

# Shalom

Red Lodge Community Church, UCC



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

**Climbing a hill is no easy task, especially when you haven't done it in 23 years. In 1998 I power-walked 8 miles a day, climbed hills without breaking a sweat and enjoyed the ability to take a hike on rough terrain without fearing that I would lose my footing. Over the next 2 decades I would not only stop power walking, I would also lose much of my agility due to weight gain, a suddenly sedentary life-style and then a knee injury. I am finally getting my footing back after 3 years of rehab, a more active lifestyle and healthy eating. However... it is still slow going on those hills.**

Last week my neighbor and I took a very short hike up a very steep hill. We went along at a slow pace, and even at that pace I realized how out of shape and out of practice I really was. A body that I had taken for granted was none too pleased with my exuberant ambition. Burning muscles, heaving lungs and searing heat on my un-capped head quickly brought us back down that hill. And it was a very good reminder of two things: buy a cap, and stop assuming that what I did 20 years ago will quickly bounce back to normal without practice, training, and a plan.

I found myself in this exact situation with Vacation Bible School last week. As a nationally certified camp director I **thought that I was prepared to assist with our "God in Nature" theme without having a fully prescribed plan in place. Oh** was I wrong. Of course, VBS was a fabulous success for the children as we laughed, sang, hiked, painted, fed, conversed, played, collected and explored in nature. For me it was more of a **5-day hike up one of the steepest grades I've been on in over 20 years, relying on muscle memory that was, well... very out of shape.**

What I learned about myself, and our church, is that we need more practice and preparation. We need more practice runs on smaller hills before we take on a seemingly familiar mountain. Due to my over-exuberant ambition and clumsy assumptions, feelings were hurt, misinformation was shared, and hearts were damaged. I deeply apologize for all of that; we are only human and while grace abounds, it still hurts. If my ambition and assumptions have in anyway created pain in your life, be it from VBS or any other part of our church life together, I need you to help me find a way forward with you; and the only way that is possible is through direct conversation with me. Consider this our way of putting a cap on my sun-burned head. Help me to help you help our church.

Our Pastor Parish Relations Committee has embraced a covenant with me and our church that the only conversations that we can have are in a direct way with only the people involved. In other words, we cannot entertain gossip, hearsay or rumors. We follow the teaching of the Gospel of Matthew, the 18<sup>th</sup> chapter, *"If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses."* (NRSV)

**And so I ask two things of you: if someone starts a sentence with "I heard that..." please walk away from the conversation. And if I have hurt you, please come and see me. For where two are gathered, the Divine is in our midst, the Divine creator, healer and redeemer. Now... let's get back to our hiking up those hills... in preparation for the mountaineering that God has called us to do.**

Peace,  
Pastor Pam

## Ad-Hoc Restructuring Committee to make recommendations to the Church Council

The Ad-Hoc Restructuring Committee was formed some months ago to look at how we as the church might need to re-create our structure of leadership. We currently have a cumbersome design that requires 7 officers and we have only been able to fill 3 of those positions this year. It is also unclear in job descriptions and roles and responsibilities of the staff and pastor.

The Ad-Hoc Restructuring Committee consists of a representative from each of the Standing Committees, working with Pastor Pam in discovering the history and creation of the current leadership structure, and polling the committee members and other worshipers as to the reasons why they cannot fill the current leadership roles in the church. The committee also asked for suggestions on how to move forward in re-creating the leadership structure in such a way that **the officers' positions could be filled.**

The results of those conversations were shared, and the Ad-Hoc Committee is recommending that the Executive Council and Church Council be merged to include only 3 officers (as required by law), that those officer positions be co-positions and that the Church Council be the recommending body to the congregation. **The job descriptions for the 3 officers' positions (Moderator, Secretary and Treasurer) would be pared back from the current By-Laws and Standing Rules; staff would be paid to assume some of the officer's responsibilities, more Ad-Hoc Committees would be used for specific annual tasks, and the pastor's job description would clearly include the role of Executive Director.**

The Ad-Hoc Restructuring Committee has recommended a series of “educational gatherings” to define the roles of the officers, the responsibilities of the staff, and the clarification of the job descriptions. Those gatherings would also lead to a streamlining of the By-Laws and Standing Rules, with the creation of a new Ad-Hoc Committee to recommend re-writes of the rules for congregational approval.

