Social Equity and Inclusion (CSEI) in India is a non-governmental organization dedicated to promoting social justice, equity, and inclusions, particularly for marginalized communities such as Dalits, Adivasis, and other historically oppressed groups. CSEI works through research, advocacy, and capacity-building to address issues like discrimination, inequality, and exclusion in various sectors, including education, health, and governance. By empowering communities and engaging with policymakers, CSEI strives to create a more inclusive society where all individuals, regardless of caste, ethnicity, or background, have equal access to opportunities and resources.



John Wesley believed that learning was “a means of grace, a tool for spiritual and social transformation.” Today, that legacy is

under threat. Cuts to public funding for education, dismantling of equity initiatives and political attacks on diversity and inclusion are jeopardizing access for students and straining United Methodist-related schools — especially historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) and seminaries. “The United Methodist Church has historically supported education,” said Bishop Kennetha J. Bigham-Tsai, a board member for the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. “Yet educational institutions in the United





States are under intense pressure because of the political climate. Given the cuts that many of our schools are being forced to make, they need our support.” From Wesley’s vision to today’s challenges, education remains a cornerstone of spiritual and social transformation. By supporting United Methodist-related institutions and expanding access for at-risk students, GBHEM equips and nurtures leaders to serve faithfully in a changing world.



Supported by a \$400,000 Ministerial Education Fund (MEF) innovation grant, the program is designed to foster public ministry rooted in justice, contextual theology and community leadership.

***Boston  
University  
School of  
Theology***



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### ***Coming Up***

#### **Thursday, November 20**

- 1:00 P.M. United Women in Faith, Fellowship Hall
- 6:30 P.M. Ecumenical Book Study, Central Christian Church

#### **Sunday, November 23**

- 9:15 A.M. Choir Rehearsal
- 11:00 A.M. Coffee Fellowship
- 11:15 A.M. Pageant Rehearsal

#### **Tuesday, November 25**

- 10:00 A.M. Mitten Makers, Fellowship Hall
  - 1:00 P.M. Holiday Decorating the Church
- Come join the fun! The more the merrier!

#### **Wednesday, November 26**

- 10:00 A.M. Bible Study, Parlor
- 1:30 P.M. Pinochle, Fellowship Hall
- 6:00 P.M. Youth Group, 2900 9<sup>th</sup> Ave. S
- 6:00 P.M. Handbells
- 7:15 P.M. Choir Rehearsal

**The office will be closed November 27 and 28 for the Thanksgiving Holiday.**