

MLK Jr. Celebration

The Lynn Schwanke Youth Art and Essay Contest: Every year, in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day, EmpowerMT, in partnership with the Missoulian and the Missoula Celebration Committee, hosts a Youth Art & Essay Contest for youth across Montana to create art that celebrates Dr. King's legacy. EmpowerMT Youth Advisory Council (YAC) chooses powerful quotes from Dr. King that serve as prompts for participants. YAC also selects winning art and essays judged in age categories based on school grade (K-2nd, 3rd-5th, 6th-8th, 9th-12th).

January 20th, 2025, Missoula's Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration will honor the profound legacy of a leader who showed us how to protect and advance our freedoms through dignity, integrity and peaceful action. We invite you to join us for an intergenerational celebration at **St. Anthony's Catholic Church** from **4:00 pm to 6 pm**, followed by a **community social** from **6:00 pm to 8:00 pm**.

Those who wish to contribute to our church sponsorship, should use Breeze or make their check to First UMC and designate their gift to the "MLK Day Celebration". Thanks!

Arts Missoula is thrilled to present **Missoula on Main** as we celebrate 31 years of enriching arts and culture in Missoula! Join us on December 30th and New Year's Eve, December 31st, from noon to midnight, for two days of exciting activities that cater to all ages. With over 30 unique events happening throughout Missoula, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

Events are being held at First UMC, go to info@artsmissoula.org to learn more.

Recyclers: Our Account Needs Your Payments Please!

First Church owes payments to our glass and compost collection contractors this month and there aren't sufficient funds in the recycling account. If you bring either glass or compost to our collection bins in the alley behind the church, please help by sending a check for \$4 per month to the church office. Make checks to Missoula First United Methodist Church and please mark **RECYCLING PAYMENT** in the message line. Thanks very much for helping us keep this important program going. We're making a difference by keeping glass and food waste out of Missoula's landfill. Everything that goes into our collection bins is reused and recycled!

New Welcome Pamphlet for Visitors

The Marketing & Engagement Team has created a "Welcome" pamphlet especially for our visitors. You're welcome to pick up a copy in the Narthex during coffee hour, but please leave for others unless you have a friend interested in "finding a church home."

We hope to send a digital version to everyone soon.

New to FUMC? In Dec. you can:

- ✓ Bring in 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!

First UMC January 2025 Food Drive

January is our month to support the Missoula Food Bank and it's almost here. The continuing Covid presence, inflation, and the fallout from them continue to increase the need for donations to the Food Bank. They also make it a challenge for us to do our January Food Drive but we have always come through and supported our community. We are offering you as many donation options as we possibly can under the circumstances. If you are able, please help us do our part to ensure food security for households in our community. Whatever option you choose, please make your donations of food and/or funds sometime during January.

Option 1: Use the 2025 Food-by-the-Case Order Form to order a case of food through the Orange Street Market. The order form is currently awaiting details from the Food Bank and will be available in early January. Most needed items will be identified by the Food Bank and shown on the form with the current price per case. The completed form and your check can be mailed to Missoula First UMC, P.O. Box 7646, Missoula MT 59807 or dropped off at the office during office hours (9-12; Monday-Thursday). Please make your check out to First UMC and put "Food Bank" in the memo line. The office will have extra forms if you need them as well.

Option 2: Make a monetary donation and let the Food Bank buy what they need at wholesale prices. Donations can be mailed to Missoula First UMC, P.O. Box 7646, Missoula MT 59807 or dropped off at the office during office hours (9-12; Monday-Thursday). You can also give online. If you mail a check, please make your check to First UMC and put "Food Bank" in the memo line. For online donations, please select the "Missoula food bank" option from the designated giving options.

Option 3: Place your food donations in the container which will be located outside the church office. If you are not able to enter the church, you may either buzz the office during office hours when you are at the back door or call the office (549-6118) during office hours for entry to make your donation. Office hours are Monday through Thursday from 9 to 12.

