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 8, 2026
Worship Service
10:00 A.M.



Worship Leader:
Dr. Kelly Quick

Lay Reader: Liz Lee
Ushers: Linda Larson, Linda Redding
Acolytes: Angel Cortez, Lily Borland
Accompanist/Music Director: Melissa Gilbert
Nursery: May Harris
Sunday School: Dean Jardee, Molly Beck
Fellowship: Doris Motley, Susan Thomas, Heather Weibel
Treats: Peggy Floen, Marilyn Sheffels
A/V Tech: Hank Branom
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.

Neighbors in Need

Love That Listens- Justice & Advocacy

Walking in love begins with listening- truly hearing the stories of those who struggle or feel unseen. Neighbors in Need supports justice ministries across the county, including environmental justice, racial equality work, immigration support, and advocacy programs that help communities speak up and stand strong. Your gifts help amplify voices that have been ignored and strengthen ministries that work for fairness, dignity, and opportunity for all.

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

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

† Rose Storle continues to recover from hip surgery.

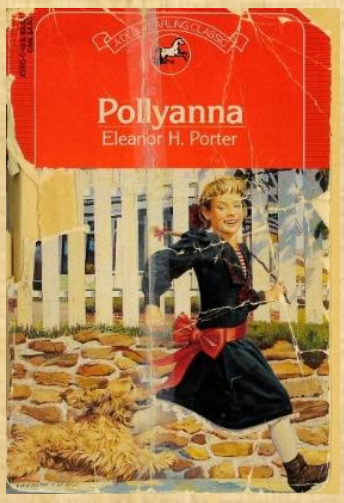
Wednesday Bible Study

The Wednesday Bible Study group will be tackling the book ***"Reading the Bible With Bonhoeffer"*** **by James Howell.** This direction starts in November. We will be examining Bonhoeffer's personal history—including **his time in Harlem**, **pastoral leadership**, **imprisonment**, and **writings like *"The Cost of Discipleship"***—to show how deep Scriptural engagement fostered courage and costly discipleship. **A DVD talk by the author will guide the discussion each week**.

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**.



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!"?)



Christian Education News

Sunday School students will begin the morning in worship. **Following a Children's Message, kids in grades K-5 will head to Sunday School for a lesson with leaders Dean Jardee and Molly Beck**. The lesson will be from Paul's letter to the Romans, ***"One Body, Many Gifts".***

Youth Group Gab

Youth and adults had a howling good time last week at the Youth Group Halloween Party held on October 28. **Karaoke**, **a caramel apple dipping station**, **corn dogs**, **games**, and a roomful of really **great costumes** made a lot of fun for everyone! The next big event on the Youth Group calendar is a service project: **Youth Group will help serve and clean up at the November 11 Spaghetti Fundraiser sponsored by Bob & Carolyn Dowdy and the United Women in Faith**.



Help Us Celebrate

You are invited to join in celebration of *Estella Petrini's* 100th birthday.
November 15, 2026- United Spirit Community Church
Fellowship Hall, 2:00 P.M.-4:00 P.M.



From the Pastor

This past Sunday we celebrated All Saints Day as we pondered Jesus' prayer that his followers would all be one. It's kind of a crazy idea. There are people I don't want to be in the same room with, let alone talk to or touch; yet it's Jesus' dream for both them and I to live together in union with God. **How will we bring about unity in our world? Will we respond to hate with love or with more hate? Will we respond to division with more divisiveness or will we begin conversations that build bridges?** ***You can watch the video here.***

This coming Saturday and Sunday I am taking time off, and hope to visit Red Lodge for a few days. **Dr. Kelly Quick is planning to preach to you about comfort and joy**. I hope you will encourage her as she continues her journey toward ordination in the United Church of Christ.

I write this to you before I know what has happened on Tuesday. **Whatever has happened on Tuesday, decide today on Wednesday to love like Jesus loves**. May you build bridges. May you show kindness. May you be moved with compassion to act in ways that bring heaven down to earth.

Pastor Laura



Music in the News

You can quickly find November 8's music on YouTube:

- **"On a Hill Far Away (The Old Rugged Cross)"** ***in the New Century Hymnal #195***
- **"My Life Flows On in Endless Song"** ***in the New Century Hymnal #476***
- **"Come, O Fount of Every Blessing"** ***in the New Century Hymnal #459***
- **The doxology will be Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow, two versions.**
- **"Bind Us Together"** ***by Isaac Wardell, words on the screen.***
- **"O Happy Day, That Fixed My Choice"** ***in the United Methodist Hymnal #391 verses1 & 4***

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**.



