

Shalom

Red Lodge Community Church, UCC



May 2021

Notes from the Sky Pilot's Page

Red Lodge, Montana

"In the bulb there is a flower, in the seed an apple tree"... the familiar words to a springtime tune that we are singing this time of year... the lyrics continue... *in cocoons a hidden promise...* I like that verse the best. The hidden promise of the cocoon. The caterpillar has transitioned into the cocoon and that is where the work of creating the beautiful butterfly takes place. The work of transition; from one stage to the next with the hope of what the end product will look like.

And we know that we are never the end product, are we? In our faith journeys we are constantly going back into the cocoon to allow the Spirit to do more work; to challenge ourselves to do more work. I often wonder what the "self-talk" conversations sound like inside those cocoons! I love to listen to my 2 ½ year old granddaughter, Kora, talk to herself. In her own little world, toddling around the park, having a wonderful conversation with herself. I can understand most of what she is saying, and it isn't unusual to hear her say, "I got it!" I'm pretty sure that if we could hear the conversation from inside a cocoon, we would hear that exact statement. "I got it!"

We "get it" from the work of the Holy Spirit. From years of prayer, meditation, conversation, studying the Word, and listening to sermons. The hymn continues, *"From the past will come the future, what it holds... a mystery."* And to that lyric I add, "We can't get there by doing everything the same." If the caterpillar wove the cocoon and just stopped there...locked inside its silky cage... it would never become the butterfly. Once inside the cocoon, the caterpillar does not stop in its sameness. It does even more work. Now, I am not a lepidopterist. However, I am pretty sure that at some point that caterpillar is saying, "I got it!"

I like to think of our sanctuary as our cocoon. We arrive on a Sunday morning worn out from the journey of the week. We crawl into our pew and take a big breath, letting out a sigh of relief. And then... the work begins. We pray. We meditate. We have a conversations. We read the Word. We listen to a sermon. And then... the transformation begins. Hopefully, when we walk out into the bright sunlight of the spring day we say, "I got it!" And... every Sunday is different. The prayers are different, the conversations are different, the Word is different and ... I certainly hope... the sermon is different. How else could I possibly hope to create change in our lives if I did the same thing every single Sunday? How could you possibly hope to be the change in the world that you hope to see if you did not do things differently... every single day?

You are going to hear me say this phrase A LOT in the coming year... "We cannot do things the same over and over again and expect different results." It simply does not work. No two butterflies are identical... because the caterpillars do not do the same work in the cocoon over and over. Something is different. If we want different results in our lives, in our community, and in our world... we need to do things differently. And then we can all shout in unison, "We got it!"

Peace,

Pastor Pam



On Sunday, April 25, I preached my sermons on the reasons that I am no longer using the traditional words of the Lord's Prayer in worship services that I plan. Following is the sections of the content of the letter from Pastor Bret Myers, who serves a UCC church in Waterloo, IA that I quoted. As I said in my sermons, I chose to quote Pastor Bret rather than try to re-word what he said because, quite simply, he said so well. I welcome conversation and comments.

Peace, Pastor Pam

From Pastor Bret Myers:

"I used the "traditional" version (which, of course, is not Jesus' words as he did not speak English), without thought of how it affected those who saw it as exclusive and hierarchical... I have come to see that the all-male language of the "traditional" version (e.g., God referred to as 'Father'), along with the hierarchical language (e.g., kingdom, debts, etc.), subtly affirms and devalues certain groups of our society while also perpetuating inequalities between them... Jesus wanted an egalitarian society where all were to be treated as equals in worth and dignity. When God is regarded as male, when kingdoms rather than communities of equality are included in our prayers, and when debts are things to be "forgiven" (obviously by those who have more assets towards others who have few assets) rather than the elimination of debt completely as the Biblical idea of Jubilee expresses, then we subconsciously uphold the very injustices that we are supposed to be trying to eliminate in following Jesus' ways... But the question for me now is whether we are comforting some at the expense of violating the dignity of others who have been traditionally oppressed in our culture... I feel compelled by ethical duty to do what I think is right given my limited understanding. I will try to err on the side of justice for all and inclusion rather err on the side of privilege for some and exclusion...

