



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*

October 25, 2026

Worship Service

10:00 A.M.

Worship Leader:
Pastor Laura Ymker



Lay Reader: Carolyn Dowdy

Ushers: Dale & Nancy Dallmann

Accompanist/Music Director: Melissa Gilbert

Acolytes: Angel Cortez, Aalayah Dunn

Nursery: May Harris, Melissa Zimmer

Sunday School: Rosemary Neilsen, Susan Sanford

Fellowship: Doris Motley, Peggy Seeley

Treats: Carolyn Dowdy, Linda Larson

A/V Tech: KimKay McCarty Martin

UCC Tellers: Steve Gettel, 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 United Spirit website.



Nurture What God Has Planted

Thank you to all who have turned in pledge cards and Opportunities to Serve forms. We have a lot of folks willing to help out with the different ministries United Spirit Community Church provides! The Finance Board will begin preparing the 2027 budget early next month. **If you haven't already done so, please be sure to return your forms to the church office by October 30.**

In Our Thoughts and Prayers



† Continued prayers for **Paul Holland**.



From the Pastor

This past Sunday we were challenged to serve God's purpose in our generation. **God is working now. Here. In this place.** Will we work with God for good? Will we bravely step into our world to transform it by the power of the Holy Spirit? ***You can watch the service [here](#).***

This coming Sunday, we will be challenged by a parable Jesus told. When his disciples asked him why he spoke in parables, Jesus replied that it was so that his disciples would understand his teaching while others would be confused. **In order to understand Jesus' parables, we must be disciples—those who follow in the footsteps of Christ and do God's work on earth.** Then they will make sense to us. Will we understand, or will we be offended? What will that tell us about how we are following Christ?

This week may the Holy Spirit fuel your imagination as you do good. **May you be an instrument of change in your workplace, as you volunteer, and in your home.** May God's love truly flow through you and heal the pain in our community.

Pastor Laura



Christian Education News

Sunday School children, grades K-5, will begin in worship this Sunday. Our curriculum is called **“Path to Peace: Peace Inside”**. Teachers will be **Susan Sanford and Rosemary Neilsen**. Thank you, ladies! Families—**please review the class covenant with your children and help them understand the meaning and importance of these class rules.** News note: soon our classroom will have more technology! This will help with singing and watching videos that are part of our curriculum.

Classroom Improvements

We are making some changes in our Sunday School classroom! **We have hung curtains on the outside windows to protect children's privacy and to provide a little bit of sound dampening.** **Colorful beach towels added to the walls will also improve the acoustics in the room.** **Floor lamps will soon appear to add softer light.** Upcoming technology: **wi-fi, a Microsoft surface and a TV** will help with teaching music and sharing videos that are part of our curriculum. **Fidget toys will be waiting to help calm and focus kids if need be.** **Watch for the date of our GRAND OPENING!**



Music in the News

You can quickly find October 25's music on YouTube:

- **[“Sing a New World Into Being”](#)** in Songs of the Holy Other
 - **[“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”](#)** in the *United Methodist Hymnal* #139 verses 1, 3-4
 - **[“Spirit of the Living God”](#)** in the *United Methodist Hymnal* #393
 - The doxology will be Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow, two versions.
 - **[“Bind Us Together”](#)** by Isaac Wardell, words on the screen.
 - **[“May You Run and Not Be Weary”](#)** in *The Faith We Sing* #2281
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Turkey Time is Here Again!

It's almost time for our annual Thanksgiving Basket Ministry for West Elementary. **The "Turkey Board" will be in the narthex (entryway) on Wednesday, October 28. Each paper turkey will list an item or items that will fill 7 Thanksgiving Baskets for families at West Elementary School.** This is a team project sponsored by the Christian Education Board and the Christian Service Board. But the most important team members are all of you! **Your generous gifts of food and cash are what makes this mission possible!** Beginning October 28, please select one or more turkeys from the display board. **Purchase the items listed (to make packing and organizing the food easier, please try to purchase the exact items listed on the paper turkeys).** If you would like to donate cash, write a check to "USCC" with "Thanksgiving" in the memo line. Sunday School will organize and pack stuff up on November 15. This is so much fun! A huge thank you to everyone who makes this all-church, intergenerational ministry such a success!

