

TOWER TIDINGS

OCTOBER 2026

The Ninety-Second Epistle of John – “The Power of Showing Up”
10-1-2026

It happens regularly. I knock on a door; an individual opens the door; usually they register a bit of surprise or a bit of uncertainty, quickly followed by an invitation for me to enter their habitation (unless I have interrupted them in the middle of something – which sometimes happens!). What usually follows is the very humbling privilege and honor I feel when those individuals open their lives a bit to their pastor – we talk of everything from the lightness of the weather and sports to the heaviness of recent diagnoses or painful loss. In all of these cases – without exception – I feel the tremendous blessing of these souls who partner with me and so many others in trying to figure life out Jesus-style. The experiences they talk about and the significance they’ve interpreted out of them provide invaluable encouragement to my own faith journey and my own life’s interpretation – and I have found that my life gains a degree of objective clarity when I place my own experiences into that mix. I have always found that I gain a clearer sense of who I am by discovering who others are from their own perspective; and I find the same gain with regard to what’s most important in life overall.

In any event, even as the richness I experience in my pastoral visits feeds my soul and informs my journey in so many ways, I find myself somewhat speechless as I exit those households with the ones I am visiting surprising me by thanking me for coming – and sometimes stating what a difference my visit has made. There’s a strong part of me that wishes to protest their gratitude, however, because what I have shared seems so inconsequential compared to the invaluable testimonies and heartfelt realities they have shared with me – after all, most of what I do in my visitation is listen (unless I get into a sermon topic – a job hazard to be certain!) and listening is all about stilling oneself in order to pay another fuller



✙ **October 4, 2026**
19th Sunday after Pentecost
Exodus 20:1-14, 7-9, 12-20
Psalms 19 (UMH 750)
Philippians 3:4b-14
Matthew 21:35-46

✙ **October 11, 2026**
20th Sunday after Pentecost
Exodus 32:1-14
Psalms 106:1-6, 10-23
(UMH 829)
Philippians 4:1-9
Matthew 22:1-14

✙ **October 18, 2026**
21st Sunday after Pentecost
Exodus 33:12-23
Psalms 99 (UMH 819)
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
Matthew 22:15-22

✙ **October 25, 2026**
22nd Sunday after Pentecost
Deuteronomy 34:1-12
Psalms 90:1-6, 13-17
(UMH 809)
1 Thessalonians 2:1-8
Matthew 22:34-46

The reason I've learned not to protest is that I realize that there is something bigger going on than the sharing of their lives with me and me taking in what they are sharing, and both parties are equally gracious in its provision. It is the invaluable gift of intentional presence, regardless of what is going on or what is shared. I think of it as intentional in that both parties have identified that the presence of the other is beneficial, somehow adding to the value of their moment or their sense of meaning. It is the power of presence – not the words that we share or the actions we perform – that is the beginning of any relationship, any joint venture, any fellowship that moves us into the deeper territory of socialization and interdependence we humans need not only to survive but thrive on this earth – and showing up for each other is its most basic and honest form.

This holds true regardless of what issues have people coming together. The power of presence is very notable these days as we watch unprecedented protests rally people against the horrific injustices our world is presently producing; from No Kings rallies to ICE detention center sit-ins to Israeli-initiated anti-war protests to our own United Methodist Federation for Social Action advocacies. These and many, many other efforts keep the hope for a better world alive, especially in the midst of so much death and destruction. They help sharpen our focus on the vision God has for the world, a vision God invites to become our own through mutual reinforcement and encouragement.

Anthropologist Margaret Mead once said that we should "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." I believe that Jesus said the same thing in many ways, most notably that "whenever two or three of you come together in my name, there I am in their midst." It is the basic principle of an effective church – that we do things together in the spirit and manner of Jesus. And I think the same holds true for our world – that we only make worthwhile progress as we do things together. It is our togetherness as a species, beyond national boundaries or cultural differences or even religious parameters, that holds the greatest hope for the world, a particular togetherness in the spirit and manner of what Jesus represented: mutual respect, gracious interaction, speaking truth to power, and recognizing the sacred in us all. And I believe such emphases speak to all rational beings as stepstones towards a better world.

I intend to keep showing up in these ways, for each other and the world as a whole, and I hope you will, too. We know through our faith that our own lives depend upon the ways we show up for each other; but so does our world.

God's Grace Be With You,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John Daniel". The script is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline that extends across the signature.

