

Celebration of Ministries - April 27, 2025

First Church Handbell Choir Joins Regional Bells

2025 Festival, Workshop in Idaho Falls

First Church's own JuBELLation Handbell Choir is in Idaho Falls, Idaho, for the 42nd Big Sky Handbell Festival featuring more than 200 ringers from across Montana and Idaho.

Leanna Willmore is the clinician and will lead the group through practices on Friday night and all day Saturday, followed by an evening concert at Hillcrest High School.

Our choir will perform "When the Saints Go Marching In" as a solo piece during the Saturday afternoon practice session. The Saturday night public concert in Ammons, Idaho, will feature the massed choirs playing an hourlong playlist that includes "Thaxted," "Brazil," "Meditation on Beautiful Savior," "O Come Little Children," "Rhythm of Life" and more.

Flower Bed Help Wanted! Jan will be out of town for the summer and is looking for someone to tend to the flower beds between the two front doors. Three flower planters need ongoing watering and weeding through early August. Contact Jan or church office if interested.

First UMC Foundation Scholarship for Continuing Education

The First UMC Foundation is offering the Foundation Scholarship to those who attend regularly or are an active member of Missoula First UMC and are continuing their post-education. The scholarship honors Olive M. Reichel, Ella Turmell, Gordon and Nettie Reynolds, and Archie, Joscelyn and Katie Payne.

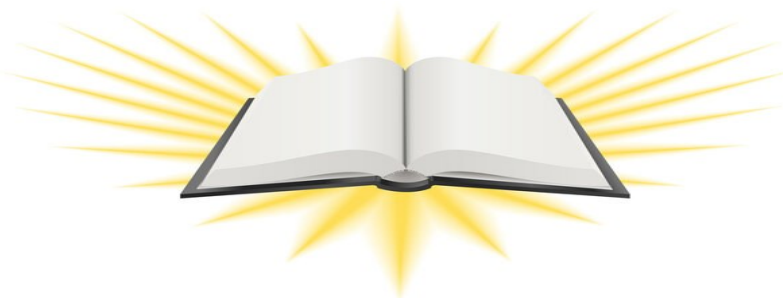
For a digital copy of the application visit:

<http://www.firstfumcmissoula.org/>. (Click the "Learn More" tab, click "Foundation" on the toolbar which opens directly to the Scholarship instructions.) **Mail to:** Missoula First UMC Foundation, P.O. Box 7646, Missoula, MT 59807.

The application submission deadline is May 1st.

Is it time for FUN? United Women in Faith think so! ICE CREAM, FUN, and Fellowship

We invite you to join us on Thursday, May 1st at 7 pm in our Fellowship Hall for an Ice Cream Social. We'll bring the Ice cream, and to make it fun, bring your favorite Ice Cream topping! Wear a flowered or Hawaiian print. Come and learn about an adventurous visit to the Molo Kai Leper colony. Our Church is busy. We make time for a lot of good things. Let's make time to celebrate our community with sweets **and enjoy being together.** May Day or Lei Day?



Become a Scripture Reader

We are looking for Scripture Readers for worship services in the months of May and June. Please sign up in the Main Street Entrance room for the date that works best for you. Enter the date you'd like to read and the scripture will be sent to your email. No email? There's also a printed copy. Thank you.



Green Notes: Connecting Faith with Environmental Activism

It is significant, we think, that New York Times reporter Catrin Einhorn devoted her Earth Day 2025 column to the Bible, Pope Francis and the Book of Genesis. “On this Earth Day, the Bible has been on my mind,” she wrote.

[“I’ve been working on an article about evangelical Protestants in Indiana](#) who are trying to help heal the planet. The relationship between the Bible and environmental efforts came into sharper focus with the death of Pope Francis, who used his enormous platform to exhort humanity to take better care of the Earth.

“For Francis and those evangelicals, the mission is rooted in Scripture.” “When we talk about the environment, about creation, my thoughts go to the first pages of the Bible, to the Book of Genesis,” Francis said to the faithful gathered in St. Peter’s Square in June 2013.

“Cultivating and caring for creation is an instruction of God which he gave not only at the beginning of history, but has also given to each one of us,” Francis continued.

Most U.S. adults, including majorities of Protestants, Catholics and people of other religions, believe that the Earth is sacred and that God gave humans a duty to protect and care for it, [a Pew Research Center survey found in 2022](#). “But there is often a disconnect between that belief and environmental action,” NYT’s Einhorn wrote. “On average, the survey found, people who are less religious tend to be more concerned about climate change.

“Leaders from many religious traditions have sought to change that by raising awareness in their communities about global warming and biodiversity loss. Francis was undeniably the most prominent example.”

