

August 2017 Summer



in solidarity with people of faith
responding to Charlottesville, Virginia

[UCC KEEPING YOU POSTED](#)

[Rev. Tracy Heilman, Billings](#)

[Rev. Greg Smith, Great Falls](#)

[Rev. Roger Lynn, Helena](#)

[Rev. Marc Stewart](#)

[UCC Officers and Conf. Ministers](#)



You have already been told
what is good,
what ADONAI demands of you --
no more than to
act justly,
love grace, and
walk in purity with your God.

Micah 6:8 Complete Jewish Bible

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God-seeds, reflections from Marc Stewart

A new purpose, vision and mission for the UCC Church.



The United Church of Christ has recently adopted a new purpose, mission and vision statement:

- We will love the Lord our God with our whole heart, mind, soul and strength; and our neighbor as ourselves. (Purpose)
- United by the Holy Spirit and inspired by God's grace we love all, welcome all, and seek justice for all. (Mission)
- A just world for all. (Vision)

In fidelity to this statement, the denomination invites us to move in mission toward the 3 GREAT LOVES:

love of children,
love of neighbor,
and love of creation.

Questions for our consideration in living into the 3 GREAT LOVES include:

- Where is your heart?
- Where are you already responding to the love of Children, Neighbor, and Creation in your own life and witness?
- Where is your heart leading you to deepen your commitment to one of these Great Loves?
- Who else is being led in the same direction?
- What is a need in our community?
- Can we be a part of filling that need?
- Who else would we need to talk to in order to help meet that need?

These are like the questions that our Board of Directors have been asking in our Conference Listening Sessions. As the Spirit moves as it will amongst us, there are many connecting points between the UCC's 3 GREAT LOVES and what we named

So we lifted up amongst us:

- The vitality of sharing our best resources and ideas among us and beyond us
- The centrality of Camp Mimanagish programming to our shared mission and ministry as a Conference
- The willingness and mandate to engage in mission

During the next three months, our Conference (you, churches, Committees and Board, staff) will have the opportunity to focus on what it is that we are about, the “Big It” so to speak. Josie Caton will help us focus on the living into our full purpose, mission, and vision through expanded Camp Mimanagish ministries, as planning is made for 2018 Camp program year and for the 20-year Camp plan required by the US Forest Service. Dr. Felix Villaneuvo, Conference Minister with the Southern California-Nevada Conference will coach our Board of Directors in developing an implementation plan for our “Big It” mission. Rev. Andrew DeBrader, from our UCC Office for Philanthropy and Stewardship will work with our Board to develop a Stewardship Plan.

My role, as Conference Minister, has been to shepherd our leadership needs by bringing these voices to the table. I know it is deep within the heart of who we are as Conference to articulate and live into the “Big It” that God calls us to do. I affirm that our Board of Directors is ready and able to take the Spirit-filled Listening Session responses and name for us the “Big It” of our wonderful purpose, mission, and vision. It is no small feat managing these efforts but our satisfaction will come in knowing that we are truly living what we called to be in this Conference. Our “Big It” promises to be more fulfilling than we ever imagined. Our "Big It" will also be that prayerful practice we are best at doing.

God knows it is time get on with our mission and ministry as a Conference. We will know it, too. So keep prayerful attuned to the work of our Board of Directors and Committees as we meet in retreat September 14-16 at Camp Mimanagish. Learn about faithful leadership by being a participant in the Faith Leadership and Counselor Exploration Retreat, October 6-8. Attend, if you can, the Visioning II retreat at Camp Mimanagish, October 19-21.

Camp Mimanagish Visioning II

October 19-22, 2017

You Are Needed. Come help direct the future of Mimanagish through this four day intensive work retreat. With your collaboration, we will tackle:

Christ

- Strategic Plan for Growth, Mission Delivery, and a Sustainable Financial Future
- 20 Year Facilities Plan as required by the USFS

Members of the MNWCUCC Board of Directors, Committee on Outdoor Ministries, and Faith Formation Committee will be present. All are welcome. We are in particular need of experience:

passion for Mimanagish - fundraising - law - finance - event planning - marketing - facilities management - ecojustice / environmentalism - community organizing - social justice - strong university and college connections - medicine - advocacy - systems level thinking - rapid prototyping - science - psychology - sociology - Mimanagish history

Visioning Survey

We need to hear from you! Please take a few minutes to offer your thoughts on the future of Camp Mimanagish:

<http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/3784454/MNWCUCC-Mimanagish-Vision>

If you don't like using the internet, feel free to call Josie at (406) 570-9922 (cell) or (406) 932-6311 to complete this brief survey over the phone.



