

Shalom

Red Lodge Community Church, UCC



March, 2022 *Notes from the Sky Pilot's Page* Red Lodge, Montana

Traditionally, Lent is a season commemorating the 40 days that Jesus spent in the desert being tempted by Satan. Begun in the earliest Christian traditions as a time of fasting in preparation for Easter baptisms, the word “lent” means “Spring Season.” Some Christian traditions observe fasting and the “giving up” of certain privileges, entering a time of grieving as penitent observances for the season. Among those things that some traditions abstain from is the use of alleluias during worship.

We are going to celebrate Lent a little differently this year. I am fully aware that once again we’ve already given up so much of our lives, we have very little left to give. And so, we will, instead, claim all of the Sundays of Lent for the alleluias that we’ve given up all year long. A type of “reverse psychology” if you want to look at it from that perspective. My hope is that in celebrating even more of what we DO have, we will become more aware of the many gifts that we are called to share. We will reclaim the word “lent” as a preparation for the coming spring season, as a time to reflect on the different seasons of life.

Our Sunday morning worship will include a Call to Worship in song, recognizing the change of seasons and the beautiful creation that awaits us in the coming spring and Easter season. We will be introducing new songs (new words set to familiar tunes), with each Sunday featuring a different stage in our life and faith cycle. The alleluias of each of these stages of our life will be celebrated through story, prayer, and song. The Sacred Texts will come from the stories of creation and the life cycles in Genesis along with poetry that will serve as guided imagery during prayer.


Our Lenten observance will begin on Ash Wednesday (March 2) with a contemplative service and the imposition of ashes. From there, the alleluias will begin! Our Sunday morning worship will also feature guest musicians throughout the Lenten season and our own fabulous choir. We are adding a Wednesday evening soup supper and contemporary worship service, inviting the newcomers to Red Lodge and newcomers to worship to experiment with an entirely different worship experience.

Jesus may have spent 40 days in the desert wilderness going toe to toe with the enemy; for that we are forever grateful. We will spend 40 days in the reclamation of our alleluias that we have already given up all year long.

Peace,

Pastor Pam





Wednesday Evening
Newcomer's Worship

March 9 – April 6

6:30 pm Soup Supper (provided)

Contemporary Worship at 7:00 pm

Whether you are new to Red Lodge

Or

New to the idea of "doing church"

Or

Curious about Contemporary Worship

Please join us!

Free will offerings to benefit the Red Lodge
Ministerium



Hazel Chamberlain Endowment Funds Now Available

Don't Delay! Application deadline is March 6th

The Stewardship and Outreach Committee invites you to submit an application for Hazel Chamberlain Endowment funds on behalf of a Red Lodge or Carbon County non-profit near and dear to your heart.* As the pandemic continues, prayerfully consider where the greatest needs lie in our local community and how our gifts can do the most good for our neighbors. Requirements are included on the application form below.

Presentations will be made during Mission Moments on upcoming Sundays, and then people of RLCC will have the opportunity to vote on which non-profits most need our support this year.

Applications may be printed from the Shalom or the church website, picked up in the church office or by calling the office to request a form by mail.

Again, this year RLCC is blessed through the generosity of Hazel Chamberlain to be able to reach out to our community and demonstrate our Love in Action. We look forward to receiving your applications.

*We cannot accept applications for capital campaigns.



Application for 2022 Hazel Chamberlain Endowment Fund Grant

Requirements:

1. Applications must be made and championed by an active worshiper at RLCC.
2. The organization nominated must be a registered non-profit (501c3) in the Red Lodge/Carbon County area. No capital campaigns, please.
3. A Mission Moment video must be submitted representing the specific need(s). *
4. Applications must be received at the church office no later than March 6, 2022.

Name of Organization _____

Mailing
Address _____

Telephone _____ EIN# _____

Website Address _____ Contact Person _____

Please attach a brief one paragraph explanation why you believe this organization is deserving of our support. This paragraph will be included with the ballot for distribution of the funds.

*The video is to be no longer than four minutes to inform us of the mission and current needs of the organization and will be shown during Sunday worship service and posted on the website. It may be submitted in various ways including coming to the church to have it recorded by Jay West. The organization or the nominating individual is encouraged to do a further promotion during coffee hour on a scheduled Sunday morning at 11 am. Once presentations have been made by all applicants, ballot voting will be opened to the people of Red Lodge Community Church to decide where the available funds go. Questions? Call the church office (446-1444).

