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The Messenger is published monthly at First United Methodist Church, Billings, Montana.

To submit articles for *The Messenger*, be added/removed to/from the mailing list, or make address corrections please contact the church office at 245-3001, or email admin@billingsfirst.org

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FREE PROJECT REPORT 2024

One of John Wesley's famous sayings is "Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, for as long as you can." This was demonstrated at the Free Project that was held here at FUMC on August 10th. It was an amazing day of sharing, listening, giving, helping, laughing, and serving. Thank you to everyone!

Here at the numbers:

80 volunteers

303 shoppers

119 feminine hygiene kits, extra went to CCC

43 school supply kits

880 diapers

250 sack lunches

\$260 donated to Family Promise



Joy Circle

Our next meeting will be on **Monday, September 9th** at **Uber Brew @ 6:30pm** We hope to see you then!

Contact: Kim Lewis at kimberlylewis1968@gmail.com
(406)-927-2487



Faith Circle

We hope to see you all again **Monday, September 16th.**

For more information contact: Rena Bucher at rwbucher13@gmail.com or
(406)-850-1674



United Methodist Women

Dorcas, Naomi, and Martha Circles have combined and are now known as the **UMW Circle**. Our next meeting is **Wednesday, September 18th**. Call Joyce Brown at (406)-259-4666 for more information.





The Messenger

September 2024

First United Methodist Church

“Behold I am standing and knocking at the door.”

Revelation 3:20

At General Conference over the summer, Bishop Karen Oliveto was invited to speak. Something she said while she was speaking really resonated with me, *“We can’t be the Church if we choose to overlook some members of the Body of Christ. If we define who we are by who we are leaving out, it begs the question: have we ever let Christ in?”* As Christians serving in Billings Montana, we have worked to grow our church to reflect the ideal of Open minds, open Hearts, open Doors. That is what we have built our church on.

At General Conference we received Bishop Kristin Stoneking to be our new presiding Bishop for Mountain Sky Conference as Bishop Karen Oliveto retires. There were also votes to move forward as a United Methodist Church, working together to make the church stronger regionally and allow for ministry in all areas to be defined by the clergy and administrative Committee in each community. The UMC also moved to build a culture of acceptance and removed harmful language from the Book of Discipline. These actions begin to define the future United Methodist Church.

Here at home, the Free project served over 300 people, while the Community Care Closet continues to see between 30 and 40 people a day. We have incorporated Pickleball and Basketball into our schedule at the church, and yes, we have removed the old boiler and are installing a new one! We are changing. We are different than we were when I arrived here, and we will continue to grow into something new as we move forward in our lives and the life of the church.

With the groundswell of movement in our church and around us, God is well at work, and this church is not dying, instead it is moving through a season of rebirth. So, what is it we are giving birth to? As I wrote that last line, I am reminded of Sarah laughing at God for telling her she would give birth at such an old age... Somehow, I believe that is where we are heading! We are birthing something new and wonderful, and we are all part of what is to come! Exciting, isn’t it?

(Continued...)

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- Sandwich Ministry**
Tuesdays, September 3, 10
 - W2E Board Meeting**
Thursday, September 12
 - Out Of the Darkness**
Thursday, September 5, 19
 - Joy Circle**
Monday, September 9
 - UMW**
(Dorcas/Naomi/Martha)
Wednesday, September 18
 - Faith Circle**
Monday, September 16
 - Stewardship Meeting**
Tuesday, September 17
 - Little Seeds Board Meeting**
Tuesday, September 17
 - SPRC Meeting**
Thursday, September 19
 - Finance Team**
Thursday, September 19
 - Church Council Meeting**
Thursday, September 19
 - Trustees Meeting**
Thursday, September 26

(Continued from front page)

As we engage the idea that we are becoming, we will engage in looking at how the world is changing and how we might be called to serve in new and exciting ways. Over the next few months, we will look at how we can engage open doors, open minds and open hearts. We might find by choosing to view ourselves in a new light, how we are part of a greater renaissance before us. New life, new ideas, a rebirth of the excitement and the work of God in our midst!

God is knocking! How may we welcome the Creator into more spaces and more of the church life as we move to be present with all God brings? This is our greatest task as we grow into the vision of what we will become.

May God bless what is before us and within us,

Rev. Patrick Lewis
Rev. Patrick Lewis



Welcome back to Sunday School! September 22 @ 9:15

We are so excited to have you join us in some fun rotations this year;
Art, cooking, games, storytelling, spiritual practices, and science.
We will also learn about some of the different missions in our church
and how we can help others.

