

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

NOVEMBER 2021

## The Fiftieth Epistle of John-- Managing Impatience

If nothing else is very clear, what seems obvious to me and many others is that these are days filled with foreboding, angst, and worry in excess of what we now might consider the “norm” of pre-Covid life. I’ve heard a constant stream of frustration and fear from my clergy colleagues who, like me, desperately want to gather our congregational members together for worship, fellowship, mission, and study – but we can’t just yet. In my regular conversations with grocery cashiers, coffee baristas, and front-desk hospital workers and volunteers, I hear a steady flow of pining for a return to no masks, no sneeze screens, and no distancing – and a hope to travel again. In a recent meeting with our church leadership, there was tension in the air regarding how we live up to our welcoming intentions while trying to keep our in-person gatherings safe, especially for those who are not vaccinated -- a situation that only becomes more important as our Covid metrics in Montana continue to prevent, again, “normal” gatherings.

And yet, I find an amazing thing happening at the same time; I find that many people, in our congregation and beyond, are weathering these challenges admirably. I don’t mean that they are worry-free, or that they are avoiding thinking about what’s going on, or that they are not grounded in reality. No, I find that there are so very many people who are able to give voice to the difficulties and discomforts of these days without losing a sense of two things: for one, an appreciation for the goodness of things and people; and for another, hope that things will not be this way forever.

Of course, many of those people are (surprise!) people of faith. I would posit, though, that most if not all of the people I interact with are persons of appreciation and hope whether they are members of my church – or any faith community for that matter – or not.



## LECTIONARY

- **November 7**  
**All Saints Sunday**  
**24th Sunday after Pentecost**  
*Ruth 3:1-5: 4:13-17*  
*Psalms 127 or Psalms 42*  
*Hebrews 9:24-28*  
*Mark 12:38-44*

- **November 14**  
**25th Sunday after Pentecost**  
*1 Samuel 1:4-20*  
*1 Samuel 2:1-10 or Psalm 113*  
*Hebrews 10:11-14 (15-18) 19-25*  
*Mark 13:1-8*

- **November 21**  
**Christ the King Sunday**  
*2 Samuel 23:1-7*  
*Psalms 132:1-12*  
*Revelations 1:4b-8*  
*John 18:33-37*

- **November 28**  
**First Sunday of Advent**  
*Jerimiah 33:14-16*  
*Psalms 25:1-10*  
*1 Thessalonians 3:9-13*  
*Luke 21:25-36*

# CONFLUENCE

*The moment of meeting and the movement forward*

A gathering grounded in Jesus' vision for liberation; being formed and fed through art, music, poetry, contemplation, and the natural world



**1st & 3rd Sundays @ 7pm**





**University  
Congregational Church  
(405 University Ave)**

### Fall Gathering Themes & Dates

<p><b>OCTOBER 17 - RUTH'S STORY: A MOMENT IN TIME</b></p>	<p><b>NOVEMBER 7 - ALL SAINTS &amp; ANCESTORS</b></p> <p><b>NOVEMBER 21 - ACCEPTING COMFORT &amp; REJECTING COLONIALISM: REFLECTIONS ON THANKSGIVING</b></p>	<p><b>DECEMBER 5 - CENTERING PRACTICES &amp; DWELLING IN HOLY REST</b></p> <p><b>DECEMBER 19 - FROM COSMIC CHRIST TO GOD INCARNATE</b></p>
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### Church Pledges and Donations

The donation page on the church website can be found at: [www.firstumcmissoula.org/donate](http://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  
December Deadline:**  
Tuesday, November 9th,  
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](mailto:FUMCmissoula@gmail.com)

**Website:** [www.firstumcmissoula.org](http://www.firstumcmissoula.org)

**Facebook:**

[www.facebook.com/1stumcmissoula](http://www.facebook.com/1stumcmissoula)

### PASTOR JOHN

**Office:** Available Monday-Friday

**By phone:** 549-6118 or

396-8966 (cell)

**E-Mail:** [john@FUMCmissoula.com](mailto: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*

Nancy Eik, *Administrative Assistant Sub*

Cheryl and Jim Bauer, Pam Sterling,

Laurie Ball, April Padget, 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](mailto:FUMCmissoula@gmail.com)

