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

November 15, 2026
Worship Service
10:00 A.M.



Worship Leader:
Pastor Laura Ymker

Lay Reader: Steve Gettel
Ushers: Linda Grossman, Terry Roemmich
Acolytes: Aalayah Dunn, Angel Cortez
Accompanist/Music Director: Melissa Gilbert
Nursery: May Harris
Sunday School: Janet Koostra, Karen Spencer, Liz Lee
Fellowship: KimKay McCarty Martin, Bill Tiskus
Treats: KimKay McCarty Martin, Lynne Weeks
A/V Tech: KimKay McCarty Martin
UCC Tellers: Steve Gettel, Nancy Zadick
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.



This Sunday, November 15
Estella Petrini's 100th Birthday
United Spirit Community Church
Fellowship Hall
2:00 P.M.-4:00 P.M.

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

† For those **without appropriate shelter**, **clothing** and **food** as Montana enters into the cold months of the year.

Stewardship Campaign

Our 2027 Stewardship Campaign is almost complete! The Finance Board met this week to begin the process of budget planning for next year. **82 pledges have come in for a total of $222,639.00**. If you care to do so, there's still time to turn in your pledge. Thank you.



From the Pastor

This past Sunday Dr. Kelly Quick, who is currently a member in discernment with the UCC, preached about comfort and joy. God is always with us and accompanies us during every season of our lives. ***You can watch the video here***. **While you enjoyed her sermon, I had a wonderful time in Red Lodge with friends**.

As we come out of this election season, it may do us all well to reflect on the words of Anne Lamott in *Traveling Mercies: Some Thoughts on Faith.* "You can safely assume you've created God in your own image when it turns out that God hates all the same people you do." I might edit that to say "when it turns out that you are certain God votes the same way you do." **Let us all live with humility, seeking first to hear in order that perhaps we then might be heard**.

This coming Sunday I will share a few of my favorite ways that churches have been generous in their communities. How can we be bravely generous even while we worry whether there will be enough to sustain even ourselves? **We'll visit a story from Scripture about a widow living in a time of famine to inspire us to action**.

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in [Christ], so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." (Romans 15:13 NIV)

Pastor Laura

United Women in Faith

All women are invited to the monthly meeting on **Thursday November 19 at 1:00 P.M.** We will be finishing up the plans for **Christmas Mission Gifts**, **World Thank Offering**, **church decorations**, and **goat milk products by Hotmess Homestead with Allie**. Hope this time works for all women and friends to come to the Fellowship Hall.



Please Sign Up!

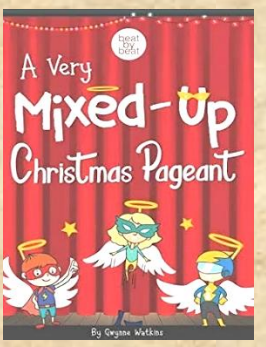
Our annual Thanksgiving Potluck at the church will be on Sunday, November 22 at 5:00 P.M. in the fellowship hall. All are welcome to attend with family and friends. **For planning purposes, sign-up sheets are located on the table in the entryway and in fellowship hall**. Please indicate if you are willing 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.

Thanksgiving Basket Donations Due on Sunday

Friendly reminder- donations for the West Elementary Thanksgiving Food Baskets should be returned to church by Sunday, November 15. The food will be organized by the church children and youth during Sunday School class. A huge thank you to all who have donated food, preparation items and money to help 7 food-insecure families in our community have a good Thanksgiving with plenty to eat. **Jesus said, "When I was hungry, you fed me." The people asked, "When did we feed you, teacher?" Jesus told them, "Whatever you do for those in need, you do for me."**

Christian Education News

On November 15, Sunday School children in grades K-5 will begin the morning in worship. Following the children's message, kids will go to Sunday School, where they will help Janet Koostra, Liz Lee and Karen Spencer organize the Thanksgiving Baskets for West Elementary. Church youth are also invited to come to Sunday School class to join the fun. Kids will also make "Happy Thanksgiving" cards to send along with the food.



Christmas Pageant Rehearsal Begins November 15

Children and youth are invited to be part of the annual Christmas Pageant, scheduled for Sunday, December 13. The initial rehearsal for *A Very Mixed-Up Christmas Pageant* will be this Sunday at 11:15 A.M. in the sanctuary. Roles will be assigned and the cast will do a read-through of the script. Most parts have only a few lines of dialogue, which makes learning a role easy! **If you have any questions, please contact Janet Koostra 406-727-8443 or janetkoostra@gmail.com.**

Love That Provides- Direct Support for Families

Sometimes loves looks like groceries in a box, diapers in a trunk, or a warm meal offered without question. Neighbors In Need grants help churches provide direct support to families facing food insecurity, utility shutoffs, or emergency needs. These grants- often $1,000-$3,000- place hope directly into someone's hands. When we give to Neighbors In Need, we help ensure that no child goes to bed hungry, no elder sits in the cold, and not neighbor feels forgotten.

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

Ladies Coffee

Ladies Coffee meets this Saturday, November 14th at 10:30 A.M. at Wheat Montana.

