

TOWER TIDINGS

The Sixty-Fifth Epistle of John “Sourcing Fresh Perspectives”

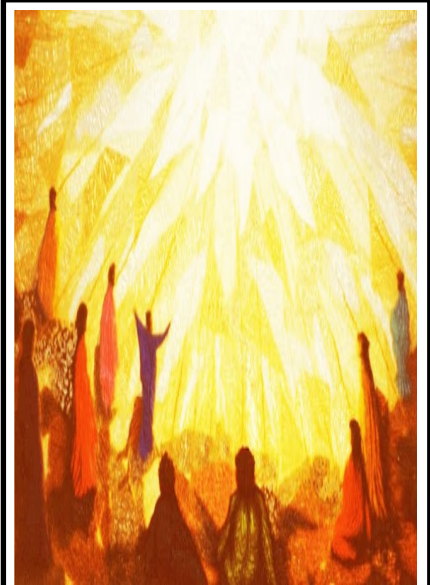
I have, in my life, a grandmaster of wisdom, a sage of indelible truths, an eloquent speaker of narratives most worthy of note, and a staunch advocate of the wonders of the world – and who just happens to be three years old.

My granddaughter Alva spends one day a week with me; I have the privilege of watching her while her parents work. Each one of those days is filled with the magic that accompanies a life growing into, learning about, and figuring out this world around her – including testing, challenging, and sometimes defying what the world considers normative. Forget predictability or anything resembling a normal day – each time-period with her is filled with absolute fascination over an earthworm crawling on the ground, wide-eyed attentiveness as I demonstrate the intricacies tying my shoe, or proclaiming her glee over our dog Loki chasing a ball she threw (“I did it!”). I find that my time with her is filled with the wonder that only comes with fresh perspective, something that a three-year-old experiences all the time.

Her fresh perspectives have a powerful effect on me, for I sense that she is embodying much of what the world needs right now, especially in these days of shadow and consternation. The contagious effect of youthful perspective and hope is something essential to all life; childish wonder, so easily lost over time, provides the seedbed of possibilities yet to discover which have the potential to add profoundly to life. It is said that people don’t really age until they stop dreaming of a better future; perhaps it is more accurate to say people don’t age until they lose their sense of wonder?

I wonder how much age itself has to do with aging? I have known and presently interact with many elderly individuals who embody an amazingly youthful perspective. One of the most youthful minds and hearts I can think of recently passed from this life into God’s embrace; Helen Rummel was 104 years old at her passing. If you ever had the pleasure of talking with Helen, you found yourself interacting with a mind eager to hear about the world, excited about the new things

JUNE 2023



LECTIONARY

- **June 4**

Trinity Sunday

Genesis 1:1-2:4a

Psalms 8

2 Corinthians 13:11-13

Matthew 28:16-20

- **June 11**

Second Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 12:1-9

Psalms 33:1-12

Romans 4:13-25

Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

- **June 18**

Third Sunday after Pentecost

Father’s Day

Genesis 18: 1-15

Psalms 116:1-2, 12-19

Romans 5:1-8

Matthew 9:35-10:8

- **June 25**

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 21:8-21

Psalms 86:1-10, 16-17,

or Psalms 17

Romans 6:1b-11

Matthew 10:24-39

going on in church, playful in her insightful observations, and kind to the core. Youthful, in other words. I have had the privilege of knowing many such people in the congregations I have served as pastor; I consider myself extremely fortunate that many of my senior family members retain a childlike wonder or youthful enthusiasm about much of life (often measurable by the frequency of laughter!).



But can a youthful perspective be nurtured? Can we help foster in our minds and hearts a sense of wonder and possibility beyond the confines of a daily reality that is so often harsh and unforgiving? Absolutely, says my experience with my granddaughter. Positively, says my experience with the seniors in my congregations. Obviously, says my experience with my family members. Completely, says my faith understanding, which identifies the approach to God with maintaining a sense of wonder. Intention added to exposure is the key, at least for me. I intend to not grow old in my thinking, to maintain a sense of wonder in the world, to not fall prey to caustic perspectives or debilitating predictions. But I don't believe my intentions are enough – I need examples of how this can be done, of what it looks like in the lives of others, past and present; I need those examples in my life both to show me the components to joy-filled living and to know such fresh perspectives are possible in the first place. To me, this is precisely why Jesus said "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them" (Matthew 18:20). Community keeps things real; relating to each other keeps things energized; and doing so in the awareness that there is more to us than us invites wonder over it all. Such a pattern for life cannot help but produce the regular, fresh perspectives we all need everyday.

Or so says my experience with a three-year-old sage!

God's Grace Be With You,

Sherry Devlin honored by Mountain Sky Conference

Sherry Devlin was awarded the Mountain Sky Conference's Quiet Disciple recognition in a surprise presentation by Pastor John during FUMC's worship service on Sunday, May 21st.

