

November 2020 eNews

Remember Your Values

Lithograph pic: "I have tried to find out if God left
any fingerprints" Raymond
Pettibon, Art Museum, Ft. Myers, FL



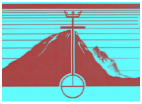
.....

Wider Church Resources

Click on these logo links for resource information

Pastoral Letter

UCC CoVid page



As CoVid-19 spreads further among us.

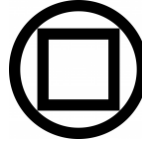


Compiled resources for churches and families.



Pastoral Letter

As the election shows our national need.



Pledge to Democracy

A faith leader pledge to safeguard democracy.

Local Church News

Click on these logo links for more information



People's UCC Sidney

Sunday School sends good cheer to "adopted grandparents."



Virtual Harvest Dinner, Red Lodge

All are welcome, no matter where you are.



Molt UCC Prayers

For farmers completing fall work in very dry conditions and in stressful economic times.



University UCC

Teaming with preschool for November food cupboard drive.



Miles City fundraiser

UCC/DOC United Church raises \$4000 for food bank.



Great Falls Televised

Worship now on KTBS 9:30 am Sundays.



Covenant of Care

Columbus UCC shares covenant of how to practice CoVid safety.



Sheridan UCC study

Social Justice Education Program alzheimer's book reading: **Moving Mama**.



Pilgrim UCC Bozeman

Virtual Blessing of Animals in Sunday worship.



PanHandle Advice

Plymouth UCC Helena offers informed advice on panhandling.



Creation Covenant

Mayflower UCC, Billings, shares in Creation Care covenant..



Communita

Billings First Church offers virtual tea time on Zoom.



[What is OGHS? video link](#)

One Great Hour of Sharing

The MT-N.Wy UCC Conference Board of Directors is joining with the Board of our "Wholiness Team" neighboring conferences, Central Pacific and Pacific NW, to encourage churches to do a "One **More** Great Hour of Sharing" during November. This March offering was severely limited by the onset of CoVid 19. OGHS is our primary support for world ministries and disaster relief. OGHS is different than OCWM, as none of the offerings go into overhead or administration.

God-seeds



Rev. Dr. Marc Ian Stewart

Remembering Core Values

To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

1 Corinthians 12:7, NRSV

We do not know what the future holds in the next 2-6 years of legislative and executive leadership within our states and nation. There is uncertainty all around. There is a certain amount of fear around "what have we wrought among ourselves?" There is a whole lot of incivility that prevents us from recalling and practicing what we know to be better.

I have preached, and I have heard preached among us, the call to speak about and to live out our values. Any uncertainty about the nature of Christian values is addressed most concisely in the beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-16). Our call to these values continues

regardless of election outcomes, and regardless of how law-making, executive pronouncements and judicial constitutional interpretations shape this country. Our call to these values is acutely distinctive in these times when incited in society effectively masks legislative goals and community organizing goals. Our call to Christian values is Spirit-led in the appeal Jesus prayed “that they may all be one” (John 17:21-22) so that the way of Jesus will “be known in the world.” Our call to Christian values is what our faith community lives in choosing to faithfully engage with each other and to lovingly engage in the wider community. Our call to Christian values is always our life purpose, though it is particularly “for such a time as this” (Esther 4:14).

As disappointed as I am in the outcomes of the many elections that have been decided, I am most concerned about chasms of separation in our society. I know that political divides are just as common within our communities of faith. Many politically diverse churches have found ways of keeping peace within their fellowship. I wonder what the Spirit might be saying through the peace these churches keep that might be a model to the wider community... I wonder if the values that enable their peace may be named, affirmed and shared as a gift of the Spirit to the wider community...I also wonder where those core Christian values held within our unabashedly progressive congregations can bring hope to the hurting soul of this nation... I wonder what we need to hear and respond to when faith leaders name the needs of people and families whose dignity, rights, safety, and basic care is denied...

I believe the Spirit is calling us to live the best of who we are in faith and to engage each other and the wider community for the sake of the Gospel. What Christian values are at your core? What is the Spirit calling forth from you? What is the Spirit saying to your community of faith? I am not just asking this rhetorically; I would actually like to create a “Values Map” of who we are as communities of faith and faith leaders. I invite you to share some responses with me. You may also share this link within your faith community, as I would like to hear from as many people as possible.

- 1. What Christian values are at your core?
- 2. What is the Spirit calling forth from you?
- 3. What is the Spirit saying to your community of faith?

