

TOWER TIDINGS

Now more than ever life is a rollercoaster

I've never been a fan of rollercoasters. They are just too much. Too much speed, creating too much stress on too many tenuously connected pieces, with too little oversight. Just. Too. Much. When riding a rollercoaster, my mind goes as fast as the coaster cars on the downhill, wondering when the bolts were last tightened, if the wheels are in secure contact with the railings, and if the seemingly bored operator actually fastened the safety bar correctly. Too many thoughts. All I can do is pray that it all holds together one more time.

The only rollercoaster I've ever enjoyed enough to ride more than once was Space Mountain at Disneyland. The thing that makes Space Mountain different from other rollercoasters is that the entire ride happens IN THE DARK. When riding Space Mountain, you can't see where you are going, who is going with you, or how rickety the structure might be. Being in the dark about potential dangers makes those dangers more acceptable to my worrying mind.

There is a lot going on in the world today and a lot of ways to learn about all of it - print media, broadcast media, social media, over-the-back-fence media. Every event is reported from every perspective, analyzed from every viewpoint, and rehashed ad nauseam. Stories of earthquakes, of floods, of wildfires, of a mother getting to hold her newborn for just moments before being isolated to die alone from COVID, of children battling cancer. The news is an emotional rollercoaster that creates turmoil in our hearts and minds.

We can always choose to pull the plug and ride the rollercoaster in the dark, but we want to know so we can help. We need to know how to help. We want to tighten the bolts on climate change to save our planet for ourselves and future generations; we want to convince everyone we know to get on track to be vaccinated and mask up in public to stop the spread and

OCTOBER 2021



LECTIONARY

- October 3
19th Sunday after Pentecost
Job 1:1; 2:1-10
Psalms 26 or Psalms 25
Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12
Mark 10:2-16

- October 10
20th Sunday after Pentecost
Job 23:1-9, 16-17
Psalms 22:1-15
Hebrews 4:12-16
Mark 10:17-31

- October 17
21st Sunday after Pentecost
Job 38:1-7
Psalms 104:109, 24, 35c
Hebrews 5:1-10
Mark 10:35-45

- October 24
22nd Sunday after Pentecost
Job 42:1-6, 10-17
Psalms 34:1-8
Hebrews 7:23-28
Mark 10:46-52

- October 31
23rd Sunday after Pentecost
Ruth 1:1-18
Psalm 146
Hebrews 9:11-14
Mark 12:28-34

Wrestling with the Truth of Colonization

The Wrestling with the Truth of Colonization training is finally scheduled! Please know that this training is part of a vision and goal that MIC/ Common Good Missoula and all of its 35 (or so) member organizations (including 1stUMC) will be working together to become respectful and effective allies of the indigenous members of our community.

There will be five, two-hour sessions, from 6:00pm to 8:00pm, starting on Monday, October 18th, and continuing on the 20th, 22nd, 25th, and 27th of October. Let Joe Loos know if you are interested. He will send you the link to register at joe.loos7245@gmail.com.



Please Reserve your Apple Pies

The UMW “pie ladies” will be making their yummy apple pies in the church kitchen in October.

Price per pie is \$17.00.

Pies will be by ORDER only again this year.

Available by arranged pick up at the church or home delivery. Let us know your delivery preference when you place your order.

TO ORDER: call Klairaine at 396.1663

Church Pledges and Donations

The donation page on the church website can be found at:

www.firstumcmissoula.org/donate.

There is information for mailing in your checks as well as online donations. If you give online there is a dropdown menu under the line with the amount that allows you to designate where the money goes. If you are splitting the donation, click *Other* and on the payment page it will allow you to leave a note as to how it should be divided.

Leslie Uhlenbruck,
Financial Secretary

Tower Tidings November Deadline:

Tuesday, October 11,
Special thanks to Nancy Eik and
Kathie Snodgrass for helping edit
Tower Tidings.

