The latest news from the Montana-Northern Wyoming UCC Conference of the UCC

July 2017
Sacred Montana Summer

I wanna wake up in the morning at Camp Mimanagish, Where the sun comes a-peeking' into where I'm a-sleeping' And the songbirds sing "Hello!"
--Mimanagish Song

- God-seeds
- Camp Funding Progress
- Camp Bus run from Big Timber
- 20-Year Camp Plan Visioning
- Counselors needed
- Camp Program Updates
- Leadership Retreat offered
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- CAM Thank You
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- Prayer Concerns
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God-seeds, reflections from Marc Stewart

our Camp activities remind us that the sacred is indeed real wherever we find space to let Spirit in

Sacred Montana summer activities center around communing in nature. Our highways fill with campers and tourists. Our city symphonies move out to the park. Our Camp Mimanagish bustles with revitalizing energy. Our churches sponsor picnics. Our farmers and ranchers read the soil and the air with their whole being in tending the crops. Our community gardens bustle with gardeners.

I find Montana summers so sacred precisely because of the "communing" with each other that happens. We keep our eyes out for others on the highway, cautious not to add to the road stresses that they left behind in the home cities. We sit friends around a blanket and share treats as we listen to the outdoor concert. We feel the spirit of being in a "company of saints" as we enjoy the fire circle at Camp Mimanagish. We get to deepen friendships at the picnic grounds. We get to bring all the wisdom of our years, and some from the Farmer's Almanac, to get the crops to produce. We bring our tithe of garden goods to church to share with others.

Camp Mimanagish is one of the places where we have always gone (well, at least since 1932) to commune with nature and each other. It was of the things we do best a Camp Mimanagish, if even despite ourselves. The first pastor families to gather at that spot of "singing waters" recognized how so fully God was known among them. For me, it is the surrounding high mountains creating an enclave of protected space whilst drawing the soul in the grandeur of God.

It is not only found at this "thin spot" along the Boulder River, but the gatherings at Camp set the example of what can be found whenever and wherever we live towards the fullness of God's presence amongst us. In fact, this has been iconic of our summer activities. We know we can live in faithful community because there are those who have found it so fully at Camp. We know the beauty of creation can move us, wherever we are because people have been so moved along the Boulder River. We know we share our lives with each other, no matter where we are, because life has been shared so fully at Camp. Camp Mimanagish is not the exclusive setting to know God, but our Camp activities remind us that the sacred is indeed real wherever we find space to let Spirit in. Thank God for those places and times and relationships where it is so well found.
Our current fund total is $6,175 as of June 29, 2017.... which means only $1,825 left to to raise!

CAMP BUS TO RUN FROM BIG TIMBER

The Camp bus will be used to bring in children and youth campers from Big Timber. For those who take the bus, registration will happen at Big Timber UCC at 1:30 pm Sunday for a 2 pm bus departure. Campers will arrive back at Big Timber UCC on Saturday 11 am. The 2nd-4th Grade camp will register at Big Timber UCC on Tuesday at 11:30 am for a noon departure. Families may also choose to make the drive up to Camp on the forest road, but please consult the road repair schedule first.

We welcome volunteer staff for ALL
We are specifically looking for Counselors

Here are the dates for the Youth Camps this July:

July 18-22: 2nd, 3rd and 4th graders
July 16-22: 5th and 6th graders
July 23-29: 7th, 8th and 9th graders
July 23-29: 10th, 11th and 12th graders

Please apply by completing both the Application Form, and Self-Disclosure Form, found on the Camp website. You may email the forms to director@campmimanagish.org or mail them to the Conference Office at 2016 Alderson Avenue, Billings 59102.

Please be in touch with Carolyn Rosen (crosen@mnwcucc.org) or Josie Caton (jcaton@mnwcucc.org) with any questions!

From the Faith Formation Coordinator:

We are very excited to bring the Branching Out: Connecting Through Christ curriculum (from Chalice Press) to our Camp Mimanagish programming this summer!
in terms of theme, content, activity, group size and group interest. Branching Out is the product of a collaborative team of leaders in outdoor ministry, faith formation, Christian education, and ministry in denominations such as the United Methodist Church, the UCC, and the Disciples of Christ.

