

September 2017

Your Ministry Makes a Difference



in solidarity with people of faith

responding to Hurricanes

[UCC Disaster Ministries, OGHS](#)

responding to what is sacred

[The New Sacred blog](#)

responding to the Nashville Statement

[Open and Affirming petition](#)

responding with 3 Great Loves

[3 Great Loves roll out](#)

responding with GMP John Dorhauer

["Into the Mystic" podcast](#)

You have already been told
what is good,



- [God-seeds](#)
- [Camp Visioning II Retreat](#)
- [Camp Merchandise Store](#)
- [Fall Camps](#)
- [Counselor Exploration Retreat](#)
- [Adulting Retreat](#)
- [Faith Formation Coordinator](#)
- [UCC-Rocky Social Justice Intern](#)
- [Ordination of Timothy Seery in September](#)
- [Medicine Lake UCC Closing](#)
- [Prayer Concerns](#)
- [Scott Nicholson Memorial](#)
- [MAC Connect 2017](#)

act justly,
love grace, and
walk in purity with your God.

Micah 6:8 Complete Jewish Bible



God-seeds, reflections from Marc Stewart

A new purpose, vision and mission for the UCC Church.



Last month, I introduced the [UCC's "3 Great Loves"](#) of how our ministry can make a difference. The United Church of Christ recently adopted a new purpose, mission and vision statement:

- We will love the Lord our God with our whole heart, mind, soul and strength; and our neighbor as ourselves. (Purpose)
- United by the Holy Spirit and inspired by God's grace we love all, welcome all, and seek justice for all. (Mission)
- A just world for all. (Vision)

In fidelity to this statement, the denomination invites us to move in mission toward the 3 GREAT LOVES:

love of children,
love of neighbor,
and love of creation.

Our friends throughout the Montana - N. Wyoming Conference are all about making a "great love" kind of difference:

University UCC in Missoula practiced great love in opening its church to be an [evacuation center](#) for families effected by the Lolo fire.

Sheridan UCC and Buffalo UCC practiced great love in coming together as "Shinning Mountain Ministries" to collaborate in [calling a pastor](#) together, Rev. Sheila Naismith.

in order to send 6 community children to Camp Mimanagish this summer.

At least 3 dozen volunteers practiced great love in sharing their expertise, skills and time with Camp Mimanagish this summer, including bus driver, Bret Self, who instructed Josie Caton in securing her CDL license.

[Absarokee UCC](#) practiced great love by working to get a food cupboard going with great success in their town.

Our Church and Ministry Commission practiced great love by mentoring 3 "members in discernment," one of whom, Timothy Seery, is being [ordained](#) on September 17 and the other two, Laura Keating and Larry Meidinger, are starting their [online polity course](#) this fall.

[Columbus UCC](#) practiced great love by putting together a Bluegrass worship service for September 24 and inviting Molt UCC to come on over and join them.

Great Falls UCC practiced great love in offering OWL (Our Whole Lives) sexuality [curriculum training](#) to those who are practicing great love in making sacrifice to participate.

Kalispell UCC practiced great love by putting together a "3 Great Loves" [house party](#) for the community.

First UCC Billings practiced great love in starting a [community dinner](#) in downtown Billings.

There are so many stories of great love being practiced by our friends and congregations throughout the Conference. Be sure to share your stories of great love, and look at our Conference Churches [newsletter archive](#) to read some inspiring practices of great love happening all around us. (If your church newsletter needs to be added, please email or mail copies to ucc@mnwcucc.org or 2016 Alderson Ave. Billings, MT 59102)

Camp Mimanagish Visioning II

October 19-22, 2017

You Are Needed. Come help direct the future of Mimanagish through this four day intensive work retreat. With your collaboration, we will tackle:

- **Final synthesis of the Vision and Mission of Camp Mimanagish as a service of and for the Montana Northern Wyoming Conference of the United Church of**

- Strategic Plan for Growth, Mission Delivery, and a Sustainable Financial Future

