



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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**August 9, 2026
Worship Service
Eleventh Sunday
after Pentecost
10:00 A.M.**



Worship Leader:
Pastor Laura Ymker

Lay Reader: Dana Kirkmeyer

Ushers: Mary Fry, Terry Roemmich

Accompanist/Music Director: Melissa Gilbert

Nursery: May Harris, tbd

Coffee Fellowship: Dennis & Sue Turton, Susan Thomas

Treats: Darlene Gardner, Doris Motley

UCC Tellers: Dick Kloppel, 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 United Spirit website.

***Worship in Fairfield on August 23
Celebrating Pastor Phil's Retirement***

All are invited to worship at Fairfield United Church of Christ on August 23 at 11:00 A.M. to celebrate the retirement of the church's long-time pastor, Phil Maxwell. After worship, the celebration continues with a reception in the Fairfield Fellowship Hall. Cards are welcome! No gifts, please. Should we carpool? Would anyone like to take a few friends? Would anyone like to go who isn't able to drive? Signup sheets for this special experience are found on the kiosk in the United Spirit entryway. Any suggestions of where we should meet for our caravan? Throw out your ideas! Sign up! Let's make a plan! Let's make a day of it!

Pray with the Pastor

Pray with the Pastor will continue indefinitely, meeting:

Monday from 5:30-6:00 PM; Wednesday, 12:30-1:00 PM; Thursday from 8:00-8:30 AM.

What to expect:

- The pastor sitting somewhere near the front of the sanctuary
- The pastor to read a psalm at the beginning of the time of prayer
- A time of near silence accompanied by soft instrumental music and perhaps the murmur of soft voices as people who are scattered throughout the sanctuary pray
- The pastor to end the time of prayer with a form of communal prayer

This Time Can Be:

- A time of rest where you allow your soul to become silent
- Or perhaps your mind is noisy as the many things you desire to talk about with God rise to the surface
- And perhaps in this space you whisper your prayer aloud, giving greater release to your inner feelings
- Or perhaps you interrupt the pastor, asking softly for prayer about something particular going on in your life and she prays with you softly in the front of the sanctuary
- Or perhaps you chose a Bible from the stack as you came in the door
- And as you sit in the quietness, you leaf through its pages, finding that one spot that speaks the emotions of your heart. Perhaps there are even many scenes among its pages that describe your inner being
- Or perhaps you read methodically. Last time you read chapter one, now you read chapter two
- Or perhaps you've heard of other forms of prayer, lectio divina, examen, etc. and would like us to pray like that
- Or perhaps you'd like to sit in a circle and pray, each person speaking their prayer aloud to the Unseen One in the midst of the circle
- Let the pastor know, and she'll work these prayer styles into the closing communal prayers

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

† *Our sympathy to Jaybe Floyd and her sons Austin and Kyle Luckett in the death of husband and father, Dr. Mike Luckett, who passed away July 26, 2026. A memorial service will be at the church on Thursday, August 6 at 10:30 A.M. with Pastor Laura officiating and a reception to follow.*

† *Heather and Jason Weibel's son, Charlie, is receiving care and treatment for a collapsed lung.*

† *John Mathis is home and recovering from having hip replacement surgery on August 3.*

† *Dean Jardee's uncle, Jay, is improving after having a health scare. Doctors have ruled out anything serious.*

† *Liz Lee's nephew is in hospice care in Spokane and has been unable to eat for 5-6 weeks.*

† *Ellen Hoy, sister of June Rovero, has moved to the neurology floor at a hospital in Billings for more intensive therapy.*

† Joyce Miller, former UCC member and current member of First UMC, is at Benefis Memory Care.

† Rebecca Marinko continues to recover from a fall.

† Please pray for Spokane and the outlying areas as three fires have destroyed so many structures.



From the Pastor

This past Sunday we contemplated three stories about deaths of the innocent: Abel (Genesis 4), Jesus (Luke 23), and Stephen (Acts 7). What choices do we need to make to become like Jesus and Stephen, who to the very end chose to pray and hope for forgiveness for all?

Here at the office, we are thankful to have Holly back! She was missed! Her vacation was well-earned. On another note, **I am hoping to start a “Care Team” in the near future.** Members of this team will accompany me when I visit people in their homes and will also visit people without me. Everyone wants to talk to someone other than just their pastor! **It’s important when people become unable to come to us that we do not forget them but continue relationship. Please let Holly or me know if you might be interested in joining this team.** It probably will be sometime in October when I manage to get training together and organize this.

This coming Sunday I will be preaching the first sermon in a series on wisdom. Wisdom chooses the good of tomorrow over the comfort of today. **If the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, what is God’s foolishness? What is God’s wisdom?** The major points of this sermon will come from the parallel sides of a chiasm in one of the epistles. Can you guess which one?