We have made the curriculum’s resources available to our volunteer staff for this summer, and I will be contacting our Program Leaders and Chaplains this week to further discuss options for each camp.

The curriculum itself is designed around 7 days, and around different age groupings: for younger children, older children, younger youth and older youth as well as very small and intergenerational age groups.

Branching Out contains biblical and theological overviews for each of the seven days, with themes and scripture for each day, as well as artwork and art project ideas, creative writing projects, worship ideas with options for centering worship and celebratory worship, daily devotions, bible study, and challenge course activities.

The curriculum contains examples of planning for each day, and can of course be customized and adapted, according to activity interests such as music, art, adventure, or sport; or according to doctrinal content; the number of days of the camp; or any existing natural resources such as our Place of the Most High, or more generally the beautiful Forestry Service land on which our Camp sits.

We look forward to an exciting new year of Youth Camps at Camp Mimanagish!

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Register for Camp Mimanagish adult, children, youth, and intergenerational programs now.

Visit https://www.campmimanagish.org where you can fill out our registration forms and apply for volunteer positions (counselors, assistants).

The 2017 Camp Mimanagish schedule is as follows:

**Grandparents & Me**      July 5-7
**Family Camp**             July 7-9
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mini &amp; Me</td>
<td>July 18-20</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/3/4 Grade</td>
<td>July 18-22</td>
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<td>5/6 Grade</td>
<td>July 16-22</td>
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<td>7/8/9 Grade</td>
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<td>Women's Retreat</td>
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<td>Fishing Camp</td>
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<td>Boulder River Men's</td>
<td>Aug 19-21 **</td>
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<td>Geography of Grace</td>
<td>Sept 1-4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Men's Retreat</td>
<td>Sept 1-4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall Youth Camp</td>
<td>Oct 19-21</td>
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** Indicates a camp rental group.
CAMP VISIONING PROCESS
The US Forest Service has asked that Camp Mimanagish create a 20-year plan for the Camp. The plan will be due later this year and will include everything we envision developing over the next twenty years. This provides us an opportunity put "everything on the table" about our visions for site development, programming, and mission. At the Conference Annual Meeting in Helena, over 30 people gathered for 3 hours to dream and vision what could happen in Camp Mimanagish development. A followup retreat at Camp the next weekend pulled those visions together. There will be additional retreats and opportunities in August and early Fall to hone in our 20 year plans. Keep posted for times and places for the Camp Visioning Process.
New Opportunity: Church Leadership Retreats

New this summer... councils, committees, and leaders from congregations throughout MNWC are invited to attend a retreat at Mimanagish that will be specifically tailored to support each team and their ministry.

This is a great opportunity to celebrate important work, bolster teamwork and productivity, invest in leadership development, inspire creative solutions and dedicate energy to strategic visioning, planning, or group culture.

Unaffiliated groups are also welcome to inquire. For more information, please contact Josie: jcaton@mnwcucc.org or 406.570.9922

Our new camp logo merchandise is now available! Our assortment includes: hoodies, picnic blankets, caps, shirts, nylon jackets.

Items will be available for purchase at camp, through the Conference office, and soon through an online website store!

