

MISSOULA FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
WELCOMES ALL PEOPLE OF ANY AGE, GENDER, COLOR, ETHNICITY, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, ECONOMIC STATUS,  
OR PHYSICAL ABILITY INTO THE FULL LIFE AND MEMBERSHIP OF THIS CONGREGATION.

# TOWER TIDINGS

## Activating your Breeze account



From all of us, to all of us, thanks for keeping the lights on, the building loan up to date, and worship on track. Our service and financial contributions are vital to the life of the church.

If you haven't started making your life easier and the work of the church more efficient by using our online giving software, Breeze, please consider doing so. Here **(or elsewhere in this newsletter)** are ten great reasons for using Breeze. You'll find full instructions for getting started below.

Our financial secretary, Leslie Uhlenbruck, has worked her magic to compile information about your pledges and payments in one easy-to-access place. Those numbers at her fingertips, and yours. Time for you to start exploring.

Let's start by learning how to create or sign into your Breeze account. *You do not need to have an account to give through Breeze, but setting up an account will make subsequent gifts easier to schedule.*

Enter [firstumcmissoula.org](http://firstumcmissoula.org) into your browser.

Choose GIVE from the menu at the top.

Scroll down until a heart/arrow graphic and the words GIVE ONLINE – breeze appear on the left.

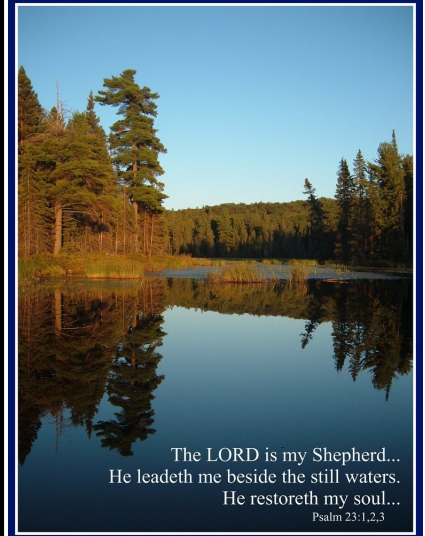
Click on [Click here to donate via BREEZE](#). A new screen will appear, asking for specifics about your gift to the church.

**Before you start eagerly typing in information**, note that near the bottom there is gray lettering saying Sign In | Create Account.

If you choose not to activate an account, check in next month for a tutorial on how to enter donation information.

If you have already activated your account, continue to #7.

APRIL 2024



The LORD is my Shepherd...  
He leadeth me beside the still waters.  
He restoreth my soul...  
Psalm 23:1,2,5

## LECTIONARY

- **April 7, 2024**  
**Second Sunday of Easter**  
*Acts 4:32-35*  
*Psalm 133*  
*1 John 1:1-2:2*  
*John 20:19-31*
- **April 14, 2024**  
**Third Sunday of Easter**  
**Native American Ministries Sunday**  
*Acts 3:12-19*  
*Psalm 4*  
*1 John 3:1-7*  
*Luke 24:36b-48*
- **April 21, 2024**  
**Fourth Sunday of Easter**  
**Festival of God's Creation**  
*Acts 4:5-12*  
*Psalm 23*  
*1 John 3:16-24*  
*John 10:11-18*
- **April 28, 2024**  
**Fifth Sunday of Easter**  
*Acts 8:26-40*  
*Psalm 22:25-31*  
*1 John 4:7-21*  
*John 15:1-8*

If you are ready to activate your account, continue to #6.

### Choose Create Account

A new screen will appear

Enter your full name

Enter your email address

Press continue



The program will look for your profile and display a message declaring your success. If this does not happen for you, you might try different combinations of name and email, or check with Leslie or Genevieve to see what the church has used for your profile. Once you have successfully activated your account, you can return to the giving page.