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH**Inspiration Tool Box**

“Don’t underestimate the power of fresh air, naps, cookies and hugs.” - Dr. Sara Kubric



All women of our church - all ages - are invited to join as many of the rest of us who gather for lunch October 15 at 11:30 at PLAZA AZTECA 3515 Brooks St. Expect excellent Mexican dishes and lively conversation with friends.

Ruth Fellowship meets October 8th, Thursday at 10:00 am in the Kay Duffield library. Ruth is interested in fellowship, a monthly program and outreach to church members who need a little TLC. For October 8th, Nanci Reed will give the devotions, and Cathy Kemmis will be the hostess. The program will be sharing summer activities with each other.

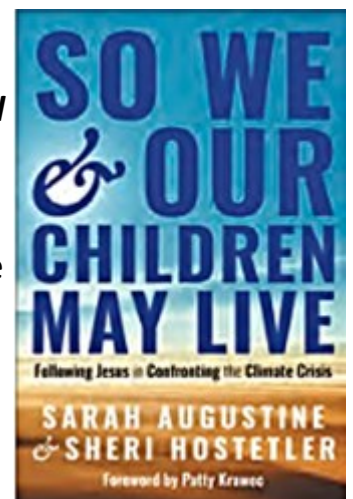
GEMS -Thursday Oct. 15, 6 p.m. in the Kay Duffield Memorial Library to finish up our Fellowship Hall activity. New Members always welcome! Contact Tish at 370-6572.

Vespers will meet October 21st at 1:30 in the Rosaire's Coffee Shop. All are welcome to attend contact, Joanie or Elaine for more info.

Looking Ahead

Sunday, November 15 following worship service in the Fellowship Hall, we will enjoy a Gratitude Harvest Fest for the entire church. This potluck is sponsored by United Women in Faith and the Stewardship Team. Mark your calendars! Questions? Contact Kathie Snodgrass, 406-531-1569.

The UWF Bookie Ladies will be meeting again on October 27 in the church's Kay Duffield library at 11 a.m. Our October book is ***So We and Our Children May Live: Following Jesus in Confronting the Climate Crisis***, by Sarah Augustine & Sheri Hostetler. There's actually a study guide for this one available at bit.ly/may-live-study-guide. If you'd like to join our discussion about the book, you can borrow it from the UWF shelf or the city library or get it on your Nook or Kindle. If it sounds interesting, but you don't have time to read the book, feel free to join us anyway!



Tzedakah Pocket Offers Hope

We made it through another summer thanks to your contributions. We were able to help several people in need this month which is the intent of this ministry. Each person and family we helped was very grateful for the assistance.

A summary of assistance provided by our church's Tzedakah Pocket Ministry for the month of September 2026 and Year to Date 2026 is shown to the right. We help whenever we can with as much as we can. Please continue to donate whenever you are able. We can, and do, make a difference for those who come to us for assistance.



Tzedakah Summary

2026 Donations: \$9,418.53

Assistance Paid	September 2026			Year to Date 2026		
	Amount	Fam	Child.	Amount	Fam	Child.
<i>Lodging</i>	\$ 0	0	0	\$ 2,014.12	8	4
<i>Rent/ Sec. Dep.</i>	\$ 318.00	1	2	\$ 2,269.00	11	19
<i>Other</i>	\$ 205.00	2	2	\$ 5,032.78	50	46
TOTAL	\$ 523.00	3	4	\$ 9,315.90	69	69

A Room to rent for our Afghan refugee

The young Afghan woman refugee our congregation has sponsored is seeking a more affordable place to live with lower rent, to help her start professional training. She is 30 years old, working full-time in Missoula and living near her employment. She is a legal resident with green card and has no trouble from current immigration enforcement. As her "American grandparents," the Drop-by-Drop team at First United Methodist Church will continue to help her navigate her adjustment to living in Missoula.

Renting a room in a private home with a bath and kitchen privileges would help her save money for further professional training, and continue supporting her mother and 3 sisters left behind in Afghanistan. If you or someone you know is interested, please call Jana, [406-721-5558](tel:406-721-5558) or John [406-396-8966](tel:406-396-8966).



First, I want to thank you for all of the ribbon, water etc. that you have been so gracious to supply for the Sunday School/Nursery Lessons.

I am down to the last 4 lessons and need: chopsticks, rubber bands, sand paper, wood scraps, scraps of fabric, pompoms (multi color), index cards, and 5-1/4 inch binders (different colors).

