April 2021 eNews
Springing to Life

Rev. Dr. Marc Ian Stewart

How we share news

One of my favorite UCC Conference newsletters, other than ours, comes from
the Hawaii Conference, the Coconut Wireless Newsletter. It is well-designed,
informative, and just the right combination of local church, Conference, and
wider-church information. When I wonder if I have shared the most important
UCC news in our eNews, I check with the Coconut Wireless Newsletter to make
sure you’re getting what you might need. I also love the name, Coconut Wireless
Newsletter, but of course we can not borrow that name here where we live.
What comes to your mind for our newsletter name? Let me know at
ucc@mnwcucc.org.

There is a lot of news and information in our eNews. To make it more accessible,
longer items will now have a link/tab where you can view more detailed
information. We keep a subscription list of eNews recipients, but please do
share with your church parishioners and friends. Past eNew issues are archived
on our new WEB site that Jennifer Penfield designed.

Wider Church News

Click on the pics to link into news and information about innovative missions.
CoVid Remembrance
Waipahu UCC in HI is creating a quilt of remembrance with O‘ahu community help.

Replacing Homes
Following wildfire destruction N.California Oroville UCC, funded a "tiny" home building project.

word@hand
National Council of Churches phone app devotional guide

Pray with Mexico
10 Mission Partners share the Good News of faith working in Mexico.

Environmental
Justice and Disaster
Building Peace with the Earth, seminar about the work of Texas Impact in Houston disaster recovery.

Gen Synod Issues

Upcoming Special Sundays

Strengthen the Church Resources
May 23, 2021

Radical Belonging:
A Mental Health Sunday Resource for All
May 16, 2021

The Strengthen the Church (STC) Offering reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. Conferences and the national setting equally share
the gifts given by members and friends through their local congregations. Click here for 1 minute video.

As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults. Remember, half of our STC offering stays here in the Conference to support our local church vitality.

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**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.*

**Meeting Walt Disney**

Is it fair to wonder whom inspired whom, when Sheila Naismith met Walt Disney?

**Picnic Table Ministry**

Turning outdoor space into a place of fellowship, rest, and meditation with just a few picnic tables.

**Stations of the Gospel**

Rev. Laura Folkwein and members of University UCC created a multi-platform pilgrimage experience for Holy Week.

**Diaper Offering**

Mother’s Day in Great Falls includes a diaper offering for the Rescue Mission Family Center.

**Songbird Habitat**

Mayflower UCC’s earth day project to plant trees to attract songbirds.

**FCUCC**

**Church Brands**

Both Powder River UCC and Big Timber UCC own their own cattle brands.
Ecumenical Buffalo
Union UCC and St. Luke’s ELCA share a pastor, and now consider sharing further with St. Luke’s Episcopal in Buffalo WY.

Blue in Red Lodge
Red Lodge UCC fabric artist Marie Shirley-Jones drapes the fellowship hall in blue fabric, remembering Rock Creek as the church begins a timeline.

Churches Seeking Interims
Bozeman Pilgrim UCC
Helena Plymouth UCC

Churches Seeking Settled Pastor
Big Timber Congregational UCC
Broadus Powder River UCC
Buffalo ecumenical churches
Columbus Community UCC
Sidney People’s and Savage UCC’s

Ministers in Transition
Rev. Roger Lynn, Plymouth UCC in Helena announces his retirement.
Rev. Sherwood McKay begins interim ministry with Powder River UCC in Broadus.
Rev. Cheryl Stewart concluded longterm supply ministry on Easter Sunday at Sidney Peoples and Savage UCCs.
Rev. David Murchie starts ministry at Colstrip United Church (PCUSA-UCC) after 30 years as missionary in Japan.
Ordination of the Rev. Lisa Harmon

Rev. Lisa Harmon was ordained at First Congregational UCC in Billings in a grand celebration on March 21.

Upcoming Special Events
Virtual Project with local church video submissions due by May 10

One Community/Long Roads

One Community/Long Roads—a MtNwy Conference Fundraiser—We’re looking for stories of how your church/ministry/life has been helped by our connections among our Conference for a fundraising appeal. This appeal is a project of the Conference Board of Directors. Send along your stories, in writing or in video format like the one you see here. Submissions, under two minutes, should come to graham@uccmissoula.org by May 10. Click here or on the pic above to view a sample of a video submission.

