

# April 2018

## Showers of Vitality



New Church Vitality  
[What's New in the UCC](#)

What is OCWM?  
[2 minute youtube video](#)

Rocky Mountain College  
Wheatley Lecture videos  
[Creating Community in Fracturing Times](#)

New: The Micah Chat  
[Live ZOOM chat: April 19](#)



- [God-seeds](#)
- [Faith Formation](#)
- ["Be the Change" Youth Retreat](#)
- [Global Mission Visitor](#)
- [Conference Annual Meeting](#)
- [West Region Youth Event](#)
- [Calendar Items and Mimanagish Summer Schedule](#)
- [Social Media links](#)



**God-seeds, reflections from Marc Stewart**  
*All persons are caught in an inescapable  
network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of  
destiny. Whatever affects one directly affects all*



***be what you ought to be until I am what I ought to be. This is the inter-related structure of reality.***

***-- Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.***

The largest crowd I have ever been in was on the Washington DC mall for the [1983 twentieth anniversary](#) of MLK's March on Washington. Now, this month, there is an A.C.T. Now (Awaken, Confront, Transform): Unite to End Racism action happening in Washington on the 50th anniversary of MLK's assassination. I will be there for the three days of worship, vigil, speeches, and advocacy. The numbers of participants will be far fewer, but the witness may indeed be greater for the three days of various actions. How we count the impact of faithful presence may be more about our outreach than our in-gathering.

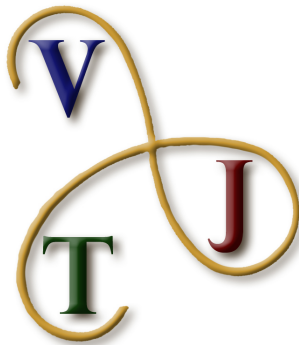
A national focus to unite to end racism is a vital reminder of our inter-related well-being. But, it needs to come on home. I am so blessed to be a member of First UCC Billings in these times, as it is transforming into a faithful church that is more than its Sunday morning worship. This church is becoming a home base for a diversity of ministries, especially with the urban Native American community. A diversity of ministries is leading to a deeper sense of inter-relatedness in our fellowship, worship, and public witness ministries. This week, First Church hosts "[the Longest Walk](#)" team of 20+ Native Americans walking to Washington DC, and stopping in communities along the way to teach and speak against alcohol, drug abuse, and domestic violence.

Some of our churches have utilized our UCC [white privilege curriculum](#). These video and written resources can be accessed and used for your own personal study time. Racism and white privilege are such personal topics. My own experience is that when I have done personal work on understanding my white privilege, racism, and sexism, I have found myself to be better able to relate to people who are different than me. (Yes, as I have shared before, I consider myself to be a recovering racist and recovering misogynist.) The thing is, the silo effect that comes from shutting out relationships often extends from those who are the "outsiders" in our lives, to those with whom we are most personally related. Opening ourselves to diverse relationships makes us better spouses, parents, and friends.

Considering our own privilege, racism, and sexism is vital to who we are as people and churches of faith. With prayerful self-reflection, honest self-assessment, and concerted spiritual study a person and church can undo the powers that have bound them from fully relating to others. We know that the inspiration that comes from such faithful self-assessment can make such a difference that even a few people can have more of an impact than even hundreds of thousands.

