

# The Log

Jan. / Feb. 2019

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are Welcome here.

FROM  
THE  
PASTOR



## *Creating a Covenant Community*

As people of the United Church of Christ, sometimes we have a hard time explaining to friends and family who we are as a church or what our church stands for. One reason it's so difficult is because we are a non-doctrinal church. You do not have to subscribe to any creed or doctrine to be part of a UCC congregation. In the UCC, we often say creeds and statements of faith are testimonies of faith, not tests of faith.

The strength of the United Church of Christ is found in covenant. What is a covenant? I have often described covenant as a love that will not let us go. God yearns to be in covenant relationship with us all; and we are invited, through our membership and participation in the church, to be in covenant relationship with each other and with God. Covenant seeks to practice forgiveness, and grace and calls us to even love our enemies. My call to ministry is to build covenantal relationship on many different levels.

In the past 5 months, I have had the opportunity to meet many of you and to learn some of the stories of your life. This has been a wonderful opportunity for me. Now I would like to draw that circle wider, to reach out to more of you to deepen our covenant with each other. In the next few months, please don't be surprised if I call you and ask when we can get together. When I call to see if we can get together, I hope you will take me up on this offer.

But you don't have to wait for me to call you. If you want to get to know me or have something you want to share with me about yourself, please also don't hesitate to call me. I want to learn more about who you are and what your faith journey has been about.

Our work as minister and congregation is to deepen our covenant with each other. I love to drink coffee; I also like going out to eat. I am available Tuesdays through Fridays. Stop by the church office or call me at 656-5414, and we can make an appointment.

Blessings,  
Amy

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# Mayflower Congregational United Church of Christ

mayflowerofbillings.com

2940 Poly Drive • Billings, MT 59102 • 406/656-5414



Upcoming Event Highlights:

**Jan. 21 – Martin Luther King Jr. Day**

**Jan. 22** – Lydia's Prayer Group

**Jan. 23** – Women of Mayflower Lunch  
– Youth Group Meeting

**Jan. 24** – Bunco for Life

**Jan. 27** – Adult Education

– Quarterly Meeting  
– High School OWL Parent Meeting

**Jan. 29** – Lydia's Prayer Group

**Jan. 31** – Worship Committee Meets

**Feb. 3 – SouperBowl, Communion & Food Bank Sunday**

– Adult Education  
– New Members' Class

**Feb. 6** – Cornerstone Webinar

**Feb. 10 – Camp Mimanagish Sunday**

– R & O Meets  
– Adult Education  
– Mission & Outreach Meet

**Feb. 13** – Youth Group Meets

**Feb. 14 – Happy Valentine's Day!**

**Feb. 15** – All Fellowship Fun Night

**Feb. 16** – Men of Mayflower

**Feb. 17** – Adult Education

– **Presidents' Day**

**Feb. 19** – Lydia's Prayer Group

**Feb. 21** – Sandwich Service Project  
– Council Meets

**Feb. 22** – Log Deadline

**Feb. 26** – Lydia's Prayer Group

**Feb. 27** – Women of Mayflower Lunch  
– Youth at Mayflower

**Feb. 28** – Worship Meets

– LOG Folding & Preparation

**MEN OF MAYFLOWER are again invited on Saturday, 7:15 am, Jan. 19 & Feb. 16** to Aspen Meadows to cook and serve breakfast. It's fun and gives us the opportunity to make new friends. Please sign-up in the Narthex or ask Rev. Steve for more information.

**SAVE THE DATE: Sun., Jan. 27, for the Quarterly Meeting**  
We'll meet directly after Worship Service. Review and adoption of the 2019 budget will be one of the items on the agenda. Your input is welcome!

**FEB. 3 IS "SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY"** The Youth will be holding their soup bowls in narthex after church to collect money for the hungry in our area. The first Sunday of the month is also Food Bank Sunday. What a perfect day to give thanks for and share the bounty with which we are so richly blessed!



**WOMEN OF MAYFLOWER** will meet on **Jan. 23** for our regularly scheduled luncheon and meeting.

**Susan Barton** will share an insight into the work and vision of the Riverstone Hospice Program. Lunch begins at noon and devotions and a short business meeting are also scheduled.

**On Wednesday, February 27th**, Martha Stahl from Planned Parenthood will provide our monthly presentation beginning at noon. **ALL** are welcome! (not limited to women)

**YOUR MAYFLOWER RELAY FOR LIFE TEAM** is putting together another fun-filled night of **Bunco**. Join us on **Fri., Jan. 24 at 6:00 pm** for a fun-filled night of eats, treats and Bunco. A great way to spend an evening and only \$10! **See you there!**

**A Day at the Legislature with the Montana Association of Christians.** For many years now, the Montana Association of Christians (formerly known as the Montana Association of Churches) has sponsored a lobby day in Helena at our capital in January. Guided by the scripture from Matthew 25: 31-45 (*Truly, I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.*) the Montana Association

of Christians (MAC) continues to be a voice for justice and compassion in the halls of our State Capitol, speaking to legislators and the governor for justice and compassion for people who are often the most vulnerable in our society: children, death row prisoners, the mentally ill, the poor and the immigrants. This year the MAC Day at the Legislature in on **January 21, 2019 from 10 am – 2 pm**. Rev. Mike Mulberry has rented a 15 passenger van. It will leave Billings at 6:30 am and return by 5:00 pm. The cost to ride the van is \$20 per person or you can drive on your own. If you are interested in attending this event, please let Pastor Amy know so she can either arrange for a spot on that 15 passenger van or coordinate car pools. Lunch will be provided by the Montana Association of Christians.

