



The Good News of United Spirit Community Church



A Federation of Christ United Methodist Church & First Congregational United Church of Christ

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

**July 5, 2026
Worship Service
with Holy Communion
10:00 A.M.**



Worship Leader:
Pastor Laura Ymker

Lay Reader: Susan Thomas

Ushers: Jenn & Zurie Goss

Communion Helpers: Lois Baker,

Dale & Nancy Dallmann, Terry Roemmich

Accompanist/Music Director: Melissa Gilbert

Nursery care not available

Coffee Fellowship: Bill Tiskus, Heather Weibel

Treats: Shirley Davis, Peggy Floen

UCC Tellers: Paul Haffeman, Dick Kloppel

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.

Church Name Important Information: Until we change bank accounts to the new church name, checks must be made out to First Congregational United Church of Christ or Christ United Methodist Church - please write out the complete name. Checks written out any other way will not be deposited. If you wish a specific designation of your donation, please list on the memo line. Thank you.

In Our Thoughts and Prayers



† Jack Armstrong's new address is 1701 Campus Dr., Unit 3427, Clive, IA 50325.

† Congratulations to Dr. Kelly Quick on receiving the Marich Outstanding Faculty Award from the University of Providence.

† Congratulations to Rev. Sara MacGilyra Branom on her retirement from Benefis Health System. Sara was with Benefis for 16 years and served as Chaplain for Peace Hospice the last five.



From the Pastor

This past weekend we celebrated the **beginning of our journey together as pastor and congregation** on Saturday and on Sunday celebrated **receiving six members into our congregation**. It was good to hear **UCC conference minister Dr. Rev. Tony Clark's message in Saturday's service about living in unity and our way forward together**. **Rev. Karen McRae, UMC district superintendent, also joined in our celebration.**

This coming Sunday we will be **persevering in prayer** as we explore the parable Jesus told about the unjust judge and the persistent widow in Luke 18. God is not like the unjust judge. As I read over the parable just now, I realize how unlikely it is that I will be able to do it justice on Sunday. **Still we will explore how God brings about justice for the oppressed.**

This Sunday is also the day after the 250th anniversary of the Continental Congress adopting the Declaration of Independence. **Included in our service will be prayer for our country and a hymn or two from the "citizenship" section of the hymnals.** May our country, its citizens, and its leaders continue to grow in understanding what true justice is.

This week and always **may you wrestle with God**, the glorious Divine One. May you never let go of our Source of ultimate life and love. In all your prayers, may you ask, question, protest, explain, sob, praise, and proclaim. **Pour out your heart to God.** God, the Creator of your voice, is listening.

Pastor Laura

Jesus Loves the Little Children...



Christian Education News

July 5 is Communion Sunday. **United Spirit Community Church practices open communion so children are welcome to participate in this sacrament.** Sunday School children will attend worship with their families. Resources for their use are available in the Pray Ground area and in Christ's Kids Bags on the rack at the back of the sanctuary.

Please note: due to the holiday, the nursery will NOT be staffed on July 5

Read With the Pastor

This summer I will be reading *A Hidden Wholeness* by Parker Palmer to inspire my own faith and spiritual growth. Palmer is a popular Quaker writer, and there is much to learn from his thinking. **We'll get together sometime in early September to discuss the author's vision for a journey toward wholeness and how we can incorporate what we learned into our own faith.** In the meantime, feel free to begin mini-discussions about this topic (or anything else) when you see me around. Happy reading!

Pray With the Pastor Continues

During the worship series on prayer, Pastor Laura will be praying in the sanctuary on **Monday evenings from 5:30-6:00 P.M., Wednesday noon hours from 12:30-1:00 P.M., and Thursday mornings from 8:00-8:30 A.M. Thursday mornings will be outdoor prayer or a walking prayer, depending on the weather.** You are welcome to join her. **This is meant to be a quiet time during which conversation is directed toward God not each other.** There will be a basket in the narthex during this worship series to put prayer requests in that Pastor Laura will pray for throughout the weekend. **Please provide feedback on the times of the prayer sessions if shifting the time by 15 minutes or half an hour would allow you to come.**

A Reflection from your Stewardship Board

"A generous person will be enriched, and the one who gives a drink of water will receive water. Proverbs 11:2

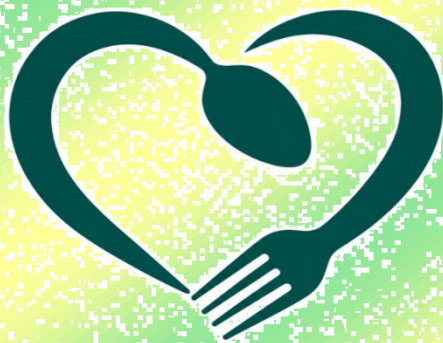
Fun in the Sun July 11



Come one, come all! **Children of all ages!** It's time for our annual intergenerational party on the front lawn! **Join the Christian Education Board on Saturday, July 11 from 2:00 pm to 5:30 pm for this FREE event with water fun for kids, chatting in the shade for adults and a pizza supper for everyone!** Please bring your own chair, sunscreen, water bottle, pool noodle (a few noodles will be available), towel and swimsuit/dry clothes. After an afternoon of splashing, water balloons, pool noodle tag, relaxing and chatting, the party will feast on pizza, watermelon, popsicles and other sweet treats.

