

## Celebration of Ministries - December 7, 2025

### Join JuBELLation for our Holiday Handbell Concert

We hope you'll join First Church's JuBELLation Choir for our annual holiday handbell concert at 3 p.m. on Sunday, December 14.

This free concert in our beautiful sanctuary will also feature First Presbyterian Church's handbell choir. Together, we will present a program of holiday favorites – and a few new twists on the season. Each choir will present solo pieces, then will join to ring several songs.

Among the favorites to be presented: "I'll Be Home for Christmas," "The First Noel," "Joy to the World," "Fum Fum Fum" and "Green Blade Riseth."



### Altar Flower Fund

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.

Arts & Environment would like to use fresh flowers on the altar throughout the year. Each donation will be noted in the Christmas Eve announcements.

*Thank you for your generosity.*

Checks may be made out to: **FUMC, "Altar Flower Fund"**. Please designate: *"In honor of"* and/or *"In memory of"* *"Given by"* and **phone number**.

### Become a Scripture Reader

We are looking for Scripture Readers for worship services in the months of November and December. 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.



Our Annual  
WHITE ELEPHANT  
Christmas Exchange  
Everyone is Welcome!

December 12, 6:00 pm  
STEVE AND LORRAINE CARLSON'S  
6314 HILLVIEW WAY  
Bring a dish to share

### Volunteers needed to serve communion.

If you'd like to participate, please sign up, or contact Marilyn: qlttme@msn.com. The sign-up sheet is in the Narthex. (Main Street Entrance) Thank you.

### What's Happening at Sunday School?

On December 7<sup>th</sup>, during Sunday Service, the nursery and Sunday school children are excited to present their **Annual Christmas play**.

Thank you for your generous donation of craft supplies, we no longer need tribeads or sequins. Thank you for Individually wrapped Fruit Snacks. Currently, we are in need of regular cotton balls (not the craft ones). Thank you so much for your continued support of our Sunday School.

Here is an update on Jackie Kraham, plus an address if anyone would like to send a card: Jackie is stabilized and transferred to an assisted living facility and is comfortable. Cards can be sent to Jackie Kraham in care of Jamee and Tom Ferlic (Jackie's daughter) at 17926 Butte Creek Road Houston TX. 77090. I know Jackie would appreciate hearing of us.

## **Be Green! Let's Swap Unused Holiday Cards!**

Do you have unused Christmas cards at home? Have some been lingering in your desk drawers for years?

First Church's Green Team is organizing a holiday card swap on the small cart across from our bulletin board just outside the sanctuary's side door. There, you can leave unwanted, unused cards and – if you want – pick up some new cards to send this year.

We've placed a few of our own cards on the cart to get the ball rolling. Now we need your help! It's a great way to save paper – and trees – this holiday season. Share your new, unused cards!

## **Join in every Sunday after worship!**

Coffee, cookies, doughnuts, cake, cobbler - we have it all!

We would like to continue this fellowship but need coffee hosts to put the pot on and heat up the water in the kettle.

There is a sign up sheet in the Narthex or contact Sarah Schmill at 406.258.6427 [sschmill5@gmail.com](mailto:sschmill5@gmail.com)

If you have any questions about the specific duties of coffee hosts Sarah Schmill, Cathy Kemmis or Judy Whiddon would be happy to give you a tour of our tiny kitchen! It is a fun job that really helps to welcome all of us and keep up our strong connection to one another.

**Join us for Lectionary Bible Study,  
Wednesday, from 10 a.m. until noon,  
in the Library.**

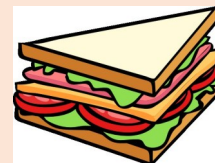


Rust colored sweater found in choir room, if it belongs to you, please stop by Church office during open hours. Thank you.



## **Three Years!**

It's been three years since 1st Methodist started making Sack Lunches for the POV. Thanks to one and all who made it possible! Sign ups for the New Year are available now! Contact [madamecarlson@gmail.com](mailto:madamecarlson@gmail.com) if you are interested. (Lorraine Carlson)



*Sponsors Needed!*

## **HOLIDAY GIVING TREE**

Become a giving tree sponsor and bring some holiday cheer to **Family Promise** and **Housing Advocate Network (HAN)** participants who secured housing this year!



