

Waymarks

Plymouth Church | Helena Montana

May 2019



Discussion leaders this year included, in top photo from left to right: Helena City Manager Ana Cortez; Supt. of Helena Schools Dr. Tyler Ream; L&C County Criminal Justice Program Assistant Gloria Soja; Naturopathic Dr. Liz Cavin; Director, Lewis & Clark Library John Finn; US Dept. Homeland Security regional coordinator Dan Hawkins; Carroll College Health Sciences Department Chair Kelly Parsley; investigative reporter John Adams; police detective Bill Henne; and AidSpiritUSA volunteer Sue Dostel.

Also leading discussions were KTVH evening anchor Melissa Jensen (left), and Assoc. Editor of Montana: the Magazine of Western History Laura Ferguson (right). All photos by Ed Field.

Gratitude for Everyone Involved in Let's Talk About It

How many ways are there to express appreciation? I would like to employ all of them to thank everyone who helped us accomplish the 13th Let's Talk About It.

Our planning committee of Lynn Bolin, Joy Bruck, Ann Byrd, Pat Christian, Carol Ann Jacobsen, Susan Maki, Sunny Ray Mandeville, Carol McKerrow, Rosana Skelton, Jennifer Thompson, and Marcia Warner began meeting in October to determine details. Pastor Roger attended every planning session and was 100% involved.

Our smooth, capable team of waiters was very professional and delivered those tasty meals in a very professional manner!

Annette Baird was our "go to" gal for the flyers this year and the preceding 12 years! Thanks to the Retired Sinners and the 23 wonderful women who helped set up on Wednesday. Kudos to our wine donors who also poured: Brad Culver and Don Harriott. A special thanks to Ed Field who did a marvelous job of capturing the evening on film!

I heard so many compliments on our hors d'oeuvres table! How beautiful it looked- and tasty were the offerings. Thank you donors!

We had interesting compliments from our conversation leaders! Many lovely comments from those who spoke and one of them said he would like to be a server next year!

Next year??? We need younger folks to step up. Please think about this. It's an exciting project- new every year- and long lists of subjects to discuss. But some of us can't navigate the stairs and concrete floors as we once did.

So – LET'S THINK ABOUT IT. We're calling for help. Ideas??

Let me say in closing – so many notes of thanks go out to everyone who participated in any way. We couldn't have had such a fine event without your help.

- Carol McKerrow





Notes from the Journey . . .

"It takes a village to raise a child." This bit of folk wisdom speaks to us of the value and, indeed, the essential necessity, of living life in community. The same sentiment is true when applied to Church. It is not a solitary endeavor. None of us can do it alone. For the Church to accomplish its mission requires the active participation of each of us and all of us, working together for the common good and the benefit of the whole world. This plays out in a whole variety of ways both large and small. On Sunday mornings I watch the official ushers and greeters welcoming people as they come in for worship, and I also observe the countless other people who are not on "official" greeter duty that morning also helping to make people feel welcome. When we have fellowship events such as the after-worship gatherings in the Fireside Room and the occasional potluck meals, there are lots of folks who sign up to bring food and take care of the various details required to make things run smoothly, and there are also others who just pitch in to get things done without being asked. During worship we collect an offering which enables us to keep the doors open and to reach out beyond ourselves to touch the world with God's love and grace and compassion. None of us on our own could make all of that happen, but when all of us join together, each contributing our own unique gifts, the results are truly remarkable. *"It takes a village . . ."* Plymouth is such a village. Thank you.



— **Pastor Roger**

(keeping my feet firmly planted in the flow)

Information About Camp Mimanagish

Please read the letter included with this edition of the Waymarks from the Montana – N. Wyoming Conference UCC Board concerning their recent recommendation about the future of Camp Mimanagish.

