

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

The Eighty-Ninth Epistle of John – “Rebuilding What’s Been Undone”

JUNE 2026



✠ **June 7, 2026**
2nd Sunday - Pentecost

Genesis 12:1-9

Psalms 33:1-12

Romans 4:13-25

Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

✠ **June 14, 2026**
3rd Sunday - Pentecost

Genesis 18:1-15

Psalms 116:1-2, 12-19

Romans 5:1-8

Matthew 9:35-10:8 (9-23)

✠ **June 21, 2026**
4th Sunday - Pentecost

Genesis 21:8-21

Psalms 86:1-10, 16-17

or

Psalms 17

Romans 6:1b-11

Matthew 10:24-39

✠ **June 28, 2026**
5th Sunday - Pentecost

Genesis 22:1-14

Psalms 13

Romans 6:12-23

Matthew 10:40-42

I've been spending a lot of my spare time recently repairing the damage to our yard due to the December 17 windstorm that helped provide more than one illustration for my sermons, for which I am grateful (anyone tired of me telling about the tree that fell on our house?). Most recently, I finished landscaping an area of our front yard with a curved edging stone retaining wall enclosing a pickup load of fresh composted garden soil overlaying strategically placed underground sprinkler pipes and sprayer heads; it was a lot of hard, physical labor. But acknowledging the potential sin of hubris, dare I say, it looks amazing, almost perfect in fact, ready for planting.

Only problem is, we haven't figured out what to plant there yet. The location used to have a huge tree that we had removed for its worrisome lean towards our house (I had an arborist take a look at it, and his immediate professional comment was "Oh my! That thing's going to hit your house when it goes" – please take note that he said "when," not "if!"). Our insurance company agreed, so we knew the tree had to come down, but feared losing the wonderful shade it provided over the driveway especially during the summer.

So another tree is being planned for that space. But I wasn't thinking about that as I put in the sprinkler system – which is squarely in the area where the deep hole needs to be to receive the tree. Which means the sprinkler system I painstakingly put in place needed to be changed. Which means removing the pickup load of fresh composted garden soil to expose the sprinkler system. Which means removing the precisely laid down edging stones which, amazingly, have a variable weight idiosyncrasy – the first stone weighs about eight pounds, but the last stone of the exact same size winds up weighing about 100 pounds (or at least, feeling like it weighs that much!). Which all means I was a very grumpy landscaper as I began undoing the progress I worked so hard to achieve.

Sometimes life is like that, though, isn't it? We put a lot of work into something that speaks of progress or improvement or success, only to find that our changing world full of broken trees or broken promises or broken ideals or broken politics makes our efforts feel like they were in vain as plans for the future adjust aggressively and unexpectedly downward; various forces see our work undone, and we realize the arduous work of rebuilding lay somewhere before us.

There's been a lot of this kind of frustration felt by people of good conscience in our world these days, where much of the good work of the past has been attacked, undermined, eliminated, contorted, or otherwise compromised. From the reversal of civil rights legislation to the loss of government integrity to the weaponization of the Department of Justice to the contortion of the Christian faith in support of nationalism and prejudice, so much of the progress we've experienced as a country feels like it is being reversed; to make matters much worse, most of that reversal is intentional, spearheaded by entities intent upon a destructive path that serves their self-interest rather than serving the people being governed.

What is one to do in the midst of such carnage?

Prepare to rebuild is my answer. I think it's Jesus's answer as well.

Jesus spoke to a people who were very stuck in a world of oppression, injustice, and despair. Life was cheap and fragile; being poor and vulnerable was standard; rights were unheard of. The glory days of Abraham and Moses and King David were very distant memories bearing little practical impact upon the present; their historical legacy of Old Testament accounts of power, might, and justice had largely been undone.

Into this setting entered God in a most unconventional way with a most unexpected message: "rebuild." Start again. Do things over. Shape a different future. Set a new course. Retain what's of value from the past; leave what is not in the dust.

And let God show the way.