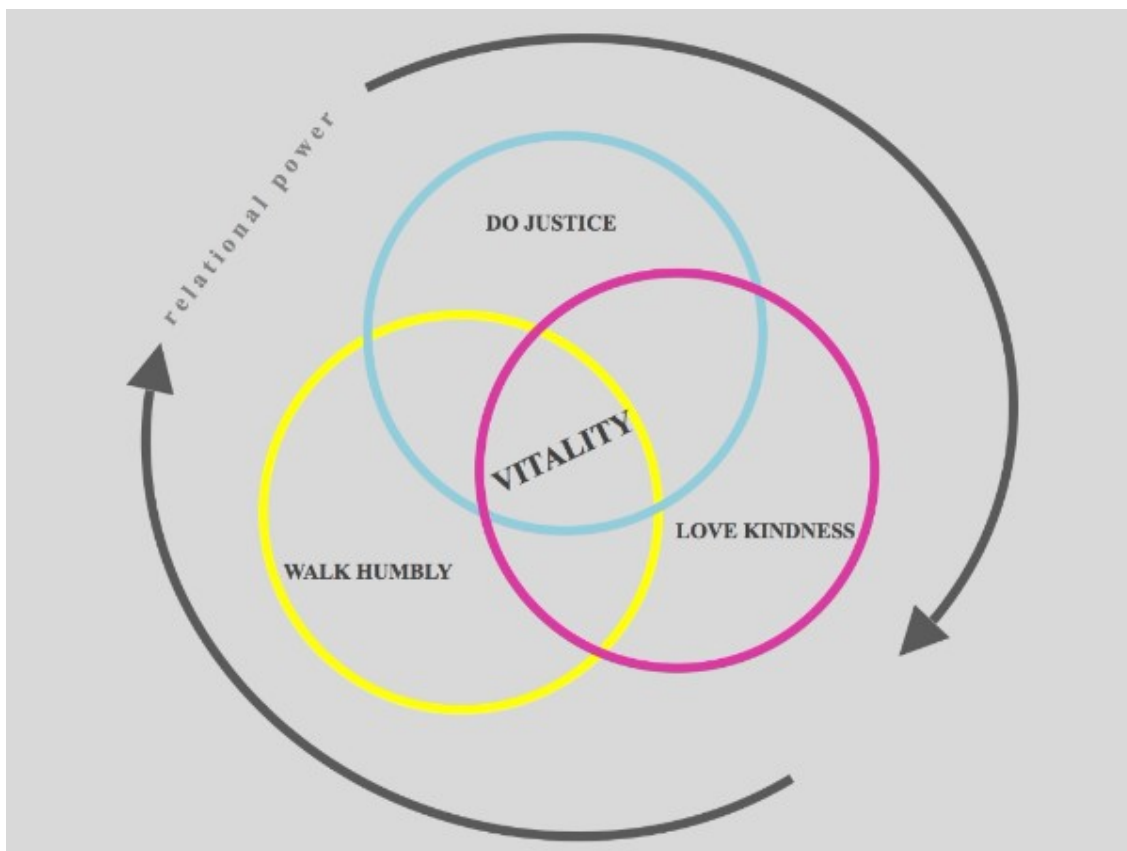
mean: lives, far and wide, are being impacted for the sake of Gospel. It only takes a few. Who are they in your faith community? When is it you being impacted, or making the difference?

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

1. All congregations will be vital and viable



You are invited to join Marc Stewart for a monthly conversation about church vitality and viability happening in our churches. Every third Thursday, from 3:30 - 4:30 pm, Marc will host a ZOOM chat for conversations. Join on April 19 by connection on our computer, tablet, or smart phone through this link:

Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android: <https://zoom.us/j/8013404215>

Or iPhone one-tap :

US: +16699006833,,8013404215# or +16465588656,,8013404215#

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

How does your church justly compensate your minister and staff? Take a look at the [clergy compensation guidelines](#) as a tool to assess your compensation package.

**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](mailto: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.

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## Be the Change

Easter is a wonderful time to reflect on our own personal spiritual growth practices. It's a time to connect with one another and celebrate Jesus' triumph over death.

I am a Christian Education Director, working with children and youth. My ministry aims to provide them with opportunities to grow a deeper understanding of God and the world around them.

Each Sunday is a opportunity to tell a child and youth that they are special, their voices matter, their prayers are heard, and their choices create change.

Each Sunday is also a opportunity to celebrate and honor Jesus' teachings, and the revolutionary way he changed the world.

and current events.

Guest Speakers included a Doctor providing medical relief to Syrian refugees, a retired couple building wheelchairs for disabled children in Mexico, a presentation by the director of a Homeless Teen Shelter, and workshops by Conflict Resolution instructors. Each of these presenters work to create change in their communities. They saw a need and felt a strong desire to help.

This year's Spring Retreat is titled "Be the Change". Young people across the globe are finding their voices ranging a myriad of topics. From school gun violence, gender inequality, race relations, and environmental concerns, our young people have a voice and it's our responsibility as adults to listen.

