

# November 2017

## Thankfulness



responding to Hurricanes  
[longterm support to Puerto Rico](#)

monthly Justice stories  
[Millennials for Racial Justice](#)

responding to the Korean crisis  
[the whole world is praying](#)

*I will stand at my watch post to see  
what the LORD will say. Then the  
LORD answered and said, "Write the  
vision; make it plain as a runner may  
read it. For there is still a vision.*

Habakkuk 2:1-3



- [God-seeds](#)
- [Mission Priorities Poster](#)
- [Mission Priorities: Vital and Viable Congregations](#)
- [Mission Priorities: Transformative Experiences](#)
- [Mission Priorities: Appropriate Staffing and Just Compensation](#)
- [Three stewardship letters](#)
- [Camp Merchandise Store](#)
- [West Region Youth Event](#)
- [Prayer Concerns](#)
- [Calendar Items](#)





*Now thank we all our God  
with heart and hands and voices...  
With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,  
And keep us still in grace,  
and guide us when perplexed...* Martin Rinkart

Something else about the hike up to “four-mile” that I wrote about last month: halfway along we were deluged by a mountain storm. We could hear it coming as the thunder rolled off the mountain peaks and as rain increased its pattering. We knew it was serious when we decided to leave the shelter of the tree we stood under lest it attract a lightning bolt. A nearby crack and splash of light charged our voices from singing songs of comfort to an outright scream for holy help: God stop the storm!

And there was no more lightning. And the downpour dribbled off. Instant yelps of "thank you, God!" sang out to the new calm. Later, we three stragglers of the group hike looked at each other with amazement and wondered, "did that really happen?" The fullness of our thanks reminded us that it indeed had happened.

The cars parked at four-mile soon came by to take us back to Mimanagish. The passengers were drenched, too, even though they had made it all the way. It was a sacred experience for us, anyway. As it turned out, our destination was not anywhere our feet could take us. We found the place of the sacred.

Thankfulness reminds us we have not got to where we are alone. Thankfulness is a sacred place. It is what happens where the place of fear quiets into reassurance. It is what happens where the place of being alone is enjoined with companions. It is what happens where we see what God means to happen. Indeed, there are a lot of places where thankfulness is happening.

Look at where thankfulness is happening around you. Maybe you are not too sure if it is really there? Look again and believe. After the hike, we looked at each other and said "God is good" and we knew we were in a sacred place. So, too, as I name what I am thankful for in this season of Conference life, I realize that we are in a sacred place:

1. I am thankful for a board that challenges the Conference to be its best.
2. I am thankful for a wonderful staff which is great at what they do.
3. I am thankful for each and everyone church, as they strive to be vital places of faith in their communities.
4. I am thankful for our ministry teams as they execute Conference mission priorities with enthusiasm.
5. I am thankful for thankfulness that reminds me we are in a sacred place!

MONTANA-NORTHERN WYOMING CONFERENCE  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



**- MISSION PRIORITIES -**

#1: ALL CONGREGATIONS IN THE CONFERENCE  
WILL BE VITAL & VIABLE.

#2: THE CONFERENCE WILL BE  
APPROPRIATELY STAFFED  
& THE STAFF WILL BE JUSTLY COMPENSATED.

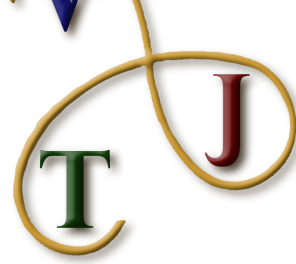
#3: THE CONFERENCE WILL OFFER  
TRANSFORMATIVE EXPERIENCES  
& HAVE AN ACTIVE PRESENCE  
IN PLACES WHERE WE ARE NOT NOW PRESENT.

You can [download a high resolution copy](#) of this 16x20 poster for display at your church (costs under \$10 to print). Thanks to Roger Lynn for his photography and graphic design work in making this poster.

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**All Congregations In The Conference  
Will Be Vital and Viable**

pastoral staff team, envisioned selling used books.



A spare room in the church was dedicated to book sales and is now as well stocked as a small library. The bookstore is called *Share the Love Used Bookstore*. Amber explains, "We have received tons of books, most have been donated though some have been traded. We do not have a price on the books, it is by donation. People have been very generous with their donations of books as well as money. Half of the money comes back to the church and the other half is being donated through the UCC and DOC disaster services for hurricane relief. The mission project will change from time to time, as need dictates."