HOW TO CONTACT

OFFICE

Weekday Hours

Monday-Thursday 9-12

Phone: (406) 549-6118

E-Mail: FUMCmissoula@gmail.com

Website: www.firstumcmissoula.org

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www.facebook.com/1stumcmissoula

PASTOR JOHN

Office: Available Monday-Friday

By phone: 549-6118 or

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 Padgett Slote, *Administrative Assistant*

Nancy Eik, *Administrative Assistant Sub*
Cheryl and Jim Bauer, Pam Sterling,
Laurie Ball, April Padgett, Klairaine
Nichwander, Kathie Snodgrass, 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*

VACANT, *Children and Youth Ministries*
Director

VACANT, *Nursery Attendant*

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

mutation of COVID; we want to find the genes that cause cancer and fasten permanent bars over them. And in all our wanting we feel as powerless as we would if our rollercoaster car suddenly came unmoored from the track.

Unlike being on a rollercoaster which, once started, only stops when the ride is over (or a disaster happens), we do have some opportunities to slow the speeding tragedies that occupy so much of our thoughts.

I am not an environmental scientist and on my own I can have very little effect on climate change. But if I keep my eyes open and listen to those who are better informed than I am - like the Green Team at church - I can do some small part in arresting climate change. If you do your small part, and our small parts inspire others to do their small parts, well, pretty soon, we've got a movement happening and things start changing for the better.

I am not a doctor and on my own all I can really do is make sure I get vaccinated and masked and encourage those in my pod to do the same. But if I talk to those I know who are able to be vaccinated and share personal stories about why I am vaccinated, and continue to wear a mask in public, perhaps I can convince at least one person to be vaccinated, and that person is one more taken out of the transmission line. If you do the same, together we can convince more and more people to do the right things for all of us.

I am not a researcher and on my own I can do nothing about cancer or any other horrible disease that strikes at random and cuts short lives young and old. Beyond offering comfort with words and service, there is little I can do for those who suffer. I can only grieve for those I love and those who are loved by others.

No. That's wrong. While I do what I can with my hands, my heart, and my contributions of money and service, I can also pray. Just as I can pray that I get off the rollercoaster in one piece, I can pray that we all can work together to meet the challenges we face, and that God guides our way. Those who are capable of making major changes for the climate, for our battle against diseases, and for other evils among us need our support and our prayers.

When we are unable to see a way forward, we can pray that a path will be revealed to us.

When we are able to act in only small ways, we can pray that the small things we can do will be magnified by the acts of others to make a bigger difference. When we are so discouraged that all we can do is pray, we can turn our prayers to asking for the strength, wisdom and commitment to carry on.

No one of us can do everything, but together, with God's help, we can do a lot. We are riding this rollercoaster together; let's keep praying that the bolts hold and the wheels are well connected, knowing that the One who fastens the safety bar is holding us securely, even if we can't see it.

Blessings,

Theresa Cox

UMW NEWS- GEARING UP WITH FALL PROGRAMS

Tool Box for Inspiration

"Don't give up on this year. Keep fighting for good. Keep showing up. Keep loving. Keep being kind. Keep being brave. Keep caring. Keep trying new things. Keep showing grace. Keep on.

This world needs you to believe in the good."

Rachel Marie Martin

Our **October General meeting** is October 7th at 1:30 pm. This meeting is hybrid at the church and via Zoom. Contact Peg Plimpton for details at 542-1543.

Our **November General meeting** will be November 4th at a restaurant of choice. Program will be Thanks Offering.

CHILDREN'S SABBATH, OCTOBER 17

Mark your calendars for this special Sunday sponsored by United Methodist Women, titled, "Where Does it Hurt? Listening to Heal Our Children." We'll be lifting up children's issues in these uncertain times, to aid us all in better understanding how we can help children in our church family and around the world. Jesus said, "let the children come to me," as an example that we are ALL to care about the welfare of children. Families are especially encouraged to join together for this celebration of children.



UMW FELLOWSHIPS

RUTH FELLOWSHIP -- Meets second Thursday of the month. First meeting is in the church Library and via Zoom at 10:00 a.m. For information, please contact Judy Whiddon at jofturah@gmail.com.

GEMS FELLOWSHIP -- Contact Pam Sterling, psterling2011@hotmail.com for more information. "Book of Joy" is the program.

