New CTS President announced
Rev. Dr. Stephen G. Ray, Jr.

3 Great Loves online video
Love of Creation

NEW Still Listening UCC Podcast
first installment, Wheels

Completely NEW www.mnwcucc.org
New Conference WEB Site

Completely NEW www.mimanagish.org
New Mimanagish WEB Site

- God-seeds
- Faith Formation
- Church Vitality Retreat
- New Assistant Camp Director
- Global Mission Visitor
- Conference Annual Meeting
- Mimanagish FUNdaising Success
- Mimanagish summer 2018 schedule
- Jesus Seminar in Billings
- West Region Youth Event
- Clergywomen’s Retreat
- Welcome Rev. Dwight Welch
- Calendar Items
- Social Media links
God-seeds, reflections from Marc Stewart

The movement of the Spirit of God in the hearts of men and women often calls them to act against the spirit of their times or causes them to anticipate a spirit which is yet in the making. In a moment of dedication they are given wisdom and courage to dare a deed that challenges and to kindle a hope that inspires.

--Howard Thurman, Footprints of a Dream

Having served a church in Alexandria, Virginia (suburban Washington DC) in the mid 1980's, I saw how deeply the community and congregation were affected by what was going on in the national government. Even now, as far removed from DC as we are up here in the Montana and Northern Wyoming, it can sometimes feel like the negativity pervading Congress and the Presidency sets an example for our own discourse and relationships.

The turmoils on the national scene impact us, especially in our ministries of social concern and justice. Among us, some are called to respond, and so are participating in national movements such as the Women's March, Creation Justice, Immigration and Sanctuary, #metoo, Black Lives Matter, and LGBT+ support.

Of course, not everyone is called to social justice responses. The incivility in our national governance also impacts us in the way we treat each other within our own circles and churches. So, among us, some are called to foster relationships with careful attention to such basic skills as listening, appreciation, understanding, and forgiveness.

The MT-NWy Conference UCC has room for Spirit-inspired responses from so many different perspectives. We are overwhelmed with the generosity of Spirit among us as we view each other with a discerning appreciation:

- the extraordinary gift that Glasgow UCC made by selling its building to a youth ministry;
- the women from First UCC Billings who spoke at the Women's March on January 21;
- the organizational enthusiasm of Rhonda Petersen, as she put together the Mimanagish Fundraiser in Columbus for January 27;
- the Easter pageant that Butte UCC has been invited to share with a children's care home after doing such a great ministry there by presenting a Christmas pageant;
- 90-year old John Pugh, who is doing interim ministry at Bethlehem UCC in
pastoral responses around Vet re-entry issues;

Jerry Nye, who just completed many, many years as moderator of Columbus Community UCC;

Guy Pontoriero at Glendive UCC who has arranged to share Lenten programs with the Methodists;

Mayflower UCC and its latest Habitat for Humanity build;

Julie Baker and Sheila Naismith inviting me in to do training with Buffalo UCC church leaders;

Kim Harris, pulling together youth from Billings and the area to form a group and do fundraising to go to the West Region Youth Event in June;

the dozens of people who are making Mimanagish happen this summer with great expectations and vision;

and of . . . who are a dozen others you could name?

What is Faith Formation?
By Rev. Laura Folkwein, MSW, Faith Formation Committee Co-Chair

Did you know that the MT-N.Wyoming Conference and Association formed a Faith Formation Committee at our Conference Annual Meeting in Sheridan/Buffalo, Wyoming, in June 2016? If your answer is “No,” don’t worry, you are not alone! If you are also asking “what is faith formation”? Don’t worry, you are not alone!

For a long time, our conference’s Christian education work focused on youth and young adult ministries, mainly at Camp Mimanagish. A shift from a Christian education lens to faith formation lens moves us towards seeing spiritual growth as a lifetime experience that can happen in many ways and many places. The Conference Faith Formation Committee will still support camp (of course!) and other ways to nurture youth and young adults in their faith journeys. We will also be looking for additional ways to support individuals and families in faith development that engage head, heart and hands across our conference: in local churches, at camp, at area youth events, even at home, at school and at work.

One example of the Faith Formation Committee’s work is that we are encouraging YOU to attend the Church Vitality and Viability Retreat, Feb. 23-24 at the Ursuline Center in Great...
breakfast with round-table conversations faith formation with youth, in small groups and via social media.