Appreciation and hope – two essential ingredients to managing anxiety. For that is one way we can think about these times in which we live, times when an essential survival skill (survival as in emotional, physical, mental, and spiritual) is effectively managing the things that are beyond our control, and yet affect our daily lives adversely. Appreciation, or gratitude, cannot help but draw to the consciousness the preponderance of goodness in our world – helpful people, kind gestures, beautiful sights, enjoyable experiences, laughter, smiles, embraces (OK, maybe not so much these days!), heartfelt conversations, moments of reconciliation, a positive attitude, a good meal.....so much goodness, so easily overlooked. The benefit of recalling the goodness in life has the added advantage of instilling and reinforcing a soul-centered optimism and positive energy much needed to combat all that is wrong and help defeat our tendency to fixate our minds upon the worrying shadows of reality. It is a fact in my life that when I am in a state of gratefulness, I become immune to hatred, anger, and contentiousness (or at least much less susceptible to their power over me!) – and perhaps it is the same for you.

Hope is similar in that it carries the heart and mind away from the present reality towards a brighter future, whether that be tomorrow or a thousand years from now – but also tills the soil for that desired crop, helping it to happen. Hope is often a sort of positive self-fulfilling prophecy in that it orients life toward a desired outcome – and in that orientation the parts that lend to the goodness desired are sought out and employed. This process can help fill the time that would otherwise be occupied by static impatience, which is another name for frustration – a very unpleasant human condition, especially so when it is chronic.

It is no accident that we in the Christian faith, regularly lift up appreciation and hope as key practices in our lives, personally and corporately; I believe that those who are not persons of faith yet recognize and value these qualities may be closer to God than they know or acknowledge. Both groups of people can be recognized by their ability to manage these times that give rise to impatience – and help others to do the same.

God's Grace Be With You,




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**Calling all pie bakers** - In addition to a Virtual Gala event on Zoom on Nov. 9th, we are also hosting Pie Sales and an Online Silent Auction, Nov. 1st-12th. Here's what we need:



- ◆ Apple and pumpkin pies to be sold in our online store. Pies should be ready for delivery by Friday, Nov. 19th. They can be frozen for optimal freshness! We are looking for as many pies as possible to be sold between Nov. 1st and Nov. 12th!
- ◆ Specialty pies to be included in our Online Auction- Think about those delicious pies that everyone loves! Huckleberry? French Silk? Lemon Meringue? Donate one to the auction to be ready for delivery by Friday, Nov. 19th.

Please contact Rebecca at [rebecca@micmt.org](mailto:rebecca@micmt.org) or [nancy@imluchurch.org](mailto:nancy@imluchurch.org) to donate...

## UMW NEWS- GEARING UP WITH FALL PROGRAMS

### Tool Box for Inspiration

“There's always something to be thankful for on Thanksgiving. Even if it's just for not being a turkey.” - Author Unknown

UMW will be going out to lunch for our **November General meeting, Thursday Nov. 4th at 11:30**. We will be having lunch at Finn, 100 Madison Street. We’d love to have you join us! Please contact Peg Plimpton at [peggi@montana.com](mailto:peggi@montana.com) to reserve your spot. We will be drawing for a special “Gratitude Bag” at the lunch. You don’t want to miss your chance to win that!

### UMW FELLOWSHIPS

**RUTH FELLOWSHIP** -- Meets second Thursday of the month, Nov. 11th. at 10:00 a.m. For information, please contact Judy Whiddon at [jofturah@gmail.com](mailto:jofturah@gmail.com).

**GEMS FELLOWSHIP** -- Contact Pam Sterling, [psterling2011@hotmail.com](mailto:psterling2011@hotmail.com) for more information. “Book of Joy” is the program.

**VESPERS CIRCLE** is meeting Wednesday, Nov 17th 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 at 11 a.m. currently via Zoom. 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](mailto:Laurie.umc@outlook.com).



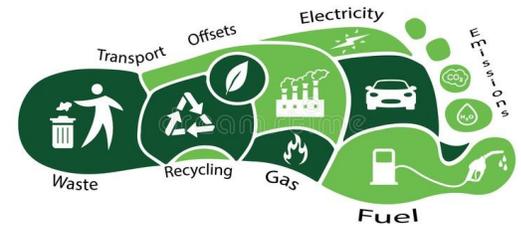
Plan to attend the **Gratitude Through Action Virtual Gala & Auction Fundraiser** to benefit Missoula Interfaith Collaborative programs including Family Promise, Housing Advocate Network, Common Good Missoula and Missoula Works. Join us for a time of celebration, reflection, and inspiration. The Virtual Gala will with an opportunity to hear stories and learn

how to support our work into the next year. Tuesday, November 9th from 7-8 pm on Zoom. Register today at [www.micmt.org/gratitude](http://www.micmt.org/gratitude) to attend the event and also participate in the online SILENT AUCTION open between November 1st and 12th.



