

## First United Method-

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# February 2019 Messenger

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Join us **February 17** for a very special Sunday Worship!

We will celebrate the 150th Anniversary of United Methodist Women  
(and their predecessor bodies)

Inspiring worship with stories of gumption,  
smarts, wit, and drive as we remember that  
much of the ministry of our UMC's would not  
be evident without the prayer, hard work,  
creativity, faith and faithfulness  
of United Methodist Women:  
*Faith \* Hope \* Love in Action!*



### To the People of Billings First UMC:

The following Announcement was made Sunday, January 13  
in worship by Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) Chair  
Jeff Day with District Superintendent Deborah Christine:

“As a part of the Pastoral Advisory Process the mutual decision between Kama Hamilton Morton, Billings First UMC SPRC committee, and the Mountain Sky Cabinet is that Kama will NOT be reappointed to Billings FUMC for the 2019–20 year.

Because of Kama’s 22 years of faithful service to the Legacy Yellowstone Conference, Billings First UMC and the Cabinet are granting Kama a well-deserved Renewal Leave. This leave will begin on March 3 and last through June 30 which is the rest of the appointment year.

**Rev Kama’s last Sunday will be FEBRUARY 24.**

Beginning March 3, Billings First UMC will be served on Sunday mornings by a wonderful selection of Cabinet members, Montana pastors and Billings FUMC lay people from First UMC.

It is our hope that Billings First UMC will enjoy this time of reflection, renewal and anticipation.”

**Questions / Feedback may be directed to:**

**Jeff Day**, Chair, First UMC Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC)  
ja\_day@bresnan.net, cell (406) 545-9657

**Deborah Christine**, District Superintendent  
dchristine@mtnskyumc.org, cell (719) 431-9770

**Pat Otstot** First UMC Lay Leader, pat.otstot@gmail.com, cell (406) 671-9008

( See article inside from SPRC Chair Jeff Day with more information )

**Please join us on Sunday, February 24, in Bro. Van Hall right after worship, for a farewell reception for Pastor Kama. We will have a potluck lunch. The church will provide chicken and cake, and everyone is invited to share a side dish if you are able.**

### February at a Glance

**Walk to Emmaus Potluck**  
Saturday, February 2, 5:00pm

**Food Bank Sunday**  
Sunday, February 3

**M.A.D. Choir rehearsals**  
Thursdays, Feb 7—Mar 17,  
6:15pm

**Chrysalis Youth Retreat**  
Fri, Feb 8—Sun, Feb 10

**Messenger Deadline**  
Wednesday, February 13

**CONVO @ Bozeman UMC**  
Fri, Feb 15—Mon, Feb 18

**United Methodist Women Sunday**  
Sunday, February 17

**Rev Kama & Doug’s Last Sunday**  
Sunday, February 24  
Reception after worship

**Ash Wednesday Service @ Shiloh UMC**  
Wednesday, March 6, 7pm



### Our Ministry of Hospitality over Chrysalis Weekend February 8-10

Billings First UMC has an opportunity to exhibit our ministry of hospitality as we welcome high school youth, young adults and adult team members to **Chrysalis** youth retreat (part of the Walk to Emmaus family.) Help us to be gracious, friendly, and kind to all who will be with us.



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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 [bfumc@billingsfirst.org](mailto:bfumc@billingsfirst.org).

**Pastor:** Kama Hamilton Morton  
**Editor:** Kelly Copeland  
**Contributing Writers:** FUMC Staff & Members  
**Mailing Crew:** Darlene Crosby, Joyce Pirrie

## Letter from SPRC Chair Jeff Day to Billings First UMC Congregation



Greetings,

Since the announcement, at the end of worship on Sunday, January 13, 2019, that Pastor Kama will not be reappointed to Billings First UMC in July, and that she will begin a Renewal Leave on March 3, 2019, there have been some questions. I pray that this will help answer the most common question asked, and that was 'Why?' But before I can answer that, I feel you need to understand how the process works.

When Pastor Tim retired, our SPRC (Staff-Parish Relations Committee) worked to create a profile of our church. This was given to the Yellowstone Conference Cabinet to assist them in making their recommendation for a new pastoral appointment. Once that process was complete the Bishop made the appointment, and on July 1, 2017, Pastor Kama began serving our church. While the Cabinet works to make the best match possible, sometimes it ends up not being a good fit.

When SPRC worked with the District Superintendent on the profile, we asked many times if we should have an Interim pastor appointed. The DS at that time did not feel the need for an Interim, so we were assigned our long-term pastor. Sadly, Pastor Kama came into a perfect storm.