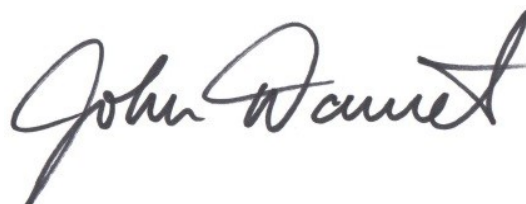
The rebuilding Jesus pointed to had almost nothing to do with construction plans or political gains or material provision. The rebuilding Jesus pointed to was to start with the spiritual foundation all effective renewals require. Being grounded in love for God and each other, an expansive, inclusive love that recognizes the sacredness of all life and seeks the welfare of all, is the starting point for all productive rebuilding efforts. And such efforts need to be on the alert for when to break ground – which is almost always before we really feel ready.

Much has been undone; but more can be rebuilt – and rebuilt better, as we learn from the mistakes of the past (the very recent past in our case!) and lean into the things of hope Jesus helped us understand.

Winston Churchill, after the victory of the allies in North Africa, said of the progression of their efforts "this is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is perhaps the end of the beginning." I find that a helpful way to think of our present reality, for there is so very much work that has been undone which needs to start being rebuilt in different ways according to a much more just, enduring, and ethical plan. But we are perhaps approaching the end of the beginning of the undoing of things humanity needs to thrive spiritually, physically, and morally. And as that end of the beginning approaches, we will be given opportunities to build things anew – and hopefully things more in alignment with the better angels of our nature.

So as we face the approaching end of the beginning, let us keep the prospect of rebuilding in mind, remembering that we have a God who is a master at new beginnings.

God's Grace Be With You,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John W. Daniel". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned at the bottom right of the page, below the text "God's Grace Be With You,".

Inspiration Tool Box

“If humanity has any hope of a meaningful and sustainable future, it lies with women.”

- Jane Goodall



Denalie Bruins displays the quilt she bought auctioned in Indianapolis at the United Women in Faith Assembly 2026, made by a member of the Mountain Sky Conference, depicting the national parks in our four states.



June 21—Bake Sale in the narthex following the church service. Bakers and buyers needed for the annual event featuring delicious delectables. Maybe get a treat for the fathers in your family! Mark your calendar now! Call Elaine if you have any questions

First UMC Foundation is pleased to award a scholarship in the amount of \$2,625 to each of the following applicants:

- Cameron Doucette**
- Madison Lightfield**
- Abby Slote**
- Delaney Slote**
- Ella Slote**



Congratulations to all of these students as they continue their pursuit of post-education



Volunteers needed to make sack lunches June - August!

What: Make lunches for the Poverello Center.

When: Saturday 9am-10:30.

Where: FUMC basement

Who to contact: Lorraine Carlson at madamecarlson@gmail.com.



MANIFEST LOVE. CELEBRATE WITH PRIDE!



Two ways to help First UMC celebrate our LGBTQ+ friends and family members.

Join the Parade: We will once again march and have a car in the parade this year. Last year about 30 of us participated. Let's do at least that many of us again! The parade is Saturday, June 20th from noon to 2:00, but we need to line up by anywhere from 10:00 to 11:00am depending on where they put us in the line up. We won't know that until a couple of days before, so if you plan to participate let us know ahead of time. You can sign up at the long table in the narthex, OR you can email: joeloos7245@gmail.com.

Volunteer to help host our safe family friendly space on Pride Parade Day, Saturday, June 20th, from noon to 3:00. If you don't want to be in the parade, or even if you do, but want to help with something after, choose this option.

Our church will be open for a quiet, family-friendly space with treats, conversation, and some activities for children. Depending on ages and needs, we may just have story time for children while parents engage with each other in conversation – or maybe we'll have bubble dancing and mask making. We're not expecting a big crowd, but we want to be a support to those looking for a safe, quiet, and supportive space.





On May 24, we celebrated Leslie Lindley’s 19 years as 1st UMC Treasurer.

We are grateful for her faithfulness to our church and its resources for so many years.

VESPERS will meet for lunch on June 17th at 1:00 at The Trough on Clement Street . Contact Patsy Hodges or Joanie Painter for more information.

The **Lectionary Book** study group will continue to meet throughout the summer. Wednesday at 10:00 am in the Library.

