



The

Columbus Community Congregational Church

CORNERSTONE

Ephesians 2:20

Rev. Tracy Heilman – October 2017

Chili Supper to benefit MTM Wildfire Relief Fund at our church

October 11, 5:30-7pm

The whole community is invited to a chili supper at the Community Congregational Church, from 5:30 till 7pm. We'll have plenty of chili with all the fixings. There is no charge for the dinner, and we invite your generous free will donations, which will be sent to the Montana Community Foundation for the MTM Wildfire Relief Fund. Recently, the Arthur M Blank Family Foundation announced they will match all future donations up to \$50,000, so our donations will have double the impact.



We extend a special invitation to our local firefighters. You will be our guests of honor at the supper.

Jammin4Jesus: 2:30-4 pm Wednesdays

October 4: We're going on a Cosmic Walk! The Cosmic Walk is a way of bringing our knowledge of the 13.81 billion year Universe/Earth process from our heads to our hearts. It is a simple spiral representing the entire 13.81 billion years of the cosmic and evolutionary journey which we will lay out on the basement floor.

October 11: Part of the group will head to Project Hope to help with the backpacks. The rest are going to make corn bread, which will be part of the evening's Chili Supper to raise money for all those fighting the Montana wild fires.

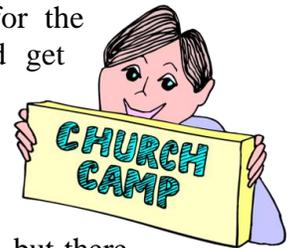
October 18: Another group will head to Project Hope to help with the backpacks while the others take our first look at the Christmas Pageant we will present in worship on December 17.

October 25: Halloween Party – join us for fun and games!

Two Retreats at Camp Mim this month

Fall Youth Retreat Oct. 19-21. All youth in grades 6-12 are invited for a great weekend on the mountain. Register at www.campmimanagish.org.

Adult Vision-to-Action Retreat, October 19-22. Help us with our 20-year plan for Camp Mimanagish. Please join us for the Vision to Action retreat and get involved with the changes happening. Join us for a day or for the weekend depending on your schedule.



Cost is free for participation, but there is a suggested donation of \$15.00 per person/day to cover the cost of meals. Our church will pay this cost for everyone who comes from our church. You can register online at www.campmimanagish.org. Please indicate in your registration comments when you will be arriving and leaving so we can prepare lodging arrangements. Or let Pastor Tracy know and she can register for you.

Elementary Science Club attracting many new youth

On Mondays, 3:30 – 5:00 pm, our youth whisperer and scientist Beverly Plumb conducts Elementary Science Club in the basement of our church. 15-20 youth attended each week in September. These mostly are youth new-to-our-church, not youth from Jammin' for Jesus. This class mainly geared towards 3rd – 5th graders, but any younger child who is very interested in science is welcome to come. This program is free. You can watch Paul Hollar's video of some of this week's program and excited youth on our church's FB page. Thanks, Bev!



CornerStone

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Church meetings and events

Oct 1	Communion Sunday, Food Bank Mission meeting after worship
Oct 8	Diaconate meets after worship
Oct 10	Trustees meeting
Oct 11	CE meeting 4:00 pm Chili supper for Wildfire Relief 5:30-7:00
Oct 15	Church Council after worship Afternoon services: Meadowlark/B. Manor
Oct 21	Columbus Community Foundation Awards
Oct 25	CornerStone news due

Recurring Meetings / Events

JAMMIN 4 JESUS, Elementary Science Club, 4-H, Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, AA, Republican Women, Victim Advocates, SW Mine Union



Prayer Concerns

Donna Storer	Sam Spano
Zel Fields	Don Mason
Jim and Bonnie Van Campen	

		Caleb Overhuls and family George & Lorraine Remington
Drew Maki	Hazel Viig	Paula Newkirk
Dan Hofferber	Jim Harrison	Harold Houghton
Thelma Black	Miriam	
Bill Goodman	Rowley	
Firefighters/Refugees/others in harm's way		
All those affected by their own or others' mental illness		
All feeling loss or pain, and all caregivers of others		



Western Regional Youth Event (RYE) June 25-29 is in Hawaii

RYE will be held at the campus of the University of Hawaii on the island of Oahu. Participants will be staying in dorm rooms, but will also have plenty of time on the beach. There will be workshops on hula, lei-making, worship music, liturgical dance, Blue theology, leadership development and many more. One day will be spent in service and learning about the agriculture work on the island.