These recommendations will be presented to the full Church Council for their approval at the July 22 meeting. For clarifications and questions on this report, please contact Pastor Pam. Many thanks to all who devoted their time and efforts on this project: Jay West, Russ Lord, Martha Brown, Zina General and Debbie Awes.



06/01/2021

Red Lodge Community Church  
PO Box 786  
Red Lodge, MT 59068

Dear Pastor Pam & the Stewardship and Outreach Committee,

We appreciate you! The entire learning community of Red Lodge and Carbon County thanks you for your recent contribution of \$1,000.00 on 05/27/2021 to Hero's STEAM Center. Your gift helps them learn to use their hands and minds to turn their ideas into real things. This gives them the experience and the confidence to face and solve life's challenges. Hero's goal is to promote collaboration and family time, encouraging parents and their kids to learn and create together.

Through your support, you've made a difference in the lives of Red Lodge and Carbon County families. And for that, *we thank you.*

Warm Regards,  
Tracy Timmons  
Executive Director

The Foundation is a registered 501 (C)3 organization, Tax I.D. 20-0192255  
No goods or services were provided in return for this donation.

**Connecting People ~ Building Community**  
122 Hauser Avenue S. • P.O. Box 1871 • Red Lodge, MT • 59068  
406.446.2820 • [www.rlacf.org](http://www.rlacf.org) • [info@rlacf.org](mailto:info@rlacf.org)

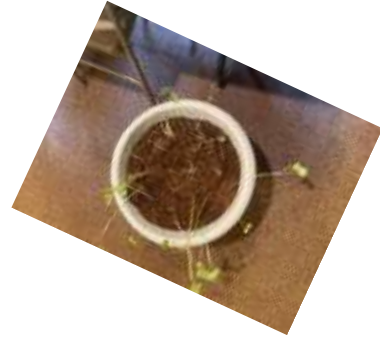
# *A Bit of News*

## **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.



# Christian Education



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

## Facility Committee

**Volunteer Lawn Care:** We have a **signup sheet located on the Greeter's desk.** Please stop by anytime and sign up for a day that is convenient for you. We greatly appreciate you taking time out of your day to helping the church look its best! You all are awesome!!

Thank you for caring for our church yard. The preferred lawn care rotation is to mow and trim towards the end of the week. Please mow the entire boulevard from the corner to the **south end of the neighbor's yard and please do the neighbor's front lawn.** The **mower and weed whacker** are in the shed by the alley. The shed is not locked, the padlock merely hangs on the latch.

Looks like we are all set with volunteers! Thanks to all who signed up, we appreciate your time & enthusiasm!

If you have any questions, please call: Marge Nearpass --406-425-4936, Jay West--406-425-0496, Skip



# Vacation Bible School

Was a Big Success!

Thank you to everyone who volunteered: Zina General, CE Director, Pastor Ben Cherland, Messiah Luthern & his helper Marla Ebel, Maire Shirley Jones, Julia Childs, LuAnn Brown, April Swanson, Regina Lamoine, Renee Gabrian & Jody Loeffen, Travis Burdick, Susan Wadsworth, Samarra Quick, Eliza Seifert, Yellowstone Wildlife Sanctuary, Jay West for his video/tech work, with special thanks to Kaleva Lodge for hosting!



## A Word from the Deacons....



Our Wednesday Church Chat and Coffee Klatch group continues to meet Wednesdays at 9:00 AM for enlightening conversation while we walk different routes, enjoy the charm of Red Lodge, and even discovered a new trail in July! All are welcome to join us. Meet us at the Gazebo at Lion's Club Park Wednesday's at 9:00 AM. If we ever get rain this summer, the hikes may be cancelled. Call Renee at 446-2047 for questions.

August 1 is our annual picnic at Kaleva Park. Due to increasing Covid nationwide, we have decided it is safest for each family to bring their own picnic lunch. The CDC considers potlucks to be high risk behavior yet and we are now hoping 2022 may be the return of the annual pulled pork potluck. We will have paper wares, utensils, lemonade, and coffee. Please bring extra food if you expect guests for the service.

