

First Christian Church



March 28, 2018

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Along the Journey...

“Remember I am with you always.” --Matthew 28:20

There are many people I wish were still with me, and a beloved dog or two. These people either allowed me to be me and not some imagined version of me, or they inspired me to be a better version of me. And the dogs, well, they did both.

Those persons lucky enough to have Jesus look at them and love them; heal them physically; or draw them into his inner circle to grow them in wisdom and compassion, understood what it means to lose someone of great value---and to grieve. They lost not only a person but a way. Where Roman citizenship and even the religious community had modeled the abuse of personal and collective power, Jesus of Nazareth taught them that God was love, and that a loving community could make the world a wonderful place. They had a fantastic teacher who drew an amazing spirit from within them and among them and he was gone too soon.

Who would have ever imagined that, after the crucifixion, God would return Jesus to his followers? We are used to tombstones marking permanent separation. Only in the Easter story we observe a stone that isn't a permanent marker and a gift returned—Jesus Christ. The dead don't die. Amazing. The same Christ through whom all creation comes into being still dwells within us, and teaches us, and guards us.

As more than one person has said, “The Good News of Easter is that Jesus is alive.” How are you sensitive to Christ's presence? In what ways is Christ with all of us today?

Happy Easter! From the bottom of my heart, Happy Easter! God knows we all need the power and direction that comes from the living Christ. Isn't that why we pray, why we ask for God's help before we begin every task? God knows we all need a kinder world. Isn't that why we serve our neighbor?

See you at breakfast on Easter morning, and in worship.

Pastor Dana

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 29—Maundy Thursday

Bible Study, 10:00 a.m., Perkins

Maundy Thursday Neighborhood Project, 6:00 p.m., FCC Fellowship Hall

March 30— Good Friday

Good Friday Day of Prayer, 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Lectio Divina Lesson with Pastor Dana, noon, FCC Sanctuary

Yoga Through the Stations of the Cross with Monica, 6:00 p.m., FCC Sanctuary.

April 1—Easter Sunday

Breakfast, 8:00 a.m., FCC Fellowship Hall

Worship at 10:00 a.m., followed by youth activity.

Edgewood Easter Service, 1:00 p.m., Edgewood Senior Living

April 3

Elders' Meeting, 6:00 p.m., FCC Fellowship Hall

April 9

Worship Meeting, 6:00 p.m., FCC Parlor

April 10-11

Montana Interfaith Network Conference, Helena, MT

Ways to Serve

- ◆ Sign up to provide coffee fellowship prior to worship.
- ◆ Volunteer to host the children's table during worship.
- ◆ Prayerfully consider contributing your time and talents to one of the church committees, and reach out to the committee chair:
 - Worship Chair: Stephanie Hagerman
 - Christian Education Chair: Gloria Soja
 - Finance Chair: Clark Bomgaars
 - PPR Co-Chairs: Suzie Rebeck and Helen Bennett
 - Property Chair: Dave Johnson
 - Outreach Chair: Maggie McCartney

April 14

Sew Till You Glow, 9:30 a.m. FCC Old Fellowship Hall

April 17

Deacons Dinner and Meeting, 5:00 p.m.

FCC Board Meeting, 6:00 p.m.

April 22

Congregational Conversation after worship.

April 27

Regional Minister Ruth Fletcher, Retirement Dinner, Great Falls, MT

April 27-29

Montana Regional Assembly, Great Falls, MT

April 29

Ministry Student Gloria Soja leading worship



March Highlights

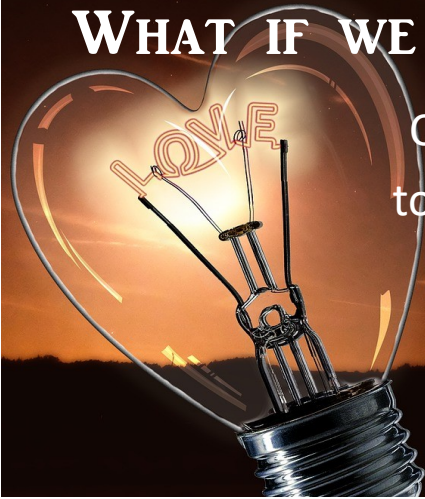
MAUNDY THURSDAY EXPERIENCE

MARCH 29, 2018 AT 6:00 P.M.

WHAT IF WE WERE A LIGHT TO OUR NEIGHBORS?

Come and explore what it means
to love our neighbors as ourselves.

CHILDREN ARE WELCOME!



WORSHIP AND OUTREACH NEED YOUR HELP!!

For the Maundy Thursday Experience on March 29th, the following items are needed:

- Coffee Mugs (in excellent condition)
- Potting Soil and Pansies
- Single serve cocoa and tea packets
- Garden Tools (for potting)
- Wagons



We will meet in the fellowship hall at 6:00 p.m. to prepare the mugs. At 6:30 p.m., we will walk the neighborhood and gift the mugs, flowers, and cocoa/tea, to our neighbors. Afterwards, we will gather for a Maundy Thursday communion service. All are welcome!



