

Shalom

Red Lodge Community Church, UCC



Feb 2023

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

“But Jesus still made no reply, and Pilate was amazed.” (Mark 15:5, NIV)

When I stand out on Broadway Avenue and look to the mountains, I am speechless. I cannot find a **Mary Oliver or John O’Donohue** quote to express my amazement at the grandeur of the mountains that rise up before me. I wonder if **Jesus’ stillness before Pilate** came from that same amazement at the grandeur... not of Pilot, a simple human being put in an impossible position of judgement – but rather at God. If indeed Jesus knew what was before him in his mortal life, and if indeed he knew that he would be able to bear it up and come away from it *as God*, would he not have been amazed into a place of stillness?

Or was Jesus’ stillness coming from a place of divine challenge to Pilate? A place of allowing Pilate to do the hard work of figuring out for himself if he was indeed in an impossible position and yet tasked by his role to do some tough “figuring it all out” without Jesus giving him the answers. How often I have found myself in that very place of praying for God to just write the answer on a post-it note and leave it on my desk. Or hoping that a trusted colleague or friend would simply call me up and say, “Here... this is what you need to do.” Instead, I find myself divinely challenged to figure it out for myself, best done in a place of stillness.

And then there’s the third option. Maybe Jesus stood still and made no reply because what was going through his very human mind in this very inhumane moment was, “What?!” Ah yes, that would be the stillness that I find myself in more often than not, so it does my heart good to think that my Lord and Savior experiences that as well. My dad used to say, “If you can’t say anything nice, don’t say anything at all.” And so I learned to be still and just contemplate on the situation at hand. That is probably one of the biggest reasons that I became such an analytical thinker, always trying to figure things out in silence because my immediate reaction to situations might not have been very complimentary.

And so, I will continue to stand out on Broadway Avenue looking to the mountains in stillness. Sometimes because I’m overcome with their grandeur. Sometimes because I just need to be comforted by the Divine within them. Sometimes because I need to be alone in my stillness while I try to figure it all out. And sometimes... just sometimes... I need to just stand back and ask God, “What?!”

Peace

Pastor Pam

Rev. Dr. Pamela J Peterson
PO Box 103, 610 Broadway Ave. S.
Red Lodge, MT 59068

The Congregation
Red Lodge Community Church, UCC
PO Box 786, 308 Broadway Ave. S.
Red Lodge, MT 59068

January 22, 2023

To the beloved friends and members of the church,

After a season of prayer and discernment, I have made the decision to resign my call as the pastor of Red Lodge Community Church, United Church of Christ, effective February 19, 2023. I have come to this decision not on my own, but with the guidance of the Holy Spirit and in agreement with the church council.

My last Sunday leading worship with the church will be on Sunday, February 19 at the regular worship time of 10:00 a.m., followed by a time of fellowship and coffee. It has been an honor to be the pastor of your church, and you all will be in my prayers as you move forward in discerning your mission for the ministry of the church.

While I do not know what the next steps on my faith journey will entail, I do know that my ministry with Red Lodge Community Church has been a wonderful adventure, and I deeply appreciate all your support in everything that we have accomplished together. Thank you for all that you have brought to our mutual ministry.

Your Servant in Christ,

Rev. Dr. Pamela J Peterson

From Libby Gardner, Moderator:

The following information was presented regarding the resignation of our pastor, the Rev. Dr. Pamela Peterson at the congregational annual meeting on Sunday, January 22, 2023:

“ A special meeting of the church council was held on Friday January 20, 2023 to discuss and accept a Letter of Resignation addressed to the Moderator, Red Lodge Community Church, UCC, Libby Gardner, from Rev Dr. Pamela Peterson. Based on the processes outlined in the church governing documents, the Pastor’s Letter of Call, and the Personnel Policies and Clergy Compensation Guideline for the UCC, the council voted to accept the resignation letter with the last Sunday of service Sunday, Feb 19, 2023, and the last day of the pastor call at RLCC Feb 19, 2023.”

This has been a surprise and shock to all of us with the first contact related to the resignation on Wednesday, January 18, 2023. Take time to Pray and Process. With Pam’s gracious letter setting the tone, the prayers of the Council and me are that we can all ponder and then begin the procedure of moving forward. I caution you not to pick this apart by looking backwards, but to figure out how we can move forward to continue to serve God through the wonderful energy that is the service model of RLCC.