On April 20-21st, youth ages 12-18 in the Montana Northern Wyoming Conference are invited to participate in this years retreat as we look to our faith and the teaching's of Jesus Christ as a vehicle to discuss various topics.

Special guest speakers Mayor Wilmot Collins of Helena, and First Nations Activist Marena Mahto will share their experiences creating change in their communities.

Group discussions, bonding exercises, devotions, and a trip to the laser dash stadium will round out the event.

Just as the early Christians celebrated Jesus' resurrection as part of a daily remembrance, we also have a opportunity to rejoice. Take this time as a reminder to look into areas where you want to create change. Let us be Easter People, reflecting on Christ's resurrection and the hope given to us all.  
To register for the retreat email: [rogersmt@mail.com](mailto:rogersmt@mail.com)

Many Blessings,  
Rev. Danielle Rogers  
CE Director Pilgrim Congregational UCC  
Faith Formation member

# Be The Change



Youth Retreat  
April 20-21st  
Bozeman

tendencies present in the outer world are to be found in the world of our body. If we could change ourselves, the tendencies in the world would also change. As a man changes his own nature, so does the attitude of the world change towards him. This is the divine mystery supreme. A wonderful thing it is and the source of our happiness. We need not wait to see what others do."



Mahatma Gandhi



voices heard. They care about a myriad of issues ranging from school violence, to racial injustice and gender inequality.

This year we are blessed with two wonderful guest speakers working to create change in their communities.

Mayor of Helena **Wilmot Collins** will speak about his life experiences as an ex-refugee and his current roll as Mayor of Helena.



**Marena Mahto** a activist for indigenous people, will talk about her life changing experience at Standing Rock and her desire to help first nation women.



## April 20th

### 5:30pm Check in

5:30-6:30pm Introductions and Dinner

6:30-7:00pm Speaker  
Marena Mahto

7:15-7:30pm Reflection

7:30-9:30pm Be the Change  
games

10pm Devotion and  
Multimedia Presentation

10:30pm Sleep

## April 21st

9am Breakfast

10am Reflection

11am-12pm Guest Speaker  
Mayor Wilmot Collins

12-12:30 Lunch

1-3:30 Group Outing

4-4:30pm Closing remarks  
Clean up

## What to Bring!

Sleeping bag, pillow, night  
Clothes.

Comfortable shoes

Change of Clothes

Toothbrush Tooth paste

Towel and Soap to wash up

**Cost \$50**

**(Scholarships available)**

**No Cell Phones Please**

Contact

Rev. Danielle Rogers

(406) 587-3690

rogersmt@mail.com

Romans 12:2

"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."

Ezekiel 36:26

"Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh



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**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,



Starts Friday noon and ends after worship on Sunday

Friday luncheon keynote with Rev. Courtney Stange-Tregear, Church Vitality 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](mailto:ucc@mnwcucc.org)

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### Mimanagish retreats and camps planned for the 2018 season.

Mimanagish, our church conference camp and retreat center, is gearing up for its busiest, most diverse summer ever. See [www.mimanagish.org](http://www.mimanagish.org) for more details on all offerings and to register. Please share this information with your church youth, parents and small groups.

Calling Counselors: if you would like to spend some time in the mountains and have an impact on a child's life, be a camp counselor at Mimanagish this summer! We are looking for individuals sixteen years and older for camps grades 2-8. Checkout [www.mimanagish.org](http://www.mimanagish.org) for each camp's dates and the counselor application. See you at Mimanagish!

### Mimanagish Master Plan Update-

Have you long had an idea for improving Camp Mimanagish? Is there one thing that especially sticks out in your mind? The draft Master Plan for Mimanagish will soon be going to the Forest Service for review. If you have not already done so, please submit your comments to the Conference office or attend a Master Plan review session at your church if one has not already been held. If you wish, give me a call at (406) 443-0677 to let me know your thoughts and please check out the camp calendar on-line to mark your dates when you can get up to the Upper Boulder River this season!