GOOD FRIDAY DAY OF PRAYER

MARCH 30, 2018, 7:00 A.M. TO 7:00 P.M., FCC SANCTUARY

We will be participating in a day of prayer on Good Friday. Individuals, couples, and families, are encouraged to attend and to explore various forms of prayer. Pastor Dana will also offer an introduction to Lectio Divina, or “holy reading”, using the Good Friday scriptures, art, and poetry. Monica Bomgaars will be leading an evening yoga session for all skill levels. Please wear comfortable clothes.

LECTIO DIVINA INTRODUCTION—WITH PASTOR DANA

NOON TO 1:00 P.M.

YOGA THROUGH THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS—WITH MONICA

6:00 TO 7:00 P.M.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR PRAYER, LEARNING, AND YOGA!

April Opportunities



2018 Regional Assembly

April 27-29, 2018

Central Christian Church

Great Falls, MT

Registration forms and schedules are in the Narthex.

The FCC Board has designated Stephanie Hagerman, Helen Bennett, and Kathie Frank (as alternate) as voting delegates to the business meeting.

EASTER CELEBRATION—APRIL 1, 2018



BREAKFAST AT 8:00 A.M.
WORSHIP AT 10:00 A.M.
CONGREGATIONAL MISSION
ACTIVITY* AT
11:30 A.M.



*The congregational mission activity will involve preparing Easter Baskets for the residents of Edgewood Senior Living. A small group from FCC will be presenting worship to the residents at 1:00 p.m. on April 1st, and will deliver the baskets at that time.

Items that are needed: nail files, lotion, Kleenex, notepads, address books, stationary kits, resistance bands, little snacks, fluffy socks, mind games (sudoku, crosswords, etc.), stuffed animals, and Easter baskets.



This Photo by Unknown

SASS Upcoming Activities

April 22 - Earth Day Hike and trash clean-up

Meet at the church at 4:00 p.m. Wear sturdy shoes and bring gloves and water bottle.

May 4-5- *Work weekend at Cane Ridge West*

We will leave Helena at 4:30 p.m. on Friday and return at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday.

What to bring: sleeping bag, work clothes, \$5.00 for Friday dinner.

Permission slips will be at church. Parents are welcome to join us.



Houston Mission Trip

June 10-15, 2018

Houston, TX

Registration Deadline April 1, 2018

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Montana invite you to join the Mission Commission on an outreach trip to Houston, Texas. The purpose is to partner with Disciples Home Mission to help with hurricane clean up and rebuilding efforts.

- Registration cost: \$75.00
- For ages 18 and up
- Airfare: Arranged on your own. Please coordinate so you can be in Houston by 5:00pm on Sunday, June 10
- Accommodations: Housing will be located at a local church with showers available in the church or nearby. You will need to bring a compact sleeping pad and sleeping bag.
- Food: Meals will be made communally and the cost divided among team members, with food purchased at a local grocery store. Optional – Some evenings team members who wish may eat out and enjoy some of Houston's local cuisine.
- **Deadline for registration is April 1, 2018—<http://www.montanadisciples.org/houston-mission-trip/>**

LISTENING TO GOD THROUGH DREAMWORK:

A THREE-WEEK COURSE

It seems we are in one world when we are awake, with its own stories, and another world when we sleep with its own stories. Are the two related? Rev. Keener will talk about the meaning of dreams in a short course scheduled for Monday evenings, **April 16th, 23rd, and 30th in the church Parlor (upstairs, across from her office.)** The class will start at 6:30 and last until 8:30.

Rev. Keener will provide handouts from a variety of sources she's used for dreamwork support over the years, and a must-have book list. Please bring a hand-written dream that you are working with along with your cell phone if it has internet capabilities. At the end of each class we will draw a name or two, even three, out of a basket and work the dream.

There is a sign-up sheet on the table outside the sanctuary. Yes, bring a friend. Childcare is not provided, but you are welcome to bring your child if they can play quietly while we work!

NEXT PERKINS BIBLE STUDY: PARABLES

(Stories for Life in God's World)

The Perkins Bible Study has been meeting at 10:00 on Thursday mornings for many years. Way to go! Why is it called the Perkins Bible Study? Because it's held at Perkins restaurant at 1803 Cedar Street. We collect in the large room at the back of the restaurant, by the restrooms.

The study group is in the last chapters of the Gospel of Mark, which means a new study is on the horizon. We use the Kerygma program as a study guide so we can work with scripture at our own pace during the week, and bring both the study guide and a bible on Thursday mornings. Rev. Keener uses the New Revised Standard Version and suggests that if you have that translation, please bring it. However, many persons have their own favorite translation.



Does the study cost anything? All students purchase their own copy of the study guide (the church pays half). Some persons order breakfast, some simply order coffee, and others are happy with the ice water.

All are welcome, and the group looks a little different every week as persons travel. Come and see what we are doing!

If you are unable to attend the 10:00 am study, and would like to gather a class at another time, please contact Pastor Dana.

Memorial Flowers for Easter Sunday

Everyone is welcome to bring flowers on Easter Sunday, in honor of a loved one. We would like to acknowledge both the gift of flowers, and the memorials, in the Easter bulletin. A photo can be included also.