Camp Bus Fund Goal Exceeded

Campers were transported to and from camp through the Boulder road construction because of the generosity of our Conference members and Church donations. Without the bus running, many campers could not have made it to camp this season.

We are especially appreciative of Brett Self from Rapelje who was our volunteer bus driver this summer, and for the bus driving supervision he provided Josie Caton...and congratulations to Josie, who now has her CDL license!



Thank you for keeping our bus running!

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.

End of Summer Camp Opportunities

[Sign UP](#) Now For Camp Mimanagish!

It may be August and youth camps may be over but we still have lots of opportunities for campers of all ages yet this year. Details can be found by clicking the links or going to the website.

September 1-4 [Geography of Grace](#)

September 10-14 [The Soul of Aging](#)

October 6-8 [Faith Leadership and Counselor Exploration Retreat](#)

October 13-15 [Adulthood Retreat](#)

October 19-21 [Conference Fall Youth Retreat](#)

October 19-21 [Visioning II](#)

October 20-21 [Camp Closing](#)

camp event, we ask that you please register as soon as you know that you plan to attend. Early registration is critical for planning purposes so that we may create the best experience possible for you and your fellow campers. For the remainder of the year, registrations will close 6 days before the start of an event, but, please register as early as possible to help retreats avoid possibility of cancellation. Thank you.

Faith Formation Coordinator

Dear Camp Mimanagish friends,

I hope this finds you well and enjoying the last stage of summer! I write with an update on the reception of the Branching Out curriculum, chosen by the Committee on Outdoor Ministry for this year's Youth Camps.



The curriculum was used by our Program Leaders, and each leader worked within the chapter devoted to their age group. Leaders were able to tailor their programming to the needs of their individual camps. Feedback about the curriculum thus far indicates that the tone and content of Branching Out were exciting, appropriate and translated well into the everyday lives of our campers. The crafting and small group project resources and ideas were especially welcome, as was the theological content and daily theme.

One particularly valuable suggestion is that curriculum training be given even earlier for program leaders. This will be taken on board in our approach to Camp for next summer, as we intend to have earlier staffing deadlines for Youth Camps. This will allow each Program Leader to have one initial one-on-one meeting with the Faith Formation Coordinator as an orientation for the curriculum, and a second one-on-one meeting to check in about lingering questions or concerns one month before the start of the camp.

We begin our search for counselors and program leaders NOW! Please see the following article from Josie about counselor leadership training.

Counselor and Faith Leadership Exploration Retreat

Calling all potential faith leaders and camp counselors... Interested in being a counselor for Camp Mimanagish? Have you heard the call for faith leadership and counselors but aren't quite sure if you would be a good fit? Maybe the timing wasn't right this summer but you'd like to counsel in the future. Maybe you have counseled in the past and feel called to do it again?

Whatever your situation, this retreat is an opportunity this fall for you to come out to explore what it means to be a counselor for Camp Mimanagish and/or to do faith leadership in your own church. We'll go over roles and responsibilities, explore the gifts that each of us could bring to this important ministry, develop our leadership skills, learn tips and tricks to be a great counselor, experience some fun camp traditions, and generally get a taste for the camp experience.

Participation in this event is unrelated to any formal commitment to future counseling and we encourage anyone who is even considering serving Mimanagish in the future to participate. Since we value an intergenerational counselor mix, we anticipate this group will also be intergenerational; however, participants must be at least 15 years old. Please contact Josie for more information, jcaton@mnhwcucc.org.

Adulthood Retreat

October 13-15, 2017

New this fall, Camp Mimanagish will be offering an "Adulthood" retreat designed to help college-age and early career folks navigate the transition into adulthood. Participants will get to choose from topics such as: cooking and nutrition, time management, navigation in the world of adult finances, community living, housing leases, basics of pet ownership, car ownership, physical wellness, nuances of social conduct, networking, spirituality, work/life balance, "Who am I?" and "Who do I want to be?", communication skills, conflict resolution, and awareness of local resources.

