

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

MAY 2022

The Fifty-Seventh Epistle of John -- Good Problems

We recently double-booked a space in our church, which means we assigned two different groups to one space at the same time (yes, your pastor said “yes” to both!) – not good.

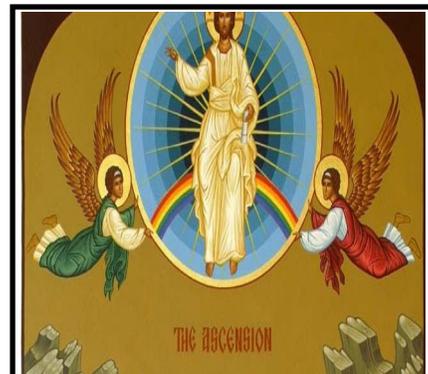
In preparation for our showing of a climate-change movie this week, I wasn’t able to get one of the computers we use to transmit a signal to our screens up front in the sanctuary, and discovered a frayed HDMI cable was responsible – not good.

I discovered that one of the door stops that holds the parlor door open was broken and needs to be repaired or replaced – not good.

We ran out of microphone stands and music stands recently when we had several groups using the sanctuary at once (we improvised, but it was challenging!) – not good.

Or, perhaps good?

The problems mentioned above are of a particular sort that has something do to with what’s going on in our church these days. These are what might be called good problems in that they are happening because of a good thing happening overall – namely, that we are becoming significantly busier in the use of our building, something that was a goal of our \$3.1 million renovation. They are still problems in the sense that we need to work on them to fix, remediate, change, or otherwise adapt things to solve the challenges they raise (and we are fixing them as I write!), but they are rather nice problems to have, for they speak of a living, growing, changing reality in our building – there are more and more good things going on which help our community to thrive. There are, in short, some problems that are good to have!



LECTIONARY

• **May 1**
Third Sunday of Easter
Acts 9:1-6
Psalm 30
Revelations 5:11-14
John 21:1-19

• **May 8**
Fourth Sunday of Easter
Acts 9:36-43
Psalm 23
Revelations 7:9-17
John 10:22-30

• **May 15**
Fifth Sunday of Easter
Acts 11:1-18
Psalms 148
Revelations 21:1-6
John 13:31-35

• **May 22**
Sixth Sunday of Easter
Acts 16:9-15
Psalm 67
Revelations 21:10, 22-22:5
John 14:23-29

• **May 29**
Seventh Sunday of Easter
Acts 16:16-34
Psalms 97
Revelations 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21
John 17:20-26

Inspiration Toolbox

You don't always need a plan. Sometimes you just need to breathe, trust, let go and see what happens. - Mandy Hale

MANY THANKS

to all those who contributed to the kits assembled by Ruth Circle for the YWCA shelter.

UWF Activities

May 5 – General meeting for lunch at the Mustard Seed, 11:30. All women are welcome!

May 12 – Ruth Circle at 10:00 am in the Kay Duffield Library.

May 18 - Vespers will meet at the Old Dairy/ Trough restaurant at 2106 Clements Rd. at 11:30 for our end of year lunch.

Contact Patsy Hodges 943-0961.

May 19 – Gems meets in the church library. If you're interested in an evening fellowship, please call Elaine Williams 728-6481 or Tish Herries 370-6572 for more information.

May 23 – Book Group meets at 11 am via Zoom to discuss "The Girl with Seven Names: Escape from North Korea." Call Laurie Ball 926-1252 .

The **Crafty Crafters** are looking for a spring project. Call Kathie Snodgrass 541-8639 if you wish to join in or have an idea to share.



Church Pledges and Donations

The donation page on the church website can be found at:

www.firstumcmissoula.org/donate.

There is information for mailing in your checks as well as online donations. If you give online there is a dropdown menu under the line with the amount that allows you to designate where the money goes. If you are splitting the donation, click *Other* and on the payment page it will allow you to leave a note as to how it should be divided.

Leslie Uhlenbruck,
Financial Secretary

Tower Tidings

June Deadline:

Tuesday, May 10th

Special thanks to April Padget and Kathie Snodgrass for helping edit *Tower Tidings*.