Issues had arisen in our church, first with the appointment of Bishop Oliveto, and then a long term very successful pastor was retiring. Statistics show that over 80% of pastors coming into a situation, such as the one at Billings First UMC was dealing with, are not successful and eventually move on.

Making the decision we did, for our church, was not easy, and we didn't enter into it lightly. SPRC sought prayer, discernment, and a great deal of input. We met with all of the leaders in our church and asked for feedback from the staff as to how well things were running. We also prayed over this issue for many days prior to making the final decision.

While the entire appointment process in the United Methodist Church is not transparent to all, I will tell you that once I shared our decision with Pastor Kama she so gracefully said she would honor our decision and thus would not seek re-appointment at Billings First UMC in the coming year. That is why we all love her as much as a person.

So, with all of that said, beginning in March we will see multiple people sharing the message from our pulpit, until an appointment is made in July. During that time, Brian Hunter will serve as Worship Coordinator to make sure worship is done well. He will also share from the pulpit on several occasions.

I have also heard concerns about weddings or funerals during this time. Thankfully, we have many retired Pastors in our congregation who can take on these duties. The one thing I want you all to know is that we do have a plan going forward. The leadership team has been and will continue to work diligently to prepare for a new Pastor while drawing us together again at First. Something many of us feel has not been the case recently.

While none of us know what will happen in the future, as church leaders we are holding onto the following verse:

**Jeremiah 29:11 (The Message)**  
**"I know what I'm doing. I have it all planned out – plans to take care of you, not abandon you, plans to give you the future you hope for."**

As we begin our transition, you will hear and see this verse on multiple occasions and we pray that you keep it in front of you.

During this time we covet your prayers for the church leaders, those providing pulpit supply, the Cabinet of the Mountain Sky Conference, our District Superintendent Deborah Christine and the entire congregation at First UMC.

However, more importantly I ask you to keep Pastor Kama and Doug in your thoughts and prayers as they spend some much-needed time relaxing and re-fueling prior to God's next step in their lives.

If any of you have questions, please seek me out on Sunday morning or send a quick email, I will be more than happy to meet and talk with you.

Many Blessings,  
 ~ Jeff Day, SPRC Chairman  
 cell (406) 545-9657 / [ja\\_day@bresnan.net](mailto:ja_day@bresnan.net)

# Fumy Ministries February

Date	SAMY	FUMY	Event
Feb 3	Wesley Hall 9:30	No FUMY	Superbowl Sunday
Feb 10	Upper Room 9:30	No FUMY	Chrysalis
Feb 17	Wesley Hall 9:30	Jr Hi FUMY 4-5:30	Sr Hi Convo (Bozeman)
Feb 24	Wesley Hall 9:30	FUMY 4-5:30	

**billingschrysalis.com**  
 billings area chrysalis  
**feb. 8-10**

**bozeman umc**  
**feb. 15-18**

# Children's Corner



## Get Ready for the Next M.A.D. Choir Adventure!

The Music, Art, and Drama Choir (M.A.D. Choir) is for kids in third through sixth grades.

We rehearse Thursday evenings from 6:15 - 7:30; starting February 7. The performance is on March 17, with dress rehearsal on Saturday, March 16, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

We will be performing a special drama that is still being put together. It's going to be really fun and definitely a production that you will want to be a part of! Please come and act and sing with us!

If you have questions, please contact Alyssa Krieger at [alysakrieger1@gmail.com](mailto:alysakrieger1@gmail.com).

Krieger, at 406-670-4791.

## Sunday School

Starting February 4, children in Kindergarten through 6 grade will be exploring the story of **Jesus washing the disciples' feet**, found in John 13:1-20.

Come learn about this transforming event that leads *someone* into a relationship with God, during Sunday School, 9:15am, for the next 4 Sundays.



## Handel's Messiah Prince of Peace

The entire congregation and adult Sunday school classes are invited to join The Great Journey Sunday School classes in Brother Vann Hall on **Sunday, March 31**, to "eat our way through Handel's Messiah"!

As we listen to the music of Handel's Messiah, participants will interpret the texture, sound, atmosphere, and movement of notes with arrangements of

## Regarding Our Children During Worship Service!

Because of the positive response from parents and children, regarding the use of the **Children's Activity Bags** during worship, Billings First UMC's Children's Team has decided to discontinue 'Kids Connection'. If you have question or would like more information, please contact **Camille Castles** at [ccastles@billingsfirst.org](mailto:ccastles@billingsfirst.org). You may also contact Camille or Josi Wilgus with any suggestions for making the activity bags more effective.