"A Quiet Disciple is one who goes about his or her business in ministry or service without fanfare or filling a specific position."

Sherry's inconspicuous contributions to the church and community in glass recycling, solar panel acquisition, Afghan refugee resettlement, assistance to the Arizona Justice project and Bell Choir brought the congregation to their feet in a rousing standing ovation.





Want to be part of the June 17 Missoula PRIDE Parade?

Join your friends at 1st UMC and make our church a strong presence in this year's parade. We'll have a banner, flags, signs, and maybe even a convertible or two. We need to register our church's entry by May 31st, so we'd like to know before then if you might be able to go. **But if you miss that deadline, still feel free to sign up later – even last minute!** There are two ways to sign up. Put your name and contact information on the list in the narthex after church, or email or call Karen Loos: karenloos7245@gmail.com / 406-721-5013. Let's make this a real celebration of support for our LGBTQ+ members, relatives, and friends! And if you have teens in your family who'd like to come, please do let us know and bring them along.



Church Pledges and Donations

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

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

If you give online there is a dropdown menu under the line with the amount that allows you to designate where the money goes. You can also text to give at (406) 998-1982 with a donation amount and keyword like pledge or building. You are also welcome to mail in your donation. Leslie Uhlenbruck, Financial Secretary

Tower Tidings July Deadline:

June 13th

Special thanks to Nancy Eik and April Padget for helping edit *Tower Tidings*.

HOW TO CONTACT

THE OFFICE

Weekday Hours

Monday-Thursday 9-12

Phone: (406) 549-6118

E-Mail: FUMCmissoula@gmail.com

Website: www.firstumcmissoula.org

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/1stumcmissoula

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*

Genevieve Padget Slote, *Administrative Assistant*

Cheryl Bauer, *Administrative Assistant Sub*

Jim Bauer, Donna McCammon, and

Cara Lightfield *Office Volunteers*

Leslie Lindley, *Treasurer*

Leslie Uhlenbruck, *Financial Secretary*

Craig Gohl, *Custodian*

Greg Boris, *Chancel Choir Director*

Sarah Schmill, *Hand Bell Choir Director*

Luke Larson, *Organist and Pianist*

VACANT, *Children and Youth Ministries*

Director

VACANT, *Nursery Attendant*

For more information or to reach First UMC staff, please call the church office, 406-549-6118, or E-Mail us at FUMCmissoula@gmail.com

Toolbox for Inspiration

“Everything good, everything magical happens between the months of June and August.”

Jenny Han



United Women in Faith Summer Happenings



June through August: All women of the church are invited to meet every Friday at noon at Bonner Park on Beverly Street (south end of the park) near the bandshell. Bring your lunch, a chair, and an open heart for sharing and caring.

August 2: Mark your calendar, August 2 for the Community Band concert Methodist Night at Bonner Park. A NEW time is 7:30 pm for

the concert. Please bring your dinner and a chair if you want to meet earlier at 6:30 pm near the east end tables to hear the Sweet Adelines and our own Allie Baty Powell.

Many THANKS for all those who supported United Women in Faith for the first annual Spring Fling. Whether you baked or bought or donated, you contributed greatly to sustaining our 126 mission institutions – community centers, schools, orphanages, training centers, and health clinics, etc.



Baskets of Love

We'll wrap this campaign up for 2023 with many thanks for all the congregation did to help those who found permanent homes after a period of houselessness. You are so appreciated. Our congregation results for 2023 are:

Family Promise Budget: \$300.00

(will purchase a complete set of welcome baskets)

Congregation Donation: \$778.06

United Women of Faith: \$130.00 and 6 blankets



Tzedakah Pocket Offers Hope

We continue to support those who come to us for help as best we can and we have you to thank for that. We couldn't do anything without your support and we are grateful for whatever you are able to give. We can't predict when we will get assistance requests or know how much will be needed to satisfy each request but we are here to help and, as always, we do as much as we can with what we have.

A recap of assistance provided by our church's Tzedakah Pocket ministry is shown below.



Tzedakah Summary

2023 Donations: \$4,118.71

Assistance Paid	May 2023			Year- To- Date 2023		
	Amount	Fam.	Child.	Amount	Fam.	Child.
<i>Lodging</i>	\$ 607.36	3	3	\$ 2,296.40	14	11
<i>Rent/ Sec. Dep.</i>	\$ 0	0	0	\$ 200.00	1	2
<i>Other</i>	\$ 410.00	4	2	\$ 4,516.22	33	22
<i>TOTAL</i>	\$ 1,017.36	7	5	\$ 7,012.62	48	35

IN OUR PRAYERS...

