

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

FEBRUARY 2021

The 46th Epistle of John -- Sibling Rivalry Insights

When I was young, I had a little brother, just a year or so younger than me, whom I realized early on was just the right size for beating up. My brother and I fought all the time, like cats and dogs, punching and hitting and shouting at each other, making my mother proclaim more than once, "I'm just sure one of you is going to kill the other." It almost happened, on the day of our last real fight, when I came up with the brilliant idea of hitting my brother over the head with a shovel. The satisfaction of the "tong" sound that the shovel made when it connected with his head quickly turned into horror when he went down and didn't get up. I thought I had killed him. And I thought my life was over as well. It was one of the worst feelings I have ever felt.

Long story short, he was just knocked out for a minute or two; it wasn't long before he got up running into the house to tell our mother what I had done. I remember that the predominant thought when he got up wasn't that I was in trouble, but that I was tremendously relieved he was OK. I discovered that, beneath the tensions of sibling tension and rivalry, I actually did care for him very much.

Though I think I'm still grounded from that event, I have come to greatly appreciate the life lessons it gave to me. I learned that I could really do physical harm to another soul, and that I didn't ever want to do that again – and I haven't.

I learned that people really can change, in that my brother and I never fought like that again; I learned to control my temper, which remains a challenge to this day, but can be done. I learned that those who once were seen as enemies can indeed become very close, as my brother and I are now. And I learned that I didn't have to live in my past, to retain the sense of guilt of my transgressions; I could move on with the lessons of their experiences, lessons that



LECTIONARY

- **February 7**

5th Sunday after Epiphany
Isaiah 40:21-31
Psalms 147:1-11, 20c
1 Corinthians 9:16-23
Matthew 1:29-39

- **February 14**

Transfiguration Sunday
2 Kings 2: 1-12
Psalms 50: 1-6
2 Corinthians 4:3-6
Mark 9:2-9

- **February 17**

Ash Wednesday
Joel 2:1-2, 12-17
Psalms 51:1-17
2 Corinthians 5:20b -6:10
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

- **February 21**

First Sunday in Lent
Genesis 9:8-17
Psalms 25:1-10
1 Peter 3:18-22
Mark 1:9-15

- **February 28**

2nd Sunday in Lent
Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16
Psalms 22:23-31
Romans 4:13-25
Mark 8:31-38

Mission u

“Finding Peace in an Anxious World”

Join Rev. Su DeBree for a virtual study that explores ways to discover peace through scriptural and spiritual disciplines.

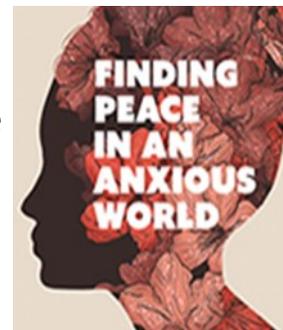
This four-part study series will begin **Sunday, Feb. 7** and run through **Feb. 28, 2021**. Each Sunday session will be offered via Zoom from **2pm to 4pm**.

No cost to attend. Participants are encouraged to purchase the book “Finding Peace in an Anxious World”, edited by Erin James-Brown and read it prior to the event. The book may be purchased for \$10 at umwmissounresources.org. The Kindle version is available on Amazon for \$5.95. **Here is the link to register for the class:**

<https://www.mtnskymw.org/events/mission-u>

The four study sessions use the book of Proverbs and “The Serenity Prayer” as a guide to help us find our way through anxiety, worry, and fear and move towards God’s peace that surpasses all understanding.

This class is sponsored by your Mission u Committee of the Mountain Sky United Methodist Women and is open to all men and women.



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 now 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 Ullhlenbruck,
Financial Secretary

Tower Tidings

March Deadline:

Tuesday, February 9th,
Special thanks to Kay Duffield
and Tish Herries 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

Facebook:

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 Padget Slote, *Administrative Assistant*

Nancy Eik, *Administrative Assistant Sub*
Cheryl and Jim Bauer, Pam Sterling,
Laurie Ball, April Padget, Klairaine
Nichwander, Kay Duffield, *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

United Methodist Women

Ash Wednesday soup orders TO GO!