Save the Day for the Christmas Play!

It is on December 13, this year. Every year it is a little different. We have some very talented children that we will be highlighting this year. Hope to see you in church on December 13.

Thank you, Cindy



Good news from our Cub Pack 4911!

The Pack has nine new cubs joining this fall and is thriving. Our Scout Troop is also growing!



Fall is quickly approaching and we know that calendars are going to start to fill up! Please mark your calendars for our Fall Bingo Fundraiser which will be at the ZACC this year on Sunday, October 11th. Bingo & Raffles Prizes galore! Stay tuned for details! If you have an interest in becoming a sponsor, donating bingo prizes, or donating raffle prizes, please email office@emmausmontana.org.

Church Pledges and Donations

The donation page via the Breeze website can be found at:

<https://firstumcmissoula.breezechms.com/give/online>

Designate where your donation goes when donating an online by using the dropdown menu below the donation amount.

You can also donate via text message: (406) 998-1982 include donation amount and a keyword like "Pledge" or "Building".

Mail in donations are also welcome.

Contact:

Leslie Uhlenbruck,

Financial Secretary

First United Methodist Church

P.O. Box 7646

Missoula, MT 59807-7646

CONTACT OUR OFFICE

Weekday Hours

Monday-Thursday 9-12

Phone: 406- 549-6118

E-Mail: FUMCmissoula@gmail.com

Website: www.firstumcmissoula.org

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/1stumcmissoula

Instagram:

<https://www.instagram.com/missoula1stumc/>

PASTOR JOHN

Office: Available Monday-Friday

By phone: 406-549-6118 or
406-396-8966 (cell)

E-Mail: john@FUMCmissoula.com

Hospital visits: Please call John or the office if you know of someone in the hospital. **Home visits:** upon request.

CHURCH STAFF

John Daniels, *Pastor*

Catherine Thomsen, *Administrative Assistant*

Cheryl Bauer, *Administrative Assistant Sub*

Jim Bauer, Carol Davis, Cara Lightfield.

Office Volunteers

Leslie Uhlenbruck, *Financial Secretary*

Larry Chase, *Treasurer*

Craig Gohl, *Custodian*

Greg Boris, *Chancel Choir Director*

Jason Triche, *Hand Bell Choir Director*

Luke Larson, *Organist and Pianist*

Cindy Ekstrand, *Sunday School Director*

Lily Scott, *Nursery Attendant*

Deadline for November 2026

October 20

FUMC Stewardship Campaign 2026!

2027 FUMC Stewardship Campaign Launches on October 18 and Concludes with Celebration on November 15.

The 2027 Stewardship Campaign for the FUMC Budget and Building Fund will kick off on Sunday, October 18 in the Fellowship Hall after church. A meal is being planned! Beyond the 18th, campaign activities will occur on Sundays, October 25 and November 8. Mid-week updates may also be available via Zoom and in-person at the church. The campaign concludes on Sunday, November 15 with the return of pledge cards during worship and a celebration combined with the United Women of Faith's, "Gratitude Harvest Fest Potluck" in the Fellowship Hall after church.

This campaign will help us reflect on why we are committed to the mission and ministry of our church, explore our hopes and dreams for the future, and discover how we can help create that future. This will be fun! We will enjoy great Methodist singing, fine fellowship, and good food along the way!



October 18 - Campaign Kick off in Fellowship Hall plus meal

October 25 - Campaign Activity/Workshop - Fellowship Hall

November 8 - Campaign Activity/Workshop - Fellowship Hall

November 15 - Stewardship Celebration and Gratitude Harvest Fest Potluck



There are a couple of slots left in October, if you have been thinking about helping make sack lunches for the Pov. November and December slots will be opening up very soon. Please contact Lorraine Carlson if you would like a chance to fill one of them. The email address is madamecarlson@gmail.com Thank you so much for choosing to provide our hungry neighbors with a nutritious lunch.

NEED GRIZ FOOTBALL GAME DAY PARKING?

Park at Emmaus Campus Ministry
and support Emmaus students!!

Located just across the street from the University, off of Arthur Ave

\$175 PER PARKING SPOT FOR ALL 7
2026 HOME GAMES!

PARKING DONATIONS WILL GO DIRECTLY TO
EMMAUS FOR PROPERTY MAINTENANCE AND
UPGRADES TO STUDENT HOUSING!