We are in deep gratitude for the most excellent hospitality extended to the Conference Annual Meeting by Plymouth UCC, Helena, members and friends. Over 2 dozen church volunteers helped assure every need and comfort was met. Thank you!
Want to join a compassionate community making a difference? The UCC of Missoula (University Congregational, United Church of Christ) is seeking to fill the position of Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries. The Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries will build and manage programs and volunteers focused on a dynamic ministry to middle and high school youth of our church and will seek to engage and cultivate the faith of young adults. These tasks include, but are not limited to, coordinating events, fundraising, managing volunteers, build relationships with youth & young adults, work with pastor and other church staff for special programs, co-facilitate confirmation programs, attend all necessary church meetings, collaborate with other churches as appropriate, and manage budget. The Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries will need to be punctual, reliable, self-motivated, creative, willing to explore new ideas, innovative, skilled with event planning, strong organization skills, the ability to delegate, and comfortable recruiting attendees to programs/events. The UCC of Missoula is a progressive protestant church and open to diverse people and beliefs. We are an open and affirming church. This means that we celebrate our diversity in religious background, sexual orientation, race, and abilities. The Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries will need to have a fundamental understanding and respect for the faith, affirmations, and traditions of UCC. Standard background check will be required upon offer and this position requires a valid driver's license. This position is a salaried and requires on average approximately 30-35 hours/week and will include some weekend hours, particularly on Sunday mornings. Pay will range between $25,000 - $27,000 annually depending on experience. Interested candidates may apply by sending their resume and cover letter to Amy Carter at amy@uccofmissoula.org. To guarantee consideration, please apply by July 20, 2017.

Prayers with two of our congregations that are in the midst of closing, Glasgow UCC and Medicine Lake UCC.

Prayers with Sandy VanZyl and her family at the passing of Sandy’s mother-in-law in mid-June.

Prayers with Amy Carter and her family, as Amy’s father is in ICU in Tennessee.

Prayers with Jill Bierwith as she concludes her interim ministry with Big Timber UCC and moves to an interim ministry in Pennsylvania.
missionary Scott Nicholson, who died on June 24.

Dear CAJA members, friends, supporters,

It is with a heavy heart we want to let you know of Scott Nicholson’s death.

Scott, un hombre de la gente  Presente!


If you are interested in contributing please let us know or if you want to reach out to his family: Any message of condolences can be sent through the Latin America and Caribbean Office at Global Ministries, P.O Box 1986 Indianapolis, Indiana 46206-1986 and through email: arivera@dom.disciples.org.

Scott spent 28 years of solidarity and accompaniment with our sisters and brothers of Latin America. Many of us were compatriots in the struggle with Scott. We each have incredible memories, stories. He was a teacher, mentor and we always learned so much together in our work. For those who did not get to work with Scott here is a brief bio of some of his work. Not at all complete but a small capturing.

Scott dedicated his life to social justice. He began his work in El Salvador during the 1980’s accompanying people returning to their homes after they were displaced by the army during the fighting. During his time in Missoula, Scott was one of the founders of Community Action for Justice in the Americas (CAJA) in 2000. He was also an organizer with the Montana Human Rights Network. He was a recipient of the Missoula Peacemaker of the Year Award in 2002. In 2004 he left Missoula to spend seven years to work to bring the truth about the U.S. involvement in the war in Colombia to Montana and the Northwest United States. He worked with civil society organizations in Colombia, accompanying labor leaders and community leaders to protect them from murder by the right wing paramilitary. In 2008 Scott received a
Montana Amnesty International Award for his human rights work. In 2011 he began working with Global Ministries' Home of Hope and Peace (Hogar de Esperanza y Paz) community center in Nogales, Sonora, Mexico.

A movement of women and children working to create peace and justice in Nogales, Mexico. Un movimiento de mujeres y niños que están luchando para crear la paz con justicia en Nogales, México.

We know Scott would want people to remember this organization in memorials. He was the board secretary and said that we would always be welcomed with open arms at HEPAC. Some of their work is to make sure school children receive a nutritious lunch. To help adults complete their elementary, middle and high school education. Help children participate in Kids Camps during school vacation. The members of the Women United cooperative sew, crochet and knit beautiful products to generate income for their families. The children receive holistic care and education in the day care center.

Hogar de Esperanza y Paz - Home of Hope and Peace, HEPAC
PO Box 1334,
Nogales, AZ 85628

Did You Know...

That we are on Facebook? Stay in touch and get all the latest news by liking our page. [Click Here!]

That "Another Voice" community television series features some of our Billings area clergy and Conference Minister? [Click here!]

June 30-July 4   General Synod, Baltimore MD
July and August   [camp schedule above]
July 7-21    Marc on vacation