# 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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Pastor Laura Ymker | PO Box 6303, 59406 | (406) 453-4316
pastor@unitedspiritcc.org | greatfallsucc@gmail.com | www.unitedspiritcc.org

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

**November 1, 2026**
**Worship Service**
**10:00 A.M.**



Worship Leader:
Pastor Laura Ymker

Lay Reader: Peter Johnson
Ushers: Todd & Heidi LePard
Communion: Nancy Dallmann,
Linda Grossman, Terry Roemmich, Susan Thomas
Accompanist/Music Director: Melissa Gilbert
Nursery: May Harris
Sunday School: Betsy Rogstad, Caroline Houtz
Fellowship: Bill Tiskus, Dennis & Sue Turton
Treats: Elaine Balzer, Chris Ebeling, Susan Thomas
A/V Tech: Dale Dallmann
UCC Tellers: Paul Haffeman, Liz Lee
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.

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## *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.

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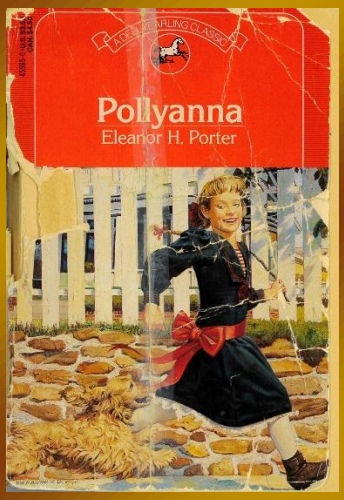
***In Our Thoughts and Prayers***

***† Sympathy to Barb Armstrong in the death of her husband, Lee, who passed away on October 23.***

***† Former First Congregational UCC Minister Rev. Dr. Phil Eisenhauer passed away on October 23 following a stroke. Condolences/memorials can be sent to John Eisenhauer, 1750 152nd Ave NE Apt C214, Bellevue, WA 98007. For more information, please use the following link: https://www.caringbridge.org/site/76fdb391-c744-11f1-8de5-8b3450b9aa21/post/954d26d4-959d-4cf7-9ac8-044b286e2dfe?utm_source=website_share&utm_medium=share_button&utm_term=&utm_content=link_share_button&utm_campaign=post_php***

***† Former Christ UMC Minister Rev. Howard Hunter passed away on October 14 due to complications from Parkinson's disease. A celebration of life is being planned, likely in December. Details will be shared when they are available. Cards and expressions of love may be sent to his family in care of: Brian Hunter, 2435 Rancho Rd., Billings, MT 59102***

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***Read with the Pastor***

This month Pastor Laura is inviting us to read her second-most-wornout book. **Pollyanna was written in 1913 by a Congregationalist woman**. It's dated, but it's also sweet and funny. The name "Pollyanna" has passed into slang as a way to describe someone who is overly optimistic and ignores reality, but is this a good description of the book's main character? Does she simply practice gratitude as she finds the silver lining in every storm cloud? Read or listen to the book, and decide. ***(Watching the movie doesn't count!)*** Let Laura know what you think. **There might be no formal discussion for this book; but maybe at Thanksgiving Dinner on November 22, we will have a few voting jars and see how Pollyanna does in a vote**. Happy reading! (Or should I say "Glad reading!"?)

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***From the Pastor***

This past Sunday we were challenged by Jesus' parable about the workers who all get paid the same amount no matter how long they worked in the vineyard. I asked us if perhaps this parable might be about power dynamics and privilege in communities that follow Christ. **How are we doing in our community with giving people the same privilege whether they have been a part of our congregation for five days or 50 years? Does everyone's voice matter just as much as anyone else's?** You can watch the video **here**. Watch the comedian Pastor Laura mentioned in service **here**.

**This coming Sunday is All Saints Day and Communion Sunday**. The service will revolve around Jesus' prayer that we would all be one. There will be a special announcement during the service, and we will remember those we love who have crossed before us into the great mystery of eternal life.

**May God bless you this week with a great willingness to include the excluded**. May you give your power away again and again and again as you empower others. May you not only welcome people

into our community and show guests generous hospitality, but may you also make space for them to make this place their home, just as others invited you to make it yours.

***Pastor Laura***



### *Christian Education News*

November 1 is Communion Sunday. **Children in grades K-5 will begin the morning in Sunday School with teachers Betsy Rogstad and Caroline Houtz**. The lesson is "Let the Children Come" from the Gospel of Mark. Children will join their families for the Sacrament of Holy Communion and the conclusion of worship.

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### *Youth Group Gab*

On October 21, 30 youth and adults caravanned to the Applestem Corn Maze for a fun evening of maze-wandering with flashlights, human foosball and toasting marshmallows. The weather was beautiful-a clear, crisp Montana evening with a bright moon shining. **Thanks to a generous donation from a member of the congregation, entrance fees were paid for everyone! This week, it is rumored that a Halloween party will break out in the Fellowship Hall!** Youth and leaders should wear costumes! Please bring a snack to share! **Corn dogs**, **apple cider**, and a **caramel apple dip bar** will add to the festivities. Should be fun for everyone!

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### *Thanksgiving Basket Ministry Begins!*

Our annual Thanksgiving Basket Ministry, which provides seven Thanksgiving dinners for families at West Elementary School, begins on October 28. **Please select a paper turkey from the display in the entryway**. Purchase the item(s) listed on the turkey. **(Please try to purchase exactly what is listed to make organizing the food easier.) Return donations by November 15** so kids can organize the items and we can bless them at the end of worship. For monetary donations, please write a check to United Spirit Community Church (with "Thanksgiving" on the memo line) and place it in the offering. **This project is a team effort by Christian Education, Christian Service, and of course, the congregation.** Thank you so much for your generous participation!

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### *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**.

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### *Thank You for Fishing!*

We had a busy week at the Fish Food Pantry! Thank you so much to our amazing volunteers who worked last week to help distribute food: **Elaine Balzer**, **Harry & Connie Brauer**, **Carol Davidson**, **Peggy Floen**, **Liz Lee**, **KimKay McCarty Martin**, **Doris Motley**, **Rosemary Neilsen**, **Sharon Oakland**, **Janet Olson**, **Karen Spencer**, **Dennis & Sue Turton** and **Nancy Zbinden**. You are all so much appreciated! **Our next turn to work at the food pantry is December 28-30.** Could be a tricky time! Hope to see you then! Thank you!

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## *Music in the News*

**You can quickly find November 1's music on YouTube:**

- **"The Church's One Foundation" in the *New Century Hymnal* #386**
- **"Lord of the Dance" in the *United Methodist Hymnal* #261**
- **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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## *Walk In Love*

Some ministries begin with a simple invitation: Walk in Love. This year's Neighbors in Need offering calls us to see every person as our neighbor and every act of compassion as a step towards justice. Through Neighbors in Need, the United Church of Christ supports ministries that uplift families, strengthen communities, and offer hope where it is needed most. As we begin this year's focus on Neighbors in Need, we remember that love is not only felt- it is lives. Your prayers, your awareness, and your generosity help us to walk in love together.

**To participate in this offering, please indicate NIN in the memo of your choice of giving.**

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***For upcoming events,***
***please see Events Calendar.***