Upcoming Fundraiser for Mimanagish

Pilgrim Church in Bozeman is having a fund-raiser to support the 2019 Camp Mimanagish season on Sunday, May 19, beginning at 4:00 p.m. This is a crucial time for Camp Mimanagish, and our participation is important. They are seeking silent auction items. They prefer "action" items such as fly-fishing time, a weekend at your cabin, or a catered meal. They might also like art or craft items, but you should check with them first at 406-587-3690 or mail@uccbozeman.org.

Pastor on Vacation

Pastor Roger will be on vacation from May 1st through May 14th. While he is away Dick Weaver and Ed Stevenson will be preaching, and Ed Stevenson will be on call to cover pastoral emergencies.

Recent Deaths

On February 28th long time member Betty Purvis died at the age of 96. She had been a resident at Touchmark for several years. Pastor Roger officiated at a graveside service for her in Ft. Shaw on April 24th.

We received word in early April that long time member Lynn Koch died. He had been a resident at Edgewood. There was a private family service.

In Our Prayers Today

At Home: Sharon Henderson (CO); Ed and Margaret Miller; Betty Barraugh; Pete McKinley

At Edgewood: Kenneth Quickenden

West Mont Residential Housing: Terri Barraugh

Hunters Point: Joan Hart

Legacy: Harold Pederson

To add someone to the prayer list, please call the church office at 442-9883 or email pccofficemgr@gmail.com



In April, the Big Sky Unitarian Universalist Fellowship sent Plymouth a check for \$30.00 along with the following note:

Thank you, Plymouth, for sharing your beautiful space and for letting us use your dish soap, sponges, rags, etc. for another year!

We appreciate you.

— the Big Sky UU Welcoming Committee

Gratitude for All Who Helped

A host of people helped with the Maundy Thursday Soup Supper and Worship event, the Easter Potluck Breakfast, and bringing flowers for Easter Sunday morning. Thank you for all of your assistance. Many hands truly make light work.



Thank you so much for letting us use your beautiful Church!

— Deleah Smith and the Helena Chamber Singers

Stewardship Event – Saturday, May 4th at Plymouth

Stewardship is not the part of church that people tend to get excited about each year. But what if it were? What if our church leaders could be inspired to get excited about Stewardship? What if our churches could have some fun while exploring ways to support the ministry of their church? What if we could create a culture of joy around Stewardship?

That's the agenda on Saturday, May 4 from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for a Stewardship Event sponsored by the Montana/Northern Wyoming Conference UCC. The Rev. Sue Artt, Rocky Mountain Conference Minister will offer a keynote presentation as well as lead two breakout sessions on (1) Narrative Budgets and (2) Developing Inspirational Stewardship Practices. Leaders from our own Montana/Northern Wyoming Conference will facilitate breakout sessions on (1) Coaching for Stewardship and (2) Generational Giving/Developing a Stewardship Timeline for your church.

Who should attend? Folks who are excited about the ministry and mission of our church, the people who are the visionaries and go-getters.

Register on-line at <https://www.mnwcucc.org/> or contact the Conference Office at 406-656-8688.

Dear Members and Friends of Plymouth Congregational UCC Helena:

Thank you for your gift of \$500.00 to Chicago, United, and Eden Seminaries! Thank you for supporting theological education as a vital part of your ministry.

With gratitude,

— Kiely Todd Roska, Director, CUE Seminaries

Please accept our heartfelt thanks for the role you have played in changing lives with your recent \$8,000.00 donation. Your financial support of Camp Mimanagish is profoundly appreciated and assists us greatly in the success of camp!

— Rev. Marc Stewart, Conference Minister, Montana-Northern Wyoming Conference United Church of Christ

A Letter from the Montana – N. Wyoming Conference UCC Board Concerning Camp Mimanagish

Dear Montana – N. Wyoming Conference UCC members and friends,

With a profound sense of responsibility for the stewardship of the Montana – Northern Wyoming Conference of the United Church of Christ (MNWC) and with deep respect for the attachment of many to Camp Mimanagish, the Board of Directors (BoD) sends you this letter.