Worship Service at Franklin Park!

Sunday, June 28th FUMC will have Sunday service at Franklin Park—2100 S 10th St W, Missoula, MT, 59801. If you can, please bring lawn chairs and a potluck dish for the lunch afterwards.

Church Pledges and Donations

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

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

Designate where your donation goes when donating an online by using the dropdown menu below the donation amount.

You can also donate via text message: (406) 998-1982 include donation amount and a keyword like “Pledge” or “Building”.

Mail in donations are also welcome.

Contact:

Leslie Uhlenbruck,
Financial Secretary

First United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 7646
Missoula, MT 59807-7646

CONTACT OUR OFFICE

Weekday Hours

Monday-Thursday 9-12

Phone: 406- 549-6118

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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

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*

Catherine Thomsen, *Administrative Assistant*

Cheryl Bauer, *Administrative Assistant Sub*

Jim Bauer, Carol Davis, 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*

Lizzie Mills -Low, *Nursery Attendant*

*Deadline for July 2026 Newsletter
June 20*

Tzedakah Pocket Offers Hope

A summary of assistance provided by our church’s Tzedakah Pocket ministry for the month of May 2026 and Year to Date 2026 are shown below. We help whenever we can with as much as we can. Please continue to donate whenever you are able. We can, and do, make a difference for those who come to us for assistance.



Tzedakah **Summary**

2026 Donations: \$4,321.93

Assistance Paid	May 2026			Year to Date 2026		
	Amount	Fam	Child.	Amount	Fam	Child
<i>Lodging</i>	\$ 0	0	0	\$ 728.28	5	0
<i>Rent/ Sec. Dep.</i>	\$ 305.00	2	4	\$ 410.00	3	6
<i>Other</i>	\$ 182.99	1	0	\$ 2,732.00	29	31
TOTAL	\$ 487.99	3	4	\$ 3,870.28	37	37

We always give you a monthly accounting of what we have spent from your donations. This is important, but when we can, we want to give you a sense of the people behind these numbers, those we are able to help on your behalf. This month we got an assistance call from a family who needed help paying rent. They have two children, ages 5 and 8, and had to use their April rent money for car repairs to get home from a family visit to Idaho. They needed \$1,750, which is beyond our means for a given family. We pledged \$200 to go with the \$200 pledged by Hope Rescue Mission but we were still short of the goal. We were able to get our associates at First Presbyterian to pledge another \$200, but we were still short of the goal. Then we called on our Family Promise support church, Spirit of Peace. This wonderful group doesn’t have the staff to work directly with those in need, but they will work with established organizations such as ours. They were able to pledge the remainder (\$1,150!!) and together we were able to keep this family in their home. Once again, your support was there to help us resolve issues to the extent we can and get those in need on their way with our prayers and well-wishes. We couldn’t do this without you and we are grateful every day for your help.



Featuring Special Guest

Fr. Gregory Boyle, SJ

Founder of Homeboy Industries



Homeboy Industries is the largest gang rehabilitation and re-entry program in the world, based in Los Angeles, California.

Join us for an evening of connection, reflection, and community as we gather in support of the work of Missoula Interfaith Collaborative.

Fr. Boyle's message of dignity, compassion, and belonging aligns deeply with MIC's mission to walk alongside our neighbors through programs like Family Promise, Housing Advocate Network, and Missoula Works.

Event Details

Monday, June 15

5:30 - 6:30 Social hour (food, drink)

6:30 - 7:30 Event Program

Location: Zootown Church
3623 Brooks St, Msla



RSVP Required

Please RSVP with your Table Host (if you have one) by June 5th.

If not connected to a table host:
Scan QR code or follow link

bit.ly/4cljCM0

For Questions Contact ashley@micmt.org

You are invited to join MIC for a gathering that brings together people of faith to build meaningful relationships across our community. As a valued partner congregation, your community is especially invited to be part of this evening of connection and shared purpose. Together, we'll explore how connection and belonging strengthen our shared work and deepen our understanding of one another. This special MIC fundraising event features Father Gregory Boyle, SJ, founder of Homeboy Industries. There is no cost to attend and no minimum gift requirement. Guests are warmly welcomed through connection to MIC and must RSVP by June 5 via the form on the flyer, or by emailing ashley@micmt.org. The evening centers on deep listening, shared community, and an open invitation to engage with MIC's work across western Montana. All proceeds directly support MIC programming.