You will receive an email inviting you to create a user name and password

### Now that you have an account

Choose Sign In

Enter your user name (see 6a)

Enter your password (see 6a)

Press Sign In

Your individual giving page will appear

### Time to explore

Leslie is already keeping track of your contributions to the church. Click some buttons, follow some links, see if you can find the answers to your questions so you can go back to your book, the movie, or John's sermon. If not, stay tuned for additional information in another issue of *Tower Tidings*.

Next month, you'll learn how to make a donation using Breeze. If the suspense is too much for you, check in with Leslie for an individual lesson.

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### UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH LOOKING AHEAD EVENTS FOR APRIL AND MAY:

**FAIRMONT EVENT** April 5-7, Western Mountains District sponsors, "Soul Care: A Women's Retreat for Mind, Body and Spirit." Please contact Elaine at 406-529-1325 for more information.

**SPRING FLING** and Cinco De Mayo all church Mexican luncheon, Sunday May 5, following church. Mark your calendars and plan to join us!



*JOIN US!*

## INSPIRATION TOOLBOX

*...Jesus says we are to approach life like children, not like cranky know-it-alls, crazily busy, clutching our to-do lists.... God says to Moses the first time they meet, "Take off your shoes." Be on the earth. Breathe with me a moment. Anne LaMott*

### UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

**GENERAL MEETING:** April 4, 1:30 pm in the Kay Duffield Memorial Library. Please join us to help plan our Spring Fling Cinco de Mayo. Hosts are Ruth Circle. Program will be a speaker from United We Eat. If you have questions, please call Elaine at 406-529-1325.

**RUTH:** Thurs., April 11, 10:00 a.m. in the KDM Library. All are welcome! Contact Judy at 406-239-4187 for more information.

**VESPERS:** Wed, April 17, at 1 p.m. in the KDM Library. Visitors and new members always welcome. For additional information please call Patsy at 406-493-0961.

**GEMS:** Thurs, April 18 in the KDM Library at 6 pm, to work on plans for the Spring Fling Cinco de Mayo celebration. If you like hands on, mission-oriented activities, please visit this evening group. Call Tish at 406-370-6572 for further information.

**BOOK:** Fourth Tuesday Book Group, April 23 at 11 am, in the KDM Library to discuss The 1619 Project: A New Origin Story (for Adults) by Nikole Hanna-Jones. Whether you've read the book or not, you are welcome. Please contact Kathie for Zoom info at 406-531-1569.



### Church Pledges and Donations

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

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

If you give online there is a dropdown menu under the line with the amount that allows you to designate where the money goes. You can also text to give at (406) 998-1982 with a donation amount and keyword like pledge or building. You are also welcome to mail in your donation.

Leslie Uhlenbruck,  
Financial Secretary

#### Tower Tidings April Deadline:

April 9th

Special thanks to Nancy Eik and April Padget for helping edit *Tower Tidings*.

## HOW TO CONTACT

### THE OFFICE

Weekday Hours

Monday-Thursday 9-12

**Phone:** 406- 549-6118

**E-Mail:** [FUMCmissoula@gmail.com](mailto:FUMCmissoula@gmail.com)

**Website:** [www.firstumcmissoula.org](http://www.firstumcmissoula.org)

**Facebook:**

[www.facebook.com/1stumcmissoula](https://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](mailto: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*  
Genevieve Padget Slote,  
*Administrative Assistant*  
Cheryl Bauer, *Administrative Assistant Sub*  
Jim Bauer, Donna McCammon, and  
Cara Lightfield *Office Volunteers*  
Leslie Lindley, *Treasurer*  
Leslie Uhlenbruck, *Financial Secretary*  
Craig Gohl, *Custodian*  
Greg Boris, *Chancel Choir Director*  
Jason Triche, *Hand Bell Choir Director*  
Luke Larson, *Organist and Pianist*  
Cindy Ekstrand, *Sunday School Director*  
VACANT, *Nursery Attendant*