The retreat will be October 13-15 and there will be a discount for UCC members. Transportation for the first 44 registrants will be provided from MSU. For cost, registration, and more information email jcaton@mnhwcucc.org or visit www.mimangish.org/retreats/adulthood.

I spent this past week watching a miracle unfold before my eyes. In fact, I

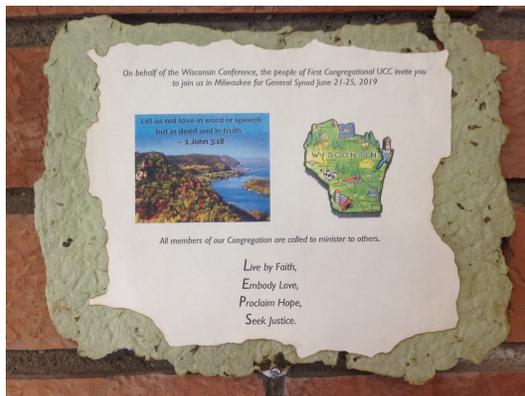


possible for me to be there in the midst of the unfolding.

[Read Roger Lynn's experience of being Middle High Camp chaplain.](#)

Service of Ordination for Timothy Seery
September 17, 2017 6 PM
Great Falls First Congregational United
Church of Christ

Members and Friends of the Montana - Northern Wyoming Conference United Church of Christ are cordially invited to the Service of Ordination for Timothy Seery. The service will be followed by a fellowship time at the church. Tim Seery has been a Member in Discernment with the Church and Ministry Commission, and has recently graduated from Harvard Divinity School. He will soon be beginning his first call to parish ministry.



**Milwaukee General Synod
June 21-25, 2019**

**Live by Faith,
Embody Love,
Proclaim Hope,
Seek Justice.**

Want to join a compassionate community making a difference? The UCC of Missoula (University Congregational, United Church of Christ) is seeking to fill the position of Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries. The Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries will build and manage programs and volunteers focused on a dynamic ministry to middle and high school youth of our church and will seek to engage and cultivate the faith of young adults. These tasks include, but are not limited to, coordinating events, fundraising, managing volunteers, build relationships with youth & young adults, work with pastor and other church staff for special programs, co-facilitate confirmation programs, attend all necessary church meetings, collaborate with other churches as appropriate, and manage budget. The Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries will need to be punctual, reliable, self-motivated, creative, willing to explore new ideas, innovative, skilled with event planning, strong organization skills, the ability to delegate, and comfortable recruiting attendees to programs/events. The UCC of Missoula is a progressive protestant church and open to diverse people and beliefs. We are an open and affirming church. This means that we celebrate our diversity in religious background, sexual orientation, race, and abilities. The Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries will need to have a fundamental understanding and respect for the faith, affirmations, and traditions of UCC.

Standard background check will be required upon offer and this position requires a valid driver's license. This position is a salaried and requires on average approximately 30-35 hours/week and will include some weekend hours, particularly on Sunday mornings. Pay will range between \$25,000 - \$27,000 annually depending on experience. Interested candidates may apply by sending their resume and cover letter to Amy Carter at amy@uccofmissoula.org. To guarantee consideration, please apply by July 20, 2017.



Medicine Lake Union Congregational UCC Church Closing

years of service to the Medicine Lake community.

Rev. Tim Hutslar retired in January of 2016 followed by the intern pastor Ron Martin-Dent who retired in July of 2017.

There will be a Service of Closure to celebrate the 107 years in Medicine Lake on Sunday, October 8 at 2:00 pm. The service will be officiated by Conference Minister, Rev. Marc Stewart and Rev. Tim Hutslar. All are invited to attend and help commemorate this long standing church congregation.



Prayers with Julie and Steve Gordon (Mayflower UCC) at the passing of Julie's mother, Barbara Jane Oliver, on July 28th.

Prayers with Huw Griffiths and Amy Carter (University UCC) at the passing of Huw's father, Vernon Griffiths, on July 29th. Vernon was a member at Butte UCC.

Prayers with Jill Bierwith as she concludes her interim ministry with Big Timber UCC and moves to an interim ministry in Pennsylvania.

