

September 2021 eNews

Just Peace Sunday



Rev. Dr. Ginny Brown Daniel

Ginny's Gems

This Sunday is [Just Peace Sunday](#) within the United Church of Christ (worship materials available in the link). I first learned of this UCC group's existence 20 years ago after the devastation of 9/11. As the nation was considering retaliation options, I found myself yearning for another way to respond; it was

the Just Peace advocates, who verbalized what was tumbling within my spirit. As they state on their website, "Just Peace is not a destination, but a path requiring awareness and constant vigilance to resolve existing and developing conflict in ourselves, our families, our communities, our institutions, and our world." A path requiring awareness and constant vigilance. Yes!

I don't know about you, but lately I have yearned for a magic wand to create peace in the turbulent areas of our lives: wearing a mask that has become a political statement, inhaling lingering smoke from the nearby wildfires, churches and clergy weary from this on-going disruption to church as we have known (and loved) it, legislation passed to prevent women from their constitutional right to reproductive choice, racial microaggressions that prevent true equity in God's beloved community. Whew! Where is the road map for Just Peace right now?

I am reminded of the story of Jesus and the disciples on the boat during the storm in Mark 4:35-41. Perhaps this story comes to my spirit because, as I write this, I am watching the rain and wind from tropical storm Nicholas right outside my office window. The gospel recounts that as Jesus slept in the boat, a windstorm tossed the boat deeper in the raging waters. The disciples woke Jesus with startling words said out of their fear, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" Jesus awoke, rebuked, the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace, be still."

For the past six weeks, your Conference board has been discussing the book, [Another Way: Living and Leading Change on Purpose](#). The authors state that when a person or community is discerning their direction and purpose, the first step to their discernment should be to Create Hospitable Space. This doesn't mean it is always safe or free of risk and danger. It means the space is free of our usual barriers we erect out of our own fear and discomfort with the unknown.

In many ways, Jesus created this type of hospitable space within the boat so that even as the storm raged, he was grounded in a sense of who and whose he was. As his actions matched his words of peace, his self-awakening question invited the disciples to create that hospitable space for themselves as well: Why are you afraid?

Just Peace Sunday does not mean we ignore all of the chaos occurring in our communities at this moment. It reminds us that to follow the unconventional ways of Christ, we must choose another way to respond to the chaos. We do this by setting aside all of our fear-based barriers. Peace, be still. It means becoming aware of who and whose we are to create hospitable space. It means pausing from the storms raging within and around us long enough to ponder Jesus' question to each and all of us: Why are you afraid?

Churches of the Montana-Northern Wyoming Conference, may you follow the ways of Jesus as you create hospitable space in the midst of the storms of your community. May Divine Peace be our teacher this day and always.

Blessings, Ginny



Communication Procedures During Sabbatical

1. Call or email the conference office as needed (2-3 day response) to [406-656-8688](tel:406-656-8688) or jpenfield@mncucc.org
2. Email [Rev. Dr. Ginny Brown Daniel](#) for church questions and needs
3. Email [Rev. Lynne Spencer Smith](#) regarding Conference administrative concerns or staff concerns
4. Email eNews material to [Jennifer Penfield](#) by the 10th of each month
5. In emergencies call the conference office. If no one is available at the office, a voice recording will provide a number to call.



Conference News

Send church news items to ucc@mnwcucc.org before the 10th of each month.

Installation of Pastor Anne Knighten

You are invited to join the congregations of
St. Luke's Lutheran Church and Union Congregational Church
in celebrating the Installation of

Pastor Anne Knighten
on
Saturday, September 25, 2021
at 1:00 pm at
St. Luke's Lutheran Church,
615 N Burritt Avenue
Buffalo, Wyoming

Dessert and beverage served, following the service.

Here is everything you need to view the
Saturday Installation Service at 1 pm (MST):
Contact the church at [307-684-2958](tel:307-684-2958) for zoom link information.

FACEBOOK

St. Luke's ELCA, Buffalo, Wyoming (Live Stream)

YOUTUBE / St. Luke's

Lutheran<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOR4vm4JUWNACQBztBG5hbA>

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Molt's Little White Church – 101 Years!



Article and Photo by Trudi Downer

Never Too Late to Celebrate!

The little white building proudly stands right where it should be – right in the middle of the town of Molt – where for 101 years, it has proudly provided worship, comfort, support, and service to the entire community.