The MT-NWY Conference and Association Faith Formation Committee mission statement is: The “Committee” will nurture faith formation across our Conference for the ongoing spiritual growth and development of all members of our communities in the tradition of the United Church of Christ, which honors diversity of thought and action.

Here are some questions to consider when thinking about faith formation: How has your faith grown and developed over the years? When have you experienced God’s grace or deepened your faith? When has your faith been challenged and how did you respond? Have you grown through mission and service? When learning through study individually and with others? In worship? Through music or art? At camp or in the wilderness? Through the love of family? In the experience of grief and loss? We want to hear your thoughts and ideas about how to share these experiences with others across our conference.

Watch this space for additional Faith Formation stories, information and resources. Questions or do you want to join the Faith Formation Committee (we meet monthly by ZOOM video or telephone conference), Contact co-chairs, Laura Folkwein, laura@uccofmissoula.org or Roger Lynn, pastorplymouthmt@gmail.com.

The Three Mission Priorities of the MT-NWY Conference UCC:

1. All congregations will be vital and viable
All Congregations in the Conference will be vital and viable

If you are interested in vital and viable congregations, the Faith Formation Committee invites you to attend our Church Vitality Retreat at the Ursuline Center, Great Falls, February 23 noon - 24 noon. Keynote leadership from Courtney Stange-Tregear, Pacific NW Conference UCC Minister for Church Vitality. It only costs $35 to register. The full cost is $70, but 1/2 will be covered by the MT-NW Conference UCC.

Registration:
1. Add the Church Vitality Retreat session by clicking the blue "add" button.
2. Once the retreat populates in the "Your Selections" box click "continue".
2. The Conference will be appropriately staffed and the staff will be justly compensated.
Jonna Mandeville, our Mimanagish kitchen director, has also been hired as a pre-season assistant camp director to assist Josie Caton with the recruitment and promotions of Mimanagish during winter and early spring.

3. The Conference will offer transformative experiences and have an active presence in places where we are not now present.
Our Global Ministries provide a significant type of transformation experience for those who are missionaries, for those who are served, and for those who learn about our missions. We are honored to be visited by a missionary every few years in the conference.

This spring, Bruce Van Voorhis, missionary serving in Hong Kong, is available to speak throughout the conference from April 23-May 17, 2018. He has visited the conference during his last itineration and is looking forward to renewing relationships.

Bruce has been working for Interfaith Cooperation Forum (ICF) since 2009. ICF is a joint program of the Asia and Pacific Alliance of YMCAs located in Hong Kong, and the Christian Conference of Asia (CCA) in Chiang Mai, Thailand. ICF is an interfaith movement of youth in Asia (primarily 20 to 30 years old) that works toward realizing peace with justice.

Please contact the conference office, ucc@mnwcucc.org, with suggested dates of when you would like Bruce to visit with your church for a Sunday or a mid-week fellowship time.

Go quickly and tell…
CAM 2018
Great Falls MT
June 15-17, 2018

Our Conference Annual Meeting will be hosted by First Congregational UCC Great Falls, June 15-17, 2018.
Starts Friday noon and ends after worship on Sunday

Friday luncheon keynote with Rev. Courtney Stange-Tregear, Church Vitality Minister with the Pacific NW Conference UCC

Friday afternoon workshop offerings on being a viable church

Saturday morning business session, interspersed with video presentations from our conference churches

Saturday luncheon keynote with Rev. Dwight Welch, MSU-Billings campus minister

Saturday afternoon mission activity or Mimanagish engagement choice

Saturday evening banquet with keynote by UCC General Minister and President Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer

A written sermon will be provided to each church so that all pastors may attend the Sunday CAM worship experience with Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer preaching

Registration details will be in the March eNews.

Every congregation is asked to create a 2-3 minute video clip (you can use someone’s smart phone) after worship or during fellowship time where people respond to the question: What are you most excited about in your faith and/or in your church? Please email your clips to the conference office by May 15, ucc@mnwucc.org
Over 100 people came to the Mimanagish fundraiser on January 27. Special thanks to Rhonda Peterson, who envisioned and organized this grand event with the generous help of Columbus Community United Church of Christ.

It was a fun evening of fellowship over a scrumptious pulled-pork, followed by bidding on over 40 silent auction items and dancing to the fine music of Ed Cash’s Country Band.

This event raised over $5000 for Mimanagish.
Mimanagish people, like these at the fundraiser, are happy people!