## First United Methodist's Green Team says: Vote for candidates who will protect and heal the planet!

What is the most significant action you can take this month to fight climate change?



### Vote!

Only with fierce and intelligent leaders determined to change our planet's reliance on fossil fuels will we avert a climate catastrophe. The change must be immediate. The leadership must come at every level.

This November, members of First United Methodist Church have an opportunity to vote in a [municipal election](#). On the ballot: Missoula mayor, six members of the City Council, three Municipal Court judges and proposed local-option excise taxes on both recreational and medical marijuana sales in Missoula County.

That same day – Nov. 2 – will find voters nationwide casting ballots for an abundance of local, state and national offices. Every race – from City Hall to the halls of Congress – represents a critical vote in our collective effort to slow, then stop the march of global warming.

Missoula voters must mark their ballots for candidates who will place a priority on sharply reducing the use of fossil fuels (and products made from fossil fuels, aka plastics). We need leaders who will cast a wide net in the search for solutions and act with urgency, as every year that passes leaves the planet in greater peril. We need action.

If we had the political will, Missoula could vastly expand public transportation, and rooftop solar power, and the availability/use of electric vehicles. We could establish an affordable, accessible, honest citywide recycling program. We could integrate all of the above – solar energy, public transportation and recycling, along with diverse and affordable housing AND open spaces – into every new development.

And don't doubt the potential influence of local leaders and an active, involved citizenry on statewide climate action. When NorthWestern Energy ultimately asks the Public Service Commission for permission to charge ratepayers for the cost of its new natural gas-fired power plant in Laurel, Missoula's elected leaders must be there to object. They must recruit other cities and organizations to do the same. They must insist that ratepayers only be charged for clean, renewable sources of electricity – not for plants that continue to burn non-renewable, planet-suffocating fossil fuels.

But we've got to vote for candidates who have the courage to take bold action. Now. Not in five or 10 or 20 years. Today. Then – and this is just as critical – we've got to stand up for the integrity of our local and national electoral systems, the very foundation of American democracy. When the myth-tellers begin spinning their yarns about "stolen elections," we cannot simply sit back and shake our heads in dismay. We've got to stand up, arm in arm, and speak the truth.

**Do you have questions about Missoula's Nov. 2 election? Contact Missoula County Elections today: by phone at 406-258-4751; by email at [electioninfo@missoulacounty.us](mailto:electioninfo@missoulacounty.us); in person at the Elections Center, 140 N. Russell St.; or online at the [county's election website](#).**

## IN OUR PRAYERS...

~*Healing and Comfort*~

- ✠ Prayers for successful healing and treatment for Kathies's friend Kathryn T. going through chemotherapy.
- ✠ Prayers of thanksgiving that Teresa's chemotherapy is going well.
- ✠ Prayers of comfort and healing for Steven Bryant.
- ✠ Continued healing and comfort for Doug Johnson who fell and is recovering from hip surgery.
- ✠ Prayers of healing and recovery for Chris McAdams who fell and is recovering at Hillside.
- ✠ Continued prayers of comfort and support for Patsy Ward and Marvin Pauls.
- ✠ Prayers for the clergy of Mountain Sky Conference who are dealing with some tough adjustments, challenges and great losses to their flock.
- ✠ Prayers for all those affected by the Covid surge in our city, nation and around the world.
- ✠ Prayers of comfort and healing for Frank Kisselbach from his knee replacement.
- ✠ Prayers for successful treatment without side effects for Vickie Orendorff, who just started chemo for a Desmoid tumor.
- ✠ Prayers of healing for Kelly and Shane, friends of Rocky's who are battling Covid.
- ✠ Prayers of comfort and a sense of being loved for church members who continue to feel isolated due to the pandemic.
- ✠ Prayers of comfort and peace for a woman who recently had her bike stolen.
- ✠ Prayer of special intention.
- ✠ Prayers of healing and recovery for Peg's oldest daughter Shari, who had a bad reaction to cold and flu shots.
- ✠ Prayers that all of our LGBTQ community will feel loved, supported and comfortable to be who they are on National Coming Out Day.
- ✠ Prayers for successful management of Liz Bauer's diabetes.

