

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

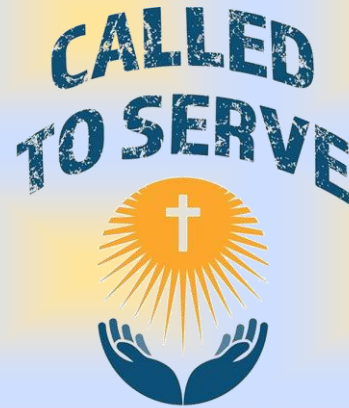
Volume 2026
Pastor Laura Ymker
pastor@greatfallsucc.org

April 22, 2026
PO Box 6303, 59406
greatfallsucc@gmail.com

Issue 16
(406) 453-4316
www.greatfallsucc.org

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

**April 26, 2026
Fourth Sunday of Easter
Worship Service
10:00 A.M.**



Worship Leader:
Rev. Laura Ymker

Lay Reader: Susan Thomas

Ushers: Lois Baker, Rebecca Marinko

Acolyte: Kaeden Dunn

Accompanist/Music Director: Melissa Gilbert

Nursery: May Harris, Lily Yelvington

Sunday School: Erin Borland

Coffee Fellowship: Maxine Schilling, Susan Thomas,
Dennis & Sue Turton

Treats: Peggy Floen, Susan Sanford

UCC Tellers: Kristine Berntsen, Carol Shipley

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.

Ordination Service for Pastor Laura



You are cordially invited to attend the Service of Ordination for 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! **If you can’t make it to Red Lodge, be sure to come to church on Sunday and officially welcome Rev. Laura Ymker!**

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

† Congratulations to **Suzan Seery** on being recognized by the YWCA Salute to Women for her work in putting quilts and teddy bears in the hands over 7,000 children over the last 26 years!

† **Jack Armstrong** is at the Grandview for care and rehab.

† **Tom Spencer** is at Peace Hospice.

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

Last Call for New Name Ideas

This Sunday, April 26, is the deadline to submit suggestions for a new name for our newly federated church. Please fill out a submission form, **including your name and contact information**, by placing the completed form in the box on the table in the entryway next to the elevator. Extra submission forms and guideline materials are also on this table. **Folks are each allowed to submit up to two names.** Thank you!



From the Pastor

What a joy to host a fundraiser for the UP+ student organization from the University of Providence campus on Sunday! Three of their members joined us for worship, serving as ushers and the lay reader. Their delicious baked goods sold out during coffee hour.

This coming Sunday, I will be preaching from 1 Peter. Someone's heart, perhaps, just skipped a beat as they read that—not because of good things they know about Peter's letter but because it contains a passage that has been used for centuries, if not millennia, to abuse women. **We will neither ignore the reality of this passage's existence or focus on it.** We are moving from Mark to Peter's letters because that gospel was written in the tradition of Peter. I will continue to tell stories from Mark throughout the Easter season as we explore how Christians in the tradition of Peter found meaning in Jesus' life.

May God bless you this week as you experience astonishment and as you wonder, **“What does rising from the dead mean?”**

Pastor Laura

Jesus Loves the Little Children...



Christian Education News

Children begin in worship on April 26. **Janet Koostra will share a children's message with the young people. Erin Borland will lead Sunday School with a lesson titled “Wedding Wonders” in which Jesus performs his first miracle of changing water into wine at a wedding.** Children age 6 through grade 6 are invited to go to Sunday School. Nursery care is provided for children through age 5.

Diaper Collection

Sponsored by the Christian Service Board, **diapers, wipes, formula, receiving blankets, etc.** will be collected now through Mother's Day. **A crib is set up in the narthex for the donation of these items until May 10.** This offering will be shared with **Toby's House Crisis Nursery** and **YPEC (Young Parents Education Center).**



Favorite Hymns?

Do you have a favorite hymn that you'd like to have sung in worship? **Starting this Sunday there will be a clip board in the back of the sanctuary for you to jot it down.** Pastor Laura will try to incorporate these hymns into upcoming worship services.

Coming Up

Thursday, April 23

5:00-8:00 P.M. Spaghetti Feed Fundraiser at Scottish Rite,
\$15.00/person. Kids under 6, free

Saturday, April 25

11:00 A.M. Ordination Service for Pastor Laura Ymker,
Red Lodge Community Church

5:00 P.M. Family Promise SOC HOP,
Elks Lodge, 500 1st Avenue S.

Sunday, April 26

9:15 A.M. Choir Rehearsal

10:00 A.M. Worship

11:00 A.M. Coffee Fellowship

Tuesday, April 28

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

Wednesday, April 29

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

Sunday, May 3

9:00 A.M. Fellowship Board, Fellowship Hall

9:15 A.M. Choir Rehearsal

10:00 A.M. Worship with Communion

11:00 A.M. Coffee Fellowship