

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

Volume 2026  
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(406) 453-4316  
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*like us on Facebook: First Congregational United Church of Christ-Great Falls, MT  
Christ United Methodist Church Great Falls*

**April 12, 2026  
Celebration Sunday  
Worship Service  
10:00 A.M.**



Worship Leader:  
Pastor Laura Ymker

Lay Reader: Steve Gettel

Ushers: Dale & Nancy Dallmann

Acolyte: Jullian Valley

Accompanist/Music Director: Melissa Gilbert

Nursery: May Harris, Lily Yelvington

Sunday School: Betsy Rogstad, Cara Dunn

Fellowship: fried chicken and salad luncheon

UCC Tellers: Nancy Zadick, Steve Gettel

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.

Jesus Loves the Little Children...



## ***Christian Education News***

On April 12, children age 6-6<sup>th</sup> grade will begin in Sunday School. **They will be in Sunday School for the worship hour** due to the special service for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration of the partnership of the UCC and the UMC. **Betsy Rogstad will be Sunday School teacher.**

This week's lesson will be "Easter". Nursery care will be provided for children through age 5.

50 years!

It's here! Our celebration of sharing ministry between First Congregational United Church of Christ and Christ United Methodist Church at our current facility will take place this coming Sunday. **April 12 will begin with a re-enactment of the First Congregational United Church of Christ caravan to 2900 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue S., where they will be greeted and welcomed by members of Christ UMC. Those participating in the caravan will meet in the Hardee's parking lot (between Lions Park and First Interstate Bank) at 9:30 A.M.** The worship service will highlight special music and recollections of folks who participated in the 1976 event. **Please plan to arrive by 9:45 A.M. (if you're not caravanning) so you can be at the church to welcome the folks re-enacting the arrival 50 years ago.** It would be a great way to help start our day of celebration! The Fellowship Board is hosting a fried chicken lunch afterwards. **You are encouraged to provide a salad to share.**

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### *In Our Thoughts and Prayers*

- † **Alexis Haskiell**, youth group leader and active Air Force personnel, has moved for a one-year assignment overseas.
  - † **Jack Armstrong** remains in the hospital after a fall.
  - † **Tom Spencer** is in Benefis hospital undergoing tests.
  - † **United States Military Personnel** throughout the world.
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### *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!

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### *From the Pastor*

What a blessing it was to lead the Easter service and greet so many smiling faces as you left the sanctuary! God chose to come and dwell among us. **How blessed we are that there is no distance or separation between where God dwells and where we dwell.** Absorbing this reality will help us lead a fearless life, filled with love.

This Sunday we'll be delving into the **theme of silence** throughout Mark's gospel and how it culminates in the dramatic ending, "And they went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had gripped them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid." We will also be celebrating 50 years of sharing this building and that our two congregations chose to become one.

Wherever you go, may the knowledge that God dwells among us fill you with confidence and joy.

**Pastor Laura**



A big thank you to **Kristine Berntsen**, a member of the Facilities Committee, who has been working tirelessly on the altar area railing hand assist. She had the task to craft this with many restrictions but the end product is so beautiful that you barely notice it. **Please tell her thank you for finishing this safety project so no one else will fall when moving on the steps.**

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### *Upcoming Cottage Meetings*

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

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



Cottage meetings are going great and are such a fun and important part of Laura's beginning ministry with us! 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!

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### *United Women in Faith*

**All women are invited to a fun-filled luncheon opportunity on April 16 at noon.** The Fellowship Hall will be a-buzz with fun decorations, a speaker telling us all about bees and raising honey in Cascade County. We will have a free will donation salad luncheon with door prizes and raffles. Bring a friend and enjoy the day. **Please make reservations with Linda Larson by April 10 so we have enough food, (406) 868-8409 or [lindalarson7152@gmail.com](mailto:lindalarson7152@gmail.com).**

**A Silent Auction to be held in the Fellowship Hall from April 12-19.** This is a fund raiser for United Women in Faith local area Mission Giving. Come look at all the lovely donated items and bid often.

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### *One Great Hour of Sharing*

***During the month of March, articles were shared in the newsletter highlighting the purpose of the United Church of Christ's One Great Hour of Sharing offering. To date, we have received \$175.00 that will go towards supporting partners worldwide with ministries that fund health, education, and agricultural development, emergency relief, refugee ministries, and both international and domestic disaster response. If you would like to contribute, it's not too late. Please mark memo "OGHS." Thank you.***

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***Fellow federated church members and friends,***

Attached to this week's newsletter is a report from the Naming Committee with a summary of the responses gathered in the recent Naming Discernment Survey. **There were 60 responses, nearly 30% of the 208 surveys sent, which is a better-than-average response rate for this type of inquiry.** Thanks to all of you who took the time to consider the questions and provide feedback on the themes, identity, calling, legacy, and words that describe the soul of our church.

In the next couple of weeks, the committee will send additional information about considerations and the process for submitting a name for the church.

In the meantime, **please take some time to review the report and think about the words and themes that resonate with you.** If you have any questions about the survey report, please contact any of the committee members.

In the spirit of God's love, Church Naming Committee

**Kim Kay McCarty Martin**; Chair

**Karen Spencer, Rebecca Mariko, Lois Baker, Janet Koostra, and Steve Gettel**; Members

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***Coming Up***

**Saturday, April 11**

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

**Sunday, April 12**

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

9:15 A.M. Choir Rehearsal

3:00 P.M. Cottage Meeting, Paul & Linda Holland's house (4711 7<sup>th</sup> Ave. S.)

**Monday, April 13**

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

1:00 P.M. Church Growth & Vitality, Fellowship hall

**Tuesday, April 14**

10:00 A.M. Mitten Makers

**Wednesday, April 15**

10:00 A.M. Bridge Players, SS Wing

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 9<sup>th</sup> Ave. S**

6:00 P.M. Handbells

7:15 P.M. Choir Rehearsal

**Thursday, April 16**

12:00 P.M. United Women in Faith Spring Fling Luncheon, Fellowship Hall

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## Rally Sunday Theme for 2026

The Church Growth & Vitality Board is pleased to announce the theme for Rally Sunday 2026! **Get ready for a fun time with “The Great Outdoors”!** Camping, hiking, rock collecting, bird watching, skiing, swimming, boating. These are just a few of the many fantastic ideas groups can use to share a super all-congregation, intergenerational event for our “welcome back” Sunday in September. **Once your board has chosen a concept, please share it**

**with one of the members of the CG&V Board: *Connie Brauer, Bruce Cole, Eric Dunn, Janet Koostra, Linda Larson, Karen McElroy, Linda Redding, and Betsy Rogstad.*** God’s good creation and how we enjoy it will provide a super fun backdrop for a super fun day!

*camping*



*bird watching*



*skiing*



*hiking*



*fishing*

