

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!

Join In This Photo Opportunity Today

After church today Sunday, January 12, help us take a picture of our congregation standing in support of those who identify as Transgender.

January 15th marks the 7th annual #TransphobiasASin Campaign from the co-creators of *The Black Trans Prayer Book*. #TransphobiasASin Campaign "is an annual social media event that calls attention to the religious violence impacting Trans, Non-Binary and Gender Expansive people globally (especially those that are Black, Brown, and/or Indigenous.)"

Mountain Sky Conference NextGen & Inclusiveness Ministries is inviting clergy, laity, and congregations across the Mountain Sky Conference who are invested in ending religious violence against Transgender, Non-Binary, and/or Gender Expansive people to participate in this year's campaign.

We will gather briefly after church to have our picture taken while we hold up signs saying "Transphobia is a Sin" and "Trans People Belong in Montana and We're Glad You're Here." We'll post the picture on our Facebook and also send it off to the Mountain Sky Conference office so they can create a digital photo collage that will be shared on the Conference Facebook page.

Learn more about the campaign and "The Black Trans Prayer Book" at the link below:

<https://theblacktransprayerbook.org/transphobia-is-a-sin/>

Vespers Meet on January 15th

Vespers will be meeting on Wednesday, January 15 at 1:00 p.m. in the Kay Duffield Memorial Library. Questions, call Patsy Hodges at 406-493-0961.

Sunday School Needs Your Help!

One of the crafts the children are working on in Sunday School requires egg cartons. If you can bring in egg cartons that store a dozen eggs that would be wonderful. Please drop them off at Sunday school room or drop them off at the church office.

Thank you Cindy Ekstrand, Sunday School Director

Scripture Readers Needed

We are looking for Scripture Readers for worship services in the months of January, February, and March. Please sign up in the Narthex for the date that works best for you. Thanks!



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. 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 (will be in the January Tower Tidings) to order a case of food through the Orange Street Market. 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.

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 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 (406-549-6118) during office hours for entry to make your donation. Office hours are Monday through Thursday from 9 to 12.

Birthday Kits: 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.

Questions: Please contact Jane Kisselbach (janekisselbach@gmail.com or 406-531-6768)

Tzedakah Pocket Offers Hope

December was an exceptionally busy month with many individuals and families in need. For some, our support helped them move into more permanent housing or was a bridge until more permanent housing was ready for them to move in. For others, our support helped keep them in their motel room until their next paycheck came. Some we couldn't help at all because their needs were too great and/or we are not equipped to handle their situations. That always hurts, but all we can do is say prayers for them and we do. As you can see, we have spent considerably more this year than in previous years, but we have helped more individuals and families than ever before and our donations exceeded what we gave out. This would not be possible if it weren't for the generosity and caring of our congregation, our church faith groups, and our Foundation. May God bless you all.

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



Tzedakah Summary

2024 Donations: \$16,031.03

Assistance Paid	December 2024			Year- To- Date 2024		
	Amount	Fam	Child	Amount	Fam.	Child.
<i>Lodging</i>	\$ 616.00	6	12	\$ 4,286.23	24	24
<i>Rent/ Sec. Dep.</i>	\$ 562.00	2	5	\$ 3,962.00	18	26
<i>Other</i>	\$ 341.00	4	4	\$ 7,553.89	61	54
TOTAL	\$ 1,519.00	12	21	\$ 15,578.12	103	104

Celebration of Ministries - January 12, 2025

Afghan Drop By Drop Fund is Ready

The Afghan family we are helping, a widow and 4 young adult daughters, are now in Pakistan, thanks to our church support that helped the family leave Afghanistan safely. The oldest daughter already has UN Refugee status; with our help, she is now with the U.S. State Department and will be coming to Missoula through the International Rescue Committee (IRC). The mother and other 3 daughters are waiting in Pakistan to be vetted for legal refugee status in January. The girls are still vulnerable to forced marriages with male relatives if they cannot leave soon. Our Drop by Drop Fund will support them while they wait and during their first 90 days in Missoula through our Welcome Corps sponsorship. Afghan Support Team members will be glad to talk with you about this effort.

Your donations in any amount will go directly to support this family. To donate, you can bring or send a check to church with Afghan Drop by Drop on the memo line OR go to BREEZE at FUMC online and select the Afghan Drop by Drop Fund.

- *"Drop by drop a river is made."* - Afghan proverb

First Church's Office Complex for Lease

First Church's office complex at 320 E. Main St. is for lease. We need your help in spreading the word to organizations and businesses that might be hunting for a new home.

The building offers many amenities: 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, and four dedicated spaces in the alley. Tenants also will appreciate the property's high-visibility street frontage across from the former Missoula Public Library building. A bus stop is out front, there's bicycle parking, and easy walking to downtown businesses and the university. A main-floor entrance ramp provides access for all.

Spread the word! Interested parties can contact First United Methodist Church for more information or a tour of the building: 406-549-6118 or fumcmissoula@gmail.com.



Green Notes: We're Serving Lunch!

Join Us After Church on January 19!

Do you ever wonder how one person could do anything that would slow the march of climate change? But each of us can make a meaningful personal change that would help in the fight: We can reduce the amount of waste we send to the landfill each week. Every American wastes 1 pound of food each day. One pound! We can reduce that waste to 0. We just need to start! Now!

That's why First UMC's Green Team is focusing on the topics of food waste and grocery costs this month. There are many strategies we can use to cut both the food waste we contribute to the landfill while cutting costs at the grocery store.

We're going to start with a potluck after church on Sunday, January 19!

Green Team members will provide the entrees – all meatless (saves grocery costs and carbon emissions created by commercial livestock production) – and we hope you will bring a dessert or salad or side dish, if you're able. Come to lunch, whether you bring a dish or not. There'll be plenty to eat!

Two things you should bring for sure: A dish from home to take away any leftovers we have. And the strategies you've found effective for cutting costs at the grocery store.

We'll have information to share, a signup sheet if you'd like some meatless recipes, a brief inspirational video, and an opportunity for fellowship and conversation. Please join us!

Food loss: 31% of food is lost at the retail and consumer levels.

Food in landfills: About 60% of wasted food in the food retail, food service, and residential sectors is sent to landfills.

Food calories: The food we waste contains enough calories to feed one in eight Americans more than four times over.

Economic impact: The food we waste is worth \$414 billion per year.

Prayer List for January 12, 2025



- ◆ Prayers for strength, healing, and a full recovery for Nancy H. She had emergency/ major surgery and is recovering in the hospital.
- ◆ Prayers for healing and a quick recovery for Peg P.'s step great granddaughter, Gabriella, who was hit by a truck while walking at night and has severe injuries to her knee and ankle.
- ◆ Continued healing for Terri D., whose cough is getting better. Prayers for freedom from reoccurrences too.
- ◆ Prayers for Terri D.'s dad, Walter S. who was hospitalized due to pneumonia. He's now recovering at home.
- ◆ Prayers of joy for Roger S.'s 94th birthday! (Jan. 5th)
- ◆ Prayers of comfort for the family and friends of Jan L., who recently passed away.
- ◆ Prayers for peace and comfort for Hollie C.'s mother Aggie, who's on hospice care. Prayers for Jack, Hollie, and family as they gather to be with Aggie.
- ◆ Prayers for successful shoulder surgery and quick healing for Brady S.
- ◆ Prayers for peace and courage for John T.'s nephew's close friend who is dying from lung cancer.
- ◆ Prayers for a quick recovery for John T. who has "Missoula's bronchial crud" that has put him on his back and out of action.
- ◆ Prayers of healing for Meghan, who is still struggling with Crohn's disease, and enlightenment for her health care providers on better ways to control her condition.
- ◆ Prayers of peace, joy and abundance for the congregation (from Paul, a gentleman who is struggling but finds that our worship services renew his spirit).
- ◆ Prayers of comfort, strength and healing for Keith B. who suffered a bad fall. Prayers of adjustment too as he has been relocated to Riverside Care Facility.
- ◆ Prayers that Fred R.'s doctors will hear back soon on whether his heart valve is the type that will allow the MRI needed to tell what can be done for his shoulder.



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.