

THE GOOD NEWS LETTER June 2025



The Good News Letter

IS PUBLISHED BY THE

Bigfork Community United Methodist Church

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Bigfork, MT 59911

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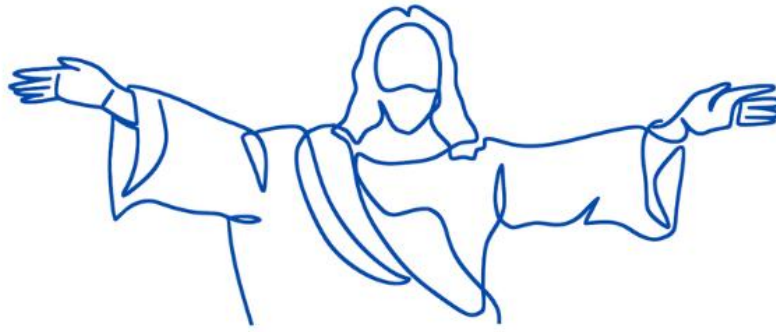
Pastor's phone (406) 690-2481

Email: bigforkcumc@gmail.com

Web page: www.bigforkumc.org

Church hours: Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday

9:00am to 12:00pm



Jesus'

Vision for Living & Giving

A Stewardship Series for June 2025

June 8 - There's Enough for Everyone

June 15 - Joy & Simplicity

June 22 - Money & Mission

June 29 - Live & Give Boldly



Watch Sunday Services and other events on our YouTube channel: Bigfork United Methodist Church



Be sure to "like: our Facebook page – Community United Methodist Church – to get regular updates & see what is happening!

Prayer List:

Prayer List Update

We will be updating the Prayer List in the bulletin at the beginning of every month, which means we will be adding new names and taking off names as seems appropriate. As always, please let Dana know if you have names to be added. This can be done at any time. We also ask that you would let us know if you would like your name to stay on or be taken off the list. Thanks for your help and for lifting up others in prayer.

Sunday School:

PreK – 5th Grade Sundays during worship following Kids' time (10:15am)

Pastor's Corner

***Make for yourselves wallets that don't wear out -
a treasure in heaven that never wears out." - Luke 12:33***

If you think about all the topics Christians debate, argue, and split over, my guess is that you will not name one of the topics to which Jesus gave a substantial amount of attention: MONEY. In 11 of his 39 parables, money is either the lesson or the illustration Jesus used to share a spiritual truth.

Jesus understood how important money would be in our lives in our world. He knew how easily it could and would become the source of human idolatry and a false sense of security, the object humans desire above all else. How easy it is for us to assume that if we just had "enough" of the stuff, all of our problems would be solved?

Of course, money is a necessary and useful tool. When managed and shared wisely, it can do a lot of good. But, as we know, it can equally become an instrument that controls, manipulates, abuses, and corrupts. As followers of Jesus, it is vital for us to think and talk about the role money plays in our lives and in our church. We cannot fully grow into the people Christ calls us to be if we ignore the topic.

June is the month for us to do that at CUMC! As we plan for a new fiscal year, envision God's call and mission for our church in this particular time and place, and do the daily work of growing into the people Christ has called and created us to be, we think and talk about Jesus' take on money - his "Vision for Living & Giving." We will explore the vision Jesus paints of a new economy - God's economy - one that inspires generosity, joy, mission, and grace. One that shapes our attitudes from those of scarcity to abundance, selfishness to altruism, and "not enough" to "always enough."

We will also celebrate the generosity, faithfulness, and commitment you, CUMC, gives toward doing God's work as a church family. Your benevolence has allowed CUMC to clothe and feed members of our community, relieve the burdens of those affected by global tragedies, and ensure our building is accessible to all people, just to name a few.

In a time in which divisions run deep, I give thanks that we are united in our call to bring God's kingdom to earth by generously sharing all we have been gifted, including our money. May God bless our stewardship series with new insight and inspiration as we continue our faithful service to God and neighbor in the year ahead!

