February 2019
Where you go, I will go

General Minister and President,
Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer
Recent Pastoral Letter

Creation Justice
52 Ways to Care for Creation

UCC Affirms the Cross As
A Religious Symbol

C.U.E. Seminary Sunday Feb 24
worship and bulletin materials

Three Church video shorts
Underground Systems
New and Old
Resilience in Community

- God-seeds
- Three Mission Priorities
  - b1 connector
  - Camp positions
  - Mission workers
- RMC Lecture and Breakfast
- 2019 Camp Schedule
- Love Offering for Mim
- Prayers
- Calendar Items
- Social Media links
Camp Mimanagish is located on historic lands traveled and hunted by ancient peoples, Shoshone tribes, and Crow tribes long before William Clark explored the area where the Boulder River meets the Yellowstone in 1806. Archeologists have found remnants of tipi rings, wickiups, knapping stations, and hunting and fishing camps along the Boulder, so it is easy to imagine 10,000 years of camping at the “place of singing waters.”

About the time Montana achieved statehood in 1889, gold was re-discovered way up the mountain valley. Crow reservation lands that once stretched into the Boulder valley were reduced to almost their present boundaries in 1890. In 1908 National Forests were established throughout Montana, including what is now the Custer-Gallatin National Forest where Mimanagish is located. By the time our first Conference campers arrived in 1932 with their one tent and tarp there were plenty of trapper cabins in the area and mining towns further up the mountains.

Ever since the early 1930’s Camp Mimanagish has been granted use of 18 acres along the Boulder River by special permit of the United States Forest Service. After the first few years of “roughing it” in tents, our churches took on the task of building cabins and a chapel. An early 1950’s site plan submitted to the USFS shows cabins dotted throughout the 18 acres area, perhaps three times the number that were ever built. The dining room, Half-Moon, managed to maintain a rustic feel as its open slat walls let the wind and rain blast through. In the 1970’s, the new dining room and retreat wing, Full-Moon, was built with deep investments and much labor of love from church folk.

In June, 2012, a wind-shear event flattened the trees in the lower portion of Camp Mimanagish, completely destroying Froid Lake Cabin. Camp Director and Facilities Manager, Tom Norquist, focused on remodeling cabin bunks and the retreat wing in the upper camp, including building a beautiful gazebo. Further remodeling and insurance repairs to Full-Moon were accomplished during 2018, as well as landscaping work in the lower camp.

The nearly $100,000 of updates completed in 2018 through insurance reimbursements and church donations include:
- New lighting and wiring in the chapel.
- Burying the overhead electrical lines.
- New decks for the Lodge and for Full-Moon.
- New wood paneling installed in some cabins.
- New plumbing and restored floor in Full-Moon.
- Three bedrooms put in the Lodge and a composting toilet.
- Purchase of a used Kubota to be used as a firetruck.
- Purchase of new memory foam mattresses.
costs for remodeling and improvements to current facilities would be another $150,000 - $400,000. This includes continued upgrades of cabins by adding toilets, restoration of the lower camp, well water supply and plumbing updates, and restoring or rebuilding Livingston Cabin. (Livingston Cabin is where staff reside, and the floor is rotting out.)

Our stewardship of Mimanagish calls us to prioritize the safety and utility of our facilities, whether for use by Conference, churches, partner organizations, or others. The 2010’s has been a decade of recovering from many previous years of not investing enough in the infrastructure. We have a way to go. A business plan being developed for our Board of Directors consideration will show us what it will take to be good stewards of these facilities. It may be that the Conference can continue to manage Mimanagish, or it may be that good stewardship calls us to turn over or sell the buildings to another entity in the future. The Board will bring a recommendation to the Conference this summer.

*Flyer below is created and used by Cathy Barker to recruit partner organizations to come to Mimanagish.*
Come Away...

Experience Nature at its finest

at Camp Mimanagish on the Boulder River
at the edge of the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness
in central Montana

Stunning Scenery
Healthy Meals

Fishing, Hiking, Archery, Campfires, Horseshoes, Pingpong, Games, Walking the Labyrinth

$60 per person per night for rustic accommodations includes lodging, meals and recreation
Upgraded facilities and menus available at additional cost

Camp Mimanagish is a sacred wilderness sanctuary where we engage in spirit, community and creation.

If you choose Camp Mimanagish for your retreat, reunion, or gathering, we consider you a partner with us in respect and care for each other, our facility, and the beautiful setting around us.

