

Shalom

Red Lodge Community Church, UCC



October 2021 *Notes from the Sky Pilot's Page* Red Lodge, Montana

*I wonder as I wander, out under the sky,
How Jesus the Savior did come for to die
For poor ordinary people like you and like I.
I wonder as I wander, out under the sky. (I Wonder As I Wander, John Jacob Niles)*

The beautiful melodic tone soothed my soul as I took my morning wander through the woods. Of course, I had to look up the lyrics to figure out what the song was and how the words fit into my day. And there it was, “I wonder as I wander out under the sky.” I have a hand carved sign in my home that says, “wander often, wonder always.” It fits my way of living and I can’t help but wonder if our church folks realize that we are in a “wandering and wondering” place right now.

The unexpected, glorious fall weather that we are experiencing gives us the opportunity to be out wandering comfortably, even though our wondering seems to be full of anxiety on many levels. Some of the questions that we are asking involves filling our officer seats for the next year, re-structuring our leadership model, filling staff positions and... well... COVID. If you are like me, you can only wonder about things just so long and then you need to take a good long wander to let your brain settle, your emotions calm, and your body relax. Wandering does that for me. The crunch of the leaves, the breeze on my face, the sun on my skin all engages my senses so that I can think clearly; one thought at a time.

While all of these “churchy” issues could distract us from what is truly important – the questions about our faith (How *did* Jesus come to die, anyway?) and our service to the community (ordinary people helping other ordinary people) are really the wonderings that we are called to focus on. The intent of the organization of religion was to provide a place for the community to worship and share what they had in common so that none would go without. That expanded into providing structured religious education to share our faith stories with others in hopes that everyone could have the confidence and understanding of the grace of God. As long as we keep those original ideals at the forefront of our wondering, our wandering will, perhaps, lead to a common destination of a wonder-filled spiritual home.

As you find yourself wandering during this unprecedented warm autumnal season, allow yourself the privilege of unrestrained curiosity. Why *DID* Jesus come to die? What *AM* I doing for the ordinary people? How *CAN* I serve the church? Where *WILL* this wandering lead us? And of course, the question on everyone’s mind... *WHEN* will the snow arrive?

Joining you on this wonder-filled wandering,

Pastor Pam



Pastor Pam's October Schedule

Oct 3 (afternoon) – October 7

Birthday Celebration Vacation

**For pastoral emergencies,
please contact the church office**

Sundays Oct 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 Preaching

October Office Hours

Tues and Thurs 10 – 3 (except Oct 5, 7)

**Wednesdays are reading and sermon prep
days,**

out of the office

Available for appointments

Sunday – Thursday day and evening

Days Off – Friday and Saturday,

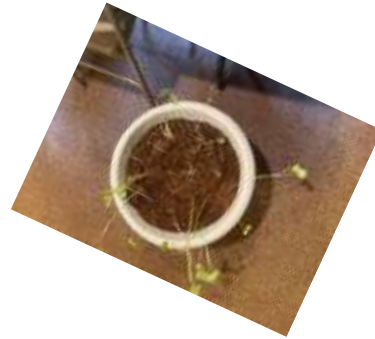
available for emergencies

Worship Services

We have begun offering both LIVE and Pre-Recorded worship . The Live Worship Service is at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Pre-Recorded Worship is available on the website.

Watch for masking updates! As the COVID Delta Variant becomes more predominant in our area, the Deacons encourage you to wear masks for worship and when visiting the church. Please watch for masking updates here in the Weekly Wrangler, in separate emails, and be sure to read any new signs on the church doors. As always, we will happily provide masks for you at the church in case you happen to leave home without one. We will be using a visualization of communion for our communion services for the next few weeks in order to provide the safest possible way to share our meal together. Please respect social distancing for anyone wearing a mask.

Christian Education



Sunday School has been suspended for the Summer. Hope to see everyone back in the Fall!

Reflecting Moment

Traditionally, on the 2nd Monday in October we have celebrated **Christopher Columbus' "discovery of America"**. Today we demand an unbiased account of our history, which is why many cities and states are choosing to honor our indigenous people on this day, instead of Columbus. Here in Red Lodge, with our namesake reflecting the Crow Tribe that once lived here, we may want to give this some serious consideration. With respect for our indigenous people, Sunshine Prince, a local artist, has agreed to share her art with us for the month of October.





Red Lodge Community Church Youth Chorale
October 2021 - April 2022

Starting Wednesday, October 13, The Red Lodge Community Church is offering a Youth Chorale for area students in grades 1-5. This opportunity is free for all participants, though registration is required.

When: Wednesday nights from October 13 - December 15 for fall semester
Wednesday nights from February 2 - April 13 for spring semester

Time: 7:00 - 7:45 pm

Where: Red Lodge Community Church at 308 Broadway S, Red Lodge

For: All area students in grades 1-5

The goal of the RLCC Youth Chorale is to provide a musical, creative, emotional, and social outlet in an encouraging, supportive, and learning environment. Through singing, movement, and musical games young musicians will learn a variety of styles and genres of music and will learn fundamental musicianship skills.