At their morning April 8, 2019 meeting, the Conference Executive Committee reviewed the information that had been received from the 2019 Camp Mimanagish Advisory Council along with additional information from the Committee for Outdoor Ministry (COM) and the Conference Treasurer regarding the status of camp registrations and volunteers for 2019, fundraising efforts, and the financial position of the MNWC. A table containing a summary of the information is included with this letter.

After much heart-felt and prayerful deliberation, the Executive Committee made the following recommendation to the BoD, who unanimously (Trudi Downer, Terri Goodsell, Tracy Heilman, Phil Maxwell, Sheila Naismith, Pam Peterson, Leslie Roche, Lynne Spencer Smith, Rick Thompson) approved it at their afternoon April 8, 2019 meeting:

- 2019 will be a shortened Outdoor Ministry season in the MNWC to be held at Camp Mimanagish
- The 2019 Conference Annual Meeting, August 9 - 11, will be held at Camp Mimanagish and will include a celebration of Camp Mimanagish
- The 2020 Outdoor Ministry season for the MNWC will take place in locations other than Camp Mimanagish
- The MNWC will look at relinquishing the Forest Service Permit back to the Forest Service. The MNWC will seek to divest ourselves of the buildings and improvements at Camp Mimanagish. Options include, but are not limited to, selling the buildings to another 501c3 organization. We realize that we will need to maintain responsibility for the facilities until they change hands

The MNWC will hold a de-commissioning event at Camp Mimanagish late spring/early summer (May or June) 2020. Should the sale or transfer of the facilities take place before this can happen, this de-commissioning event will be included in the purchase agreement

The BoD is now putting this recommendation before you, the members and friends of the MNWC churches, for your consideration. There will be a special meeting of the MNWC to vote on this recommendation on Thursday, July 11 at 7 pm held via Zoom. Prior to that meeting, there will be three hearings held via Zoom for interested individuals to hear more about the decision and bring their comments and questions. Information about how to access Zoom for these hearings will be emailed in the coming weeks and will be available at www.mnwcucc.org.

Those hearings will be held on Tuesday, May 7 at 6:30 pm & Sunday, June 9 at 12:30 pm. In addition, there will be an in-person hearing at Camp Mimanagish on Sunday, May 26, 2019 at 3:00pm in conjunction with the Kick-off and Family Camp held that weekend. Please plan to participate in the hearing or hearings that best fit your schedule.

How did we get here?

Camp Mimanagish expenses have increased over the years at the same time that use has decreased. A decade ago, the BoD put together an advisory council of business leaders to recommend a business plan that could sustain Camp Mimanagish. The advised staff recommendations were not affordable until the MNWC received a \$100,000 donation in 2016 from the closure of Plentywood UCC. Our investment in professional camp staff provided two years of excellent experiences for campers, but did not substantially increase participation. Meanwhile, facility upgrades and deferred maintenance issues added to the fundraising requests made of our churches. Unfortunately, registrations and rentals have not provided the revenue needed to keep Camp Mimanagish operating.

At our October 2018 special meeting to approve the 2019 Conference and Outdoor Ministry budget, the second \$100,000 deficit budget in as many years was considered. Many delegates at this meeting said that this needed to be the last of such deficit budgets. The BoD formed a new Advisory Council to develop and recommend a business plan for Camp Mimanagish. This Advisory Council focused on camp promotions and local church support. Some of their recommendations were immediately implemented. A Partner Recruiter was hired who reached out to nearly 100 groups, but we were not able to secure sufficient new rentals. Knowing our churches were maxed out in their support of Camp Mimanagish greatly limited the Advisory Council's ability to create a viable business plan.