- 20 Year Facilities Plan as required by the USFS

Members of the MNWCUCC Board of Directors, Committee on Outdoor Ministries, and Faith Formation Committee will be present. All are welcome. We are in particular need of experience:

passion for Mimanagish - fundraising - law - finance - event planning - marketing - facilities management - ecojustice / environmentalism - community organizing - social justice - strong university and college connections - medicine - advocacy - systems level thinking - rapid prototyping - science - psychology - sociology - Mimanagish history

Visioning Survey

We need to hear from you! Please take a few minutes to offer your thoughts on the future of Camp Mimanagish:

<http://www.surveymoz.com/s3/3784454/MNWCUCC-Mimanagish-Vision>

If you don't like using the internet, feel free to call Josie at (406) 570-9922 (cell) or (406) 932-6311 to complete this brief survey over the phone.

Camp Mimanagish Merchandise Website



Check out our Camp Mimanagish branded merchandise store at:

We have a variety of camp logo items available on our merchandise store for youth, adults and infants/toddlers. Stop by and see what is available only online and shipped directly to you. Look sharp in your royal blue camp clothing.

The merchandise store has been created to bring camp clothing to the conference year around, and open 24/7 for your official camp clothing needs. Each spring the available items will be updated to reflect the chosen gear and color for the upcoming season approved by the Outdoor Ministries committee.

Fall Camp Opportunities

[Sign UP](#) Now For Camp Mimanagish!

It may be August and youth camps may be over but we still have lots of opportunities for campers of all ages yet this year. Details can be found by clicking the links or going to the website.

September 10-14 [The Soul of Aging](#)

October 6-8 [Faith Leadership and Counselor Exploration Retreat](#)

October 13-15 [Adulthood Retreat](#)

October 19-21 [Conference Fall Youth Retreat](#)

October 19-21 [Visioning II](#)

October 20-21 [Camp Closing](#)

PLEASE REGISTER EARLY - we are noticing a trend of last minute registration. While we certainly want to avoid excluding anyone from participation in a camp event, we ask that you please register as soon as you know that you plan to attend. Early registration is critical for planning purposes so that we may create the best experience possible for you and your fellow campers. For the remainder of the year, registrations will close 6 days before the start of an event, but, please register as early as possible to help retreats avoid possibility of cancellation. Thank you.

Counselor and Faith Leadership Exploration Retreat

October 6-8, 2017

Calling all potential faith leaders and camp counselors... Interested in being a counselor for Camp Mimanagish? Have you heard the call for faith leadership and counselors but aren't quite sure if you would be a good fit? Maybe the timing wasn't right this summer but you'd like to counsel in the future. Maybe you have counseled in the past and feel called to do it again?

do faith leadership in your own church. We'll go over roles and responsibilities, explore the gifts that each of us could bring to this important ministry, develop our leadership skills, learn tips and tricks to be a great counselor, experience some fun camp traditions, and generally get a taste for the camp experience.

Participation in this event is unrelated to any formal commitment to future counseling and we encourage anyone who is even considering serving Mimanagish in the future to participate. Since we value an intergenerational counselor mix, we anticipate this group will also be intergenerational; however, participants must be at least 15 years old. Please contact Josie for more information, jcaton@mnwcucc.org.

Adulthood Retreat

October 13-15, 2017

New this fall, Camp Mimanagish will be offering an "Adulthood" retreat designed to help college-age and early career folks navigate the transition into adulthood. Participants will get to choose from topics such as: cooking and nutrition, time management, navigation in the world of adult finances, community living, housing leases, basics of pet ownership, car ownership, physical wellness, nuances of social conduct, networking, spirituality, work/life balance, "Who am I?" and "Who do I want to be?", communication skills, conflict resolution, and awareness of local resources.

The retreat will be October 13-15 and there will be a discount for UCC members. Transportation for the first 44 registrants will be provided from MSU. For cost, registration, and more information email jcaton@mnwcucc.org or visit the new Mimanagish WEB site prototype, mimanagish.com.