Please use this surveymonkey or email me to offer your core values for our "Values Map."

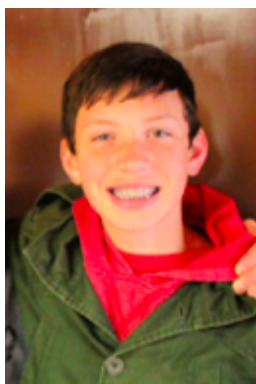
Survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r...>

Direct email: marc@mnwcucc.org

.....

Committee for Outdoor Ministries Camp Planning

Hi, I am Axel Blodgett. I live in Rapelje and am a member of the Molt Congregational Church UCC. I am proud to be a youth member on COM (Committee for Outdoor Ministry) for the Montana Northern Wyoming Conference UCC. I would love to have other youth from around the Conference join me on COM as



we plan Outdoor Ministry for 2021. Camp was different this year; we didn't meet at Camp Mimanagish; we travelled further up the valley to

Christikon and partnered with them for Youth Camps. We stayed in different cabins at a different camp, but the Camp spirit was there. What the six UCC campers learned is that camp is the people and the spirit of God no matter where it happens. What we missed were those Mimanagish campers who weren't able to join us. Help COM plan program and places to bring us all back together in 2021. I'd like to share a little of our experience: You can see my full report with pictures at: <https://vimeo.com/459983861>

I thought Christikon was great. They scheduled a little better, in all honesty, because we had more free time and had more activities to do. The cost of camp was the same as we paid last year at Mimanagish. In addition, we paid \$60 for the roundtrip bus ride. The bus picked up campers in Billings, Laurel, Park City, Columbus, and Big Timber. Our UCC Campers were Ryan Beard from Red Lodge who got on at Laurel, Alex and Jason Shane and Blade Blodgett and I from Molt who got on in Columbus and James Jackson from Great Falls who got on in Big Timber.

There were around 50 kids attending Grades 9-12 Camp in July. There was one counselor per cabin. There were ten counselors and about 5-6 campers per cabin. There were two different groups at Camp that week, one group staying at camp and one group out on the trails. Things were set up differently this year because of COVID-19. All six of us were in one cabin, but easily made friends and became a part of the whole group. The only thing missing was our incredible group of Mim friends!

As COM plans for 2021, my recommendation is that if we cannot get to go to Mimanagish, I definitely think we should go to Christikon because they were really nice; they had good programming and a great schedule. It was just a very good experience. If we are back at Mimanagish, we should do a schedule like Christikon with the camper age groups like Christikon. It'd be ideal. I'd also like to see the overnight option too even though it would take a different hiking permit than we've had.

I'm ready for Camp in 2021 and I want to share Camp with more campers from the Conference. I hope you all will join me at Camp next summer.

COM would like to offer others the chance to be in on planning the future of Outdoor Ministry. On November 11, 2021, COM is meeting to begin our planning. Would you like to be a part of the planning? COM is looking for

excited campers to serve on COM work teams or to help COM work teams with the manpower to carry out plans. We invite anyone who would like to learn about our vision for Outdoor Ministry to join in an information session before the regular meeting at 6:30 pm November 11. Anyone interested can join the COM meeting at 7:00 as we establish work teams and brainstorm our plan of action. To receive a zoom link for the meeting, the agenda and minutes and other documents contact COM Chair, Trudi Downer [\(406\) 669-3114](tel:4066693114) or kdt48@itstriangle.com. The details of our beginning planning are in these documents. Hope to see lots of folks join us on Wednesday, November 11!

.....

Our Harvest is Plentiful

So Much to Partake from CAM

click on [theme line](#) for CAM notes

Healing the Earth

New Action

The Conference Green Team met in October. We crafted a mission statement: **We plan to support Conference churches and members to facilitate conversation and action around environmental sustainability.**

We decided on some goals, centered around helping Conference churches become Creation Justice Churches and doing political advocacy around clean energy solutions. We would also like to identify someone at each church in the Conference to be a Green Team liaison/member.

We will meet next on November 17 at 2 p.m. by zoom. Check us out!

On Harvest Table #1

Start a “Green Team” in our Conference.

Conference office will create an email group for people to connect.

"Green Team" will meet again October 13, 2 pm. This meeting will focus on getting out the vote, and on ballot delivery. Various folks will do some research about the laws in Montana around ballot delivery.

