

The Log

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

July, 2018

To the Mayflower Congregation,

By now, you should all have received the letter that, the Interim Search Team has completed our work and are delighted to announce that Rev. Amy Carter has accepted our Call to be our Designated Pastor!

We feel she is an excellent fit for our congregation. Her passion for preaching the Gospel and relating it to our lives, her dedication to inclusiveness, pastoral care, and growing the church are all aspects of her ministry that attracted us to Rev. Carter. As a long-time pastor in Butte and Missoula, she knows, understands and loves Montana.

We trust that the Mayflower community will welcome Rev. Carter and her husband, Huw Griffiths, when they arrive to begin our relationship on August 13.

Blessings,

The Interim Search Team *(an excerpt from the original letter)*

Following Pastor Steve's final worship service on July 1, several pastors and laypeople in the community will lead our services until we have the joy of welcoming Rev. Carter.

July 8	Dwight Welch
July 15	Connie Genger
July 22	Ann Hanson
July 29	Doug Johnson
August 5	Don Beal
August 12	Barbara Miner

Come, worship and support our guest worship leaders!

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Mayflower Congregational
United Church of Christ

mayflowerofbillings.com

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Upcoming Event Highlights:

July 1 – Rev. Steve’s farewell sermon & community reception – Communion & Food Bank Sunday

July 4 – Happy Independence Day!

July 8 – Rev. Dwight Welch of MSU-B Campus Ministry guest preacher

July 9 – Annual Reports are Due!

July 13 – Relay for Life

July 15 – R & O Meets

– Connie Genger guest preacher

– M & O Meets

– Family Promise Hosting

July 18 – Mayflower Singles Picnic

July 19 – Sandwich Service Project

– Council Meets

July 22 – Ann Hanson guest preacher

July 26 – Worship Committee Meets

July 27 – LOG Deadline!

July 29 – Rev. Doug Johnson guest preacher

– **Annual Meeting & Potluck** directly after Worship

A Message from Stewardship

I want to begin by simply saying ‘thank you’. Thank you for being the amazing church family who takes good care of each other. Thank you for your leadership in generosity which contributes to the long standing success of our community of faith. Thank you for being a steward of kindness in our community, state, county and world.

Rich and I have been Mayflower church members for 32 years and we have had the great joy of watching our church family grow by actively supporting the mission and ministry that we all cherish. As the chair of the Stewardship Committee I have witnessed the joy of giving in so many ways: financial, time and talents. Our financial gifts do remarkable things when they are transformed into ministry, mission, and the ability to take care of our building which is a reflection in our community.

Giving to others is such a joy. Being a partner in movements that change the lives of individuals and enrich our community is so satisfying. I want to thank you for being a partner in the ministry and mission of Habitat for Humanity, Family Promise, Kiva, and youth mission trips to name only a few. The result of this ministry is significant and it is a privilege to be involved in something with such positive impact. Your ongoing financial contributions are making a difference in the lives of many people. You know what matters in life by your generosity of giving in many ways.

I am proud of the way we take care of each other especially in our time of need and celebration. Cookies and fruit are provided weekly so we may enjoy each other’s company after worship. Celebration of Life receptions, baptisms, confirmation, weddings, along with the thoughts and prayers you offered for our Chris and Heather during their Peace Corps service is heartwarming.

Again, I thank you for your support. Giving in the manner that you do does not simply happen – it is the result of faith, trust and intentional choices. Giving is where we find the true meaning and purpose for our lives, a discovery you have already made.

Thank you! Mary P. Helgeson, Stewardship Committee Chair

Your Mayflower Relay for Life Team invites you to join us for the team lap, Friday evening, July 13th. We will meet at our campsite (unassigned to date) and celebrate this journey together. The Schedule for Relay is shortened this year, with the closing event listed for around 11:30pm. Between survivor lap, luminaries, and fireworks, there is a lot packed into a short timeframe. Some activities may begin as early as 4pm. We look forward to seeing you there--you won't be sorry! More information to follow!

It is Mayflower's turn to host the Family Promise families again, beginning Sunday, July 15, until early Sunday, July 22. The sign-up board will be up soon, near the door to the Fellowship Hall. Please make some time available to bring a meal, stay overnight, shop for food, or do some of the laundry. Thank you so much to our dependable volunteers! If you have questions or concerns regarding this, check with Sally Phillips, Bob Murphy or Mary Helgeson.