## Winter Family Event \* Let's Play!

**Sunday, March 3**  
4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

The Children's Ministry Team invites you and your family to Brother Van Hall to get out of the cold, play games, eat snacks, and enjoy fellowship! Games will include large motor activities such as the big parachute, hula hoops, giant Jenga and jump ropes. Table games and activities will also be available for children and adults. Invite friends or another family members to join in the fun!

## Start Planning for Summer!

### Luccock Park UMC Camp \* [luccock.org](http://luccock.org)



**Elementary Camp:**  
Entering grades 4-6 in the fall of 2019  
Sunday, July 21 - Wednesday, July 24

**Middler & Senior Camp:**  
Entering grades 7-Graduate in the fall of 2019  
Sunday, July 28 - Friday, August 2

# Missions

## Superbowl Sunday = PB&J Sunday!

**Help us make PB&J Sandwiches for Tumbleweed, to help feed those in crisis, on Superbowl Sunday, February 3, immediately after Worship!**

We will make PB&J sandwiches in an assembly line in Brother Van Hall ... a tangible, pragmatic way to be the presence of Christ "on and from this corner." Sandwiches will be shared with our friends at Tumbleweed.

*Tumbleweed of Billings provides safety, assistance and hope to our community's vulnerable and homeless youth, creating lasting life changes.*

Invite a friend and join us!



## Family Promise \* Beach Blizzard Dinner & Auction \*

Family Promise will hold its 8th annual **Beach Blizzard -Party for the Promise** on Saturday, February 16, 2019, at the Double Tree. They are planning an evening with dinner, dancing, a silent and a live auction. They would love your support of this major annual fundraising effort. You are encouraged to help in any of the following ways:

- 1) Attend the event. Tickets are \$125 each, or sponsor a table of 8 people for \$1000.
- 2) Provide a silent auction basket, or small art piece. Basket themes include dining & theatre tickets, massage & relaxation, outdoor recreation, etc.
- 3) Donate a live auction item. They usually have a mix of art, vacation packages and hands-on events like fishing trips, backyard BBQs, etc.
- 4) Volunteer to help with the event. They will match your skills and available time with the right committee:



decoration, set-up, correspondence, marketing, live or silent auction.

Within the last year over 400 families facing poverty and homelessness received the assistance they needed through Family Promise programming.

For more information or to volunteer please call 406-294-7432 and ask for Felicia.



## Family Promise Host Week \* Feb 10-13 \*

Family Promise of Yellowstone Valley helps homeless families achieve and sustain independence through help from volunteers in the community such as our church. **We need volunteers to help with our next Host Week, Sunday, February 10th through Wednesday the 13th.** If you can help, please contact **Janice Fordham** at [janbrown359@msn.com](mailto:janbrown359@msn.com).

## Still a Need for Hat, Scarves, & Gloves!

Although FUMY is not collecting items for the Tree of Warmth at this time, we have found that we are still in need of warm hats, scarves, and gloves in the church office.

We often have people come into the office inadequately dressed for the cold weather and seeking these items to stay warm.

So we are asking for donations of hats, scarves, and gloves to fill the office "Assistance Cupboard" to hand out to those needing warmth assistance.



# Happenings @ First

## United Methodist Special Global General Conference February 23-26 St Louis, MO

The Council of Bishops called a Special Session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church in order to receive and act on a report from the *Commission on a Way Forward* based on the recommendations of the Council of Bishops (COB.)

The *Commission on a Way Forward* was created in 2016 at the General Conference by the COB to do a complete examination and possible revision of every paragraph of the Book of Discipline concerning human sexuality. They proposed three plans in their final report to be voted upon at the Special Session:

**(1) Traditionalist Plan:** would affirm current language about homosexuality in the Book of Discipline and seek to strengthen enforcement for violations of church law.

**(2) One Church Plan:** would remove restrictive language from the Discipline, give conferences, churches and pastors the flexibility to "uniquely reach their missional context in relation to human sexuality without changing the connective nature of The UMC."

**(3) Connectional-Conference Plan:** would create three connectional conferences based on theology or perspective. (would require multiple amendments to the Constitution of the UMC.)

