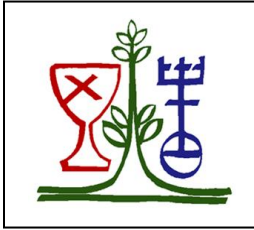


United Christian Church - Late Summer 2022

A merged congregation of
Highland Park United Church of Christ
and First Christian Church, Disciples of Christ,
Miles City, Montana



The Welcome!

**No matter who you are, or where you are
on life's journey, you are welcome here!**

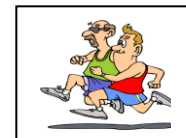
MISSION DASH UNDERWAY



Global Ministries, the common overseas ministry of the UCC and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), is hosting a "Mission Dash" this month to support climate justice projects being led by a variety of global partners. Although the virtual "Dash" has an official on-line site

where one can register, United Christian Church is supporting the event with a less structured approach. Since the beginning of the month, church members and friends have been encouraged to walk, jog or run on a regular basis and record their distances. We are trying to accumulate 1,000 "team miles" by the end of August, and in order to reach that goal, we need more folks to get involved! Ten cents a mile has been pledged by donors, which would mean \$100 to Global Ministries if we reach our 1,000 mile goal. This money will go towards a variety of projects, ranging from planting olive trees in Palestine to teaching alternative agricultural methods in Bangladesh.

It's not too late to get out there and "dash" - in the cool of the mornings or even through the aisles of Wal-Mart! Please update Marilyn periodically of your total miles. Also, if "dashing" isn't your thing, you might pledge a donation. A penny per mile pledge means a \$10 donation if the mileage goal is reached. (Two cents per mile equals \$20, etc.) GO TEAM!



MEALS ON WHEELS



Ready
to
Go!!

Earlier this summer, UCC members & friends did our annual two weeks of delivering Meals on Wheels. A huge "THANK YOU" to everyone who helped out, including those who substituted on very short notice! The delivery crews included: Barb Cole, Samar Devies, Shelley Freese, Toni Gaglia, Vida Landa, Hannah Nash, Diana & Gary Ochsner, Reinhardt family, Amber Richardson, Dixie Rieger, Marilyn Thaden and Gerald Van Campen.



FASTEST TEAM AWARD:

 **VIDA & HANNAH!!!** 

WHY WE SEEK TO DO GOOD

by Rev. Bob Thaden

In 1970, after several years of national upset over the Vietnam War, President Nixon ordered the invasion of Cambodia. For many people in the antiwar movement, this was the last straw. They threw up their hands and felt that despite all that they had tried to do, nothing was going to stop this warring madness from happening. So they gave up hope. They turned their backs on a country that they felt was no longer based on the values that they championed— welcome, justice, fairness, kindness to strangers. They worried that their kids would be corrupted by a value system no longer in keeping with their own.

So what did they do? They left in droves. Many moved to Oregon to start communes, where they could withdraw from society and raise their children in a sheltered environment far from the madness they saw in our larger society. But this was not a new trend. Back in Europe over several centuries, the same kind of uneasiness about the direction of society lured many people to join together in “communes” in that day and age— the first Hutterite colony began in 1528 when about 200 German Anabaptists (those who believed adult believers should be “baptized again”) formed in Moravia, now the Czech Republic.

In the early 1500's, in a disillusioned war-torn area named Friesland, now a part of Germany, Menno Simons grew up and became a Catholic priest. He too came to believe that since infant baptism is not in the Bible, people should be baptized as adults. After a bloody confrontation with the Catholic-aligned leaders in the area that left over 300 Anabaptists dead, Menno rejected the Catholic church and the priesthood, and focused increasingly upon separation from society. By the time he was fifty, people started calling his followers Mennonites.

In 1693, a schism happened in Switzerland within the Mennonite group there, and a man named Jakob Ammann left the Mennonite group. He had a very strict theology that encouraged social shunning of anyone who was kicked out of the church or found lying. This emphasis on escaping not only society, but escaping by excommunication, anyone who his followers felt were unfit to be Christian, led to the formation of the Amish people.

A CHOICE— These people from history faced a choice when they found themselves confronted by a society that they believed had become corrupt or too sinful. They actually had two choices: to leave, which they did, or to stay and try to make their societies better. We have the same choice today, and a lot of people are opting out, simply not participating by not voting, not getting involved. It's the “what's the use” attitude which leads people to simply say to themselves, “Our leaders are all self-centered bastards. What's the point of voting, of getting involved? It doesn't do any good.”