Research the work and resources of Interfaith Power and Light.

Create a www.mnwcucc.org page for recipes and ideas, and Green Team information

Plan a tree planting campaign for our conference churches to participate in.

Core Team

Patty Martinson, Bob Miller, Cheryl Stewart, Barbara Gulick, Janet Koostra, Illa Dee Talcott, Sally Babcock, Barbara Miner and Amy Carter.

Contribute healing earth articles to the eNews and provide spiritual resources that help connect our actions to our faith.

Education and encouragement to churches to look into becoming a Creation Justice Church.

**Culture of Wellness/
Surviving the Pandemic**

New Action

Initiated a Zoom gathering for clergy serving local congregations, to share strategies, support, and find "worship buddies" for shared worship planning.

Core Team

Roger Lynn, Pam Peterson, Jennifer Yocum, Lisa Harmon, Phil Maxell, Jim Smith, Val Smith, Trudi Downer

On the Harvest Table #2

Create “pools” of churches, with Conference support, those interested in sharing worship services, technology, Bible/book studies, energy healing, prayer groups

Strongly encourage pastors to have peer mentors, pastoral counselors, spiritual directors, clergy happy hour, clergy retreats, clergy discernment gatherings

Try to figure out re-opening strategies across different communities.

Look at performance expectations with Pandemic conditions, ie how do we meet expectations when expectations have changed so much?

Connecting Our Justice Work

New Action

Developing contacts with Native American communities, exploring cultural awareness.

On Harvest Table #3

Connecting churches doing book studies around race and racism - this can and should be done quickly - list on the conference website.

Connect with Common Good.

Work with Conference office to be

disseminators of information.

Core Team

Carol Shipley, Dwight Welch, Celeste Yeager

Faith formation.

Contact legislators about creating Indigenous People’s Day in the 2021 session.

Encourage voting!



**New Monies for New Ministries Webinar
for MT-NWy Conference Churches**

Have you found yourself imagining a new ministry but struggling to fund it? Good ideas can fall apart when we lack the financial resources to implement them. Instead of cutting existing programs and missions to fund new ideas, we can expand our sources of financial support. Join Jill White of Church Building and Loan Fund and Andrew Warner of the Philanthropy Team at the National Setting for a conversation on practical ideas to generate new dollars for your new ideas. Drawing on their experiences with local congregations, Jill and Andrew will help identify realistic and actionable ways to find new revenue sources.

There is no cost for registration: [registration link click here](#)
After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.



Introducing Jill White as facilitator:

Jill A. White brings over 25 years’ experience in stewardship, fundraising, and strategic planning to the position of Regional Mission Interpreter with the Church Building and Loan Fund. Her work with local churches includes leading Visioning and Strategic Planning, Capital Campaigns, Stewardship and Hope Partnership programs. A lifelong member of the United Church of Christ, Jill has served as Chair of numerous stewardship and capital campaign committees at the local church, Association and Conference levels.

Welcoming back Andrew Warner

Andrew B. Warner, CFRE, serves as a Generosity Outreach Officer of the national setting of the United Church of Christ. In that role, he trains, coaches, and mentors conference and congregational leaders to strengthen the culture of generosity across the UCC.



Andrew also serves as Director of Development for the Wisconsin Conference. Previously, Andrew served for twenty-two years as pastor of Plymouth Church UCC of Milwaukee.

MAC Connect 2020

Speaking up for All Montana's Children:
Ecumenical Prayer & Citizen Advocacy 101

"Let the Children come to me – Jesus"

Matthew 19:14

Friday, November 13th via

ZOOM 11 AM – 1 PM

Free

To Register: Email mac@macmt.org
www.macmt.org for more information



MAC is a non-partisan organization – that is we have Republican, Democratic, Libertarian, Green, & Independent members—who recognize we are each created in God's image. We seek to empower Christians to speak up on behalf of the hungry, the prisoner, the homeless and other marginalized populations (Matthew 25: 31-46). Our panel will include legislative and lobbying voices sharing strategies for communicating with your Montana state house and senate representatives.

Global Ministries in This Time

Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, and



faithful in prayer. *Romans 12:12*

In these challenging and uncharted times, this verse speaks to our Global Ministries work throughout the world.

Yes, our mission partners continue to be faced with the challenges of their routine and ongoing work, but now the reality of COVID has presented additional obstacles in their efforts.

Yes, their work continues.