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 Pageant Rehearsal Begins November 15. Children and Youth are invited to participate in the annual Christmas Pageant at United Spirit Community Church. **Please plan to come to the first rehearsal at 11:15 A.M. in the sanctuary on Sunday, November 15**. **Parts will be assigned and the cast will read through the script together**. **Adult volunteers are needed for the read-through and during the rehearsals and performance.** ***"A Very Mixed-Up Christmas Pageant"*** is the story of a church that has to use Halloween costumes for their Nativity play and how well-known characters can, surprisingly, truly represent the nature of the people involved in the very first Christmas. **The performance will be held during worship on December 13**.

It's Shoebox Time! Remember all of those shoeboxes you have donated? Now it's time to fill them up! **The annual Christmas Shoebox Ministry for BUMP (Browning United Methodist Parish) will kick off on Sunday, November 15**. A collection area will be set up in the Fellowship Hall for gifts for children of all ages, plus men and women. **Hats**, **gloves/mittens**, **personal care items**, **games**, **toys**, **books, candy** and more! Please check out more detailed information in next week's newsletter.

Thanksgiving Basket Ministry off to Great Start!

Hurray! And thank you! **About two-thirds of the paper turkeys were adopted on November 1**. A few more remain and are looking for generous folks to choose them to help fill Thanksgiving Baskets for 7 families at West Elementary School. **The Christian Service Board will provide turkeys (secured from the local food bank) and pies for a holiday dessert**. Christian Education Board and Sunday School children will organize all other food donations. ***Please note- all food donations should be returned to the church by Sunday, November 15!*** Thank you again for your generous support of this ministry!

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.

Conference Annual Meeting (CAM) Review

First, my heartfelt thanks to Karen Spencer and Liz Lee for being my drivers to and from CAM, respectively. I am grateful to attend the meeting and to do so with new, **Member in Discernment**, eyes. My thanks also to United Spirit Community Church for funding my attendance.

I approached my time there as both a student of the United Church of Christ and as a leader in the United Church of Christ. **While in the business meetings, I participated fully as a delegate but afterwards spoke with church elders to understand more of the nuances of what was happening**; this will help me understand church governance more as I grow into the ministry.

As a leader at Fairfield UCC, a congregation with a predominantly older adult population, I did my best to choose sessions that were germane to them. **I attended a session on creating a worship experience and space for low-sighted individuals**. We were given background on the various ways one could be low-sighted and the resulting manifestations. Then we were shown ways to make a service more low-sighted friendly, from having large print versions of books and bulletins available to how to separate lines of text on a PowerPoint presentation. We were also given recommendations on how to arrange and mark the interior of a church to make its navigation safer for a low-sighted person.

I appreciated meeting a variety of people from the conference, and I felt very welcome as a member in discernment. The work done at CAM is valuable, and the relationships developed and nurtured there are valuable as well. ***Kelly Quick***

Coming Up

Thursday, November 5
8:00 A.M. Pray with the Pastor, Sanct.
9-10 A.M. Pastor Laura Office Hours
12:00 P.M. Facilities Committee, FH
7:00 P.M. Gracious Space, FH

Saturday, November 7
Craft Sale, Bake Sale, Soup Luncheon
Westside Global Methodist Church
10:00 A.M.-2:00 P.M., 726 Central Ave. W

Sunday, November 8
9:15 A.M. Choir Rehearsal
10:00 A.M. Worship Service
11:00 A.M. Coffee Fellowship

Monday, November 9
1:00 P.M. Church Growth & Vitality
5:30 P.M. Pray with the Pastor, Sanct.
6:00 P.M. Finance Committee, Zoom

Tuesday, November 10
10:00 A.M. Mitten Makers, FH

Wednesday, November 11- Veterans Day
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
5-7 P.M. Spaghetti Dinner, FH
6:00 P.M. Youth Group
6:00 P.M. Handbells
7:15 P.M. Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, November 12
8:00 A.M. Pray with the Pastor, Sanct.
9-10 A.M. Pastor Laura Office Hours
7:00 P.M. Gracious Space, FH

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