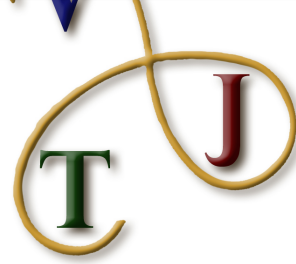


*Share the Love Used Book Store* is open every Thursday from 2-6 and the first Saturday of the month from 9-4. It will also be open during the annual holiday rummage sale on November 18th from 9-whenever it is over.

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**The Conference will offer transformative experiences and have and active presence in place where we are not now present.**





**from Carolyn Rosen**

On October 24, 2017, the UCC social justice internship hosted a special showing of the Montana-made documentary *Makoshika* at Rocky Mountain College. The award winning film gives an inside look at the boom-bust patterns of oil production in eastern Montana and western North Dakota.

It surfaces the difficulties that rural communities, business, and Native American tribes face regarding

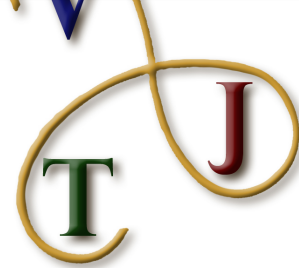
environmental regulations, economic development, and social justice issues before and after the oil rigs move into town. Students, faculty, and outside community members had the opportunity to see the film for free, and participate in a discussion afterwards. The discussion panel featured the filmmakers and Dr. Timothy Lehman, history professor at Rocky Mountain College. The conversation centered on the points of intersection between social justice issues and oil production. For instance, in the 1950's, oil production led to a water contamination that affected tribal land. These lands hold a deeply religious value in Native American culture, and their desire to maintain connection to their ancestors is threatened by these boom-bust patterns. Who ultimately has the right to this land? What do we value more – respecting one's religious beliefs or making a profit? Who really benefits from oil production? These questions are originally surfaced in the film, but they are ones that we need to be continually asking ourselves as residents in this area. Like Dr. Lehman pointed out, social justice issues surrounding oil production has been a theme of western history throughout Montana and the Dakotas. As a topic that will continue as long as we rely on fossil fuels, it is important that we as Montanans, and as Christians, are aware of the religious issues in the oil barrels. Not only did the film show us how Bakken technology has impacted the local economies of communities throughout the state, but also how the rise and fall of the price of oil often times blinds us to religious disputes. Getting the community talking about these issues is the first step to getting involved, and I think we did just that in our event at RMC.

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compensated.

Josie Caton, our Mimanagish Director (note the change in title from Camp Manager to Directors), is now hired for 3/4 time year-round. Most of this time is dedicated to Camp season work, with additional time now available during the off-season.

Compensation is now in line with the Camp director salaries for the region.



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### Three Stewardship Letters

Columbus Community UCC church moderator, Jerry Nye, sent a [letter to all](#) other church moderators and pastors challenging all to match a \$5000 gift from Columbus Community UCC to Mimanagish. An additional [letter](#) sent out by Conference leadership this week also tells of the Mimanagish need. Our Conference [stewardship letter](#) suggests that congregations tithe for OCWM.

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### Faith Formation Committee November Update

Greetings from the Faith Formation Committee. We are alive and well, and working hard at figuring out ways to make a positive impact in the life of the Montana – N. Wyoming Conference UCC. Here is some of what we are working on right now.

First, there has been a change in the leadership structure of our committee. We are now operating with a job sharing model. Laura Folkwein from Missoula has taken over as Chair of the committee, while Roger Lynn from Helena will continue as the committee representative on the Conference Board. This division of labor seems to be working well.

Second, we are working to promote next summer's Western Regional UCC Youth Event, which will be held in Hawaii which will be held June 25-29, 2018. This event is for youth in 8th through 12th grades, and adult chaperones. More information about this life-changing experience and an opportunity for pre-registration will be available very soon. The Faith Formation Committee and others are working on some creative ways to support attendance by youth from our Conference.