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.

Peace and Good Health,  
Your Deacons

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

Bill Cords—446-1901  
Don Kinney—446-1670

Lori Floyd—671-0982  
Helen Mackay—425-0101



Greeters: 8/1: Kaleva  
8/8: Bill & Gwen Cords  
8/15: Steve & Linda Hanson  
8/22:

---

*In June, we grieved with the family and friends of:*

*Jess Hanson, Cassie Smith, Lynne Lally,  
Dale Peterson, Myrna Schaller, Tanya  
Wilson, Gregory Rosino*



## MOMENT FROM THE MODERATOR



As you are aware, there has been a reluctance of members to become involved with the leadership of the church. Positions go unfilled due to a lack of involvement. Perhaps, your reasons are one of the following: **“Been there and done that,” “No time left due to previous commitments,” “Don’t know what is expected of me,” “Too many offices and too many meetings required.”** Fortunately, an Ad-Hoc committee, consisting of a representative from each of the ministries/committees specified in our Constitution, Bylaws, and Standing Rules, has been actively involved in developing a revised organization structure for Red Lodge Community Church. A series of meetings will be held to present, discuss, and refine this proposal based on your suggestions and comments. All that remains is for you to attend and participate. **Stephen Covey has stated “The only limit to your impact is your imagination and commitment. Without involvement there is no commitment.”** As meeting dates and locations are announced -- Mark it down, asterisk it, circle it, underline it. Your involvement and commitment are needed. Remember the following quotes:

**“Unless commitment is made, there are only promises and hopes... but no plans.”** – Peter F. Drucker

**“There’s a difference between interest and commitment. When you’re interested in doing something, you do it only when circumstance permit. When you’re committed to something, you accept no excuses, only results.”** – Art Turock

**“Stay committed to your decisions but stay flexible in your approach.”** – Tony Robbins

**“It’s always too early to quit.”** – Norman Vincent Peale

**“I am easily satisfied with the very best.”** – Winston Churchill

**“Commitment is an act, not a word.”** – Jean-Paul Sartre



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!



