

Celebration of Ministries April 21, 2024

TAKE ACTION to Reduce Plastic!

The Sunday April 14 "Green Minute" mentioned three Actions we can take to advocate for reduced plastic pollution in our environment. Here they are, again with the "links" for the two you can do on line.



ONE: Support the **REDUCE Act**. [Rewarding Efforts to Decrease Unrecycled Contaminants in Ecosystems (REDUCE) Act (H.R. 5564/S. 2844)] This is a bill that would put a fee on the sale of new, virgin plastic resin used to make single-use products, shifting industries to use recycled plastics or alternatives when creating single-use products as well as funding plastic waste reduction and recycling projects. You can personalize a sample letter and submit it through the *Creation Justice Ministries* website. Look for the "April 2024 Action" button: <https://www.creationjustice.org/action.html> .

TWO: Advocate for the U.S. government to sign onto the U.N. Environment Assembly resolution to end plastic pollution and create the world's first global plastic pollution treaty by the end of this year. Info on the treaty: <https://www.worldwildlife.org/pages/global-plastics-treaty> . WWF Action Center link to sign the petition in support of the treaty: <https://www.worldwildlife.org/pages/action-center>

THREE: Look for an opportunity to tell your State Senator (or candidate for that office) and your candidate for State Representative that you want a State ban on plastic bags.

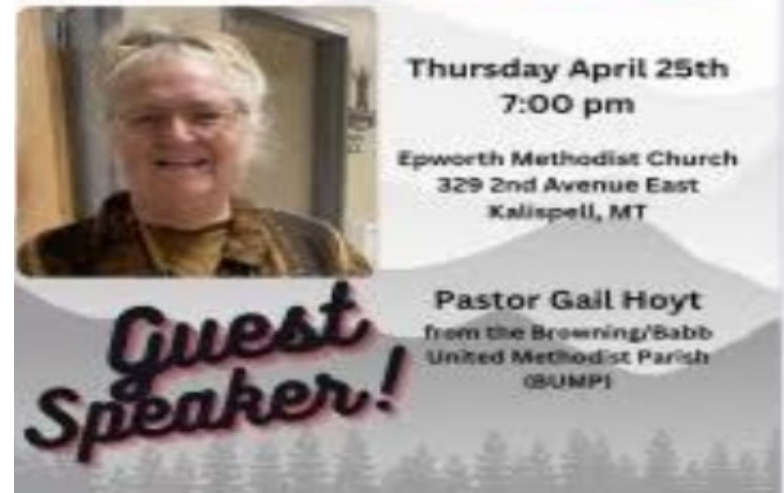
HELP US March in the Pride Parade in June

The parade fee to enter is \$80.00. Please help by donating **ONE DOLLAR**. No larger bills will be accepted so that everybody can participate in this all church endeavor! Please place your dollar in the green PRIDE box in the Narthex and plan to join us for the Pride Parade!



Health Kit Update

Ruth Fellowship would like to once again thank the membership of FUMC for the many donations for the delivery of our annual Health Kits. Because of your generosity, we were able to put together 70 kits for the Women's Shelter at the YWCA. Special thanks from our group to Jeannie Braun who for the past two years has lifted and carried the heavy containers from the church to the Y. We couldn't have done it without her! It certainly takes all of us working together to keep our projects going.



Congratulations to Anna Grimm who just became an Eagle Scout! This is the third Eagle Scout from BSA Troup 1919.

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Would you like to learn how to be a part of an **Early Response Team**? ERTs are trained to work with survivors of a disaster. "We go in soon after the emergency crews leave. We muck out flooded homes, sift ashes, tarp damaged roofs, and generally prevent further harm to people and property. If you are at least 18 years old, you can be part of our ERT group by taking a training May 4th Covenant UMC, Helena. Trainees will learn:

- the basics of disaster response and how our church is involved
- how to work effectively with survivors and the response team
- skills to help survivors get back into their homes and begin the recovery process

Lunch and snacks will be provided, and there is no fee for this training."

