

Celebration of Ministries November 27, 2022



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Don't forget!
SHOEBOX MINISTRY
for the Blackfeet Parish, deadline Dec.2.

Laurie Ball has a list of suggested contents, 406-926-1252, or contact the church office at 406-549-6118.
** Bring your completed boxes to the church and mark on the box the age group and gender the present is for. Thank-you!!!

Ring in the Holidays at the Dec. 11 Handbell Concert

Ringers from the handbell choirs at First United Methodist and First Presbyterian churches will present a free, public holiday concert at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 11 in the First Church sanctuary. The concert will feature both individual pieces by the two choirs and three mass choir performances. The combined choirs will play "Christmas Fantasia," "Gloria Hodie" and "Change Ring Prelude on Divinum Mysterium."

First Church's JuBELLation Handbell Choir also will perform "Oh Holy Night," with a bell tree solo by Joann Wallenburn; "Parade of the Tin Soldiers;" and "The Holly and the Ivy."

Please join us in celebrating the Christmas season with this wonderful presentation of holiday songs performed by Missoula's most experienced handbell ringers. If you can't attend in person, First Church will broadcast the concert live on our Facebook page. Ring-a-ling!

It Takes a Village

They say it takes a village to raise a child but, at times, it also takes churches to work together to help those who need it. A woman stopped into First Presbyterian Church last week asking for assistance that no one church could provide. The woman's daughter and two young grandchildren lived in Florida. The daughter lost her job because a hurricane closed the restaurant where she worked and the family had been evicted. The woman has room for them here and the daughter has a guaranteed job here but they needed to get here first. The cost was over \$800 and the woman couldn't afford it. First Presbyterian and First United Methodist could but it took working together and using both church's assistance funds as well as other funds each pastor had at their disposal. This Thanksgiving we can think of this family, together in Missoula, and rejoice that we could be part of this miracle.



Scandinavian Market Place- Saturday, Dec. 3, 2022 from 9:00- 3:00 p.m. Sons of Norway Lodge, 55 US HWY 93

Homemade lefse, krumkake, sandbakkels, pepperkaker, rosettes, rosemaling, Nordic knitting, wheat weaving, hardanger, and other Nordic treats and crafts. Please join us!



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Many thanks to everyone who helped us complete our final Family Promise rotation of 2022 the week of November 14-20. We did it and we appreciate all you've done to help this year. The resident families we serve are under a lot of stress and serving them gives us a chance to interface with them and help as much as we can. You do make a difference.

Dec 1 General meeting for UWF will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 1:30 for our Annual Christmas party. This will be a hybrid meeting, with Vespers serving as hostesses and Pastor Daniels giving the program. All women of the church are invited.



John Floridis concert to benefit MIC

Missoula Interfaith Collaborative

MTPR *Musicians' Spotlight* host, guitar stylist and singer-songwriter **John Floridis**, percussionist **Ed Stalling**, and cellist **Jennifer Slayden**, perform for J-FLO's annual and wonderful ticket-free **Winter Concert**.

Donations are encouraged to benefit all MIC programs: Family Promise, the Housing Advocate Network, Missoula Works, and Common Good Missoula.

Please come and enjoy the spirit of the season.



**Sunday,
December 18,
7:00 PM,
Missoula 1st
United
Methodist
Church**

Our Peace Vigil continues and just to clarify, members of our congregation and community are invited to stop by just to light a candle, or to stay for a few minutes of quiet in the middle of a busy day, or a difficult week (we all have those!). The sanctuary is open for an hour, but only the volunteer monitors need to stay for the entire hour. Are you interested in knowing what a Vigil monitor does? You're invited to stay after church this week or next Sunday, Dec. 4 for a short Q&A to find out. Meet up front near the altar.



Join UMC's Glass Recycling Program Today!



Forty-five First Church families and friends are now recycling glass in the big gray bins located just off the alley, in the yard next door to the main church building.

More importantly, we are actively keeping glass out of Missoula's landfill – and reducing the energy and emissions used to produce new glass.

And we're supporting a local company: Recycling Works picks up our glass every other week. This great company works with churches across the city through a program sponsored by Missoula Interfaith Collaborative. The glass we collect is reused by businesses in Salt Lake City that make decking, road construction material, insulation, and new bottles and jars.

Our program accepts all colors and types of glass. Just rinse out the bottle or jar, remove the lid or cork, and deposit it in one of our recycling bins. The cost is \$5 per family per month. Write your check to the church and mark "glass recycling" in the memo line.

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What is Your Vision for Missoula?

A future with affordable housing for every budget in Missoula? A more “climate smart” Missoula? Quality of life in accessible neighborhoods for all persons? What do you care about?



The City of Missoula is proposing, in their “Our Missoula” project, to re-write our growth policy vision and zoning code for Missoula. In partnership with Common Good Missoula (CGM) City planners will launch this project at a “Civic Academy,” the evening of Tuesday, December 13. It is a two-year process that is launching at a time when much is at stake – housing, our growing climate crisis, quality of life issues revealed and/or engendered by the pandemic, and more.

