

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

Volume 2025
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November 5, 2025
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Issue 33
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*like us on Facebook: First Congregational United Church of Christ-Great Falls, MT
Christ United Methodist Church Great Falls*

**November 9, 2025
Worship Service
10:00 A.M.**

Worship Leader:
Dr. Kelly Quick

Scripture: Philippians 1:12-18, John 10:1-11

Lay Reader: Dale Dallmann

Ushers: Dale & Nancy Dallmann

Accompanist/Music Director: Melissa Gilbert

Acolytes: Aalayah Dunn, Jaycee Storle

Sunday School: Cara Dunn, Janet Koostra

Nursery: May Harris, Lily Yelvington

Coffee Fellowship: Bill Tiskus, Dennis & Sue Turton

Treats: Linda Larson, Sandy Nicolai

UCC Tellers: Carol Shipley, Nancy Zadick

Christ UMC Tellers: Rosemary Neilsen, Jeanne Nobbs

I am the good shepherd.
The good shepherd lays down
his life for the sheep.
John 10:11



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.

EMAIL CHANGE! Please use greatfallsucc@gmail.com for emails to the church office. Our bresnan.net email will no longer be supported.

In Our Thoughts and Prayers 

† Congratulations to **Lacey & Kylan Hallett** on the birth of their son, **Giddean Lake**, born in Salt Lake City on October 31. Proud maternal grandparents are **Karen & Tom Spencer**. **Giddean** joins siblings **Rafferty** and **Moxie**. Continued prayers as Lacey and baby remain in Salt Lake City while recuperating from a complicated pregnancy and early delivery.

† **Peggy Floen** is home from the hospital.



Christian Education News

On November 9, children will begin in worship. Following the children's message, they will go to Sunday School with teachers **Janet Koostra** and **Cara Dunn**. This week's lesson is "Ruth and Naomi" and will focus on "making sure everyone has enough". **Sunday School is for children age 5 through grade 6.** **Nursery care is provided for children through age 5.**

Thanksgiving Basket Items Due!

The pile of donations for West Elementary Thanksgiving Baskets is growing! **If you haven't already done so, please bring items on or before this Sunday.** Monetary donations will be used to purchase extras like fresh fruit, butter, pancake mix, pancake syrup and more!

Christmas Pageant Rehearsals Begin November 9

It's time for the annual Christmas Pageant! Rehearsals will begin on Sunday, November 9 following worship. **Kids may go to Coffee Fellowship for a quick snack but should return to the sanctuary by 11:15.** Scripts will be given out. Music will be rehearsed. Lines will be read. All to celebrate the birth of the Christ Child! **The pageant will be performed during worship on December 14.** Questions? **Contact Janet Koostra, janetkoostra@gmail.com or 406-727-8443.**

New Acolytes Join the Ranks!

Three new acolytes were trained to help in worship. They learned that "acolyte" means "helper", that being an acolyte is doing ministry, and the ministry of the acolyte is to carry the light of God into the sanctuary at the beginning of worship, then carry that same light of God out into the world for everyone! It is definitely an important, and fun role. **Our new acolytes are Aalayah Dunn, Echo Greene and Jaycee Storle.** Congratulations and thank you for your willingness to serve.



Reverse Offering Stories of Generosity

Amount of money in envelope: \$5.00

What I did with the money: I gave to a young couple who were panhandling.

Why I chose this act of kindness: It was a spur of the moment decision.

What did you gain or learn from this experience? I know this seems like the easy out but I left the house that day determined to figure out what to do with the money. As I was leaving the parking lot, a young couple arrived at the corner. He came around to my window to talk to me. This was unusual because typically a panhandler is flying a sign. They had no sign. I mentored a high school girl and as she entered adulthood, she was homeless and doing this very thing for survival. The girl reminded me of Amie and even though I know the money I gave might be used for drugs or alcohol, it was a gift I gave and they could use the gift however they wanted.

Women's Coffee



The Women's Coffee group will meet at Wheat Montana (1116 9th St. S.) at 10:30 A.M. on Saturday, November 8. All are welcome to attend!

Christmas Tea

First United Methodist Church (610 2nd Avenue N) is hosting their annual Christmas Tea on **December 6 at 1:00 P.M.** Please **RSVP to Vibecka Olson at (406) 781-0297 by November 20.**





Friends,

Advent will soon be here. **The first Sunday of Advent is November 30th.** The word advent comes from the Latin *adventus* meaning arrival or coming. Advent is a time to embrace and remember the gift of Christ's birth. The books below are written by wise people who generously share their knowledge providing the reader soul comforting insights. Each Sunday of advent has a theme - **hope, preparation, joy, love.** I invite you to start this

year's Advent journey with either or both of these books. They are written by three of my favorite authors. I read *The First Christmas* every year and learn something new each time. *A Child is Born* is a new release and will be a first time read for me. I've included a summary from the editors to give you an idea of what the books are about. My summary is if you are tired of what is happening in world, escape into these books and fill your mind and time thinking about what they teach us. — **Rev. Sara**

***A Child is Born* by Amy-Jill Levine**

This is set up as a four-week study that can be done at your own pace. The book discusses the birth of Jesus. What the editors say: "The book discusses the births of Isaac and Ishmael, Samson, and Samuel to reveal how they foreshadow and enrich the timeless Christmas story. Author Amy-Jill Levine brings her expert knowledge of Scripture and careful consideration of the Christian story to show readers how Scripture's earlier birth stories anticipate the story of Jesus's birth and how the birth resonates and gives new meaning to those earlier stories."

