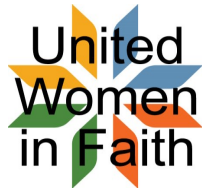


GEMS Circle Meeting - Feb 20th

GEMS Circle's next meeting will be Feb 20. We will discuss options for spending our nearly \$400 Lisa Jackson Memorial fund.

If you wish to add to that fund or have suggestions, please contact Tish at 406-370-6572.



Scripture Readers Needed

We are looking for Scripture Readers for worship services in the months of February and March. Please sign up in the Narthex for the date that works best for you. Thanks!



Sunday School Needs Your Help!

One of the crafts the children are working on in Sunday School requires egg cartons. If you can bring in egg cartons that store a dozen eggs that would be wonderful. Please drop them off at Sunday school room or drop them off at the church office.

Sunday School is in need of Teachers and Assistant Teachers. We are short 2 Teachers and 1 Assistant.

A Teacher teaches the lesson. The lesson, with most items needed, is already planned. As one of our Teachers put it "I feel guilty because all I really need to do is look over the lesson and be there on Sunday to teach." Our Assistant Teacher supports the Teacher by helping the students.

We need 2 adults in the Sunday School room because we are a Safe Gatherings Church. That being said, all of our adults who work with children need to have completed Safe Gatherings training.

When we are fully staffed, our Teachers and Assistant Teachers work once a month. Please consider helping out in Sunday School.

If you're interested, contact Cindy Ekstrand at 775-560-3381 or call the church office at 406-549-6118. Thank You!

New to FUMC? In February you can:

- ✓ Bring in treats for Fellowship Hour! - please call the office at 406-549-6118 or put in small kitchen freezer!
- ✓ Help make POV sandwiches on Saturdays. Contact Lorraine Carlson at madamecarlson@gmail.com to get on the schedule!

First UMC January 2025 Food Drive (NOTE: Extended through February)

January is our month to support the Missoula Food Bank. The continuing Covid presence, inflation, and the fallout from them continue to increase the need for donations to the Food Bank. They also make it a challenge for us to do our January Food Drive but we have always come through and supported our community. We are offering you as many donation options as we possibly can under the circumstances. If you are able, please help us do our part to ensure food security for households in our community. Whatever option you choose, please make your donations of food and/or funds sometime during January.

Option 1: Use the 2025 Food-by-the-Case Order Form (will be in the January Tower Tidings) to order a case of food through the Orange Street Market. Most needed items will be identified by the Food Bank and shown on the form with the current price per case. The completed form and your check can be mailed to Missoula First UMC, P.O. Box 7646, Missoula MT 59807 or dropped off at the office during office hours (9-12; Monday-Thursday). Please make your check out to First UMC and put “Food Bank” in the memo line. The office will have extra forms if you need them.

Option 2: Make a monetary donation and let the Food Bank buy what they need at wholesale prices. Donations can be mailed to Missoula First UMC, P.O. Box 7646, Missoula MT 59807 or dropped off at the office during office hours (9-12; Monday -Thursday). You can also give online. If you mail a check, please make your check to First UMC and put “Food Bank” in the memo line. For online donations, please select the “Missoula Food Bank” option from the designated giving options.

Option 3: Place your food donations in the container located outside the church office. If you are not able to enter the church, you may either buzz the office during office hours when you are at the back door or call the office (406-549-6118) during office hours for entry to make your donation. Office hours are Monday through Thursday from 9 to 12.

Birthday Kits: Our Sunday School will once again assemble the birthday Kits for us this year. They will need cake mixes, frosting, candles, cake decorations, party plates/napkins, plastic forks, gift bags, and tin foil pans. Place your donation items in the “birthday-wrapped” container outside the office. As you can imagine, the Birthday kits are very popular at the Food Bank.

Questions: Please contact Jane Kisselbach (janekisselbach@gmail.com or 406-531-6768)

Celebration of Ministries Feb. 2, 2025

Reaching Out in Love

Green Notes: Action! Action! Get Involved!

“We the people of Montana grateful to God for the quiet beauty of our state, the grandeur of our mountains, the vastness of our rolling plains, and desiring to improve the quality of life, equality of opportunity and to secure the blessings of liberty for this and future generations do ordain and establish this constitution.”

Preamble to the 1972 Montana Constitution

Two members of First Church’s Green Team were among about 200 Montanans who gathered last week for Climate Advocacy Day at the 2025 Legislature.

Carole Addis and Joe Loos made the trek to Helena, where speakers from Montana’s tribes and several environmental groups urged attendees to let their voices be heard throughout the legislative session. “We were privileged to hear great speakers, many of whom were Indigenous, who emphasized our shared connection to this beautiful state,” Addis said. “We are all a part of nature and it is our duty to take care of the world around us.”

Considerable attention was given to a bill – HB 229 – that would amend the Montana Environmental Policy Act to enforce the ruling in *Held v. Montana* – the landmark climate lawsuit filed by young people from across the state, asserting their constitutional right to “a clean and healthful environment.” The bill eliminates a previous prohibition on evaluating greenhouse gas emissions in environmental reviews, forcing state agencies to consider climate impacts in those reviews.

The 2025 session is the first time the Legislature has met since the Montana Supreme Court upheld the Held decision. First Church was one of the congregations that signed an amicus brief with the court, supporting the young litigants. Addis said that while activists were in Helena, the House Natural Resources Committee heard House Bill 229, proposed by Representative Debo Powers. The bill would revise “the Montana Environmental Policy Act to implement the Montana Supreme Court’s decision in Held v. State of Montana and eliminate the prohibition on evaluating greenhouse gas emissions.”