Our Sunday School will once again assemble the birthday Kits for us this year. They will need cake mixes, frosting, candles, cake decorations, party plates/napkins, plastic forks, gift bags, and tin foil pans. Place your donation items in the "birthday-wrapped" container outside the office. As you can imagine, the Birthday Kits are very popular at the Food Bank. If you have questions, please contact Jane Kisselbach (janekisselbach@gmail.com or 406-531-6768).

Symphony House' Office Complex for Lease

First Church's long-ago parsonage, more recently leased to the Missoula Symphony as its office, is available for lease.

The office complex at 320 E. Main St. offers all the amenities required for an organization's offices and gathering/meeting spaces. Tenants have the run of the house: two stories with five-plus offices (could easily be eight), two bathrooms, work rooms and waiting areas, and a basement with safe storage space. The 2,700 square feet-plus provides ample room to meet an organization's staff and customer/client needs.

Parking is available in front of the building, with four dedicated spaces in the alley. There's a light, airy feel in the rooms and high-visibility street frontage across from the former Missoula Public Library building. A bus stop is out front, there's bicycle parking on the property, and easy walking to downtown businesses and the university. A main-floor entrance ramp provides access for all.

Spread the word! Help First Church's trustees encourage potential renters to join the burgeoning community of downtown Missoula. Contact First United Methodist Church for more information or a tour of the building: 406-549-6118 or fumcmissoula@gmail.com.

REMINDERS FOR 2024 YEAR-END GIVING

Checks sent by mail must go to our P.O. Box 7646 (not the street address) and arrive in the post office box by December 30th in order to be included on your 2024 Giving Statement.

Our online giving platform BREEZE is available 24/7 through midnight on December 31st for last-minute donations. Just go to the church website, scroll down and click on "Donate Now" and follow the instructions for giving online.

We greatly appreciate everyone's continued support of First UMC!

Merry Christmas!

First UMC Office Closed During Holidays

The Church Office Will Be Closed for Business from
December 23, 2024, through January 3, 2025

In Case of Emergency, Please Call
Pastor John Daniels (406) 396-8966





Tips for a Merry Green Christmas in Missoula

Give Sustainable Gifts:

- Local Crafts from Natural Materials
- Global Crafts from SERRV
- Antiques or Collectibles
- Used Gifts—Check Consignment & Thrift Shops
- Homemade Edibles

Give Services or Experiences Instead of Things

- Spa Sessions
- Music Lessons
- Computer Tutoring for Seniors
- Tickets to Events
- Registration for Youth Camps in Missoula

Give “In Honor of” Gifts to a Charity

Do “Gift Draw” for Family Adults to Trim Gift List

Wrap Gifts with Compostable Materials

Use LED Lights in Decorations

Recycle Your Tree at McCormick Park

Additional Ideas You Discover or Invent



Prayer List for December 29, 2024



- ◆ Prayers for Faye G.'s friend Jeanie who has cancer.
- ◆ Prayers for complete healing for Rod P.'s cracked tibia so he can walk normally again.
- ◆ Safety for the people of Syria as the new regime settles in, and hope that it will be better than the one just disposed.
- ◆ Prayers that the MRI Fred has scheduled for his shoulder will provide answers and a path to healing.
- ◆ Prayers of joy that Helen R.'s fudge recipe was used and there was some offered at the UWF sale.
- ◆ Prayers of thanksgiving for Pastor John's willingness to assist UWF with their Cookie & Candy Sale setup.
- ◆ Prayers for comfort and peace for Laura B.'s cousin Lynn, who is in the last stages of her lung cancer battle.
- ◆ Prayers for April P.'s granddaughter throughout her pregnancy.
- ◆ Prayers for comfort and healing of Karla's mother.
- ◆ Prayers for Rocky A.'s friend's granddaughter Hailey who was in a terrible auto accident.

- ◆ Prayers for Rocky A.'s friend's daughter Paris, who is struggling with mental health issues.
- ◆ Prayers of support for our refugee family as they continue to make progress, but are still in danger. We pray for acceptance into the USA refugee system.
- ◆ Prayers of comfort and healing for Verle J.
- ◆ Prayers for Faye G. as she recovers from hip surgery.



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.