Contact: [nancy@micmt.org](mailto:nancy@micmt.org)



## The Annual John Floridis Benefit Concert!

Mark your calendar for this fun Advent event:

**Sunday, December 21st at 4:00pm.**

With his incomparable guitar work, singer-songwriter, John Floridis' concerts are always extraordinary and wondrous. John returns to our sanctuary during his Winter Concert Tour to benefit the on-going critical work of Missoula



Interfaith Collaborative (MIC). MIC works to address necessary systemic change through their participation in broad-based community organizing work. Through their service programs: **Family Promise, Housing Advocate Network, and Missoula Works**, MIC strives to meet the needs of the community.

**The concert is FREE!**

*(All donations collected at the door will go to MIC.)*

A vertical poster for the Christmas Bell Concert. The background is dark blue with white snowflakes at the top and white evergreen trees at the bottom. The title "Christmas Bell Concert" is written in a large, white, cursive font, with a yellow bell icon to the right of the word "Concert". Below the title, the text "Please join the First United Methodist and the First Presbyterian Bell Choirs for an afternoon of holiday music." is written in a smaller, white, serif font. The date and time "December 14 at 3:00 PM" are written in a white, serif font. At the bottom, there is a white wavy line representing snow. To the left of the snow line is a white treble clef, and to the right is a white bass clef. Between the clefs, the text "First United Methodist 300 E Main St., Missoula" is written in a white, serif font. To the right of a vertical line, the text "Free Entry Everyone is welcome" is written in a white, serif font. At the very bottom, the text "Cookie Reception to follow" is written in a white, serif font.

**Christmas Bell Concert** 🔔

Please join the First United Methodist and the First Presbyterian Bell Choirs for an afternoon of holiday music.

**December 14 at 3:00 PM**

First United Methodist  
300 E Main St., Missoula

Free Entry  
Everyone is welcome

Cookie Reception to follow

### 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**



## Tzedakah Summary

2025 Donations: \$18,914.67

Assistance Paid	November 2025			Year to Date		
	Amount	Fam.	Child.	Amount	Fam.	Child.
Lodging	\$ 587.40	3	9	\$ 2,315.16	16	11
Rent/ Sec. Dep.	\$ 0	0	0	\$ 5,130.00	13	26
Other	\$ 357.00	4	1	\$ 4,229.85	48	57
TOTAL	\$ 944.40	7	10	\$ 11,675.01	77	94

### Tzedakah Pocket Offers Hope

These are certainly challenging times and it's hard to see an end in sight. Your donations make a difference in people's lives, especially now, and help them keep going despite their individual challenges. This month we were blessed with a very generous donation which will allow us to help additional people overcome their challenges. Although we don't have any details associated with this donation so we can't direct individual thanks, we are filled with gratitude for it as we are for all the others we have received. May God bless you all for caring and sharing.

A summary of assistance provided by our church's Tzedakah Pocket ministry for the month of November and Year to Date 2025 are shown below. We help whenever we can with as much as we can. Please continue to donate whenever you are able. We can make a difference for those who come to us for assistance.

# Prayer List for December 7, 2025



- ♦ Prayers for strength and healing for Lou and Phyllis Whitsell who are currently having health issues.
- ♦ Prayers for Strength peace for Quay family in the loss of their son Eric.
- ♦ Prayers for healing and comfort for parishioner's cousin for who has prostate cancer.
- ♦ Prayers for aunt who is struggling with dementia, prayers for strength for her family.
- ♦ Comfort and strength for Jackie K, who is in hospice in Houston.
- ♦ Joy for John D's 61<sup>st</sup> birthday the 30<sup>th</sup>.
- ♦ Strength and endurance for Denalie to make sure her son David receives the care he needs with possible health care changes coming soon.
- ♦ That we will keep love for all people in our hearts.
- ♦ Thanksgiving for the joy the UWF Bookie Ladies receive when they meet each month.
- ♦ That our world will calm down.
- ♦ That our Afghan family is not adversely affected by announced changes in refugee policies, especially Farah, who is already here in Missoula.
- ♦ Thanksgiving that the "downstairs" Unitarians worshiped with us the 30<sup>th</sup>.



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

**Please send your prayer requests in!** E-mail Kathie Snodgrass at [kathiewearsgreen@yahoo.com](mailto:kathiewearsgreen@yahoo.com) with your prayer requests. You can also email or call the office at 549-6118.