

April 2019

Where you go, I will go



***Matthew 5:16 "In the same way let
your light shine before others."***

[General Synod 32](#)

UCC all-church book reading

[Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the
American City](#)

National UCC Leaders Respond

[Open Letter to United Methodist](#)

Montana Association of Christians

[2019 MT Legislative session updates](#)

New MESA Search and Call videos

[Stretching Beyond: Diversity in the
Search and Call Process](#)



- God-seeds
- Three Mission Priorities
 - May 4 gatherings
 - Summer Interns
 - Coaches for You
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Why a camp at "the place of singing waters"? One can imagine the beauty of this bouldered plateau being a Crow encampment site for hunting elk in the fields to the north and moose in the marshes to the south. We know the stories of trappers who set up their trap lines along the mountainside. During the bustling mining years up in Independence, this was near the half-way area between McLeod and the mines, where a lot of Saturday night revelry occurred. In 1930, some church groups from eastern Montana came to set up the church camp that has occupied this bouldered plateau ever since.

Those first campers braved cold and rain because there was something about being together along the river that deepened their appreciation of each other and of God. So close were people to God, that this was often where baptisms happened. and too where ashes were scattered. Lives were dedicated, calls to live in faith were accepted, and commitments to marriage were vowed at Mimanagish.

The "where" of this place called Minanagish in our lives has a way of making it into those stories that tell the "why" of Mimanagish. Could it be that the "why" of Mimanagish is that we are a people who long to be close to what is sacred?

Such as being quieted from the roar of the modern life by the roar of ancient waters.

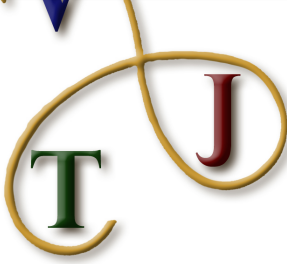
Such as finding ourselves in such gentle conversation with others that there is time for the silence to be punctuated by squeaking pine branches.

Such as letting go of everyday pretenses and technologies to find the inner goodness that had been hidden by our facades.

Such as observing a creation that allows us an existence and a way to fit in to it.

This 2019 summer camp season is being offered because we know why it is necessary for us to be together in outdoor ministries. Great work goes into making camp happen because we know why it is worth it. Of course, the "where" makes a difference but our eye is on the "why."

For more on knowing what the "why" is all about, check out this [video by Michael Jr.](#) To hear about how "why" is central to success, check out this [Simon Sinek TED talk](#).



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



“What does the Lord
require of you
but to do justice,
and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with
your God?”
--Micah 6: 8 [NRSV]

What about Stewardship? It's not the part of church that people tend to get excited about each year. But, what if it were? What if our church leaders could be inspired to get excited about Stewardship? What if our churches could have some fun while exploring ways to support the ministry of their church? What if we could create a culture of joy around Stewardship?

That's what we are hoping to do on Saturday, May 4 from 10:30 am to 2:30 pm through a Conference Stewardship Event held simultaneously at two locations.

- The Rev. Shana Johnson, [Illinois South Conference Minister](#), will be featured at the [Mayflower](#) Congregational Church UCC (2940 Poly Drive) in Billings.
- The Rev. Sue Artt, [Rocky Mountain Conference Minister](#), will be featured at [Plymouth](#) Congregational UCC (400 South Oakes) in Helena.

Our inspirational guests will offer a keynote presentation as well as lead two breakout sessions on (1) Narrative Budgets and (2) Developing Inspirational Stewardship Practices. Leaders from our own Montana/Northern Wyoming Conference will facilitate breakout sessions on (1) Coaching for Stewardship and (2) Generational Giving/Developing a Stewardship Timeline for your Church.

technology as we come together as one conference to commit to the future of Stewardship in our churches.

Who should attend? Each church should send their pastor and at least two (2) lay leaders who are excited about the ministry and mission of your church, the people who are the visionaries and go-getters. (Hint... these may or may not be the usual people who come to mind when you think about stewardship in your church.)

Register on-line at <https://www.mnwcucc.org/> or contact the Conference Office at 406-656-8688.