The training in Helena will take place from 8:45am - 4:30pm on May 4th, 2024. Please email our Conference ERT Coordinator Jim Robinson Cox at jim.robinsoncox@gmail.com

The First UMC Foundation is offering the **Foundation Scholarship/Grant** to someone who attends regularly or is an active member of Missoula First UMC and is continuing their post-secondary education. The scholarship honors Olive M. Reichel, Ella Turmell, Gordon and Nettie Reynolds, Archie Joscelyn and Katie Payne. The application form is available through the church office or online on the church website: <http://www.firstumcmissoula.org/> then go to the Foundation button at the top of the page and it will take you to the UM Foundation page. Click on the Scholarship link. **The deadline for submitting applications is May 1.** Mail your completed application to Missoula First UMC Foundation, P.O. Box 7646, Missoula, MT 59807.



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.



Smell the Coffee, except May 5?

Coffee Hour is short one person (or a couple) Sunday, May 5 to work with an experienced host serving coffee and treats (another date in May is possible).

Please consider joining our merry and *excellent* team to bring hospitality to our time together. Contact Jana Staton for more information, jstaton@montana.com, 406-721-5558.

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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Green Notes: Plastic Recycling Is 'Wishcycling'

Plastic bags are not recyclable. They wind up in the trash, even if you put them in a recycling bin. The solution: Don't use them in the first place!

In a recent test, ABC News put dozens of trackers in plastic bags, then put the bags in alleged recycling bins. Many of the bags wound up in landfills.

One tracker dropped off at a New York Walmart later pinged in Indonesia; trackers dropped off at a "recycling bin" in Florida and another in Kansas last pinged in Malaysia – places struggling with plastic waste imports from around the world.

"It's the Wild West of exporting plastics, and it's causing real damage, particularly in Indonesia and Malaysia and other countries that have not entirely closed their doors to plastic imports," ABC News reported.

In all, only four of ABC's trackers ended up at U.S. facilities that say they are involved with recycling plastic bags. Less than 10 percent of plastic waste is recycled worldwide, data shows.

As the plastics industry continues to expand, dozens of experts and industry insiders told ABC's reporters that the current plastic recycling system does not work.

"We cannot recycle our way out of the plastic pollution crisis," one industry insider said, stressing the need for restrictions on plastic production and use. Consumers can help by eliminating their personal use of single-use plastic bags.

There are easy grocery store swap-outs that take plastic out of the picture:

In the produce department, skip the plastic produce bags. This is one of the simplest swap-outs you can make. You don't need bags for fruits and vegetables. Also, buy loose carrots, potatoes and onions rather than the pre-bagged options.

Choose cardboard egg cartons, not plastic or Styrofoam. You can put cardboard cartons in the recycle bin or repurpose them as seed starters for the garden or DIY fire starters.

At the deli counter, bring your own containers and skip the plastic bags and cups. If you're buying a cut of meat that is sold both at the butcher counter and in pre-packaged portions, opt for the former. Again, bring your own re-usable containers.

Do not buy food packaged in black plastic trays (often found in the prepackaged meat department). They are not recyclable. Anywhere. Putting black plastic in recycling bins is "wishcycling."

If your store has a bulk aisle, shop there for staples like rice, grains, nuts and pasta. Bring your own containers.

Kick the bottled water habit. Just do it. We have perfectly drinkable tap water in Missoula and most of the U.S.

When you shop for spices, sauces and condiments, hunt for glass containers. Glass is infinitely recyclable and reusable. And we have free glass recycling in bins at Missoula First UMC!



Prayer List for April 21, 2024



- ◆ Prayers for those to find belonging who feel excluded in our society.
- ◆ Prayers of healing for Kathie S. who had cataract surgery last week.
- ◆ Prayers for a successful surgery for Peg's daughter, Judy, to prevent pre-cancerous tissue from becoming life threatening.
- ◆ Prayers for a steady heart rhythm and restoration of energy for Rocky A. so she can do her daily tasks.
- ◆ Prayers of comfort for the family of Marlin E., who passed away at the age of 92.
- ◆ Prayers of comfort for John T.'s old college friend, Mary, whose daughter died recently.
- ◆ Prayers for the delegates and staff of the General Conference as they consider the future of the denomination.
- ◆ Continued prayers of comfort and support for Bob and Dorothy A.
- ◆ Prayers of peace for the war-torn regions of our world.

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.