“This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity,” stated Lisa Davey, CGM’s Lead Organizer. She goes on to describe the partnership with the City as “mold-breaking,” and emphasizes that: “This is a chance to lay the groundwork and come in at the beginning of the process to provide input in order to be able to do the transformational justice and resiliency work so many of us want to see happen.”

And it truly is a “once-in-a-generation” opportunity. What emerges from this process will impact Missoula’s future for years to come, and far into the impacts of climate change. Here’s your chance to be a part of forging that vision and those policy goals.

Intrigued? Are you ready to dive in and be part of the two-hour Civic Academy, on Tuesday, December 13? Or at least want to know more. Contact Joe Loos, joeloos7245@gmail.com

(406) 721-5013 or

Lisa Davey at Common Good: lisa@micmt.org

Tzedakah Pocket Offers Hope

We made it through 2022 in the black, although sometimes just barely. Thanks to all of you and the UM Foundation for making this possible. We have helped a lot of people so please donate if you can. The need right now is great.

A recap of assistance provided by our church’s Tzedakah Pocket ministry is shown below.



Tzedakah Summary

2022 Donations: \$10,813.12

Assistance Paid	November 2022			Year- To- Date 2022		
	Amount	Fam	Child	Amount	Fam	Child
<i>Lodging</i>	\$ 80.79	1	0	\$ 1,905.57	18	28
<i>Rent/ Sec. Dep.</i>	\$ 0	0	0	\$ 1,745.00	11	24
<i>Other</i>	\$ 420.90	5	8	\$ 8,618.84	69	91
TOTAL	\$ 501.69	6	8	\$ 12,269.41	98	143

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Green Notes: Don't Be Discouraged by Snow on Solar Panels

If you looked at the computer monitor in the Narthex last Sunday, you saw that our church's new solar panels produced lots of electricity – more than we used – from their activation on Oct. 11 through Nov. 6. Then came the snow, ice and freezing temperatures.

Since then, the 66 panels have not generated power because they've been covered in a layer of snow and ice, and cloudy days and sub-32-degree temperatures have thwarted melting.

The sharp drop in production shown by the SolarEdge graphic prompted more than one onlooker to ask: "Is this what we expected?"

The short answer is "yes." In Missoula, winter brings a steep decline in solar production. But the remainder of the year provides so much sunshine that our system will produce more electricity than we consume each day – enough that we'll send power onto NorthWestern Energy's grid and "bank" those megawatts for colder months.

Even with winter's chill – in temperature and power production – First Church still will see 80% of its annual electrical needs provided by the solar installation atop our roof.

This week, we reached out to SBS Solar to relay the congregation's concern when the snowy weather shut down our power production. We got this helpful response from general manager Ralph Walters:

"At this time of year (normally later, I don't recall it getting and staying this cold this early for a long time), when the panels are covered with snow, they don't produce. As soon as it warms up just a little and the sun peeks out, the panels on the sloped roof will likely clean themselves off and start producing. But the panels on the flat roof might stay snow covered for the rest of the winter – unlikely but it's possible."

"The important thing to remember is that the church's system was designed with our seasonal weather in mind.

The system's production forecast and bill offset all take into account the likelihood of little to no winter production. I know it's kind of a bummer, but it is the nature of the special place we all call home."

So while it's discouraging to see a sharp drop in power production coinciding with this extended stretch of cold, snowy weather, it was expected. And, as Ralph Walters said in his note, it's all part of living in Montana.

We've just got to hang in there. The sun will shine again, the snow and ice will melt, and those solar panels will get back to work generating electricity!



Prayer list for November 27, 2022



Virginia.

- Prayers of safe travels for all those traveling during this holiday weekend.
- Prayers of comfort for those affected by the mass shooting at a LGBTQ nightclub in Colorado that killed 5 and injured 20.
- Prayers of comfort for those affected by the mass shooting at the Walmart in Virginia.
- Prayers of comfort for the family and friends of the Idaho students who were killed.
- Prayers of strength and courage for Ukrainians, who are heading into a harsh winter with power outages.
- Prayers of comfort for the family and friends of Jeff M. who passed away from a sudden illness while on a trip in Africa with his wife Cheryl. Prayers for his wife Cheryl during this difficult time.
- Prayers of comfort for the family and friends of Clarene D. who passed away surrounded by family.
- Prayers of healing and strength for Nancy E.'s sister as she recovers from heart surgery.

- Prayers for a rapid recovery for Laurie's brother who injured his back trying to move tree branches and will be in a back brace for 12 weeks.
- Continued prayers of strength and comfort for Donna S.
- Prayers for Ellie who has suffered a hairline fracture on her femur bone and is recovering in a rehab center.
- Prayers of comfort and healing for Klairaine who is now recovering at home from a stroke.

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.