

# June 2019

## Passing Through



Offering directly supports Ministries  
[2019 Strengthen the Church](#)

UCC Partners with AirBnB  
["Open Homes" emergency lodging](#)

Tornadoes, Cyclones, and Flooding  
[UCC Disaster Recovery](#)

All-church Web and Social Media tool  
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General Synod 32, June 21-25  
[Resolutions and Pronouncements](#)

UNITE! at Purdue U. next summer  
[2020 National Youth Event](#)

- God-seeds
- Mission Priorities
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  - Summer Camp Director
  - 4 UCC Summer Interns
  - 2 pastors called to settled ministry
  - General Synod delegates and visitors
- Jerry Franks retires from Molt UCC
- "b1" app updates
- Prayers
- Calendar Items
- Social Media links



## God-seeds, reflections from Marc Stewart

Do you have your favorite place that is sacred to you? Such places for me are associated with special memories:

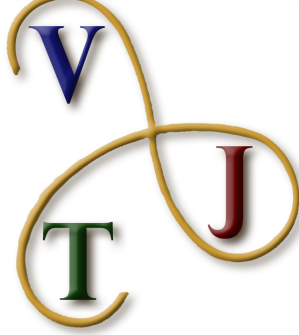
...a childhood seaside beach surrounded by cliffs in Devon. I was about four years old, and I remember my sea-captain father, rushing us up the cliff trail because he saw a tidal wave. Sure enough, within a minute, a rogue wave hit and the whole secluded inlet beach was swamped.

...the old fire tower on the cliff edge of E. Osceola Mountain in New Hampshire. Some high school buddies and I climbed up ice covered steps and waited out a winter storm overnight in February 1976 as the tower quivered in the wind. A few years later the fire tower came down.

...the stone shelter tower atop Harney Peak in the Black Hills, to which Cheryl and I led a family backpacking trip in 1999. Thunderstorms were approaching the west at sunset, and it was too late to hike out. As we watched from the tower, a majestic mountain goat and her kid strolled up to the base of the tower and looked at us for about 5 minutes, as if to say we were going to be okay. The storm split north and south of Harney Peak that evening as we encamped below the cliffs.

The family group I led at Camp Mimanagish for the 2017 middle high camp read the story of the Israelites crossing the River Jordan. The river stopped flowing so the people could pass on over in the promised land. To mark this sacred event and place, the people picked up stones from the river bed before it started to flow again. They built a memorial pylon to remember what happened so the story would be told for all generations to come, even though they would never pass that way again from 40 years in the wilderness. At Miminagish, our small family group built its own pylon to remember their family group that summer. This summer, our UCC Interns are building a 50-foot timeline on which campers and visitors can write their stories of this sacred place.

During our 2019 Conference Annual Meeting (CAM) we will take time to remember and share stories of "Passing Through." We will remember some places at Mimanagish that are sacred for us and share some of the stories that are never to be forgotten for what they tell of God's presence known there.



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

### 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]

Your Board of Directors, Committee for Outdoor Ministries, and many friends within the Conference and beyond, hope that we will come and be part of this very special 2019 Conference Annual Meeting. Meetings and activities will take place at Mimanagish throughout the weekend. Lodging will be available in Big Timber, with a bus shuttle to Mimanagish, and in cabins at Camp Mimanagish. The registration fee for those staying at Camp Mimanagish is \$160, and \$100 for those securing their own lodging in Big Timber.

CAM Registration Link / [Mimanagish Lodging \\$160](#)

CAM Registration Link / [No Lodging \\$100](#)

#### Mimanagish Lodging:

Camp lodging capacity is capped at 60 people.

Cabins will be divided into male and female cabins with limited family cabins.

Rooms with bathrooms will be assigned according to need.

Lodging will be confirmed one week prior to CAM.

Due to the number of participants we cannot make cabin requests.

Cabin assignments will be made based on participation numbers and needs.

