



The Good News of United Spirit Community Church



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

Volume 2026

July 22, 2026

Issue 29

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

July 26, 2026

Worship Service

Ninth Sunday

after Pentecost

10:00 A.M.



Worship Leader:

Pastor Laura Ymker

Lay Reader: Dana Kirkmeyer

Ushers: Bruce & Linda Grossman

Accompanist/Music Director: Melissa Gilbert

Nursery: May Harris, Lily Yelvington

Coffee Fellowship: Peggy Seeley, Bill Tiskus

Treats: Linda Grossman, Linda Larson

UCC Tellers: Carol Shipley, Ed Venetz

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.

Worship in Fairfield Celebrating Pastor Phil's Retirement

Members of United Spirit Community Church are invited to join Fairfield United Church of Christ on Sunday, August 23, to celebrate the final worship service led by Pastor Phil Maxwell as he retires from parish ministry. Worship begins at 11:00 A.M. Let's carpool for even more fun! Please add your name to the **signup sheet on the kiosk as well as **if you are willing to drive, how many passengers you can take, or if you would like a ride**. At a later date, we'll plan a place to rendezvous the trip. This is a continuation of a tradition our UCC congregation has shared with our sister church in Fairfield for many years. **Per Pastor Phil: Cards welcome, but please, no gifts.****

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

† Rebecca Marinko continues to recover from a fall.



From the Pastor

This past Sunday we celebrated that Jesus promised we will receive good gifts from his Father. In Luke's gospel this good gift is the Holy Spirit. **When we ask, seek, and knock in prayer, we receive the gift of the Spirit. She gives us many gifts: wisdom, knowledge, generosity, mercy, helping, leading, communication... the list goes on.** Each of these gifts we use to bless others just as we are blessed by the Spirit.

This coming Sunday we will be exploring the importance of unity in prayer. We will read Jesus' words of instruction in Matthew 18 as well as delve into a few stories in the Acts of the Apostles. Typically, stories in this book involve prayer and seeking the Spirit's guidance to the extent that at one point the apostles state, **"It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us."** We will consider a story where both Spirit and prayer are conspicuously absent. What happens when this is the case?

On August 2, we will wrap up the prayer series with a sermon on prayer and forgiveness. I did promise to come back to that line in Hebrews about the blood of Jesus speaking a better word than the blood of Abel! **Sometime in the week before this service, consider reading Psalms 55, 69, and 137.** These are a few of the imprecatory psalms—psalms where the psalmists pray for vengeance on their enemies. I do not plan to refer to them in the service, but my sermon will answer them.

May you produce much fruit of the Spirit, this week and always. **May perfect love flow through you to each person you interact with.** May each good gift God gives you be freely shared with those all around you.

Pastor Laura

Jesus Loves the Little Children...



Christian Education News

Nursery care is provided for children through age 5. Children age 6 and up attend worship with their families. **There will be a children's message on July 26. August 2 is Communion Sunday.** United Spirit Community Church practices open communion which welcomes all persons, regardless of age, to participate in the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Children are also welcome to use resources in the Christ's Kids Bags on the rack at the back of the sanctuary or items found in the Pray Ground area on the right side of the sanctuary. **If you have suggestions of items that could improve these offerings for children, please share your thoughts with Janet Koostra (janetkoostra@gmail.com or 406-727-8443).** See you in church!

Summer Spruce Up

It's time to do some summer spruce up jobs in the church! **If you are willing to do a simple cleaning task at the church (at your convenience), please check the large blue bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.** There are easy jobs listed on the board and a sign-up sheet to let us know that you will be responsible for the chore. **Working together we will have a squeaky-clean building.** Thank you for your willingness to help keep things clean. *Facilities Committee*



Music in the News

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 have poured forth out of the heart of a Spirit-inspired artist within the last decade. Paraphrasing the comments of another pastor that I read on Facebook, **“Something for everyone, not everything for someone.”** We will do our best to share music with each other well.

You can quickly find July 26’s music on YouTube:

- “Feeling Slightly Better Singing with You” Bulletin Insert
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RGY7bUE5cEQ&list=RDRGY7bUE5cEQ&start_radio=1
- “Shine, Jesus, Shine” in *The Faith We Sing*
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ks8YCKTcKLg&list=RDKs8YCKTcKLg&start_radio=1
- “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” in the *United Methodist Hymnal* #384
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gZ257JUPhyI&list=RDgZ257JUPhyI&start_radio=1
- Psalter 315 - Foundation Brass Band
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uNfiRck1je8&list=RDuNfiRck1je8&start_radio=1

You can quickly find August 2’s music on YouTube:

- “I Need Thee Every Hour” in the *United Methodist Hymnal* #397
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m1n6Wb2rIME&list=RDm1n6Wb2rIME&start_radio=1
- “Were You There” in the *New Century Hymnal* #229 (words in linked video vary from the NCH)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uhGYD1svTM4&list=RDuhGYD1svTM4&start_radio=1
- “Sing a New World Into Being” in *Songs of the Holy Other*
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=21jh93Z8VsQ&list=RD21jh93Z8VsQ&start_radio=1
- Psalter 315 - Foundation Brass Band
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uNfiRck1je8&list=RDuNfiRck1je8&start_radio=1

Sheet music will be provided in service.



Fishing for Volunteers

Hey all you FISH volunteers! **United Spirit Community Church's next turn to work together at the FISH Food Pantry is August 10-14 from 9:00 A.M.-11:0 A.M.** If you'd like to volunteer and distribute food to families in need, **please call Carol Davidson at (406) 836-1862.** Thank you so much if you can help!

From the Fellowship Board

We would like to say thank you to everyone for bringing delicious treats to share with everyone after church. **Our fellowship after church has grown a lot and having different foods to share has been so nice.** Fellowship is another piece of our church that brings us all together. Thank you, again!

Holly will be out of the office July 27-July 31.

There will not be a newsletter next week.

Stay safe and hydrated!

August 2, 2026
Worship Service
Communion Sunday
10:00 A.M.

Worship Leader:
Pastor Laura Ymker

Lay Reader: Susan Thomas

Ushers: Elaine Balzer, Liz Lee

Communion: Lois Baker, Carolyn Dowdy,
Dick Kloppel, Karen Spencer

Accompanist/Music Director: Barb Swaby

Nursery: May Harris, Lily Yelvington

Coffee Fellowship: Dennis & Sue Turton, Heather Weibel

Treats: Dennis Dell & Sue Skees, Karen McElroy

UCC Tellers: Paul Haffeman, Liz Lee

Christ UMC Tellers: Rosemary Neilsen, Jeanne Nobbs

Coming Up

For a list of upcoming meetings and events,
please see the enclosed August calendar. Thank you.

The next newsletter will go out on August 5.