Yes, we continue to walk hand in hand with them through our ministry. Yes, it will take hope, patience, and prayer to sustain our presence in working with nearly 300 partners in over 70 countries around the globe.

I am honored to serve on the Common Global Ministries Board, currently as co-chair. Sharing about the work of Global Ministries with our congregations is something I deem important in my role, and I do it with much pride and gratitude. The justice and advocacy work of Global Ministries has 8 focus areas:

- Promote healthy communities
- Empower women
- Support migrants and refugees
- Care for creation
- Combat human trafficking
- Seek peace with justice
- Confront poverty
- Build interfaith community

Our relationship with partners is critical in supporting them to do this work on our behalf. In some areas we have mission co-workers physically present. Yes, even in times of COVID they are continuing their commitment. In some instances, our mission personnel chose or felt it necessary to return home due to COVID, and they are continuing their work remotely. They are an inspiration. Global Ministries is a shared organization between the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church Disciples of Christ. Together, we financially support the administrative and staff efforts of the organization as well as supporting our partners. We also provide projects, resources, and activities. For the UCC, that funding is budgeted from OCWM dollars and the annual One Great Hour of Sharing offering. So, how can we as congregations and individuals become a part of this faithful and constant work through Global Ministries?

I would first direct you to the website globalministries.org where there is a wealth of information, inspirational stories, testimonials, resources, and more. You may also register

to get notices from GM. Prayer is always helpful support! One hundred percent of personal donations and contributions made directly to Global Ministries goes to the mission projects or to your preference of a particular program, partner, or project. This can be done electronically through the web site or by mail.

Here is one of my favorite ways to make a difference: Child or Elder Sponsorship Program. Churches or individuals may register to support a child or elder; collaborating with partners, your gifts help provide food, basic health care, clothing, housing, school supplies and more to a child or elder. These are life changing gifts for these children of God. As an example, the Sunday school children of First Congregational in Great Falls have sponsored a child for number of years with a monthly donation. The children have been able to develop a relationship and learn from the child they have sponsored. Additionally, it has made them aware of the conditions and needs of children in another country. Remember, 100% of these gifts go to the individual being served.

This program is just one example of the impact we can help make through Global Ministries. Resources abound for churches to use in educating members of the needs and work being done to care for our world. Unfortunately, COVID has had an impact on the financial situation of GM just as it has for other nonprofit organizations. The Conference has decided to promote giving to One Great Hour of Sharing during November as a second plea this year. Our first month in the spring fell far below our normal giving. Please prayerfully consider making a special donation to OGHS to help support our Global Ministries' efforts. Or, you may want to also respond individually as I outlined above. Most of all, Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, and faithful in prayer.

Carol Shipley
Global Ministries Board Co-chair



Prayers

Rev. Dr. Barbara Miner has graciously offered her mindfulness and meditation for our use, [Finding a Peaceful Moment](#).

Rev. Ken Turow is now serving Buffalo Union UCC in their shared ministry with St. Luke's ELCA congregation in Buffalo, WY. Rev. Turow came out of retirement from as a Lutheran minister to serve in this shared ministry.

Rhonda Peterson a member of Columbus Community UCC and accountant has been appointed as our new Conference treasurer.

Congratulations to Rev. Nicholas Knoblauch, Broadus Powder River UCC, in his call to Zion UCC in Union, MO.

Rev. Cheryl Stewart is now serving as supply minister for Sidney Peoples UCC and Savage UCC.

Red Lodge Community UCC has hired Zina General to be their new Christian Education Director.

Calendar

November 1-6 Rocky Mountain College Virtual [Black Tie/Blue Jeans](#) Scholarship Benefit

November 11 Board of Directors 10:30 am - noon

November 12-14 ["Reset for Renewal" UCC Youth Leader Seminar](#)

November 13 [MAC Connect! Virtual Gathering](#)

November 17 Healing the Earth Team 2 pm

November 19 [WEBinar on "New Money for New Ministries"](#)

December 3 Church and Ministry Commission 6:30 pm

December 8-10 AM21 Church and Ministry national gathering, [virtual](#)

July 11-18, 2021 [General Synod 33](#) will be held using virtual technology, such as Zoom

Montana - N.Wyoming Conference United Church of Christ

editor, Marc Stewart

2016 Alderson Ave., Billings
MT 59102 United States

406.656.8688

ucc@mnwcucc.org



facebook

You received this email because you signed up on
our website or have made a donation to the MT-
NWy Conference UCC.

[Unsubscribe](#)