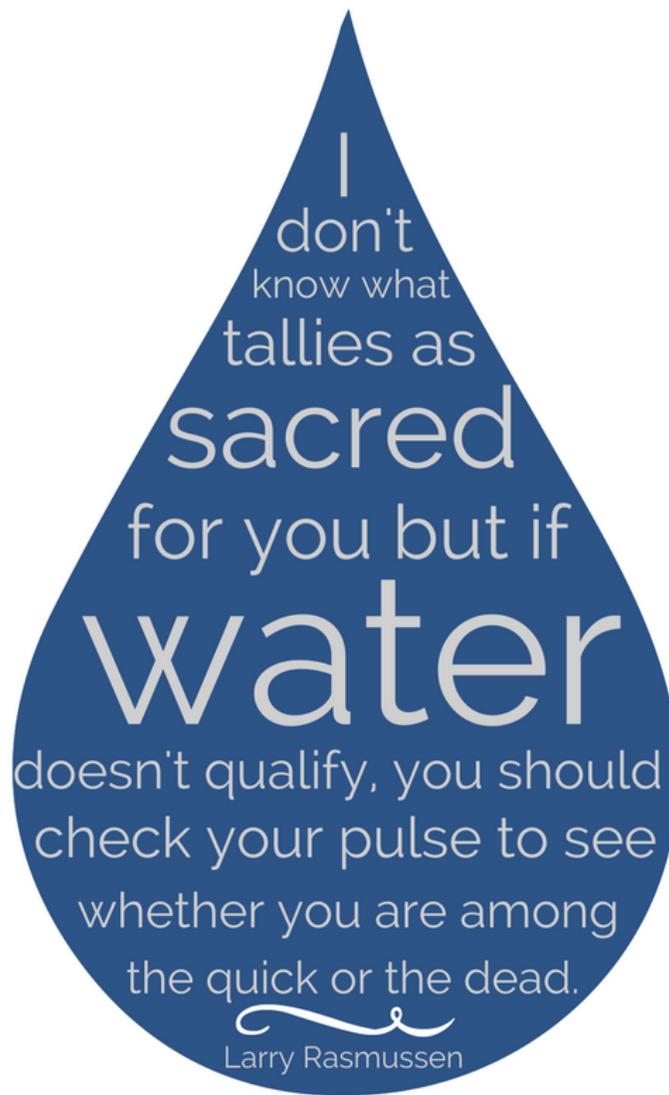
Prayers with those effected by the fires happening throughout our region, and with University UCC Missoula as they host evacuees.



Memorial Event for Scott Nicholson

Sunday, September 10, 2017 in Missoula

We hope you can attend. Please save the date and share the event with those you know loved Scott. Event details link:



Creation Justice Ministries is offering a "God's Gift of Water" prayer and action tool kit. Check it out [here](#).



First Congregational UCC-Great Falls, 2900 9th Avenue South,
will hold Our Whole Lives (OWL) training September 15-17, 2017.

We are scheduled to hold trainings for both elementary and secondary levels.

Registration deadline is August 31.

Contact OWL Registrar Janet Koostra at [406-727-8443](tel:406-727-8443) or janetkoostra@gmail.com for more info.



Marc Stewart at Big Timber UCC for Jill Bierwith's last Sunday, August 27

[Geography of Grace Sept 1-4](#)

Labor Day, office closed, September 4

Memorial Service for Scott Nicholson, September 10

[The Soul of Aging September 10-14](#)

Central Area clergy cluster meeting, September 14

Board of Directors Meeting, Camp Mimanagish, September 15-16

[OWL \(Our Whole Lives sexuality curriculum training\), Great Falls UCC September 15-17](#)

Ordination, Timothy Seery, Great Falls UCC, September 17 6 pm

East Area church cluster meeting, Miles City UCC/DOC September 30

Marc and Josie in Missoula (morning) and Great Falls (evening), Oct 1

[Faith Leadership and Counselor Exploration Retreat, October 6-8](#)

Central Area church cluster meeting, Kaleva Park, Red Lodge, October 7

Closing Worship at Medicine Lake UCC, October 8, 2 pm

[Adulting Retreat, October 13-15](#)

[Fall Youth Camp Oct 19-21](#)

[Visioning II Retreat, October 19-21](#)

[Camp Closing October 20-21](#)

Did You Know...

That we are on Facebook? Stay in touch and get all the latest news by liking our page.



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