HOW TO CONTACT

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

PASTOR JOHN

Office: Available Monday-Friday

By phone: 549-6118 or

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*

Genevieve Padget Slote, *Administrative Assistant*

Cheryl Bauer, *Administrative Assistant Sub*

Jim Bauer, Laurie Ball, April Padget,

Klairaime Nichwander, Kathie

Snodgrass, Cara Lightfield *Office*

Volunteers

Leslie Lindley, *Treasurer*

Leslie Uhlenbruck, *Financial Secretary*

Craig Gohl, *Custodian*

Greg Boris, *Chancel Choir Director*

VACANT, *Hand Bell Choir Director*

Luke Larson, *Organist and Pianist*

VACANT, *Children and Youth Ministries*

Director

VACANT, *Nursery Attendant*

For more information or to reach First UMC staff, please call the church office, 549-6118, or E-Mail us at FUMCmissoula@gmail.com

Kind of like life, wouldn't you say?

I am fortunate for many of the problems I face, and I think you are too. I am fortunate that I have the problem of being a little too busy with good things (do I hear anyone complaining of too many committee meetings at church? Or trying to keep up with volunteer schedules? Or being able to attend all functions?). I am fortunate that I have the problem of family challenges on my time, with two grandchildren that need the influence of their grandparents in their lives (or, to be quite honest, it is perhaps the other way around – their grandparents need/want to spend as much time as possible with them!). I am fortunate that I have the problem of conscience, regularly worrying about the climate, or a parishioner's suffering, or a committee's function, or the status of our nation, with worry being the first sign of an awareness that can be effectively shaped into helpful response. I am fortunate that I have the problem of compassion, where I cannot help but feel for those who are oppressed, unjustly treated, lost, afraid, or alone, the problem being what to do with those feelings – again, a question that prompts response.

I have many such problems, as I am sure you do. They are good in that they motivate me to deeper thinking and living; they absolve me of a completely self-centered life; and they have me always, always relying upon a resource far greater than any I have in myself for redress. It is the nature of grace to be offered constantly and fully to all, but the tendency of humans to ignore, forget, dismiss, or even avoid grace in pursuit of our own sufficiency. Problems that challenge self-sufficiency invite a new openness to that which offers itself to us in moments of challenge – and it is perhaps the greatest problems which drive us into the openness to receive more fully that which God offers.

It sounds a bit strange to my mind, but I have come to understand that some problems are good for us. And perhaps it is the case that any problems can be considered good if they move us to a greater reliance upon God. May all our problems do so.

God's Grace Be With You,



Pastor John



Flathead Lake United Methodist Camp Summer 2022

Age level camps:

TWEEN CAMP

Youth entering Grades 4-6

June 26 - 29 \$199

MIDDLER CAMP

Youth entering Grades 7 - 9

June 19 - 24 \$349

SENIOR HIGH

Grades 10 - 2022 Grads

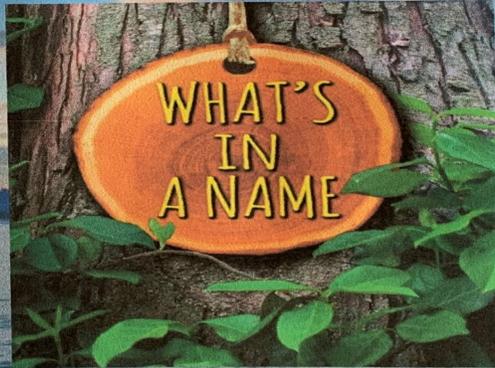
July 24 - 29 \$349

Camper scholarships
are available

Camps for all ages:

Work Weekend April 29 - May 1

INTERGENERATIONAL FAMILY
CAMP June 30 - July 5 (any or all
days)



REGISTER NOW AT:
flatheadcamp.org
Call for information at
(406) 844-3483
manager@flatheadcamp.org

UNITED METHODIST CAMPS SUMMER 2022

"What's in a Name?"

Senior/Middler
July 24-30
\$350*

Elementary
July 31- August 3
200*

Scholarships Available
register at luccockcamp.org

First United Methodist's Green Team Says: Thank You to Our Remarkable Congregation!

We greet May with great joy and thankfulness for our First UMC congregation and our collective determination to make positive change. Last November, this church's members unanimously approved a [Climate Covenant](#) to guide our actions.

