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## UCC Missoula E-Blast

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July 21, 2022



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### Light it Up!

For my last Sunday at UCC Missoula, I don't expect to go out in a blaze of glory but I do want to remind our church that, amidst all of the forces gathering to block out the Light, this is a time to shine.

This Sunday, we'll finish up our series titled, "I Look to the Mountains" with one of my favorite mountain top stories, and one that has a lot of shine to it, the transfiguration of Jesus. Rabbi Mark will be with us to help us understand how Moses and Elijah figure into this story, and our conference minister, Rev. Dr.

Marc Stewart, will make the trip out from Billings to preside over the Farewell Liturgy that completes my time as your pastor. A longer "farewell letter" can be found in this edition of the e-Blast, but the bottom line is thank you all for these last four years and may God's grace and peace be with us all in the next chapters of our lives. In Joy, Rev. Dr. Jennifer Yocum

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# Farewell Letter from Pastor Jennifer

7/21/22

Dear Friends in Christ,

This letter comes to you from a heart filled with gratitude for our shared ministry during the past four years I've served as your senior pastor. It's been a strange, creative, terrifying, beautiful, and grace-filled ride. We went from having a calendar filled with so many activities barely anyone could keep track in early 2020, to doors shut and the building sealed for weeks...then months, then open, shut, then re-opened again.

We've cried tears of grief and joy together at church and in other places around this community. We've experienced pre-recorded, livestreamed, FaceBooked, YouTubed, and Zoomed ways of worship and being together. We've been inside, outside, up close, socially-distanced, masked and unmasked. We kept church being church even when we couldn't be at or in the building.

In this stage of the pandemic (which all of us wish was over but isn't) everything is different than it was. Everything is becoming something new. That truth can be exhausting or exhilarating, sometimes all in the same moment. The Holy Spirit has so much more truth and light to break forth from God's Holy Word, which is all of you!

Now here's the part no one likes to read or to write, for that matter. Although I have loved you deeply and dearly as your pastor, my departure means that I will not provide any

pastoral services or support to you after July 24th. That means no weddings, memorials, baptisms, blessings, or pastoral care. Furthermore, our code of ministerial ethics now recommends no contact (including social media) for at least a year following the pastor's departure date.

That means I will be unfollowing or unfriending UCC Missoula folk from my Facebook and Instagram accounts. Please don't take these actions personally! It also means that, although several of you have said sweet things about wanting to visit us in our new home on the Oregon coast, we'll need to wait until at least the summer of 2023 to walk the beach together. This separation time is intended to create the space needed to develop healthy relationships with your new pastor(s) as I trust you will.

It is my great hope that you will find leadership who cherishes this congregation as much as I do. I am certain God will continue to do great things with this church in the days and years to come.

Ellen and I thank you for your kindness, for your witness, and for your gracious care for us. We will miss UCC Missoula in so many ways, and now we appreciate you sending us off to make new dreams come true. God bless and keep you all, beloveds.

Remember the Gospel--God loves you; now go and do likewise!

In Joy,

Rev. Dr. Jennifer Yocum

## Streaming Links

[Sunday Worship Link](#)

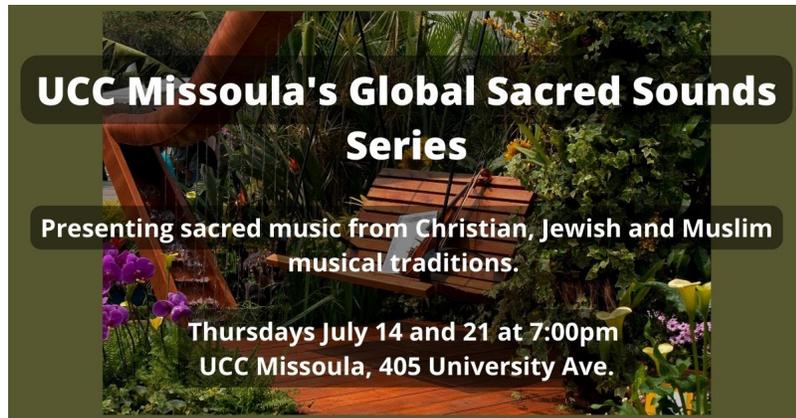
You may also find links to streaming worship on our Youtube channel at UCCMissoula, and on our webpage in three places: on the link in the homepage, the sermon page, and the Sunday Worship under events.