Information must be to the church office by 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 29th.



2018 Summer Camps

Cane Ridge West Conference & Retreat Center



**BEYOND
BELIEF!**
THE UNIVERSE OF GOD

Early Bird Registration Discount Deadline:
May 15, 2018
(Guarantees you a shirt)

2018 CAMP DATES

July 6-8: GMPK Camp (For those who have completed grade K, 1, or 2 and one or both parents or a grandparent.)

Director: Cathy Evans

Cost is \$85.00 per person/\$180 maximum per family if registered before June 4th.

Late registrations are at the Director's discretion and will cost \$100 per person/\$250 per family. T-shirt is not guaranteed.

July 8-14: CYF Camp (For those who have completed grades 8-12.)

Co-Directors: Jeremy Comstock & Kevin McCafferty

Cost is \$260 if registered before June 4th.

Late registrations are at the Director's discretion and will cost \$300. T-shirt not guaranteed.

July 15-21: Younger Youth Camp (For those who have completed grades 3-7.)

Director: Doug Garner

Cost is \$260 if registered before June 4th.

Late registrations are at the Director's discretion and will cost \$300. T-shirt not guaranteed.

Registration forms are in the Narthex!

Sew Till You Glow

Saturday, April 14th

9:30 a.m.—5ish

- ✓ Not just a sewing group
- ✓ All crafters welcome
- ✓ 9:30 to 5ish in the Old Fellowship Hall
- ✓ We sew/craft, eat and mostly enjoy a day of fellowship
- ✓ Lunch is provided

Bring your crafts and sewing projects to work on, or just bring yourself and enjoy the company.

All are welcome to come play with us!!

Board Meeting Reminder

April 17, 2018, 6-7:30 p.m.

All are Welcome!

WEEKLY REGULAR CHURCH CALENDAR

Monday – Thursday

Pastor Dana available by appointment

Tuesday – Thursday

9-11 a.m. Church Admin.
in office

Thursday:

10 a.m. Bible Study at Perkins,
Gospel of Mark

Sunday:

9 a.m. Praise Band practice
9:30 a.m. Coffee Fellowship
10 a.m. Worship

PLEASE REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR PRAYERS THIS MONTH:

Prayers of healing for Neva Weston, Barb Moy, Gloria Soja and Barb Lancaster.

Prayers for Jason Pattee and the National Guard.

Prayers of celebration and discernment for Regional Minister Ruth Fletcher as she approaches retirement.

Prayers of discernment for the Montana and Northwest Regions as we work together to create a new region.

RECOVERY & SUPPORT GROUPS

Monday:	6:30 – 8:30 p.m.	Good Grief Al-Anon	Fellowship Hall
	6:30 – 8:30 p.m.	Last Chance Recovery Group	Old Fellowship Hall
Tuesday:	6:30 – 8:30 p.m.	Last Chance AA	Old Fellowship Hall
Thursday:	6:30 – 8:30 p.m.	Last Chance Recovery Group	Old Fellowship Hall



CONGREGATIONAL CONVERSATION



Sunday, April 22, 2018 – after worship



The FCC Board will be providing a light lunch for the congregation after worship.



The Board and each committee will present on the work that is being done and



where help is needed. There will be a strong focus on the building/property and



finances. All are encouraged to attend as this is your opportunity to ask questions,



make suggestions, and provide feedback. We look forward to hearing from you!



Overflowing

2018 Easter Offering

"Like good stewards of the multi-colored grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received."

- 1 Peter 4:10

The grace of God is overflowing in the gift we have in Jesus the Christ. God walked among us in the person of Jesus and God continues to give us treasures unbounded through the Holy Spirit.

Our response to this great generosity of God is **overflowing compassion, joy, faith, gratitude and love.**

#DMFOverflowing



Scriptures and Sermons, April and May, 2018

Sunday, April 8th—Acts 4:32-35

Sermon: “Shaped by Need”

Key Words: ACT your faith, helping others, testimony and witness

Sunday, April 15th—Luke 24:36b-48

Sermon: “Is There a Part of Jesus’ Life WE are Afraid to Touch?”

Key Words: sacrifice, service, scripture, community

Sunday, April 22nd—EARTH DAY—Job 38:1-7

Pastor Dana leading worship; guest speaker presenting message

Key Words: God is BIG, wonder, amazed, beautiful word

Sunday, April 29th—Regional Assembly—Acts 8:26-40

Sermon: TBD

Key Words: TBD

Sunday, May 6th—Mark 6:25-34

Sermon: “The Gift of the Holy Resilient”

Key Words: a non-anxious presence, creative soul energy, hopeful

Sunday, May 13th—Deuteronomy 30:19

Sermon: “Choosing Life When it Doesn’t Choose You”

Key Words: seize on blessings, expect something better

Sunday, May 20th—PENTECOST—The Birthday of the Church—Acts 2:1-21

Sermon: “What is God up to in Us?”

Key Words: Holy Spirit, church, birthday, go into the world, all

Sunday, May 27th—Memorial Day Weekend—Pastor Dana on Vacation