December 26, 2021
First Sunday of Christmas
Pajama Sunday!

Joint Worship with Christ United Methodist Church at 10:00 A.M.

Usher: Lynne W.

Scripture: Psalm 148, Colossians 3:12-17

It’s the day after Christmas and the season of new, cozy jammies! Let’s gather in the glow of the Christmas story, show off our new PJ’s (or some well-worn old ones) and sing some of our favorite Christmas Carols.

In-person worship will be offered in the church sanctuary at 10:00 A.M. (note the different time). Please remember to wear your face mask to completely cover your nose and mouth throughout the service and observe physical distancing as much as possible.

The service will be live-streamed onto Facebook and a recording of the livestream will be available on YouTube later in the day.

Coffee Fellowship will be held in Fellowship Hall after the service.

Christmas Eve Worship- Friday, December 24th
Facemasks required at all Christmas Eve services

7:30 P.M. Christ UMC Christmas Eve service
9:40 P.M. Harp Music to bring us into the late Christmas Eve Service.
10:00 P.M. First Congregational UCC Christmas Eve service with choir and candle light.
  This service will be live-streamed on Facebook and available on YouTube on Christmas Day.
10:30 P.M. Televised Christmas Eve service on NBC
  This service will be re-broadcast on Sunday, December 26th at 9:30 A.M.

Christmas Eve Offering

This year’s Christmas Eve offering will be equally split between the West Elementary food pantry and Helping Hands food pantry, both in Great Falls. Helping Hands food pantry is 100% supported through community donations and staffed by volunteers from throughout Great Falls. Helping Hands provides much needed food for up to 1,000 people in need each month.

You can donate by mailing a contribution to the church with “Christmas Eve” in the memo.

The Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross Offering

The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas “Thank You” gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees. United Church of Christ congregations and members have blessed the Christmas Fund with their generosity for many years. This year, your care and compassion will be especially appreciated by those servants of the church who are facing a time of need. Thank you!

You can donate by mailing a contribution to the church with “Christmas Fund” in the memo.
**Planning for 2022**

Our 2022 pledge update indicates that 82 pledging units have responded in the amount of $164,108. There has been a decline in pledging units and dollar total in recent years. If you have not yet had a chance to make a pledge, but intend to do so, please call the church office and let Holly know.

Business Affairs Board is in the process of preparing the proposed 2022 budget. At this time, the Board is looking at a deficit budget. If you are interested in increasing the amount of your pledge, you may do that by calling Holly at the church office and asking her to make a change.

Serving the church is another way to support the work and ministry of our congregation. There are openings to serve on church boards. If you are interested or desire further information about a board or position, please contact Shannon A., the chair of the Nominating Committee.

Well Christmas is almost upon us, and we had a great group of volunteers at the FISH Food Pantry last week! Thank you so much to Barb A., Jack A., Elaine B., Harry and Connie B., Carol D., Dennis and Susan D., Maribeth D., Peggy F., Bonnie L., Liz L., Sandy N., Bonnie W. and Nancy Z. Our next turn at the Food Pantry is February 14-18.

**Advent Daily Devotions** will continue through January 6th (Epiphany). For the church, Christmas technically continues after December 25th and on to January 6th. We will continue to offer our morning devotions on Facebook at 7:00 A.M. through Epiphany.

**Save the Date!**

Our Congregational Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 31st, immediately following an abbreviated worship service in the sanctuary. We are hoping to be able to offer a hybrid meeting, allowing both in-person as well as zoom. Watch your upcoming newsletters for more details.

**Holiday Church Office Hours**

Our staff will have reduced office hours the week following Christmas. If you need to access the building or our staff next week, please contact them ahead of time to make sure they’ll be available.

**Worship Time Change for 2022**

Beginning January 2nd, our time for worship will be at 11:00 A.M. Our TV broadcast time will remain at 9:30 A.M.

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**Happy December Birthday To:**

- John M.  27
- Carolyn S.  27
- Sarah B.  28
- Carol N.  28
- Julie F.  29
- Shawna R.  29
- Andrew F.  30
- Alan S.  30
- Shelby K.  31
- Kristen M.  31