The Congregational Church of Molt celebrated 100 years in February 2020, with a special worship service which brought together current members, past members, and friends to mark the landmark date. The plan was to have a public celebration in the fall to celebrate the anniversary and to celebrate the special community which surrounds the little white Church in the middle of town. Following a delay caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, that celebration is going to take place on September 26, 2021, when the Church treats the community and friends throughout the area to a special Worship Service at 11:00 at the Church followed by a Bluegrass Jam and barbeque at 1:00 at the Molt Community Center. Folks are invited to bring their instruments and join the jam or to spend time listening to the music and enjoying the barbeque cooked by the men of Molt Church and served by the women of Molt Church. The event is being billed as “Prairie Winds Revisited” because it is reminiscent of the live Bluegrass music heard for many years at the Prairie Winds Café. The Church has chosen to celebrate the 100-year milestone by celebrating the community they have been proud to serve.

The Church story began in February 1920 when a group of Molt area residents met to formally organize a Church. The group borrowed the sum of \$1500 from the First National Bank of Molt. They purchased a vacant schoolhouse from east of Molt and moved the building to two lots purchased from Rudolph Molt where they had dug a basement mostly by hand. The Congregational Church of Molt

was born. Later a Grant Mortgage of \$700 was received from the Congregational Building Society of New York to finish the building project. Repayments of the loans were finally completed in 1961.

A Sunday School and Ladies Aid were organized right away. Without the valiant struggles of the women to help with the ministers' salaries and loan payments, there could not have been a Church. Many a quilt was quilted for \$2.50 and many a hearty lunch was served for 10 cents to meet expenses. Despite the struggle to meet expenses, benevolences were freely given by the Church to support the war effort, church-related colleges, mission projects, and especially to local food baskets for the needy, and to aid neighbors needing a helping hand especially giving comfort to bereaved families.

Long-time Molt resident and member of Molt Church, Grace Leuthold, stated in a history written in 1990, "As was stated in the preamble of 1920, 'The congregational Church platform is broad enough to give room for all persons of whatever denominational belief.' That covenant has been kept with the community and the doors of the Congregational Church of Molt still stand open to all, serving everyone as was intended when first begun.' "

Molt Church is proud to invite friends and neighbors around the area to enjoy "Prairie Winds Revisited" Bluegrass Jam on Sunday, September 26, 2021. It will be a joyous celebration of 101 years of service and a big thank you to a wonderful community. [Click here to open the Bluegrass Jam pdf.](#)



PRAIRIE WINDS REVISITED!
A Celebration of Community
September 26, 2021

WORSHIP SERVICE 11:00 am Molt Church	BLUEGRASS JAM SESSION 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm Molt Community Center
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Molt Church is celebrating 100 years of ministry
by
Celebrating the Extended Community of Molt

Hamburgers, Hot Dogs cooked by the Molt Church Men
Salad, Chips, Drinks Dessert served by the Molt Church Women
Cost: Freewill Donation

Bring your instrument and join the jam
or
Come have some barbeque and listen to the music!
Relive the days of live Bluegrass at the Prairie Winds Café



In Memory of Dennis Brophy

[Donate Here](#)

Greetings, Clergy! In memory of our dear brother and your colleague, Dennis Brophy, the Red Lodge Community Church is working on an outreach project that we are doing in Dennis' name.

Our Stewardship, Outreach and Facilities Committees have agreed to plant, in Dennis' honor and memory, a new garden and a tree in the yard of our neighbor and church member, Grazia Giacomelli.

Why the neighbor's yard, you ask? This house shares a yard and sidewalk with our church and our church grounds do not need updating or additional plantings at this time and Grazia is a beautiful and dedicated member of our worshiping community who not only needs the financial and physical assistance of our church, she is also an immigrant from Italy. Our committees, at Pastor Pam's recommendation, felt that by updating and maintaining her garden and yard we would be honoring both of Dennis' passions in life – gardening and traveling abroad.

Jesus teaches us that we never know when we are entertaining angels, and Red Lodge Community Church's outreach to our community counts every community member as an angel. We would love to include you in this project by accepting donations toward this endeavor.

You may make a financial donation through our church's website <https://www.redlodgecommunitychurch.com/giving.html> using the "Memorial" selection, and ALSO email Pastor Pam at pastorpampeterson@gmail.com so that she can make sure that your Memorial Donation is recorded in honor of Dennis (we don't have the technology in place yet for our system to record who you made your donation in honor of.)

Due to COVID we were not able to offer a memorial service for Dennis' clergy colleagues, however we will be doing an outdoor dedication service in late September once all of the gardening and planting is done. We will let you know the date!

Thank you for being a wonderful part of Dennis' legacy to both the beauty of the earth and the joy of traversing God's creation.