Come be blue with us; (Cokesbury Curriculum)

Be With God

Love God and Neighbor

Understand Yourself as a Child of God

Explore Faith and the Bible

If you feel compelled to join us on this journey by teaching a rotation, please
email Brenda Fowler: armerb2@gmail.com



Hello, my name is Brenda Fowler and I am the new Children's Ministry Director. I am a 5th grade teacher at Beartooth Elementary School and have raised 5 of my own kids. I am so excited to start this position and look forward to this adventure. Please join us as we start our new Sunday School and children's ministry year.

NOMINATIONS TEAM BEGINS WORK FOR 2025

*"Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it."
1 Corinthians 12:27*

The nominations team will meet in early September and begin the process of filling all the church committees for 2025, so please be thinking and praying about where God wants you to be using your gifts and talents to further His kingdom through our church community. The nominations team members will be contacting those who are currently serving on committees, as well as others, but if you feel God calling you to a specific committee or task, please feel free to contact us! All committees will be approved at the Charge Conference later this fall and positions will begin in January 2025.

Thank you!

Paige Thompson, Karen Mikelson, Shelly Castles, Michael Crummett



Join us for Season 4 beginning September 22nd

We will meet Sundays at 9:00am in Caton Chapel.

The Chosen is a historical drama based on the life of Jesus and those who knew him. Set against the backdrop of Roman oppression in first-century Israel, the series shares an authentic look at Jesus' revolutionary life and teachings. Contact Beth Ayers at (406)860-4473 or at ayers517@msn.com for more information.



BELIZE MISSION TRIP

Pastor Pat and Kim will be leading a mission trip to Corozal, Belize January 31- February 7, 2025, through the United Methodist Volunteers in Mission. Projects will be construction-oriented, as well as serving the community, sharing children's ministry and teaching valuable life skills. 14 people from around the country are joining on this adventure! More updates to come...

FUMY MINISTRIES September

Fumy Kickoff Party

Lake Elmo State Park

September 22nd 4-6 pm 6-12 grade youth

Dinner, games, fun...

Bring swim stuff if you think you want to be in the water, bring a friend

Pickle-palooza

September 29th 4pm.

6-12th grade, we will play pickle ball and

Other pickle themed games. It's gonna be

Big Dill.



2024 Confirmation Class

If you or your youth is in the 8th grade or above, we will be holding a confirmation class this fall. If you have interest please contact Brian at connorandcalebsdad@gmail.com



Community Care Closet

Open T,W,Th 11-12



The Community Care Closet at First United Methodist Church, continues to be a vital outreach ministry taking place at the church. This summer has been a great success and a very busy season. The number of neighbors that we continue to serve has been steadily growing. The people from within our congregation who volunteer and give money, time and resources are also growing. We have strengthened ties with other community agencies and continue to find the best ways we can be in service to people in our neighborhood who need assistance. On Sunday September 22nd, we will be presenting a year in review as well as describing some visions we have for the future of the closet. We invite you to come to church to find out more about this exciting mission. After the service we will have an informational meeting for anyone who is interested in volunteering. That meeting will be held in the Emmaus room around 10:40.

Some other ways you can help is to continue to bring in donations of coats, winter apparel and hand warmers, so we can be prepared as the weather turns. Constant needs that we struggle to keep up with, are tooth brushes, towels and socks. We will have a complete list of donated goods we will be gathering on Sunday the 22nd. We hope to see you then.

We continue to Thank God for all this congregation has done to support this important ministry.

*Now you see it...
Now you don't!*

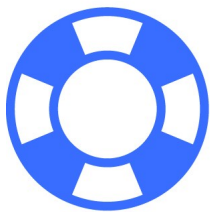


Our Boiler is out, now we are waiting for the new boiler to be delivered. We have also received a total of a little more than \$200,000 in funds to help pay for the new boiler. More updates to come!



FUMC Hosts Family Promise September 8-15, 2024

Sign ups for meals, hosts, and other helpers will be at the Connection Corner after worship on August 11, 18, and 25. You can also contact Paige Thompson at 509-679-7001 or paigethompson@outlook.com if you would like to volunteer for this fruitful event.



**American
Foundation
for Suicide
Prevention**



Yellowstone Valley Out of the Darkness Walk

September 15, 2024 @ 12:30 pm, Will James Middle School

12:30 PM Come early for silent auction, raffle, activities, Resource Fair and Check-In

2:00 PM Opening ceremony, followed by Walk

3:00 PM Closing ceremony