Discrimination and systemic injustice are pervasive in our society, and most "good" people are unaware of how it has infiltrated nearly every aspect of our society -- including the way we see our relationship to God and others within our places of religious fellowship... Part of changing our society for the better requires us to change our language for the better. As we come to value a more equitable and egalitarian world, so too must our language change to reflect that different set of values. Otherwise we are simply sabotaging our own efforts with the language that we use... Whether everyone agrees with me or not, I have to try to set an example of inclusion that is premised on the equal worth and dignity of every person regardless of their sexuality, socio-economic condition, ethnicity, or any other factor in which our culture is remiss in making distinctions of who is more valuable than others... Our loyalty to Jesus needs to supersede our loyalty to culture; and our duty to equity needs to exceed our assuagement of those who may be unfairly comfortable with tradition."



Hazel Chamberlain Endowment Funds

Voting has started!
Be sure to Vote.

Ballots have been mailed. Here is your chance to have a voice in the disbursement of the Hazel Chamberlain Endowment funds. Mark your ballot and return it to the drop box in the entryway of the church or send it to PO Box 786, Red Lodge, MT 59068. Deadline for ballots to be received by Sunday, May 9th.

If you did not receive your ballot or need an extra, call the office to have one mailed or stop by and pick one up.

News Flash!



Please Mark it on your Calendars!



Starting May 2, 2021, we will be starting our Worship Service in the Sanctuary at 10:00 a.m. followed by coffee hour in the Fellowship Hall. We hope to see everyone at our new time!



New Book Study with Pastor Pam

May 2, May 16th, & May 30th

Sunday 900 am via Zoom *and* in person at the church

“A New Spiritual Home: Progressive Christianity at the Grass Roots” by Hal Taussig

Note that the book is NOT available on Kindle; it is available from Amazon, used is fine. You can study before getting the book.

This book is one of the cornerstone works that Pstor Pam is using for her dissertation work with our Church. It will be used as the basis for her sermon themes throughout our dissertation work together.

- The Stewardship and Outreach Committee would like to encourage the congregation to view each of the videos that have been submitted in response to the Hazel Chamberlain Funds. The videos can be found on our website
- We have Mailed the ballots for you to vote for the nonprofit(s) you feel are most in need of the funds. If you did not receive your voting ballots, please contact the Church office for one.

This Church is so fortunate to be able to distribute these funds and we want your input!

Thanks

Minutes from Council meetings are available on the website's ["Shalom & Council Meeting Minutes"](#) page.

Christian Education

Christian Education is busy with implementing curriculum and planning our upcoming Vacation Bible School! We are working on our post Easter curriculum with includes Spring, new life and nature.

Vacation Bible School will be on July 12th-16th! We are holding it at Kaleva during the hours of 12:30-3:00pm. Since this is during a lunch hour, we will be providing lunch. This reminds that there is a need to have volunteers. We would need cooks, as well as volunteers for different centers. Please stop by the office during office hours and complete your background check! We look forward to all of your help!

Zina General, Christian Education Director



A Word from the Deacons....



Your Deacons are happy to be returning to services in our church building with you! Debbie Awes has agreed to be on an **ad-hoc committee to assess our church's problems getting members to serve in administrative roles.** A congregational meeting will be held to discuss the ad-hoc committee's findings. Pastor Pam and Lori Floyd will be leading the Wednesday Coffee Klatch Zoom in Helen Mackay's absence. If you don't get your Zoom invitation, please call Renee at 446-2047. We have prepared our sanctuary for the Easter season and look forward to seeing you as we all gradually are returning from our year apart from one another.

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

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, with COVID Protocols in place. Pre-Recorded Worship is available on the website. For those gathering in person, the children will be led to Sunday School following Communion and A Message with the Children.

Church Chat and Coffee Klatch



If you would like to be included in a weekly Zoom gathering with other church and community folks, here are the options. Please feel free to e-mail the appropriate Deacon to receive your Zoom invitation. The groups vary in their meeting agenda, some include prayer, readings and poetry. Others enjoy social time and catching up with one another. This is a great way to stay in touch, socialize and share your stories.

