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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Christ United Methodist Church Great Falls

November 22, 2026
Worship Service
10:00 A.M.



Worship Leader:
Pastor Laura Ymker

Lay Reader: Dennis Dell
Ushers: Randy & Caroline Houtz
Acolyte: Lily Borland
Accompanist/Music Director: Melissa Gilbert
Nursery: May Harris, Susan Sanford
Sunday School: Betsy Rogstad, Darlene Gardner
A/V Tech: Bill Tiskus
UCC Tellers: Kristine Berntsen, Carol Shipley
Christ UMC Tellers: Rosemary Neilsen, Jeanne Nobbs

Please note there is no Coffee Fellowship. You are invited to come back for the Thanksgiving Potluck at 5:00 P.M.

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.



Thanksgiving Potluck

Our annual Thanksgiving Potluck at the church is this 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.

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

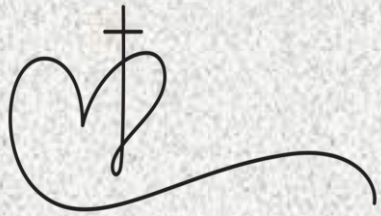
† Sympathy to **Jenn Goss** in the death of one of her oldest and dearest friends, **Jen**.
† Those struggling with **anxiety**, for the **mental healthcare system in Montana** (and our country), and for the **growth of empathy in our community**.
† Congratulations to **Pastor Laura** on the purchase of her first home, right here in Great Falls!

Advent begins November 29

During Advent season, there will be minimal verbal announcements during service. We hope to include written announcements in your bulletins. Please let Pastor Laura or the church office know about anything you would like to have announced no later than 2:00 P.M. the Wednesdays prior to Sunday service. Thank you.

Bible Study News

On December 2, the Bible study group will start ***"Light of The World: A Beginner's Guide to Advent"*** by Amy Jill Levine **in the parlor at 10:00 A.M.** It is a revised and expanded edition published this year. **I am excited by a new viewpoint and time on the family fleeing to Egypt which is often skipped. Bible study will not meet on November 25**. We will resume "Reading the Bible with Bonhoeffer" after the season of Advent. **All are welcome to come and take part**.



From the Pastor

This past Sunday we explored the story of the widow of Zarephath. She chose to step out in faith and provide for a hungry foreigner even if she did not have enough for herself and her family. **In response to her faith, God miraculously multiplied her flour and oil until the famine in the land ended**. What ingredients do we have that we would like God to multiply so we can provide for the needy in our community? **Watch the video *here*.**

This coming Sunday, we are going to talk about why living off of God's provision is difficult. It sounds amazing when we call God by names like Mother, Father, and Provider; **but God's provision comes in certain ways**. When the Israelites were in the wilderness, living off of bread from heaven, they did not find it all that pleasant. **What is hard about eating the bread of heaven?**

This week may you be a river of God's resources in your community, living in the excitement of having divine love, joy, patience, peace, kindness, and goodness flow through you. **Don't be a lake and gather God's gifts; give them away**. As a modern worship song says, "Jump, jump, jump, jump in the river!" **Following God's Spirit is fun**. **Let the Spirit flow through you!**

Pastor Laura



Christian Education News

This week, children K-5th grade will begin in worship. After the children's message, children will join Betsy Rogstad and Darlene Gardner in Sunday School for the lesson, "Let the Children Come". Nursery care is provided for children from birth through age 5.

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**.

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.



Christmas Pageant

The next pageant rehearsal is scheduled for Sunday, November 22 at 11:15 A.M. in the sanctuary. Performance will be Sunday, December 13 during the 10:00 A.M. worship service.

Thanksgiving Baskets

Thank you to **everyone who donated food** to fill Thanksgiving Baskets for West Elementary School! Thank you to **everyone who donated money** to add items like milk, butter, and more to the baskets! Thank you to the **adults and children who organized the food donations**! Thank you to the **children who made personalized Thanksgiving cards** for the baskets! Thank you to the **Christian Service Board for providing turkeys, pies, and cardboard grocery boxes plus communicating with West Elementary**! What a blessing to have so many wonderful helpers!