For more information or to reach  
First UMC staff, please call the church office,  
406-549-6118, or E-Mail us at  
[FUMCmissoula@gmail.com](mailto:FUMCmissoula@gmail.com)

## Top ten reasons to use Breeze for your church giving

1. Breeze automatically puts your money where you intend it to go
2. It is easier to clearly designate amounts and funds in Breeze than it is on the tiny memo line of a check
3. Using Breeze is easier than writing a check
4. You can add a note to your donation to further explain your intentions
5. You can cover the transaction fees for the church – or not – that choice is yours
6. You can easily see all 42 funds to which you can give
7. You can give from the comfort of home whenever it is convenient
8. You can give to as many funds as you wish with one transaction
9. You can see what you've pledged at any time
10. You can track your giving at any time



### If you are not already using Breeze, take the first step today.

1. Go to our website - [firstumcmissoula.org](http://firstumcmissoula.org) – and choose GIVE from the menu at the top.
2. Scroll down and click on the heart.
3. If you have an account, click “Sign In” under the Continue button. If you have not yet set up an account, click “Create Account” under the Continue button.
  - a) If you are signing in to a previously created account, enter your credentials.
  - b) If you are creating an account
    - i. Enter your full name
    - ii.) Enter your email address
    - iii.) Press continue
    - iv.) The program will look for your profile and display a message declaring your success. If this does not happen, try different combinations of name and email, or check with Genevieve to see what the church has used for your profile.
    - v.) You will receive an email inviting you to create a user name and password
4. Start exploring!

### 5. Watch for more information in future articles

#### Here is a list of the funds that can be contributed to online via BREEZE

A Table for All, Adult Sunday School, Altar Flower Fund, Angola Pastor Support, Arizona JFON, Banner Sign Donation, Baskets of Love, Bread for the World, Building Loan, Childrens Sunday School, Christmas, Common Good Missoula, Easter, Faith & Justice, Family Promise, Floridis Concert, FUMY (Youth Group), Good Sam, Human Relations Day, JuBELLation Handbell Choir, Jubilee, Memorial Fund, Miscellaneous, Missoula Food Bank, MLK Celebration, Native American Ministries Sunday, Office, PCC Breakfast, Pledge (General Fund), ,POV Sack Lunches, Recycling, Scouts, SERV, Softball, Special Sundays, Sunday Morning Coffee, Trustees, Tzedakah Pocket, UMCOR, UMCOR Sunday, Upper Room/Disciples, World Communion Sunday

*Thank You*

**Family Promise Rotation**

We just finished up our first Family Promise rotation of 2024 in spite of a little competition from Griz basketball (Go Griz!!). Many thanks to everyone who volunteered to serve/cleanup, supply gift/gas cards, supply fruit/vegetables/greens/desserts to supplement the entrée from the Poverello, monitor the Meadowlark front desk as an evening host, or volunteer to help with laundry. You are much appreciated. We remain grateful for our partner churches, Spirit of Peace and the Unitarian Universalist, for their support in taking on two days each of our week-long rotations.

If you are not currently on our list and are interested in working with us, please contact Jane Kisselbach (406-531-6768 or [janeKisselbach@gmail.com](mailto:janeKisselbach@gmail.com)) or Lorraine Carlson (406-274-6230 or [madamecarlson@gmail.com](mailto:madamecarlson@gmail.com)). There is no obligation involved in being added to our list and getting our email each rotation. It will show our needs for that rotation. Sign up if your schedule permits. Conversely, if you are currently on our list and your circumstances have changed, please let us know and we'll remove you from our list.

Our remaining 2024 rotations are June 23-29, September 8-14, and December 8-14.