Thanksgiving Potluck



Our annual Thanksgiving Potluck at the church will be on Sunday, November 22 at 5:00 P.M. in the fellowship hall. All are welcome to attend with family and friends. For planning purposes, sign-up sheets are located on the table in the entryway and in fellowship hall. Please indicate if you are willing to bring **cooked vegetables, stuffing/dressing, mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, salad, cranberries and olives, or dessert.** The Fellowship Board will provide turkeys, hams, gravy, rolls, butter and vegetable trays.

Coming Back from CAM (the UCC Conference Annual Meeting)

I had the joy of attending the Conference Annual Meeting in Helena and came home feeling so proud to be a member of this church and denomination. **The comradery throughout the entire weekend was the highlight.** The most memorable time for me was one of the breakout sessions. I had chosen to attend one on mental health. Fortunately, our facilitator did not show up and no that isn't a typo. It was fortunate because the group of eight decided to have a deep and meaningful conversation instead of joining one of the other sessions. Among the group were two trans women, a gay man, and a woman going through a life changing crisis. The discussions were open and honest and in this time of hatred in our country, I was refreshed to sit around a table with such beautiful souls.

One of the other breakouts I attended was about the resettlement of Afghani people in Helena. I had no idea this was taking place in a town just 90 miles down the road. Since the fall of Kabul, the Helena Area Refugee Resettlement Team (HARRT) has aided 43 individuals and families to settle into their new lives in the US. The woman leading HARRT, Valerie Hellerman, is an angel on Earth. Valarie also started another non-profit called Hands on Global that sends medical teams around the world. She is heading to Ukraine in November to do wound care. Valarie is not a spring chicken and uses a cane. This made me realize it is not too late to do meaningful work in the world.

From the Thursday meet and greet mixer until the service on Sunday morning, I was filled to the brim with the glory of God and how they work wonders through members of the United Church of Christ. Business of the conference is conducted at the annual meeting, but the most important part is the renewal of friendships, creation of new relationships, and the sharing of what our motto means. **Wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here. Liz Lee**

Gracious Space

"Jennifer G. Bird - The Myth of Biblical Marriage"

Episode 284 of The Bible for Normal People podcast

Part of being effective in the culture we live in is being able to talk to the people around us about things that matter. A significant percentage of Christians would accuse the United Methodist Church and United Church of Christ of not believing in "biblical marriage," but what is biblical marriage? **Come on Thursday, November 5, at 7:00 P.M. to learn more about what "biblical marriage" means to some and what our ancient Scripture actually says, and does not say, about marriage.** Come with the intent of becoming better able to understand and engage in conversation with Christians outside our walls. Come with the intent of growing in compassion for people and in the knowledge of God. I hope to see you then!

We will be discussing [this podcast episode](#). Find it on Spotify or your Apple podcast app. **Listen to it beforehand to prime yourself for our conversation.** This is the scholar's [website](#).

All Saints' Sunday

Friendly reminder that on **November 1**, the worship service will include communion and a time of remembrance for those who have died this past year. **To have a loved one acknowledged, please let Holly know name and relationship by October 26.**

You're Invited

On behalf of our Church Council and Coordinating Team, **I would like to invite members of the Montana-Northern Wyoming Conference to join us at Pilgrim United Church of Christ in Bozeman – in person, online, or in spirit – in celebrating Pilgrim's 65th Anniversary on Sunday November 15th, 2026. We will host a special worship service in our sanctuary at 10:00 A.M., followed by a joyful reception.**

Find the livestream here: <https://www.youtube.com/@pilgrimconnect3432>
or on our website www.uccbozeman.org

**We welcome conference memories and well-wishes at mail@uccbozeman.org
and will share written greetings at the reception that Sunday.
Please put 65th Anniversary in the subject line of your email.**

