#morelove. Brain science blows my mind. Our brains are hard-wired to protect baby humans and (most) baby animals on sight. Our brain centers for pleasure and rewards get flooded with electrical impulses and neurochemicals when we are triggered by cute little faces. For an example, see this video https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L49VXZwfup8 which has almost 80 million views. Is that brain chemistry cocktail “love?” Well, yes, and no. Our worship this week centers on the love God has for us and intends for us to show to each other this week, the fourth Sunday of Advent, the Sunday of Love.

Speaking of Love, you’ve got to love our choir and church musicians who, individually and collectively have continued to provide music for us all pandemic long. This Sunday,
the choir will sing LIVE IN PERSON, masked, of course. Please plan to show a lot of love to this intrepid, creative, courageous group of beloveds.

And yet even more Love; celebrating Family Promise this Sunday: Linda Pilsworth, with her husband John by her side, will stand in to be recognized for the hundreds of volunteers who've served and supported families experiencing homelessness in our area through Family Promise. Linda is stepping down as Family Promise coordinator after many years of leadership. Family Promise has undergone and continues to undergo huge changes. Watch this space for more details next week.

Download Worship Bulletin.

If Christmas Eve is on Friday, do we have church on Sunday? You bet we do! Rabbi Mark will lead a service of end of year/new year to come reflection and Alice and Jeff will reprise their famed Piano Duets!

- Streaming Links
- Online Giving/End of Year Giving
- Advent at UCC Missoula
- Christmas Eve Worship Services
- Christmas Eve Worship Help
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- Gratitude Journal

Streaming Links

10:00 a.m. Streaming Link

Virtual Coffee Hour

Do you regularly enjoy chatting during the Streaming Link and/or visiting during Zoom Coffee Hour? Please consider volunteering to be a host. email Graham@uccmissoula.org for details.
Online Giving/End of Year Giving

Visit our Online Giving Page to support UCC Missoula and our ministries, or Text (406) 998-1900.

Online giving now allows you to pay transaction fees. Please consider paying the fees as a way to increase resources to our ministries.

**End of Year Giving** You are always welcome to make financial gifts to UCC Missoula and you can make those gifts to remember or honor a loved one at any time. Please let us know if you’d like to have us publish gifts “in the name of” whomever you’d like to honor. Gifts will be directed to our operating fund unless designated otherwise.

**Advent at UCC Missoula**

Away in a manger...

The Holy Family has arrived! Well, at least Mary and Joseph and the donkey.
They look pretty tired, but glad to find some place to shelter.
Jesus won’t arrive in this creche until Christmas Eve.

Soon the Wise Ones and their camel will begin *their* journey.
“For we have seen his star….”

**ADVENT VESPERS**

a service of poetry, prayer, scripture, song and silence.

Final Advent Vesper service Tuesday, December 20 in the church sanctuary. Join us for a time of reflection around hope, peace, joy and love as we engage this ‘preparation and waiting time’ in the days before Christmas. The service will last about 45 minutes.

Masks are required.

Childcare is available by request by the Monday before the service. Please call the office @406-543-6952 to request.
Christmas Eve Worship Services

Friday December 24

Angel's Christmas Eve (Family) service at 4 p.m.
Lessons and Carols (in person and livestreamed) at 7 p.m.
Fireside Christmas Eve (outside) at 10 p.m.

We’ve created a poll to plan seating for our Christmas Eve Services during COVID-19 times. Please take a moment to let us know when you plan to attend so that we may plan a safe service for you.

Christmas Eve Survey

Christmas Eve Worship Help

Light Strings needed! Do you have extra white light strings that you can loan to us to help make some of our exterior spaces shine for Christmas Eve? Please mark your light strings with a tape with your name and drop them by church up to Wednesday of this coming week. Thank you!

To volunteer in other ways for preparation for our Christmas Eve worship services, please contact church administrator Graham Roy at graham@uccmissoula.org.

Youth Ministries Pizza

Thank you, High School students, for feedback on the best times to meet. Sunday late afternoon is it!! Mark your calendar for January 9, 2022, at 5:00 pm. Please join me at
Bridge Pizza next to South Gate Mall, 3000 Brooks St. Start 2022 with a Pizza Treat and Building bridges as we get to know each other. Rabbi Mark is looking forward to spending time together. Bring a friend for engaging conversation, good humor, and a fun time. RSVP’ing is appreciated. Mark@UCCmissoula.org

Sunday School

After Christmas at UCC Missoula

Church doesn’t stop at Christmas Eve, here is a peek at upcoming programs at UCC!

Starting January 9, “Talk Back” returns! Join Pastor Jennifer or Rabbi Mark after worship in the Bay Window room to talk about what you heard in worship. Ask follow-up questions, tell us what hit, or missed, and how the Holy is moving in your life. Drop in whenever you like. We’ll set up a Zoom link for those who’d like to “Talk Back” online.

“Words and Music: Hebrew Words within Psalms”: Rabbi Mark and Pastor Jennifer will offer this weekly word study to help deepen our understanding of Hebrew culture and vocabulary found within psalms. This class will start on Tuesday, January 18 and run from 12:15 to 1:15 for four weeks. A separate YouTube short summary will be posted each week. Register here!

Worship Series: “The Prophets and the Papers” begins January 9. We’ll look at how the prophets of the First Testament, and Jesus in the Second Testament, speak to current issues including—income inequality, climate justice, loneliness and other issues receiving coverage in the newsfeeds of our day.

New Small Groups are forming soon. Watch this space for opportunities to lead or learn about intersections between faith, spirituality, justice, and everyday life.
Thanks for the giant pile of socks and personal hygiene items donated to the Poverello Center through our Giving Tree this year.