Faith Formation Coordinator

We are currently seeking adults in our Conference to volunteer their time as counselors for our Youth Retreat this fall at Camp Mimanagish!

This year's Youth Retreat will run from 5pm on Thursday 19 October until 2pm

Roger Lynn from Helena, and a wonderful program of activities, prayer and crafts!

Please be in touch with [Carolyn Rosen](#), our Faith Formation Coordinator if you would like to volunteer as a counselor!



From Amanda Balter, UCC Social Justice Intern for fall 2017:

It was an honor to have the opportunity to work alongside Dr. Carolyn Rosen at last week's event 'Power to the (Young) People: Montana Politics Today' at Rocky Mountain College. As the moderator for the event, I organized a panel of guest speakers and conducted research on their areas of special interest to construct questions and points of discussion for the forum. I coordinated the collaboration with the college to secure the venue for guests and the panel of speakers. Moreover, I crafted an advertisement for RMC publications across campus, which was also shared on social media by our panel participants.

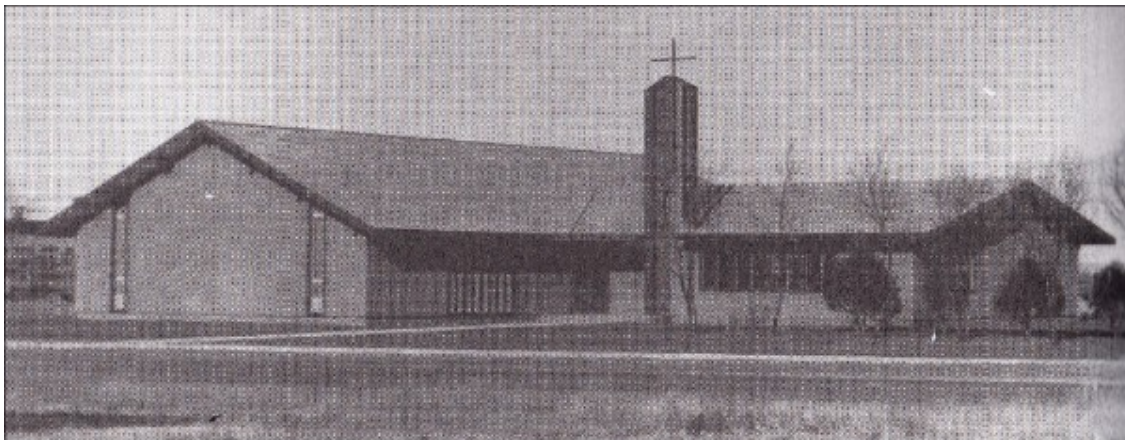
Our public forum featured Ms. Stephanie Baucus, Vice President of Government and Public Affairs and General Counsel for Perennial Strategy Group; Dr. Robert Wilmouth, President of Rocky Mountain College; and Mr. Tyler Starkweather, candidate for Billings City Council, and it was a well-attended success. Overall, the purpose of this discussion was to invite conversation about the role young people can play in our community and in politics, and to share ideas about how to stay informed and involved.

Our diverse panel was able to speak on multiple issues regarding social justice, theology and politics from many different perspectives. Rocky President, Dr. Wilmouth, for instance, provided insight on how the college is working to promote community and political engagement post-graduation by implementing a sense of leadership in students while still in the classroom. In addition, Ms. Baucus suggested helpful, local social justice organizations which spoke to a number of students' personal points of interest including anti-human trafficking efforts. Mr. Tyler Starkweather spoke specifically on the obstacles he has faced as a young person currently running for the Billings City Council, and why it is crucial all ages get involved in politics, anywhere from voting to community service to holding a national chair.

importance of caring for the city of Billings by getting involved. As a Christian, I think that some of my own current political concerns have an underlying theological framework. By taking to heart the United Church of Christ's long-standing concerns for social justice, this internship and this event have encouraged me to seek new ways to serve my college and my community. I look forward to my next project for this internship.