***The First Christmas* by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan**

What the editors say: "Basing their interpretations on the two nativity narratives in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke, Borg and Crossan focus on the literal story—the inner truth rather than the historical facts—to offer a clear and uplifting message of hope and peace. With *The First Christmas* readers get a fresh, deep, and new understanding of the nativity story, enabling us to better appreciate the powerful message of the Gospels."

***Learn and Believe- UCC Daily Devotional* Chris Mereschuk**

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, and how from childhood you have known sacred writings that were able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. -2 Timothy 3:14-15 (NRSV)

What do you do when you don't know what you believe anymore because you don't know what to believe anymore? Seemingly each day a new threat, new reality, new horror that shakes us to the core. Some waking up to what has long been a reality for others; some facing increase in the risk and persecution we've long known.

Perhaps to some extent for all, we witness our collective protections, traditions, institutions, norms, mores, morals daily degraded, dismantled, and destroyed- the rubble gold-plated and hawked by charlatans as bigger, better, more beautiful. And the more of it we buy, the more the dissonance of hyper-normalization overwrites the harmonious sacred lullabies of our salvation.

"But as for you, continue in what you've learned and firmly believed..." We've learned and believed this: In these days, there will be distressing times- selfishness, extreme arrogance, greed, cruelty, manipulation, outright lies, death-dealing propaganda, exploitation, oppression (2 Timothy 3:1-4).

And yet, at the same time and for all time, we continue to learn and believe this: In these days there will be- has been, is now, still to come- fierce selfless love, abundant generosity, steadfast solidarity, boundless compassion, unfailing empathy, unceasing hope, divine flourishing, transformative salvation, radical liberation (Genesis 1 to Revelation 22). While we contend with the multiple troubling truths that surround us, the holy truths of what we've learned and believed ground us.

Prayer: Remind us, ground us, teach us again so that we might learn and firmly believe. Amen.

About the author: Chris Mereschuk (he/him) is the Director for Legacy and Church Redevelopment for the Southern New England Conference, UCC

Shoe Boxes for Browning

It's time to help with the Christmas Shoebox Ministry for Browning. Boxes filled with small gifts make for a happy Christmas for those in need. We need your help. Donate money. Donate gift items. Fill a box with all of the gifts. Pick up a green flyer on the table in the narthex for more information. **Boxes will be packed and wrapped on December 7. Thank you!**

United Women in Faith

We will have our monthly meeting on **Thursday, November 20 at 1:00 P.M. in Fellowship Hall.** This month's meeting will focus on helping to feed our community. Easy meal bags filled with non-perishable foods will support families in need right here in Great Falls. These bags will provide quick and easy nourishing options for those who may not always have access to them. **Molly Beck has volunteered to do all of the shopping.** Monetary donations will be accepted now through November 20 to reimburse Molly for the food that will be bagged up at the meeting. Food donations can also be brought to the meeting to be included in the meal bags. Canned items such as **turkey, chicken, cream of chicken soup, evaporated milk, diced tomatoes, mixed vegetables, green beans, black beans, kidney beans, pinto beans, tomato sauce, and tomatoes and green chiles** are key ingredients to the healthy meals planned for this outreach. Dry ingredients are: **box of garlic & herb biscuit mix (with seasoning packet), bouillon cubes, box of stuffing mix, instant mashed potatoes, gravy packet for two cups, and packet of chili seasoning.** Help us support this worthwhile cause and join us on November 20 at 1:00 P.M. **Everyone is welcome!**

Stewardship Drive

The 2026 Stewardship Campaign is still a work in progress. **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 82 pledges totaling \$201,882.00.** If you intend to pledge financially to support the church 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. Thank you.



Lebanon

In the Sabra and Shatila Refugee Camp, this small, enclosed space serves as a playground for kindergarten children. The Middle East

Council of Churches (MECC) Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees (DSPR) in Lebanon operates a kindergarten and school in the Sabra and Shatila Refugee Camp, providing crucial educational services to Palestinian refugee children. Located in Beirut, the school offers a safe and supportive environment where children can receive quality education despite the hardships they face in the camp. DSPR's efforts focus on academic development and emotional and social support, helping children build resilience and hope for a better future. MECC-DSPR aims to empower young refugees through its programs, fostering a sense of dignity and community amid challenging circumstances.



Coming Up

Friday, November 7

4:00 P.M. Fellowship Board, Fellowship Hall

Saturday, November 8

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

Sunday, November 9

8:45 A.M. Christian Ed. Board, Parlor

9:15 A.M. Choir Rehearsal

11:15 A.M. Pageant Rehearsal

Monday, November 10

2:30 P.M. Church Growth & Vitality, Fellowship Hall

6:30 P.M. Business Affairs, Zoom

Tuesday, November 11

10:00 A.M. Mitten Makers, Fellowship Hall

12:00 P.M. Joint Facilities, Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, November 12

10:00 A.M. Bible Study, Parlor

1:30 P.M. Pinochle, Fellowship Hall

6:00 P.M. Youth Group, 2900 9th Ave. S

6:00 P.M. Handbells

7:15 P.M. Choir Rehearsal