Questions? Contact Marc Stewart @ marc@mnwcucc.org or Lynne Spencer-Smith @ pastor@greatfallsucc.org.

Have a blessed Easter! We look forward to seeing you in Billings or Helena on May 4th!

Your Stewardship Task Force:

Amy Carter, Pamela Peterson, Lynne Spencer-Smith, Doug McClelland, Robert Shy, Ken Crouch, and Marc Stewart

Is there a "One Size Fits All" for church stewardship?
No, but there are some common approaches.

The Stewardship Task Force
of the Montana-Northern Wyoming Conference is offering
simultaneous East/Central area and West area church gatherings
May 4 from 10:30 — 2:30 pm at both
Plymouth UCC in Helena and Mayflower UCC in Billings.
We will share stories and ideas about how churches financially
support their ministries, enjoy a meal together,
and have fellowship time.

Rev. Shana Johnson Rev. Sue Artt

Conference Minister, Illinois South Conference Conference Minister, Rocky Mt. Conference

Shana has served
UCC churches in
southern Illinois,
central Illinois,
Missouri, and
northern Illinois.



"We are our best
selves when we place
faith in God to love
and provide for us,
and thus, we in turn
love and provide for
others."

Churches are encouraged to bring at least 3-4 members.
Recruit now and save the date for our May 4 gathering.
Please bring copies of the last 2 years of your church budget.



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

During the 2019 Outdoor Ministries camp season, we will be hosting three UCC Summer Community of Service interns at Camp Mimanagish.

Olivia Contri will be a Sophomore at Hollins University in Roanoke VA. She has done volunteer work with children in Costa Rica and Boulder CO. Her interests include arts, drama and music, as well as environmental sustainability and food sustainability.

Dan Sardaro is graduating this May from La Salle University in Philadelphia with a degree in communications. He visited Browning MT in 2017 for an immersion experience with the Blackfeet Nation. Dan also worked with children in Jamaica. Among his many skills are songwriting and guitar.

Soma Varga is a 17 year old student from Hungary. He will be a Global Ministries ambassador who will help lead games and activities.



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

There are now ten clergy among us, in addition to the Conference Minister, who are trained in coaching leaders and small groups. Coaches are trained to do the deep listening and ask the right questions. Coaches can help persons find their own best answers and directions for life and leadership questions. Coaches are available at no cost to your church and mission work for 30-minute sessions. They will demonstrating their coaching technique around issues of stewardship at our May 4 "What about Stewardship?" gatherings.

Also, check out Rev. Yocum's excellent [video presentation](#) about coaching.



Our ten coaches include:

[Jennifer Yocum](#) and [Laura Folkwein](#), Missoula
[Pam Peterson](#), Red Lodge

[Amy Carter](#), [Mike Mulberry](#), [Cheryl Stewart](#), [Dwight Welch](#), [Kim Woeste](#), Billings

Click on any one of their names to email them about setting up a coach session in person or by zoom.

MIMANAGISH 2019

**Renew Your Spirit
Camps/Retreats - All Ages**



There are over 200 people registered for camps and retreats at Mimanagish this summer. There are still camps open for registration. See the calendar and registration schedule at mimanagish.org

Mimanagish and Outdoor Ministries Fundraising Opportunities

Our Outdoor Ministries Fundraising team has been working hard to come up with options for fundraising for our 2019 Camp Season.

We are working closely with Billings First Church's Culture Committee and Billings Mayflower UCC on a unique fundraiser. Plan to join us on Monday evening, April 29, at the Arthouse Cinema in downtown Billings for an evening of heavy hors d'oeuvres, drinks, socializing, silent auction, youth reader's theatre, and screening of the 2014 documentary "The Salt of the Earth." For the last 40 years, the photographer, Sebastião Salgado, has been traveling through the continents, in the footsteps of an ever-changing humanity. He has witnessed some of the major events of our recent history: international conflicts, starvation, and exodus. He is now embarking on the discovery of pristine territories, wild fauna and flora, and grandiose landscapes. He has amassed a huge photographic project which is a tribute to the planet's beauty. Join us at the Arthouse to enjoy good food, good UCC folk, and beautiful photography. Ticket numbers are limited, so contact Edward Barta at edward2b@yahoo.com or 406-780-9003 SOON to get yours!

