
The Good News

Volume 2022

July 27, 2022

Issue 23

Rev. Lynne Spencer-Smith
Pastor Sara MacGivra Branom, Sabbatical Supply
(406) 453-4316

E-Mail: greatfallsucc@bresnan.net

www.greatfallsucc.org

P. O. Box 6303, 59406

like us on Facebook at First Congregational United Church of Christ-Great Falls, MT

July 31, 2022



**Summer Worship with
Christ United Methodist
9:30 A.M.**

Tellers: Paul H., Nancy Z.

In-person worship will be offered in the church sanctuary at 9:30 A.M. We will continue to register folks upon entry and will have the ventilation system going. Facemasks strongly recommended. Please continue to observe physical distancing as much as possible. Televised worship will air at 9:30 A.M. on local NBC.

**First Congregational United Church of Christ
Summer Contact Information**

Pastoral Care/Support- Sara Branom, sara@greatfallsucc.org

Sara will be in the office on Wednesdays and Sundays. If you would like to visit with Sara in person, please contact her via email or call the church office to schedule an appointment.

Administrative Needs- Dick Kloppel, dick_kloppel@charter.net

Karen Spencer, karenlspencer@charter.net

Office Needs- Holly Garcia, greatfallsucc@bresnan.net



Dear Friends,

Seeking rest and restoration can be a challenge at times. As Pastor Lynne and Greg embark on their next adventures they rested at home recovering from COVID, and a leaky RV with bald tires. You know the saying about the best laid plans. A cynic once wrote, "if you want to make God laugh, make plans." I prefer to think of this quote as a reminder to us of whose we are as God's beloved. God does not laugh at misfortune, rather we are assured we are not alone in whatever life throws at us.

This truth is vividly apparent to me when I am in conversation with my Muslim friends. As they tell me about any plan or goal they have no matter how small, they say, "Inshallah," meaning if God wills or God willing. This phrase is a faithful reminder of the presence of our loving God in every detail of life, acknowledging the Holy as they go about their day. Saying "inshallah" is as natural to a Muslim as saying hello. I am always humbled when I hear this spontaneous expression of faith, as it reminds me, even briefly, that I am not alone, God is watching over me.

As we journey through your summer remember God is with you and will guide you.

Inshallah, I'll see you soon.

Sabbatical Supply Pastor Sara

Fall Worship Time Change to 9:30 A.M.

The short version: **Due to a Methodist worship time conflict resulting from the new assignment of Dawn Skerritt (Christ United Methodist pastor), your First Congregational UCC-Great Falls (FCUCC-GF) Council has determined that we (FCUCC-GF) will continue to worship at 9:30 A.M. for the remainder of this calendar year.** This is a temporary solution that will resolve the Methodist worship time conflict and also allow us time to more thoughtfully develop a permanent resolution. **Beginning with Rally Sunday on September 11th, please plan on continuing with our 9:30 A.M. worship time.**

The “rest of the story”: As most of us know, each year on July 1, Methodist ministers are assigned/re-assigned per the polity of the United Methodist Church. Recall that the current CUMC minister, Dawn Skerritt, was assigned to CUMC a couple of years ago and had been assigned to serve not only CUMC but also Highwood and Fort Benton. As of July 1 2022, Highwood and Fort Benton were dropped and Dawn’s new assignment is to serve Christ United Methodist Church (CUMC) (our sister church) and First United Methodist Church (FUMC downtown).

Dawn’s current assignment of serving both CUMC and FUMC (downtown) has created a worship time conflict. FUMC downtown worships at 9:30 A.M. as does CUMC for the remainder of the joint worships with us for the summer and then for the remainder of the calendar year. After Labor Day we (FCUCC-GF) are scheduled to return to the 11:00 A.M. worship time for the remainder of the calendar year and then move to the 9:30 A.M. time for 2023.

FUMC downtown is firm on the 9:30 A.M. worship time so the CUMC leadership has offered to move their worship to 11:00 A.M. after Labor Day. Knowing that we (FCUCC-GF) are also scheduled for the 11:00 A.M. worship time in the sanctuary, CUMC has offered to hold their worship in the Fellowship Hall and to coordinate with the pianist/organist at FUMC downtown to serve for the CUMC worship. While we appreciate their effort to not let the Methodist time conflict impact us, it will in that our social hour following worship will not be able to happen because the Fellowship Hall will be in use.