And finally, our next Faith Formation Committee meeting will be Wednesday,

## Camp Mimanagish Merchandise Website

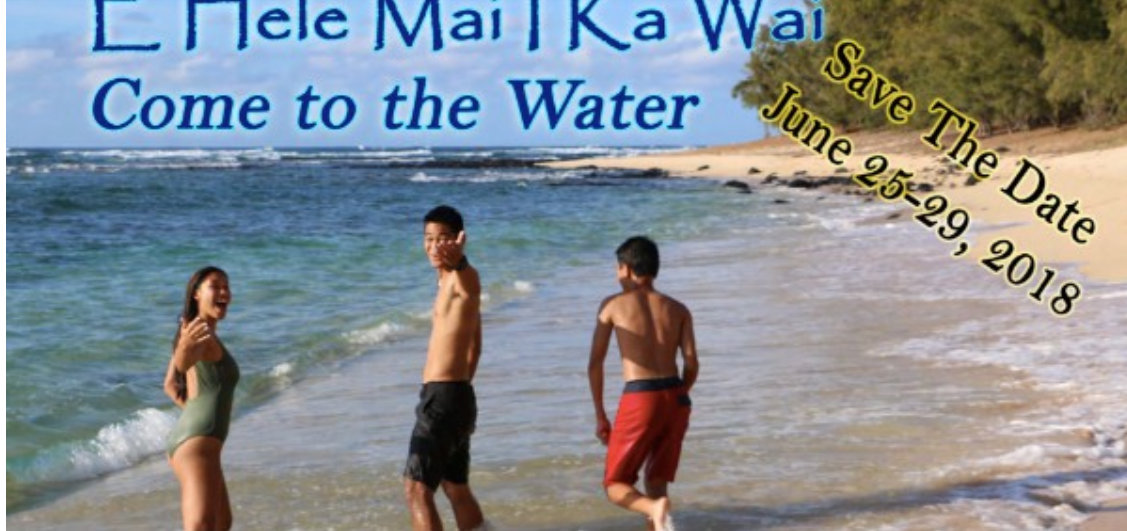


Check out our Camp Mimanagish branded merchandise store at:  
<https://campmimanagish2017.itemorder.com/sale>

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.

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**Come to the Water**, the West Region Youth Event, will be hosted by the Hawaii Conference at the University of Hawaii, Honolulu campus, June 25-29, 2018.

- The theme is 'Come to the water' (Isaiah 55:1).
- There will be workshops and breakout groups, as well as opportunities for service during the five days.
- Each participating Conference will host a workshop of their own creation.
- The early registration fee is \$475, and after the deadline becomes \$495.
- Anticipated airfare is \$850.
- As a way of getting families to save for the event, we are suggesting that churches set up a "savings account" to which participants pay \$160 per month towards the airfare costs of the youth event. For those who begin doing this in October, the Conference will cover the \$100 for the month of December as a scholarship towards the expenses of the event. Please note the per month increase to \$160 in order to help cover chaperon expenses. The Conference will have a registration site for this savings plan available later in November.

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Prayers with Rev. Mickey Dooling and Betty, retired pastor (Butte UCC), as Mickey just received a terminal cancer diagnosis.

Prayers with Rev. Len Shatkus (Baker UCC) as he recovers from a second leg amputation.





passing of Trudi's mother. Memorial fits may be made to the Carlee Downer Mimanagish scholarship fund.

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Mimanagish Site Plan ZOOM Meeting, Nov 7, 3:30 PM  
Faith Formation ZOOM call, November 8, 12 noon  
COM ZOOM meeting, November 9, 6 PM  
[Boundary Training refresher for clergy, Nov 9, Great Falls](#)  
Church and Ministry Commission, Nov 10-11, Billings office  
COM ZOOM meeting, November 18, 10 AM  
Marc at Council of Conference Ministers, Nov 27-Dec 1  
Mimanagish Firestarters ZOOM Meeting, Nov 30, 6 PM  
COM ZOOM meeting, December 2, 10 AM  
COM ZOOM meeting, December 7, 6 PM

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MSUB (Billings) Campus Ministry celebrated its 50 year anniversary with remembrances from Trudi Downer and friends who were there at the very beginning.

Tim Hutsler and congregation at closing worship service for Medicine Lake UCC on October 8.



Camp Mimanagish Liaison Reminder:  
All churches are asked to provide up to  
three names and contact information  
for people within the congregation who  
can be liaisons ("firestarters") for  
Mimanagish promotions. Email contact  
information to the Conference office,  
[ucc@mnwcucc.org](mailto:ucc@mnwcucc.org).

Josie Caton and Marc  
Stewart lead a leadership

UCC Church council on  
November 4, attended by  
16 church leaders.



### Did You Know...

Our WEB page features newsletters for all churches that mail or email copies to the Conference office. Read the [news from other congregations!](#)

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

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

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