On Monday, the day the pope died, tributes poured in from environmentalists, among many others. “His humble leadership on the climate crisis sparked a moral movement that will continue to light the way forward for humanity,” wrote Al Gore, the former U.S. vice president and a climate activist.

Bill McKibben, another prominent climate activist, called Francis “perhaps the world’s greatest environmental champion.” “For Oscar Soria, a Catholic environmental activist, Monday was a day of mourning and steely hope,” Einhorn wrote. “He first met the pope three decades ago, he said, when Francis was a bishop in their native Argentina. He recalled an interaction they had five years ago, when Mr. Soria told the pope how dispirited he was by the lack of progress in global biodiversity negotiations.

“He took my hands and told me to never give up, never get tired of serving, never,” Mr. Soria said. “It was tender and yet challenging, and I will never forget that because I think that is what he’s been saying to all of us.”

Never give up. Amen.



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Common Good Missoula: Thank you & Save the Date

Thank you to those of you who attended the Common Good Missoula City-Wide Listening session a month ago. 16 of us from First UMC turned out!

So what's happening in response to all those stories shared and concerns raised. A team has been going back over the notes taken and identifying common concerns. While that has been happening, some of those who attended are now going through the *Wrestling with the Truth of Colonization* training series, some have been through *Leadership Training*, and the CGM Strategy Team has set a date for the next big step in the organizing cycle.

Delegates Assembly the evening of May 29th.

Purpose: Collaborating on one or two major areas of focus and action to engage in over the coming year. So, save that May 29th date and plan to attend.

In the meantime, remember, it takes two major ingredients to make change happen: Organized people, and Organized grassroots money. So in addition to showing up on the 29th, you can help Common Good gain a more robust fund to support leaders attending training at low or not cost by **donating through Missoula Gives now through May 2nd**: <https://www.missoulagives.org/organizations/common-good-montana> Thank you!
Questions: joeloos7245@gmail.com.

Missoula Interfaith Collaborative;

Creating Community Together

Are you passionate about helping our church work with other Missoula faith communities on urgent local needs? First UMC needs folks who will step up to represent us on Missoula Interfaith Collaborative (MIC) Action teams addressing two or three priority goals in this newly chaotic world:

- Support for folks who are unhoused or struggling to stay housed,
- Assisting legal refugees who are now stranded in our community,
- Finding ways to take Climate Action together.

Contact Joe Loos (joeloos7245@gmail.com) if one of these is your passion -- Leadership Teams are forming and will meet May 27 for lunch.



New to FUMC? In April you can:

Bring treats for Fellowship Hour!

Please call the office at 406-549-6118

or put in small kitchen freezer!

Help make POV sandwiches on Saturdays.

Contact: Lorraine Carlson

at madamecarlson@gmail.com to get on the schedule!





Tzedakah Summary

2025 Donations: \$4,362.12

Assistance Paid	April 2025			Year to Date		
	Amount	Fam.	Child.	Amount	Fam.	Child.
<i>Lodging</i>	\$ 72.36	1	0	\$ 1,453.76	11	2
<i>Rent/ Sec. Dep.</i>	\$ 400.00	1	2	\$ 3,375.00	8	17
<i>Other</i>	\$ 275.00	3	4	\$ 1,878.37	19	22
<i>TOTAL</i>	\$ 747.36	5	6	\$ 6,707.13	38	41

Tzedakah Pocket Offers Hope

There is so much need of all kinds in our community these days. For the most part, people are just trying to make a better life for themselves and, if applicable, for their families. It's hard to do that right now and it's likely to get harder. This month we were blessed with several chances to help some families do just that, so our prayers go with them as they keep trying. We are limited by the funds we have at any given time, but our support and our prayers do matter.

A recap of assistance provided by our church's Tzedakah Pocket ministry for the month of April and Year to Date 2025 is shown below. We help whenever we can with as much as we can. Please continue to donate whenever you are able. We make a difference for those who come to us for assistance.

Prayer List for April 27 , 2025



- ♦ Strength and comfort for Robert D, who is in hospice due to his cancer, and for his family.
- ♦ Quick recovery for Jude M, who has been in the hospital with bronchitis.
- ♦ Joy for Sarah M's birthday.
- ♦ A quick recovery for Nancy H. after her repair surgery.
- ♦ Strength and comfort for Robert D. who is on hospice due to his cancer, and for his family.
- ♦ Quick recovery for Jude M. who has been in the hospital with bronchitis.
- ♦ Comfort for the family of Gary B, a former student of George's, who passed away.
- ♦ Healing for Lindsey W, she is having surgery for her failing heart valve.



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

Please send your prayer requests in! E-mail Kathie Snodgrass at kathiewearsgreen@yahoo.com with your prayer requests. You can also email or call the office at 549-6118.