Green Notes: Get Vocal About AI Data Center in Bonner

Have you heard about the proposed AI data center in the Bonner-Milltown Industrial Park, aka the old Bonner millsite? It's time to get informed and get involved if you care about the future of Missoula's drinking water, energy prices, noise pollution, the livability of homes in Milltown and Bonner, climate change and the Clark Fork River.

Developers have submitted an application for the data center to Missoula County. Late last week, county officials said the developer – Krambu Inc. – needs to submit more information. A formal review by the Consolidated Land Use Board won't begin until that information is submitted. A public hearing was originally scheduled for July 1, but has been canceled pending submission of the requested information. Still, the clock is ticking and the proposal is serious. So FUMC's Green Team is going to help our congregation get informed over the weeks to come.

According to a story on MissoulaCurrent.com, the Land Use Board will determine whether the data center would be compatible with the neighborhood across Highway 200, which includes Bonner Elementary School, and whether various environmental issues could be avoided or mitigated. Those issues include additional traffic, noise, lights or added heat. But first, Missoula County planner Jennie Dixon must ensure the data center proposal passes muster.

Dixon told Krambu last week that the company's information on the effects of a data center, the heat and noise it would produce, the water and electricity it would use, and the traffic it would generate continues to be too vague. According to a story in The Pulp weekly e-news magazine, a fiery group of local residents attended the Bonner community council meeting recently. "Industry has let us down in the past," one commenter said. "So public mistrust should not come as a surprise." The data center's developer, of course, promises minimal impact on the water supply and energy rates – despite evidence to the contrary at every other existing AI data center nationwide. The "noise footprint," would also be negligible, the company said, as would be the "waste heat." None of those promises have held true at other data centers.

Throughout June, watch First Church's Sunday announcements for additional information on the AI Data Center proposal.

IN OUR PRAYERS...**HEALING, COMFORT, & STRENGTH**

- ✚ That Catherine's sons, who are both leaving soon for internships in new cities, will be strong and have a safe and successful time.
- ✚ Thankfulness and remembrance for service members who paid the ultimate price to keep our country strong and
- ✚ Safe travels for Rocky A's daughter Michi, and grandsons Emory and Sam.
- ✚ Comfort for Terri D's sister-in-law's family in the loss of their father, Don McDougal.
- ✚ That Denalie's niece in Vancouver's cancer treatment will be effective, and strength for

JOY AND THANKSGIVING

- ✚ Joy for the iris in the church yard and that Jane's peonies opened on the way to church, to grace our alley entry.
- ✚ Joy that Cindy's brother-in-law's sister Terry, who passed away last week, is no longer in pain, and comfort for the family in their loss.
- ✚ Joy for Brad W's birthday the 24th.
- ✚ Gratitude for the faith, joy, and love that Denalie, Tish, Elaine, and about 3,000 other United Women of Faith were able to experience at the conference in Indianapolis last week, for their "Faith That Can Move Mountains", and quest to do good in the world.

**SYMPATHY**

- ✚ Comfort for the family and friends of Jackie K ("hat Jackie"), who passed away in Houston last week.
- ✚ Comfort and peace for the family and friends of Linda Norha. Linda passed away yesterday; she was Pastor Daniels' brother's mother-in-law (his wife Anita's mother) and had been in hospice care for nearly a year.

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Instagram:
<https://www.instagram.com/missoula1stumc/>

Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

June Events

- 6/11:** Ruth Fellowship 10 a.m. KDM Library
- 6/15:** Tangible Hope (MIC) Zootown Church 5:30-7:30
- 6/17:** VESPERs lunch at The Trough 1:00
- 6/20:** Pride Parade
- 6/21:** Jubellation (Bells) during service
- 6/21:** Bake Sale following church service
- 6/28:** Sunday Worship at 10:30 am at Franklin Park



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 Library. Contact Rev. Barry Padgett