



The View

July 2024

1025 Central Avenue
Great Falls, MT 59401
(406) 453-4317

Galatians 5:13

13 You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh, rather, serve one another humbly in love. (NIV)



July always makes me think of two things: Family vacations and Independence Day. As we step into the month of July, our hearts are naturally drawn to thoughts of freedom, independence, and renewal. The Fourth of July celebrations remind us of the enduring values of liberty and justice that our nation was founded upon. But as members of a progressive faith community, we are also called to reflect on what freedom truly means in our lives and our collective journey of faith.

Freedom, in its deepest sense, is more than political independence. It encompasses spiritual liberation, emotional well-being, and the freedom to live authentically as ourselves. In Galatians 5:13 we are challenged to consider how we use our freedom. Are we using our liberties to uplift others, to build a more inclusive and loving community? As a church, we have the opportunity to reflect on our role in promoting justice, equality, and compassion.

As I mentioned, July also makes me think of vacations. It can be a time of renewal, as many of us take vacations, enjoy nature, and reconnect with loved ones. It's a season to recharge and reflect on our spiritual journeys. I encourage you during this time to support each other during this time of renewal.

As we enjoy the summer warmth and the festive spirit of July, let's remember the deeper call to action embedded in our freedom. Let's recommit ourselves to building a church that is a beacon of hope, love, and justice. Together, we can create a space where everyone feels valued and empowered to live their true selves.

Blessings and peace,

Pastor Mandy

Joys/Concerns

Our thoughts and prayers go out to:

Our World

- For **Jews, Muslims, and Arabs** across the world facing persecution and violence.
- For a permanent ceasefire and the return of all **Israeli** and **Palestinian** hostages.
- For the people of **Ukraine** and **Russia** as the ongoing conflict continues to disrupt lives

Our Community

- For the local agencies working on food insecurity.
- For our unhoused neighbors that may be struggling with the heat.
- For those suffering from mental health issues and addiction.

Our Church

- We are giving thanks for the upcoming marriage of Brenda Martino and Elaine Higgins and praying for years of joy together as they start their married life.
- For those traveling over the Summer to have safe journeys.
- For LeAnn Budeski's son-in-law Charlie, who was diagnosed with a brain tumor and will start treatment after flying to Houston on July 3rd.
- Roy Allen, Kristi Allen's father-in-law, is undergoing medical testing for possible seizures.
- Judy Kenmir as she recovers from shoulder surgery.
- Gene Wooden, Barb Kakalecik's cousin, had a stroke and needs prayers for a successful recovery.

Cane Ridge West 40th Anniversary

Save the dates of August 30th to September 2 as Cane Ridge West will be celebrating it's 40th Anniversary. There will be festivities and events going on each day. Watch for more information as it comes available.

Financial Corner

Would you like to know the NEW way to use your retirement to support the church and your heirs? Ask our endowment and trust chair, Randy Knowles.

Summer Sermon Series - "Soul Food"

In August I will be preaching a series on Soul Food. "The metaphor of the bread of life is a popular image. Bread is a basic staple food, filling and made of simple ingredients. It is plentiful and readily available. In calling himself the bread of life, Jesus speaks to his identification with the needs and interests of the everyday person." (Lectionary Sermon Series Vol.2).

During this series I will focus on important teachings that can deepen our understanding of how life in God feeds our souls.

August 4: John 6:24-35 Sermon: Soul Food

August 11: John 6:35, 41-51 Sermon: Eat to Live

August 18: Psalm 34:9-14 and Proverbs 9:1-6 Sermon: An Appetite for Instruction

August 25: John 6:56-69 Sermon: Hard to Swallow

September 1: Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23 Sermon: Dirty Hands and Clean Heart

I hope that you can join in worship to learn all about the Bread of Life.

Pastor Mandy



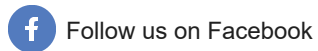
Wishing a very **Happy July Birthday** to our members celebrating soon:

- 2 Stephanie Skaer
 - 11 Emily Comstock
 - 16 Pastor Mandy Gosik
 - 21 Emma Gosik
-

July Calendar

- **4 Independence Day**
- 14 Board Meeting
- 18-30 Pastor Mandy on vacation

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



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