Wednesday 9 am

Debbie Awes
Helen Mackay
Renee Gabrian

debawes51@hotmail.com
hmackay49@gmail.com
rrgabrian@hotmail.com

In May, we grieved with the family and friends of:



*Ken Emms
Stephen Spaulding
Joyce Berger, and
Michael Doyle*



MOMENT FROM THE MODERATOR

I tend to be guided by four cardinal virtues -- Temperance, Fortitude, Prudence, and Justice. Perhaps, for a church such as ours that is facing a reopening and uncertain direction, "prudence" is a virtue worthy of our consideration. Just how do we define prudence? Three definitions follow:



Prudence is care, caution, and good judgment, as well as wisdom in looking ahead.

Prudence is care and good sense that someone shows when making a decision or taking action.

Prudence implies caution in deliberating and consulting on the most suitable means to accomplish valuable purposes.

From these definitions, I identify three key ingredients: Good judgment, care and good sense, and caution in deliberating. Incorporating these three ideas in all future deliberations should result in successful actions and decisions. Others have offered the following thoughts concerning prudence.

Prudence is foresight and far-sightedness. It's the ability to make immediate decisions on the basis of their longer-range effects. -- *John Ortberg*

Prudence does not mean failing to accept responsibilities and postponing decisions; it means being committed to making joint decisions after pondering responsibly the road to be taken. --*Pope Benedict XVI*

The limits of prudence: one cannot jump out of a burning building gradually. -- *Mason Cooley*

Prudence supposes the value of the end to be assumed and refers only to the adaptation of the means. It is the relation of right means for given ends. -- *William Whewell*

Prudence and compromise are necessary means, but every man should have an impudent end which he will not compromise. -- *Charles Horton Cooley*

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 the church office and we will send 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 Mia at the church office. Enjoy!



A Note from the Office about your Shalom...

The Shalom will look a bit different in the coming months. You will find the **birth-day and anniversary dates are now on the monthly calendar in italics**. The 'fun' pages are being re-developed by Zina General, so they will connect with the lessons that the children are doing in Sunday School. There might be a little less artwork and more content...please be patient as we are "under construction!"

Fill Your World with Color!



Coloring pages by miradron.blogspot.com

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Join People Healing People at St. Vincent Healthcare

Help patients, visitors and staff in just 4 hours a week. We are looking for “people” people who are quick to smile and like to visit, help others and have fun! Training and benefits provided. Volunteer opportunities are available in Guest Services—Main Lobby our Gift shops. Please call us today at 237-3376 or visit our website www.svh-mt.org. Thank you for your

St. John’s United is reaching out to the neighbors of Red lodge to let them know The Willows of Red Lodge now has availability for Independent, Assisted Living and Dementia Care. They have been serving the Red Lodge Community for over seven Years. If you, or someone you know is needing the type of care they offer or has a need that you think they can fill please pass along this information. 2475 N Broadway Red Lodge, Mt 59068 406-446-1020



May 2021



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 9:00 am New book Study 10:00 LIVE Worship and Sunday School	3 Staff Meetings <i>Skip Bratton</i>	4 Betsy & Jeff Scanlin	5 9am Deacon Zoom	6 9:30am Zoom Prayer 5:30 Executive Council Meeting	7	8 <i>Dan Seifert</i>
9 Mother's Day 10:00 LIVE Worship and Sunday School <i>Jo Ann Elder</i>	10 Staff Meetings	11 10am Deacons	12 9am Deacon Zoom	13 9:30am Zoom Prayer	14 Kim & Mike Ferguson	15
16 9:00 Book Study 10:00 LIVE Worship and Sunday School	17 Staff Meetings	18	19 9am Deacon Zoom	20 9:30am Zoom Prayer 5	21	22
23 10:00 LIVE Worship and Sunday School <i>Don Kinney</i>	24 Staff Meetings CE Committee 6:30 pm <i>Eliza Seifert</i>	25	26 <i>Erinn Ackley</i>	27	28	29 <i>Don Hardy</i>
30 9:00 Book Study 10:00 LIVE Worship and Sunday School <i>Jody Loeffen</i>	31					

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

Email: rlccassistant@gmail.com or rlccdirector@gmail.com

Office Hours: T-F 10am-3pm & and by appointment

Pastor: Pamela J. Peterson

Office Hours: by appointment only

Cell: (406) 426-8715

Email: pastorpampeterson@gmail.com