

Celebration of Ministries April 7, 2024



Family Promise Giving Day is coming up on April 11th. Giving Day is a 24-hour online campaign to raise awareness and funds to support families across America experiencing

homelessness. Join us to help families in crisis find a place to call home! All donations will go to Family Promise of Missoula to support our work here in Missoula. Link to information about giving day can be found at www.familypromisemissoula.org/ Donations will be accepted April 11th - 18th.

Thank you so very much to all who so graciously gave of their time and energy to create such a delicious breakfast feast for last Sunday's Jubilee fundraiser!! A huge Thanks to the Men's Group, who has made this event happen for so many years by 'manning' the kitchen early on Easter morning! And thank you to all who brought their delightful and delicious offerings from home and to those who stayed to do the clean-up!! You are all so appreciated!!



United Women in Faith Ruth Fellowship will meet April 11 at 10:00 in the Clara Smith room to compile health kits for the YWCA Women's Shelter.

New Treats Needed for Coffee Hour Please bring some spring-y cookies or treats for us to serve anytime in April. We would love your delicious spring treats to share! Bag, date, and note nuts. Thank-you!!



April Showers bring . . . lots of opportunities to sign up to make Sack Lunches for the Pov. If you are interested, please contact Lorraine Carlson @ madamecarlson@gmail.com. We'd love for you to share in an hour of fun while performing a service for our hungry neighbors. While you're at it, you might consider a Saturday in May or June! Thanks.



Arizona Immigration Law and Justice Network

We are beginning the 3rd year of our congregational fundraising efforts, with a \$2,000 commitment goal in support of AZ Immigration Law and Justice Network, formerly AZ Justice For Our Neighbors. AZJON's primary focus is in the provision of free or low cost immigration legal services for those seeking asylum. If you would like to donate to this fundraising effort, please put AZJON in the memo line of your check. You can also donate online or text to give 406-998-1982. Text the amount you would like to give and AZJON.



Join us for Fellowship Hour! Please join us for coffee and treats. This is your time to meet friends and greet visitors! **New to First UMC?** Please fill out a blue slip in the pews or near the offering plates with your contact information. We would love to get to know you better! Please place the slips in the offering plates. You can also email the church at fumcmissoula@gmail.com.

Sunday School for kids ages 4-11 meets in the nursery during the worship service. Please join us!!

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Missoula First United Methodist Church

Climate Covenant

As people of faith, we have an obligation to care for God's creation. How we live in this world has meaning and consequences for all beings.



We find our planet in a dire climate crisis. All life forms are at risk because of humankind's abuses of the earth, sky and water. Millions of plant and animal species face extinction. Humans are suffering, especially those who already are oppressed and therefore less able to cope with the changes brought by a warming world.

We are called to action that reflects our abiding love for God, for one another and for the natural world. We pledge ourselves – as individuals and as the congregation of Missoula First United Methodist Church – to the interconnected responsibilities of caring for creation and seeking justice for the oppressed. All aspects of our congregation's life will reflect these deep and unwavering commitments.

Therefore:

1. We resolve to accept our moral obligation to be responsible stewards of God's creation and advocates for social justice. We will transform our despair, anger and sadness about climate change and human suffering into action that helps to heal our world and all of humanity.
2. We resolve to conduct a review of our church's carbon footprint, and to develop and enact practices that reduce our impact on the Earth. We will educate our congregation and community on these efforts, and will work to inspire change at all levels.
3. We resolve to elevate climate action, and with it social justice, as a primary focus of our ministry. We will take a multi-faceted approach that includes education, communication, direct action and worship.

Missoula First United Methodist Church

300 East Main Street

Missoula, Montana 59802

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Green Notes: First Church Supports Climate Lawsuit

Invoking the Climate Covenant adopted by our congregation in 2020, First UMC is formally supporting a landmark lawsuit filed by 16 young Montanans who want the state to consider climate change in all major environmental decisions.

Our support comes in the form of an amicus brief submitted by Montana Interfaith Power and Light, describing faith-based environmental stewardship principles and the need to protect Montana's air, land and water for present and future generations.

Last month, IPL contacted our Green Team and other faith groups across the state, encouraging us to submit a statement of support for its amicus curiae (friend of the court) brief in the pending Montana Supreme Court appeal in Held v. State of Montana.

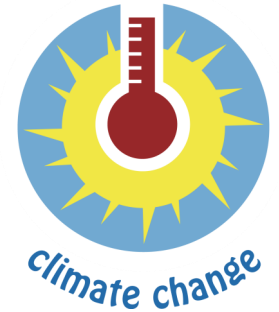
Interfaith Power and Light's brief supports the young Montanans in their efforts to address the impacts of climate change, utilizing the state Constitution's guarantee of a "clean and healthful environment" for all Montanans. In part, the brief cites Article IX, Section 1 of the 1972 Constitution: "The state and each person shall maintain and improve a clean and healthful environment in Montana for present and future generations."

Held v. Montana alleges the state has violated that constitutional guarantee and focuses on a provision in the Montana Environmental Policy Act that prohibits state agencies from considering greenhouse gas emissions and climate change impacts while conducting environmental reviews.

Last summer, State District Judge Kathy Seeley ruled in favor of the plaintiffs, writing that "as children and youth, they are disproportionately harmed by fossil fuel pollution and climate impacts." Montana's attorney general immediately appealed to the state Supreme Court. That's who will see the amicus brief now being submitted by Interfaith Power and Light.

Here's the statement of support submitted this week by Missoula FUMC's Green Team:

Missoula First United Methodist Church has tended the same corner of downtown Missoula since filing the city's 11th recorded plat in 1871, providing a stable, progressive, activist presence in the heart of our community for the ensuing 153 years. We are guided by a Climate Covenant unanimously adopted by our annual Charge Conference in 2020. In part, that document issues a call to action: "We resolve to accept our moral obligation to be responsible stewards of God's creation and advocates for social justice. ... We pledge ourselves – as individuals and as the congregation of Missoula First United Methodist Church – to the interconnected responsibilities of caring for creation and seeking justice for the oppressed. All aspects of our congregation's life will reflect these deep and unwavering commitments." We care deeply about the future we leave our children, grandchildren and their children on this planet – and are committed to taking whatever action is needed to ensure that future is livable.



Prayer List for April 7, 2024



- ◆ Prayers of comfort for the Michaels family in the loss of their brother Joe.
- ◆ Prayers for a quick recovery for Jude who fell recently and is hospitalized.
- ◆ Prayers of gratitude that Rocky's heart is beating steadily after a heart procedure and thanksgiving that her daughter Margaret was able to come stay with her.
- ◆ Prayers of healing for JoAnn's niece Laurie, who has congenital heart failure and is in an induced coma.
- ◆ Prayers of gratitude for the family of George K. who are moving into stable housing, getting a new job, and expecting a new baby.
- ◆ Prayers for the Carlson family whose mother passed away Easter weekend.
- ◆ Prayers for the delegates and staff of the General Conference as they consider the future of the denomination.
- ◆ Prayers of gratitude for those who worked and contributed to the Jubilee breakfast.
- ◆ Prayers for a successful back surgery for Rev. Janet H., who fell, fracturing her back.
- ◆ Continued prayers of strength and recovery for Lisa M.J. and her family following surgery.
- ◆ Continued prayers of comfort and support for Bob and Dorothy A.
- ◆ Prayers for the family and friends who lost loved ones in the bridge collapse in Maryland.
- ◆ Continued prayers of comfort and healing for Tish H. who is home now.

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.