AN INTERESTING THEOLOGICAL IMPLICATION— Why do people drop out? Mostly because they become cynical about making society better. And if they cannot make it better— *if they cannot have it the way they want* — they drop out, take their ball and go home. But the Bible pointed to another choice— the decision to do good for its own sake, whether it changes the world or not. *We do not love because we are sure we shall succeed by love in improving the world. We love simply because it's the right thing to do.*

For hundreds, nay thousands of years, some people have made the choice to opt out of their larger societies because they became disillusioned. They formed their communes where they could feel good about themselves and withdraw from the larger world. But most loving people stayed. They pushed for the changes they believed in. Many of them were martyred. They fought for goodness and compassion. And many of them became heroes because they simply would not go away and would not shut up; Martin Luther King in the US, Gandhi in India, Mandela in South Africa.



COMPASSION IS
NOT A VIRTUE.
It is a commitment.
It's NOT SOMETHING WE
HAVE OR DON'T HAVE.
It's something we
choose to practice.

When we are gravely disappointed in decisions made in our society, we have the same choice: opt out, or work to change society into a more loving, more just, more welcoming place, *not because we know we shall succeed, but simply because it's the right thing to do, and that is empowering.*

Fight the good fight! You may not succeed in helping secure the freedom, justice, compassion, and welcome you believe in, but you will be better for having done what you know in your heart is the right thing to do.



SO LONG BUT NOT GOODBYE

The above sentiment was very much on everyone's lips on April 27th, as we gathered to celebrate **Linda Parks** and acknowledge how much she'd be missed upon her move to eastern North Dakota. Besides being a dear friend, Linda for many years was a dedicated member of the Mission Committee and an exceptional voice in the choir. In other words, how dare she leave us?! 😊

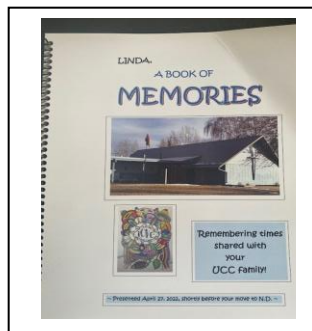
Linda was subjected to "just a bit" of good natured kidding, especially as she was the recipient of a special karaoke song written and performed by the one and only, Dixie Reiger! To the tune of "Bad, Bad, Leroy Brown," Dixie's rendition of "Bad, Bad, Linda Parks" was a huge hit and had everyone laughing and cheering. (Dixie, however, was not impressed with the audience's ability to sing the chorus at the proper time!)



As was fitting, the evening included music from the choir, and as reflected in the photos, this performance was more solemn.



What would a UCC gathering be without a delicious potluck?!



Linda's address:
P.O. Box 304
Cooperstown, ND 58425

The evening concluded by presenting Linda with a "Book of Memories" and a gift certificate to a greenhouse near her new home.

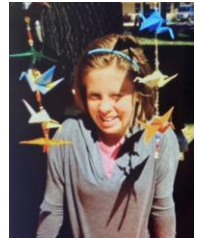
Linda, here's to making more memories!! ❤️ ❤️ ❤️

PEOPLE WE KNOW

We extend our sympathies to the family of **Hazel Richardson**, who died July 28 at the age of 98. Hazel, a Montana resident of 70+ years, spent many years as a teacher in rural schools. Area family includes son Lee Richardson (Amber) and daughter Judy Bovee (Truman) Private family services are planned for a later date. Memorials can be made to the Miles City Public Library or United Christian Church.



Lauren Reinhardt, daughter of Julie & Kurt Reinhardt, graduated in May from Custer County District High School. Lauren will be attending the University of Montana, Missoula, with plans to major in Journalism. We all wish Lauren the very best and offer a huge "THANK YOU" to her for helping with so many of our events over the past several years!



2015 SERRV Sale



Another May graduate of CCDHS was **Kayden York**, daughter of Trista and Bill York and the granddaughter of Jolene & Cody Taylor. Kayden plans on attending beauty school and we wish her well in her future endeavors. (The years definitely fly by as evidenced by this 2013 photo of Kayden at an Easter egg hunt on the church lawn!)



