



MAYFLOWER WEEKLY

January 18, 2023

From The Pastor

Dear People of Mayflower,

At a time when our national discourse is more divisive than ever, I find myself drawn to the words of Paul in the first letter to the Corinthians. In 1 Corinthians 1: 10-18, Paul writes, "now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of

our Saviour, Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and same purpose."

If I could have a conversation with Paul, I would ask him, "what do you mean by unity? What does it mean to be united?" The people of the Corinthian church were trying to live out their lives in light of their baptism in Christ. But their divisions were getting the best of them - creating a community in conflict.

Even as I read Paul's call to unity, I am reminded of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s quotes about unity. In his letter from Birmingham Jail, he wrote, "In a real sense, all life is interrelated. All people are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly."

In the Gospel of John, Jesus prays, "That they may all be one." These words have, for many years, been the motto of the United Church of Christ. What does it mean, then, for us to pray this prayer today? What does it mean for us as Christ's church to be united today? Unity is what I am pondering this week. I would love to hear any words of wisdom you can share.



Blessings,

Amy

Quarterly Meeting

We will have our quarterly meeting on January 29, right after worship. At this meeting, we will be passing a budget for 2023. Your presence and involvement in the meeting are greatly appreciated!

Mission & Outreach

The Mission and Outreach Committee would like to hear about your service to our community!

As we look at the various opportunities for volunteering and service in the Billings area, from the Friendship House to St. Vincent de Paul, we would love to hear from the congregation about how you are involved in service. We know how much good is being done throughout Billings by our congregation members and are excited to be able to highlight and promote these opportunities.

Please contact Katie Carpenter at katie.carpenter@northmountainwellness.com and let her know what you've been up to!

Adult ED

There will not be an Adult ED class this Sunday. They will resume on the 29th.

The class is watching the PBS Special *Spiritual Audacity*. Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel fled Nazi Germany to become "an authoritative voice not only in the Jewish community but in the religious life of America." His book, "The Prophets" inspired Martin Luther King, Jr. to invite him to take a role in the

Civil Rights Movement. Heschel was an outspoken critic of the Vietnam War, an advocate for Soviet Jewry and a pioneer of interfaith dialogue.

Here is the trailer:

<https://youtu.be/0WGS7ofZVjQ>

Women of Mayflower

MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND JOIN US! Everyone is welcome...

The Women of Mayflower will be hosting an after service luncheon and program on Sunday, January 22. A light lunch will be offered at 11:30 am. Immediately following will be a presentation by Huw Griffiths, PT, titled "**Fall Prevention and Awareness**".

We look forward to seeing you!

To help us better prepare for the event, please take a moment and RSVP by signing the list in the narthex or email Judy at teefortwo@mcn.net. A phone call works too...406-655-0216

A MISSION OPPORTUNITY

As you may be aware, an emergency shelter has been opened downtown, to provide temporary shelter for unhoused people who have no other place to go when the weather is cold. This shelter is housed in First Congregational Church and will provide shelter for up to 31 people nightly.

You can support this important mission by donating supplies. Mission and Outreach has placed a bin in the narthex for donations.

Here are some needs:

- > Hand warmers
- > granola bars/non-perishable on-the-go snacks,
- > coffee, tea, bottled water
- > hand/feet warmers, socks, mittens/gloves
- > hats, scarves,
- > winter coats
- > totes for storing guest belongings
- > both large bins and smaller resealable containers

- > Ziplock bags
- > duct tape
- > permanent markers
- > paper towels
- > toilet paper
- > hand sanitizer
- > face masks

Financial support is also welcome. Donations can be made to:

Yellowstone County Continuum of Care

c/o United Way of Yellowstone County

2173 Overland Ave.

Billings, MT 59102

www.unitedwayyellowstone.org

Please list “ShelterFirst” in the memo line to ensure donations are directed as you wish

Anyone who wants to lend an extra hand or two is welcome to sign up to serve as an “Engagement Specialist” by visiting: <https://bit.ly/ShelterFirstVolunteers>

Attention: Amy's Cell Phone Number

When we were put into isolation during COVID, I set up a phone number with Google Voice. Many of you have used that phone number to contact me. At that point, I had two phone numbers, but having two phone numbers on one cell phone was too complicated for me. I have canceled my Google Voice phone number, and now I have one phone number with my cell phone carrier. And that number is:

(406) 207-5868.

If you need to get in touch with me, call me at the church office (406) 656-5414 or on my cell phone (406) 207-5868.

I take off Saturdays and Mondays which means I try to use my phone less on those days. If you call on those days, I might not call you right back, but please leave me a message.

Make A Plan for the Road Ahead

Mary Abrahams, outreach coordinator for RiverStone Health Home Care and Hospice, explains how creating an advance directive gives you control over your healthcare decisions. It provides information to your healthcare team if you are unable to communicate and guides decisions about your healthcare. An advance healthcare directive provides comfort to your family, preventing them from guessing what it is you would want. To learn more, please attend their **free presentation at 2 p.m. on Jan. 24 in the Billings Public Library Community Room** or call Mary at 406-651-6500.



Prayers of the people

Holy One, through trials and turbulence, make us steady.
With your hands, hold the strong, the fragile, and the weak.
May we love as you love.

Holy One,
Hear the prayers of the people of Mayflower.
Bring healing and peace to people who are facing cancer.
Bring stamina and strength to those who are in the hospital.
Bring peace for all living in the midst of war - especially for the people of Ukraine.

Loving God,
Take this day, our fears, worries, and distractions.
Turn them into grace and mercy so we may love as you love.
We offer these prayers in the name of Jesus. Amen.

If you have Prayer Requests or Visitation Needs, please email or call them into the office. Please notify the office of any necessary removals from or changes to the current prayer list. Thanks.



Wed., Jan. 18

- 5:30 PM -- Save the Earth Club
- 6:30 PM -- Youth Group
- 7:00 PM -- Choir Practice
- 7:00 PM -- Rimrock Taskforce

Thurs., Jan., 19

- 10:00 AM -- WOM at Salvation Army
- 11:30 AM -- Quilt Guild
- 5:30 PM -- Serene's AA Group
- 7:00 PM -- Council Meeting

Fri., Jan., 20

- 7:00 PM -- ODAAT AA Group

Sun., Jan. 22

- 10:00 AM -- Worship
- 10:00 AM -- PreK-5th Sunday School
- 11:30 AM -- Women of Mayflower
- 2:30 PM -- OWL class K-2

Mon., Jan. 23

10:00 AM -- Con Spirito Rehearsal

Tues., Jan. 24

7:00 PM -- ODAAT AA

Wed., Jan. 25

6:30 PM -- Youth Group

7:00 PM -- Choir Practice



Gratitude Journal

I want to offer special thanks to Kinlee Rumsey and her friend McKenzie for being our back-up liturgists this past Sunday. They stepped in to help out at the last minute and did a fabulous job! Thank you!