Registration fee will be \$475, and airfare will likely be another \$800-\$900. As a way of helping families save for the event, we are suggesting that churches set up a "savings account" to which participants pay \$100 per month towards the costs of the youth event. For those who begin doing this in October, the Conference will cover the \$100 for the month of December as a scholarship towards the expenses of the event.

New Procedure to submit Board Reports

Remember: all reports need to be emailed to Rhonda by 4 days before the Council meeting, i.e. Wednesday before a meeting on Sunday. This month's council meeting is Oct. 15 so email your reports to Rhonda by Oct. 11.

If anyone has a problem emailing your report, please contact Rhonda and leave your report at the church by the deadline stated above. Cell ph. 321-4203 rhondapdee@gmail.com

TEAMWORKS brunch meeting will be Saturday, Oct. 7 at 9:00 am in the church Fellowship Hall.

Pastor's Message

Hello Church,

How are we doing?

While there are many things that we can celebrate in our life together, we can also take a pause to consider those among us who have spent time in the hospital recently for illnesses and surgery. We can remember those who have had outpatient procedures. And we can think of the ones who are struggling with long-term health issues.

While we give our attention to the devastation that recent hurricanes have unleashed on Florida, Texas, Puerto Rico, and Caribbean Islands, we also feel our hearts tugged by the pictures we see and stories we hear of Montanan families and ranchers and first responders battling wild fires.

While we join in celebrating the wonder of new grandchildren in our extended families, we also miss the sound of children's voices in our own sanctuary.

How are we doing? As we approach the end of the year, I'd like for all of us to be considering this question.

Let's celebrate the ministries and the work that we do well. And let's talk openly and honestly about the places where we need to do better. For example, our worship attendance continues to suffer. Are there changes you would suggest that would make our worship more meaningful, engaging, inspiring, challenging, comforting? How do you prepare yourself for worship? What do you bring to the worship experience and what do you hope to receive from it?

I welcome your feedback, and hope that we can continue to work together to build up this community of faith as we seek to follow in the way of Christ, making God's love real.

Peace, Pastor Tracy

Moderator's Musings

Our church has much for which it can be proud. We are welcoming, we are a strong church, and for the most part we are successful. However, there are times when we fall short. The bluegrass service on Sept. 24 was one such time. Rhonda and the diaconate put a lot of effort into this fine event. The bluegrass band was very



good, and it was a great service, with more music, less talk, as had been suggested after last year's blue grass service. The Molt church members drove a distance to join us in this service and lunch afterwards, but very few of our members attended. We can do a lot better than that. When our church members work hard to put on a special program, when Pastor Tracy works hard on a church service, and we as a church don't show up, it is discouraging, to say the least.

I have been concerned about our low attendance on Sunday mornings and what seems to be a lack of morale among our members. We seem to have a problem, but neither Pastor Tracy nor I can address it unless we know what is the problem. It is doubly worrisome to me as we are coming up to the time when your church is going to ask you for your commitment of money and time to support your church in 2018.

If you feel there is a problem with our Sunday worship service, if you feel there is a problem with how our church is operated, or if you feel there is some other or any problem, PLEASE discuss it with Pastor Tracy, PLEASE discuss it with me, PLEASE discuss it with a member of our pastoral relations committee, or PLEASE discuss it with a church council member. Unstated problems cannot be addressed and are hard to solve.

Jerry Nye, Moderator

Mission Matters (from 10-1 Meeting Minutes)

Chili Dinner on October 11:

A sign-up sheet for congregation to help bring chili (use your own recipes) to be delivered between 4:30-5:00 so there is enough time for set up. We anticipate 150-200 people, so plan on 15-16 pots of chili. We have about 8 people signed up as of today.

Mary will write invitation to firefighters. Tracy will submit an article for newspaper this week. Beverly Plumb made up some fliers for us and distributed two to IGA and library. Mary and Trish will distribute the rest to Project Hope, Firehall, Ace Hardware, and local banks. Tracy will contact local churches to invite to the dinner.