Although we are not gathering in person, UMW is adapting and still making it happen! The excellent cooks of the First United Methodist Women's unit are offering their usual delicious homemade soup (and bread) for Ash Wednesday on Feb. 17.

This time, though, it will be **TO GO!** Pick up your soup/bread at the church on Ash Wednesday to enjoy in conjunction with First UMC's Ash Wednesday service. Pick your favorite soup

from Basque, 15-Bean, Split Pea, Potato (vegetarian), Chili, or Carrot (vegan).

and we will have it ready for you to pick up at the back door of the church (contactless delivery) anytime from 4:00-5:30 p.m. Then you'll still have time to get home and get ready for the church's virtual Ash Wednesday service starting at 6:00 p.m.

Please e-mail Lisa Jackson (lisameckjack@gmail.com) by 5:00 p.m. Monday, Feb. 15 with what type of soup you would like to order:

Basque, 15-Bean, Split Pea, Potato (vegetarian), Chili, Carrot (vegan)

--and how many 8 oz. servings of each--and we'll have your order ready for you to pick-up on Ash Wednesday. There will be a free will offering to support UMW missions.



UMW FELLOWSHIP HAPPENINGS

BOOK GROUP

Book group will meet virtually on February 23rd at 11:00 a.m. Contact Laurie Ball for the Zoom Link.

CRAFT GROUP

Last year our group had a wonderful time of fellowship while making the new Chrismons. In the future this group may continue to work together or individually on UMCOR projects or other UMW mission projects, such as baby layettes, flood buckets, or masks. If you would like to be "crafty" or contribute supplies for projects, please contact Pam Sterling (542-0414) to have your contact information listed for the Craft Club in the 2021 UMW Directory.

GEMS FELLOWSHIP

Gems Fellowship will meet virtually on February 18 at 6:00 p.m. Contact Pam Sterling for the link. Gems will be finishing the book "Peace in an Anxious World" this month.

RUTH FELLOWSHIP

Ruth Fellowship will meet virtually on February 11 at 10:00 a.m. Contact Kay Duffield for the link.

Ruth Fellowship will be assembling health kits for the YWCA in the fall.

Please continue to collect small size shampoo, lotion and soaps. We also include toothpaste, toothbrushes, razors, combs, deodorant, note pads, pencils, and a washcloth and hand towel.

VESPERS FELLOWSHIP

The group is keeping in contact via e-mail, but have no plans to meet face-to-face at this time. Contact Kay Norum if you would like information regarding Vespers.



informed my living rather than detracting from it.

I think of this experience as it relates to what is going on in our world today, where brothers and sisters of the American family are immersed in division and even coming to blows. I believe my transformational experience with my brother parallels the potential we face as a country today. Violence can be understood for the zero-sum gain it truly is – both perpetrator and victim are damaged; both lose. Enemies can become friends as hatred is traded for mutual respect and understanding. The past can be redeemed, at least in part, as it is faced with honesty, with a willingness to learn from, and with an effort to repair the damage done. But only if we are willing to change.

Only if we are willing to steer clear of the hatred and violent tendencies we all possess.

Only if we are willing to take on the risky efforts towards justice.

Only if we are willing to speak out for what is right.

Only if we are willing to turn the other cheek.

Only if we are willing to rise above indifference.

Only if we are willing to forgive authentically.

Only if we are willing to love unconditionally.

Only if we are willing to live as Jesus showed us how.

May God make us so willing.

Grace to you, John



Join us virtually for the First UMC Ash Wednesday service on February 17th at 6:00 p.m. Pastor John will send out the Zoom meeting link the week of the service. Look for it in your email! Hope to “see” you there!

See page 3 to order your Ash Wednesday soup.