Deep Blessings,

Pastor Wendy

June 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Choir 8:30 Worship 10:00 AA 7:00	2 AA 10:00 Bridge 10:00 King's Ringers 4:00 Scouts 6:30	3 Tai Chi 10:00 Bridge 10:00 AA 7:00	4 Rotary 12:00	5 Threads Coffee 9:00 AA 7:00	6 AA 7:00	7 AA 9:00
8 Choir 8:30 Worship 10:00 AA 7:00	9 AA 10:00 Bridge 10:00 King's Ringers 4:00 Worship Committee 6:30 Scouts 6:30	10 Tai Chi 10:00 Bridge 10:00 Finance 10 :00 Outreach & Ed 11 :00 AA 7:00	11 Rotary 12:00 Missions 3:30	12 Coffee 9:00 AA 7:00	13 AA 7:00	14 AA 9:00
15 Choir 8:30 Worship 10:00 AA 7:00	16 AA 10:00 Bridge 10:00 King's Ringers 4:00 Scouts 6:30	17 Tai Chi 10:00 Bridge 10:00 SPaRC 5 :30 Trustees 5 :45 AA 7:00	18 Rotary 12:00	19 Coffee 9:00 AA 7:00	20 AA 7:00	21 AA 9:00
22 Choir 8:30 Worship 10:00 AA 7:00	23 AA 10:00 Bridge 10:00 King's Ringers 4:00 Scouts 6:30 Church Council 7:00	24 Tai Chi 10:00 Bridge 10:00 AA 7:00	25 Rotary 12:00	26 Coffee 9:00 AA 7:00	27 AA 7:00	28 AA 9:00
29 Choir 8:30 Worship 10:00 Charge Conference and Potluck AA 7:00	30 AA 10:00 Bridge 10:00 King's Ringers 4:00 Scouts 6:30					

June Birthdays

Gordy Bertram – 1st
 Ruth Guldner – 4th
 John Brault – 4th
 Zane Rasnic – 6th
 Tom Jeffers – 7th
 James Ochs – 8th
 Norman Webb – 8th
 John Pearson – 9th
 Harry Vonk – 10th
 Mark Lee – 10th

Otis Ochs – 19th
 Carole Mason – 23rd
 Sharon Vonk – 30th
 Don Willis – 30th

June Anniversaries

Jack & Donna Ganiere – 4th
 John & Lorelee Weaver – 6th
 Charlie & Carole Mason – 12th
 Dan & Mary Krause – 19th



Coffee Hour Schedule

June 1 – *Jetta Johnson, Corrine Stark, Sharon Knauth, Jim and Coleene Torgerson, Don and Sandie Julian, Rita Dorn

June 8 – *Bob & Ethel Mathews, Ward and Margie DeWitt, Bruce and Marcie Peck, Stan and Janet Bones, Bogue and Becky Miller

June 15 – * Rick and Nancy Trembath, Pat Darling, Rick and Jinger Moore, Rick and Beth Magstadt, Kathy Greytak

June 22 – * Loyann Kimmerly, Patti Wright, Alan Baquet and Belinda Rinker, Lori Heninger, Bob and Bonnie Chrysler,

June 29 – * Karen Sykes, Jerry and JoLynn Yenne, Nancy Kelly, Bill and Penny Smith

July 6 – *Gordon and Carol Bertram, Corinne Johnson, and Mick Pauli, Judith Cain, Kay Boorsma, John and Lorelee Weaver, Craig and Suzy Spencer, Carolyn Cosgrove

* Indicates group leader. The group leader reminds each individual that it is their time to serve. If you cannot contribute on your assigned date please try to find a replacement or provide baked goods in advance and put them in the pantry marked "coffee hour".

Our summer friends are included in the schedule, with the understanding that they might not be here. If you're gone for the winter you do not need to find a substitute.

Missions News

Thank you for your generous support of the Cinco d'Mayo brunch and auction!

The auction raised \$4120. We are sending \$3000 of that to the Mexican mission "Give Ye Them To Eat" and the remainder is held in reserve to cover our voucher program expenses. This event is only possible because of all your amazing support-bringing food to share, auction items and then staying to participate! We served 85 plates of food---the most ever! ---we are sorry there were only 77 place settings---next year we will make sure to have more. Special thanks to our auctioneers, Chuck Hubbard and Chris Ochs, who make it so much fun! And we are grateful for all the help our "auxiliary mission members" Stan Bones, Scott Hines, Jinger Moore, Chris Ochs and Chris Hagar give us. . In addition thank you to everyone who pitched in to clean up afterwards. We are "blessed" and we are passing on our blessings to others!

Here is a partial list of the amazing ways in which YOU reached out to thousands of people through the "Give Ye Them to Eat" program.

- *Classes on dental hygiene, nutrition and first-aid providing primary health care workers in their villages.
 - *Dry composting toilet system workshops.
 - *Workshops on the construction and use of a solar cooker.
 - *Replenishing supplies in first aid kits of each health care worker so the necessary provisions are available for emergencies in communities where there is no medical facility.
 - *Course on low-cost, user-friendly construction methods and materials, such as straw bale, rammed earth, clay-straw and cob to address needs for shelter.
 - *Soil conservation methods
 - *Composting workshops so there will be an increase in food and crop production.
- Poor health, malnutrition and limited resources are a chronic daily reality for the people of this south-central region of Mexico. The Good News is that the development opportunities offered through "Give Ye Them To Eat" 's programs help people to gain knowledge and acquire new skills and this empowers them to find solutions to family and community problems that once seemed insurmountable. Through the "Give Ye Them to Eat" program here is a partial list of the amazing ways in which you reached out to thousands of people.

