



Pastor Jennifer writes: When I was a teenager and then a young adult, traveling outside of Oregon usually led to some experiences of culture shock around bottles and cans. At that time, recycling bottles and cans was still a lefty, hippy thing to do outside of the state. Oregon's Bottle Bill incentivized recycling for everyone and, while at home, it was usually easy to find some kind of bin at hand. Recycling became a habit that required no more thought than taking out the trash.

In other states, though, those bins were nowhere to be found. I remember wandering airports and conference centers with co-workers or friends, bottles or cans in hand as we all searched in vain for recycling bins. Eventually, dismay dawned to the realization that no such repository existed, and with a moral stomachache, we would deposit the items in the trash.

Virtues, like recycling, work best ingrained as habits, rather than as “feel good” activities. In worship this week, we look at the challenges of our commitments, of doing the right thing even when we don't feel like it or when doing so costs us something. Please join us IN PERSON or ONLINE at 10 a.m. Masks are recommended! (Note: This week's photo is from UCC Missoula's Glass Recycling program. For more information, contact Graham, [graham@uccmissoula.org](mailto:graham@uccmissoula.org) )

After worship, please join us in the Sanctuary for a presentation by Dr. Steve Running, Nobel Laureate in Climate Science, for an update on what's new with climate.

Check out The Daily Blessening, a daily devotional with carbon fast suggestions created by Pastor Jennifer. The Daily Blessening pops up at 8 a.m. every day of Lent on our Facebook



page and can be accessed through our website, [Daily Blessings](#).

A friendly reminder that Day Light Savings Time begins Sunday morning. Remember to Spring your clocks forward, or you will miss our second week of church in person. (See it online an hour later if you must!)

[Download the Bulletin Here](#)

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## Streaming Links

[Sunday Worship Link Here](#)

[Dr. Steve Running's Talk Here](#)

Talk Back with Pastor Jennifer After Worship

University Congregational Church is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Talk Back

Join Zoom Meeting:

## Online Giving

Visit our [Online Giving Page](#) to support UCC Missoula and our ministries, or Text (406) 998-1900.

Online giving now allows you to pay transaction fees. Please consider paying the fees as a way to increase resources to our ministries.

## Lenten Calendar

The spiritual practice of fasting accompanied by prayer can move us to be more open to the will of God in our lives through slowing down and letting go. During Lent this year, UCC Missoula invites you to try a “fast from carbon,” that is, to reduce the amount of greenhouse gasses you put into the atmosphere.

### Events during Lent:

Carbon Fast Bingo!: A way to increase your earth-friendly commitment to climate care. Prizes awarded as “game play” continues through the Lenten season.

**Wednesdays** 11:00 A.M. March 16 and 23: How to have Effective Conversations. This group discussion will be based on work by Getting to Yes by Urey and Fisher. Led by Steve McArthur.

**Sunday 27 at 4:00 P.M.** For the Love of Soil Composting, gardening and playing in the dirt. Led by Shelley and Bryan Barrett-Catton Location at their home. See registration below.

## Sundays after Worship

**March 13:** Dr. Steven Running, Nobel Laureate, tells us “What’s New with Climate” with Q and A to follow. Sanctuary.

**March 13: Story Corner.** Tell us what you were up to during the pandemic. Find a member of the CGC team after worship to record a short video.

**March 20:** Rev. Andrew Warner talks about Planned Giving: Creating Our Future Today

**March 27-April 10** “Carbon Fast: Sharing Strategies” led by Pastor Jennifer. 11:10 to noon in the Bay Window Room.

**Sunday, April 10** Palm Sunday: Passion and Promise led by Pastor Jennifer (Sanctuary)

## Holy Week

**Thursday, April 14** Passover Seder led by Rabbi Mark (Fireside Room)

**Friday, April 15** Good Friday vigil (Sanctuary/Courtyard)

**Sunday, April 17** Easter Sunrise service at 6:30 a.m. led by Pastor Jennifer (Courtyard)

**Sunday, April 17** Easter Celebration at 10 a.m. led by Pastor Jennifer (Sanctuary)

# Lenten Carbon Fast

The spiritual practice of fasting accompanied by prayer can move us to be more open to the will of God in our lives through slowing down and letting go. During Lent this year, UCC Missoula invites you to try a “fast from carbon,” that is, to reduce the amount of greenhouse gasses you put into the atmosphere.

Why consider a fast from carbon and other greenhouse gasses during Lent?

- The carbon dioxide and other gasses we are putting into the environment are changing God’s creation.
- We have the power to alter our behavior and decrease the impact of climate change.
- We are charged to care for the earth and act in ways that will restore and protect the environment.
- Doing it together will increase enthusiasm and make it a fun bonding experience!



While we are heavily dependent on carbon, a carbon fast is not as hard as you might think. We can take baby steps. These reflections will help us dig deep, examine the amount of greenhouse gasses we produce, and commit to reducing that amount.

## Carbon Fast Bingo



The Green Team at UCC invites you to try the activities in this Carbon Fast Bingo as a way to learn what you can do to reduce your carbon footprint. Maybe you will even learn to keep some of the practices going after lent. Download the Bingo Card using the link to our website below and fill in a row to receive a gift from the Green Team. Complete the whole card and you will be eligible for a gift card drawing, and the Green Team will make a donation in your name to Trees for Missoula.