Please contact Pastor Pam Peterson or Lynell Kruckeberg, Youth Chorale Director at the Red Lodge Community Church for further information.

Red Lodge Community Church
308 Broadway Ave. S
Red Lodge Montana
406-446-1444

Pastor Pam Peterson
pastorpampeterson@gmail.com

Lynell Kruckeberg, Youth Chorale Director
lynell.kruckeberg@yahoo.com

Facility Committee

Notes from Facilities Management: An Anniversary to Mark

This month marks our **building's** 109th year. The first services were held on the October 13, 1912, the second Sunday in October. Those services were held by a newly formed --- but short lived --- congregation of the Disciples of Christ (DoC). Coincidentally, **today's** DoC is an ecumenical partner of our UCC. Even so, very little is known about that 1912 group. **We've learned little more than this:** between January and October of 1912, they had their first gathering, **organized themselves as "First Christian Church of Red Lodge," raised money to build,** and had enough of this building finished for them to begin services with a permanent pastor. Five years later, they dissolved. The local Odd Fellows lodge bought the building. They, in turn in 1923, sold it to our ancestral Methodist congregation who had theyout grew their original building.

Early descriptions and photos of the building are hard to come by. The first and only contemporaneous one is literally sketchy. It comes from a map of town made by the Sanford Company for a kind of fire insurance database for which Sanford had surveyed the town a couple of weeks after First Christian moved into its building. The image to the right is an enlargement from that map. The colors and symbol tell us that:

"I_s Christian" was a brick building with the two floors; the two



towers out front had the entry doorways; and there was functioning water, sewer and electrical service and furnace heat. The photo to the left is the oldest exterior photo we have found. We think it was taken in October of 1917, shortly the building passed to the Odd Fellows. Apart from **their newly hung "I.O.O.F." sign,** the exterior of the building was the same as it had been five years earlier. (Notice, for example, the still unfinished, boarded-up windows atop the towers; those **weren't fixed until the Methodists moved in, bringing their**

old church bell which we still use today.) The name for the vaguely medieval-look of castle towers, steep roof, **and stained glass was "Tudor Revival."** For us, the most striking thing may be the original main entrance --- large steps going up to the double door entry through the north tower.

That doorway would have taken us into a Sanctuary looking something like what we see in the photo to the right. This photo is from December of 1923 when the Methodists had been here for six months and had the room decorated for formal dedication ceremonies. The room would have been much plainer back in 1912 and later Methodist photographs show more



austere decoration. Probably the most striking thing in the photo for us today is that the Sanctuary faces the **alcove in the back wall. The folks in 1912 would have called it the "east wall" and told us that** sanctuaries should face east. Another thing that may strike us is that this Sanctuary seems narrower. It was. The southerly third of both the upper and lower floors were partitioned off by a load bearing wall. Today, we have opened those spaces up, using steel support posts (and pillars downstairs) in place of the original solid walls.

So, for this building's anniversary, you have an idea of what the building and the Sanctuary looked like when first built. We'll talk a bit about the Methodists next time.

A Word from the Deacons....



Our walking group will continue to meet Wednesdays as long as the weather allows. Our church was well represented at the Fun Run including four of us from the walking group. We will look into restarting the Zoom gathering when cold days are here. If you are interested in being in the Zoom group, please contact one of the deacons.

Peace and Good Health,

Your Deacons

Debbie Awes—425-3985 Renee Gabrian—446-2047 Sharyn McKenzie—664-3160

Bill Cords—446-1901 Lori Floyd—671-0982 Don Kinney—446-1670 Helen Mackay—425-0101



Thank you to the recent Greeters and Coffee Hour providers. We are open to suggestions and want this to work for everyone. It is a once-a-year service to our church and we appreciate your giving of your time and energies. If the assigned time doesn't work for you, please try to switch with others on the list. If you don't want to participate as a Greeter/Coffee Hour Host, please notify your deacons, Pastor Pam, or Janet.

Greeters:

10/3: Harris & Renee Gabrian
10/10: Don & Becky Hardy
10/17: Teresa Hauge & Janice Williams
10/24: Terry & Marie Shirley-Jones
10/31: Marty Clague & Martha Brown

Deacons:

10/3: Lori Floyd & Debbie Awes
10/10: Bill Cords & Renee Gabrian
10/17: Lori Floyd & Helen MacKay
10/24: Debbie Awes & Bill Cords
10/31: Helen MacKay & Renee Gabrian

In August we grieved with the family and friends of:

Kevin Horan, Janet Vincent, Tatum Morrell,



MOMENT FROM THE MODERATOR



Excitement is a mixture of enthusiasm, motivation, intuition, and a hint of creativity.