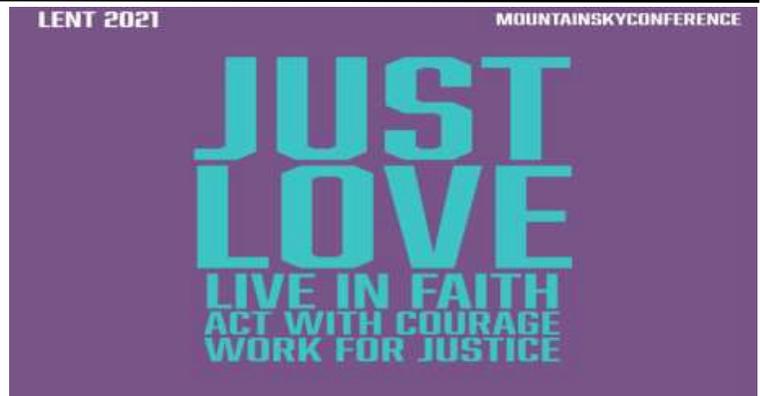
Renovation for Renewal Building Pledge Drive

Many thanks to all of you who have returned your pledge cards for the second campaign of the Renovation for Renewal project. We appreciate your continued commitment to this church and our missions. Each of you should have gotten a letter about this project and a pledge card in the mail in mid-January, if you did not, please contact the office to have one sent

to you. If you did receive it and just haven't gotten around to completing it, please do so as soon as you are comfortable. We realize some of you may be waiting to see what happens next in the world before returning the form. Rest assured we will be delighted to receive your pledge whenever you are ready. As John says each Sunday, please be sure you are taken care of before pledging to this project. In this church, we take care of each other and that means making sure we are taking care of ourselves as well. Blessings to you all! Theresa Cox



JUST LOVE Lenten Series
Sunday evenings through
Lent: 5:30 – 6:45p.m.,
starting February 21.
Registration begins
January 17!



Explore justice issues and live into Beloved Community. Here is a brief taste of sessions in the series.

- *Japanese Internment (Concentration) Camps and Generational Trauma*: How we must not allow history to repeat itself again: presented by Japanese American leaders at Simpson UMC
- *Human trafficking*: Kara Napolitano, Research and Training Manager, Laboratory to Combat Human Trafficking, Denver
- *Push Out - Criminalization of Black Girls in School*: A 2021 Mission U presentation by ELCA Rev. Melanie Martin-Dent

For more information, contact vitality@mtnskyumc.org. Presented by the MSC Mission Team

IN OUR PRAYERS...

~Healing and Comfort



- ✠ Prayers for a speedy recovery for Jeff Miller who underwent a heart procedure.
- ✠ Continued strength and healing for Tu and Barry Reed.
- ✠ Healing for Steve Carlson's brother Jan, who has advanced prostate cancer and is recovering from COVID pneumonia.
- ✠ Prayers of comfort for all of the friends and family we did not see this holiday season.
- ✠ Prayers of healing for Jean Smith who finished her chemo and prayers that her cancer is in remission.
- ✠ Prayers for a successful treatment for the Miller's African boy Sheku. They found out he was sent in for emergency hernia surgery.
- ✠ Continued health and success of all the MCPS teachers and students as they prepare to return to school 4 days a week.
- ✠ A peaceful transition of leadership and a restoration of our faith in our democracy.
- ✠ Calm, clear thinking, and willingness to work across party lines for the newly elected officials of our state and national governments.
- ✠ That the vaccine will quickly reach those that need it most.
- ✠ Prayers for safe and secure housing for those with housing insecurities.
- ✠ Prayers for comfort, strength, and healing for Ralph Picker, the brother of pastor John and Terri's brother-in-law Rob, who is dealing with an aggressive cancer and undergoing radiation.
- ✠ Prayers of healing for Sandi, a good friend of John and Terri's, who has a bad case of COVID-19 which is becoming pneumonia.
- ✠ Prayers of healing for Genevieve's cousin, Aaron that was hit by a car while riding his bike and fractured his shoulder.
- ✠ Prayers for Genevieve's cousin's wife, Rachele who has just been diagnosed with cancer and will undergo surgery.

~In Sympathy~

- ✠ Comfort for Tish's cousin, whose wife died of COVID. Their son and daughter-in-law are both UM ministers.
- ✠ Comfort for the family of Tish's brother-in-law who

passed away from a rare and aggressive cancer.