In their October 2018 vote, the MNWC delegates affirmed 2019 as a year to "buy time" to discern the future of Camp Mimanagish. The BoD set financial and registration benchmarks for the 2019 Camp Mimanagish season. With over 200 campers now registered, some further budget cuts, a \$50,000 gift to Camp Mimanagish, and some key fundraising events scheduled in our churches, we are able to assure that the 2019 camp season will happen at Camp Mimanagish.

How do we move forward?

The Committee for Outdoor Ministries has worked very hard to ensure that 2019 is a successful season. It is a season to celebrate the legacy which is Camp Mimanagish. It is a season to celebrate the hard work, heart and soul which it has taken to carry Camp Mimanagish through almost 90 years. It is a season to celebrate those who have been baptized or married at camp and to celebrate the lives of those whose memorials are indelibly linked to Camp Mimanagish. It is a season to provide transition to our campers who will move into the future to take the steps of making new memories and new traditions. While it may seem final, it is not the end; it is part of the evolution of doing ministry.

In our MNWC, we have long associated Outdoor Ministries with Camp Mimanagish, as this has been our designated site since the 1930's. With the recommendation of your BoD, the concept of Outdoor Ministries will shift to the program of Outdoor Ministry and carry forward the emphasis on program regardless of location. Your BoD is committed to the continuation of Outdoor Ministry in our Conference.

As we look to 2020 and beyond, our Outdoor Ministries will continue to offer Transformational Experiences, with these experiences now located in new places. We look forward to building strong partnerships with neighboring UCC conferences as well as ecumenical camp and retreat centers. Possible partnerships could include:

- Participating in existing camp offerings
- Partnering to create and facilitate camp offerings
- Renting facilities for our unique camp offerings
- Utilizing our State and National Parks and Forests

Our 2019 Conference Annual Meeting will be held August 9-11 where it all began in 1930—at Camp Mimanagish. Our time together will be a home-coming, a family reunion, a time to celebrate and remember.

It is with heavy hearts that the BoD recommends divestiture of Camp Mimanagish after the 2019 season. May the words of the Rev. John Robinson, early church founder, provide some comfort and direction at this time, *"there is yet more light and truth to break forth."* Let us proceed with faith and hope that our Creator, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit still have very definite and concrete plans for the future of our Conference, its churches, its members (present and past), and friends. Let us continue our journey together.

In Christ,

Tracy Heilman, Moderator; Lynne Spencer Smith, Vice-Moderator; Leslie Roche, Secretary; Terri Goodsell, Treasurer; Tawnie Lehman, Human Resources Committee chair; Trudi Downer, Committee for Outdoor Ministries chair; Pam Peterson, Faith Formation Committee chair; Rick Thompson, Church and Ministry Commission chair; Sheila Naismith, East Area at-large rep; Phil Maxwell, West Area at-large rep; Gus Byrom, previous Moderator, ex-officio; Doug McClelland, United Church Board rep, ex-officio; Carol Shipley, United Church Board rep, ex-officio; Marc Stewart, Conference Minister, ex-officio

Plymouth Church, U.C.C.

400 S. Oakes St.

Helena, MT 59601

Plymouth's Mission is to nurture our congregation and the wider community with acts of love and a vision of God's image in all things.



Plymouth Church

400 S. Oakes St.

Helena, MT 59601

Office Hours

- Pastor Roger Lynn: 9 a.m.-noon (M-Thur)
- Office Manager Allison Rowland: 11:30 a.m.—2:30 p.m. (M-Thur)
- Bookkeeper Karen Hendricks: 11:15 a.m.-2:15 p.m. (M)

Contact Us

Church Office: 406.442.9883

Web: www.plymouthmontanaucc.org

Email: pccofficemgr@gmail.com

Also: www.facebook.com/plymouthcongregational

Sundays

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

Wednesday, May 8

10:00 a.m. Women's Group

Tuesday, May 14

6:00 p.m. Council Meeting

Tuesday, May 21

8:30 a.m. Retired Sinners

Wednesday, May 22

11:30 a.m. Women's Luncheon