Fall is here and excitement is in the air. We are excited about our favorite football team. We are excited about new programs and opportunities in our church. We are excited about the possibility of a youth chorale that the church will be offering this fall. So, what excites you? Take a minute to channel your thoughts and imagination and get excited about what the world has to offer to you today. God will be there to assist you in making your visions a reality. Here are a few of my favorite quotes about excitement!

- The only difference between fear and excitement is your attitude.
- It's the possibility of having a dream come true that makes life exciting period.
- It is exciting to think that some of the best moments of our lives haven't even happened yet.
- I'm excited about everything today.
- Focus on the excitement and it will lead you through the obstacles. - *Piya Sorcar*
- Without leaps of imagination, or dreaming, we lose the excitement of possibilities. I mean, after all, is a form of planning. - *Gloria Steinem*



There are new things going on in the Fellowship Hall!

What's all that blue material on the walls in the Fellowship Hall, you ask? It's a living time-line! Part of the work of our church's transition process is to establish a working time-line from our beginnings in 1890 to today! You will have the opportunity to add to the time-line soon. Why the blue material? It represents Rock Creek, flowing through Red Lodge, the community that our church has been a part of all these years. Many thanks to Marie Shirley-Jones for sharing her gift for creating beautiful visuals using fabric art.

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 re-print 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.



October

2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 10:00 LIVE Worship 3:00 4H meeting	4 Staff Meetings	5	6 9am Coffee Klatch Nancy Krekler Lew Gumper Alan Schuyler Pastor Pam Peterson	7 Executive Committee Meeting 9:30am Zoom Prayer 3:30 Girl Scout Meeting Martha Sobral	8 Judith Gregory	9 Sue Kauffman
10 10:00 LIVE Worship	11 Staff Meetings	12	13 9am Coffee Klatch Carolyn Brown	14 9:30am Zoom Prayer 3:30 Girl Scout Meeting	15	16
17 10:00 LIVE Worship	18 Staff Meetings	19 10:00 am Deacon Committee Meeting	20 9am Coffee Klatch Stephen Vaile	21 9:30am Zoom Prayer 3:30 Girl Scout Meeting Lucinda Nilson Wayne & Colleen Stevenson	22 Tom Rieger	23 Nancy Hamilton
24 10:00 LIVE Worship 11:00 a.m. All-Church Gathering 3:00 4H meeting	25 Staff Meetings	26	27	28 9:30am Zoom Prayer 3:30 Girl Scout Meeting	29	30 Emma Nearpass
31						*Birthdays *Anniversary

Need For Change

For the past few years our congregation has been unable to fill many of the seven (7) positions/offices which make up the Executive Council which, in turn, fulfills the nuts and bolts of the operation of our church. Those seven positions are as follows: Moderator, Vice Moderator, Secretary, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Clerk and Past Moderator. In order to address this problem an Ad Hoc Committee was formed to offer a solution and find a way for our church to be the best we can be.

In order to operate our church effectively in this new day and age with all its challenges while at the same **time matching our church's current ministries and population with all their gifts and talents we need to** streamline our operation as follows: reduce the seven positions/offices of the Executive Council to three (Moderator, Secretary and Treasurer). The Executive Council will have the same overall responsibilities but the respective positions/offices can be shared by more than one person aided by closer communication and interrelationships among the three (3) positions / offices. Those roles and their descriptions are as follows:

Moderator – Remember! This position can be shared!

- Be a member of the church
- Be one of three signatories for financial accounts, UCC documents, other church documents
- Call meetings; remind committees, chairs, Ad-Hocs etc. (possibly through the church office) of meetings, minutes and responsibilities
- Chair the Church Council, Congregational, and Annual Meetings

Treasurer – Remember! This position can be shared!

- Be a member of the church
- Be one of three signatories for financial accounts
- Maintain a system for bookkeeping; give oversight to bookkeeping through some means, be a member of CC, attend all CC meetings, provide monthly budget updates
- Report at CC and Congregational Meetings the work of the Financial Secretary

Secretary – Remember! This position can be shared!

- Be a member of the church
- Be one of three signatories for financial accounts
- Be an optional signatory on UCC and other church documents
- Attend all CC meetings
- Assure that the minutes have been typed up from the live-recordings by the AC, verify the minutes, present the minutes for approval at the next CC meeting; attend annual and specially called congregational meetings, present minutes from prior congregational meetings for approval, verify minutes typed up from live-recording by AC of congregational meetings.

If you are interested in finding out more about these positions or any other aspect of restructuring our leadership model, please reach out to either Pastor Pam or any of the Ad Hoc Committee Members: Debbie Awes, Martha Brown, Bill Cords, Russ Lord and Jay West. Stay tuned for the next step in this process. And remember, this work will help us to be the best church that we can be!

Shalom

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

October 2021



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. with Sunday School
(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