June 5, 2021

TriConference Climate Summit

Connect with UCCers across the Pacific Northwest for a virtual event titled “Grief, Grace and Grounding for the Climate Crisis.” This event will take place over Zoom on Saturday, June 5 from 10-2 (Mountain Time) and will be facilitated by Rev. Dr. Sara Rosenau (who facilitated our last Annual meeting.) More details will be forthcoming. This event is sponsored by The Wholeness Team (leadership from the Pacific Northwest, Central Pacific, and Montana / Northern Wyoming conferences of the UCC).

Outdoor Ministries offers multiple camp options
“Renew, Refresh, Reclaim and Reconnect!” with God, with ourselves, with each other and with nature. Join me along the Boulder valley in 2021!

A variety of youth camps and "Adult & Me” retreats

The Committee for Outdoor Ministry (COM) of the Montana Northern Wyoming Conference UCC is excited to present the 2021 Camp Season. COM is excited to partner with our Boulder River Valley neighbor, Christikon to offer a full schedule of outdoor experiences this summer.

2020 was a rough time for all of us. We were unable to do many of the activities which we have come to enjoy because of the isolation caused by the pandemic. With the advent of the vaccine and the opening up of our State, 2021 will be far better. What better way to “Renew, Refresh, Reclaim and Reconnect” than with a camp experience. Hope you will join COM in the Boulder River Valley this summer.

We’ve got some history here

The Conference youth who attended camp at Christikon in 2020 very much enjoyed their experience and are eager to return bringing their camp friends from around the Conference with them. The report of their experience and pictures of Christikon can be VIEWED.

Christikon successfully held their full camping schedule during the pandemic of summer 2020 and is excited to be able to offer a safe camp setting again in 2021. Director of the youth camps is Mark Donald. Mark is excited about this partnership and would love to meet more youth from our Conference.
Faith Formation Committee

Faith Formation has kicked off an active year so far. Over Lent, we established a weekly zoom devotional meeting that brought church members across the conference together in prayer, scripture reading and devotions.

Another project is building an online and in person means of sharing Our Whole Lives (OWL) programming to congregations and church members across the conference. Covid has been a strain but also a gift as we look to increase offerings to churches in the conference through technology.

This increased activity though takes members to develop the ideas and the content that can support our churches. If you’d like to join in on this work contact the convenors Barbara Gulick bjgulick@bresnan.net and Dwight Welch dwelch@msubilings.edu.
Green Team Calling All Churches

Our Conference has a new GREEN TEAM, consisting of our churches’ people wanting to help make a positive difference for our Earth and environment. One of our goals is to have EACH church in this conference identify someone at each church to be a Green Team liaison/member, who can inform and spread the word about what each church is doing. INCENTIVE: Every church who has a Green Team member can purchase tree or flowering bush to plant, and the Conference will reimburse you for that, up to $25. You can find the Green Team members, minutes of our zoom meetings, plus pictures, tips, and reports of what churches are doing at https://www.mnwcucc.org/green. Please have someone in your church get on board the Green Team now by contacting Cheryl or Patty

Calendar

All meetings other than outdoor camps and retreats are happening virtually

April 22 Building Hybrid Worship Webinar "Time and Talent", 4 pm
April 22 Clergy Gathering 10 – noon
April 27 Building Peace with the Earth seminar 5 – 6 pm
April 29 Building Hybrid Worship Webinar "Tools and Tech", 4 pm
May 6 Church and Ministry Commission (COM), 2 pm
May 9 Marc Stewart preaching at Powder River UCC
May 10 Local Church story video submission due to graham@uccmissoula.org
May 12 eNews submissions due to ucc@mnwcucc.org
May 12 Committee for Outdoor Ministries 7 pm
May 15 last day for Youth Camps early-bird registration prices
May 16 UCC Mental Health Sunday
May 20  Board of Directors meeting 10 am – noon
May 23  Pentecost Sunday
June 1  Youth Camp fees become nonrefundable
June 1  Adult and Multi-Generational camps $50 deposit due
June 5  TriConference Climate Summit, 10 am – 2 pm, zoom
June 9  You and Me Camp full registration due
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
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 with some 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

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