The congregation will be kept abreast of the progress, proceedings through email, Wrangler, and updates during worship. Please pray for Pastor Pam as she listens to the Spirit’s Nudge, pray for the members of the Council that they carefully guide the church forward toward new adventures, and please pray for me, as the new moderator, that I can diligently carry forth the duties in which I have been entrusted.

From Sarah Young: “Trust Jesus in all situations. Don’t waste energy regretting the way things are or thinking about what might have been. Start at the present moment –accepting things exactly as they are—and search for Jesus’s way in the midst of those circumstances. Trust is the staff you can lean on. Trust Jesus consistently, the staff will bear as much weight as needed.”

Proverbs 3: 5-6 Lean on, trust in, and be confident in the Lord with all your heart and mind and do not rely on your own insight or understanding. In all your way know, recognize, and acknowledge God, and God will direct and make straight and plain your paths.



From your moderator, Libby Gardner: The items that follow were part of the Council business on January 12, 2023. Minutes to all of the Council meetings are available in the church office for review.

Moderator Comments – This is a position I am taking with carefulness. It’s not something I pursued but was asked to consider. I read the job description and the by-laws, and prayed a lot. I did not receive a burning bush response but was elected by the congregation to serve and installed on Sunday, January 8, 2023. I will always be relying on Jesus, God, and the Holy Spirit for direction; and, relying on the prayers of each of you, the congregation, my family, my sisters, and any others who are inclined to provide their support. As I work to understand the church structure, what I see is a group of people committed to keeping the doors open so we can do the work Jesus showed us to do. Most of our current active congregation is serving on a committee –this is a working church. As I read the old and draft Moderator’s responsibilities the term “serve” was used a lot. And that is what I will try to do.

By-laws revision - The council is continuing with the process of updating our governing documents including proposed revision of the by-laws and bringing the language of all documents into congruence.

Ad Hoc Finance committee – At the January 12, 2023 meeting, the council approved the formation of an Ad Hoc finance committee. This committee will be appointed within the next week and will be charged with close review of our finances, addressing the concerns that were brought forward at the November 2022 meeting related to the ongoing deficit spending. It is requested that further discussion about the budget be tabled at this time. A special congregational meeting can be called as soon as this committee has critically looked at the finances and has suggestions or modifications to propose. The goal is to have this done by spring (April).

RLCC Council Minutes for Thursday December 8, 2022, Amended

Meeting was held in the Upper Room. Members present were Steve Hanson, Jay West, Libby Gardner, Julia Childs, Helen Mackay, Rev. Dr. Pam Peterson, Mark Schubert, Lori Floyd.

Meeting opened in prayer by Pastor Pam. Steve Hanson was nominated by Jay West as Moderator Pro Tern. Motion seconded by Helen Mackay and passed.

Motion to accept the agenda was made by Jay West. Seconded by Libby Gardner. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Jay West. Seconded by Julia Childs. Motion carried.

Facilities report by Jay West.

The facilities committee recommended that our insurance should change from Guide One to the UCC Insurance Board. A motion for the authorization to sign an insurance contract with UCC Insurance Board was made by Jay West and the motion was seconded by Mark Schubert. Motion carried.

The Society of Friends (Quakers) requested to use our building for Wednesday meetings with no compensation by the group. A motion to allow the Quakers to use our building was made by Jay West and seconded by Helen Mackay. Motion carried.

NCCC/AmeriCorps Volunteers need housing from Mid-April to Mid-July. There will be 9 to 12 volunteers using our facility. Motion was made by Jay West and seconded by Libby Gardner.

A motion for the approval of minutes from the Council meeting from November 10, 2022, was made by Jay West and seconded by Mark Schubert. Motion carried.

A motion for the approval of the Congregational Meeting Minutes on November 20, 2022, was made by Helen Mackay and seconded by Jay West with an amendment of the vote count. Motion carried with the amendment.

Financial report was presented by Mark Schubert. There was some discussion on FEMA. Jay West made a motion that Mark Schubert be authorized to sign the FEMA worksheet. This was seconded by Helen Mackay. Motion carried.

Old Business

Discussion was held on the approval of forms and the process that the AD Hoc committee presented to the council. This includes time on December 18 at the end of service to explain the process to the congregation. Motion to approve the survey form for evaluation for the pastor and to approve the process to distribute, collect and quantify was made by Helen Mackay and seconded by Jay West. After discussion, the motion was amended to change the personal rating form to a congregational form.

