

March 2018 to Vitality



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Gift to UCC Mission
[\\$2.2 Million to OGHS and OCWM](#)

New Rocky Mountain College
doctorate program
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New: The Micah Chat
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God-seeds, reflections from Marc Stewart
*Our times ask us to exercise our capacity for
prophetic witness, by Prophetic witness I mean*



what we know.... Prophetic witness ...is the ability to name those places where we resist knowing what needs to be known.

-- Rebecca Parker

Can you believe the strength of the teens who have spoken with prophetic witness following the school shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Florida? Their clarity in speaking truth to politicians, law enforcement, administrators, and N.R.A. is beyond comparison to anything voiced before. They have named to the political class in this country the fact that mass shootings will not be tolerated. In case their witness is seen as a fleeting moment, school walkouts are planned throughout the country during March and April. They resolve to change a political culture that has resisted legal and policy efforts that could prevent mass shootings. These young people are being heard. Dozens of corporations have withdrawn their official sponsorship of the N.R.A. Calls are even being made for this movement to be awarded the Noble Peace Prize.

I do not step lightly into prophetic witness in my Minister's "God-seeds" column. But here I am, so I will wonder aloud why we resist knowing what needs to be known. I wonder for you, "Do you know when your local school students will be participating in the walkout day? Do you know the difference between your personal views about guns and the N.R.A. view about gun control? Do you know the history of the Second Amendment? Do you know if your friends are afraid of guns, or afraid of not having assault weapons? Do you know, and own up to, your personal views of guns and mass shootings?"

People in this Northern High Plains and Rocky Mountain Region have a lot of common sense. What if our voices speak along with the voices of our youth in calling for legislation and policies that can help prevent mass shootings? What if, in our reasonableness, we can accept the truth that is being shared from our youth, and resolve to join them in their advocacy?

for an excellent history of the Second Amendment, listen to the October 12, 2017 [More Perfect](#) podcast, "[Gun Show](#)"

for some good "Kid Advice to the President," see this short [SALT video](#)

[*Where do adults belong in March for our Lives?*](#)

March for Our Lives: March 24 throughout Montana

School Walk Outs: [Helena, March 14](#); [Billings March 14](#); [Bozeman March](#)

buildingfaith

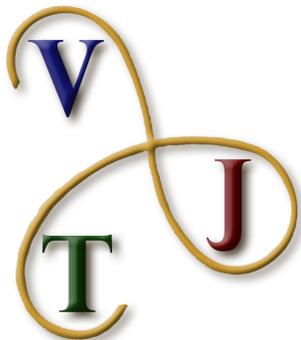
A Reflection from the Faith Formation Committee

There is a phrase which I have often used in stewardship sermons, “Stewardship is about everything we do with everything we have.” I think something similar could be said about Faith Formation. The list of topics which contributes to the formation of faith in individuals and congregations includes all of the usual things:

- Bible study and prayer;
- Quality worship;
- Devotional reading;
- Topical study groups, etc.