On the following Thursday, May 2, Mimanagish will again be part of Montana Gives through Columbus Community Foundation. This is a giving opportunity that emphasizes giving to LOCAL non-profit organizations. There are several communities across the state that participate in this event, and each is a little different. CCF solicits funds for a sponsor match pool, and these monies are distributed among all the participating non-profits, based on the percentage of donations raised by each non-profit. If a non-profit brings in 15% of all the donations raised, it will receive 15% of the match pool funds. The donation website is www.ColumbusMTGives.org. Columbus MTGives donations will be accepted online and go towards Match Pool Monday, April 29 through Friday, May 3, 2019. A donor lounge will be set up at Beartooth Ford in Columbus on May 2. Volunteers from participating non-profits will be available from 7 AM - 7 PM to answer any questions regarding their organizations. Donors will be able to make donations in person during this time. We are seeking volunteers to spend some time representing Mimanagish that day. If you are able to help us out, please contact Leslie Roche at 406-794-2771. Watch the Camp Mimanagish page and the Mimanagish by the Roaring River group on Facebook for more information, and updates throughout the day. There will be a food vendor on site during the event, so you can come in and have lunch and/or dinner while supporting great local causes! For more information on how you can give through #MTGives, contact Trudi Downer at 406-647-2924.

We are so excited to announce this next opportunity! How lucky are we that Chris Cunningham will share his beautiful music with us on Sunday, May 19, at Pilgrim UCC in Bozeman. This affair begins at 4 PM and will include time for heavy hors d'oeuvres and drinks, mingling, silent auction, and of course, a live concert by Chris.

including baskets. Please contact Mary at Pilgrim UCC at 406-587-3690 or mary@uccbozeman.org for more information on this. Watch for more details on the Bozeman fundraiser in the May edition of the MNWC-UCC eNews!

We look forward to celebrating Mimanagish with all of you at these great events! Join us for the one closest to you, or for all 3! Remember, tickets are limited for the [Billings ArtHouse](#) event – get yours NOW to be assured you will be one of the lucky ones!



IN OUR PRAYERS

We keep Pastor Robert Shy and his family in our prayers following the passing of Robert's mother on March 23 in Colstrip. Robert is pastor at Bethlehem UCC in Worden after having previously served in Colstrip.

We offer prayers of joy at the March 31st installation of Rev. Duane Bartz in ministry with Big Timber Congregational UCC. We also rejoice with Rev. Glover Wagner and Pilgrim UCC Bozeman as they celebrate 40 years of ministry together.



April 7 Marc at Molt UCC for Confirmation Sunday

April 8-9 Board of Directors meet

April 16 COM meeting, Billings and zoom, 7 pm

April 26 Church and Ministry Commission, Billings and zoom, 1-6 pm

April 29 Mimanagish Fundraiser, Art House, Billings

April 30-May 1, Marc in Washington DC for "[Bread for the World](#)" advocacy

May 3 [Rocky Mountain College](#) Trustees meeting, Marc

May 4 [Stewardship Gatherings](#), [Plymouth UCC](#) - Helena, [Mayflower UCC](#) - Billings, 10:30 am - 2:30 pm

May 4 [Rocky Mountain College Commencement](#), Billings, 1 pm

May 5 Installation of Rev. Nicholas Knoblauch, [Powder River UCC](#) - Broadus, 4 pm

May 19 Mimanagish concert fundraiser, [Pilgrim UCC](#) Bozeman

May 24-27 Mimanagish [Kick-Off Family Camp](#)

June 4 Clergy Boundary Training, Pilgrim UCC Bozeman, 9 am - 4 pm

June 21 - 25 [UCC Gen Synod in Milwaukee](#) MT-NWy staying at Hilton City Center

Aug 9-11 Conference Annual Meeting at Camp Mimanagish



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 CONFERENCE WEB SITE

www.mnwcucc.org

and our MIMANAGISH WEB SITE

www.mimanagish.org

We are on Facebook. Stay in touch and get all of 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!](#)
