In 1959, two years after the formation of the United Church of Christ, our national gathering of delegates (General Synod 2) discussed and passed a resolution "calling for conservation and development of the Earth’s resources for the benefit of all people now and in the future." Those generations of delegates would have represented the Great Depression Generation, the WW2 Generation, and the Silent Generation. It is enlightening to know that for all our forbearers faced in their times, creation care was important enough to prioritize for faithful action.

In years since, there have been almost 50 General Synod reports, resolutions, and pronouncements. Our witness, study, actions, and accompaniment with others in tending to creation care is a faith-lifestyle. We steward our resources, ally with specific communities devastated by environmental disaster, study genetics and outer-space and climate change, protect agriculture, seek accountability with mineral extraction, respect animals and plants, make the
connections between environment and racism. Yes, our care for creation is part of who we have always been with the United Church of Christ.

I know that we are not always expressing our care for creation over the same issues and with uniform intensity, and this is also who we are in the diversity of ways we live in faith. I hope we all recognized that there is enough to care about with creation, there is something for everyone. There is no need for an “us and them” in whether people care for creation. The Spirit gifts the Church with a faithful recognition that we all have something to do in care for creation.

Look at the work being done among us. Our Green team is the most widely representative working group that I have seen in our Conference. It includes over 1/3 of our churches, from our largest and smallest. And, in our regional UCC work, Rev. Dr. Jennifer Yocum (Sr. Minister at University UCC) is organizing our largest Tri-Conference event, yet, for members of our three Conferences.

It is gift to the Church that Spirit blesses the faithful with recognition that caring for creation is worthwhile. This is nothing less than the original call God purposed for humanity. The gift to the world is that we creatures become part of possibilities for renewal of life.

This May eNews tells of care for creation among us. Celebrate how your faith fits in. Celebrate your partnership with others and with God in such faithful living.

Wider Church News

Click on the pics to link into news and information about innovative missions.

American Climate Leadership Inst.
34 YouTube videos of 2021 speakers and seminars, attended by over 1000 people.

3 Great Loves in UCC
Love of Creation coloring pages that depict various setting of tree planting.

Generosity YouTube
Do we teach and thank as often as we pass the plate? Rev. Andrew Warner.

Partners Attend to Climate Changes
15 Global Ministry stories of partner church climate change projects.

Arctic Communities Seek Your Voice
Building Peace with the Earth, seminar about the work of Texas Impact in Houston disaster recovery.

Gen Synod Issues
"Who will spek for the rights of Trees" is the name of Rights of Nature Resolution of Witness from the New Hampshire Conference.
Conference-wide News

Click on the pics to link into for the fuller stories. To include your church news, email items to ucc@mnwcucc.org before the 12th of each month. Check with these churches for more information.

Book Recommendation from Pilgrim UCC, Bozeman The Artist's Guide to Yellowstone: A Natural History by Greater Yellowstone’s Artist and Writers

Book Recommendation from University UCC, Missoula Earth Our Original Monastery, by Christine Valters Paintner

Creation Justice Church
Join Univeristy UCC and Mayflower UCC in working to be a Creation Justice Church.

Listening In
Conversation from inside a cocoon, message from Rev. Pam Peterson, Red Lodge UCC.

Churches Represented on Green Team
Billings First Congregational UCC
Mayflower Congregational UCC in Billings
Pilgrim Congregational UCC in Bozeman
Powder River Congregational UCC in Broadus
Union Congregational UCC in Buffalo
Columbus Community Congregational UCC
Custer Congregational UCC
First Congregational UCC in Glendive
Missoula University Congregational UCC
First Congregational UCC in Sheridan

email Patty Martinson to add a church rep from your congregation

Custer Clean-up
Many churches sponsored community clean-up days. Marynell Perrin reports that people of all ages, including preschoolers participated in Custer’s clean-up.

Sheridan Clean-up
Martha Wright reports that one teen climbed high in a tree to remove a plastic bag. They took eight truck loads to the dump! Organized by their Christian Education chair.

Community Garden
Imagining Conference-wide News

Click on the pics to link into for the fuller stories. To include your church news, email items to ucc@mnwcucc.org before the 12th of each month. Check with these churches for more information.
Illa Dee Talcott, from Powder River UCC in Broadus, is involved in working on a community garden. She talks with others about how to garden responsibly and how to use water.

Barbara Miner tells that during a reflection time in Mayflower UCC Sunday worship, a Green Team member led a visualization of their church property... of what it will look like when it is complete... It was so inspiring to imagine the field of lavender, the songbirds in the Songbird Habitat, the farm with vegetables growing to be shared in the neighborhood. Barbara said that the process may take ten years, but she caught the vision.

Grace, Grief and Grounding: A Faithful Response to the Climate Crisis

Saturday, June 12, 2021, 10a–2p MDT over Zoom. Registration link: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUpdeGupj8tHdT_gkdvkRrxhvF_vfsp5AfP
Something new in shared Conference Ministries: A Regional Gathering of the Pacific Northwest, Central Pacific and Montana/Northern Wyoming Conferences of the United Church of Christ, sponsored by the Wholiness Project. For more information, contact Rev. Dr. Jennifer Yocum, UCC Missoula, jennifer@uccmissoula.org (Montana/Northern Wyoming Conference).

relationships among UCC churches and people in our shared “upper left corner” of holy ground.