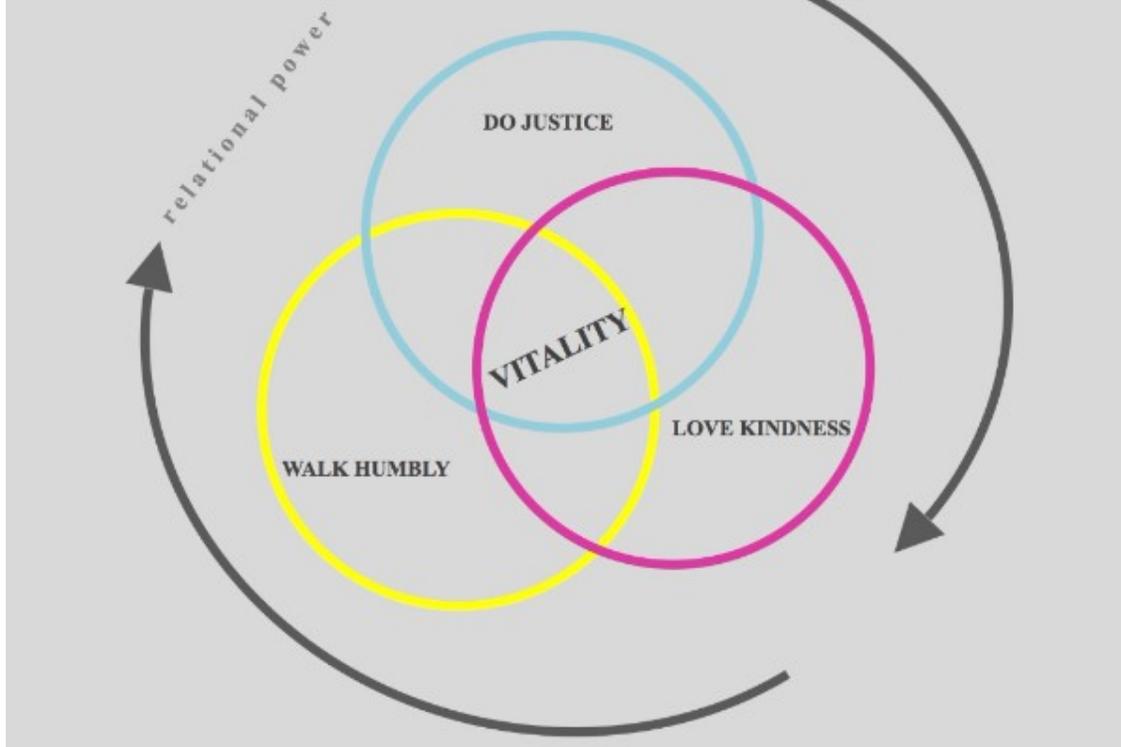
But the list needs to stop there. Indeed, I am convinced that every experience which is a part of our living can contribute to the ongoing formation of our faith. For me that includes the practice of gratitude, in which I seek to always be on the lookout for opportunities to be grateful. And what I discover is that the more I look the more I find. I also participate in the Dances of Universal Peace, in which we share songs and simple body movement drawn from the world’s faith traditions. The Dances have helped to expand my spiritual vocabulary and regularly enhance my sense of connection with Sacred Presence. What practices might you engage in that will help to shape and enhance your faith? Dare to think outside the box. The possibilities are endless.

- Roger Lynn, Pastor at Plymouth Congregational Church in Helena and co-chair of the Faith Formation Committee for the Montana/N.Wyoming Conference UCC



The Three Mission Priorities of the MT-NWy Conference UCC:

- 1. All congregations will be vital and viable**



Last week I participated in a retreat which focused on the theme of congregational vitality. It was a lively and inspiring experience which included pastors and church members from several UCC congregations around Montana.

Our guest leader was Rev. Courtney Stange-Tregear, Minister for Church Vitality with the Pacific Northwest Conference UCC. She introduced us to a model for developing vital congregations which is based on Micah 6:8. “God has told you, O people, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” The basic idea behind the model is that “vitality” is not something that can be developed directly. Instead, it is one of the natural by-products which occurs when the elements of Micah 6:8 (doing justice, loving kindness, and walking humbly with God) are consistently and intentionally practiced within the life of the congregation. I found it to be a simple model with profound possibilities, and I believe it holds the potential to be transformational for our congregations and our Conference.

Rev. Stange-Tregear will be returning to join us in June at our Conference Annual Meeting in Great Falls. I encourage you to plan now to be a part of that exciting and inspiring event.

- Roger Lynn, Pastor at Plymouth Congregational Church in Helena

2. The Conference will be appropriately staffed and the staff will be justly compensated.

3. The Conference will offer transformative experiences and have an active presence in places where we are not now present.

Our Global Ministries provide a significant type of transformation experience for those who are missionaries, for those who are served, and for those who learn about our missions. We are honored to be visited by an missionary every few years in the conference.

This spring, Bruce Van Voorhis, missionary serving in Hong Kong, is available to speak throughout the conference **from April 23-26, April 30-May 17, 2018**. He has visited the conference during his last iteration and is looking forward to renewing relationships.