- ✠ Comfort and successful management for a grandchild who has developed Type 1 diabetes.
- ✠ Prayers of support for a member experiencing changes in his job.
- ✠ Prayers for those reaching out for mental health treatment.
- ✠ Prayers for a homeless man struggling with basic needs.
- ✠ Prayers of comfort and recovery for Emily, daughter of Terri and Pastor John, who is struggling with Covid and is 9 months pregnant.
- ✠ Prayers of hope and mercy for a women struggling to pay her heating bill.

~*In Sympathy*~

- ✠ Prayers for the family and friends on the passing of Donna Taggart.
- ✠ Prayers for the family, friends, and parishioners of Rev. David Donkle of Hamilton, who passed away in October.
- ✠ Prayers of comfort for the family and friends of Starla Reno Moss, who passed away in October.

~*Praises*~

- ✠ Prayers of Thanksgiving that Ellie Barnes is home after a long recovery from heart surgery and Covid.
- ✠ Thanksgiving for church members who have been able to visit with family recently.
- ✠ Joy and Thanksgiving for being able to hear and see the entire church services.
- ✠ Prayers of Joy for Rocky's granddaughter Erin and her new husband Mattias, who got married Oct. 2nd. Congratulations!
- ✠ Prayers of Birthday Celebrations for Verle Johnson who turned 90!
- ✠ Thanksgiving for beautiful fall weather!

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

## Tzedakah Pocket Offers Hope

There are so many in need these days. The number of assistance requests we receive and the amounts needed to satisfy those requests have increased significantly since the Meadowlark facility opened. The primary reason for this is our new/revised working relationships with the YWCA, the Housing Advocate Network (HAN), and Family Promise. These working relationships have expanded the scope of our outreach and, as a result, our opportunities to assist those in need. Although we still get occasional assistance requests coming directly to the church or coming through Hope Rescue Mission (549-HOPE), most of the assistance requests now come from:

YWCA staff for Family Housing Center or Domestic Violence Shelter residents and occasionally for individuals/families not currently in one of the shelters.

HAN (Housing Advocate Network) advocates trying to help their clients.

Family Promise staff for Diversion opportunities to keep families out of shelter by finding/funding alternatives. This is particularly important now that the Meadowlark shelters are full and there is a waiting list.

We are working the kinks out of these new relationships, but the new working procedures have the potential to 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 as we have been for many years and usually share in responding to requests.

Your donations so far are significant and are so appreciated. They make a real difference for individuals and families under stress. Our assistance offers hope in challenging situations. Your faithful support of this ministry has allowed us to continue to provide assistance to those who need it while we are adjusting to a new environment, a pandemic, and a tough housing market. As you can see from the exhibit, we have spent more than we have taken in during 2021 but, so far, we have been able to keep a positive balance because of steady donations, generous year-end donations, and the support of the UM Foundation. However, our margin is very thin right now so we may not be able to respond to some requests at some point. 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.



## Tzedakah Summary

2021 Donations: \$14,150.11

Assistance Paid	October 2021			Year -To- Date 2021		
	Amount	Fam.	Child.	Amount	Fam.	Child.
<i>Lodging</i>	\$ 579.77	5	17	\$ 5,550.06	27	50
<i>Rent/ Sec. Dep.</i>	500.00	1	2	\$ 4,190.00	16	38
<i>Other</i>	\$ 764.15	8	4	\$ 6,289.37	59	71
<i>TOTAL</i>	\$ 1,843.92	14	23	\$ 16,029.43	102	159



First United Methodist Church  
300 E. Main Street  
P.O. Box 7646  
Missoula MT 59807

PH:406.549.6118

E-Mail: [FUMCmissoula@gmail.com](mailto:FUMCmissoula@gmail.com)

Website: [www.firstumcmissoula.org](http://www.firstumcmissoula.org)

Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/1stummissoula](https://www.facebook.com/1stummissoula)

*Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.*

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### **November Events via Zoom and in person**

- 4- UMW General mtg- Finn restaurant  
11:30
- 11- Ruth Fellowship - Hybrid/ Church  
Library 10:00 a.m.
- 17- Vespers Circle - at the Church Library  
1 p.m.
- 23- Book Group - via Zoom 11-12p.m.
- 28- **United Methodist Student Day**  
(offering)



### **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 - 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!