Attendees not staying at Mimanagish is capped at 40 people.  
There are 19 reserved rooms at the Super 8 in Big Timber.  
These rooms are on a first come, first serve basis.  
For reservations please call 406-932-8888.  
Use the code: UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST for our group rate.  
Rooms are approximately \$200 total for both Friday and Saturday night.  
There is no elevator, so please indicate the upper or lower floor.

**What to Bring:**

Bedding, pillow and toiletries for those staying at Mimanagish.  
Nights can get chilly so bring a sweatshirt and/or jacket.  
Pen, notebook and comfy shoes.

**Meeting Schedule:**

CAM begins at 5:30 pm on Friday, August 9 at Mimanagish.  
Concludes at 11:00 am on Sunday, August 11 after service.

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

Our Camp Director for the 2019 season is Allison Sanchez-Claudio. Allison is a Fine Arts major and an instructor at Georgia Southwestern State University, Allison has worked at a variety of camps in past summers. She is from Vera Beach, Florida. Allison will be Camp Director during the height of the camp season, between June 20 - August 15.





Dan, Trudi, Soma, Olivia, and Meaza have been hard at work putting together activities for this season's youth camps at Mimanagish. They have also been visiting Billings area VBS programs: Molt, Worden, Billings, Columbus, Ballantine. All four young adults are now part of the UCC Summer Community of Service volunteer program run by our National UCC. Special thanks to Barbara Archer and Tom Tulley for hosting them in their home June 1 - 20 before the start of camps.





Congratulations to Rev. Pam Peterson and Rev. Amy Carter as they were each unanimously voted to settled pastorate by their respective congregations. Pam ministers with Red Lodge Community UCC and chairs the Conference Faith Formation Committee. Amy ministers with Mayflower Congregational UCC and is on the Stewardship Task Force.

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



Our own Rev. Laura Folkwein, Minister of Small Groups at University UCC Missoula, will be preaching and speaking at the [2019 Big Sky PRIDE](#) worship and parade in Helena on June 22.

Laura invites UCC individuals and churches to join her: I have been organizing a group with Montana Interfaith Network to march in the parade, which can include any individual church/conference groups who want to join in, including UCC churches. If you can give me a contact and an estimated # of participants for the parade, it will be helpful for direct communication. We will be informed of our location in the parade order in the the next few weeks, and I'll share that w/ your folks if I have their names and emails.

[Pride Worship](#) at St Paul UMC, 512 Logan St, is at 9:00-9:45 a.m.

Pride and Faith Teach Ins at St Paul's UMC, 9:45-10:30. Pick-up choir rehearsal with Judy Fjell is at 8:30. I will be preaching!

See the Facebook event on the Big Sky Pride page for more info, and lots more events.

[Parade Line](#) up: 10:00 am, with staging on Helena Avenue just northeast of 11th Avenue. I suggest that folks who want to march with me, MIN and other faith groups head down to the route, from St Pauls at 10:30. I'll work on finding a contact person to gather folks at the church and lead the group down to the parade start (there is always lots of standing around. 10:30 line up should be fine). The Parade starts at 11:00 am.

Parade Route: Route of travel shall commence from the staging area and cross 11th Ave to Last Chance Gulch, and will then follow Last Chance Gulch south through the walking mall and to Anchor Park and Pioneer Parks near the Lewis & Clark County Library, where the Big Sky Pride Rally & Festival will take place.

Dogs and Cats (ha!) welcomed, larger animals need to register. We can hand out items (literature, candy, beads), but they cannot be thrown. Each church should coordinate their own items if you want them.

I'd like a general list of who's coming, so have your contact person reach out to me if you plan on it, with an estimated # of participants, so we can watch for you and I'll share my [contact info](#).

The more the merrier! Groups welcome, individuals welcome. Kids and families welcome, allies and LGBTQ+ folks welcome!

Please bring banners, make signs, and wear religious garb as you wish! If anyone in Helena wants to host a fun sign-making party on Friday night, that could be a nice way to gather early?

