



The View

November 2023

1025 Central Avenue
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One of my fondest memories of divinity school was the time that I and several of my neighbors (also ministers-in-training) at the Disciples Divinity House went to a local Disciples church to practice baptizing each other. As it turns out, dunking someone under water without dropping them or getting water up their nose is a thing that requires some degree of technique.



It was my first time baptizing anyone, and while it maybe didn't 'count' it was still a reminder that even our most sacred and special practices don't have to be solemn or somber. My experience of baptism growing up, as is the case for many people, was of an action you took in order to avoid going to hell. Water beats fire, as anyone who's played Pokémon can tell you.

But in that moment I learned that baptism is much more about communal joy than divine fire insurance. Growing up, we always used to sing "I'm so glad I'm a part of the family of God" whenever someone was baptized. And in that moment, I felt it.



As we close out our series on "The Marks of Love" this month, we end with baptism, as a reminder of that communal joy and what it means to be named and welcomed into community.

If you are not yet an official member of the church and are wanting to formalize the relationship you have with this community, we'll be offering an opportunity to do so on Sunday, November 12th. If you have been baptized before (in any of the several Christian ways of interpreting that practice), you'll be able to covenant with us through confession—even as we respond with our own commitment to support you. If you have not been baptized and would like to, please let me know at pastor@gfccc.net so that we can be sure to have the baptistery filled.

Yours in the waters of communal joy,

Pastor Stephen.
pastor@gfccc.net

Joys/Concerns

Our thoughts and prayers go out to:

Our World

- For the victims and families impacted by the shooting in Maine
- For our leaders to take action against gun violence
- For the dead, mourning, and besieged in Gaza.
- For an immediate ceasefire and the return of all hostages.
- For Jews, Muslims, and Arabs across the world facing persecution and violence.
- For those suffering in the war in the Congo

Our Community

- Upcoming election, that citizens will choose wisely and that whomever is elected will govern justly with concern for the well-being of all.
- For medically-vulnerable people in the oncoming flu/COVID/RSV season, and that folks in the community will make choices with those people in mind.

Our Church

- Ellie—Shelly and Brett's grandniece who is in NICU in Seattle
- Arlene Morrison, recovering from a fall and complications
- Marjorie Kohler, recovering from a fall and hospital stay

All Souls Sunday

Sunday, November 5th is All Souls Sunday. If there is someone whose memory you would like honored during the worship service, please email pastor@gfccc.net by Saturday, November 4th.

Vacation

Pastor Stephen will be on vacation the week of Thanksgiving, including Sunday, November 19th.

Friendsgiving

This year, we are partnering with the Great Falls LGBTQ+ Center to host their annual Friendsgiving on the evening of Thursday, November 30th. If you'd be interested in providing and preparing a main dish like turkey or ham, a side, or dessert, or else in helping clean up afterwards, please reach out to Pastor Stephen.

Regional Minister Vote

The Regional Search Committee has selected a candidate to recommend to our Regional Board, and assuming an affirmative vote from them at their November 18 meeting, we will be having a virtual assembly of voting delegates from the whole region, who will vote on whether to call this person as our new Regional Minister.

Chicken Feed



Our annual 'Chicken Feed' campaign for FISH Food Bank has commenced! Bring your 'chicken feed' (loose change) to the church any Sunday this month to contribute during the matching period. If you contribute via check or cash, please use the memo line/envelope to indicate that it is for FISH.

Hanging of the Greens



In preparation for Advent, we will be doing Hanging of the Greens on Saturday, December 2nd, but before that we will need to have our big Christmas tree up. We need a handful of sturdy folks willing to stick around after worship on Sunday the 26th to bring down the décor from the attic and set up the tree.

Lydia Group News

The Lydia Group will be collecting household items for the Mercy Home Shower for Christmas. Unwrapped donations are needed for the kitchen, bath, and bedroom. There will be a basket in the Fellowship Hall for your articles.

Reminder, the Lydia Group will meet on Thursday, November 16 at 1:30pm.

Financial Corner

It doesn't take a fortune to leave a legacy – Ask our endowment and trust chair, Randy Knowles.

FISH

Town Pump has selected **FISH** to be part of the 23rd annual **"Be a Friend in Deed, Help Those in Need"** campaign.

Town Pump will match each dollar collected by FISH up to \$25,000 from September 1, 2023, through November 30, 2023.

If you wish to make donation, mail donation to FISH P.O. Box 662 Great Falls MT 59403.

Thank you for your help to reach our goal of \$25,000. This is a text block.



Wishing a very **Happy November Birthday** to our members celebrating soon:

- 10 Bob Frank-Plumlee
- 11 Jinks Monroe
- 15 Randy Knowles
- 16 Aaron Fagenstrom
- 17 Brett Fagenstrom

Wishing a very **Happy November Anniversary** to our members celebrating soon:

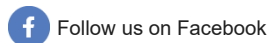
- 24 Clint & Margaret Houge
- 28 Bob & Karen Frank-Plumlee

November Calendar

- 1 Book Club
- **5 Daylight Savings Time**
- **7 Election Day**
- 7 Essentrics with Lynn
- **11 Veterans Day**
- 12 Baptism Sunday
- 12 Board Meeting
- 14 Essentrics with Lynn
- 15 Book Club
- 16 Lydia Group
- 19-25 Pastor on Vacation
- 21 Essentrics with Lynn
- **23 Thanksgiving**
- 26 Put up Christmas Tree
- 28 Essentrics with Lynn

- 29 Book Club
- 30 Friendsgiving
- 30 Evening Women's Group

For entire church calendar go to: [Church Calendar](#)



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