

Shalom

Red Lodge Community Church, UCC



Jan 2023

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

*"Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path." Psalm 119: 105 NRSVUE*

Have you ever picked a "word" for the year? A word that you use as a guide, inspiration, or theme? A word that stays with you all year long, appearing in unexpected places and giving you direction when you wondered which way to go? I've been doing this for many years and have picked words like "joy" "hope" "truth" and "faith." In 2021 my word was "pursue" and last year my word was once again "hope." For 2023 the word that will guide my way is "embrace"

How does one pick a "word" for their year? I take a block of time and sit in meditation, asking the Divine what my word for the year will be. I listen to my heart and wonder what the year will bring, and I try a few different words on for size. This year the words that came to me were "laughter" "peace" "joy" and "pestilence." Ok, so I threw out pestilence right off the top since my hashtag (as recommended by Lynell) will be #nopestilance for 2023!


"Embrace" fits in so many ways, and I am excited to write it in my monthly planner, on post-it notes and on my heart. God's Word comes to me with that same embracing excitement. Daily meditations on a specific (although randomly selected) Bible verse lights my daily path. This year I will be using a new lectionary for our worship called, "The Women's Lectionary," written by my Old Testament professor, Rev. Dr. Wilda Gafney. The scriptures are selected from various translations and the order of the lectionary steps away from the traditional readings and leans into the feminine Divine, highlighting the often-missed women of the Bible. Beginning January 10 our Noon Brown Bag Bible Study will focus on the scriptures selected for the following Sunday with a concentration on how the translations differ from what we would typically use from the Revised Common Lectionary, which for our church has been the New Standard Revised Version Updated Edition.

I invite you to sit with some stillness over the next few days to see what "word" God lays on your heart for 2023. During worship on January 1, we will share our "words" during the sermon, offering them up to God as we move forward into the new year. You will be amazed at how your "word" appears to you throughout the year. You might see it on a creatively decorated sign in one of our local shops. You will pick it out of the headlines, and it will appear in your daily devotions at the exact time when you need it the most. Embrace with me, won't you, what your "word" for 2023 ?

Peace,

Pastor Pam

PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS



Sunday: 8am-8pm

Monday: 8:30am-4PM

Tuesday: 8:30AM-4PM

Wednesday: 8:30AM-4PM

Thursday: 8:30AM-4Pm

Friday: Off

Saturday: Off

Evening Hours Available

Pastor Pam on vacation

Jan 2-7



Pastor's Report

November, 2022

Led worship for 3 of the 4 Sundays of November plus planned and led worship for the Ministerium Community Thanksgiving Service at Calvary Episcopal Church.

Pastoral Calls – 35

Staff meetings - 2

Church Committee Meetings – 7

Attended Congregational Meeting, acted as Parliamentarian

Harvest Dinner – 2 Full days plus one evening

UCC Meetings - 1

Community Meetings/functions – 15 (Combination of phone calls, zoom meetings, in person meetings)

Hosted the Banana Split Party

Funeral – 1 community member funeral/ not an officiant

Vacation – 1 Sunday plus 5 days/ fully comped Nov 4, 5, 11, 18, 19

Upcoming Vacation – January 1 (after worship) – 6 (No Sunday involved)

Joyfully Submitted,

Pastor Pam

January Bible Studies in the Upper Room

(Zoom links will be available!)

Monday evening, 6:00 PM beginning January 9

Tuesday Noon (Brown Bag lunch) beginning January 10

These are both

Open studies on our new lectionary readings from

“A Women’s Lectionary for the Whole Church, Year A” by Rev. Dr. Wilda C. Gafney

To follow the Bible study you will want to purchase your own copy of the book, available at our local Beartooth Books for \$36.95 and it is available for your Kindle.



Tabletop Sermon Discussions

Beginning Sunday January 8, I will be hosting Tabletop Sermon Discussions following worship in the old nursery room at the end of the hallway downstairs.

These discussions will give you the opportunity to ask questions about the sermon such as: the theme, the ideas, and the stories that I share in the sermon. You may want to bring a journal to church with you to **note your questions during the sermon. Because this year’s sermons will reference “A Women’s Lectionary for the Whole Church, Year A” by Rev. Dr. Wilda C. Gafney, you may want to purchase the book to follow along.** The book is available from Beartooth Books for \$36.95 and it is available for your Kindle. Grab your coffee and snacks from coffee hour and join me!



Coffee with your Clergy!