-- Laura Folkwein

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General Synod, our United Church of Christ national gathering of delegates, will meet in Milwaukee, June 21-25. There will be at least a dozen people attending General Synod from within the MT-NWy Conference. Our three official delegates are Danielle Rogers (Pilgrim UCC Bozeman), Sophia Heilman (First UCC Billings), and

received UCC scholarships to General Synod, Lisa Harmon and Sara Branom. A visitor group from First UCC Billings includes Michael Mulberry, Aaron Blakeslee, Nina Hernandez, and Chelsey Duenow.

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Jerry and Elizabeth Franks were presented with a photo collage of 15 years of ministry with Molt UCC as Pastor Jerry's ministry came to a completion in May.



All Eight of the UCC's  
Western Region Conferences  
and their  
Conference Ministers  
have joined the movement.

They're wondering...

Will YOUR church  ?

The "b1" cloud based phone and WEB application is soon ready to roll out. This has been a project of the West Region Conferences and Kombi software company.

Check out "b1" features and support videos at [www.b14ucc.com](http://www.b14ucc.com).

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We offer prayers of joy at the June 1st installation of Pastor Robert Shy in ministry with Bethlehem Congregational UCC in Worden.

Rev. Carl Krusi died this weekend in Great Falls following 4 years of increasing dementia. During his ministry and retirement, Carl was active throughout the Conference through his generous support and capable leadership. Ordained in 1958 after attending Chicago Theological Seminary, Carl served UCC congregations in Astoria, OR (1958-1967), Green River, WY (1967-1973), and Fairfield/Power, MT (1973-1997). A memorial service is tentatively scheduled for June 29th. Details will be forthcoming. We keep Lynne and her family in our prayers.

*Dear God, we remember those who have served as faithful leaders at home and church, and particularly give thanks for the life of Rev. Carl Krusi. We lift up to the many blessings of his ministry that we know, and the many more that are on the souls of those he cared for in church and community. Especially attend to Lynne and their family that they may know the peace of your loving presence. In Christ our hope and way, Amen.*

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**June 12 All-Church Stewardship Gathering, [zoom](#), 7 pm**

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

**June 22 Annual Big Sky PRIDE Weekend, Helena, [worship at St Paul UMC](#) at 9 am followed by parade at 10 am**

**June 27 - 30 [Creative Arts Camp](#), Mimanagish**

**June 27 - 30 [Over the Hill Gang Camp](#), Mimanagish**

**June 29 Memorial Service for Carl Krusi, t.b.a.**

**July 4 Office closed**

**July 5 - 8 [Grandparents and Me Camp](#), Mimanagish**

**July 10 - 14 [PRIDE Camp](#), Mimanagish**

**July 11 [Conference Special Meeting](#) to vote on Board of Directors  
recommendations regarding selling Camp Mimanagish, 7 pm**

**July 14 - 20 [Sr. High MADD Camp](#), Mimanagish**

**July 19 - 21 [Mini and Me Camp](#), Mimanagish**

**July 21 - 27 [3rd, 4th, 5th Grade Camp](#), Mimanagish**

**July 28 - Aug 3 [6th, 7th, 8th Grade Camp](#), Mimanagish**

**August 3 - 5 [Mom and Me Camp](#), Mimanagish**

**August 3 - 5 [Pay it Forward Camp](#), Mimanagish**

**Aug 9-11** [Conference Annual Meeting at Camp Mimanagish](#)

**August 17 - 20** [Soul of Aging Retreat, Mimanagish](#)

**August 30 - Sept 2** [Geography of Grace Retreat, Mimanagish](#)

**August 30 - Sept 2** [Fishing Camp, Mimanagish](#)

**August 31 - Sept 2** [Dad and Me Camp, Mimanagish](#)

**September 5 - 8** [Yoga and Wellness Camp, Mimanagish](#)



### **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 CONFERENCE WEB SITE

[www.mnwcucc.org](http://www.mnwcucc.org)

and our MIMANAGISH WEB SITE

[www.mimanagish.org](http://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!](#)

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