**Tzedakah Pocket Offers Hope**

2024 remains a challenge for us with so many requests for assistance coming our way. Even with the difference between our income and outgo we are still in the black because of your generous year-end donations and the money our Foundation gave us. We, and those who seek our help, are grateful. "Lodging" requests are intermittent and the "Lodging" requests we have received so far are ones representing a bridge to more permanent housing. Our "Rent/Security Deposit" requests are higher this month but, here again, they represent our help in keeping individuals and families in their current housing or helping them get into more permanent housing. Our "Other" category continues to be where we see the largest number of requests. These include payment of storage unit rents so people don't lose all their possessions while they try to find housing, paying application fees for those looking for housing, settling outstanding debts so applying for housing is possible, buying gas/gift cards, etc. We can't predict when we will get assistance requests or how much will be needed to satisfy each request but we are here to help and, as always, we do as much as we can with what we have. We appreciate the congregation's support of this ministry. Without you there is no funding to assist those who come to us for help. A recap of assistance provided by our church's Tzedakah Pocket ministry is shown below.



**Tzedakah Summary**

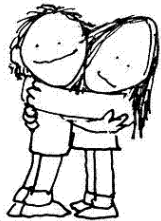
2024 Donations: \$2,833.14

Assistance Paid	March 2024			Year- To- Date 2024		
	Amount	Fam.	Child.	Amount	Fam.	Child.
<i>Lodging</i>	\$ 319.96	2	0	\$ 2,155.58	9	5
<i>Rent/ Sec. Dep.</i>	\$ 720.00	2	5	\$ 920.00	3	6
<i>Other</i>	\$ 668.63	5	4	\$ 1,284.15	12	7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 1,548.61</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>\$ 4,199.75</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>18</b>

## IN OUR PRAYERS...

### ~Healing and Comfort ~

- ✠ Prayers of gratitude that Rocky's heart procedure went well and that her daughter Margaret was able to come and stay for a week.
- ✠ Prayers of healing for JoAnn's niece Laurie, who has congenital heart failure and is in an induced coma.
- ✠ Prayers of healing for Jude M. who is hospitalized after a fall.
- ✠ Prayers of gratitude for George K. that he and his family are getting stable housing and he is getting a new job.
- ✠ Prayers for peace and safety for the people in Gaza, Israel and the Ukraine.
- ✠ Prayers for discernment, wisdom, and God's guidance, for the United Methodist Church delegates who will be meeting for General Conference in April.



- ✠ Prayers of healing and recovery for Lisa M-J following her surgery. Prayers for her family as they support her.
- ✠ Prayers for safe travels for all in the air, roads, or rails.
- ✠ Prayers for God's guidance for Kat's son Daniel H.

- ✠ Prayers of continued healing for Rocky's sister-in-law, Ann, as she recovers from thoracic surgery.
- ✠ Prayers of comfort and healing for Tish H. who is home from the hospital and recovering from pneumonia.
- ✠ Prayers that a treatment plan will alleviate Sue M.'s father-in-law, Joe, from his back pain and improve his mobility.
- ✠ Prayers of healing for Rocky's friend Andrea, who fell and broke some bones in her neck.
- ✠ Prayers of continued comfort for Bob and Dorothy A.
- ✠ Prayers that all the young people in this challenging world can meet those challenges and realize their potential.
- ✠ Prayers for Jan H. as she recovers from a fall.
- ✠ Prayers of safety for all those traveling over the next few weeks for spring break and for Holy Week and Easter gatherings.
- ✠ Prayers of healing for John T.'s nephew who lives in Tennessee who had a near miss on his motorcycle with a large truck resulting in severe road rash and bruised ribs.
- ✠ Prayers of healing for Keith B. who was hospitalized with back pain.
- ✠ Prayers for a successful surgery in Spokane for Rev. Janet

H., who fell and fractured her back.

- ✠ Prayers for a healthy resolution for Marie N.'s son-in-law Jerry, who is being monitored for high levels of iron in his blood.



### ~In Sympathy~

- ✠ Prayers of comfort for the friends, parishioners, and family of Father George D., in his passing.
- ✠ Prayers for the Michael's family in the loss of their brother Joe.
- ✠ Prayers for the Carlson family who lost their mother Easter weekend.
- ✠ Prayers of comfort for the families and friends of those who lost their lives in the bridge collapse in Maryland.

