

# Shalom

Red Lodge Community Church, UCC



August 2023

*Red Lodge, Montana*

## **September Supply Pulpit**

September 3-Rev. Teressa L. Clark  
(Communion)

September 10- Rev. Teressa L .Clark

September 17 - Phil Robertson & Martha  
Sobral

September 24-Mindy Misener, MID

## RLCC Council Meeting Minutes for Thursday, July 13, 2023

The meeting was held in the Upper Room. Members present were Mark Schubert, Mark Sechler, Steve Hanson, Libby Gardner, Julia Childs, Jay West, Lori Floyd. Lori Floyd opened with prayer.

Motion to Approve the Agenda was made by Jay West and seconded by Mark Schubert. Some discussion was held on the format of the printed agenda. Motion passed.

Motion to Approve the Consent Agenda was made by Mark Sechler and seconded by Julia Childs. Motion passed.

Mark Sechler reported for deacons that 39 people signed up for the supper club.

Motion to confirm the council email vote approving the hiring of Zina General as Christian Education Director was made by Jay West and seconded by Steve Hanson. No discussion. Motion passed.

Norma Scheidecker and Libby Gardner drew up a new employment for Janet with 5 paid holidays per the June 8, 2023, council meeting. An evaluation will be drafted by mid-August.

Motion to approve Patty Schussler as a member of the CE committee by Jay West and seconded by Julia Childs. Discussion was held on other possible members. Motion passed.

Meeting with Pastor Tony Clark was informative. Steve Hanson will red line the Church Profile for potential changes.

Mark Schubert presented the financial report. He highlighted a few items.

Steve Hanson clarified two changes to the previous minutes. The date of July 7 should be July 2 and the next meeting should be on July 13 instead of July 14.

Motion to approve the Previous Meeting Minutes as amended was made by Mark Sechler and seconded by Julia Childs. Motion passed unanimously.

### Old Business

Appreciation was expressed for the work done by members of the By Laws and Finance committees. Also for those who helped with the congregational meeting.

Steve Hanson will work on the clerical changes needed in the employee handbook.

Americorps housing went fine.

### New Business

Harvest Dinner was set for November 4, 2023.

Housing for Pulpit Supply Pastor was discussed. If there are no members able/willing to house the pulpit supply pastor, then we will have to reserve a hotel room if needed.

Jay West commented that Facilities is working on a handbook for building use. This may include an Event Fee for nonmember use.

Motion to adjourn at 7:20pm was made by Jay West and seconded by Mark Sechler. Motion Passed.

Respectfully submitted, Lori Floyd



"Therefore, do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own." Matthew 6:34

In the late 1920s, my grandparents were among the many people who saw a devastating shift in their lives. I remember my grandmother always turning to her faith to get her through uncertainties. Not long ago, my cousin sent a copy of a prayer my grandmother, Charlotte Ingham Word, wrote in 1930. It epitomizes discussions I have had with friends about staying in the present. As we as RLCC congregants move through our days without a pastor, our uncertainties of community, country, and world events I hope my grandmother's words are use-

#### FOR TODAY

*Because I have Today, I lift my voice in praise, my heart in gratitude. Though many a shadow cross my path before the setting of the sun, I glory in the fact that I have the privilege of anticipating this day.*

*If I walked in blindness yesterday, I pray for the Light that will open my eyes for the Today. If I walked in the way that was easiest and short of noble purpose, I ask for strength to be true to my higher self and rise above the mistakes of the day that is gone.*

*If my mind in its desires and ambitions is leading me in to paths of temptations, roads of regret, and insurmountable barriers, take me by the hand, O Lord, and draw me back in to the harbor of Thy righteousness and protection.*

*If my mind in its desires and ambitions is leading me in to paths of temptations, roads of regret, and insurmountable barriers, take me by the hand, O Lord, and draw me back in to the harbor of Thy righteousness and protection.*

*If within the portals of my heart there is a cloud upon my horizon, a cloud that seems sinister and o'erpowering, filling me with fear and distress for the outcome of this day and the tomorrow, give me courage to fight for my Today, letting me drink when I'm athirst of the "Water of Life" freely.*

*If my foot slippeth, be Thou my Rod and Staff. If discouragement prevail be Thou my Comforter. If the foe surround me, be Thou my Salvation.*

*So, Thou my Creator, create within me a strong heart - that my Today may be a stepping-stone for my Tomorrow.*

*Charlotte Ingham Word      1930*



Photo by [Jordan Whitt](#)  
on [Unsplash](#)



August 29, 2023 - Update on Pastor Search

Our RLCC Church Profile has been posted on national UCC websites for several weeks. On our RLCC website, Janet built a link to the Profile through a link to a brief Job Description. No formal applications have been received yet, but two people who visited church have checked our website. Hopefully more formal applications will begin to arrive via the formal posting as summer winds down. Formal applications will be routed through the MT-Northern WY Conference office while the search committee does our own local communication, inquiry, investigation, interviewing, etc.