Service of Ordination for Timothy Seery
September 17, 2017 6 PM
Great Falls First Congregational United Church of
Christ

Members and Friends of the Montana - Northern Wyoming Conference United Church of Christ are cordially invited to the Service of Ordination for Timothy Seery. The service will be followed by a fellowship time at the church. Tim Seery has been a Member in Discernment with the Church and Ministry Commission, and has recently graduated from Harvard Divinity School. He will soon be beginning his first call to parish ministry.



Medicine Lake Union Congregational UCC Church Closing

With heavy hearts, the Board of Directors of the Medicine Lake Union Congregational UCC Church has decided to close the church after over a hundred years of service to the Medicine Lake community.

Rev. Tim Hutslar retired in January of 2016 followed by the interim pastor Ron Martin-

There will be a Service of Closure to celebrate the 107 years in Medicine Lake on Sunday, October 8 at 2:00 pm. The service will be officiated by Conference Minister, Rev. Marc Stewart and Rev. Tim Hutslar. All are invited to attend and help commemorate this long standing church congregation.



Prayers of joy with Shining Mountain Ministry, ie Buffalo UCC and Sheridan UCC in Wyoming on the call of their new pastor, Rev. Sheila Naismith.

Prayers with those effected by the fires happening throughout our region, and with University UCC Missoula as they host evacuees.



Memorial Event for Scott Nicholson

Sunday, September 10, 2017 in Missoula

We hope you can attend. Please save the date and share the event with those you know loved Scott. Event details link:

<https://www.facebook.com/angel.riveraagosto/posts/10154760243958157>

Explore ways to CREATE relationships & DEVELOP coalitions to
channel love into justice, and strengthen communities in the
mountains and on the prairies.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

COME BE INSPIRED.
LEARN ABOUT RURAL ISSUES & HOW TO BE A
SERVICE TO ALL COMMUNITIES

*"There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity
under the heavens:"*
Ecclesiastes 3

Come Hear and Learn from...

Keynote speaker, *Professor and Author, Shannon Jung*

Be part of the discussion with our panel members...

*Bishop Jessica Crist, Rev. Valerie Webster,
Rev. Steve Loy, Rev. Joel Westby, and Rev. Mike Mulberry*



Registration is Now Open

Please visit macmt.org to register or to
learn more about MAC Connect!

First United Methodist Church
October 21, 2017
Billings, MT



Marc Stewart at Big Timber UCC for Jill Bierwith's last
Sunday, August 27

[Geography of Grace Sept 1-4](#)

Labor Day, office closed, September 4

Memorial Service for Scott Nicholson, September 10

[The Soul of Aging September 10-14](#)

Central Area clergy cluster meeting, September 14

Board of Directors Meeting, Camp Mimanagish, September
15-16

[OWL \(Our Whole Lives sexuality curriculum training\), Great
Falls UCC September 15-17](#)

Marc preaching in Glendive UCC, September 24
East Area church cluster meeting, Miles City UCC/DOC
September 30
Marc and Josie in Missoula (morning) and Great Falls
(evening), Oct 1
[Faith Leadership and Counselor Exploration Retreat,
October 6-8](#)
Central Area church cluster meeting, Kaleva Park, Red
Lodge, October 7
Closing Worship at Medicine Lake UCC, October 8, 2 pm
[Adulting Retreat, October 13-15](#)
[Fall Youth Camp](#) [Oct 19-21](#)
[Visioning II Retreat, October 19-21](#)
[Camp Closing October 20-21](#)
[MAC Connect 2017, Billings, MT](#)



Did You Know...

That we are on Facebook? Stay in touch and get all the latest news by liking our page.

[Click Here!](#)

That "Another Voice" community television series features some of our Billings area clergy and Conference Minister? [Click here!](#)