Our beloved Pacific Northwest region is facing dramatic threats due to climate change. We no longer speak of fires, but rather “fire seasons.” We’re experiencing devastating losses of habitat, species diversity, water availability, and pollution impacts. These losses also disproportionately harm BIPOC and people in poverty.

Please join us for a time of faithful imagination and truth-sharing. All members and friends of the churches of the churches of above-named conferences are welcome to attend, free of charge. This highly interactive event will be facilitated by Rev. Dr. Sara Rosenau.

A video invitation to you and your congregations: LINK

Becoming a Creation Justice Church

Join University UCC Missoula and Mayflower UCC Billings in becoming a Creation Justice Church.

Graham Roy shared the process that Missoula University Congregational UCC engaged to become a Creation Justice Church in the fall of 2019. They formed a Green Team and started going through the steps outlined on the ucc.org website. These are steps involving writing a Creation Justice Covenant, and answering four questions. Graham paraphrased the questions like this:

1. How does your church incorporate Creation Justice in your theology and worship?
2. How does your church include Creation Justice in governance and building maintenance?
3. How does the congregation research and advocate for Creation Justice?
4. How have you connected with the broader movement in Creation Justice?

One important thing Graham said was that writing the covenant and answering the questions and applying for this UCC designation is a beginning. It doesn’t have to take a long time. This is a covenant, a promise that you are making. What folks in Missoula are able to do may be very different from what folks in a rural area can do. Many of us got excited about the prospect of working toward that goal in our churches. Becoming a Creation Justice Church is just the beginning!

Rev. Barbara Miner said that at Mayflower Congregational UCC, the becoming a Creation Justice Church began with someone asking if they might stop using paper plates (and instead use the china) during fellowship meals. Then, people started talking about how there might be recycling. Barbara said, “it didn’t start with a grand scheme. It kind of grew and grew.” Mayflower Congregational UCC is celebrating that they have just been recently designated a Creation Justice Church by the national United Church of Christ. Congratulations, Mayflower Congregational UCC!

“Renew, Refresh, Reclaim and Reconnect!”

with God, with ourselves, with each other and with nature.

A Place for Recreation in Creation

COM, Committee for Outdoor Ministry, for the Montana Northern Wyoming Conference is proud to invite you back to summer camp. We missed having a full season of camping with everyone in 2020 because most everyone was sheltered-in-place. We have again partnered with our neighbor camp up the Boulder River Valley, Christikon, to offer a great summer experience to our youth campers around the Conference. In 2020, six youth from our Conference Churches attended Camp at Christikon. Unlike most camps around the State and Nation, Christikon worked with the county health officials to develop safe protocols, kept their staff at camp all summer and was able to safely offer their entire season. Our 6 campers were welcomed with open arms and hearts and were treated to a great faith experience. For 2021, COM has again entered into partnership with Christikon for our youth camps and we have entered into partnership with Christikon to host our most popular adult camps on their site. What a wonderful feeling it is to be able to “Reconnect, Renew, Refresh and Reclaim” the special experiences we have had in the past at camp. With long-time friends and to make new friends too. We have attached the 2021 Season Brochure, posters of our offered adult and family camps, the schedule, a link to the video COM member Axel Blodgett di which includes his comments about camp and some gorgeous photos of Christikon, and a special invitation to come to Christikon with us this summer.

Registration is through the Conference website https://www.mnwcucc.org/ under the Camp tab. Each Church has a Group Camp Leader coordinating registration for the Church and the Camp Leader has full information about scholarships, health forms, etc. for all the camps. Check with your Pastor to see who your Group Camp Leader is. If you are not affiliated with a Church, the
Youth Camp Information

Adult and Me Camp Information

Committee for Outdoor Ministry

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Calendar

*All meetings other than outdoor camps and retreats are happening virtually*

May 20  Board of Directors meeting 10 am - noon

May 23  Pentecost Sunday

May 27  Engage-Calm-Distract: Understanding and Responding to Kids in Distress, [zoom training session](#) offered by the Administration for Children and Families HHS, 10 am zoom

June 1  [Youth Camp](#) fees become nonrefundable

June 1  [Adult and Multi-Generational camps](#) $50 deposit due

June 6  Installation of Rev. David Murchie, Colstrip United Church, 10 am

June 9  [You and Me Camp](#) full registration due

June 10  Closing date of Mimanagish sale to Singing Waters

June 30 - July 3  [You and Me Camp](#), multi-generational

July 5 - 8  [Pathfinders Camp](#), completing grades 4 - 6

July 10 - 16  [Prospectors Camp](#), completing grades 6 - 8
July 11-18, 2021 General Synod 33, Rooted in Love, will be held using virtual technology, such as Zoom

June 12 TriConference Climate Summit, 10 am - 2 pm, zoom

July 18 - 24 Trailblazers Camp, completing grades 9 - 12

July 30 August camps/retreats full registration deadline

August 1 - November 8, Marc Stewart on sabbatical and vacation

August 25 - 28 Yoga for Body and Soul retreat

August 26 - 29, or a 27 - 29 option, Creative Hearts Camp

August 27 - 29 Fly Fishing Camp

November 18 Conference Annual Meeting Business Meeting 7 - 9 pm

Montana - N.Wyoming Conference United Church of Christ
editor, Marc Stewart
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