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# The Good News

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*like us on Facebook at First Congregational United Church of Christ-Great Falls, MT*

## **Worship for August 1, 2021 9:30 A.M.**



**Led by Christ United Methodist  
In-person in the sanctuary  
Holy Communion  
Coffee Fellowship in fellowship hall**

What you can expect when you come to worship:

- Register as you arrive (for contact tracing if needed)
- Everyone will be wearing a face mask
- Face masks will cover both nose and mouth
- Plan to sit at some distance from others (we're doing a great job on this!)

Our televised service (on NBC affiliate) for August 1<sup>st</sup> will be an abbreviated version of last week's service. It will at 6:00 A.M. due to the Olympics. We will be back to our regular 9:30 A.M. broadcast time on August 8<sup>th</sup>.

There will be no YouTube video this week but feel free to visit our YouTube Channel to view any of our previously recorded services

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### ***Joint Coordinating Meeting***

Now that we are moving towards opening the building more as we anticipate more ministry taking place in person, it's time to come together for a Joint Coordinating Meeting on **Thursday, August 5 at 6:30 P.M.**

Representatives from any church related groups or ministries that use the building should attend this meeting, including (but not limited to):

- Regular educational programs (Youth Group, Wednesday Night Live, Sunday school, Bible Studies, etc.)
- Fellowship and service Groups including Sunday Fellowship, UMW, Mitten Makers, etc.
- Special programs such as pageants and cantatas
- Mission/Christian Service groups that are involved in various drives for goods and supplies
- Joint Facilities Committee because of their knowledge of the facility and upkeep

If the key leader for your group cannot attend, please arrange for a representative to be there. We'll be going over the coordination of space and schedule, COVID protection protocols, other space/building related concerns, Christmas decorating (yes, Christmas!).

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### ***Christian Education News***

After waiting all summer, the CE Board held the annual POOL PARTY on Wednesday, July 21. So of course there was a thunderstorm about 15 minutes after the party started! The party ended very early and the pool closed. We are sorry the party didn't work out BUT we'll try again next year!! Enjoy the rest of your summer!

## Upcoming Meetings

- Church Growth and Vitality Board, Tuesday, August 3, 5:30 P.M., Zoom
- Joint Coordinating Meeting, Thursday, August 5, 6:30 P.M. in Fellowship Hall



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### Free Concert

Norman Menzales, *Flute*

Juhyun Lee, *Piano*

*First Congregational UCC/Christ United Methodist Church*

*Thursday, August 12, 2021 @ 7pm*

Suggested donation - \$10



FCUCC member and principal flutist of the Great Falls Symphony, Norman Menzales is joined by Colorado State University pianist, Juhyun Lee, in an intimate performance on Thursday, August 12, 2021 at 7:00 P.M. in the Sanctuary. Selections are inspired by the concept of time and include works by George Fredrich Handel, Robert Muczynski, Amanda Fox and Lowell Liebermann. The concert is Free with an open collection for the musicians.

Church safety protocols will be adhered - Mask coverings will be required and social distancing encouraged.

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### Contact Us

Although our staff is returning to do more of their work in their church offices, their schedule is still rather flexible. If you need to get in touch with our staff members, the best way to go is email or cell phone. You can leave messages on the church answering machine (453-4316) but be aware that your call may not be returned immediately.

Holly (Office Manager) [greatfallsucc@bresnan.net](mailto:greatfallsucc@bresnan.net)

Rev. Lynne: [pastor@greatfallsucc.org](mailto:pastor@greatfallsucc.org)

Janet (CE Coordinator) [janetkoostra@gmail.com](mailto:janetkoostra@gmail.com)

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### Climate Summit- Grace, Grief and Grounding

*A faithful response to the climate crisis, cultivating wisdom, connection and hope*

A Regional Gathering of the Pacific Northwest, Central Pacific and Montana/Northern Wyoming Conference of the United Church of Christ, sponsored by the Wholiness Project, the event, scheduled for October 2021, is designed to build relationships among UCC churches and people in our shared “upper left corner” of holy ground.