Continued

Old Business

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Amended motion passed.*

Motion to select Steve Hanson as Parliamentarian for the Congregational meeting in

January 2023 was made by Helen Mackay and seconded by Jay West. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted, Lori Floyd

February Bible Studies in the Upper Room

(Zoom links will be available!)

Tuesday Noon (Brown Bag lunch) February 7th, & 14th

It is an 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.



Lady’s Brunch

Lady’s Brunch is back on! Starting Feb 11, 2023 at 9:00am. Please bring a dish to share and gather to bond in joy. If you have any questions please contact Lori Floyd: 406-671-0982 or email at lorifloyd02@gmail.com.



Loving Father, we are amazingly grateful to experience Your wonderful presence in our lives here at Red Lodge Community Church. Grant us Your grace in how to live our lives today and in our future. Give us wisdom and gentleness in how we interact with others. May we have minds that are open to reason, full of grace, and mercy. Lead us forward with wisdom and love. We ask these things in Your holy name, Amen.

Renee Gabrian	rrgabrian@hotmail.com
Debbie Awes	debawes51@hotmail.com
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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

FEBRUARY 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
<i>5 Lori, Mark</i>	6	<i>7Deacons Meeting 10:00am</i>	8	9	10	11
<i>12 Jody, Renee</i>	13	14	15	16	17	18
<i>19 Don, Jody</i>	20	21	22	23	24	25
<i>26 Don, Renee</i>	27	28				

Stewardship & Outreach

The time for recommending and awarding Hazel Chamberlain Endowment grants is coming up soon. Be thinking about those non-profits you hold dear that might be deserving of a boost from this generous legacy left to us by Hazel.



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

	Church Council	Feb 09 @5:30 pm
	Facilities	Feb 02 @5:00 pm
	Stewardship	Feb 13 @10:00 am
	Deacon	Feb 07 @10:00 am
	Ad-Hoc	No Meeting at this time

From Marc Steward, Conference Minister

Rural UCC church leaders from around the country have been meeting by zoom for a couple years for mutual support of being church in rural America. We have consistently had 2 - 3 leaders from our conference churches participating in the Rural Church Initiative. On February 9-11, 2 - 5 pm Mountain Time, there will be national virtual symposium for all rural churches. Church are invited to participate through individuals joining in by zoom, or as whole groups within the church joining.

[Virtual National Gathering of UCC Rural/Small Town Churches and Ministries](#)

Presented by the Coalition for UCC Rural Ministries

Hosted by the UCC National Faith INFO Ministry Team of the Justice and Local Church Ministries

February 9-11, 2023 - 4:00-7:00 pm EST

Registration Now Open: <https://cvent.me/rQ8RQo>

Contact: Rev Roberto Ochoa, UCC Minister for Ethnic Inclusion, Rural and Small Churches –



Those Who Are Grieving The Family and Friends of Jimmy Kujala, Georgianna Patton, Gus Spencer, Don Lightford, the Baranovic Family, Janna Clark. Those who have lost beloved pets.



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!

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!

February 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
5 10:00 am Live Worship	6 9-11 am Great Books Club 1:00 pm Staff Meeting	7 10:00 am Deacons Meeting Noon Bible Studies 5:00 pm Ad-Hoc Meeting	8 3:30 pm Girl Scouts	9 9:30 am Prayer Zoom 5:30pm Church Council Meeting	10	11 9:00am Lady's Brunch
12 10:00 am Live Worship 3:30pm 4H club Meeting	13 9-11 am Great Books Club 10:00 am Stewardship Meeting 1:00 pm Staff Meeting	14 Noon Bible Studies 5:00 pm Ad-Hoc Meeting	15 3:30 pm Girl Scouts	16 9:30 am Prayer Zoom	17	18
19 10:00 am Live Worship	20 9-11 am Great Books Club 1:00 pm Staff Meeting	21 5:00 pm Ad-Hoc Meeting	22 3:30 pm Girl Scouts	23 9:30 am Prayer Zoom	24	25
26 10:00 am Live Worship	27 9-11 am Great Books Club 1:00 pm Staff Meeting	28 5:00 pm Ad-Hoc Meeting				

Birthdays:

- Feb 5: Helen MacKay
- Feb 9: Betty Brekhus
- Feb 10: Jerry Brekhus
- Feb 12: Diane Brown
- Feb 23: Linda Hanson

Anniversaries:

- Feb 8: Debbie & Ken Awes
- Feb 14: Don & Karen Kinney



Let All that You Do Be Done in Love

1 Corinthians 16:14

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