Application submitted by _____ Phone _____

For a printable copy of the application
here is a link to our [website](#):

Through a meeting last fall with Pastor Pam, the Executive Council, and the Pastor Parish Relations Committee, we recognized that the Mutual Ministry of the Pastor and the Congregation might work best with goals that we can work on together. On February 6 at the Congregational Meeting, the congregation shared in a brief brainstorming session. From that work, the following 6 goals are being suggested for our church. These are abbreviated forms of the goals. Please review them and see which one(s) catch your eye and let either Janet or Pastor Pam know which one(s) you would like more information on. The final goals will depend on the responses to these initial ideas.

Goal 1

Pastor: Make weekly phone calls to set up visits with past attenders and new attenders; create small group common interest groups focused on Social Justice issues in Red Lodge and catalog current Red Lodge Small Group common interest groups (non-profits) that church members already belong to for them to invite church attenders to

Congregation: Create Small Group programs to welcome newcomers and encourage past attenders to re-engage. Commit to making phone calls and personal visits.

Goal 2

Pastor: **Create Wednesday children's program; this might not be in the church, it might be by participating in the community on some level.**

Congregation: Provide workers for Wednesday program, PR, support, co-facilitate, transportation

Goal 3

Pastor: Create new worship service, (in addition to Sunday 10 a.m.) contemporary and progressive, alternative locations

Host public gatherings such as Thirsty Thursdays, Office Hours at Cattail

Congregation: Authorize new services, provide people power for PR, set up, hands on needs

Goal 4

Pastor: Work with local events company, Conference and Singing Waters Miminagish to create Adventures Ministries

Congregation: Authorize Adventure Ministry, Provide people power to support Adventures Ministries – PR, transportation, programming, support

Goal 5

Pastor: Lead Mission Study to develop foundation for identity

Congregation: Participate in Mission Study, Participate in Book Studies, Participate in World Café conversations, form a work group to discuss w/Pastor

Goal 6

Pastor: Bring recommendation to create Finance Committee (both Ad-Hoc style and permanent) to Church Council and act in advisory capacity on committee

Congregation: Provide leadership and committee members to do the work of creating recommendations for Bob Moran Fund Usage and to review Restricted Funds to streamline them into Budget





Pastor Pam's March Schedule

Preaching All 4 Sundays

Leading Ash Wednesday Service 7 pm

Leading Wednesday Evening Services all 4 weeks

Office Hours Mondays 10 am – 3 pm

Available by appointment Sunday – Thursday

Days and Evenings



Nadia Bolz-Weber Lecture

April 6, 2022 at 7pm Petro Hall of the MSUB Student Union Building

The Rev. Bolz-Weber will present on her book *Shameless: A Sexual Reformation* which reminds us that sexual flourishing can and should be for all genders, all bodies, and all humans. This lecture is sponsored by United Campus Ministry at MSU **Billings**, **MSUB Women and Gender Studies**, and the **Rocky Mountain College's** Wheatley Lectures. Methodist Bishop Karen Oliveto will be hosting a conversation with Rev. Bolz-Weber following the presentation A Q&A will follow along with a book signing. Copies of *Shameless* will be sold by the MSUB Bookstore. Tickets to the event are free. RSVP at dwelch@msubillings.edu



NEW! We are starting a new monthly women's ministry at our church. The first event will be on Saturday February 26th with Brunch at 11:00 a.m. here at the church. The focus of this group is self-care and celebration as an outreach ministry to the women of Red Lodge. Please bring a dish to pass and plan on celebrating the birthdays of those born in January and February. This first meeting will be focused on fun with a little organizational time. Please bring your lady friends! For more information and to RSVP, please contact Lori Floyd at lorifloyd02@gmail.com.

Birthday cake, coffee, tea, punch and table settings will be provided.

A Word from our Deacons



As part of the goals that were created for our Church following the Annual Meeting, the Deacons will be making weekly phone calls and exploring small group development with members, regular past attendees, and new attendees. If you are interested in assisting with phone calls and exploring small group development, please contact one of the Deacons or Pastor Pam.