Contact Cathy: cbarker@mnweuuc.org

The Three Mission Priorities of the MT-NWy Conference UCC:
1. All congregations will be vital and viable

“What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?”
--Micah 6: 8 [NRSV]

"That they may all be one."

Easily and economically connect your church ministry with the community and the world.

What is b1?
b1 is new communication technology that will serve to create, connect, and combine...
creating and maintaining a web-presence easier, more economical, and more effective for every church, no matter how much time and money they currently spend on outreach. b1 will revolutionize your connection to community, justice and witness ministries, outreach, communication with members, and internet presence. Whether you spend thousands of dollars a month on internet outreach or your church has never even had a website, b1 will transform your church and its ministries.

**What will b1 include?**

* A beautiful, customizable state-of-the-art website if your church doesn’t already have one.
* If you have an existing website that you love, it will be transferred to a new webhost that offers more features at a lesser cost.
* A mobile app for members to connect with the church and easily invite friends outside the church.
* Streamlined e-newsletters and SMS messaging.
* Electronic giving for a fraction of the cost available through current banks.

**How did b1 begin?**

John Eisenhauer, CEO and CTO of Kombi Corporation is a cradle-UCC member and preacher’s kid who is collaborating with the eight West Region UCC Conferences to realize his life-long desire to connect UCC churches with each other and the world. BTW: John grew up at Camp Mimanagish and sits on our Mimanagish Advisory Council. Founded in 2007. Kombi Corporation brings over 20 years of experience developing cloud-based outreach, marketing, and technology suites for companies such as Disney, Best Western, and the UCC national office.

**Who is going to be running all of this? Who is going to own b1?**

Kombi Corporation and the eight West Region UCC Conferences will form a new social purpose corporation with its social purpose being the vitality of all UCC churches. This new corporation (yet to be named) will maintain b1, set the prices, and service all of the churches and organizations that use the b1 platform.

**How much will it cost?**

The costs will be tiered based on church size and set by the new social purpose corporation, which will be served by representatives of each of the West Region UCC Conferences. Our operating model plans to set prices for churches based on three categories: small for $300/yr (fewer than 100 members), medium for $900/yr (between 101 and 200 members), large for $1500/yr (between 201 and 400 members).

**How do we become a b1 church?**

If you want to be an early-entry church for b1, we need your commitment as soon as
Where do I get more information? Check in with Marc Stewart, also click on this link.

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

Positions to be filled for 2019 Mimanagish Season

1. Camp Director, May - September
2. Facility Manager, May - September
3. 4 Counselors, June - August
4. Kitchen Director
5. Camp Assistant

3. The Conference will offer transformative experiences and have an active presence in places where we are not now present.

We have many people among us who do mission work through connecting with organizations like Habitat for Humanity. Three people are doing overseas' missions in the next few months. Ken Crouch, retired pastor in Billings, and our conference clerk/receptionist, Patty Martinson, are doing a Habitat for Humanity build in Vietnam in March. Dick Weaver, retired pastor in Helena, is part of Hands On Global medical team going to Samos, Greece, to work in a Syrian refugee camp next month, and then going to Padum, India in June. Dick has training as a massage practitioner.

Ken, Patty, and Dick each have "Go Fund Me" information and donation sites where they can receive support for the mission work they will do.

Habitat for Humanity build in Vietnam: Patty Martinson and Ken Crouch

Hands on Global medical missions to Greece and India: Dick Weaver

When the Rocky Mountain College campus was moved to Billings in 1909, the ground was frozen and too hard to finish the buildings in time. During the fall of 1909, students took classes downtown until the buildings could be finished. In January
location. They arrived cold, tired, and hungry; when they went to the dining hall for dinner, they discovered that the electricity had not been turned on so they ate their first meal on campus by candlelight. While it was not the most pleasant meal, the students decided it was an event worth commemorating. Rocky Mountain College has celebrated the Candlelight Dinner every winter since 1910. --Rocky Mountain College history

Rocky Mountain College is our only historically related UCC college between Pacific University (Forest Grove OR) and Carleton College (Northfield, MN). We are blessed to have this fine college within our Conference. Among the gifts given back to the churches is the Wheatley Lectures, March 14-15. This year's speak will be Arthur Boers, author of Living in Focus: Choosing What Matters in an Age of Distractions. A special breakfast gathering will be offered on Friday March 15, 8 - 9:30 am where church leaders and pastors will be honored guests of Rocky. Please let Marc Stewart know if you would like to attend.
Campers need to register for their youth, adult, and family camps as soon as possible. It is urgent that we receive registrations early this year for the 2019 season. Our decision-making for this year's season required your Conference Board to set some benchmarks, including registrations benchmarks.