Your Servants in Christ,
Red Lodge Community Church, UCC

[Click here for the Powell Tribune article remembering Dennis Brophy.](#)
<https://www.powelltribune.com/stories/remembering-dennis-brophy,27477>



Outdoor Ministry Adult Camps 2021

Camp Season 2021 has brought our summer to a close. Thank you for wonderful memories and support during this season. Take a look at the photo

galleries of the adults camps encountered at Christikon.

[*Click here to view Yoga, Creative Hearts and Fly Fishing camps!*](#)





Green Team Worship Resource

The Conference Green Team began meeting again! We began our meeting by sharing some resources to use in worship to help us understand and appreciate the gifts of God's creation. Here is a Call to Worship that we shared.

*Please give credit to the writers of the liturgy, if you use this in worship.
Developed by Rev. David Huber and Kathy Bartilson, members of The Green Group, Wisconsin Conference UCC.*

The reference in this prayer is to the geography and the animals in the Wisconsin area. You could rewrite this liturgy, and add animals, lakes, and mountains local to your area to make it more relevant to where you live.

Call to Worship

Leader: In the beginning, the Spirit of God moved over the waters,

People: and God said "Unbind creation and let her out!" and God declared it to be Good.

Leader: God said, "let there be light" and called the light "Day" and the darkness "Night."

People: God spoke the word to call the land from the water, pulling Green Lake (body of water near you) down to the depths and raising Timms Hill (body of water near you) above the waters, and in God's eyes they were Good.

Leader: God's word called to life the soybean and the milking cow, the robin and the earthworm,

People: the honey bee and the gray wolf, the microbe and the muskellunge (or buffalo), and God's heart saw them to be Good.

Leader: Then God spoke a final time, making creatures who carry the divine image: us.

People: Forming humans by holy word, male and female together, to tend and steward all that God had made.

Leader: And God saw that it was all Very Good.

People: And God declared that it is all Very Good.

Leader: On the seventh day, God rested.

People: And on this seventh day, we come to worship and remember our role as partners in creation.

Check out the latest issue of the [Creation Justice Newsletter from June 2021](#).

To subscribe to the Creation Justice newsletter please email
office@mayflowerofbillings.com

MAYFLOWER

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST BILLINGS

MAYFLOWER CREATION JUSTICE NEWS

June 30, 2021

TASK FORCE UPDATE

Over the past month...

- We have collaborated with Amy on how to formally announce and celebrate our Creation Justice designation during worship on June 27.
- We continue to work on the songbird habitat – preparing the soil for planting and reaching out to community and congregation volunteers and partners.
- We are currently working on developing a legislative arm of the Creation Justice Task Force – to help educate about and refine the meaning of relevant future legislation.
- We are laying the foundation for discussion and education on how to become a zero-waste church, with our goal to begin this process in Fall 2021.

Webinar Opportunity:

Recycling Electronics

Yellowstone E-Waste Solutions of Billings will recycle many broken or obsolete items you might be tempted to pitch in the trash. To name a few: alarm clocks; copiers; speakers; CD players; computers; modems; game controller; shredders; cordless phones; surge protectors; vacuums; power strips; microwaves; and more. The business cannot take computers or televisions with tubes. Check out their website for a full list of the things they take by clicking [here](#).

Yellowstone E-Waste Solutions is located at 419 North 15th Street and is open Wednesday through Saturday from 10:00-5:00.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The next work session for the songbird habitat will be Saturday, July 10th. We will gather between 8:30 - 9:00

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Pastoral Ministry

Pastors in Churches Considering Closure

Monthly Zoom Conversation

Few church pastors and leaders ever anticipate or hope to engage in the process of ending a congregation's active life. To support pastors in churches considering closure, Rev. David Schoen, Minister for Church Closure and Legacy in the UCC Church Building & Loan Fund, holds a monthly zoom conversation to address the experience and role of ministers in the closure process, difficult conversations, grief and conflict, missional and resurrection theology, and

clergy self-care. Pastors are invited to contact David Schoen to participate:
dschoen@ucc.org.