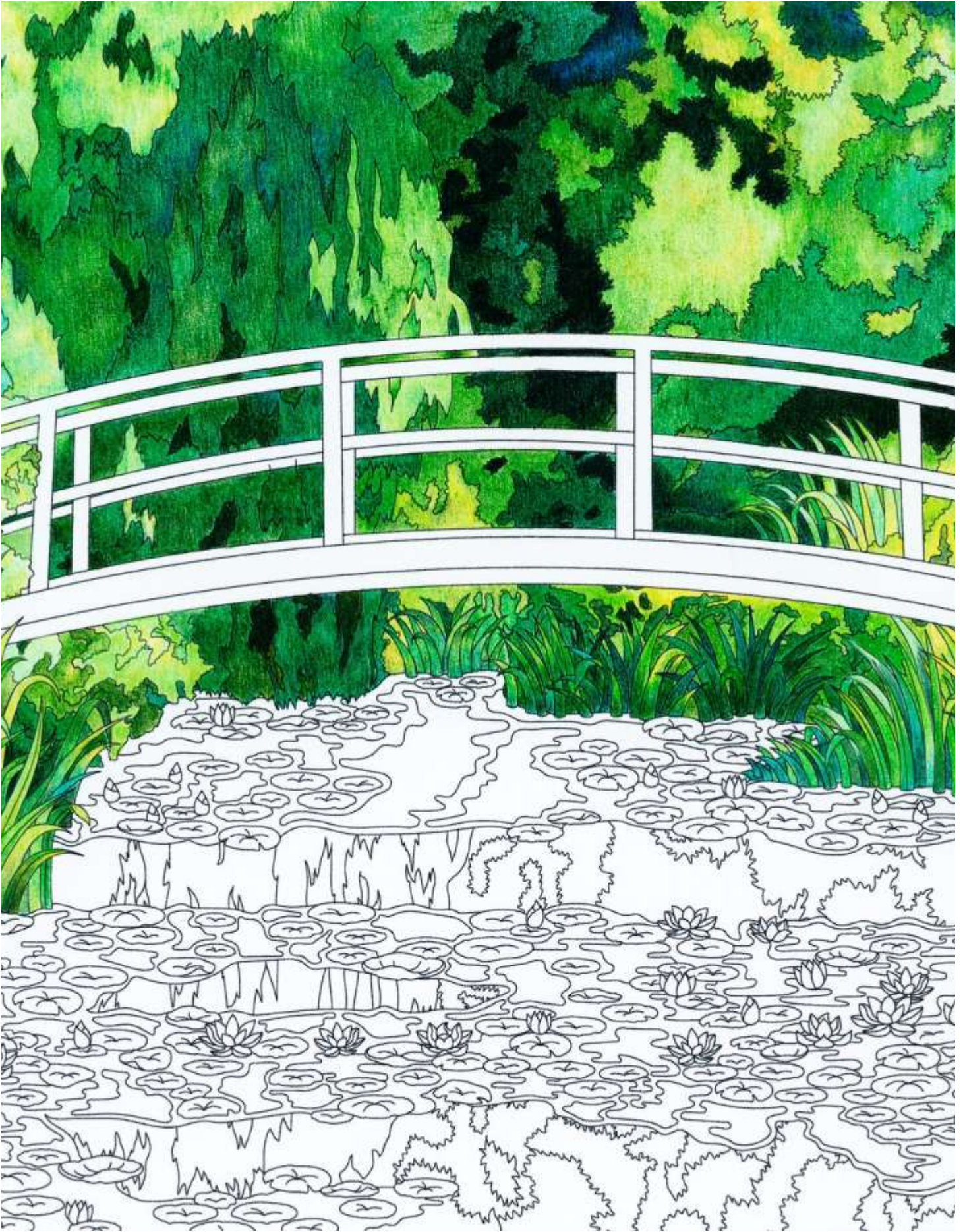
*\*If you had recently received a copy of the Directory via mail or stopping by please take a quick look to see if a few pages are missing. It's been brought to our attention that a misprint occur on a few request. Call, email or stop by and Janet will be happy to re-print you a new copy. Thank you for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

---

## A Note from the Office

*Pastor Pam will be on vacation from August 2nd thru August 13th. If you are needing any pastoral help please contact the church office, 406-446-1444. Thank you!*

# Fill Your World with Color!



# A<sub>1</sub> U<sub>1</sub> G<sub>2</sub> U<sub>1</sub> S<sub>1</sub> T<sub>1</sub> 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Pastor Pam Vacation	3 Pastor Pam Vacation Jim Brown	4 Pastor Pam Vacation 9am Coffee Klatch Renee & Harris Gabrian	5 Pastor Pam Vacation 9:30am Zoom Prayer	6 Pastor Pam Vacation	7 Pastor Pam Vacation Kathy Munson
8 Pastor Pam Vacation 10:00 LIVE Worship and Sunday School 3:00 4H meeting Yvonne Jensen	9 Pastor Pam Vacation Staff Meetings	10 Pastor Pam Vacation	11 Pastor Pam Vacation 9am Coffee Klatch	12 Pastor Pam Vacation 9:30am Zoom Prayer	13 Pastor Pam Vacation	14
15 10:00 LIVE Worship and Sunday School Carol & Mark Sechler	16 Staff Meetings 1:30 Stewardship Meeting Nancy & Don Hamilton	17 10am Deacons committee Meeting	18 9am Coffee Klatch	19 9:30am Zoom Prayer	20	21
22 10:00 LIVE Worship and Sunday School	23 Staff Meetings	24 Brian Roat	25 9am Coffee Klatch	26 9:30am Zoom Prayer Deborah & Skip Bratton	27	28
29 10:00 LIVE Worship and Sunday School 3:00 4H meeting Kim Ferguson	30 Staff Meetings	31				
						* Birthdays * Anniversary

## *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. 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](http://www.redlodgecommunitychurch.com)

Email: [rlccassistant@gmail.com](mailto:rlccassistant@gmail.com) or [rlccdirector@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:pastorpampeterson@gmail.com)