**To date, we have not heard back from seminaries that received a brief “request” that they disseminate our Job Description and Church Profile to their students, faculty, and any others within their sphere of influence.”**

# Deacons

Renee Gabrian	rrgabrian@hotmail.com
Don Kinney	dlkinney65@gmail.com
Lori Floyd	lorifloyd02@gmail.com
Helen MacKay	hmackay49@gmail.com
Jody Loeffen	quinnbaughqueen@aol.com
Kiyoko Carlson	kiyokocarlson@gmail.com
Mark Sechler	sechlermc@gmail.com

Schedule:

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## September 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Communion						
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19 Meeting @10am	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

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# Facilities Management

## **FOR THE SEPTEMBER 2023 SHALOM** **Notes on our Church Building's History.**



Our Sunday services start with ringing our church bell 10 times while our PowerPoint displays a picture like this one. A big bell -- 34 inches in diameter and weighing over 700 pounds -- it originally hung in the old Methodist Church a block away on the corner of 14<sup>th</sup> and Hauser. The bell came with the Methodists when they bought this building in the summer of 1923. As things worked out, it was March of 1925 before they were able to install in the bell tower. They hired local contractor Adolph Ranta to install it and paid him the equivalent of \$1400 to do it. Ever wonder how they managed get such a big bell up there in the tower?

It was -- quite literally -- an inside job. The crew brought the bell in through the entry doors in the front of the bell tower (which was where the front door was back then). With the bell inside, the next step would have been to open up the southeast corner of the ceiling overhead in the tower to make space for hauling the bell up into the belfry. This photo shows the corner where the tower's mid-level floor and framing (which was the ceiling for the space below) was removed.

This is the level at which the all-concrete walls top out and the rest of the tower walls are all brick. The concrete walls are wide enough to hold the brick and still have enough room to hold the timber frame you see here. This frame goes



all the way up to the tower roof. (The rope you see on the left is the bell-pull; the painted floor patch is from much later work.) With the timber frame in place, the crew would have rigged a chain hoist at the top and used that to lift the bell all the way up. With the bell up, they replaced the mid-level floor boards and then built a belfry floor about five feet above it. They framed that belfry floor onto and around the timber framing and that provided the base on which the bell's cradle could be set. The photo to the right shows the belfry floor and the timber framing with the cradle installed. In other words, the bell swings in a floor-mounted cradle rather than being hung from the rafters above. The photo also points to the reason for

building it level with the bottoms of the belfry windows. It was needed to position the bell for the best sound dispersion out those windows.

This next photo is one we use to show the bell in the Sunday PowerPoints but use it here to show the upper part of the framing. When the bell was being lifted, there would have been a large beam laid across the top for holding the chain hoist. Once the framing for the cradle as in place, and the bell assembly was lowered onto it, the hoist and beam could be taken away. A strong rope was then attached to the large wheel to the left of the bell as seen in the photo to the left. The rope was dropped down to the sanctuary level of the bell tower. Pulling the rope is like hauling on a pulley, which is what the large wheel is. Pulling and releasing makes the bell swing against the large clapper which, in turn, makes it ring. It is the large size of the side-wheel that provides the leverage that makes it a relatively easy pull on the rope to make the bell ring.



## **AN UPDATE FROM THE FACILITIES COMMITTEE ABOUT REPLACING THE SANCTUARY'S AIR CONDITIONING SYSTEM**

Several people have asked about the broken air conditioning system and why we are looking at replacing it rather than trying to fix it. Here is what we know so far.

1. The first question we've been asked is how many professional techs have really looked at the system. The answer is two. The first was Kyle Pruitt, A&S Heating and Cooling in Red Lodge. The second was Mike Coulmore (Cool and More from Bridger). Each spent hours checking the system out and educating us about it. We've use that education to do our own research.