Part of the \$6000 that has been designated for missions out of the Special Ministries Reserve Fund will be used to help Aces. We are sending them \$3500 in support of scholarships for children to attend Aces summer sessions. Aces were notified that they were cut \$12000 in grants and also lost summer staffing (Americorps volunteers) due to the Federal government's cost cutting measures. We are reserving \$2500 to put towards the funding of the "The Great Fish Community Challenge" that begins the middle of August.

As we conclude our fiscal year at this month's end we look forward to exploring more ways of reaching out to our local and mission communities in love and kindness.

Matthew 25:40 "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

Mission Statement: *The purpose of the CUMC Missions Committee is to serve as the hands and feet of Jesus Christ.*

How we do it: *We strive to involve all members of the congregation in following God's commands to care for the poor, sick and needy by engaging in mission partnerships with local, national and international organizations. We strive to be good stewards of God's resources and to be God's witnesses wherever we go, showing the love of God and our faith in Him by what we do.*

Members of the Mission Committee are: Margie DeWitt-Chair, Francine Hagar, Vice-chair, Janet Bones-finance, Joy Bailey, Marcia Peck, Rick Moore-Food Bank liaison, Chuck Hubbard- Salvation Army liaison, Jan McCandless, Lori Hines

Mission Opportunity at BUMP:



BUMP Work Day for the United Methodists of Flathead valley

What: Help BUMP host regularly scheduled volunteer teams and maintain facilities.

Why: Our neighbors have asked for our help. The work required to maintain The Ranch, The Annex, and the Browning Church is daunting for the ½ time pastor and small congregation.

When: June 24 - 25th - Arrive in Browning by 9AM, depart at 5PM. Staying over is an option.

Who: There are tasks for many hands, some will need to be skilled and others require physical stamina still others are less physical. Many hands make the work light.

Pastor Wendy is planning to go one of these days!

Please let her know if you would like to ride along and which day works best for you.



Finance Committee

With the last month of the fiscal year upon us, the finance committee is focused on wrapping up this year and preparing the next year's budget. We will be close on our break even forecast for this year as you all have given significant support to the elevator fund. We are expecting the state inspection in early June and will have final costs at that time.

You should have received the Stewardship letter by now...if not please advise and we will get you a copy. Please return your pledge card to Rob Petek or the Church by June 15, which will allow us time to finalize next year's budget before the June 29th Charge Conference. Our ability to meet our part-time staffing needs, expand missions, and rebuild our building reserve accounts will depend on our pledge drive results.

The lift pump replacement for our sewer line was an unplanned expense. The Brother Van Society is funding this one-time expense (approximately \$4500.00). Hopefully, there are no more surprises in the near term. Thanks to John and Diane Pearson for their willingness to oversee the project.

Please thank Alan Baquet for his time and input on the Finance Committee. Jetta Johnson will be joining the committee in July. Starting in July, the finance committee will now meet on the third Monday of the month at 9:00 am at the Church.

Thanks to all for your continued support.

Quote of the Month: *"By watering the roots of charity,
we nourish the tree of humanity."*

W. James

Finance Committee: Harry Wilson, Chair, Sandy Whitney, Don Willis, Don Julian, Ethel Mathews, Rob Petek, Rick Magstadt, Chris Travis, Mary Bolhuis, Gary Bolhuis, Jerry Bygren, Marilyn Bowman, John Pearson, Alan Baquet

Summer Socials are coming in June, July and August! (Signup sheet in the Fellowship Hall)

A great opportunity to get to know more people in church or just get to visit with your church friends is to sign up for the Summer Socials. Many of you have joined us previously and know the blessings of being both hosts and participants. This great tradition of fellowship and getting to know each other better in a smaller setting usually takes place in someone's home, but we have seen many creative venues including restaurants, parks, boats or other locations. Some gatherings have full meals, some are salad dinners, picnics or desserts. If you are the hosts, you make the decisions! Groups usually include about 8 people, but if you have space restrictions for that size group, please let me know when you sign up, and we will make adjustments. If you would like to join with another person to host and/ or attend the socials, please let me know that too, so I can schedule you together. Any other pertinent information is helpful.

Hosts for the group:

1. Decide the place, time, menu, and what participants bring to the gathering. (Usually the hosts provide the main entree and beverages.)
2. Contact everyone in the group by phone, email or in person about all the details.

If anyone in your assigned group cannot make the dinner, invite another.