Behavioral Covenants with Congregations

Rev. Tara Barber and the Rev. Dr. Chris Davies

Wednesday, October 13, 7:30pm – 9:00pm ET

All congregations have norms for how people treat one another, especially in times of conflict. Many of those norms are implicit, vague, or even unhealthy. However, there is another way! Behavioral Covenants can provide an excellent framework for communication practices, conflict resolution, and community norms. Developing such covenants within communities can help members and staff alike name best community practices and express their hopes for how congregations function as a Christian community. Join Rev. Tara Barber and Rev. Dr. Chris Davies for a conversation on developing and implementing behavioral covenants with congregations. [Register here for the zoom meeting.](#)

Healthy Pastoral Relations Committees

Rev. Tara Barber

Monday, October 18 7:00 – 8:30pm ET

Pastoral Relations Committees provide essential leadership in the life of a congregation. Come to this workshop to explore what the purpose of a PPR Committee is and is not. We'll be talking through a newly developed PRC covenant to help name the priorities and commitments of a well-functioning PRC. Rev. Tara Barber will share best practices from around the church and be prepared to answer your questions. [Register here for the zoom meeting.](#)



Copyright Concerns For Ministries



During these challenging times, ministries rely heavily on the virtual environment and various electronic mediums to share the printed forms of inspiring poetry, quotes from prayer books and daily affirmations, as well as words from songs during worship and through other forms of ministry. As a result, some ministries have been shocked to discover they are actually in violation of copyright infringement; join us as Heather Kimmel General Counsel, United Church of Christ, offers valuable information on how to help your ministry avoid this situation.



September 29th @ 2pm EST

[**CLICK HERE TO REGISTER**](#)



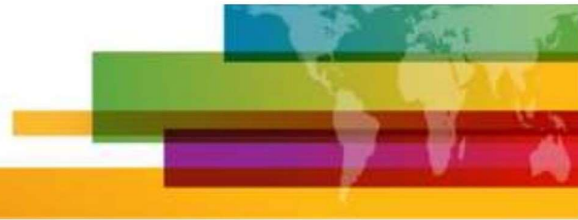
Heather E. Kimmel is the General Counsel of the United Church of Christ. She has been serving in that capacity since December 1, 2015. She joined the Office of General Counsel as Associate General Counsel in 2013. Before joining the National Setting of the United Church of Christ, she was an attorney at two large law firms and served as a federal judicial clerk.



Ministry Partner Updates



Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
and the United Church of Christ



Webinar: World Communion Sunday Worship

The first Sunday of October has become a time when Christians in every culture break bread and pour the cup to remember and affirm Christ as the Head of the Church. On that day, we remember that we are part of the whole body of believers. Join us the Wednesday before World Communion Sunday as we celebrate and worship together.

[Register here for the webinar](#) on Wednesday, September 29, 2021 at 2PM ET/ 11AM PT.



Refugee and Migration Ministries

“Now we are in different place, different culture, different everything.” Shaymaa, Iraqi refugee resettled in Pennsylvania



The United Church of Christ has a long history of providing welcome and creating robust structures of welcome for the resettlement of refugees and the protection of asylees within the United States while advocating for and responding to the needs of the displaced globally.

We've also accompanied asylum seekers as they have sought permanent sanctuary in the United States.

Around the world, the UCC supports local communities that welcome people fleeing the effects of war, violence, persecution and political disruption – whether those people are displaced within their country of origin or across a border into a neighboring country. This helps strengthen a delicate social balance for the well-being of all.

[Learn more here.](#)



Global H.O.P.E. Kit Matching Grant Application (20–22)

Deadline: January 28 2022 at 11:59 PM EST (Midnight)

DESCRIPTION

Following domestic and international disasters, the need to distribute specific material aid is often crucial to the recovery process. UCC Disaster Ministries, UCC Conferences and congregations support these efforts by assembling Church World Service Hygiene Kits, School Kits and Clean Up Kits that are stored and can be shipped at a moment's notice. In an effort to support Church World Service in restocking these kits, UCC Disaster Ministries is offering matching grants of up to \$250 per congregation on a first-come, first-serve basis to qualifying applicants.

Members of the denomination can assist disaster relief efforts by assembling various kits that are warehoused by CWS, ready to be shipped at a moment's notice when the need arises. The Disaster Ministries team is hoping the financial aid offered to congregations will kick start a church-wide effort to restock these much-needed supplies.

[Click here to apply for this grant](#)





Neighbors in Need Offering: October 3, 2021

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the [Council for American Indian Ministry](#) (CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants. Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice. This year, special consideration will be given to projects focusing on serving our immigrant neighbors and communities.

Most UCC congregations will receive the NIN offering on **October 3, 2021** as part of their World Communion Sunday observance. However, some local churches select another date. NIN contributions can be made online at any time [here](#).



United Church of Christ Disabilities
Ministries

**Access Sunday – Sunday,
October 10, 2021**

Second Sunday in October. Each year, one Sunday is designated on the UCC church calendar as Access Sunday. In 2021, October 10th will be the occasion that all the UCC will join together in celebrating the gifts of persons with disabilities and the strides that the church has made in being more whole through becoming more accessible.