- ✠ Comfort for Cal and the rest of the family and friends of Bonnie LaLonde Dyck, who died December 30th in Medicine Hat.
- ✠ Comfort for Bishop Olivetto's secretary Nancy Cox and her family, whose husband Richard passed away.
- ✠ Comfort for the family and friends of Frank Shaske, who passed away, especially his wife Darlene.
- ✠ Prayers of comfort for the family and friends of long time member Gloria Matthews who passed away. She was 92.
- ✠ Prayers for the family and friends of Karen in Yakima who died battling COVID-19.
- ✠ Prayers of comfort for Dale Moore whose mother, Shirley Moore, passed away December 15th in Reno.
- ✠ Comfort and peace for the friends and family of Claudia Pratt who passed away, especially her daughter Lori and her family.
- ✠ Comfort for the family of William Bush, who passed away, especially for Clarice, his wife of 72 years.

~Praises~

- ✠ Prayers of celebration for a Happy 90th Birthday for Roger Shuy.
- ✠ Discernment and celebration for Rear Adm. Margaret Grun Kibben, named to serve as the first woman chaplain of the House of Representatives.
- ✠ Prayers of celebration for Kay Duffield who celebrated her birthday this month!

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



First United Methodist Church January Food Drive

Thank you so much for your generous support of our Food Drive during January. These contributions are much appreciated to the Food Bank and make a real difference for so many in our community when they need it most.



Donations to Date:

2021 Food Bank orders/cash donations: \$2825.45

Donated food items sent to the Food Bank: Some items have been donated but have not been delivered to the Food Bank and weighed so we don't have the pounds to report.

Birthday kits from Sunday School: Some items have been donated and will be supplemented by the Sunday School in order to prepare and deliver 20 birthday kits.

Tzedakah Pocket

As we begin a new year, your support of this ministry continues to make a real difference for our community. We receive requests for assistance of all kinds as a result of the pandemic and that will not change any time soon. The amounts in the "Other" categories below reflect the impact of lost or interrupted income which makes it difficult for individuals and families to pay their housing, power, internet, and other bills without assistance. The donation amounts shown below reflect the extraordinary caring and generosity of our congregation. We have helped a lot of people when they needed it most. Take care of yourselves but, if you are able to support the Tzedakah Pocket ministry, either by online donation through the First UMC website or by sending a check made out to First UMC (PO Box 7646, Missoula, MT 59807) with Tzedakah Pocket in the memo line, rest assured all the money will make a difference for someone in need. God bless you all and stay safe.

A recap of assistance provided by our church's Tzedakah Pocket ministry as well as donations received through year-end 2020 and to date in 2021 is shown below.



Tzedakah Summary

2021 Donations: \$3,178.00

2020 Donations: \$14,352.46

Assistance Paid	YTD 2021			Year-End 2020		
	Amount	Fam.	Child.	Amount	Fam.	Child.
<i>Lodging</i>	\$ 59.40	1	0	\$ 2,394.56	19	20
<i>Rent/ Sec. Dep.</i>	\$ 375.00	3	3	\$ 4,449.54	38	47
<i>Other</i>	\$ 686.44	4	17	\$ 6,688.90	90	118
TOTAL	\$ 1,120.84	8	20	\$ 13,533.00	147	185



First United Methodist Church

300 E. Main Street

P.O. Box 7646

Missoula MT 59807

Sunday Worship Service
10:30 a.m. via Zoom and
Facebook Live

PH:406.549.6118

E-Mail: FUMCmissoula@gmail.com

Website: www.firstumcmissoula.org

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/1stumcmissoula

Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

February Events via Zoom

- 11 Ruth Fellowship
- 15 Order soup from UMW
- 17 Ash Wednesday Soup pick-up, 4—5:30 p.m.
- 17 Ash Wednesday Service via zoom, 6 p.m.
- 18 Gems Fellowship
- 26 UMW Book Group

Cancellations

Vespers Circle has suspended meetings

Weekly Events via Zoom

- Sunday-Children's Church 10 a.m. Worship 10:30
- Monday-Thursday Morning Meditations 8 a.m.
- Tuesday- Pastor John's class 10 a.m.
- Wednesday evening- FUMY