Music in the News

You can quickly find November 22's music on YouTube:

- **"They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love" in the *The Faith We Sing* #2223**
- **"How Firm A Foundation" in the *New Century Hymnal* #407**
- **"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.**
- **"I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" in *The Faith We Sing* #2129**

Neighbors in Need

Love That Transforms-
Your Gift Makes a Difference

As we conclude our Neighbors in Need focus, **we remember that love has the power to transform communities**. Neighbors in Need supports ministries that uplift children, empower Native congregations through the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM), and strengthen justice programs across the United States. **Nearly all Neighbors in Need go directly to mission projects and grants**. Your generosity becomes someone's answered prayer. Thank you for giving from the heart.

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

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**.

GriefShare®

Getting help and encouragement after the death of a loved one

At a GriefShare group, you'll find understanding, guidance, relief, and a safe place to navigate the challenges of grief. The following opportunities are being presented at United Spirit Community Church, each on a Tuesday, offered by Linda Redding:

Loss of a Spouse	December 1, 2026	12:00-2:00 P.M.
Surviving the Holidays	December 15, 2026	12:00-1:30 P.M.
Loss of a Loved One (15 weeks)	January 5-March, 2027	12:00-1:30 P.M.

For more information, please contact Linda at (406) 868-1282 or lindakredding@hotmail.com, or visit griefshare.org. You don't have to travel through loss and sadness alone.

United Spirit COMMUNITY CHURCH

We are United Spirit Community Church

As the year is coming to an end, **please remember to transition your giving to United Spirit Community Church**. This is especially important if you have payments set up directly from your financial institution. **Beginning January 1, 2027, we will no longer be able to accommodate payments made to FCUCC or Christ UMC**.

On Sunday, December 6 a budget hearing will be presented by the Finance Board, in the sanctuary, immediately following worship. All are encouraged to stay. Light refreshments and coffee served.



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 29** 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 Shoeboxes Waiting for Gifts

United Spirit Community Church is accepting donations to make gift boxes for Browning United Methodist Parish. **Most items will be put into shoeboxes which will be wrapped to make fun presents**. **Items are for folks of all ages-newborns to adults!** Boxes are categorized by age group and gender/neutral. **Gifts can be candy**, **art supplies**, **clothes**, **personal care items**, **sports equipment**, **books**, **games**, **toys**. **Donations may be placed in the fellowship hall where boxes are waiting in front of the piano**. In the same area, there is also a more detailed list of suggested donations. **Our first "wrapping party" will be on November 29 following worship**. Wrapping paper, tape, scissors and shoeboxes provided! **Monetary donations are also accepted**. To contribute, you can place your donation in the offering, bring to the office, or give to Janet. **Donations should be well marked with "Shoebox" on the check or envelope**.

Folks may also fill shoeboxes on their own. Please mark box for age and gender.

Coming Up

Thursday, November 19
8:00 A.M. Pray with the Pastor, Sanct.
9-10 A.M. Pastor Laura Office Hours
7:00 P.M. Gracious Space, FH

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, FH

Monday, November 23
5:30 P.M. Pray with the Pastor, Sanct.

Tuesday, November 24
10:00 A.M. Mitten Makers, FH
1:00 P.M. Sanctuary Decorating

Wednesday, November 25
12:30 P.M. Pray with the Pastor, Sanct.
1-2 P.M. Pastor Laura Office Hours
1:30 P.M. Pinochle, Fellowship Hall
NO YOUTH GROUP
6:00 P.M. Handbells, tentative
7:15 P.M. Choir Rehearsal, tentative

Thursday, November 26
Happy Thanksgiving! The office will be closed on Thursday and Friday.

Sunday, November 29- Advent I
9:15 A.M. Choir Rehearsal
10:00 A.M. Worship Service
11:00 A.M. Coffee Fellowship
11:15 A.M. Pageant Rehearsal
11:30 A.M. Worship Board