Friends of the Community,

Feed the



Need

Great Falls, MT

Feed the Need is a newly formed board, shaped from Housed Great Falls, dedicated to meeting current and crucial needs of the community. Believing an immediate need to be food, **we will be serving dinner on Thursday and Saturday evenings, beginning July 9, 2026 (with the exception of no meal on July 11) in the Social Hall of First United Methodist Church, 610 2nd Ave. N.**

The Rainbow Door will be open from 5:30 P.M.-7:30 P.M., with dinner served at 6:00 P.M. We look forward to sitting with you and sharing food and fellowship.

We welcome extra hands! If you would like to **help with dinners, serve or clean up**, please reach out to one of the Feed the Need board members!

Sincerely,

Lela Graham
Holly Garcia
Dawn Skerritt

lela.graham@gmail.com
hgarcia@bresnan.net
revdawnskerritt@gmail.com

Volunteer Drivers, Please

The church has had several requests from folks who are no longer driving but would like to come to church. **Are you a person who would be willing to take a few extra minutes on Sunday morning to provide a ride for another member of our church family?** Maybe you will make a new friend. Maybe a current friendship could be strengthened. Maybe you will make someone's day better. And it wouldn't even have to be every week! **If the Spirit moves you to lend a hand, please call the church office at (406) 453-4316.**

Plastic Bags are Much Appreciated!

Thank you for all of the plastic grocery bags that have been donated over the last several weeks for use at **Helping Hands** and the **Sack Lunch Ministry**. Got more? Keep 'em coming! Thank you!



Friendly Reminder

With summer in full swing, **staff may start scheduling time off.** We'll do our best to keep you informed of office hours. If you plan on stopping by, **please call ahead of time** to make sure the doors are unlocked and the office is open. Thank you!

Welcome News Members!



Received into membership last Sunday:
**Maxine Schilling, Ken Kirkmeyer, David Holland,
Kelly McKeehan, Logan Beck, and Doug McElroy**

Music in the News



As Laura mentioned in the announcements on Sunday, **she is looking for feedback on music.** Receiving feedback from everyone at once will at times be overwhelming, but it also helps her discern the musical talent and taste of the congregation. Some people love the old favorites: “In the Garden,” “Harvest Time,” “How Great Thou Art,” “What a Friend We Have in Jesus,” etc. Others hunger for us to sing a new song to our God—a song that has poured forth out of the heart of a Spirit-inspired artist within the last decade, a song that doesn’t sound like a hymn so much as other music that surrounds us.

And it’s tradition for Christians to sing music in church that sounds like the music that surrounds them in the current popular culture. **We borrow musical styles and sometimes entire melodies.** As perhaps you know, “What Child Is This?” borrows its melody from “Greensleeves.” “Finlandia” lends its tune to “Be Still, My Soul” and “This Is My Song.” The latter we will be singing this Sunday. “God, the Omnipotent,” which we sung in service about six weeks ago, is a hymn with words dating as far back as 1842. Its tune was the melody of the Russian Empire’s national anthem from 1833-1917. The list goes on.

We will be attempting to discover new music thoughtfully, but it won’t always be comfortable. We will have to sing a new song multiple times before we know if we truly like it. We will have to figure out how best to introduce new songs into worship. Some of us learn by ear. Others love to have sheet music before us. But all of us are called to honor one another above ourselves—to value not only our own taste in music but the taste and comfort of others. Sometimes worship doesn’t consist of how good we feel as we sing but considering how good others feel as they sing. **Sometimes the best way to worship is to serve others.** Perhaps always.

We are working toward creating a space where we can worship inter-generationally with joy. Where many songs are what we are currently singing and can be found in our hymnbooks, and other songs are new and speak to the heart of the young. Perhaps we will even be taught by children?

You can quickly find this Sunday’s music on YouTube by searching for:

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

This Is My Song Finlandia

Psalter #384 The Searcher of Hearts Hope PR School 2016 Psalter 315 - Foundation Brass Band

Sheet music will be provided in service.

Coming Up

Thursday, July 2

8:00 A.M. Pray with the Pastor, Sanctuary

Sunday, July 5

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

10:00 A.M. Worship Service

11:00 A.M. Coffee Fellowship

Monday, July 6

5:30 P.M. Pray with the Pastor, Sanctuary

6:00 P.M. Stewardship Board, Zoom

Wednesday, July 8

12:30 P.M. Pray with the Pastor, Sanctuary

1:30 P.M. Pinochle, Fellowship Hall

Thursday, July 9

8:00 A.M. Pray with the Pastor, Sanctuary

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

Saturday, July 11

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

2:00 P.M. Fun in the Sun Day