Other food items needed for chili dinner:

Onions - Trish / Grated Cheese - Vivian

Crackers - Tracy / Sour Cream - Mary

Butter - Tracy /

Cornbread - Charlotte and youth group. Tracy confirmed Charlotte will help with this.

Dessert - Vivian, Trish, Mary, Bonnie. Tracy will also pick up some cookies from Costco.

2) Intermountain Children's Home - Trish has picked up school supplies to be included with Christmas Wish list items that the youth group will select in November (tentative date 11-22-17). School supply items receipt \$48.80 given to Mary.

NEW BUSINESS:

1) **Hurricane Harvey** assistance- \$300 collected to be given to UCC Disaster Relief. Mission Committee will also include \$100.

2) Project Hope food collections-

Our September Food drive brought in 33 cans for the Cats, and 25 for the Griz. Bobcats win! In October, we encourage you to bring **canned fruit** for Project Hope or cash/check. We'll have a Pew-to-Pew challenge between those who typically sit closest to the East Room vs. remaining 2 sections on the piano side of sanctuary. All money donations will be matched by Town Pump through November.

3) Your **Loose Change for Missions** purchased \$250 in gas and grocery cards that are available to those in need, both local and passing through. For our final quarter, the Loose Change for Missions will go towards Camp Mimanagish.

4) **Neighbors in Need Offering** for September collected on Oct. 1. This will be ready to send in the next week. Next offering will be the Christmas Fund for UCC retired pastors.

5) **3rd Quarter loose change offering** – is ready to be given to Project Hope (and matched by Town Pump). A suggestion by Church Council at Sept. meeting is that for 4th Quarter loose change, the Mission collect for Camp Mimanagish. All agreed this is a good idea. Curtis stepped in briefly and stated that there was a \$150 anonymous donation received for the Mission Committee. We decided to give this donation to Just Hope Offering (which was previously down for 4th Quarter loose change collection).

From Church Council Minutes, Aug. 20

PRESENT: Tracy, Joan, Jerry, Rhonda, Beth, Bev
TREASURER: The church accountant has given notice; sharing an accountant by several churches might be possible.

TRUSTEES: The possibility of buying a new copier was brought up and will be looked at after the current servicer gives his report on the copier.

DIACONATE: Rhonda has ordered the burgers for the bluegrass Sunday. Tracy will be holding New members class one at a later date if there is interest.

CHRISTIAN ED: Jammin for Jesus is increasing in numbers and it would be very helpful to have volunteers serve the food and help with clean up. Bev agreed to make a volunteer sign-up sheet.

MISSION: Chili Cook fundraiser dinner will be October 11. Tracy is going to contact the local fire department. Beverly is going to make a Facebook event and some flyers.

PASTOR REPORT: On Oct. 15 Karen Brewer will be baptized. Oct. 19-22 is the Vision to Action Retreat at Mimanagish. Council voted to pay the \$15 per day cost to attend (suggested donations for meals) for church members. The church has received a grant from the Columbus Community Foundation for \$1070 to help send two elementary and two junior high students to camp in 2018.

OTHER BUSINESS:

1. Term limits for Boards & Committees were suspended for 2 years, to be revisited in 2 years.

2. Jerry's draft Commitment Campaign letter was review, and suggestions made. Jerry will make the changes and send the letter.

3. Council approved motion to have Camp Mim be the beneficiary of our Nov/Dec mission drive.

Respectfully: Beverly Plumb, Temporary Clerk

Camp Mimanagish Appeal

Recently I was at a meeting concerning Camp Mim and its future. The bottom line is that unless the churches in our Conference get behind the camp, with money and with more campers, the camp is in serious trouble. You will be getting a letter from me outlining the situation more fully.

I find myself in the middle of this "save Camp Mim" campaign. I believe our church can raise \$5,000 to support Camp Mim by using the \$2,000 that we have sent to JustHope in the past two years and by adding another \$3,000 from our congregation and friends who enjoyed Camp Mim experiences or otherwise believe that Camp Mim is something we need to preserve. Joan and I saw our son's happiness and positive reaction each year that he went to Camp Mimanagish. We will be making a substantial contribution because we want Camp Mim to be there for the future and more generations of youth.

I have challenged the other churches in our Conference to meet or exceed the \$5,000 that our church is going to raise by January 1. Please help me make our church proud, and join me in contributing to this very worthy cause right here at home.

Jerry Nye