Renee Gabrian	rrgabrian@hotmail.com
Debbie Awes	debawes51@hotmail.com
Don Kinney	dlkinney54@gmail.com
Lori Floyd	lorifloyd02@gmail.com
Helen MacKay	hmackay49@gmail.com
Sharyn McKenzie	sharyn@nemont.net
Bill Cords	billcords81@yahoo.com
Mark Sechler	sechlermc@gmail.com



Volunteer Dates & Roles

Deacons:

3/6: Lori, Don

3/13: Helen, Mark

3/20: Bill, Sharyn

3/27: Lori, Helen

Greeters:

3/6: Libby

3/13:

3/20:

3/27:

Facility Committee



Notes on our Church's History from Facilities Management: March 2022.

This March, as we mark the 132nd anniversaries of the foundings of our parent Congregationalist and Methodist congregations, we find ourselves working and struggling with conforming (or re-conforming) our governing documents and procedures to fit with who we have become. We also are struggling with low attendance and the effects of the ongoing Covid pandemic. There is a temptation to see our predecessors' times as good old days but that requires selective memory. Still, the anniversaries are a good time to reflect on past struggles. Let's begin by noting that the Rev. W.S. Bell, State Superintendent of the Congregational Churches of Montana conducted the first Congregational services here on March 30, 1890 with 12 Red Lodgians attending. The Methodist group was a little larger — there were 15 of them — but services were a little delayed. They had to wait another week before Rev. George Comfort, a traveling Methodist minister, arrived to lead their inaugural service on April 6, 1890.

We might think that the Congregationalists had always done well because they quickly had a church building up by the end of the year, were able to add a parsonage in 1907 (see photo below on the left), and both are still



standing and in use today, albeit by others. (See the recent photo to the right.) Also, they quickly grew from 12 members to well over 125 members and families by the end of their second decade. But some very tough times started after the outbreak of World War I, followed by the 1919 pandemic,



followed, in turn, by the economic collapse of much of Red Lodge's coal industry in the 1920s. During 1919, attendance fell off so sharply that it led to the Congregationalists' and Methodists' first round of talks about merging. Things picked up for the Methodists in the 1920s, but the Congregationalists struggled for another two decades. Things got so bad that they outright suspended regular services for long periods, first in 1926-27 and then from 1931 all the way through the autumn of 1936. It wasn't until 1939 that attendance increased back above 85 regulars.

The Methodists had their ups and downs, too. It took them over two years get enough members and funds to build their first church, a small wooden building with chairs and rough benches for seating. (Picture on the right.) However, during the economic depression of 1895-1896, as few as seven people were turning up for worship services in that little building. Attendance then increased into the hundreds for a while but, during an economic downturn in town in 1911-12, membership dropped down to only 76. It then rose a bit but dropped again during 1919. The Methodists rebounded much more quickly than the Congregationalists, which is why the 1919 merger talks tapered off and the Methodists moved into the building



that now houses us. They did well through the 1920s but, during the Great Depression of the 1930s, there were several years when finances were even worse than they are now for us. In several years, for example, they were unable to pay the Pastor's full salary. In 1940, just as the Church finances were recovering, the Church roof was found to badly need repairs and they also had to replace the building's heating system. That led to another round of inconclusive talks with the Congregationalists about merging. Both Congregations managed to struggle through the War years and seem to have grown, contracted and grown again over the rest of the 1940s and 1950s and finally merged in 1964 to form the present Community Church.

If there is a lesson in this, it may be that we should expect periodic struggles with a changing community, changing conditions, and changing times, and also be open to the kinds of new organization and new thinking that lets us adapt as our predecessors adapted through their own times of struggle.