Belated congratulations to **Diana & Gary Ochsner**, who celebrated their 50th anniversary in June!

It was great seeing and hearing **Dorothy Zabrocki** in the pulpit again! Dorothy, you have been greatly missed!

Birthdays & Anniversaries

August

8/25 - Toni Gaglia & Dixie Rieger

September

9/5/70 – Deb & Tim Irion

9/6/86 – Cindy & Dale Berg

9/27 – Karen Strobel

October

10/1 - Bob Thaden

10/6 - Brenda Kneeland

10/27 – Shelley Freese

October

10/10 - Marilyn Thaden

10/11 - Joan Wilson

10/12 - Toni Gaglia

10/15 - Chad Irion

10/17 - Jan Alexander

10/19 - Julie Reinhart

Happy OFFICIAL 10 Years, Amber!!!



8-19-2012

Installation



Congratulations to **Bob & Marilyn Thaden** and their Tongue River Winery on receiving gold medals on two of their hybrid grape wines at the recent Montana Wine Festival. The wines are two of three from the Tongue River Winery being served this summer at Many Glacier Hotel in Glacier National Park.

"As one person, I cannot change the world. But I can change the world of one person." ~ Paul Shane Spear~

MISSION ACTIVITIES

Early this summer, we wound up a project that had its beginnings last December. At the time, a local store, Liberty Antique & Second Hand, was in the process of closing its doors and prices were reduced on everything. Thanks to the generosity of the sale manager, Kim Reed, we were able to obtain a considerable amount of household items *at no cost* for refugee families being settled in Missoula. The items made their way to Missoula over the period of several months, packed into the cars of church members, friends and others traveling west. All the household goods were distributed through Soft Landing Missoula and the International Rescue Committee in Missoula.

Thank you to everyone who helped out on this extended project. Whether you dug through piles of boxes at the store in search of kitchen goods (we called it a "treasure hunt"), washed dusty pots and pans, loaded boxes or drove them to Missoula, your assistance was greatly appreciated!



We were thrilled that our **Cinco de Mayo** fundraiser, benefiting Doctors Without Borders, was a big success! We again thank Merry & Armando DeAnda of Miles City Liquors & Fine Wines for their generous donation of lodging at a Mexican coastal resort. Winners of our three raffle drawings were Connie Genger (Billings), Brenda Kneeland and Barb Albers. We

raised \$1,100 for Doctors Without Borders, an internationally acclaimed organization which is on the ground in over 70 countries providing medical humanitarian aid to people in crisis situations. Thank you to everyone who made this possible!

COMING UP:

Our annual SERRV/Fair Trade sale is scheduled for Saturday, October 1, on the lawn at the church. More details, including specific hours, will be forthcoming. Proceeds will benefit the Custer County Food Bank and possibly a second cause. Mark your calendars and stay tuned!



* * * * *

REMEMBER: *Share the Love Bookstore* is open Thursdays, 2:00-6:00pm and the first Saturday of each month, 9:00am - 4:00pm. Half of the proceeds are currently donated to the Miles City School District's Backpack Meal Program and Hope Pantry.

CALENDAR of Upcoming Events

8/18 - UCC Book Group, 6:00pm

9/?? - Grape harvest at Tongue River Vineyard

Pickers welcome - stayed tuned for updates!

9/10 - Harvest for Seniors, Riverside Park, 8am-noon*

9/16-9/18 - Miles City Bluegrass Festival

9/24 - WAM 47th Annual Art Auction

10/1 - UCC Fair Trade/SERRV Sale

10/1 - RSVP's BLING Fundraiser

10/21-23 Barn Players Production: *Young Frankenstein*

*** Description:** Miles City RSVP will be collecting garden produce and donations to be distributed to nearly 100 seniors who have been recommended by the Custer County Council on Aging. If you have questions, or would like to donate and cannot be at the event, please call the RSVP Office at 406-234-0505. Please leave a message prior to Friday, September 9th.

United Christian Church

1006 S. Strevell Avenue

Miles City, MT 59301

(406) 234-3467

Ministry Team:

Rev. Amber Richardson

Rev. Bob Thaden, Retired

Mailing Label

Sunday Service at 10:00 am



Follow us on Facebook at **UCC Miles City**
and at **Share the Love Bookstore**

uccmiles@midrivers.com

Newsletter Editor: Barb Cole

