
The Good News

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Issue 10

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like us on Facebook at First Congregational United Church of Christ-Great Falls, MT

March 13, 2022
Second Sunday of Lent
In-Person Worship at 11:00 A.M.



Lay Reader: Dick K.
Ushers: Bonnie L, Liz L.
Tellers: Paul H., Sue S.
Scripture: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

In-person worship will be offered in the church sanctuary at 11:00 A.M. Remember to wear your face mask so it completely covers your nose and mouth throughout the service (even when singing and speaking) and observe physical distancing as much as possible.

The service will be live-streamed onto Facebook and a recording of the livestream will be available on YouTube later in the day.

The TV broadcast service will air at 9:30 A.M. on NBC and will be a pre-recorded, abbreviated video of the service offered live this Sunday.

Coffee Fellowship will be held in Fellowship Hall after the service.

Spring Forward!

Daylight Savings Time begins at 2:00 A.M. on Sunday, March 13th.

Remember to set your clocks one hour ahead on Saturday night.

Don't be late for church!



Input Needed

Your Church Growth & Vitality Board needs your input. There are some days that getting to church means grabbing your computer and bathrobe. Whether it's the weather, illness, or the couch is just too comfy, we want to make sure that folks who wish to, and are missing out on, the connection of Fellowship have

every possible opportunity to see their friends and faith community. To that end, we ask that you take a quick second to let us know if a simultaneous Zoom Fellowship directly after worship would be beneficial. **Please email or call Karen, Dick I, or Ashley and let us know if this is a yay or nay for you.** All feedback is welcomed and greatly appreciated!

Pie Social and Talent Show

The Fellowship Board is hosting a Pie Social and Talent Show on **April 8th at 6:30 P.M.** We need you to bring the talent! Pies are being provided. Sign-up sheets will be available for those planning to attend and for those willing to show off their skills. Please contact KimKay with any questions.



In Our Thoughts and Prayers



† **Holly** is continuing to recover at home from COVID. For the health and safety of others, she will return to the office when a COVID test is negative.



Family Promise

Greg Grosenick has been hired as full-time Executive Director of Family Promise of Great Falls as the program revamps its efforts to help homeless children and their parents land on their feet. It's an exciting time for the program that's going through "an entire reboot" with mostly new board members, expanded hours and a new trial residential program for families, Grosenick said. Cari Yturri, who served last year as Family Promise's Executive director as the program restarted after a one-year hiatus, will continue as the Development Director with the organization, drawing on her vast experience in marketing, fund-raising, and grant-writing.

Grosenick, who grew up in Great Falls, retired late last year From the Montana Air National Guard. As a Chief Master Sergeant at the MANG, he worked primarily with airmen and their families. He hopes to parlay the organizational and administrative skills he learned while working with MANG maintenance families to help homeless children and their parents succeed. "I still have a strong desire to serve and mentor others in our community," he said. Greg and his wife Tami are long time members of Bethel Lutheran Church, one of the founding churches of the local Family Promise Program. A few hundred families have passed successfully through the rotational model during the program's first five years, but it was placed on hold when COVID struck in 2020 because of health concerns for volunteers and the homeless families.

Last year, Family Promise started aiding families again at the program's office and day center, known as the "Hub", in the Central Christian Church at 1019 Central Ave. Homeless families were provided referral services and a safe place to stay a few hours, offering children's activities, snacks, showers, laundry facilities, computers and shuttle services. In mid-February, Family Promise launched a new static model called Promise Place Shelter, in which up to two homeless families at a time are accepted to live in a rented duplex for up to 90 days. The furnished duplex on the north side serves as a home while parents work jobs, complete training, and find permanent housing. The Promise Place Shelter Support Team is seeking continued support from volunteers and church congregations to supply hot meals to families residing in the duplex at 6:00 P.M. on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Family Promise also provides donated Food Bank food that the families can use to make other meals.

Support services will continue to be offered at the Hub in an expanded, 10:00 A.M.-4:00 P.M. timeframe. Family Promise is currently advertising a full-time Family Advocate position that will assist homeless families at the Hub and help them find programs to get their families back on track. In addition, the program is looking for volunteers to undergo training to serve at the Hub, providing daily help for families there, including shuttle driving.

For additional information, contact Family Promise at 406-564-5267 or send an email to Greg at gregg@familypromisegf.org.



Christian Education News

Children will begin in worship on Sunday, March 13. They will be dismissed for Sunday school after a children's message with Rev. Lynne. Because attendance is lower since the New Year, Sunday school will have a single class for children of all ages, rather than classes for older and younger kids. This week's Sunday school offering will be designated to support our sponsor child in the Philippines, VJ Antonette Benarao. The class will also begin a service project to collect items to make Easter baskets for about 15 members of our congregation. This week, children are asked to bring travel-sized tissue packs. The baskets will be assembled on Palm Sunday and delivered during Holy Week. Sunday school is a busy place!