~Healing and Comfort ~

- ✚ Prayers of healing and comfort for Cheryl B.'s sister Pam, who fell and shattered her shoulder, back, and wrist.
- ✚ Prayers of peace and comfort for the marginalized among us.
- ✚ Prayers of peace and safety for those in Sudan.
- ✚ Prayers for a successful diagnosis and healing for Marie N.'s sister Joyce B., who was hospitalized with a possible infection in her ankle.
- ✚ Prayers of healing for Jude M., who injured her foot and is in significant pain and in a wheelchair for a few weeks.
- ✚ Prayers of comfort and rapid recovery for those affected and the families of those who perished in the flooding in the Congo.
- ✚ Prayers of comfort and courage for Aston F. age 12, who has a brain tumor.
- ✚ Prayers of success for a father with three young boys who is trying to find stable housing and a job.
- ✚ Prayers of safety for asylum seekers as borders open up and for the communities who welcome them.
- ✚ Prayers of healing for Greyson, who injured his leg.
- ✚ Prayers of peace for the gentleman who came to pray in the sanctuary.
- ✚ Prayers of resolution of all the Missing and Murdered Indigenous People mysteries and comfort for those affected.
- ✚ Prayers for a place to heal for Wesley, who is homeless, so that he can have surgery to repair his broken leg.
- ✚ Prayers of peace and comfort for the marginalized among us.
- ✚ Prayers of continued healing for Frank K. who had a knee replacement.
- ✚ Continued prayers of healing for Ellin I. who had back surgery in May.
- ✚ Prayers for continued healing for Hollie C., and joy that she is doing well after her thyroid surgery.
- ✚ Comfort for Liz R., as she makes her journey through cancer.

- ✚ Continued healing for Lori M., who is now at Craig Rehabilitation Hospital in Englewood, CO.

~In Sympathy~

- ✚ Prayers of comfort for those who lost family and friends in the neighborhood shooting in Texas, and others lost to gun violence.

~Praises~

- ✚ Prayers of joy that there are times and places, including experiencing the natural wonders of Montana, which allow us to relax and de-stress from the challenges of our lives and our state's politics.
- ✚ Prayers of joy for Corinne T.'s 90th birthday in May.
- ✚ Prayers of thanksgiving for nurses and hope for better support for them.
- ✚ Prayers of thanksgiving for all moms and mother figures in our lives!
- ✚ Prayers of joy and success for all this season's graduates.
- ✚ Prayers of birthday celebrations for Patsy H. who celebrated her 90th birthday in May.
- ✚ Prayers of thanksgiving that the tests came back cancer free for Joan and Michael's daughter-in-law after her cancer treatments.
- ✚ Prayers of birthday celebrations for Brad W., who celebrated his birthday in May.



Green Notes: Missoula First UMC Blazes 'Green' Trail in Mountain Sky Conference!



Missoula First UMC's congregation helped inspire a petition that will be presented at June's 2023 Mountain Sky Conference meeting, calling for the establishment of a Green Team at every church in the conference – and for those churches that already have teams to strengthen them.

The petition reads: "Green Teams can focus on initiatives in four areas – worship, education, practice and advocacy – providing children, youth and adults of all ages with inspiration, knowledge, encouragement and practical means for caring for creation and justice."

It also says that "creation care and justice should be lifted up in all areas of ministry and mission, including preaching, liturgy, communications, education, outreach and advocacy so that the church will become an increasingly effective witness of loving God and neighbor in the gift of creation."

Our church has one of the oldest Green Teams in the conference, and has accomplished many of the projects on most "starter" lists for such groups. But we will benefit if the petition is approved by annual conference, as it includes a call for more idea exchanges and inspiration throughout the region.

In fact, 70 local churches in the Mountain Sky Conference already have Green Teams or are in the midst of creating one.

We will post the petition and its rationale on our First Church website, so you can read the complete document. It includes an appendix with a number of great ideas to help Green Teams get started with projects and direct action.

Hurrah for First Church's congregation and Green Team! We're making a difference far beyond our borders!





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Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

June Events

- ♦ **June 17: Pride:** Come walk in the Missoula PRIDE parade with First UMC members. Contact Karen Loos at 406-721-5013 for more info.
- ♦ **June 25: Worship in the Park,** 10:30 a.m., Franklin Park
- ♦ **Fridays:** All women of the church are invited to meet every Friday at noon at Bonner Park on Beverly Street (south end of the park) near the bandshell.



Weekly Events via Zoom and in person

In person worship Sunday - Worship 10:00 a.m. and via Zoom (recordings on Facebook or the church website).

Monday - Friday - Noon-1:00 p.m. - Vigil for Peace and the Ukraine in the sanctuary. Contact Jana S. at jstaton@montana.com if interested in being a vigil monitor.

Tuesday - Pastor John's class 10:00 a.m. via Zoom. All are welcome! Please contact the office for the Zoom link! (ON SUMMER BREAK STARTING JUNE 6)

Wednesday - Lectionary Bible Class 10:00 a.m. in the Helen Herbert Parlor. Contact Rev. Barry Padgett at barryumc@yahoo.com for more information. All are welcome to attend!