A Snapshot of Mayflower from a “Bricks & Mortar” Perspective

When tasked with writing this, I was sent a report written in 1963 by Mayflower’s outgoing moderator, Cecile Gubser. That was the year construction was completed on what was then Mayflower’s new home and what is now our Fellowship Hall. He wrote: *“The construction of our church building was a great challenge. The fulfillment of our purpose for existence – the serving of our Lord in the community – is a far greater challenge! ... The depth of our love for Jesus Christ will be tested and manifested in the days and years ahead.”* Imagine the commitment to the Gospel of Christ and the faith in future generations required to construct that building on the very outskirts of Billings!

Much has changed with Mayflower’s home in 55 years to the extent that it’s difficult to identify the original construction now surrounded by a new sanctuary, new classrooms, a new roof form and miles of new city in all directions. Thanks to faithful stewardship over the years, the church facility is in good health to fulfill “our purpose for existence”. Our facilities are energy efficient, accessible and have beautiful, welcoming spaces for gathering.

Even so, keeping a building fit and functional is a continual process. The Resource and Operations committee has identified a few more repair projects – replace the inefficient single pane windows from the original construction, put a sloped roof on the covered walkway, repair the fire exit doors at the front of the sanctuary. And of course there will be parking lots that need resurfacing, carpeting that needs replacing, offices and restrooms that need remodeling, and sometimes it’s good to dream big with “what if?” ideas like solar and wind power or putting the vacant land to beneficial use. Those pesky challenges!

Even though the purpose of Mayflower’s existence, “serving our Lord in the community” hasn’t changed in 55 years, the manifestation of that service might look very different from the viewpoint of the first congregation to gather at Rehberg & Poly. Just as our building has changed beyond recognition, Mayflower’s involvement with Relay for Life, Habitat for Humanity, Family Promise, LGBTQ rights, KIVA, women’s rights, compassionate immigration policies and more would look very strange to the Mayflower faithful of 1963. But in much the same way that the building would be very familiar to Cecile Gubser and his contemporaries once inside the Fellowship Hall, I believe that Mayflower’s current efforts toward “serving our Lord in the community” would also feel very familiar when viewed through the lense of Christ’s teachings.

Maybe we don’t have to use our imaginations to grasp the levels of commitment and faith exhibited by the founders of Mayflower Church after all. Maybe their commitment and faith were their gifts to us, which we have already accepted, and all we have to do is honor those gifts so we can leave them to those who will follow us. Oh, those pesky challenges!

Steve Bjordahl, Resource & Operations Committee Chair

ANNUAL MEETING & Potluck will take place immediately following Worship on July 29th! ***Note to Committee Chairs:** Annual reports are **due to the Office by July 9th** for inclusion in the Annual Report to the congregation.

Mayflower Singles will meet for a potluck picnic at June Genger’s house, 1033 Ave. D, **Wednesday, July 18, at 6 pm.**

FOOD BANK SUNDAY –

July 1

Please remember to bring donations of non-perishable items - spread a little love.

But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?

Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

-1 John 3:17-18



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Mayflower Congregational
United Church of Christ

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Director of Children & Youth

Kimmie Harris

Moderator

Rev. Dr. Barbara Miner

Organist

Ginny Herrick

Choir Director

Julie Bishop

Administrative Assistant

Anna Nentwig

Worship every Sunday at 10:00 am

Return Service Requested

F. Y. I.

God is still speaking,
**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



Dear Mayflower,

As a faithful UCC congregation, it is important to understand the boundaries that Rev. Steve Gordon must observe after his retirement from Mayflower Congregational Church. It is only fair to Pastor Steve that we understand these boundaries and make no request of him which could place him in a position of having to refuse pastoral services. Please read the following Excerpts from the UCC Ethical Guidelines for Ministers Departing from Congregations:

“The departure of a minister from a congregation can be an emotional experience for both the minister and the parishioners. It is the responsibility of the departing minister to set appropriate boundaries with their former parishioners, in order to facilitate the church’s ability to build a positive relationship with its new minister. This process also enables the minister to move into retirement with a sense of release and clearness. This is in keeping with the Ministerial Code of Ethics.

It is the expectation that upon departure, the pastor will not serve congregation nor serve members of the congregation in a pastoral capacity. The [departing] minister will no longer be available to the congregation or affiliated persons for weddings, baptisms, funerals, church activities, pastoral care, etc. This enables the past minister to fulfill the ministerial code of ethics, in support of the congregation’s relationship-building with a new minister.”

Rev. Amy Carter will soon be our pastor at Mayflower church. She has years of experience as a pastor, and we look forward to her compassionate, caring leadership for our church. Thank you in advance for respecting the necessary boundaries after the retirement of Rev. Steve Gordon.

The Mayflower Church Council