Minimum camp enrollment has been set at 20 paid campers for each camp to be held. Staffing and planning needs necessitate us to set an April 1 deadline to assess the viability of each camp. Your early registration will help us successfully plan for a 2019 camp season.
February – the month of LOVE, of Valentine’s Day. February – the month of love for our beloved Camp. The attached brochure announces a wonderful offering of camps and retreats for the 2019 Mimanagish season, and the Church promotion packet previews all the fun to come at Camp in 2019 (www.mimanagish.org/promotions)

We on the Committee for Outdoor Ministries (COM) have planned a variety of camping experiences that we believe have something for campers of all ages. We hope that includes you and people you know.

We love Mimanagish because we - and we suspect you – have had great, often life-changing experiences at Mimanagish. That is why our camp has long been regarded as a key mission of the Montana-Northern Wyoming Conference of the United Church of Christ. In addition to the increased cost of running a successful Camp, for the past couple of years, Conference office time and expense devoted to supporting the operation of Mimanagish is now included in our costs. This means that we need significant additional financial support to balance the books this year. True love often requires more than good thought, helpful intentions – it includes:
- Your monetary gifts.
- Encouraging folks to take advantage of the great offerings, yourself included.
- Physical labor to keep the camp ship-shape (3 great work camps are on the schedule and other volunteer efforts will be announced as needed)
- Help in contacting former campers to become Friends of Mimanagish (www.mimanagish.org/alumni)

Sooo… Please regard this email as your chance to send a fiscal or physical Valentine to Mimanagish. Such a gift of love will bless Mimanagish participants, young and old, in 2019, continuing the great experiences so many have received through the years.

Please use this link to offer your love to Mimanagish:
https://givingtools.com/give/523/956

With great thanks in advance, in the spirit of Mimanagish, remembering, “But of these three, faith, hope, and love, the greatest is love.” (I Corinthians 13:13),

The Fundraising Team for your
Committee for Outdoor Ministries:
   Leslie Roche
   Walt Gulick
   Trudi Downer, COM chair
IN OUR PRAYERS

We keep Barbara Dobesh in our prayers after she fell and broke her hip. Barbara has been the long time organist at Billings First Congregational UCC.

We keep Rev. Sheila Naismith in our prayers as she has preventative surgery in San Diego. Sheila is our pastor at First Congregational Church in Sheridan, WY, and also our east area rep on the Board of Directors.

link to online Conference calendar
Feb 3 Marc preachers at Powder River UCC in Broadus
Feb 8 - 9 Church and Ministry Commission, Billings and zoom
Feb 10 Marc preaches at Glendive UCC
Feb 11 East Area clergy gather at United Christian Church, Miles City, 9:30 am
Feb 14 Central Area clergy gather at Billings office, 10 am
Feb 18-21 Marc at West Region CM Table meeting, Hi Conference
Feb 20 office closed
Feb 22-27 Marc on Cont. Ed. Professional Coaching level course
March 4-7 Marc Stewart and moderator Tracy Heilman at Council of Conference Minister meeting, Cleveland
March 10 Daylight Savings Time begins (clocks spring ahead)
March 14-15 Rocky Mountain College, Wheatley Lectures
March 15 Ministers and Church Leaders breakfast at RMC 8 - 9:30 am
March 18 - 22 Coaching training, Ursuline Center, Great Falls
March 25-26 Tri-Conference teams gather in Portland OR
March 29 - 30 Jesus Seminar, Billings First UCC
"Displacement, Loss, and Reinvention"
April 1 Registrations due for Camp Mimanagish 2019 Camps
April 8-9 Board of Directors meet
May 24-27 Mimanagish Kick-Off Family Camp
June 21 - 25 UCC Gen Synod in Milwaukee MT-NWy staying at Hilton City Center
June 27-30 Mimanagish Creative Arts Camp
Aug 9-11 Conference Annual Meeting at Camp 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 CONFERENCE WEB SITE
www.mnwcucc.org
and our MIMANAGISH WEB SITE
www.mimanagish.org

We are on Facebook. Stay in touch and get all the latest news by liking our page.
Click here!

And check out our Camp Mimanagish Facebook page. Click here!
some of our Billings area clergy and Conference Minister Click here!