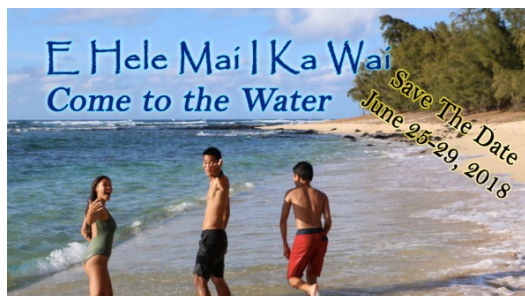


## Camp Mimanagish Store

1. Give the gift of a full or partial Mimanagish Camp registration.
2. Give a donation to Mimanagish in honor of a love one. ([Donation link](#))
3. New merchandise for the 2018 Mimanagish season is under development.

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**West Region Youth Event**  
read all about it and register at:  
<https://www.uccwrye.com/>





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 11 Stewardship Ministry Team, Conference office 7 pm  
April 12 Central area clergy cluster, 10 am - 2 pm Conference office  
April 12 Faith Formation Committee, ZOOM at noon  
April 15 Marc with [Absarokee Community UCC](#)  
April 19 [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 -  
April 20-21 Church and Ministry Commission, Billings office  
April 20-21 Youth Retreat Bozeman, Pilgrim UCC  
April 22 Marc with [Red Lodge UCC](#)  
April 29 Marc with Baker UCC  
May 5 [Rocky Mountain College](#) graduation  
May 6 Marc with [University UCC](#) Missoula for Rev. Amy Carter's last Sunday  
May 1-3 [UCC Clergywomen Retreat](#), Carefree, AZ  
**May 17-18 [Camp Opening](#), Mimanagish**  
**May 18-20 [Kick-off Camp](#), Mimanagish Mike Reiter**

May 31 Clergy Boundary Training offered through ELCA in Great Falls  
**June 1-3, [Women's Retreat](#), Mimanagish with Marcia Warner**  
**June 8-10, [Men's Retreat](#), Mimanagish with Mike Downing**  
**June 10-14 [Soul of Aging](#), Mimanagish with Cathy Barker**  
**June 14-17 [Creative Arts Camp](#), Mimanagish with Virginia Bryan**  
**June 11-15 [Creative Writing Camp](#), Mimanagish with Russell Rowland**  
June 14 UCC [Clergy Boundary Training](#), Great Falls 11 AM - 5 PM  
June 15-17 [Conference Annual Meeting](#), Great Falls noon Friday through Sunday  
June 25-29 West Region [Youth Event](#)  
June 25-July 10 Marc Stewart on vacation  
**June 28-July 1 [Yoga, Wellness, and Cleanse Retreat](#), Mimanagish with Lisa Harmon**  
**June 28-July 1 [Our Whole Lives \(OWL\) Adult Program](#), Mimanagish with Ann Hanson**  
**July 5-8 [Grandparents and Me Camp](#), Mimanagish with Trudy Downer**  
**July 8-14 [Grades 9-12 Camp](#), Mimanagish with Lynne Spencer-Smith**  
**July 14 [Seasoned Adults Retreat](#), Mimanagish with Marc Stewart**  
**July 15-17 [Mini and Me Camp](#), Mimanagish with Missy Evans**  
**July 17-21 [Grades 2-3 Camp](#), Mimanagish with Nicholas Knoblauch**  
**July 22-28 [Grades 4-5 Camp](#), Mimanagish with Dwight Welch**  
**July 29-Aug 4 [Grades 6-8 Camp](#), Mimanagish with Cheryl Stewart**  
**Aug 7-9 [Mini and Me Science Inquiry](#), Mimanagish with Jenn Grace**  
**Aug 10-12 [Fishing Camp](#), Mimanagish with Marc Stewart**  
**Aug 12-18 [PRIDE Camp](#), Mimanagish with Bobbie Zenker**  
**Sept 7-9 [Civic Action Retreat](#), Mimanagish with Tricia Decker**  
**Sept 10-12 [Pastors Sept Spa Camp](#), Mimanagish with Pension Boards Wellness Team**  
**Sept 13-15 [Board of Directors at 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 NEW CONFERENCE WEB SITE  
[www.mnwcucc.org](http://www.mnwcucc.org)  
and our NEW MIMANAGISH WEB SITE  
[www.mimanagish.org](http://www.mimanagish.org)

latest news by liking our page.

[Click here!](#)

And check out our Camp Mlmanagish 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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