(continued on next page)

## Montana 211 \* Important Resource to Help Montanans with the Assistance they Need

The **Mental Health Friends Network** of Billings First UMC would like to call your attention to a very important resource. It's called **Montana 2-1-1**. **Montana 2-1-1** is a wonderful tool to help connect Montanans with the community resources and assistance they need.



From their website: *"We provide a list of resources through our website, [www.montana211.org](http://www.montana211.org), or by calling 2-1-1. Our goal is to present accurate, well-organized and easy-to-find information from state and local health and human service programs across the state. This is a free, anonymous service available 24-hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.*

*No matter where you live in Montana, you can find information about resources in your local community. Whether you need help finding food or housing, child care, crisis counseling or substance abuse treatment, 2-1-1 is all you need to know.*

*Services offered will vary from community to community, but 2-1-1 works everywhere. For example, 2-1-1 provides callers with access to the following types of human services for everyday needs and times crisis:*

### \*BASIC HUMAN NEEDS RESOURCES

Food banks, clothing closets, shelters, rent and utility assistance.

### \*PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES

Health insurance programs, Medicaid and Medicare, maternal health care, CHIP, medical information lines, crisis intervention services, support groups, counseling, drug and alcohol abuse intervention and rehabilitation.

### \*EMPLOYMENT SUPPORTS

Financial assistance, job training, transportation assistance, educational programs.

### \*SUPPORT FOR OLDER AMERICANS AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Adult day care, congregate meals, Meals on Wheels, respite care, home health care, transportation, homemaker services.

### \*SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES

Child care, after school programs, Head Start, family resource centers, summer camps and recreation programs, mentoring, tutoring, protective services.

Check out the brochures in the MHFN wall pockets in the Bro. Van Hallway and remember **Montana 2-1-1**, because you may run into someone who would benefit from this important resource. Let's pass this knowledge on!

# Happenings @ First



## Wednesday, February 13

Martha Circle, 11:30 a.m.....Hilands Golf Club

## Monday, February 18

Leadership Team, 9:30 a.m.....Old Parlor  
Faith Circle, 1:00 p.m.....Brother Van Hall

## Wednesday, February 20

Dorcas/Naomi Circle, 1:30 p.m.....West Park Village

## United Methodist Women's Sunday \* February 17

 Please join us on Sunday, February 17, for United Methodist Women's Sunday. On that special Sunday we will celebrate the 150th Anniversary of United Methodist Women and their predecessors. See the back page of the Messenger for more in-

( UMC GENL CONFERENCE, CONTINUED )

The Council of Bishops has recommended the **ONE CHURCH PLAN**, saying it "encourages a generous unity by giving United Methodists the ability to address different missional contexts in ways that reflect their theological convictions."

We encourage you to lift up our congregation, our Mountain Sky Conference and our beloved United Methodist church as we move forward. This is not the first time our church family has been in distress, and we pray God's blessing on the Delegates who will gather.

Our delegates are:  
Clergy: Rev Tyler Amundson  
Lay: Don McCammon

**\*\* Information sheets are available at the church, but much is online as well. \*\***

### General Information:

- [www.umc.org/GC2019](http://www.umc.org/GC2019)
- [www.onechurchplan.org](http://www.onechurchplan.org)
- <https://mainstreamumc.com>
- [www.mtnskyumc.org/mountainkyonthewayforward](http://www.mtnskyumc.org/mountainkyonthewayforward)

Members & Friends of Billings First UMC are encouraged to connect in these ways:

### Conference News & Updates:

Web: [www.mtnskyumc.org](http://www.mtnskyumc.org)  
(sign up for email newsletter)  
FB: @MountainSkyUMC  
Twitter: @MtnSkyUMC  
Instagram: @MtnSkyUMC

### Our District Superintendent

Rev Deborah Christine  
[dchristine@mtnskyumc.org](mailto:dchristine@mtnskyumc.org)

## The African Children's Choir

**Sunday, March 24, 7:00pm**



The African Children's Choir is made up of some of the neediest and most vulnerable children in their countries. Many have lost one or both parents to poverty or disease. The African Children's Choir helps these children break away from the everyday cycle of poverty and hopelessness and raise awareness of the need of destitute and orphaned children in Africa.

The mission of the African Children's Choir is to help Africa's most vulnerable children today, so they can help Africa Tomorrow; [www.africanchildrenschoir.com](http://www.africanchildrenschoir.com).

We are in **need of host families** for the children and their chaperones. Hosts would house the children on Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday nights. We are also **looking for a coordinator** for this event. Please call the church office at 406-245-3001 for more information or to volunteer.