Our beloved Pacific Northwest region is facing dramatic threats due to climate change. We no longer speak of fires, but rather “fire seasons.” We’re experiencing devastating losses of habitat, species diversity, water availability, and pollution impacts. These losses also disproportionately harm BIPOC (black, indigenous, and people of color) and people in poverty.

This will be a time of faithful imagination and truth-sharing.



## ***No Brainer***

How many times have we all been part of a conversation that goes something like this:

“What were you thinking!?”

“I wasn’t.”

I recently had a mishap on my horse. In all actuality the mishap involved coming off my horse and my head coming into contact with the ground. Hard. (The mishap is all on me so don’t go thinking that my Phoenix is behaving badly.) The resulting mild concussion came along with the instructions to not do anything for at least two days that would require me to use my brain.

Just let that sit there for a while.

How do you go through at least two days and not use your brain? And, yes, I can just imagine all the sarcasm that this could elicit but seriously... not use my brain for two whole days!? No reading. No screens. No deep conversations. Not even sermon and worship prep the old-fashioned way, written out long-hand on a yellow legal pad. I did fudge a bit and listened to an audio book and watch a little television from across the room. Other than that, it was a few days of sitting on the deck, looking into the smoky sky and trying not to use my brain. I could probably get along without using a hand or a foot or a leg, but not use my brain for at least two days? Yeow.

The first challenge was I was told not to do something.

When someone tells you not to do something, isn’t it just the incentive to do it?

Don’t look at the light... and you look at the light.

Wet Paint. Don’t Touch. Yea, I’m the one who always wants to touch.... Just the edge to see if it’s really wet.

Don’t eat that piece of cake. Gonners.

Much of my time trying not to think was realizing all the things that I wasn’t supposed to think about and then thinking about not thinking about them. It was such a wicked spiral.

Realizing that I was never going to not think about something, I started to think about a few things that didn’t feel like they were using a lot of brain power.

When I started to think about how to address problematic situations, I let my thoughts shift to the people involved and what their gift to me or the world is and thoughts of gratitude emerged. Thoughts of what I wasn’t getting done became thoughts of letting my brain and body heal –that was my work for those few days. Thoughts of what I needed to be working on in the future became moments of soaking in what was around me in the present. Thinking was still involved but it became more heart-thinking than brain-thinking and since my heart seems to be in pretty good shape, it worked. Eventually, it all shifted and started to feel more like prayer. Not in the sense of asking God for this and that (although there were a few requests for healing and patience and the safety of firefighters and the well-being of the folks on our prayer list that snuck in). It was more of a sense of simply dwelling in a spirit of rest. Together, God and I didn’t think for a while. It wasn’t bad. I’d recommend not thinking with God. God’s a pretty good no-thinking partner. (However, I wouldn’t recommend getting a concussion in order to not use your brain.)

I’m on the mend. I still need to take some breaks from screenwork and reading from time to time. And that’s okay. It will do my brain and my heart good.

Be well and take some time to not think.

Rev. Lynne



*Synod keeps Robert’s Rules*

United Church of Christ delegates cared enough about Robert’s Rules of Order to give them a separate vote at this year’s General Synod.

The result: those rules will still be named in the UCC Bylaws as the way to conduct Synod meetings.

The debate and vote took place July 18<sup>th</sup> during the closing plenary of the weeklong, online Synod. And in a separate matter, delegates approved the rest of the United Church of Christ Board’s recommended bylaw updates. These added expansive language about gender and made certain internal structural updates.

Where rules are mentioned-

The Robert’s Rules debate was actually *not* mainly about the value of that form of parliamentary procedure.

It was mostly about where meeting rules should be described and how hard it should be to change them.

The UCC Board had proposed deleting the bylaws’ reference to Robert’s Rules to make alternatives easier to consider in the future. But as the chair of the Board’s Governance Committee had explained, the Board had no immediate plans to remove it from another document — the Synod Standing Rules — as the way to run meetings.



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*Happy August  
Birthday To:*

Khalil L.	1
Emmett S.	1
Tracy J. H.	2
Aaron J.	2
Molly K.	2
Betty M.	2
Ed V.	3
Verna K.	4
Brad T.	5
Nancy Z.	5
Carol B.	6
Patti F.	6
Sherry T.	6
Jessica V.	7