VESPERS CIRCLE is meeting October 20th at 1 p.m. at the church Library. For information call Patsy Hodges at 396-4399.

BOOK GROUP --meets the 4th Tuesday of the month from 11 to noon currently via Zoom.

The October book is "Girl Gone Missing A Cash Black Bear Mystery" by Marcie Rendon and the November book is "Sleep, Pray, Heal" by Donna Fado Ivery. Please contact Laurie Ball at 406-926-1252 for more information or email at Laurie.umc@outlook.com.

First United Methodist's Green Team says: Missoula should seize the day with solar power installations!

The Biden Administration's recently announced goal to produce 45 percent of the nation's electricity from the sun by 2050 would help not only power companies, but also individuals and businesses make the change.

Combined with the solar-friendly leadership of Missoula homeowners and local government officials, the new federal initiative is good news.

According to the [New York Times](#), the president wants to use tax credits to encourage solar power installations at homes and businesses. Administration officials also want local governments to make it easier to obtain permits and build solar projects.

Under a new Clean Electricity Payment Program, utilities would be rewarded for adding renewable energy to the electric grid – including not only large solar farms, but also rooftop solar. Many power companies, including NorthWestern Energy, have long pushed back against expanded use of rooftop solar arrays, primarily because they see it as a threat to their industry, which is heavily invested in fossil fuels and coal.

Without the huge increase in solar power (the U.S. now produces 4 percent of its electricity from the sun), energy analysts told the Times it won't be possible for the president to achieve his climate goals. "In essence, the D.O.E. is saying America needs a ton more solar, not less, and we need it today, not tomorrow," said Bernadette Del Chiaro, executive director of the California Solar and Storage Association. "That simple call to action should guide every policymaking decision from city councils to legislatures and regulatory agencies across the country."

In Missoula, the good news is that we have homeowners like First Church's own Steve and Lorraine Carlson who are leading the way by installing rooftop solar arrays. The Carlsons recently added 10 more panels to their existing 24, enough to supply their home's annual electric needs and that of their new electric-charged Tesla. Along with contractor [SBS Solar](#), the Carlsons are a great resource for First UMC members ready to take the necessary first step to providing their own power.

On the government side, Missoula County is installing the state's largest rooftop solar array atop the regional detention center on Mullan Road. [According to MissoulaCurrent.com](#), the array will include 1,152 solar modules that produce 432 kilowatt hours of electricity. That accounts for about 20% of the jail's total electric consumption. The jail is the county's single largest consumer of electricity.



The solar array atop the home of First Church's Steve and Lorraine Carlson can provide enough electricity to meet the family's annual needs -- including 7,000 miles of charging for their electric-powered Tesla.
(Photo by SBS Solar)

TAKE ACTION TO REDUCE GLOBAL WARMING! Please join First Church's glass recycling program today by emailing Sherry Devlin at sherrydevlin@gmail.com or calling her at 406-546-1016.

IN OUR PRAYERS...

~Healing and Comfort ~



- † Prayers of healing and recovery for Chris McAdams who fell and is hospitalized in St. Pat's hospital.
- † Prayers of healing and recovery for Ellie Barnes who is doing better and resting well at the Village from heart surgery.
- † Comfort and healing for Liz Bauer who was hospitalized and diagnosed with sudden onset diabetes.
- † Prayers of strength and healing for Mel Newell and prayer for success working toward full health with the help of Home Health and physical therapy.
- † Prayers for continued recovery for Laurie Ball's brother who had open heart surgery.
- † Prayers for a successful transition for refugees from Afghanistan and elsewhere in their new countries.
- † Prayers of strength and comfort for the hospital staff in Montana overwhelmed with the Covid surge in Montana.
- † Prayers of courage for the women of Texas and prayers that the justice system will prevail to protect women's rights.
- † Continued prayers of healing and strength for Teresa Henry as she has chemotherapy. Prayers of support for her husband, Steve.
- † Prayers of strength and courage for Ralph Picker.
- † Continued prayers of comfort and strength for Tu and Barry Reed.
- † Prayers for Linda Armstrong & her daughters that they can begin making better living arrangements for her safety and comfort.
- † Comfort and healing for an aunt and uncle who are both in the hospital with Covid.
- † Healing and relief from pain for Eireena, who was in a car accident last week and has to take some more time off work to heal and to recover.
- † Prayers of comfort for Patsy Ward and her family who is diagnosed with ALS and struggling with this difficult illness.