On Monday evening (7/18) your Council met to discuss this conflict and to come up with a temporary solution that will minimize any inconvenience for our members and friends. Following the discussion, which included collaboration with Rev. Lynne, your Council decided that, as a temporary solution, we (FCUCC-GF) would remain in the 9:30 A.M. worship time after Labor Day for the remainder of the calendar year. This temporary adjustment will give us time to formulate a more permanent plan and will allow us to involve Rev. Lynne while respecting her sabbatical time. Because we are scheduled to worship at 9:30 A.M. in 2023, this will give us ample time to involve not only CUMC in formulating a plan but also those in the broader United Methodist Church that are involved in minister assignments.

So – beginning with Rally Sunday on September 11th, plan for continued worship at 9:30 A.M. followed by our traditional social hour for the remainder of the year.

Dick Kloppel, Moderator



Christian Education News

Don’t forget! Nursery care is provided this summer during worship! And the “Pray Ground” and “Christ Kid” bags are available to engage kids during worship. **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!** Sunday school begins on September 11th!

Join Us in Prayer

On the second Tuesday of each month, a group of folks gather to pray (and visit). This is an informal gathering where participants share prayer concerns of their own, prayer concerns for others and prayer concerns for our world. The group will meet on Tuesday, August 9th at 6:00 P.M. at the church. All are welcome! No experience necessary.

Fish Thank You’s

We had a good week at the FISH Food Pantry - not real busy, but some big families! And we kept running outside on Friday to watch the Thunderbirds practicing! Thank you to these wonderful people: ***Jack Armstrong, Elaine Balzer, Connie Brauer, Lila Byers, Carol Davidson, Dennis Dell, Maribeth Doan, Peggy Floen, Sharon Kiffe, Sandy Nicolai, Sue Skees, Karen Spencer and Nancy Zbinden.*** Your help is always appreciated! Our next FISH time is October 3-7. Maybe see you then!



Taste of the Philippines

On **Saturday, August 20, 2022 from 4:00-7:00 P.M.**, Fil-Am Great Falls will be presenting a “Taste of the Philippines” Fundraiser at the church. Proceeds of the fundraiser go towards local scholarships in Great Falls, cultural awareness projects, and disaster relief efforts in the Philippines. **The event kicks off at 4:00 P.M. with Great Falls Principal Flutist Norman Menzales**, who will present classical Filipino Flute works including a new transcription from his upcoming album. **Following the presentation, guests will have an opportunity to taste an array of Filipino cuisine. Tickets are \$25.00 per person and may be purchased either in the church office beginning July 25th or through Fil-Am Great Falls.**



Please plan to be with us (in person) for
RALLY DAY AND STEWARDSHIP KICKOFF

on Sunday, September 11th, at 10:30 A.M. after our church service.

Many of us continue to worship in person, but many connect on-line or watch the pre-recorded service. Rally Day is an awesome day to re-engage in-person in our church's life and fellowship.

Join the Church Boards Carnival celebrating the abundance of God.

Corndogs, chicken skewers, ice cream sundaes, pigs in a blanket, a cake walk, ping pong ball fun, popcorn, and so much more will be provided.

Please note the COVID protocol for your safety and comfort as we hope you consider joining us in person to celebrate our faith.

Call for Delegates to CAM

The Annual Meeting of the Montana/Northern Wyoming Conference United Church of Christ is going to be held virtually via Zoom this fall on September 23, 24, 25. Even though registration is not yet open, this is a call for delegates to “attend” and represent First Congregational UCC-Great Falls. This year’s annual meeting promises to be quite interesting and engaging with the upcoming retirement of Conference Minister Marc Stewart and the significant challenges facing the aging and declining membership within our Conference. Please consider joining Conference Moderator Rev. Lynne Spencer-Smith, incoming Conference Moderator Hank Branom, and your UCC colleagues in attending and representing First Congregational United Church of Christ- Great Falls, MT.

Anyone interested in and willing to participate is asked to let Sara Branom, Dick Kloppel, or Karen Spencer know – or let Holly know and she’ll pass the information along.

Wheelchair

Recently, an individual attending a church event in our building experienced a health issue that required the use of a wheelchair. Fortunately, one of our staff recalled that there is a youth-sized wheelchair in the basement (not very good condition), got it, and (again fortunately) the individual was small enough to fit in the chair. Given this awakening experience (Divine guidance?), we realized that we should have an adult-sized (large) wheelchair in our facility. If anyone has such an item they’d like to donate or knows of one that could be donated or purchased, your Church would greatly appreciate knowing. Please let Sara Branom, Karen Spencer, or Dick Kloppel know – or Holly and she can pass the information along.



