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

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

**April 5, 2026
Easter Sunday
Worship Service
10:00 A.M.**

Alleluia! He Is Risen!



Worship Leader:
Pastor Laura Ymker

Lay Reader: Lila Byers
Acolyte: Lily Borland

Ushers: Dean Jardee, KimKay McCarty Martin
Communion: Lois Baker, Erin Borland, Rev. Paul Holland,
Janet Koostra, Rev. Sara MacGilvra Branom, Kelly Quick
Accompanist/Music Director: Melissa Gilbert
Nursery: May Harris, Lily Yelvington
UCC Tellers: Dick Kloppel, Liz Lee
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.

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.





From the Pastor

This week we move from the question of Palm Sunday, “What would you like Jesus to do for you?” to the culmination of Jesus’ solidarity with the human race—his death. But Jesus’ (and our) story does not end with death. **On Sunday we celebrate resurrection.** Christ’s death and resurrection have come to mean many things over the last two millennia. What does it mean to you and I?

This week is known to be a busy one for pastors. This year for me it’s filled with adjusting to a new culture and navigating the line between what you all might expect from an Easter celebration and what I can possibly lead after only a few weeks in your midst. If something you love is missing this Easter, graciously let me know. **Undoubtedly, in the future we’ll try to incorporate favorite traditions and new adventures into meaningful worship experiences—be it on Easter or any other day.**

This reminds me of what Jesus told the disciples, “Therefore every teacher of the law who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old.” (Matthew 13:52 NIV) **There is something beautiful about singing to the Lord a new song even as we also repeat songs hundreds or thousands of years old.** Wisdom celebrates and learns from both what is old and new.

May you receive God’s comfort during every moment of grief, find God’s strength during every moment of struggle, and release God’s joy in every moment of celebration.

Pastor Laura

Jesus Loves the Little Children...



Christian Education News

Children will attend worship with their families on Easter Sunday, April 5. Nursery care will be provided for children through age 5 by care providers May Harris and Lily Yelvington.

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

- † **Jack Armstrong** is in the hospital after a fall.
 - † **Tom Spencer** has moved to rehab.
 - † **United States Military Personnel** throughout the world.
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Church Naming Process Update

Many thanks to the **56 members and friends** from far and near who turned in the initial survey for the Church Naming Process. **The data will be compiled and shared next week’s newsletter.** May we allow God’s wisdom to guide us in this process as we move into who God is calling us to be.

Jeopardy Fun on April 19

It’s time for another round of Jeopardy fun—church style! **Join the Christian Education Board during coffee fellowship on April 19 for an all-church, intergenerational round of the popular brain-teaser game show! Dean Jardee will act as host!** Teams will compete and the winners will choose prizes. And to make the event even more fun, the **UP+ student group from the University of Providence will be on hand with delicious goodies at a fund-raiser bake sale!** You can’t go wrong with fun, friends and food! See you there!



FISH Thank You's

Thank you so much, as always, to our amazing volunteers who worked at the Fish Food Pantry last week to help distribute food: **Jack Armstrong, Elaine Balzer, Lila Byers, Harry & Connie Brauer, Carol Davidson, Dennis Dell, Mende Kloppel, KimKay McCarty Martin, Steve & Karen McElroy, Sandy Nicolai, Janet Olson, Sue Skees, Dennis & Sue Turton** and **Nancy Zbinden**. Our next turn to work at the food pantry is **June 1-5**. Maybe see you then!

Read With the Pastor

This month I will be reading **How We Learn to Be Brave: Decisive Moments in Life and Faith** by **Mariann Edgar Budde** to inspire my own faith and spiritual growth. I invite you to grab a copy of the book for yourself and, provided at least one of you would like to, **we'll get together sometime in May to discuss the author's ideas and how we can incorporate what we learned into our own life**. In the meantime, feel free to begin mini-discussions about this topic (or anything else) when you see me around. Happy reading!

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!**

Join the Anniversary Caravan

UCC folks: sign up to join the April 12 caravan to re-enact the event that took place 50 years ago when the UCC congregation moved to 2900 9th Ave S to partner with the Methodist congregation. **See the sign up on the table next to the elevator or contact Janet Koostra at 406-727-8443/ janetkoostra@gmail.com**. This will be a shorter trip than five decades ago; back then, the caravan started downtown. **On April 12, we'll meet in the Hardee's parking lot (between Lions Park and First Interstate Bank), then caravan to the church**. Several folks who were here back then will join the reenactment to make the trip extra special. Come join the parade!!

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

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!



2026 Project Graduation Donor Appreciation

Thank you so much for donating to the efforts of Project Graduation for the 2025-2026 school year. We appreciate all the businesses and individuals what have made these celebrations possible for over 30 years! **We have a**

fantastic group of young adults graduating this year full of dreams, talents, and promising futures. Your donation will go far toward planning and executing a memorable event.



Thank you for your continued generosity,

Tricia Reeves and Jennifer Whitfield - Project Graduation Committee Members

(ed. note: **\$300.00 was budgeted through Christian Service for Project Graduation.** The donation equally supports CMR and GFHS. Graduates from Paris Gibson attend the celebration of the school they receive their diploma from so that they, too, can participate).

Rally Sunday 2026 *The Great Outdoors*

The theme has been chosen for this year's Rally Sunday in September. Just think: camping, hiking, boating, astronomy, bird watching, picnics, wildflowers, berries, etc!

Boards can start planning now on how to incorporate The Great Outdoors into Rally Sunday.

**SHAKE
& RATTLE
& ROLL**
Proceeds Benefit
Homeless Families

APRIL 25 -- 5:00-9 PM



The logo for 'Soc Hop' is a colorful collage. The word 'SOC' is in large pink letters, with a vinyl record featuring the Family Promise logo in the center of the 'O'. The word 'HOP' is in large teal letters, with a vinyl record in the center of the 'O'. A yellow star is positioned above the top right of the 'S'. To the right of the 'S' is a milkshake in a glass with a cherry on top and a striped straw. Below the 'S' and 'H' are two dice, one yellow and one teal.

SOC HOP

Serving our Community ★ Honoring our Promise



ELKS CLUB
Tickets: \$25

Inquire about table options
1019 Central Ave
9-3p.m. M-Th Or online at
www.familypromisegf.org
406-564-5267

Food

Appetizers
By Clark and Lewie's

DJ: Caleb Ford
SILENT AUCTION

For more information, to purchase tickets, or make a donation, please see Mende Kloppel.

Coming Up

Thursday, April 2

6:30 P.M. Maundy Thursday Service

Sunday, April 5

10:00 A.M. Easter Worship Service

Monday, April 6

1:00 P.M. Christian Service, Parlor

6:00 P.M. Finance Board, Zoom

7:00 P.M. Stewardship Board, Zoom

Wednesday, April 8

10:00 A.M. Bible Study, Parlor

1:30 P.M. Pinochle, Fellowship Hall

2:00 P.M. Cottage Meeting- June Rovero's

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

6:00 P.M. Handbells

7:15 P.M. Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, April 11

10:30 A.M. Ladies Coffee, Wheat Montana