"We resolve to accept our moral obligation to be responsible stewards of God's creation and advocates for social justice," the Covenant promises. "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."

From that moment, First Church's progress toward our climate goals has been remarkable.

In January, we embarked on an effort to raise contributions and grant money to place solar panels atop our building's roof – as many as could fit, to offset as much of our electric usage as possible.

In mid-April, we celebrated the success of a pledge drive to raise \$18,353 from First Church's congregation as our contribution to the solar project. A week later, word came that the Methodist Church's Mountain Sky Conference awarded our church a \$1,000 grant for the installation.

The month ended with our Green Team submitting a grant application to NorthWestern Energy's E+ renewable energy program for \$46,322. We'll hear back on that request in August; if we don't make the first round of grants, we will reapply on Nov. 1.

Together, these contributions will allow SBS Solar to install 66 panels atop the Education Annex, enough to provide 80 percent of First Church's clean energy from the sun.

That percentage will increase with every energy conservation initiative we undertake. Work has already started: On April 20, Winton Kemmis led a crew of volunteers that replaced all 180 lightbulbs in the sanctuary with new-generation LEDs – the most energy efficient bulbs on the market. These bulbs provide the equivalent of 100 watts of illumination, but only burn 13.5 watts of electricity.

How significant is the savings? Kemmis did the math: 180 100-watt incandescent bulbs burn 18,000 watts of electricity every hour. But 180 13.5-watt LED bulbs burn 2,430 watts of electricity per hour. That's a savings of 15,570 watts every hour.

That's not all: At our April meeting, Green Team members began discussing future projects: more energy conservation initiatives, greater attention to reducing/reusing/recycling, efforts to encourage more attention to climate change by city and county officials. And we promised to continue our monthly updates/education during Sunday worship.

We're also seeking your ideas. What "green" projects should we tackle next? Would you like to join the Green Team? Email Green Team co-chair James Gillison via james.gillison@msn.com. Let's expand our work – and impact – in the months to come!



IN OUR PRAYERS...

~Healing and Comfort ~



- ✠ Prayers for peace in Ukraine and safety for all of its citizens.
- ✠ Prayers of comfort for those affected by the war in Ukraine, including John and Terri's daughter-in-law Christina, who is from Ukraine, has family there, and whose father serves in the military.
- ✠ Prayers of comfort and healing for Amy E. who is now recovering at home from an accident.
- ✠ Prayers of healing and comfort for Debbie who is suffering from cancer.
- ✠ Prayers of thanksgiving that Pastor John's mother is out of the hospital and recovering.
- ✠ Prayers for a quick and complete recovery for Walter S., after his surgery.
- ✠ Prayers of strength and recovery for Nancy E.'s sister Alison, who is being discharged from the hospital but still needs another surgery.
- ✠ Prayers for a quick and complete recovery for Kathy Y. from foot surgery.
- ✠ Prayers of safety for Tracy and Lynette who are asking for protection.
- ✠ Prayers of safe travels for Steve and Teresa.
- ✠ Prayers for Sylvia's family.
- ✠ Prayers for relief from overwork for John's nephew who has been working late hours at a medical warehouse.
- ✠ Prayers for Ella R. as she recovers from dental surgery.
- ✠ Prayers for a successful surgery for Joanne's daughter.
- ✠ Prayers for new stability for Rocky's daughter Cynthia as she moves from a big city to a farm in South Dakota.
- ✠ Prayers of comfort and strength for Tu and her husband as they deal with her worsening health condition.
- ✠ Prayers for successful bladder surgery and recovery for Holly's nephew's cousin John.
- ✠ Prayers of resolution of Carolyn C.'s medical issues for which she is back in the hospital.

- ✠ Prayers of strength and healing for Cindy's friend who was recently diagnosed with ALS and his family as they travel through the days ahead.
- ✠ Prayers of healing and strength for Kathy B., who is hospitalized.
- ✠ Grant us a feeling of connection to Mother Earth, that we may protect and restore her nature.

~In Sympathy~

- ✠ Prayers of comfort and memories for Marie N.'s nephew's family in the loss of their 6-year-old daughter last year.
- ✠ Prayers of comfort for those who suffered from the shooting in Sacramento.
- ✠ Prayers of comfort for the family and friends of Don M. from Grace UMC, who passed away.