**Bring your Bingo Card to worship with a completed row or card to**

**receive a prize from a member of the Green Team.**

[Visit our Webpage to start Carbon Fast Bingo now.](#)

## How to Have Effective Conversations

This group discussion will be based on work "Getting to Yes" by Urey and Fisher. Lead by Steve McArthur over Zoom. The group will meet Wednesdays March 16, and 25 at 11:00 a.m.

[Register Here](#)

## Planned Giving Seminar



Learn the three types of planned gifts and consider why you might want to make one to UCC Missoula at this seminar after worship on March 20. In the Sanctuary via zoom. (On the big screen!)



## **Retirement Small Group-Next step!**

What is most special about our gathering is the sharing of our lives in a trusting and welcoming environment. Consensus is to continue meeting every other week.

Date: Wednesday, March 30, 2022.

Time: 1:00-2:00 pm.

Location: The Bay Window Room at UCC.

Topic: Our welcoming and trusting small group ministry focused on retirement.

UCC values each person, wherever they may be on their journey in life and faith.

Retirement is another chapter in life and an opportunity for blessing. One key to a blessed retirement is having community and sacred space for sharing. Please join us every other week for starters. Share the presence of this group with a friend and/or someone who you feel would benefit from participating in this group. Sharing with each other here to support one another in this blessed stage of life.

I welcome connecting by phone, Zoom, or, in person, to support our spiritual well-being and the thriving of our community.

Please God, grant us blessings.

Shalom,

Rabbi Mark

# Sunday School

Hi Sunday School families,

It's the season of Lent. Last Sunday the kids and I talked about the focus of the next 6 weeks being PRAY, FAST, GIVE. I've got a little lenten book for you with some simple daily prayers, ideas for fasting and ways to give. Maybe this week you can try saying grace at each meal, scheduling a "screen free" day, and baking a treat for a neighbor.

This Sunday we'll be baking pretzels together and learning about how a pretzel is a symbol of Lent. I look forward to seeing you in person! :)

Looking ahead...

March 20 - Spring Break (watch for our children's message online)

March 27 - Planting an Easter garden

April 3 - Ukrainian eggs (has there ever been a year when this will be more meaningful?)

April 10 - Palm Sunday

April 17 - Easter celebration!



# Youth Ministry

Shalom 2 You!

Youth Groupers 2 meet this Spring. We will meet at the UCC for activities, munchies and being together. Covid has limited our opportunities to be in person. Now is the time 2 come 2gether. Please join our Youth group Ministry and we will have a good time. As always, email or call me 2 share suggestions or talk.

Sunday March 13, 4-5 pm. We will share what special things we have been up 2 for 2 years of pandemic? If I could be anything, what would I be? Let's share the blessings of imagination. Bring in a can or 2, 2 donate!

## Special Offering for Ukraine:



You can add some dollars to your prayers for the people of Ukraine affiliated efforts here. <https://www.ucc.org/global-h-o-p-e/ukraine-emergency-appeal/> We'll also have a basket available for donations in person.

## Mealtrain, Moving, and Gardening Volunteers Wanted

Meal Train requests: Wendy Woollett was injured in a traffic accident last week and has just recently been released from St. Patrick's Hospital. Please help Wendy's recovery with your prayers and with meals. [Sign up for a meal here.](#)

Also, Bernadette Hunter has requested that her Meal Train be extended. Bernadette is still unable to use her dominant hand to do anything and is in need of meals delivered three times a week through much of April. Please sign up to help if you can. Bernadette sends her heartfelt gratitude for your compassion and care. To bring a meal, sign up here: <https://www.TakeThemAMeal.com/PHGQ5860>

**Movers Wanted:** The church is cleaning floors on Tuesday March 21, so we would like help moving furniture out of the rooms to be cleaned on Monday March 20, and back on Thursday March 24. If you can help at 10:00 a.m. either day please contact Graham 543-6952, or arrive then at the church.

## PUSSY WILLOWS!

It may be cold this week, but we all know that spring is coming. After all, it's daylight savings time already! (Spring forward with your clocks on Saturday night.) The Visionaries would love some help locating budding pussy willow branches, an early harbinger of Spring, for our Easter chancel. If you have a bush growing at your home, or see (and can cut) some prune-able branches on your walks in the outdoors, please let Jean Woessner know, or bring them to the church. Thank you!





# Workshop with Janice Springer

**BEING A CHANNEL OF GOD'S PEACE: A START** led by Rev. Janice Jean Springer. This workshop is designed for people who are already weary and discouraged, people whose energy ran out a long time ago. It is intentionally brief—only 3 sessions, 1 ¼ hours each. And it is interactive, playful and nurturing, 3 Thursdays 6:30-7:45 Central Time Zone March 24, March 31, April 7, 2022. Register by emailing [revjanicejeanspringer@gmail.com](mailto:revjanicejeanspringer@gmail.com). Include your name, email address, and the state you live in. When we receive your registration, we will email you the link you need to join us via Zoom. There is no cost for this workshop. Bring pen and paper or your tablet.

## Gratitude Journal

Thank you to Jeff Stickney and Alice Williams for playing organ music for our online services during the pandemic, and continuing now that we are in person.



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