Mark Your Calendars for Our Easter Celebrations

April 17, 2022

6:30 A.M. Sunrise Service

9:30 A.M. Traditional Easter Celebration





UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

*And now these three remain: faith, hope and love.
But the greatest of these is love. 1 Cor. 13:13*

Love Remains is the theme for this year's One Great Hour of Sharing Offering. One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS), sponsored by the Christian Service Board, is one of four special mission offerings of the United Church of Christ. This Lenten Offering supports the disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the United Church of Christ within Wider Church Ministries.

OGHS supports partners in countries with ministries that fund health, education and agricultural development, emergency relief, refugee ministries and both international and domestic disaster response. It is at work all year around, all around the world - sharing resources and changing lives. **This Lenten Offering will be collected throughout the month of March.** To make a donation through the church, please indicate "OGHS" on the memo line or in PayPal.

Easter Basket Ministry 2022

Once again this year, Sunday school is organizing an Easter Basket Ministry to provide Easter Baskets for about 15 older members of our congregation. Children and families are asked to bring the following items:

March 13: Travel-sized Tissue packs

March 20: Lip Balm

March 27: Hand Lotion (smaller size)

April 3: Cocoa Packets

April 10: Small Stuffed Easter Toy (usually available at Dollar Tree)

Other items for the baskets will include candy, tea, pens, notepads and snacks. Congregation members are welcome to participate, too! **Please contact Janet to find out what to bring!** Each year, it is so much fun to remember amazing members of our congregation and share with them the joy of Easter! Many thanks to all who help!

Upcoming Events

Monday, March 14

12:00 P.M. Joint Facilities Committee, Church Parlor

6:00 P.M. Business Affairs Board, Zoom

6:00 P.M. Christian Ed Board, Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, March 16

10:00 A.M. Bridge, Room 7

5:45 P.M. Handbell Rehearsal, Sanctuary

6:00 P.M. Youth Group, Youth Room

7:00 P.M. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

Thursday, March 17

12:30 P.M. Great Falls Ministerial Association, Church Parlor

Sunday, March 20

9:30 A.M. TV Worship, NBC

11:00 A.M. Worship, Sanctuary

3:00 P.M. Stewardship Board, Zoom

From **BREAD** and **CUP** to **FAITH** and **GIVING**.

Sneak Peek! “From BREAD and CUP to FAITH and GIVING.”

Whaddya think? Is it something that excites you? How about identify with? Maybe be curious about? All of the above and then some?

Good. You’re going to see a lot more of it this fall. It’s the theme the Stewardship Board has chosen for their Stewardship Campaign. AND.... The hope is that the rest of the church can get behind this theme, not just for stewardship but for every aspect of our life as the church, the body of Christ.

I’m very excited about this theme and its broad implications for us. It not only sets forth something for us to seek. It’s something that helps us reflect on what is already at hand. It draws us to connect what we do with who and whose we are. It sets us forth on a journey of faith that is a dynamic movement back and forth between responding to what we receive. It’s centered around the celebration of Holy Communion, the table of Christ, the gift of grace.

Rest with that for a while. It’s a thought that has the potential to shift the motivation of faith from “I want to be faithful so I can receive... love, peace, forgiveness, eternal life, wealth, health, etc.” to “I have received... love, peace, forgiveness, life (both mortal and eternal), etc.” From BREAD and CUP to FAITH and GIVING reminds us that discipleship is the faithful response to what we experience at the table.

Think about our services of Holy Communion. They always begin with an invitation that points out that the table is Christ’s. It doesn’t belong to the church. It’s not mine (although I am so humbled to serve at it!). The table to which we are invited and the meal that is offered there is a pure, no strings attached gift. There is nothing we can or need to do to “earn” our place at the table. There is nothing we can do that will result in us being turned away from the table.

The table is God’s great equalizer. None of us are any more or less valued at the table. We join with folks from all walks of life to receive what is offered. There are no cheap seats and no thrones. CEO’s and the unemployed are served the same gift of grace. Children and elders, single and wed and divorced and those who dwell together without marriage all have a place. Cis-gender, transgender, gay, straight, bi, and questioning are all invited to come just as they are. Folks from all ethnicities, cultures, races, in all shapes and sizes and abilities have a place at the table. The BREAD is blessed, broken and shared with everyone. The CUP of the new covenant is poured out for everyone.

And then.... We respond. In faith. With gratitude. In awe. With generosity. With compassion. With acceptance. With acts of justice. In ways of peace. We basically take all that welcomes us to the table and extend it to the world. From BREAD and CUP to FAITH and GIVING. Where do you see this already taking place through our mission and ministry?

Blessings to you all as we continue this journey of life and faith together.

Rev. Lynne

Happy March Birthday To:

Mae F.	6	Abigail D.	7
Jay T.	7	Brice A.	8
Sandor H.	9	Charley Marie G.	9
Jake N.	10	Heather L.	11
Liz T.	11	Mitch S.	12
Bill C.	14	Shannon A.	15
Katelyn E.	18	Nadine H.	18
Pete T.	18	Brian H.	19