May God bless you this week with the ability to see possibility in everyone—even in the worst of criminals and your least favorite family member. May the innermost part of your being long for all to be forgiven and reconciled. May you be safe, and whole, and engage in wise relationships with healthy boundaries.

Pastor Laura



Christian Education News

August 9 will be a regular summer Sunday with nursery care for children through age 5 and children age 6+ in worship with their families. The same resources at the *Pray Ground* and in *Christ’s Kids Bags* will be available. Looking ahead: **No Nursery care on August 30** for our outdoor service for the “Blessing of the Animals”; **Sunday School will begin on September 13!**

Ladies Coffee
Saturday, August 8
10:30 A.M.
Wheat Montana
(1116 9th Street S)





Still 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.-11:00 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!



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 August 9'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
- “Lift High the Cross” in the *United Methodist Hymnal* #159
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MFaABK719XU&list=RDMFaABK719XU&start_radio=1
- “Be Now My Vision” in the *New Century Hymnal* #451 vs. 2
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ed6C4_nQG8s&list=RDed6C4_nQG8s&start_radio=1
- The doxology will be recently written words sung to the melody of “Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow.”
- “Called as Partners in Christ's Service” in the *New Century Hymnal* #495
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GvzwOew3pVI&list=RDGvzwOew3pVI&start_radio=1
- “God Be With You” in the *New Century Hymnal* #81 vs. 1 (These are not the exact words in our hymnal.)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=764l5NpyTpk&list=RD764l5NpyTpk&start_radio=1

Rally Sunday is September 13!

Is your board ready?

Do you have a?

- Theme
- Finger food
- Activity
- Guessing game



For questions, comments, or concerns please share with a member of the Church Growth & Vitality Board: *Connie Brauer, Bruce Cole, Eric Dunn, Janet Koostra, Linda Larson, Karen McElroy, Linda Redding, and Betsy Rogstad.*



Sri Lanka

The Church of the American Ceylon Mission (CACM) carries out ministries to alleviate poverty and build up vulnerable communities,

especially in the war-affected northern, eastern, and farming areas of Sri Lanka. It runs dozens of early-childhood care centers and preschools that provide learning and nutritious meals daily for children without access to such resources. CACM also operates children's homes, after-school programs, youth clubs, and vocational training centers that offer trades, school supplies, leadership development, and safe places for youth to gather. Its work with women is especially notable, forming self-help groups to build financial skills, savings habits, and income-generating capacity. In addition, CACM supports those traumatized by war-widows, displaced families, and communities- seeking to restore dignity, equip the next generation, and promote reconciliation and hope.



God's Mission to Revive Young Lives in Monrovia's Streets

Bitterness is another kind of addiction; it will destroy what God is rebuilding.

Rev. Caleb Dormah, National in Mission, Liberia



Dormah, a National in Mission with the Liberia Annual Conference whose position is supported by Global Ministries, founded a rehabilitation program for young addicts, prostitutes, and others who literally live among the dead amid the tombs of a cemetery. The rehabilitation program focuses on more than abstinence and getting clean. It seeks to transform lives, to give young adults a second chance. When he launched the Liberian UMC's At Risk Youth Taskforce, he challenged the annual conference to rehabilitate 1000 young people per year,

reintegrating them into their communities. By 2025, the Department of At-Risk Youth feeds hundreds of disadvantaged young people, counseling them and connecting them to rehabilitation programs. "These sons and daughters are our neighbors," Dormah said. "They have dreams. They have stories. We still believe in them." Dormah felt called by God to serve and reconcile the young people of Monrovia's back alleys and graveyard make-shift homes. He describes these places as graveyards of potential – dumping grounds for Liberia's forgotten children. But to Dormah, they are holy ground. "I believe Liberia will rise again from the ghettos," he tells those who question or doubt his mission.

Coming Up

Thursday, August 6

- 8:00 A.M. Pray with the Pastor, Sanct.
- 10:30 A.M. Memorial Service for Dr.
Michael Luckett, reception to follow

Saturday, August 8

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

Sunday, August 9

- 10:00 A.M. Worship Service
- 11:00 A.M. Coffee Fellowship

Monday, August 10

FISH week, August 10-14, 9A.M.-11A.M.

- 1:00 P.M. Church Growth, FH
- 5:30 P.M. Pray with the Pastor, Sanct.
- 6:30 P.M. Finance Board, Zoom

Wednesday, August 12

- 1:30 P.M. Pinochle, Fellowship Hall

Pastor Laura will be out of the office on vacation August 11-16.
