

Montana - N. Wyoming Conference  
United Church of Christ

**CONFERENCE NEWS**

*Together in Spirit - January 30, 2025*



**FAITHFUL MOMENTS**

*Rev. Dr. Tony Clark, Conference Minister*

Last week I joined folks from our churches in Missoula and Helena at a climate advocacy day at the capitol rotunda in Helena. Speakers included Native American elders and high school and college age youth and young adults. Under the beautiful dome as their voices bounced and echoed off the hard impervious surfaces, they spoke of generations back to time

immemorial and generations far into the future. They spoke of land and water. They spoke of hope and change. I drove back to Billings through the Helena National Forest, feeling blessed by the natural beauty and buoyed by the speakers' words.

This week I have been in conversations planning advocacy days for Conference Ministers in Washington, D.C., as well as a faithful response to Yellowstone County commissioners who offered the Metra as a detention center for undocumented migrants facing deportation. I signed an ecumenical letter from denominational leaders calling for mercy toward immigrants. One of the questions underlying these conversations has been, "How do we assure people that they are beloved of God, that we see them, and that we pray for their safety?"

As late January turns to early February, I am in the midst of planning for faithful and effective moments in ministry in our Conference. With a very uncertain future, I am putting events into my calendar, hoping that life will not be interrupted as we continue to carry our covenant forward. This year I am focusing on the vitality of the three C's of our life together: Clergy, Congregations, and the Conference. I am in conversations on clergy support and professional development, best practices for congregational vitality, and what holds us together as a Conference without a church camp to bring us together. We will publish updated Conference salary guidelines, hold a leadership retreat to vision forward, install me as settled Conference Minister, and meet for the Conference Annual Meeting in Missoula in early October. Even in the throes of governmental chaos, I am praying for God's presence in our planning.

Here are a few "hold the dates" in the life of our Conference:

- February 28 Clergy Annual Review forms due to Conference Office
- May 9-10 Leadership Retreat in Helena

- June 7 Installation of Conference Minister (place TBA)
- August 6-7 Ecotheology professional development for clergy

I am keeping all of our churches and clergy in prayer. If you are planning a faithful response or a congregational celebration, I'd love to be invited to be with you. Let me know how I might be present and how the entire Conference can support you in your ministry.

Peace,

Pastor Tony

### JANUARY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

### JANUARY

January 31 - Clergy Annual Reviews Emailed

### FEBRUARY

February 17 - President's Day - Office Closed

February 18 - Green Team @ 3:00 pm

February 26 - Board of Directors @ 5:00 pm

February 28 - Clergy Annual Reviews Due



KEEPING IN PRAYER ...

Bozeman Pilgrim Congregational UCC &  
Helena Plymouth Congregational UCC

## clergy annual reviews

Annual Reviews will be emailed out January 31

Due back on February 28

*Happening this February - share you ministry with us!*



# CPC 2025 BOUNDARY AWARENESS TRAINING VIA ZOOM

## **REMINDER: Boundary Awareness Training 2025 - via ZOOM**

**February 4 from 9am to 2pm PDT / 10am to 3pm MDT  
(will include breaks)**

We're excited to, once again, provide this Boundary Training, led by [Margaret Marcuson](#) and based in Family Systems - now via ZOOM!

Those who have attended it the past two years have given it high marks, and by having a three-year cycle with the same trainer, we are able to share similar vocabularies across the conference.

This year, we're **providing the training via Zoom**, for those who have struggled to attend in person in years past.

**Cost is \$100**

*The ZOOM link will be sent to all participants via email prior to the meetings.*

**Register Now!**





## *Climate Hope Art Contest!*

# PLANTING THE SEEDS OF HOPE

Did you know that 83% of your Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) gifts stay right here in the Montana Northern Wyoming Conference and 17% is sent to National?



Whether here or there, your monetary donations help cover the costs of the staff and technology needed to help us stay connected.

With staff, technology, and more in place, the United Church of Christ is then able to dedicate 100% of Special Offerings directly to the stated cause (e.g., disaster response and relief).

Thank you for your generosity!

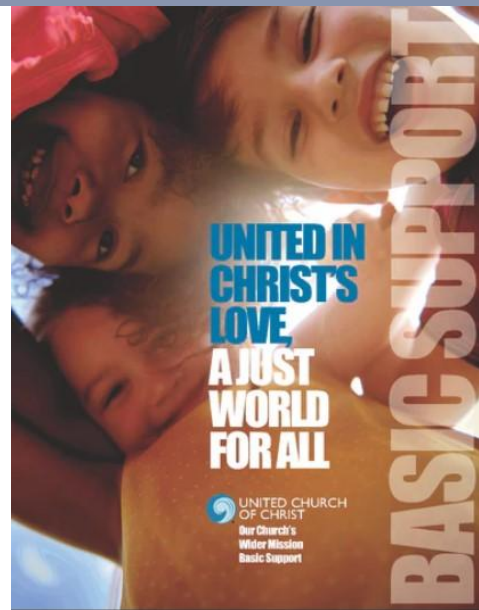
Rev. Teressa Clark  
Conference Treasurer

**OCWM** *Gifts at Work*

## OCWM Basic Support Resources

This resource highlights work being done in the national setting which is supported by Our Church's Wider Mission Basic Support.

Help tell the story of how OCWM Basic Support strengthens local congregations.



## COMMON GOOD MISSOULA



Billings friends,

This is short notice but our organizing body, Common Good Missoula helped to pen a bill HB306 that will get a hearing on Friday in the House Taxation committee. This bill would give a non-refundable tax credit to landlords who rent at 110% of fair market rate or below. It reduces the tax burden on them and incentivized more affordable rentals. Would any of you know a landlord or have folks who might want to testify, or perhaps yourself on Zoom? Denise Baum is carrying the bill.

Thanks for considering!

John Lund (he/him)

Pastor, University Congregational Church - Missoula

406-543-6952

Montana HB306

<https://legiscan.com/MT/bill/HB306/2025>



**Rev. Dr. Tony Clark** - Conference Minister

**Jennifer Penfield** - Administrator & Registrar

**Patty Martinson** - Administrative Assistant

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