Thursday Mornings

8:30 – 9:25 AM, Upper Room (Immediately followed by our Prayer Zoom)

Beginning Thursday January 12

Join Pastor Pam for a cup of coffee or tea and enjoy a **“getting to know you better”** conversation with Pastor Pam and your fellow parishioners. The topics will go with how the Spirit. Our time together will be sacred and maybe even a little silly. Our hope is that this will give you the opportunity to not only get to know Pastor Pam better, you will also get to meet new people from our church! We are doing this because our last 4 ½ **years together have been terribly “disjointed” with A) the pandemic, B) the flood, C) the loss of 40 faithful church members either through death or relocation.** Be sure to **bring your pocket calendars to coffee... there’s certain to be many invitations for church events and “getting to know you better” opportunities!**



RLCC Congregational Annual Meeting Sunday, November 20, 2022

Meeting was called to order by Moderator Bill Cords.

Pastor Pam Peterson opened with prayer.

Forum Introduction and Introduction of Parliamentarian, which will be **Pastor Pam Peterson for today's meeting.**

The Moderator for 2023 Council will be Libby Gardner, Treasurer will be Mark Schubert and Secretary, Lori Floyd.

Motion for the election of officers was made by Debbie Awes and seconded by Don Kinney. Open for discussion as slated and any nominations from the floor. There were no nominations nor was there any discussion. Moderator Bill Cords called for a vote. Nominations passed.

There was discussion on the various committees. Steve Hanson brought to attention that there are two open positions on the Stewardship and Outreach Committee. Jody Loeffen inquired about their task. Linda Hanson gave a response. Having no more discussion, a vote was taken on the election of the Committee Members. Vote passed unanimously.

Motion to approve the 2023 Budget as presented. There was some discussion. Motion was made by Libby Gardner and seconded by Helen Mackay. There was more discussion on various line items and clarification, Pastor Package, and deficit.

A motion to call the question (to stop debate) was made by Libby Gardner and seconded by Shayrn McKenzie. A vote was taken with four people opposed. Motion was approved.

A vote was then taken on the motion to accept the 2023 Budget as proposed. There were 16 yeas and 1 nays. Motion to approve the 2023 Budget passed.

Meeting adjourned at 12:03 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Floyd



Advent Calendars and devotionals were either mailed or personally delivered to members who are unable to attend services. Please contact one of the Deacons or the church office if you are in need of assistance, home visit, or other needs with our winter weather and cold.

Weekly Wednesday Zoom meetings will resume in January. We enjoy group prayer, shared learning, poems, articles of interest, etc., and mostly being in contact with one another over our long winter months. Please let us know if you would like to be included for the weekly Zoom invitation.

Happy New Year!



Renee Gabrian	rrgabrian@hotmail.com
Debbie Awes	debawes51@hotmail.com
Don Kinney	dtkinney65@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

Sunday Worship Deacon Volunteers

Jan 1: Renee

Jan 8: Lori & Mark

Jan 15: Debbie & Jody

Jan 22: Don & Jody

Jan 29: Don & Renee

Stewardship & Outreach



The pledge campaign in support of the Church's 2023 budget has come to an end. 40 units were pledge with a total received of \$96,700.00. Thanks to all of you who prayerfully considered our needs and responded.

Your Stewardship and Outreach Committee



Facility Committee





No Historic bits this month, but wanted to note the wonderful job the music department did with the Christmas Cantata, “What Sweeter Music, A Festival of Carols”

Here are a few pics including a wonderful standing ovation!

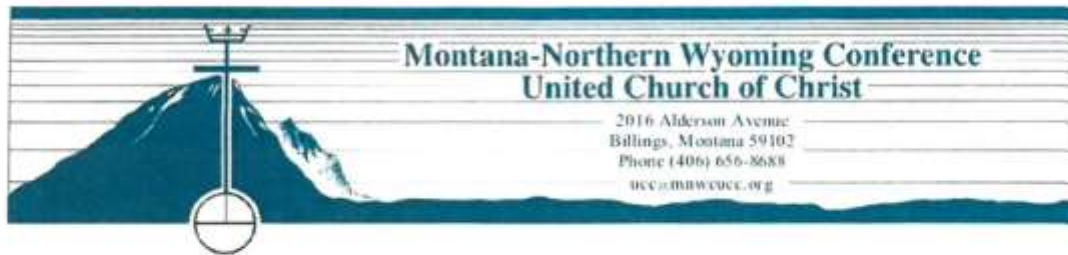




Committee Meetings: **All Meetings subject to change, please communicate with all parties & office. It's much appreciated.**

-  Church Council Jan 12th @5:30 pm
-  January Annual Meeting Jan 22th following Services
-  Facilities Jan 5th @5:00 pm
-  Stewardship @10:00 am
-  Deacon Jan 24th @10:00 am
-  Ad-Hoc Every Tuesday@5:00pm

The Annual January Meeting of the Congregation of the Red Lodge Community Church, United Church of Christ, will be held on Sunday January 22, 2023 at 11:00 am (immediately following worship) in the Fellowship Hall, to be followed by a pot luck luncheon. The purpose of this meeting is to accept the Annual Report of the Church, elect any officers/committee members not on the slate approved at the November Annual Meeting, set goals for the church for 2023 and to discuss any other matters at hand for the benefit of the Mutual Ministry for the church.