Bruce has been working for Interfaith Cooperation Forum (ICF) since 2009. ICF is a joint program of the Asia and Pacific Alliance of YMCAs located in Hong Kong, and the Christian Conference of Asia (CCA) in Chiang Mai, Thailand. ICF is an interfaith movement of youth in Asia (primarily 20 to 30 years old) that works toward realizing peace with justice.

Please contact the conference office, ucc@mnwcucc.org, with suggested dates of when you would like Bruce to visit with your church for a Sunday or a mid-week fellowship time. Bruce will have his own car, but will need housing to be provided by the local congregation.

Go quickly and tell...
CAM 2018
Great Falls MT
June 15-17, 2018



Our Conference Annual Meeting will be hosted by [First Congregational UCC Great Falls](#), June 15-17, 2018

Details to share at your church about this year's CAM:

[Letter of Call](#) to meeting has been emailed to pastors and moderators,

Pre-CAM Boundary Training led by [Holly Miller-Shank](#), Thursday 11 am - 5 pm

Starts Friday noon and ends after worship on Sunday

Minister with the Pacific NW Conference UCC

Friday afternoon workshop offerings on being a viable church

Saturday morning hearings and business session, interspersed with video presentations from our conference churches

Saturday luncheon keynote with Rev. Dwight Welch, MSU-Billings
[campus minister](#)

Saturday afternoon mission activity or Mimanagish engagement choice

Saturday evening banquet with keynote by [UCC General Minister and President Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer](#)

A written sermon will be provided to each church so that all pastors may attend the Sunday CAM worship experience with [Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer preaching](#)

Registration will be available in mid-March on our WEB site.

Every congregation is asked to create a 2-3 minute video clip (you can use someone's smart phone) after worship or during fellowship time where people respond to the question: What are you most excited about in your faith and/or in your church? Please email your clips to the conference office by May 15 to: ucc@mnwcucc.org



[Mimanagish offerings planned for the 2018 season.](#)

Mimanagish, our church conference camp and retreat center, is gearing up for its busiest, most diverse summer ever. A wide array of summer youth camps and opportunities for adults are scheduled, including arts, writing and fishing camps, yoga, men's and women's retreats, OWL Adult camp and much more. This year also marks the debut Pride Family Camp, for LGBT+ individuals, couples, families and children. See www.mimanagish.org for more details on all offerings and to register. Please share this information with your church youth, parents and small groups.

We have recruited a great number of Program Directors this year for Mimanagish which brings a marvelous new, fresh calendar full of camps for everyone. Now the focus is recruiting counselors and chaplains. In order to have youth camps, we need to have counselors. As a counselor, you get a week at camp with some amazing kids that bring experiences of a lifetime. Youth camps (including trainings) are July 15-21, Grades 2/3 Camp; July 20-28, Grades 4/5 Camp; July 27-August 4, Grades 6-8 Camp. In order to bring some spiritual guidance to our camps, we need chaplains. Women's Retreat, Men's Retreat, and Over the Hill Gang need a chaplain still. Please let Jonna Mandeville know if you are able to fill one of the roles this summer at Mimanagish: jonna@mnwcucc.org.

Camp Opening

Thursday, May 17 - Friday, May 18

Kick-off Camp

Friday, May 18 - Sunday, May 20

[Geography of Grace](#)