## 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.

# Global Sacred Sounds



**Global Sacred Sounds. Tonight 21 at 7:00 p.m. in the UCC Missoula Courtyard.** All are invited to listen to **sacred music** from Christian, Jewish and Muslim musical traditions. *There is much more to sacred sounds than we experience weekly at our respective worship spaces.*

Bill Kautz, UCC Missoula Music Coordinator, Rabbi Mark Kula and Nora Justice, Secretary/Treasurer of the Montana Islamic Society come together to present music from these different traditions. Join us!

## Pastor Jennifer's Last Sunday A Celebration of Pastor Jennifer

Pastor Jennifer's last Sunday with us will be this Sunday, July 24. Jennifer will lead worship and then be released from her duties with us during worship with our Conference Minister Marc Stewart. Following the service, please join in a celebration of Jennifer's time with us. The church will provide coffee, punch, plates, napkins and cups. We ask that you bring a finger food item to share. The items can be anything you desire, fresh fruit, vegetables, chips, cookies, cupcakes (minis are always fun). The idea is to load your plate and move to visit in the narthex and courtyard. We will have a basket available for cards you might want to give to Jennifer and Ellen. We will also have a short, designated time for any oral comments folks might like to share. Please come! Any questions or offers to help should be sent to 406-360-3114 Joyce Watson.

# August Worship and a Small Group with Janice

Sunday Worship August 7, 10:00 a.m. —Janice will preach on the power, the problems, and the possibilities of faith in today's national politics. Her thoughts invite your response.

After worship, join Janice in the Bay Window room for an hour of discussion.

Small Group August 20—"From ghoulies and ghosties and long-leggedy beasties and things that go bump in the night, Good Lord, deliver us."

What are the beasties that haunt you? What ghosties make you afraid for the future?

How do you live with the fears that are so pervasive in this time?

In this workshop, we'll use world scriptures, poetry, contemporary scholars and our own experiences to explore our relationship with fear.

We'll meet at church from 9:30 to 2:30. Watch for details.

## Let's Get Loud

UCC Missoula is preparing advertising materials to promote a progressive Christian voice in light of major issues in our nation and in our world. Pattii Nau is coordinating these efforts. A draft version of one of our ads is here:



## Thursdays for the Soul

# 1:30-2:30 p.m.

Thursday, July 21, 1:30pm MT - [Our Faith Our Vote 2022: Faithful Engagement in a Time of Increased Voter Suppression](#)

Thursday, July 28, 1:30pm MT - [A Conversation with Franklinton Center at Brick's Rev. Elly Mendez Angulo](#)

Thursday, August 4, 1:30pm MT - [Faithful Abortion Access: Then And Now](#)

## Family Promise:UCC/ Friends July 25-31

Hello all,

The week for UCC and Missoula Friends Meeting to host Family Promise at the Family Housing Center is July 25-31st.

Volunteers for both service and supplies are needed in the following areas:

**DINNERS** We will need volunteers to provide salads and desserts and assist in the kitchen from 5-8ish pm. There are slots for salad, desserts, and volunteers. Ideally it would be great if you can bring a food item and stay to volunteer. Be sure to sign up for both if you can do both.

**SALADS AND DESSERTS** : All food needs to be purchased or prepared in our semi commercial licensed kitchen. We are asking for donations of green salad and vegetables, fruits and canned fruit and desserts spread out through the week.

**KITCHEN HELPERS** should arrive by 5:00 pm. Set up will be from 5-5:30 and we will serve and clean from 5:30-8, or whenever everyone is finished.

Note that on Saturday and Sunday, leftovers are served- if you are creative in making meals out of leftovers- please signup for one of those nights!

**EVENING HOST**- We no longer need to have volunteers stay overnight. We are asking for folks to continue to work the reception area from 8 to 10 pm to let residents in. There will be an awake YWCA staff also available on that shift.

Sign up using the link below:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080d4aa5ab2da2fa7-family59>

# James Welch Native Literature Festival July 28-30

The UCC Wrestling Team enthusiastically invites other members of our community to this extraordinary event taking place in Missoula. Talks take place at the Wilma and Missoula Public Library, and are free and open to the public. Peruse the [James Welch Lit Festival Website](#) to learn more about indigenous authors and artists participating in the festival.



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405 University Ave. Missoula, MT 59801

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