- † Prayers of healing and comfort for the Chapman's niece who is hospitalized with Covid pneumonia despite being vaccinated.
- † Prayers and guidance for the Clergy of Mountain Sky Conference who are dealing with tough adjustments, challenges and some great losses.

~In Sympathy~

- † Prayers of comfort for the family and friends of Jim Fleishman, who recently passed away.
- † Prayers of comfort for the family of Marie Nyquist's brother in-law who passed away this month.

~Praises~

- † Praises of thanksgiving on arrival of Kenj Eric to Allie and Noby Powell. Congratulations to Jan and Ross Baty, the proud grandparents!

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



The **FUMC silent auction** to raise funds for, and awareness of, the second pledge campaign for our building renovation is live. You can see all we have gathered for the cause here:

<https://www.biddingowl.com/FirstUnitedMethodistChurc> Online bidding is live through October 24th. Bids can be made in person at the church. More information about the process will be added to the auction site in the near future. If you donated an item(s) and the information is not correct, please contact Theresa at ponykeepr@gmail.com or 406-370-3922.



Tzedakah Pocket Ministry

Your faithful support of this ministry allowed us to provide assistance this summer without interruption. Although we have still spent more than we have taken in during 2021, we have been able to keep a positive balance because of steady donations this summer, generous year-end donations, and the support of the UM Foundation. The number of requests we receive and the amounts needed have increased significantly since the Meadowlark Family Housing Center opened and that continues. Our new working relationships with the YWCA, the Housing Advocate Network (HAN), and Family Promise are working well with some adjustments along the way. We still get occasional assistance requests coming directly to the church and coming through Hope Rescue Mission (549-HOPE) as well. The new procedures give us a more controlled and vetted process and, with that, assurance that our money is going to the right places at the right times. We are partners with First Presbyterian Church in this venture and usually share in responding to requests.

Your donations make a real difference for our community. Please remember to take care of yourselves first but, if you are able to support the Tzedakah Pocket ministry by online donation through the First UMC website, by sending a check made out to First UMC (PO Box 7646, Missoula, MT 59807) with Tzedakah Pocket in the memo line, or by using the Tzedakah Pocket hanging next to the sanctuary exit door if you attend church in person, rest assured all the money donated will make a difference for someone in need. God bless you all and stay



Tzedakah Summary

2021 Donations: \$12,583.11

Assistance Paid	September 2021			Year- To -Date 2021		
	Amount	Fam.	Child	Amount	Fam.	Child
<i>Lodging</i>	\$ 0	0	0	\$ 4,649.50	20	30
<i>Rent/ Sec. Dep.</i>	0	0	0	\$ 3,690.00	15	36
<i>Other</i>	\$ 177.99	2	3	\$ 5,221.72	49	63
<i>TOTAL</i>	\$ 177.99	2	3	\$ 13,561.22	84	129

safe. A recap of assistance provided by our church's Tzedakah Pocket ministry is shown below. We will continue to do as much as we can with what we have.



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Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

October Events via Zoom and in person

3- World Communion Sunday (offering)

14-Ruth Fellowship - Hybrid/ Church Library

10:00 a.m.

7- UMW General Board Mtg. 1:30 p.m.

Via Zoom.

20- Vespers circle - at the Church Library

1 p.m.

26- Book Group - via Zoom 11-12p.m.

31- Halloween Hat Sunday



Weekly Events via Zoom and in person

Sunday - Worship 10:30 a.m. (recordings on Facebook or the church website)

In person worship - 50 person capacity - Please wear your mask - Bring your own communion elements- No need to RSVP - We would love to have you in person!!

Tuesday - Pastor John's class 10:00 a.m. via Zoom. All are welcome! Please contact the office for the Zoom link!