Lenten Word Search

G	Y	P	R	E	P	A	R	E	F	E	S	V	E
R	K	S	F	E	C	I	F	I	R	C	A	S	F
I	D	C	S	I	H	O	L	Y	W	E	E	K	G
C	Y	N	N	E	P	U	R	P	L	E	S	T	O
C	P	P	S	I	N	T	E	S	N	N	S	N	O
P	E	N	A	N	C	E	E	O	O	F	F	R	D
N	R	L	P	O	I	H	V	I	N	I	E	R	F
O	F	L	G	R	S	I	T	I	I	S	G	I	R
E	O	F	S	A	A	A	R	G	G	H	I	O	I
R	U	C	H	I	T	Y	E	Y	I	R	R	G	D
E	G	T	I	S	S	I	E	R	R	V	O	N	A
C	R	O	S	S	D	S	G	R	I	A	I	F	Y
A	H	S	E	A	S	O	N	R	R	E	C	N	S
G	N	I	T	S	A	F	F	O	R	T	Y	S	G

ASHES
PENANCE
GOOD FRIDAY
GIVING
CROSS
FORTY
PREPARE
HOLY WEEK
FORGIVENESS
FISH
PRAYER
PURPLE
SACRIFICE
SEASON
FASTING
STATIONS

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/1883690/>



Name: _____ Date: _____



Saint Patty's Sudoku

DIRECTIONS: Fill in the grids so that each horizontal row contains each letter exactly once, each vertical column contains each letter exactly once, and each subgrid contains each letter exactly once. We recommend you use a pencil.

RAINBOWS

	B						R
		B	N	R			O
W					I		
	S						I
N			O				W
							S
	R	S		N			B

CLOVER

			V	E	
L					
			C		
		L			V
					E
R	L				

DUBLIN

	N	U	D		
N					
			L		D
	B				
	D		U	I	

SHAMROCK

C	M				
					A
A				O	C
O		K	R	A	S
	H				O
R		K		C	
	A	H			
			O		R



We are happy to announce through the end of March the Church sanctuary will display art work for Carol Hartman, a local renown artist. Please visit her website for more information,

<https://www.carolhartman.biz/>



"Signs of Spring"

"Evening Bliss"





Paulette Viig, Dick Forehand, Sally Hilderman, Bill Temple,
Marvin Dukart

Mail Chimp Mailings

Have you been missing your Monday Memo and Weekly Wrangler that are sent out through Mail Chimp? If so, you may have been accidentally unsubscribed from the email list. If you'd like you re-subscribe, you can do so by [clicking this link](#). You can also email



Enjoying the Directory ?

We hope you are all enjoying the new church directory! We have had some folks who experienced issues accessing, downloading, and/or printing the directory. If you're one of those and you haven't emailed or called in for some help yet, please do. For those of you who still need to get your photos in, or if you need to update your information, you can send an email directly or you can use the directory form on the website. If you have questions or issues email or call Janet at the church office. Enjoy!

If you had recently received a copy of the Directory via mail or stopping by please take a quick look to see if a few pages are missing. It's been brought to our attention that a misprint occur on a few request. Call, email or stop by and Janet will be happy to reprint you a new copy. Thank you for your understanding!



A Note from the Office :

- * Please check with calendar for church usages*
- * Council & Committee Minutes are available for review in the church office.*

January 18, 2022

Greetings, MT-NWy Conference UCC,

I will be retiring full-time ministry in 2023, and so propose to conclude March 25, 2023.

Here are some reflections about my retirement decision:

When I started conference ministry with the United Church of Christ in the Montana – Northern Wyoming Conference United Church of Christ, we were a gathering of churches who were keenly aware that new ways of being church were unfolding among us.

Back then, in April 2012, our task was clear: live into the partnership that had just been created with the Montana Region Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). We devoted ourselves to living into the MT-NWy Partnership. The Conference consolidated leadership by merging our three associations. We looked to the partnership for mission engagement and ministry support, and also considered common budgeting. Although the Partnership found itself discordant around styles of executive leadership and Board oversight, we committed to giving our best effort.

When the Partnership dissolved in January 2015, the Conference needed to re-create its financial system and renew a sense of mission and purpose. Intensive Board development enabled us to get our structure in good order and to create priorities. Two sets of listening sessions throughout the Conference affirmed that our churches wanted to be in it together. Securing leadership expertise was vital as we recruited a new treasurer, a Conference Administrator and support staff, professional camp staff, and a master leadership coach.

Recognizing the extraordinary energy and priority demanded by running an outdoor camp, the Board invested into Camp Mimamagish as fully as possible in hope that its operational, programing, and facility deficits could be turned around. Owning and managing Camp Mimamagish proved to be beyond our capacity, and so the Conference's 2019 decision to divest resulted in a sale to Singing Waters Montana in summer 2021.