Global Ministries Mission Dash 5K

Interested in climate justice? Want to make a difference in the world from right where you live? You can support these things by participating in Global Ministries Mission Dash 5K for climate justice! Participants may walk, roll, run, jog, advocate, or spiritually sprint wherever you are! You may choose to do the dash with a friend, a family member, or on your own. **The cost is \$25 per person**, and each registrant will receive a collapsible water bottle and magnet. Register and make plans to join us at www.globalministries.org/5kRegistration. Want to help but don’t want to do the 5K? No worries! You may support **Janet Koostra** or **Carol Shipley**, who have already registered to participate. You may support their 5K fundraiser by clicking on the following link of your choice:

Janet <https://runsignup.com/JanetKoostra>

Carol <https://runsignup.com/Race/121787/Donate/HnOdqllNud7wKuI2>

You may also write a check made payable to FCUCC with 5K in the memo line.

Helping our Global Ministries partners address climate change around the world is critical, and happens with efforts in tree planting, water projects, innovative farming practices and solar lighting projects. Please prayerfully consider taking part—run, walk or donate. Make a difference today!

A Word From Our Global Ministries Sponsor Child

April 30, 2022

Dear Ms. Janet and First Congregational UCC,

Hi! How are you? Last March 2022 was a lot of fun because there is an event here in Dumaguete called "Tayada sa Pantawan" and I also performed. I am happy seeing people and how impressed they are watching me singing.

The situation here still the same. We still don't have face-to-face classes but only our school is not allowed to have it, we're only using modules. I hope this pandemic will be over because we are having difficult times answering the modules and we can't understand the lessons. The election is also coming too and I hope people will vote wisely.

I'm happy because Kalauman announced that we will be having activities again and I will be able to see my friends again, I miss my friends in Kalauman so much!

I hope you guys are doing fine there, always take care, especially to Ms. Janet, she's such a lovely lady! God bless you all! God is good all the time, and all the time God is good.

Truly Yours, VJ Antonette Benarao

*Important
Notes*

**The next newsletter will be
mailed on August 17th.**

Please have articles submitted by
August 12th. Thank you.

Office hours continue to be
Monday-Thursday,
9:30 A.M.-3:30 P.M.

It is advised that you please call
ahead of time before coming over
to insure that someone is here
and the doors are unlocked.

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, August 3

10:00 A.M. Bridge

Sunday, August 7 (First Congregational)

9:30 A.M. In person worship, Communion

Lay Reader: Peter J.

Ushers: Bonnie L., Lisa T.

Tellers: Carol S., Sue S.

Monday, August 8

6:00 P.M. Christian Education Board, Parlor

6:00 P.M. Business Affairs Board, Zoom

Tuesday, August 9

6:00 P.M. Prayer Meeting

Sunday, August 14 (Christ United Methodist)

9:30 A.M. In person worship

Tellers: Liz L., Ed V.

10:30 A.M. Worship Board, Parlor

3:00 P.M. Stewardship Board, Zoom

Monday, August 15

6:30 P.M. Church Council, TO BE DETERMINED

Wednesday, August 17

10:00 A.M. Bridge

Saturday, August 20

4:00 P.M. Fil-Am Taste of Great Falls

Sunday, August 21 (First Congregational)

9:30 A.M. Praise Worship with Dean J.

Lay Reader: Joan D.

Ushers: June R., Bill W.

Tellers: Carol S., Nancy Z.

Sunday, August 28 (First Congregational)

Welcome Back, Rev. Lynne!

9:30 A.M. In person worship, Choir

Lay Reader: Kelly Q.

Ushers: Bonnie L., Liz L.

Tellers: Paul H., Sue S.

Happy August Birthday To:

Khalil L.	1
Emmett S.	1
Tracy H.	2
Aaron J.	2
Molly K.	2
Betty M.	2
Ed V.	3
Verna K.	4
Brad T.	5
Nancy Z.	5
Carol B.	6
Sherry T.	6
Jonathan B.	8
Katie P.	8
Travis N.	9
Arlene O.	9
Dawn M.	10
Shauna N.	12
Gary Z.	12
Angelito D.	13
Ariana M.	13
Halley T.	14
Joan B.	16
Atticus M.	16
Kelsey J.	17
Brandi R.	18
Vern H.	18
Jacob J.	18
Mark R.	18
Eric D.	19
Earl A.	22
Tom J.	22
Greg T.	22
Phil E.	23
Larry M.	23
Karen S.	23
Georgia S.	23
Libby T.	24
Kaeden D.	28
Kay N.	28
John B.	29
David G.	29
Ardis H.	30
Jesse P.	30
Tyler M.	31
Nancy O.	31

