

Celebration of Ministries January 28, 2024

Please donate to our January Food Drive sometime during January if you are able. Your donation options have been provided elsewhere but, if you need additional information about that, please stop in the office or get in touch with Jane Kisselbach (janekisselbach@gmail.com; 406-531-6768). The two donation boxes (birthday kit donations and food items), previously available outside the office, have been moved to the narthex so please visit them there if you have items to donate. We appreciate your participation.



Boy Scout Sunday is February 4th and Troop 1919 would like to join the congregation for worship and celebrate with a potluck after church! They will bring chili and hope the congregation will join them in bringing sides and dessert! There will be a talent show and they want you to show off your talents!! They will also be selling their famous popcorn as a fundraiser for summer camps!

Free Virtual Winter Mission u Adult Study -- Sunday Afternoons
Dates/Times: February 4, 11, 18, 25 – 2:00 to 4:30 p.m. (MST)
A time for informal conversation will be offered from 1:45 to 2:00 p.m., just prior to each study session.

Study: *Finding and Building Peace in Anxious Times* - This study will offer spiritual tools and actions we can take to calm anxieties and to employ our faith to serve as peacemakers in anxious times.

Study Leader: The Rev. Su DeBree

To access the online registration form, please click on this link: [online registration](#).

Note: The “recommended readings list” on the registration form is only a suggestion. It is okay to not read any of the suggested reading; just come prepared to learn and share! **Questions?** Contact Belinda Alkula at Belinda.Alkula@gmail.com

Tzedakah Pocket Offers Hope

January has been a very busy month with many requests for lodging because of the cold weather. These requests are in addition to the requests we usually receive. We were able to respond because of your generosity and caring. We will continue to do our best with what we have. Thank you for supporting this ministry. It matters.



Tzedakah Summary

2024 Donations: \$1,149.68

2023 Donations: \$13,411.13

Assistance Paid	January 2024			Year - To - Date 2023		
	Amount	Fam.	Child.	Amount	Fam.	Child.
Lodging	\$ 926.32	3	3	\$ 3,769.78	22	16
Rent/ Sec. Dep.	\$ 0	0	0	\$ 1,770.00	7	12
Other	\$ 334.52	4	2	\$ 8,554.88	66	43
TOTAL	\$ 1,260.84	7	5	\$ 14,094.66	95	71

YWCA Women's Shelter Health Kits

Ruth Fellowship will assemble health kits for the YWCA. Please consider donating the following items and bringing them to the church. There is a box in the Narthex or you are welcome to drop the items in the church office. Items needed are sample sizes of shampoo, conditioner, lotion, deodorant, soap, washcloths, and towels, toothpaste, tooth brushes, dental floss, notepads and pens. Thank-you!



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Green Notes: United We Eat, First Church Celebrate Partnership - What a treat – and an amazing success story! About 50 members and friends of First UMC gathered after worship last Sunday for an international lunch catered by the refugee-chefs of United We Eat. Wow!

In celebration of our church's four-year partnership with UWE, Chef Oumar Keita from Guinea and the United We Eat team prepared salads, vegetarian and chicken entrees, a Guinean peanut brittle and Arabic coffee.

Oumar arrived in the United States in 2016 from Conakry, the capital of Guinea. He is a musician, the son of a ballet dancer who taught him how to sing and dance and tell stories. He's been cooking since he was 10 years old. In Guinean culture, sharing food with someone equalizes your relationship.

United We Eat has utilized First Church's commercial-grade kitchen since 2020, serving very popular weekly takeout meals prepared by chefs from 16 different countries who have resettled in Missoula in recent years.

Mary Poole, director of Soft Landings Missoula and UWE, told Sunday's lunch-goers that the chefs have served about 18,000 meals through the takeout program. (Customers order the meals online -- they sell out in about 15 minutes – then pick up the ready-to-eat dinners on Tuesday evenings.)

United We Eat has also sponsored three large welcoming dinners for refugees and immigrants in First UMC's fellowship hall. "It was amazing," Poole said, "to observe Muslims break the fast in the church, and sweep up sequins after the Afghan gathering."

The chefs have also held 18 virtual cooking classes in First Church's kitchen, sharing their knowledge with folks all across the nation. And in the process of all this hard work and food preparation, they've earned money for their families.

Sunday's event was sponsored by First UMC's Green Team, which works with United We Eat on a number of recycling and composting initiatives. Poole reported that the UWE kitchen has composted its food scraps for three years, diverting 2,700 pounds of waste from Missoula's landfill – and saved 123 gallons of gas because Soil Cycle picks up and hauls the compost on bicycles.

UWE has also started using compostable containers for its takeout meals, and 60 customers purchased reusable containers during an eight-week pilot program – keeping even more disposable containers out of the landfill. And First Church's Green Team collects and recycles UWE's cardboard (think large boxes used for canned goods and produce). We could always use your help with that effort!

We look forward to many more years of partnership and celebration with the amazing chefs and leaders of United We Eat. What an incredible gift they have given the Missoula community and our congregation. Thank you, Soft Landings and United We Eat. You are a blessing.



Prayer List for January 28, 2024



- ♦ Prayers for Bob M. who was able to have his heart surgery this week that had been postponed due to the bad weather.
- ♦ Prayers of strength and health for Randy P.'s grandson Ryan.
- ♦ Prayers for a successful surgery for Rocky A.'s sister-in-law Ann, who will have thoracic surgery Feb. 2nd.
- ♦ Prayers of comfort and peace for the family, friends, and Sentinel HS community of Logan J., who passed away recently in a car accident and whose funeral is this Saturday.
- ♦ Continued healing for Peg P. as she recovers from pneumonia.
- ♦ Prayers for George S.'s second cousin who is in need of a heart transplant.
- ♦ Prayers of courage for all of us to work to change what we believe is wrong.
- ♦ Continued prayers of recovery for Jim G., who had knee surgery.
- ♦ Prayers of peace and safety for the people in Gaza and Israel.



Lord in your Mercy...Hear our Prayers...

Please send your prayer requests in! E-mail Kathie Snodgrass at kathiewearsgreen@yahoo.com with your prayer requests. You can also email or call the office at 549-6118.