**Are You Interested in Becoming a Mayflower Member?** If you have been worshipping with us, and you would like to learn more about our church, or if you think you might be interested in becoming a member, we invite you to attend a class on church membership. The class will be on February 3 right after worship. Participation in these classes do not commit you to church membership, but it is an opportunity for you to find out more about the life and ministry of our church and to give prayerful consideration to whether you want to enter into membership. Childcare can be provided if that would make it possible for you to attend. Come and learn more about Mayflower, spend some time with our pastor and interact with some of our church leaders and other folks who are considering membership at Mayflower. Please let pastor Amy know if you are planning on attending this class. The Welcome Aboard Committee will be giving us a light lunch and they would like to know how many folks to feed. If you cannot attend this class on February 3, but are interested in the possibility of membership, please talk to Rev. Carter. You can call the church office at 656-5414 or you can email her at [pastor@mayflowerofbillings.com](mailto:pastor@mayflowerofbillings.com)

**RAINBOW COFFEE HOUSE** – In April of 1999, members of Mayflower Congregational Church voted to declare ourselves an Open & Affirming Congregation. As we live out that declaration to be an Open & Affirming Church, we have sought to support organizations in the Billings community that are seeking to create safe spaces for people in the LGBTQ community. One organization involved in this work is the Rainbow Coffee House. Every week they provide space for youth, ages 14-18 to get together for coffee, hot cocoa, board games, laughter, and conversation. The coffee house is located in Grace United Methodist church and they offer a safe, judgement-free environment where youth are free to be themselves and begin to explore and understand who they are. Rainbow Coffee house is looking for volunteers to help youth with transportation to and from Grace United Methodist church, or with snacks (pizza, chips, cookies) for the youth to eat when they gather. Training is necessary and provided for volunteers offering transportation. People can drop off donations of snacks or money at any time at Grace United Methodist church. Questions? Please contact Darryl Gehring, chair of the Mission and Outreach Committee.

**MY BACKYARD** – The Community Crisis Center, 704 N. 30th St., is seeking partners for a new project called My Backyard. First Church is partnering with the Community Crisis Center in offering homeless people a warm place to stay during the cold winter months. When the temperature reaches below 32 degrees and the Community Crisis Center exceeds its capacity, people who are in need of a warm place to sleep will be referred to First Congregational Church. First Church is now looking for volunteers who are willing to be trained to be overnight hosts for times such as this. If you are interested and available, please email Lisa Harmon, Minister of healing and transformation at [Lisa.Harmon@firstchurchbillings.org](mailto:Lisa.Harmon@firstchurchbillings.org)

**FAMILY PROMISE OF YELLOWSTONE VALLEY will host its eighth annual Beach Blizzard Party for the Promise at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel on Saturday, Feb. 16.** This year's theme is "Under the Sea," and the organization invites the community to a warm ocean escape from the chills of winter. The event will include a dinner, live and silent auctions, and a VIP after-party with live jazz music. Tickets cost \$125 each. Tables for eight are available for \$1,500. Tickets are available online at [familypromiseyv.org](http://familypromiseyv.org), by calling the Family Promise office at 294-7432.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS! Family Promise Orientation and Informational Meeting  
Here is your opportunity to learn all about Family Promise!**

Intern Erika Musser of Family Promise is presenting orientation and informational programs which have been inspiring and educational. We are pleased to have her come to Mayflower and we invite all who are curious or already committed volunteers to join us **Sunday, March 17, after our church service. A light lunch will be served.**

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Mayflower Congregational  
United Church of Christ

2940 Poly Drive, Billings, MT 59102



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Billings, MT 59102  
Permit No. 783

**Designated Minister**

Reverend Amy Carter

**Director of Children & Youth**

Kim Harris

**Moderator**

Nancy Rice

**Organist**

Ginny Herrick

**Choir Director**

Julie Bishop

**Administrative Assistant**

Anna Nentwig

**Worship every Sunday at 10:00 am**

## YOUTH Happenings

Contact Kim at 855-4317 or [kharris4317@gmail.com](mailto:kharris4317@gmail.com)

We had a great end to the year in the world of our Youth and families!

- We had a fantastic and comical Christmas pageant in mid-December with our wonderful reporters from the Good News Network and all the angels, shepherds, sheep and wise persons.
- Over 30 Youth join us for our overnight retreat at the beginning of winter break. We spent the evening having pizza, doing gift exchanges, escape rooms, ice skating, Christmas movies at the Arthouse, archery tag at the 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue North Dojo, and games at the church.
- For New Year's Eve, we went to the Babcock to see *Spiderman: Into the Spiderverse*.
- Our older Youth did a great job leading worship on Jan. 14, focused on the 2018 WRYE theme, Come to the Water, and sharing their experiences at Western Regional Youth Event in Hawaii.
- **On January 27**, we will have a parent meeting for 10-12 grade Our Whole Lives at 11:30. Classes will begin in February! We will also be finishing up our 7-9 grade Our Whole Lives class in February.
- Kim will be contacting all the confirmation families to discuss mentors and class choices, we are hoping to begin confirmation in early February! If you are interested in being a mentor, please let Amy or Kim know!
- **Connie Genger** will be sharing about her travels and work with Habitat for Humanity at Youth group on **January 23**. If you have a mission or passion that you would like to share with the Youth on a Wednesday evening please, contact Kim.
- We are also looking for providers for dinners for Youth group in Wednesday's.
- **Fellowship Fun Night will be Friday, February 15** at Bricks and MiniFigs! Please rsvp by Thursday, February 14.
- We will be having Youth Group Gatherings on **February 13 and 27, 6:30-8 pm.**