2. The furnace is 33 years old. The A/C system was added 22 years later. The compressor (the outside part) would not start without a hard start (booster) device. Kyle installed one. Our independent research says hard start boosters are a temporary fix. They are hard on older systems and often buy only a little time. We were willing to take that risk until we found serious system leaks.

3. The outside part of the a/c system is right in front of the bottom edge of the kitchen roof. Last spring's major snow led to big slides of packed snow and ice from that roof onto the enclosure. The enclosure and heating coils took a beating. We also are planning to extend of the kitchen roof past the a/c unit so that won't happen again. But that horse is out of the barn as far as the existing unit goes. The fan was damaged. Shaft, bearings and fan blades, at the least. Worse, the fins and tubing at the northeast corner were mashed. We think there are other leaks in the copper tubing in those parts of the fins since hosing off that corner left oil streaks in the water on the concrete pad below.

4. We've found multiple leaks in both the copper tubing in the heat exchanger at the outside compressor as well as in the tubing in the indoor cooling coils inside the furnace compartment.

5. The worst leaks are outside where the copper coolant tubing loops through the heat exchanger fins and frame to run within the heat exchanger fins. There were significant oil leaks (from the lubricants in the coolant) on both sides of the frame and the bottom of the fins. We found oil slicks on other parts of the frame and fins, so there seem to other leaks in the tubing out there. Our research confirms that the chances of success are iffy when trying to solder copper tubes where they pass through a metal frame.

6. Another consideration is that the current system uses old style R22 coolant which is an ozone depleting gas. That's why production and importation of R22 ceased three years ago. Some old stock and reclaimed R22 is available but is about 4 times as expensive as modern, permissible refrigerants. As stocks dwindle, R22 will only get much more expensive. It may take several tries to find all the leaks which means more gas will leak out.

7. Modern refrigerants such as R410 and R422 are incompatible with R22. To try them in our existing system would require a complete system purge and clean out. That may or may not be successful in an aging system. Compounding that, the new refrigerants work at significantly higher pressures than R22. That looks to us like a recipe for straining the entire system and needing a replacement sooner than later, anyway.

8. The furnace part of the system was only rated for 85% efficiency when new and it does not have a way to readily mount air filters. The furnace part 33 years old and sometimes makes disturbing noises when starting up. It might last another decade or so. It might fail sooner. So, we are looking into whether we should upgrade the whole system all at once.

9. Besides the environmental benefits (something the congregation values) and the mechanical benefits of replacement over a band-aid, a new unit will be more energy efficient. However, it is hard to tell now much that might save on the Church utility bills. That a/c system and furnace serves only the Sanctuary. We have two other furnace systems (one for the Fellowship Hall and another for the office-classroom wing) and the north wing (kitchen, restrooms, and elevator) has a boiler and radiant heating system and (obviously) no a/c. That makes it hard to figure what the utility bill savings might be for new a/c (and/or new furnace) for the Sanctuary. So, at this point, we have not been able to figure out how much the upgrades might save on monthly utility bills.





# *Christian Education*



Greetings all,

This has been a fun and busy summer! When I came on to Christian Education, the summer was already in full swing. It has been my pleasure to get to know and teach our young ones. It was so exciting to revamp our classroom and get into our own schedule.

I have curated a Christian Education Committee with some help. This committee includes Luann Brown, Patty Schuessler, and Besty LaRowe. We have all yet to meet in person or via Zoom due to the fact that most or all of my group has been on vacation or had other engagements. I did meet with Patty and she checked out our classroom and went over some curriculum with me. I regularly speak to Luann and bounce ideas back and forth. My plan is to meet with them in early September whether it has to be Zoom, in person, or a mix of both. I would like this committee to help me with the curriculum, Christmas pageants, getting more families into church, etc.

I also should inform you that I suffer from an illness endometriosis as well as fibroids. I have an appointment with my surgeon mid September and from there she will schedule a surgery date. Depending on how invasive it is, (last time it was a cesarean section) I will only need a week or two of rest time to heal. I just wanted to be transparent.

Thank you,  
Zina General, Christian Education Director

**OUR DIFFERENCES**





**By Lynell Kruckeberg**

*Welcome to September! We are excited to share a 4 part series called “Come to the Table” with Pastor Teresa and the larger UCC family.*

At the invitation of Pastor Teresa Clark and conference Pastor Tony Clark, our deacons, church council, and staff were invited to participate in an online worship planning retreat in August. This retreat provided a glimpse into the entire year of **liturgical planning, including the “Come to the Table” series idea that we will be sharing together over the course of the coming weeks.**

Our worship time together will focus on different elements of what it means to be **invited to God’s table and all of the bounty that exists within our church and our community.** Each week of this series will focus on a different theme -starting with the table of hospitality, the table of love, the table of peace, the table of grace, and finally the table of joy. The scriptures, music, and even our imagery during these weeks will be focused around the idea of the table.