Music in the News

You can quickly find November 15's music on YouTube:

- **"Harvest Time" in the back cover of the *United Methodist Hymnal***
- **"Take My Life, God, Let It Be" in the *New Century Hymnal* #448**
- **"Sanctuary" in *The Faith We Sing* #2164**
- **The doxology will be Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow, two versions.**
- **"The Goodness of God" by Jenn Johnson. Words on the screen.**
- **"May You Run and Not Be Weary" in *The Faith We Sing* #2281**

Open Minds Discussion Groups

The definition of us: We are those who at one time were trained to believe that members of the LGBTQIA+ community are in one way or another unacceptable to God. We seek to understand God's love in new ways that are true to the nature of God, faithful to Scripture, and inclusive of all people as God's beloved children created in the Divine image. **These groups are modeled after Parker Palmer's Circles of Trust. Want to learn more? Email, call, or text Pastor Laura with questions or your desire to join.**



Gracious Space
Violence in the Quran?
Thursday, November 19, 2026
7:00 P.M., Fellowship Hall

Knowledge of the unknown can help us quit fearing it. It can help us understand people, carry on intelligent conversations, and end the many "isms" in our lives. Islam, like Christianity, Judaism, and nearly any other religion, has multiple traditions within it. **What does the Quran really say about how people of other faiths should be treated?**

In our next "Gracious Space," we'll be visiting passages about violence in the Quran alongside passages about violence in Christian Scripture. **All you need to bring to the discussion is yourself, but you will be better prepared if you spend a half hour or an hour brushing up on the basic history and pillars of Islam**. ***Consider listening to this episode of Talk of the Nation on NPR or reading this article about the five pillars of Islam***. (I do not believe the NPR show can be found on a podcast app.) Prior to our discussion, I will attempt to finish reading the Quran. **Together we'll discuss key passages**.

Every Gracious Space discussion is guided by the mutual understanding of the group that it is safe to "learn in public" and wise to seek understanding of those who are other than ourselves. We hope to see you there!



Looking Ahead to Christmas

The Worship Board will gather to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas on Tuesday, November 24 at 1:00 P.M. All are welcome to lend a hand and join in the festivities. Live poinsettia plants will again be on display during the Christmas Season. **Honor a loved one with a $15.00 donation**.

Are you getting ready to decorate your home for Christmas and need some new gently used items? On **November 28** there will be tables full of Christmas decorations and lovely gift items for sale for you to peruse in the Fellowship Hall. How about a whole Nutcracker collection, every kind of Grinch tree stuff, or country rustic goodies? **All items will be offered for you to donate a value and put that in a basket**. **The Women In Faith Group then takes this money and donates all of it to worthy missions in Great Falls supporting women and children**. **We will also have a bake sale on December 13 to help with your Christmas baking needs**. Please help this ministry as they reach out to needy organizations.

Christmas in a Shoe Box for the Blackfeet Nation



After gathering dozens of shoeboxes during the past year, it's time for the fun part- filling them with gifts! Continuing the United Methodist tradition, United Spirit Community Church will be part of a state-wide Shoebox Ministry! **Our boxes will be donated to the Browning United Methodist Parish (BUMP), which needs gifts for children newborn-18 years old, plus adults**. Collection begins on November 15 at the "piano" end of the Fellowship Hall. Suggestions (in age appropriate items) include: **personal care items**: shampoo, body wash, deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste, hair brushes, hair ties & clips; **Entertainment**: toys, books, games; **Clothing:** hats, gloves, mittens, sweaters, onesies, sweatshirts; **Sports equipment**: basketballs, volleyballs, soccer balls, girls softball gloves; **Art supplies**: coloring books, crayons, markers, colored pencils, drawing paper, regular pens & pencils; and **CANDY**! **Gifts are distributed based on age and gender (if applicable), so please mark your donations accordingly to help in the packing process**. We hope to have a box-filling and gift-wrapping extravaganza so watch for more details, and thank you in advance for your help!

All donated items should be new



A reflection on *A Sure Foundation,* (the UCC's handbook for relationships between pastors and congregations). Covenant is central to the UCC's organizational structure. Its *Manual on Ministry* describes covenant as "the commitment of God to God's people, of the people to God, of the people to one another as the Body of Christ." In the UCC ministerial code, I covenant with God, myself and family, the UCC, my ministry setting, and all ministers. Relying on God's grace, I make seven promises to each of these parties. **You should know that in her relationship with herself and family, your pastor has agreed to:**

1. Attend to my physical well-being by adopting a healthy life style including diet, exercise, and rest, setting aside time for Sabbath and vacation.
2. Steward my time, talents, and personal financial resources responsibly.
3. Accept responsibility for all debts that I incur.
4. Refrain from abusive behavior including abusive behavior toward others; the abuse of alcohol, drugs, or any other substance; to seek appropriate care for physical and mental health concerns; and to avoid addictive behaviors.
5. Engage in sexually healthy and responsible behavior.
6. Honor my family commitments, including my family's need for privacy and time together.
7. Develop and maintain meaningful personal relationships outside of my ministry setting.

Coming Up

Thursday, November 12

8:00 A.M. Pray with the Pastor, Sanctuary
9-10 A.M. Pastor Laura Office Hours
6:30 P.M. Christian Ed., Zoom

Saturday, November 14
10:30 A.M. Ladies Coffee, Wheat MT

Sunday, November 15
9:15 A.M. Choir Rehearsal
10:00 A.M. Worship Service
11:00 A.M. Coffee Fellowship
11:15 A.M. Pageant Rehearsal
2-4 P.M. Estella Petrini Celebration

Monday, November 16
5:30 P.M. Pray with the Pastor, Sanctuary
6:30 P.M. Church Council, Zoom

Wednesday, November 18
10:00 A.M. Bridge Group, SS Wing
10:00 A.M. Bible Study, Parlor
12:30 P.M. Pray with the Pastor, Sanctuary
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, November 19
8:00 A.M. Pray with the Pastor, Sanctuary
9-10 A.M. Pastor Laura Office Hours
7:00 P.M. Gracious Space, Fellowship Hall

Sunday, November 22
9:15 A.M. Choir Rehearsal
10:00 A.M. Worship Service
NO COFFEE FELLOWSHIP
11:15 A.M. Pageant Rehearsal
5:00 P.M. Thanksgiving Potluck, Fellowship Hall