~Praises~

- ✠ Prayers of celebration for Luke's beautiful music he blesses us with weekly!
- ✠ Prayers of joy for Carmelita and Jim B. who will celebrate 64 years of marriage this month.
- ✠ Prayers of celebration for Carmelita who celebrated her birthday on Easter!
- ✠ Prayers of birthday celebrations for Abby, Delaney, and Ella who turned 16!
- ✠ Prayers of Thanksgiving that the church's front doors are open again!
- ✠ Prayers of Thanksgiving that Charles and Belinda A. and Pastor John's parents have safely returned to their home after the wildfire was contained.

Lord in your Mercy...Hear our Prayers...



COMMON GOOD MISSOULA

FOUNDING CELEBRATION

MISSOULA COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS 4H PAVILLION

MAY 19TH 5-9PM
PROGRAM 6:30-8PM

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT COMMON GOOD MISSOULA ON FACEBOOK

We would like to invite you to our Founding Celebration! Join us for an Indigenous art market, food trucks, and conversations starting at 5pm. Our program will begin at 6:30pm.

We are coming together in this founding celebration to acknowledge this unique moment in the history of Missoula, where citizens - through their organizations - are coming together to publicly commit to working together for the long-term benefit of our fellow Missoulians.

Tzedakah Pocket Offers Hope

As you can see, April has been a very busy month. We had no “Lodging” or “Rent/Security Deposit” expenses so far this month but we have had lots of “Other” expenses. The good news is people are returning to life as the pandemic lessens but helping them when they need it is expensive. We have had to dip into our year-end reserves. Those resources were there thanks to your year-end generosity. In addition, your on-going support has kept us going so far this year. Our operating reserves are low right now but we thank you for your support of this ministry because it matters to each and everyone who comes to us for help. This month the “Other” category reflects requests from Family Housing Center (FHC) staff for the types of assistance FHC residents need as well as calls we received through our church office or from local agencies with whom we have a relationship. We helped two women get home to family where they needed to be, helped keep a small business afloat by paying some bills, provided gas cards for those who needed to get to work or be warm when our weather was cold, and provided phones/minutes to those who needed to communicate with others. We have helped a lot of people when they needed it most.



Tzedakah Summary

2022 Donations: \$3,828.81

Assistance Paid	April 2022			Year-To -Date 2022		
	Amount	Fam.	Child.	Amount	Fam.	Child.
Lodging	\$ 0	0	0	\$ 889.43	8	3
Rent/ Sec. Dep.	\$ 0	0	0	\$ 850.00	5	9
Other	\$ 1,725.25	10	12	\$ 3,741.65	22	28
TOTAL	\$ 1,725.25	10	12	\$ 5,481.08	35	40

Take care of yourselves first but, if you are able to support the Tzedakah Pocket ministry by online donation through the 1st UMC website, by sending a check made out to 1st UMC (PO Box 7646, Missoula, MT 59807) with Tzedakah Pocket in the memo line, or by putting a donation in the Tzedakah Pocket in the Sanctuary, rest assured all the money will make a difference for someone in need. A recap of assistance provided by our church’s Tzedakah Pocket ministry is shown below.



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Facebook:

www.facebook.com/1stummissoula

Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

May Events via Zoom and in person

- 5- UWF general meeting 11:30 a.m. at the Mustard Seed
- 12- Ruth Fellowship 10:00 a.m.
Kay Duffield Library
- 18- Vespers Circle out to lunch- The Olde Dairy/Trough at 11:30 a.m.
- 19- Gems - 6:00 p.m., Kay Duffield Library, 1:00 p.m.
- 19- Common Good Founding Celebration, 5:00 - 9:00 p.m., 4H Pavilion, Fairgrounds
- 23- Book group via zoom, 11:00 a.m.



Weekly Events via Zoom and in person

In person worship Sunday - Worship 10:30 a.m. and via Zoom (recordings on Facebook or the church website)- We are fully open with no mask requirements but please feel comfortable to wear a mask if you wish to. Front doors are open!

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 Helen Herbert Parlor. Contact Barry Padget at barryumc@yahoo.com for more information.