Please sign up at church or email Lynda Willis at Lwillis77381@gmail.com BY JUNE 10 with your name, address and phone number if you would like to participate this year. I will distribute the first group by June 15.

Don't miss out on this fun time together!



The next VBS Planning Meeting is Tuesday, July 1 @ 12 pm. All volunteers are encouraged to attend. There are still volunteer positions open - please talk to Pastor Wendy or Dr. Jordan if you are interested!



Dear Friends, Mentors, and Members of the Bigfork Community,

As I prepare to graduate and step into the next chapter of my life, I want to take a moment to reflect with gratitude and thank all of you who have helped shape my journey. Reaching milestones like graduating high school, graduating with a two year degree from FVCC, displaying my artwork publicly, and earning the rank of Eagle Scout weren't achievements I reached alone—they were possible because of the support, kindness, and encouragement I've received from so many people over the years.

Growing up in Bigfork has been something truly special. It's not just a place—it's a network of people who look out for one another, who lend a hand without expecting anything in return, and who help raise each other's children as if they were their own. From the earliest days of my childhood to now, there has never been a moment where I've felt alone on my journey. I have always known there were people quietly rooting for me, gently guiding me, or stepping in when I needed it most—angels in their own right.

To the scouting community: thank you. From helping me earn merit badges to giving me advice during cold campouts, to cheering me on as I pursued one of my biggest goals—becoming an Eagle Scout—you went above and beyond. Many of you didn't have to help, but you chose to. You chose to believe in me, to support me, and to make space for me. Being one of the first female Eagle Scouts in the United States has been a tremendous honor, and I could never have done it without your mentorship and belief in what I could achieve.

To those who encouraged my artistic side—thank you for giving me opportunities to share my work and grow my confidence.

From displaying pieces at the Bigfork Art & Cultural Center to receiving awards that recognized not just talent, but effort and heart, your support helped me see myself as more than just a student, but as a creator.

There are far too many individuals to name, but whether you offered advice, a ride, a word of encouragement, or simply a watchful eye when I was younger—I remember. I see the way this town wraps around its people. And I am so grateful to be one of them.

Thank you for helping shape me into who I am today. I will carry Bigfork, and all of you, with me—always.

With heartfelt gratitude,
Gabrielle Thorsen



Thank you!!

Dear CUMC,

Thank you so much for your generous care package! The snacks and food you sent my way were such a blessing in my life. Receiving mail let alone a package is so exciting! Thank you again for your thoughtfulness and generosity.

Keep Shining,
Holly Bowman

Care and Nurture Committee,

I received the box of yummy snacks and treats you sent me for finals week. My gosh, I ate the snickers right away! I really appreciate you thinking of me and I am blessed with such a giving community in Bigfork.

Happy Spring!
Audrey B

Thank you to the Education & Outreach Team for hosting another wonderful lunch for the staff and teachers of Swan River School! Celie & Margo Perleberg, Ethel Mathews, Kay Gough, Karen Sykes, and Sarah Taylor - your time & efforts are appreciated. Thanks for representing CUMC well!

Prayer Request: Please keep the family of Bill Roath in your prayers. Bill was a longtime member of CUMC who recently passed away. He was a faithful part of the Rowdy Bunch and served his community in a myriad of ways. There will be a memorial service later this summer. You can send a card to his family via his daughter Pat: 6935 MT Hwy 35, Bigfork, MT 59911.

Conference News

Mountain Sky Annual Conference - This year's Annual Conference (AC) will be June 11-14 in Denver. Pastor Wendy, AC representative Chris Hagar, and Equalization Member John Brault will be attending. AC is a gathering of clergy and lay people throughout the conference (Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, and Utah) who attend to the annual business of the church. Please keep all of the representatives in your prayers. May God's Spirit guide and direct the work they do on behalf of the UMCs in Mountain Sky.

The Mountain Sky Conference is currently recruiting for the following position:

District Administrator (Work from home)

The District Administrator will provide high-level administrative support to the District Superintendents of the Montana East, Montana West, and Wyoming Districts. This full-time position plays a vital role in supporting the spiritual and organizational leadership of the Conference by managing reports and data, maintaining records, coordinating meetings and events, and overseeing communication efforts such as newsletters and social media. The District Administrator serves as a key resource for clergy and congregations and supports the work of District Roundtables, the District Superintendents missional strategy, and connection among lay and clergy leadership across the Districts.

The deadline for receiving applications is **July 3, 2025**.

If you know of someone who might be interested, please have them email their resume and cover letter to Human Resources via email at jobs@gcfa.org

The Mountain Sky Conference is an equal opportunity employer.



UNITED METHODIST CAMPS

Registration is open!
Scholarships available – see Pastor Wendy for details
<https://flatheadcamp.org/camps/>