[View in browser](#)

December 2022 eNews

Being Gifted



Rev. Dr. Marc Ian Stewart

pic: decorating at Big Timber First Congregational

"Tell me your story; I've got time and want to hear." These might be the most precious words a person can say to another person, other than "I love you." In my experiences, it has happened between strangers catching up to each other on the el Camino de Santiago pilgrimage, as well as between two people who have just met as they sit next to each other on a train or plane. It is also what happens in the best search committee interviews

when a church is looking for a new pastor. Sometimes it takes more relational energy than it should, to do this with our closest acquaintances. Offering the best of ourselves by taking time to listen to someone is a gift that gives back relationship.

News from the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory this week heralded the scientific achievement of this same dynamic of getting out more than was put it in. A nuclear fusion test for the first time produced more energy than the laser used to create it. Listening to another person can create more relationship than what it takes to get a conversation started. While I don't claim a tritium isotope's amount of understanding about nuclear fusion, and at times wonder if I have any more understanding about human relationships, I do know that making time is key. Nuclear fusion calls it "confinement time" and for relationships it might best be called "gift time." Occasionally, some confinement times, like a snow day, can be a gift time for our relationships.

I see a lot of activity this Advent season in preparation for Christmas. While I was in Atlanta for a meeting last week at a convention hotel across from a significant shopping mall I saw a constant traffic jam in and out of the area's parking lots. It seemed everyone was getting out. The CoVid pandemic did confine us in many ways and also showed us how to slow down. Perhaps the gift-shopping of this season reflects the deep appreciation we have gained for people who have become all the more important to us over the past few years. For all we are moved to give in appreciation, may we find even more ways to give time to listen.

When Listening Happens

There has been time for deep listening in the Conference that is resulting in the gift of new leadership. See the announcement below from Moderator Hank Branom. The discernment of the search committee and many candidates shows how much more comes in taking time to listen.



pic: Rev. Dr. Tony Clark



MT-NWy Conference Moderator

Transitional Conference Minister will be Rev. Dr. Tony Clark

Greetings this Advent season. It is with great joy that I write to let you know that the board of directors has unanimously accepted the recommendation of the search committee and joined in covenant with the Rev. Anthony Clark as our Transitional Conference Minister. Tony will begin March 1, 2023 in a mentee relationship with Marc Stewart. Tony will fully assume his duties April 1, 2023. Rev. Clark has served the United Church of

Christ in a wide variety of roles. He has served as local church pastor in Missouri, Minnesota and California, as chaplain, as teacher and as member of the national staff for Ministerial Excellence, Support and Authorization (MESA). In that role, he was instrumental in developing the new Manual on Ministry. One of his references described Tony as "a thoughtful, conscientious, organized, grounded, spirited, kind, committed, studious, and focused leader. Additionally, He is also an exceptional writer, a passionate preacher, justice-minded, and proud of his UCC heritage and identity."



[Intermountain Children's Home](#)

Intermountain Children's Home ministers throughout the region, and is one of our historically related missions. We need a rep for the IMCH board. Learn about the excellent [ministries of IMCH here](#), and consider how you can support this important mission.



Pastoral Ministry

Church Vacancies

There is a serious lack of trained clergy available for rural or part-time positions. Some churches may not receive any inquiries after a year of looking. Keep our vacant churches in your care and prayer. Look within your congregations, too, considering who may be open to leading people in worship and in pastoral care.

Broadus Powder River UCC, [searching with ELCA](#) to share a pastor; no profiles have been surfaced yet from either UCC or ELCA

Baker UCC has a [new church profile](#) especially developed for rural churches. but has received less than one profile a year since becoming vacant in 2013

Big Timber UCC has its [church profile posted](#), and has received one profile

Butte UCC is needing occasional supply preachers

Helena Plymouth UCC is looking for a part-time business manager, see [December 15 FB post](#)

Sheridan WY First Congregational UCC has completed a [church profile](#) in its pastoral search for after Rev. Sheila Naismith retires next June

University UCC Missoula is seeking a [Director of Children's Ministries](#) while the Senior Pastor search is hold with a finalist candidate being vetted



