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

Volume 2026
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March 25, 2026
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Issue 12
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*like us on Facebook: First Congregational United Church of Christ-Great Falls, MT
Christ United Methodist Church Great Falls*

**March 29, 2026
Palm Sunday
Worship Service
10:00 A.M.**



Worship Leader: Pastor Laura Ymker
Lay Reader: Marilyn Sheffels
Ushers: Carolyn Dowdy, Jeanne Nobbs
Accompanist/Music Director: Melissa Gilbert
Acolytes: Aalayah Dunn, Jaycee Storle
Sunday School: Erin Borland, Linda Grossman
Nursery: May Harris, Lily Yelvington
Coffee Fellowship: Dennis & Sue Turton, Bill Tiskus
Treats: Liz Lee, Lynne Weeks
UCC Tellers: Dick Kloppel, Carol Shipley
Christ UMC Tellers: Rosemary Neilsen, Jeanne Nobbs

**United Women in Faith are hosting a bake sale during fellowship.
Get all your holiday treats purchased in one place!**

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.



Christian Education News

March 29 is Palm Sunday. **Children will gather in the narthex (entryway) to take part in the Palm Processional at the beginning of worship.** After the children's message, children will go to Sunday School where they will learn about the Last Supper and the Passover meal (with real food!). **Teachers will be Erin Borland and Linda Grossman. There is NO SUNDAY SCHOOL on Easter. Nursery care will be provided on Palm Sunday and Easter.**

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

† *Tom Spencer is in the hospital.*

† **United States Military Personnel** throughout the world.



Sharing God's Love Through One Great Hour of Sharing

We will collect this offering on Sunday, March 29. God invites us to give not because our pockets overflow or because we feel guilt. God invites us to give because our hearts are stirred, and we witness God at work in one another. We are agents of grace when we choose to give because we believe in the kingdom of God being built among us. **This is the generosity that you are invited to offer through One Great Hour of Sharing.** **We will gather this offering on March 29, as we join with churches around the world in responding to human need.** Your offering helps rebuild from disaster, feed the hungry, provide clean water to the thirsty, empower the oppressed, and restore hope.



From the Pastor

I'm filled with joy at the wonderful people I'm meeting and stories I'm hearing in "cottage meetings," Bible study, United Women in Faith, and through other church and community events. It's so good to no longer be strangers. If I've not yet had a conversation with you and you'd like to meet me, please sign up for a cottage meeting, introduce yourself at coffee

hour, or stop by the office to chat. If you are homebound and would like to meet me, I'd be happy to visit you. **Call the church office or email me at pastor@greatfallsucc.org to schedule.**

This coming Sunday is Palm Sunday, and we will be remembering Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. It's a well-known story that weaves together several scenes within Mark's gospel to ask us a challenging question. We will notice who led the crowd to this celebration and wonder at another upside-down aspect of the kingdom of God. May God's abundant life amaze you this week as we approach Easter, our celebration of Jesus' defeat of death, hell, and sin. **Pastor Laura**

Youth Group Schedule

There is **NO YOUTH GROUP on Wednesday, April 1** during Easter break. **Youth Group will meet at Christ UMC/First Congregational UCC on April 8, 15 and 29.** **On Wednesday, April 22, the group will meet at the Scottish Rite (1304 13th Ave. S) to help set up for the Scottish Rite Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser which will be held on Thursday, April 23.**

Maundy Thursday

Palm Sunday is a day of celebration, and so is Easter. Still, the gospels tell us the story of a suffering Savior, one who had no place to lay his head (was homeless) and ended his life nailed to a cross. This Savior enters into our suffering with us as he shows us the path to resurrection. **On Thursday, April 2, at 6:30 P.M., we will be remembering Jesus' suffering in a simple Tenebrae service.** Expect a time with quiet meditation, a few hymns, and several short readings from Scripture.



Church Naming Surveys Due

Don't forget to turn in your Church Naming Survey **by this Sunday, March 29**. Thank you to all who have returned their completed surveys. **The Church naming Committee is compiling the data as it comes in and will share the results of this first step of the process early in April.**

In the Moment Retreat

Twenty-one folks gathered on Saturday, March 21 for the "In the Moment" Retreat, sponsored by the Church Growth & Vitality board. The group **sang, prayed, practiced chair yoga, painted symbolic pictures, made sandwiches to give away, experienced a finger labyrinth, beaded bracelets based on Psalm 23**, shared meals and fellowship. The diverse activities kept the group busy, thinking, learning, and staying "in the moment" focusing on the many ways to experience spirituality. Many thanks to **Dr. Kelly Quick** who taught us about chair yoga, to **Erin Dunn** for tech support, and to members of the Church Growth & Vitality board (and **Bill Tiskus!**) who washed dishes and provided food and leadership.

50th Anniversary Celebration

You are all invited! Christ United Methodist Church and First Congregational United Church of Christ are celebrating the 50th Anniversary of sharing a facility and sharing ministry! **April 12 will begin with a re-enactment of the FCUCC caravan to 2900 9th Ave S, where they will be greeted and welcomed by members of Christ UMC.** The worship service will highlight special music and recollections of folks who participated in the event in 1976. The morning will end with a fried chicken lunch. **And after 50 years of partnership, we can also celebrate the beginning of our new era of federation!**



Jeopardy Fun for Everyone

Mark your calendars for all-church Jeopardy! **On April 19, during coffee fellowship, the Christian Education Board is sponsoring our 2nd all-church, intergenerational Jeopardy extravaganza!** And to add even more fun and some extra flavor to the day, **a bake sale will be part of the morning's festivities!** Plan now to join the fun!



Ordination of Laura Ymker

You are cordially invited to attend the service of ordination of Pastor Laura Ymker on Saturday, April 25, 2026, at 11:00 A.M. at the Red Lodge Community Church. This very special service is a sacred ritual that confers upon Laura the status of authorized ministry in the United Church of Christ, **granting Laura the official title of "Reverend"**. A reception will follow the ordination. All are welcome to join in this amazing celebration!

Cottage Meetings

There are more Cottage Meetings on the schedule!

Upcoming gatherings will take place on:

Wednesday, April 8
2:00 P.M.-4:00 P.M.
June Rovero
2118 1st Ave. S, 59401

Sunday, April 12
3:00 P.M.
Paul & Linda Holland
4711 7th Ave. S., 59405

Monday, April 20
9:00 A.M.
Nancy Zadick
1901 Whispering Ridge Rd., 59405



Sign up today! Call the church office, (406) 453-4316 or stop in to choose a day.
And it's not too late host a gathering! Contact the church to be a host!

Coming Up

Thursday, March 26
10:00 A.M. Grief Group, Fellowship Hall

Sunday, March 29
9:15 A.M. Choir Rehearsal
10:00 A.M. Worship Service
11:00 A.M. Coffee Fellowship
United Women in Faith Bake Sale

Wednesday, April 1
10:00 A.M. Bridge Players, SS Wing
10:00 A.M. Bible Study, Parlor
1:30 P.M. Pinochle, Fellowship Hall
4:00 P.M. Worship Board, Parlor
NO YOUTH GROUP

6:00 P.M. Handbells
7:15 P.M. Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, April 2
6:30 P.M. Maundy Thursday Service

Sunday, April 5
10:00 A.M. Easter Worship Service

Holly will be out of the office March 27-31.
Next newsletter will be mailed on April 2.