It is also a day that we, the church, acknowledge the journey yet to be taken with our siblings with disabilities.

Pastors and lay leaders, invite your congregation to join your UCC friends around the country in celebrating [Access Sunday](#) on this day, or on a Sunday more fitting to your church calendar.

Resources for Access Sunday, October 10, 2021

[Liturgy for a complete worship service in PDF](#)

[Liturgy for a complete worship service in Word](#)



Little lessons in empathy

"Do to others whatever you would like them to do to you. This is the essence of all that is taught in the law and the prophets." -Jesus (Matt. 7:12)

Our interactions with others are based on the internal narrative we believe about ourselves, our place in the world, and how others are going to treat us. Children who—through trauma, a mental health struggle, or some other relational and emotional challenge—believe themselves to be “less than” others regularly have difficulty in relationships. Reciprocation, grace, and the empathy needed to form trusting bonds with loved ones must be modeled for these children to challenge their inner narrative of not being good enough.

Chaplain Sami Pack-Toner has spent many hours in the cottages on our Helena campus, seeking to build relationships with the children she is serving in ministry. She regularly finds herself one-on-one with a child that the staff have suggested might need a little extra attention. One such child is Alissa. A favorite activity of young Alissa, Sami related, is to play chess and other games where there is a clear winner and loser.

“I am not particularly good at chess,” Sami explains, “maybe that’s why Alissa chooses to play with me?” Sami proceeds to chuckle as she tells the story. “But, an interesting thing has happened as we play more and more. At first, I could see her satisfaction in beating me in a game of chess... self-validation that was just about her success. Now, whenever she wins, she makes sure to encourage me and tells me not to give up. She has learned empathy and shows it in these little ways, which is such a beautiful and lovely way to see that she is healing and trusting that she (and others!) are worthwhile, even when they don’t win.” This modeled behavior from her staff and family is starting to be internalized, helping Alissa trust that she deserves loving, healthy relationships.



Intermountain’s transformative approach of meets children where they are—developmentally and relationally—and builds empathy and trust in hurting children. Thank you for supporting our mission and ministry!

For more information or to support this life-changing work, call or text Chris at 465-9693 or email chrish@intermountain.org

2021 Annual Fundraiser Dinner

September 28, 2021
5:30 PM
Glacier Room MSUB SUB

The Rt. Rev, Marty Stebbins, the Episcopal bishop of MT, is our keynote speaker.

This event includes a full dinner, a chance to hear the stories of students and meet them, and a silent and live auction to support UCM's ministry.

Tickets are \$50, Churches can purchase a table for \$400 for up to six people., \$500 for 8 people, \$600-1000 to secure an extra table to share information about your church or organization



Resource Quick Links



[The Board of Directions Conference Video](#)

One Community, Many Long Roads

The Board of Directors has produced a video where church members throughout the Conference tell why our ministry is important to them.

[Watch Here](#)



[Now Available: 2021 Stewardship Resource](#)

Rooted in Love

Coordinated stewardship materials for your congregation's annual stewardship efforts. The "Rooted in Love" theme draws inspiration from Psalm 1: "They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season."

Resources include:

- Directions and suggestions for an effective campaign
- Social media and email directions
- Letters and newsletter articles (ready for editing)
- OCWM Basic Support Coloring Pages
- Theme artwork (formats: PDF | EPS | JPG | PNG), including for social media.



[50 General Synod workshop videos available for purchase](#)

Living the Best of General Synod

Workshop videos and children resources can be purchased through December 31, 2021. Check out the workshop Rev. Dr. Marc Stewart co-lead on starting a UCC Rural Ministries Coalition, along with Rev. Dr. Bonnie Bates and Rev. Dr. Roberto Ochoa

Workshop Orders



Calendar

Send calendar items to [Conference office](#) by the 10th of each month

September 14 - Green Team, 2:00 pm

September 16 - Conference Board of Directors, 10:00 am - noon

September 22 - Outdoor Ministries, 7:00 pm

September 28 - MSUB Fundraising Dinner, 5:30 pm

October 21 - Executive Committee meeting 10:00 am - noon

November 18 - Conference Annual Business Meeting for 2022
Budget and Elections 7:00 - 9:00 pm

Until November 8 - Marc Stewart is on Sabbatical

Wednesdays thru Nov 8 - Board Book Study, 1:00 pm



Montana - N.Wyoming Conference United Church of Christ

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