Every speaker during the Advocacy Day encouraged all Montanans to speak up throughout the session, as their voices are powerful. You can contact Montana state legislators by:

Calling: The Legislative Information Desk at (406) 444-4800 during the session.

Mailing: Send a letter to the legislator's address. Representative [name], P.O. Box 200400, Helena, MT 59620-0400. OR Senator [name], P.O. Box 200500, Helena, MT 59620-0500.

Faxing: Fax the legislator at (406) 444-4862.

Submitting written comments: Use the Public Participation icon on the Montana Legislature website to submit a written comment to a committee or legislators. You can also visit the [Montana Legislature website](#) to: Find a legislator, learn more about your legislators and pending legislation, and research legislators and issues.

Meeting in person: Meet with the legislator in person. Get together with a group of friends and spend a day or two in Helena during the session, watching proceedings, testifying at bill hearings and talking one-on-one with lawmakers.



Celebration of Ministries - February 2, 2025

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 will be a box in the Narthex before church services or you can bring items to the church office. Here's what items are needed:

Hotel sized Soap, Shampoo, Conditioner, and Lotions

Combs and/or Brushes

Disposable Razors

Deodorant

Toothpaste/toothbrushes/Toothbrush Covers/Dental Floss

Note Pads and Pens (not personalized)



First Church's Office Complex for Lease

First Church's office complex at 320 E. Main St. is for lease. We need your help in spreading the word to organizations and businesses that might be hunting for a new home.

The building offers many amenities: two stories with five-plus offices (could easily be eight), two bathrooms, work rooms and waiting areas, and a basement with safe storage space. The 2,700 square feet-plus provides ample room to meet an organization's staff and customer/client needs.

Parking is available in front of the building, and four dedicated spaces in the alley. Tenants also will appreciate the property's high-visibility street frontage across from the former Missoula Public Library building. A bus stop is out front. There's bicycle parking, and easy walking to downtown businesses and the university. A main-floor entrance ramp provides access for all.

Spread the word! Interested parties can contact First United Methodist Church for more information or a tour of the building: 406-549-6118 or fumcmissoula@gmail.com.

10 Ways to Stay Grounded for the Next 4 Years

Feeling a bit rattled these days? Sojourners Magazine has given us permission to share their article about 10 ways to take care of our souls and be effective witnesses to Jesus' teachings. Central to being grounded is joining with trusted others; our congregation comes together weekly to be just that resource. Here is the link:

<https://sojo.net/magazine/januaryfebruary-2025/10-ways-stay-grounded-during-trump-s-second-term>

Please read and print if you wish; we will have some copies in the Narthex as well.

Tzedakah Pocket Offers Hope

January presented us with opportunities to keep several families with children in their homes by helping with rent payments. These families were overjoyed and expressed their relief and gratitude for our help. We were also able to pay for temporary lodging for some individuals in need as well as help with a few other expenses for some individuals in need. We have certainly made a difference in these lives. Of course, there are some we couldn't help at all because their needs were too great and/or we are not equipped to handle their situations. That always hurts, but all we can do is say prayers for them and we do. Providing this support would not be possible if it weren't for the generosity and caring of our congregation, our church faith groups, and our Foundation. May God bless you all.

A recap of assistance provided by our church's Tzedakah Pocket ministry for the month of January and year-end 2024 is shown below. We help whenever we can with as much as we can. Please continue to donate whenever you are able. Together we make a difference for those who come to us for assistance.



Tzedakah Summary

2025 Donations: \$1,298.27

2024 Donations: \$16,131.03

Assistance Paid	January 2025			Year– End 2024		
	Amount	Fam.	Child.	Amount	Fam.	Child.
<i>Lodging</i>	\$ 224.00	2	0	\$ 3,769.78	22	16
<i>Rent/ Sec. Dep.</i>	\$ 1,739.00	4	9	\$ 1,770.00	7	12
<i>Other</i>	\$ 251.00	3	3	\$ 8,554.88	66	43
<i>TOTAL</i>	\$ 2,214.00	9	12	\$ 14,094.66	95	71

Prayer List for February 2, 2025



- ◆ Strength for Keith and Laurie B. as they prepare to move to TX to be closer to a son and his family.
- ◆ Prayers for Jim and Cheryl B.'s dog Sydney - that the mass found is treatable.
- ◆ Joy that Nancy H. and Emerson F. were both able to attend worship service.
- ◆ Prayers of healing for Colleen N. hospitalized after a fall.
- ◆ Prayers of joy that Rod P. has been at work for a week with no leg pain. Looks like the old break is completely healed.
- ◆ Thanksgiving from Johnathan, a homeless vet, that our congregation evidences that God is still working in our world.
- ◆ Prayers that the family of JoAnn's husband's nephew, who survived a stroke but is imprisoned, will be led to know how to help him.
- ◆ Prayers for strength and comfort for Pastor John's brother's wife's family as her brother Eric passed away unexpectedly.
- ◆ Joy that Paul finds God's spirit bright in our church and that he has found a place to stay.
- ◆ Prayers that our state legislature will be inspired to enact legislation, such as the continuation of Medicaid Expansion, that will help those least able to help themselves.
- ◆ Prayers of hope that *all* of our Afghan refugee family members will be able to come to the USA.
- ◆ Prayers of joy that the oldest daughter of our refugee family, who worked directly with the USA before the Taliban takeover, has an exemption from our President's immigration ban and should arrive in Missoula soon.
- ◆ Joy that President Biden commuted indigenous activist Leonard Peltier's life sentence to house arrest. Peltier is now 80 years old and in poor health. Healing and grace for Leonard Peltier as he returns home to family and friends after 50 years of incarceration.
- ◆ Courage and strength for Fred R. who lost his job. May he find a new employment soon.

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.