For Questions or To Sign Up, Email office@emmausmontana.org







IN OUR PRAYERS...

~PRAYERS~

- ✚ A good resolution for the care needs of Cheryl's friend Linda in Las Vegas, who needs memory care but doesn't understand.
- ✚ Continued comfort and peace for Phyllis W. as she remains stable in hospice care.
- ✚ Guidance for the UWF leadership team as they begin planning for 2027, and hope that other women will join in the work and fellowship of UWF.
- ✚ Healing for Nick's mom, who broke her knee.
- ✚ Safety and comfort for all affected by violence in this world.
- ✚ That Fred will find a new job soon.

~HEALING AND COMFORT~

- ✚ Comfort for all who were grieving on the 25th anniversary of 9/11.
- ✚ Comfort for Pastor John's brother-in-law Rob P and his family in the passing of Rob's father.
- ✚ Prayers for the passing of Mary M. last Tuesday, Sept. 22 and comfort for her family.



~THANKSGIVING~

- ✚ Joy for Barry P's birthday September 20th.
- ✚ Thanksgiving for the kid's message and sermon reminding us that God's interest is in what people need, not what's "fair", and hope that those running our Government will have a change of heart and operate as God would want us to.
- ✚ Thanksgiving that Nick's surgery went well, and hope for a quick recovery.
- ✚ Thanksgiving that Rocky A' daughter Michi and her dog Samwise are safely at home in Pennsylvania.
- ✚ Thanksgiving that Shelly's papa is visiting to help with the kids while Nick's laid up.



Green Notes: New Missoula Group Focuses on Green Investing

Remember our great potluck and discussion last winter about sustainable investing practices? Are you among the folks who left the session interested in continuing the conversation?

If so, you're in luck! Our experts, Michael Wood and Keith Fichtner of Missoula's Families for a Livable Climate, are compiling an email list of local people who want to put their investments to work making the world a greener place.

Their new Sustainability-Based Investing Working Group is – in Wood's words – “a small group of people who envision a world in which financial investment is universally viewed as a powerful tool for improving environmental and social conditions while earning a competitive return.”

The group will pursue four main goals:

1. Assess the current demand for sustainability-based investing within three interrelated groups of Montanans, individual investors, our business community and financial advisors/managers.
2. Develop tools and resources that address this demand.
3. Offer ongoing educational opportunities via public and private presentations, webinars and workshops.
4. Generally advocate for sustainability-based investing in all areas and aspects of financial investment in Montana.

To that end, Wood is compiling an email list of “interested persons” to help him get the word out about upcoming activities, and to solicit ideas and opportunities from interested folks across Montana. “As an outgrowth of our events and activities, we are hoping to generate a network through which people can communicate, cross-pollinate and otherwise collaborate around sustainability based investing,” Wood said.

Interested? Even just a bit? Email Michael Wood and let him know you'd like to be added to his no-obligation list of Montanans who want to know more and do more to invest their money in sustainable, socially responsible ways. He's mwood3211@gmail.com . Get involved! Go green! Put your beliefs into action.

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Facebook: www.facebook.com/1stumcmissoula

Instagram:

<https://www.instagram.com/missoula1stumc/>

Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

October Events

October 4: World Communion Sunday

October 8: Ruth Fellowship, 10:00am, Library

October 11: Fall Bingo Fundraiser Emmaus at ZACC

October 15: All FUMC Women's lunch, 11:30am Azteca Plaza

October 15: GEMS, 6:00pm, Library

October 18: JuBellation Bell Choir, Sunday Service

October 21: Vespers, 1:30pm, Rosaire's Coffee Shop

October 27: UWF Book Ladies, 11:00am, Library



Looking Ahead

November 15: Gratitude Harvest Fest Potluck, 11:30, Fellowship Hall

December 13: Children's Christmas Play

Weekly Events via Zoom and in person

Sunday Worship: Worship 10:00 a.m. and via Zoom. (recordings on Facebook or the church website).

Sunday School: During the worship service in the Nursery for kids age 4 and up.

Tuesday: Pastor John's Tuesday class 10:00 a.m. via Zoom. All are welcome! Please contact the office for the Zoom link.

Wednesday: Lectionary Bible Class 10:00 a.m. in the Library. Contact Rev. Barry Padget at barryumc@yahoo.com for more information. All are welcome to attend!