

Celebration of Ministries - December 28, 2025

Cheesecake Welcome, Q&A for Visitors Jan.5

Visitors, newcomers, and anyone with questions about our congregation are invited to join members of the Hospitality Ministry and Pastor John in the Library right after worship Jan. 4 for cheesecake and coffee.

Your questions are welcome. Am I really welcome here? Is there a creed I must believe in joining? What are we doing as followers of Jesus in this congregation? Where do we stand on issues currently dividing Christianity? Why are there rainbow flags in our entrances?



What's happening with Sunday School?

Currently Sunday school is need of 8oz bottles of water. Thank you!

Become a Scripture Reader

We are looking for Scripture Readers for worship services in the months of December and January. Please sign up in the Main Street Entrance room for the date that works best for you. Enter the date you'd like to read and the scripture will be sent to your email. No email? There's also a printed copy. Thank you.

We have finished our four **Family Promise** rotations for 2025. Our thanks to everyone who volunteered to help in any capacity during this recent shift. We, and our shelter residents, are grateful for your caring and your support.

Volunteers Needed to Serve Communion

If you'd like to participate, visit our sign up sheet in the Main Street entrance (Narthex) or contact Marilyn by email at qlttme@msn.com. Thank you.

Pov Sack Lunch Volunteers Needed!

Join us in January to make Sack lunches on Saturday mornings. We would love to have you!! If you would like to help please contact: Carole Addis at cjeaddis51@gmail.com. Lorriane Carlson at madamecarlson@gmail.com.

What's your name?

We're encouraging you to make and wear a name tag for worship. Surprise! Our visitors and newcomers really like them, it clearly makes them feel like they are welcome. Name tags make it easy to greet someone you don't know sitting near you at the end of service. You're encouraged to ask them if they'd like to take a Welcome Pamphlet home from the pew as a way of learning more about our congregation as followers of Jesus.



Your Hospitality Ministries team

Happy Birthday Wishes for Roger S. who will turn 95 on January 5th.



Emergency Response Team

Our Mountain Sky Conference Emergency Response Team needs **Five-Gallon bucket Cleaning Kits for flood victims** in Northwest Montana.

The kits have a list of specific supplies needed in them with a total value estimate of \$75.

If you are interested in heading up this cleaning kit creation effort, or could otherwise lend a hand, please let us know. With more rain likely on the way it also would not hurt to have enough kits in reserve for the next disaster as well.

Let Pastor John or Joe Loos know if you can help:
joeloos7245@gmail.com, john@fumcmissoula.com

Poverello Sack Lunches

In mid-November we celebrated **three years** of making sack lunches for the Poverello Center.

Our sack lunches are picked up directly by the Pov Hot Team, the Homeless Outreach Team, who ministers to houseless individuals wherever they are found in the

community. For three years, volunteers from 1st UMC, UCC, various Lutheran, LDS, Episcopal and other churches, along with the local Synagogue have faithfully shown up every Saturday morning to make lunches for our hungry neighbors. Two of our regular coordinators, Susan and Melly, are from UCC and we appreciate them so much. For most of those three years we depended on Gail Gilman to go to the Pov every Friday afternoon where she picked up the ingredients we would use on Saturday morning, even though they were often very heavy, and took them to the church. Bless her. Finally, we have two scout troops who volunteer and as you can see in one of the pictures, Troop 3603 donated over 6,000 Girl Scout cookies which we happily add to our sacks with much gratitude!

If you would like to help us, contact Lorraine Carlson, madamecarlson@gmail.com and I will be happy to add you to our Sign Up Genius database. If you can't join us on Saturday morning, we would gratefully accept your donation to the Pov Sack Lunches so we can buy lunch sacks, sandwich bags, gloves, and fruit from time to time. Thank you.



THANK YOU
SO MUCH!



January First UMC food drive

First UMC does a food drive in January to support the **Missoula Food Bank**. We are currently in the planning stages for that but have been presented with an opportunity to help our community during the current SNAP crisis. Steve Egli passed along the following communication from Bethany Sorenson, operations manager with the Community Choir whose members use our church facility for practice.

Bethany said: “Unrelated to rehearsals and payments, it was brought to my attention that some of the families involved in our choirs need food due to the loss of SNAP benefits. I put out a call for food donations amongst our members and now we have started a small food drive to help anyone who may need it this holiday season. We are going to put out a call for donations during our concert at the end of the month. I was wondering if there may be a possibility of working together with the church to get this food to those in need and store it? I am currently storing it in my vehicle, transporting it back and forth from rehearsals, and bringing bags to those who reach out.”

In support of Bethany’s effort, we are providing space in our church for her to store donations, and we’ve provided the opportunity for our congregation to support her effort if they choose to. The rolling cart is placed **in front of our church office** in its usual spot to retain any food items you wish to donate to members of the Community Choir who are in need. After Bethany concludes her effort, any remaining items will become part of our January Food Bank Drive.

Please help if you are able.

THANK YOU



MLK Day Event January 19

Singers and Sponsors Needed

On January 19th, 2026, the historic annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration will honor the profound legacy of a leader who showed us how to protect and advance our freedoms

through dignity, integrity, and peaceful action—principles our community needs now more than ever. Help First UMC be a sponsor of this historic event.

Make your check to:

First UMC with MLK Day Event in the memo line, or donate via Breeze through the church website:

<https://www.firstumcmissoula.org/>

Singers are Needed for the MLK Day choir that will sing on January 19th at the 4pm community event at the Holiday Inn. The choir will be directed by Dr. Chris Hahn.

- Rehearsals will be Wednesdays, January 7th and 14th at 7pm at UCC church (405 University Ave.)
- Open to any choir members or people who love to sing and want to join in.
- The choir will perform 2 songs and possibly the Black national anthem

For questions: Chris at christopher.hahn@mso.umt.edu or call John Lund from UCC Church at 406-396-4974.

Prayer List for December 28, 2025



- ◆ Successful arm surgery and a complete thorough recovery for Rocky A's daughter Michelle (Michi) who goes under the surgeon's knife on Monday, December 2nd.
- ◆ Comfort for the family of Jim O's cousin's son John, and gratitude for all the prayers for him before he passed.
- ◆ Thanksgiving that Linda J's grandchild Mitchell's surgery for cancer was successful and Mitchell is now back at home, as is her step-daughter, Beth.
- ◆ That the planned celebration for families of incarcerated people goes well.
- ◆ That John T's nephew Steve's living and work situations will improve, and Joseph's work situation will improve.
- ◆ Safety for the Somali students (and their families) in the Twin Cities that have been targeted by ICE (Rocky's grandson, who teaches at the University of Minnesota is having students come to him in tears about what's going on in their families -- especially difficult during finals week).
- ◆ Strength and comfort for Pastor Mick Gray with the long-term care of a loved one.
- ◆ Comfort for Jazmin, a student at Meghan's school, who lost her mom on December 8th.
- ◆ Comfort and peace for Tish's sister Sharon who is at home on hospice with a rare form of Parkinson's.
- ◆ Joy for the upcoming 95th birthday of Roger S. on January 5th.
- ◆ A quick recovery for all of the people whose homes were damaged by the windstorm earlier this week and for those affected by the flooding from the atmospheric river.



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.