

Celebration of Ministries March 19, 2023



New to First UMC? Would you like to be on our mailing list? Please email the office at fumcmissoula@gmail.com with your name, email, and address. You can also use one of the slips of paper by the offering plates and put it in the offering plate! We would love to add you to our lists and get to know you better!



Fostering Changes Lives

There is a growing need for more therapeutic and respite foster parents in our community. This **FREE** training from Youth Homes and Child and Family Services offers a first step to explore becoming a foster parent.

Foster Care Training
In-person or via Zoom

March 30th 6:30 - 8:30
Holy Spirit Episcopal Church
(130 S 6th St E)

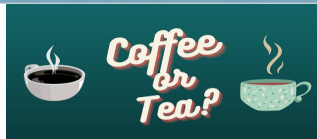
To register or access a zoom link email: mic@micmt.org

SPONSORS:



Coffee Hour Hosts Needed for last Sunday in March. You can shadow hosts if needed.

SERRV Sale Come support SERRV International on Sunday, March 26th in the Narthex. Fair trade gifts and other items will be for sale. See You There!



Baskets of Love: As Family Promise families or individuals/families from the Housing Advocate Network (HAN) “graduate” into homes of their own, each individual/family receives housewarming gifts of supplies needed to reestablish home life. In 2022, 48 such deliveries were made to very happy and grateful recipients. Now it’s time to **RESTOCK THE SHELVES** for 2023. First UMC is donating a complete set of Welcome Baskets plus gas/ gift cards for one family from our Family Promise budget to support this wonderful effort. We offer you the opportunity to add to this if you want. If this ministry is something you want to support, please do so by using online donation marked for Welcome Baskets or by sending a check made out to First UMC (PO Box 7646, Missoula, MT 59807) with Welcome Baskets in the memo line. All monetary donations received will be collected and one check will be sent to MIC so they can buy whatever they need. FYI: If using Breeze: Note “Baskets of Love”: for this online giving method or note “Baskets” for text giving. We appreciate your support.



Missing in action: One very large rice cooker from the church kitchen. If anyone has seen this 60-cup cooker, please let us know. It is used on a regular basis and is very much missed. Please call the church office, Casey at 406 970 8341, or Cathy at 406 544 5271.

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Immigration Law and Justice Arizona Ministry: Our church has begun its 2nd year of a 3-year commitment in the amount of \$2,000 for this ministry (formerly known as Arizona Justice For Our Neighbors). While our congregation currently supports immigrant asylum seekers through the Southwest Desert Conference of the Methodist Church, note that our Mountain Sky Conference is considering the potential for an Immigration Law & Justice Program. Migrants fearing for their lives are extremely vulnerable and encounter little chance of success with their asylum claims without legal assistance. Immigration Law & Justice provides education workshops on asylum law, 5-10 hours of legal assistance, legal assistance with detailing their story of persecution plus document translation for required evidence. This program also engages in community education and advocacy programs. Until the United States develops immigration policies that demonstrate some empathy and compassion, this is a way our church can set an example. If you are able to help with this ministry, please make your check out to FUMC and write AZJFON on the memo line. Thank you so much!

Altar Flowers Fund

Arts and Environment is hoping to use fresh flowers on Easter and throughout the year! For those of you who would like to contribute altar flowers in memory of a friend or relative, a donation to the "Altar Flower Fund" would be very appreciated. Each donation and/or memorial will be noted in the Easter Announcements and on the screen Easter Sunday. Help keep the Altar looking beautiful all year long with fresh flowers! Thank you for your generosity. Checks may be made out to:

First UMC, designated "Altar Flower Fund" in the memo line or online via Breeze to Altar Flower Fund. You can also text to give at 406-998-1982. Text the amount you would like to give and the keyword Flowers. If you would like to give in memory of a friend or relative please call the office at 406-549-6118 or email the office at fumcmisoul@gmail.com. You are also welcome to mail in this information with your check to First UMC, P.O. Box 7646, Missoula, MT 59807



In honor of: _____

In memory of: _____

Given by: _____

Green Notes: There's a Power Plant on Our Roof!

Buckle up, Green Notes readers. We're going to crunch some numbers. Halfway through March, the solar panels on First Church's roof have already produced 1.29 megawatt-hours of electricity this month. That's more production than any other full month – let alone two weeks – since the 66 panels were installed last August.

In fact, since the array went online last October, we've generated a total of 3.49 MWh of power. So the last two weeks have been significant – great news for the future of our church and our commitment to clean electricity.

But what does it mean to generate a megawatt-hour of electricity? How much is that?

Well, the folks at SolarEdge, who track First UMC's power production, say our solar power already has prevented 5,411 pounds of carbon dioxide emissions from entering Earth's atmosphere. By comparison, an average gas-burning car emits about 4 pounds of CO₂ in an hour. So we've kept an important amount of greenhouse gas emissions out of the atmosphere in a few short months.

But how much power is a megawatt-hour? How about this: Between March 1 and March 15, First Church's rooftop power plant produced more than enough electricity to meet the instantaneous demand of 750 homes – all at once. Or, alternately, it's enough electricity to fully power 330 homes for an hour. That's how much you can do with 1 MWh of electricity – and we generated more than that in the past two weeks.

If you're not too dizzy from all the numbers we've thrown at you, here's the take-home message: We're on our way! First Church's solar array is functioning as it should, producing clean electricity – more electricity than we need on the sunniest days, so we're shipping some production onto the grid. We're doing our part to help Missoula achieve its goal of 100 percent clean electricity.

Amen! And hallelujah!



Prayer List for March 19, 2023



- Prayers of comfort and healing for Liz R. as she makes her journey through cancer.
- Prayers of peace, strength, and comfort for Lillian as she transitions from earthly to heavenly life.
- Thanksgiving that both Dave & Tish H. are doing well.
- Continued healing for Lori M., who is now at Craig Rehabilitation Hospital in Englewood, CO.
- Prayers for a speedy recovery for Sandy B.'s Dad who had knee surgery on the 15th.
- Prayers of joy (and the birthday son) for Ira R., who celebrated his birthday this past week.
- Prayers of joy that Greg B. has recovered from COVID-19.
- Wonderful musical experiences for Ella S. and all the musicians around the state who attend the AA Music Festival.
- Support for a prayer of special intention.
- Prayers for inner strength and community support for all minorities who feel imperiled by prejudicial legislation.

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.