### ~Praises and Joys~

- ✠ Prayers of joy that Delaney was accepted into the German cultural exchange program for the next school year.
- ✠ Prayers of gratitude that Patti's friend John has recovered sufficiently from his knee surgery that he is now able to drive again.
- ✠ Prayers of gratitude that Doug and Nancy H. are recovering, and prayers of thanksgiving for all those providing support.
- ✠ Prayers of gratitude that Sue M.'s husband Bob continues to improve following heart surgery.
- ✠ Prayers of gratitude for the serenity of the new butterfly house.
- ✠ Prayers of thanksgiving for the Jubilee breakfast and the cooks and servers!
- ✠ Prayers of gratitude for the first responders who don't take holidays off.
- ✠ Prayers of thanksgiving that John and Terri were able to take time for a vacation.



## Green Notes: Plastic Jesus – Real Faith in a Synthetic World

This April, to mark Earth Day 2024, First Church's Green Team will utilize a new guidebook from Creation Justice Ministries to educate ourselves and our congregation on the global perils of plastic pollution.

Each Sunday in our Green Notes column, we'll provide a new installment in the series, with links to additional information we can each read and think about during the week.



The first thing we all need to understand: We cannot recycle ourselves out of the plastic crisis.

Here's a brief primer on the series, called "Plastic Jesus: Real Faith in a Synthetic World," provided by Derrick Weston of Creation Justice Ministries. Weston writes:

Plastic first started being created on a global scale in the 1950's. Since then annual plastic production has exploded to an estimated 460 million tons as of 2019.

While plastic has many beneficial uses, single use plastics have become a real environmental threat. All manner of groceries and consumer goods come with plastic wrappings that ultimately end up in landfills, or worse, in our waterways. Those plastics then make their way into our food systems and ultimately into our bodies.

Some studies estimate that the total mass of microplastic particles consumed by adults corresponds to 50 plastic bags per year or one credit card per day.

Plastic pollution is only one side of the problem. We also need to consider the health risks created by plastic production. People who live near plastic production facilities experience disproportionate levels of cancer, organ malfunction, impaired sensory organs and birth defects.

These facilities are also disproportionately located near black, brown, and low income communities. Adding to this, over 99% of plastic is made from fossil fuels. It's estimated that by 2050, 20% of the oil consumed will be used for plastic production.

This is not a problem we can recycle our way out of. Less than 14% of plastic packaging is recycled. And plastics can live in on in our ecosystem for up to 500 years.

All of these facts can be found in our Earth Day resource, "Plastic Jesus: Real Faith in a Synthetic World". We believe that before churches can take action, they have to understand the scope of the issue.

We want to encourage you and your community of faith to find ways that you can address this critical issue.

**Please join First Church's Green Team** for this important month-long examination of the perils of plastic pollution – and what we can do as a congregation and community to address the threat.



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[www.facebook.com/1stummissoula](https://www.facebook.com/1stummissoula)  
Instagram:  
<https://www.instagram.com/missoula1stumc/>

*Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.*

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### **April Events**

- ◆ **4/4: United Women in Faith Executive Committee** will meet 1:00 p.m. in the Kay Duffield Memorial Library.
- ◆ **4/11: Ruth Fellowship** will meet at 10:00 a.m. in the KDM Library.
- ◆ **4/17: VESPERS** will meet at 1:00 p.m. in KDM Library.
- ◆ **4/18: GEMS** will meet at 6:00 p.m. in the KDM Library.
- ◆ **4/23: Fourth Tuesday Book Group** will meet at 11:00 a.m. in the KDM Library.



### **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 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 Parlor. Contact Rev. Barry Padget at [barryumc@yahoo.com](mailto:barryumc@yahoo.com) for more information. All are welcome to attend!