Friday, May 25 - Monday, May 28

Women's Retreat Service Option

Monday, June 4 - Tuesday, June 5

Men's Retreat Service Option

Monday, June 11 - Tuesday, June 12

Creative Arts Camp

Thursday, June 14 - Sunday, June 17

Singer/Songwriter Retreat

Thursday, June 14 - Sunday, June 17

Yoga, Wellness & Cleanse Retreat

Thursday, June 28 - Sunday, July 1

Grandparents and Me

Thursday, July 5 - Sunday, July 8

Grade Camp - 9, 10, 11, 12

Sunday, July 8 - Saturday, July 14

Mini and Me Camp

Sunday, July 15 - Tuesday, July 17

Grade Camp - 2, 3

Tuesday, July 17 - Saturday, July 21

Grade Camp - 4, 5

Sunday, July 22 - Saturday, July 28

Grade Camp - 6, 7, 8

Sunday, July 29 - Saturday, August 4

Over The Hill Gang

Sunday, August 5 - Tuesday, August 7

Fishing Camp

Thursday, August 10 - Sunday, Aug 12

Women's Retreat

Friday, June 1 - Sunday, June 3

Men's Retreat

Friday, June 8 - Sunday, June 10

Soul of Aging

Sunday, June 10 - Thursday, June 14

Creative Writing Retreat

Monday, June 11 - Friday, June 15

Give Back Camp

Wednesday, June 27 - Sunday, July 1

OWL Adult Program

Thursday, June 28 - Sunday, July 1

Counselor Training - Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

Friday, July 6 - Saturday, July 7

Seasoned Adults

Saturday, July 14

Counselor Training - Grades 2, 3

Friday, July 13 - Saturday, July 14

Counselor Training - 4, 5

Friday, July 20 - Saturday, July 21

Counselor Training - Grades 6, 7, 8

Friday, July 27 - Saturday, July 28

New Parents Retreat

Friday, August 3 - Sunday, August 5

Mini and Me Science Inquiry

Tuesday, August 7 - Thursday, August 9

Pride Family and Youth Camp

Sunday, August 12 - Saturday, August 18

Board of Directors Meeting

Civic Action Retreat

Thursday, Sept 13 - Saturday, Sept 15

Friday, Sept 28 - Sunday, Sept 30



Camp Mimanagish Store

1. Check out our Camp Mimanagish branded merchandise store at:

<https://campmimanagish2017.itemorder.com/sale>

2. Give the gift of a full or partial Mimanagish Camp registration.

3. Give a donation to Mimanagish in honor of a love one. ([Donation link](#))

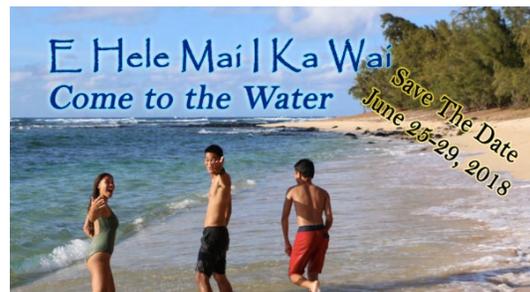


The 2018 UCC Clergy Women

Retreat to be held in Carefree, Arizona, May 1 - 3 features recent Antoinette Brown awardees as keynotes: the Rev. Day McCallister and the Rev. Loey Powell. Rev. Meg Hatch and Rev. Tracy Heilman attended last year, and plan on attending this year. [Meg](#) and [Tracy](#) would be glad to talk with you about how wonderful this retreat is. Information and registration [LINK](#).

West Region Youth Event
read all about it and register at:

<https://www.uccwrye.com/>





March 4-8 Marc in Cleveland, Council of Conference Ministers

March 11-12 Marc with [Butte UCC](#)

March 22 [The Micah Chat](#), informal ZOOM conversation with Marc, on topic of how we "do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God" 3:30 - 4:30 pm

April 4-5 Marc in Washington DC, [50th Anniversary of MLK assassination](#)

April 8-10 Marc in Cleveland for "[re-imagining theological formation](#)" conversation

April 15 Marc with [Absarokee Community UCC](#)

April 22 Marc with [Red Lodge UCC](#)

April 29 Marc with Baker UCC

May 1-3 [UCC Clergywomen Retreat](#), Carefree, AZ

May 31 Clergy Boundary Training offered through ELCA in Great Falls

June 14 Clergy Boundary Training, Great Falls 11 AM - 5 PM

June 15-17 Conference Annual Meeting, Great Falls noon Friday through Sunday



Did You Know...

Mimanagish Matters is our new monthly eNews all about Mimanagish. Mimanagish Matters comes out during the third week of the month. Email the Conference office [to subscribe](#).

Check out our NEW CONFERENCE WEB SITE
www.mnwcucc.org
and our NEW MIMANAGISH WEB SITE
www.mimanagish.org

We are on Facebook. Stay in touch and get all the latest news by liking our page.
[Click here!](#)

And check out our Camp MImanagish Facebook page. [Click here!](#)

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