Advent In Our Churches



Baker Community UCC



Big Timber First Congregational UCC



Billings First Congregational UCC



Billings Mayflower UCC



Bozeman Pilgrim Congregational UCC



Butte Congregational UCC



Columbus Community UCC



Custer Community UCC



Great Falls First Congregational UCC



**Helena Plymouth
Congregational UCC**



**Miles City United
DOC/UCC**



**Missoula University
Congregational UCC**



**Molt Congregational
UCC**



**Red Lodge
Community UCC**



**Savage First
Congregational UCC**



**Sheridan First
Congregational UCC**



**Sidney Peoples
Congregational UCC**



**Worden Bethlehem
Congregational UCC**



Year after Year, Your Gift Brings Joy

The Advent season of waiting and watching is also a season of preparing. Our generosity prepares the way for hope, peace, justice, and community. United Church of Christ retired clergy, servants of the church, have spent lifetimes baptizing and blessing, teaching and preaching, marrying and burying, comforting and empowering God's people. Now, through the Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross, we have the opportunity to sustain and empower them.

Our gifts of gratitude and love bring hope to the hopeless, joy to the sorrowful, and deep love to those who have ministered in God's love for so long. By giving generously to the Christmas Fund, we will help retired clergy, church staff, and their families to pay bills, maintain health insurance, and meet emergency needs. Year after year, our gifts make a difference, easing the anxiety of constant financial worries.

Last year, the Christmas Fund, administered by the Pension Boards of the United Church of Christ, provided over \$1.6 million in pension and health benefits supplementation, emergency grants, and thank-you checks to retired servants of the church and their families. Every cent of that money came from the pockets of people like you. Please give as generously as you are able this year!

In 2021, gifts to the Christmas Fund enabled:

- Monthly pension supplementation for 231 retired clergy and lay employees (\$1,104,479)
- Health benefits supplementation for 87 retired clergy and lay employees (\$177,600)
- Emergency grants for 53 individuals and families (\$150,338)
- Christmas "Thank You" gift checks to 509 retired clergy and lay employees (\$254,000)

The Christmas Fund

For the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund



The Family and Friends of Baranovic Family, Janna Clark, Alice Dalio, Al Miller. Those who have lost beloved pets.



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.



In an effort to make Red Lodge Community Church comfortable and welcoming for everyone we ask that you refrain from using strong personal scents or perfumes Thank You!

January 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5:30 pm Facility Committee Meeting	6 7:00 pm RL Theater Group	7
8 10:00 am Live Worship 11:00am Tabletop Sermon	9 9-11 am Great Books Club 1:00 pm Staff Meeting 6:00 pm Bible Studies 7:00 pm RL Theater	10 Noon Bible Studies 5:00 pm Ad-Hoc Meeting	11 3:30 pm Girl Scouts	12 8:30-9:25 Coffee w/Clergy 9:30 am Prayer Zoom	13 7:00 pm RL Theater Group	14
15 10:00 am Live Worship 11:00am Tabletop Sermon 3:30pm 4H club Meeting	16 9-11 am Great Books Club 10:00 am Stewardship Meeting 1:00 pm Staff Meeting 6:00 pm Bible Studies 7:00 pm RL Theater	17 Noon Bible Studies 5:00 pm Ad-Hoc Meeting	18 3:30 pm Girl Scouts	19 8:30-9:25 Coffee w/Clergy 9:30 am Prayer Zoom	20 7:00 pm RL Theater Group	21
22 10:00 am Live Worship Following Service Annual Report Meeting	23 9-11 am Great Books Club 1:00 pm Staff Meeting 6:00 pm Bible Studies 7:00 pm RL Theater	24 Noon Bible Studies 10:00 am Deacons Meeting 5:00 pm Ad-Hoc	25 3:30 pm Girl Scouts	26 8:30-9:25 Coffee w/Clergy 9:30 am Prayer Zoom	27 7:00 pm RL Theater Group	28
29 10:00 am Live Worship 11:00am Tabletop Sermon	30 9-11 am Great Books Club 1:00 pm Staff Meeting 6:00 pm Bible Studies 7:00 pm RL Theater	31 Noon Bible Studies Group 5:00 pm Ad-Hoc Meeting				

Birthdays:

Jan 1: Loretta Sironen

Jean Anne Bullock

Joan Nye

Jan 2: Alicia Angell

Jan 5: Patty Schuessler

Jan 5: Brent Nearpass

Julia Childs

Jan 7: Debbie Tomichich

Anniversaries:

Jan 5: Lu Anne & Dan Brown

Jan 15: Linda & Jim Young

Jan 16:

David & Cheryl Whitcomb

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 (subject to change)

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Pamela J. Peterson, DMin.

Cell: (406) 426-8715

Email: pastorpampeterson@gmail.com

