

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

January 4, 2026

LOOKING AHEAD – January 11, 2026 - Sermon Title: “Beloved Before Anything Else” Text: Matthew 3:13–17

What if the most important thing God ever says to us is spoken before we contribute anything to the Christian mission? This Sunday, we'll gather at the Jordan River with Jesus—before the miracles, before the ministry, before the cross—and hear a voice that names him Beloved. We'll explore what it means that Jesus steps into the water in solidarity with others, and why God's affirmation comes before achievement, perfection, or productivity.

In a world that constantly tells us we're not enough, this message offers a different word: you are loved first—and from that love, you are called to live with courage, compassion, and justice. Join us for a worship experience rooted in the power of being loved.

PEOPLE TO REMEMBER – Sue Sterba is experiencing health concerns and prayers would be appreciated. Please continue to remember Laura Lind, Sally Stubbs and Cheryl Hartzell.

ADULT DISCUSSION GROUP – **January 11, 2026** – Part 2 - Join us for a Bishop John Shelby Spong video regarding healing our religious wounds. Hope to see you for donuts and lively conversation at 8:30 in the Assembly Hall or on zoom at <http://zoom.us/j/3103723898>.

SPECIAL BUSINESS MEETING - January 11 - A Special Business Meeting of church members has been called for Sunday, 1/11/2026 to immediately follow worship. The purpose of this meeting is to present, discuss, and build consensus for updates to MBCC By-Laws that will expand opportunities for members to serve on church Boards or lead official church organizations as well as reduce the potential for Board chair burnout. Proposed changes are online at mbccucc.org/by-laws/ or hardcopy can be obtained from the office.

CONGRATULATIONS to Dan Hutchison and Chris Brooks who were married in our sanctuary yesterday by Pastor Mike.