These significant structural changes in the Conference have occurred parallel to changes in our local churches. Most church memberships have decreased by at least 50% in the past decade, while budgets have been stable or even increased, and six of our churches closed. All of our churches, save two, have experienced pastoral leadership changes. The leadership of women in our full-time ministries and on the Board has increased six-fold. All our full-time pastorates are in churches that are now open and affirming. We are holding steady in a discernment process of working with two to three ministry candidates at any given time.

This brief overview can be further filled in with many stories of a ministerial relationship between faithful people and courageous churches. I am blessed in my participation with the Montana – N. Wyoming Conference United Church of Christ in this ministry. I also have to admit that a decade of managing our institutional changes has tired me. There are crease lines in my

soul, and also on my brow, that I proudly wear as evidence of faithful endeavors we have engaged together.

My 38+ years of authorized ministry have included five other settings. The concluding months of ministry with each of these settings proved to be the most defining times in each of these settings. With one+ year left in my fourth quarter of authorized ministry, my wisdom is to let you know of my retirement plans now. Conference futuring considerations are impacted by my tenure and my retirement date is a significant piece of that timeline. We have a unique opportunity to continue unfolding where we are going as a Conference. I look forward to living in faithful intentionality with the Conference in managing our future planning as needed. I commit to also hold you in care and prayer as some of that unfolding will necessarily happen apart from me as you work with the denomination in securing future Conference Ministry leadership.

God-speed,
Marc Ian Stewart



Ash Wednesday Service

Wednesday March 2

7:00 pm in the Sanctuary

Meditation, Music, and the Imposition of Ashes



March 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
6 10:00 Live Worship <i>Thomas Rieger</i> <i>Hannah Carter</i>	7 1:00 pm Staff Meeting	8 2:00pm Stewardship & Outreach Meeting <i>Jerry & Betty Brekhus</i>	2 9:30 am Coffee Klatch 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service <i>Denece & Russ Lord</i> <i>Milee LaRoue</i>	3 9:30 am Prayer Zoom 3:30 Girl Scouts	4	5
13 10:00 Live Worship 4H Meeting	14 1:00 pm Staff Meeting <i>David Ritter</i>	15 <i>Diane & Jim Brown</i>	9 9:30 am Coffee Klatch 6:30 pm Soup Supper 7:00 pm Cotemporary Service	10 9:30 am Prayer Zoom 5:30 PM Church Council Meeting 3:30 Girl Scouts	11 <i>Debbie Letzinger</i> <i>Kandis Rodriguez</i>	12
20 10:00 Live Worship	21 1:00 pm Staff Meeting	22 <i>Leah Gallagher</i>	16 9:30 am Coffee Klatch 6:30 pm Soup Supper 7:00 pm Cotemporary Service	17 9:30 am Prayer Zoom 3:30 Girl Scouts	18	19 <i>Mark Schurbert</i>
27 10:00 Live Worship	28 1:00 pm Staff Meeting	29	23 9:30 am Coffee Klatch 6:30 pm Soup Supper 7:00 pm Cotemporary Service <i>Jerry Rieger</i>	24 9:30 am Prayer Zoom 3:30 Girl Scouts	25	26
			30 9:30 am Coffee Klatch 6:30 pm Soup Supper 7:00 pm Cotemporary Service	31 9:30 am Prayer Zoom 3:30 Girl Scouts		

Shalom

Red Lodge Community Church, UCC
308 S. Broadway
P.O. Box 786
Red Lodge, MT 59068

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Our Mission Statement

The Red Lodge Community Church, UCC welcomes all people to worship, fellowship and to study God's word. **We seek to be servants of our Lord in the care of all people.**"



How to Reach

RED LODGE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Sunday Worship Service: 10:00 a.m.
(Website pre-recorded services continue to be available)

Church Phone: (406) 446-1444

Church Address: 308 S. Broadway

P.O. Box 786, Red Lodge, MT 59068

www.redlodgecommunitychurch.com

Email: rlccassistant@gmail.com or rlccdirector@gmail.com

Office Hours: M-F 10am-3pm & and by appointment

Pastor: Pamela J. Peterson

Office Hours: by appointment only

Cell: (406) 426-8715

Email: pastorpampeterson@gmail.com