This is such a great time for this particular theme for our church. The ongoing Supper Clubs have been a great success and a time for socializing and sharing outside of our weekly worship. Preparations for the Harvest Dinner are underway and will take a lot of our collective efforts to make such an event possible for our community.

Both the Supper Clubs and our Harvest Dinner give us opportunities to share our individual and collective experiences of hospitality, grace, peace, love and joy. Maybe this is an opportunity to share our favorite recipes for success! Perhaps that can be through literal recipes from our families or just a favorite meal. Or maybe, it's thinking about the recipe for our success at Red Lodge Community Church. Maybe some of our spiritual recipes need a little adjustment or a little tinkering to make

Adding or substituting a different spice in our food can make a recipe taste entirely different. In worship, adding a slightly different order to our liturgy or a different theme each week may make our worship feel new, too. And just as all of us have our own favorite foods and flavors, we all have our own preferences for a meaningful worship experience. We hope that we will all be able to find a balance of the things that we already know and love with a few things that may be new and a little bit different.





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

	Church Council	September 14	5:30 pm
	Facilities	September 07	5:00 pm
	Stewardship	September 18	1:00 pm
	Deacon	September 19	10:00 am
	Ad-Hoc-Finance	N/A (next month Oct)	
	Ad-Hoc-Search	N/A	

### Coffee Klatch

Meets every Wednesday @ 9am under Gazebo at Lions Park. Contact Renee if more info. 406-446-2047

### Prayer Zoom

Prayer Zoom every Thursday. Look for reminder in email box for zoom links.

### Girl Scouts

Meets every Friday 3:30 pm in Fellowship Hall

### Parkinson's Support Group

Meets every third Tuesday 2 pm. Please contact Katy Munson for mor info: 406-672-5403



## Mail Chimp Mailings

Have you been missing your 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 the church office the link to you.



## 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!

*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!*



# September 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 10:00 am Live Worship Communion Rev. Teressa L. Clark	4 1:00 pm Staff Meeting 6 pm Theater Group	5	6 9am Coffee Klatch (walking) 11am HbH 1:30 pm Choir 6 pm Theater	7 8:45 am Prayer Zoom 5:00 Facilities	8 3:30 pm Girl Scouts	9
10 10:00 am Live Worship Rev. Teressa L. Clark	11 1:00 pm Staff Meeting 6 pm Theater Group	12 10 am Deacons Meeting	13 9am Coffee Klatch (walking) 11am HbH 1:30 pm Choir 6 pm Theater	14 8:45 am Prayer Zoom 5:30 Church Council	15 3:30 pm Girl Scouts	16
17 10:00 am Live Worship Phil Robertson & Martha Sobral	18 1:00 pm Staff Meeting 1 pm Stewardship Meeting 6 pm Theater Group	19 2 pm Parkinson Support Group Meeting	20 9am Coffee Klatch (walking) 11am HbH 1:30 pm Choir 6 pm Theater	21 8:45 am Prayer Zoom	22 3:30 pm Girl Scouts	23
24 10:00 am Live Worship Mindy Misener, MID UCC MT-WY Conference	25 1:00 pm Staff Meeting 6 pm Theater Group	26	27 9am Coffee Klatch (walking) 11am HbH 1:30 pm Choir 6 pm Theater	28 8:45 am Prayer Zoom	29 3:30 pm Girl Scouts	30

**Birthdays:**

- Sept 2: Shirley Petersen
- Sept 9: Phil Robertson
- Sept 11: Mark Sechler
- Sept 11: Sharyn McKenzie
- Sept 20: Mike Tomicich
- Sept. 22 Rebecca Hardy
- Sept 24: Carol Souders

- Sept 27: Dan Brown
- Sept 29: Coela Rieger

**Anniversaries:**

- Sept. 25: Jo Ann & Bert Eder



## *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](http://www.redlodgecommunitychurch.com)  
Email: [rlccassistant@gmail.com](mailto:rlccassistant@gmail.com)

Office Hours: M-F 10am-3pm & and by appointment (subject to change)  
Pastor:

