

## 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!

Montana is experiencing unprecedented wildfires, floods, droughts, and heat waves due to our reliance on dirty fossil fuels. Our state's continued dependence on coal and gas raises energy costs for Montanans and pollutes our environment. However, a **strong majority of Montanans support clean energy climate solutions.**

## **Join Families for a Livable Climate for a Day of Action:**

Climate Advocacy Day offers a chance for Montanans to:

- Hear from inspiring speakers** impacted by climate change.
- Learn about clean energy solutions** for our state.
- Connect with organizations statewide that take action** and advocate for the climate.
- Participate in family-friendly activities** and build community.

This day is an opportunity to tell the story of what is possible—that there are real alternatives, that we can put social and ecological well being over the accumulation of wealth and power, and that all people have dignity and worth. Through our collective imagination and participation in government, we can build a future that works for all Montanans.

Please **RSVP** for this **January 24<sup>th</sup>** event at the **State Capitol Rotunda** by going to this link: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf0vX5rXnDNHJP2extqvXIGgPMqpuLxMWXEey1o7x6o2YVYQ/viewform> **(Be sure to indicate if you would like to join those of us riding the bus to Helena.)**

## Today is Human Relations Sunday

For more than half a century, United Methodists have observed this churchwide special Sunday in recognition of the message Jesus demonstrated during his life. **Each of God's children are equally important.**

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 1,519.00</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>\$ 15,578.12</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>104</b>

## **Celebration of Ministries - January 19, 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](mailto:fumcmissoula@gmail.com).



## **Celebrations of Ministries - January 19, 2025**

**Green Notes: Come One, Come All!**

**Potluck Lunch Downstairs After Church!**

Imagine a farm the size of the entire United States. All year long, it grows food – enough to fill 100 tractor-trailers every minute. The trucks then deliver that food all over the world – TO LANDFILLS. Crazy? Yes. But that’s how much food we waste worldwide every single day – one billion uneaten meals, worth \$1 trillion.

That’s an immense economic problem. And a devastating social problem – just imagine if those billion meals were available to hungry people instead. And it’s a climate problem. Landfills are the third-largest source of planet-warming methane in the United States, and almost 60% of that methane comes from rotting food. Then, too, there’s the energy we use to grow, harvest, transport, cool and cook food before it reaches our tables. AND the land we use to grow all that wasted food, on top of the increasing amount of land needed to grow the food that’s actually utilized by the world’s ever-increasing population.

Sounds like we need to stop wasting food, right? Luckily, fixing the food waste problem isn’t rocket science. But we must commit to the solutions in our own lives and across the food supply chain.

At First UMC, we will launch an effort to do exactly that in our own congregation at a – guess what? – potluck lunch this Sunday, Jan. 19 after worship. Green Team members will provide the entrees – meatless chili and lasagna, macaroni and cheese with veggies, and more. You can bring a side dish or dessert, if you’re able. AND you can/should bring a container to take home any leftovers! We’re not going to waste any food!

As consumers, we are the largest source of food going to waste – more than restaurants, grocery stores or farms. We throw away plates of uneaten food every day, toss out tons of “expired” products from our refrigerators and pantries, and generally ignore – or don’t realize – the consequences.

So, here’s what we need to do, for starters. First, change our shopping habits. We need to stop overbuying and adopt old-school habits like shopping lists and meal planning. Second, we need to save our leftovers and eat them! If you are tired of eating a particular food, freeze it for later use. Third, “shop” your refrigerator before you restock. Use up your food. And finally, up your label-reading game. “Best by” is just a guesstimate of when food is at its best – not an alarm that it’s gone bad. So, keep eating, and keep trying new strategies. We start this Sunday! Together!

## Prayer List for January 19, 2025



- ◆ Continued healing for Nancy H. who is recovering at home now. She has a long road to fully healing.
- ◆ Prayers for successful dental surgery and a quick recovery for Jim and Cheryl B.'s daughter Liz.
- ◆ Prayers for the safety of a person who has disappeared. This person has attended our church.
- ◆ Prayers for Terri D.'s dad, Walter S. who is back home and recovering from pneumonia.
- ◆ Prayers of joy for Roger S.'s 94th birthday! (Jan. 5th)
- ◆ Prayers that the polyp Rod P. had removed (Jan. 10th) is benign. Prayers for a quick recovery too.
- ◆ Prayers of protection and safety for all those involved with the LA Fires and for recovery efforts too.
- ◆ Prayers for strength and comfort for Elaine W.'s sister Marilyn who's been fighting cancer for 7 years.
- ◆ 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 is recovering at Riverside Care Facility after a bad fall. Prayers for Laurie and their family too.
- ◆ 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.
- ◆ Thanksgiving that Tish and Dave H.'s daughter has improved her health through diet and exercise.
- ◆ Thanksgiving that Tish H.'s medication will soon be adjusted to return her blood pressure to normal.



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

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