Peace and gratitude for our connections and our covenant with the Montana-N. Wyoming Conference,
Rev. Laura Folkwein

Conference News

Below you will find a letter from Rev. Bob Thompson, President of [Faithful and Welcoming Churches](#). I've been working with Rev. Thompson and my colleagues in the Dakotas, Nebraska, Southern Wyoming, and Eastern Colorado to develop space for more conservative people in the UCC to meet and have conversation. We will be meeting at [Placerville Camp](#) November 6-8 to worship and pray together and listen to one another in a beautiful Black Hills church camp. Placerville is less than 20 miles west of Rapid City. The cost of the weekend is being underwritten by the Council of Conference Ministers and allows us to charge only \$50 (if this might be a challenge let me know and we can get you a scholarship). I pray that you will take this opportunity to be in community with the wider UCC, especially those who might be theologically aligned with you or your church. In peace and prayer,
Pastor Tony

Your Conference Ministers have invited my wife, Linda, and me to join you for a weekend at

Placerville Camp near Rapid City, South Dakota, November 6–8. We represent Faithful and Welcoming Churches (FWC) of the UCC, a network of ECOTs—Evangelical, Conservative, Orthodox, or Traditional pastors, churches, and laity.

This gathering will be a “first” in the UCC. We have previously held events for UCC ECOTs and facilitated conversations among them, but this is the first such gathering initiated by Conference staff. Tony Clark, Roberto Ochoa, and Erin Gilmore are among a growing number of UCC Conference and Association leaders who are reaching out intentionally to their ECOT pastors and churches. They are communicating something important: when we say “everyone’s welcome” in the UCC, we really do mean everyone—including those whose theological, cultural, or political perspectives may differ from the denomination’s more progressive voices.

Our UCC General Minister and President, Karen Georgia Thompson, has also initiated a series of conversations called “A Tent of Our Own Making.” She has emphasized that the UCC’s theological diversity is not simply part of our past or an ideal we hope someday to achieve. It is “already here.” The question is how we live faithfully together within that diversity.

That is part of what we hope to explore at Placerville. The goal of the retreat is to identify, support, and build relationships among ECOTs in the Plains states. We’d like to get to know you, hear your experiences and concerns, and learn what it is like for you to live out your faith and ministry within the UCC. Linda and I will also share some of what we have learned as we have navigated the dual identity of being both UCC and ECOT for almost fifty years.

Together, we can talk about strategies, perspectives, and relationships that might help all of us. We want this to be a conversation, not simply a presentation. We want to listen as much as we talk. Whether or not you are ECOT or plan to join us at Placerville, if you have questions, concerns, or suggestions about how we might best use our time together, please email me at RDBobT@gmail.com.

Bob Thompson, President
Faithful and Welcoming Churches

Coming Up

Thursday, October 22

8:00 A.M. Pray with the Pastor, Sanct.
9-10 A.M. Pastor Laura Office Hours

Sunday, October 25

9:15 A.M. Choir Rehearsal
10:00 A.M. Worship Service
11:00 A.M. Coffee Fellowship
11:30 A.M. Worship Board Meeting

Monday, October 26

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

Tuesday, October 27

10:00 A.M. Mitten Makers, FH

Wednesday, October 28

10:00 A.M. Bible Study, Parlor
12:30 P.M. Pray with the Pastor, Sanct.
1-2 P.M. Pastor Laura Office Hours
1:30 P.M. Pinochle, Fellowship Hall
6:00 P.M. Youth Group
6:00 P.M. Handbells
7:15 P.M. Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, October 29

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

9-10 A.M. Pastor Laura Office Hours

Sunday, November 1- All Saint’s

Daylight Savings Time Ends

8:45 A.M. Fellowship Board Meeting
9:15 A.M. Choir Rehearsal
10:00 A.M. Worship Service with Communion
11:00 A.M. Coffee Fellowship

Monday, November 2

1:00 P.M. Christian Service Board
5:30 P.M. Pray with the Pastor, Sanct.
7:00 P.M. Stewardship Board, Zoom