Rev. Tracy Heilman served as camp chaplain
Leslie Roche chairs the Committee for Outdoor Ministries
Rev. Meg Hatch served as a High School counselor
Clair Hatch attended Middle High Camp
Sophia Heilman attended High School Camp.

How happy might you find yourself to be part of Mimanagish? Check in with Jonna Mandeville, jonna@mnwcucc.org, and she will tell you how so happy a person can be as a volunteer, counselor, chaplain, program leader, Committee for Outdoor Ministries member, or "Firestarter" promoter.
Mimanagish offerings planned for the 2018 season.
Registration will be active beginning in early February.

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<th>Camp Opening</th>
<th>Kick-off Camp</th>
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<td>Friday, May 18 - Sunday, May 20</td>
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<th>Wilderness First Aid</th>
<th>Family Camp</th>
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<th>Women's Retreat Service Option</th>
<th>Men's Retreat</th>
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<th>Men's Retreat Service Option</th>
<th>Soul of Aging</th>
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<th>Creative Arts Camp</th>
<th>Creative Writing Retreat</th>
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<th>Singer/Songwriter Retreat</th>
<th>Give Back Camp</th>
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<th>Yoga, Wellness &amp; Cleanse Retreat</th>
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<td>Grandparents and Me</td>
<td>Thursday, July 5 - Sunday, July 8</td>
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<td>Grade Camp - 9, 10, 11, 12</td>
<td>Sunday, July 8 - Saturday, July 14</td>
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<td>Mini and Me Camp</td>
<td>Sunday, July 15 - Tuesday, July 17</td>
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<td>Grade Camp - 2, 3</td>
<td>Tuesday, July 17 - Saturday, July 21</td>
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<td>Grade Camp - 4, 5</td>
<td>Sunday, July 22 - Saturday, July 28</td>
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<td>Grade Camp - 6, 7, 8</td>
<td>Sunday, July 29 - Saturday, August 4</td>
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<td>Over The Hill Gang</td>
<td>Sunday, August 5 - Tuesday, August 7</td>
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<td>Fishing Camp</td>
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<td>College Orientation/Adulting Immersion</td>
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<td>Board of Directors Meeting</td>
<td>Thursday, Sept 13 - Saturday, Sept 15</td>
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**Camp Mimanagish Store**
1. Check out our Camp Mimanagish branded merchandise store at: https://campmimanagish2017.itemorder.com/sale

2. Give the gift of a full or partial Mimanagish Camp registration.

3. Give a donation to Mimanagish in honor of a love one. (Donation link)

Remembering the Death and Resurrection of Jesus

March 2-3, 2018
7 - 8:30 PM Friday
9:30 AM - 4 PM Saturday

First UCC Billings
Registration LINK
(early rate until Feb. 16)

In the modern world, memory is related to accuracy. A good memory means an accurate memory. In the ancient world, memory is related more freely to storytelling. A good memory was a good performance of a story. Herodotus, the Greek historian, was poor when it came to accuracy but great when it came to performing story. How well did the emerging Christian gospel writer's do? When it came to the death and resurrection of Jesus, what did remembering Jesus mean to them?
The 2018 UCC Clergy Women Retreat to be held in Carefree, Arizona, May 1 - 3 features recent Antoinette Brown awardees as keynoters: the Rev. Day McCallister and the Rev. Loey Powell. Rev. Meg Hatch and Rev. Tracy Heilman attended last year, and plan on attending this year. Meg and Tracy would be glad to talk with you about how wonderful this retreat is. Information and registration [LINK].

West Region Youth Event
read all about it and register at: [https://www.uccwrye.com/](https://www.uccwrye.com/)
Dwight will be our Saturday luncheon speaker at CAM on June 16.

February 16-17  Church and Ministry Commission, Billings office
February 23-24  Church Vitality Retreat noon-noon
February 25  Marc with Power and Fairfield UCC’s
March 2-3  Jesus Seminar, First UCC Billings
April 15  Marc with Absarokee Community UCC
April 29  Marc with Baker UCC
May 1-3  UCC Clergywomen Retreat, Carefree, AZ
June 14  Clergy Boundary Training, Great Falls 11 AM - 5 PM
June 15-17  Conference Annual Meeting, Great Falls noon Friday through Sunday

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 NEW CONFERENCE WEB SITE www.mnwcucc.org
and our NEW 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!

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