



This week continues our sermon series on Homecoming. Together we encounter various “Homecoming” stories from our Scriptures. Sunday, we consider Ruth 1.



Returning Home: Sometimes returning “home” is not a choice. It is mandated or put upon us by circumstances. Sometimes turning toward “home” means turning away from everything we’ve known. In both cases, “home” is complicated and full of the paradoxes of life. This week we explore two women who “turned home,” and their complicated journey together. In preparation for worship, I invite you all to consider how you would fill in the following blanks.

Once I was _____ then I left home. When I returned, I was _____. In our story this week one woman leaves “pleasant” and returns “bitter.” What about you? There will be an opportunity for you to share your two words on Sunday (both online and in-person)!

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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.

Pastoral Search Committee Update

When I last spoke with you about the search for a new pastor I said that we were in various stages of the interview process with three candidates.

Two of the three people turned us down and will pursue other options. We are still in conversation with the third candidate.

At the point of feeling discouraged about losing two of our three candidates to another dance, we received a new profile, and a minister who had taken an interim position returned to us with renewed interest. We interviewed him on Thursday evening. This means we are still considering three candidates, one of which we will interview Sunday afternoon. If there are setbacks, there are also surprises, thank God.

As you can imagine, our spirits rise and fall but we carry on with a very deliberate process.

I am truly grateful to be working with the people of this committee. We are conscientious, honest with each other, and are mastering the art of learning from one another rather than

defending a position. You chose a really strong committee.

I have a request. From time to time we hear rumours about the results of our work. Unless you hear information from us, it is probably not reliable. We are the horses mouth. -Gary Hawk

Again, thank you for your support and patience. -Gary Hawk

HomeComing

As part of our overall church theme of Homecoming, September 4 to October 9, the Worship and Spiritual Life Team and Visionaries invite you into a visual and material exercise in creating "home" together. We mean for this project to include ALL of us: children and adults, online and in-person. If you cannot attend the workshop, we have kits you can pick up at church or we can deliver one to you. (Let us know here <https://uccmissoula.breezechms.com/form/fa43b9>) You can sew, glue, write or draw (or all of the above) to create your panel. Week by week, we'll join the finished panels and add them to the frame so each of us can see how our own contributions combine with others and add up to "home."

Sunday School

Hi UCC families,

It was so great to see you and gather again with your amazing kids for our Re-covenanting Sunday! With the help of Bobbie Bevington we created some special fabric panels for our church-wide art project. This week we'll gather in the sanctuary for the beginning of worship, then make music together with the bells and chimes. No, there won't be a bouncy house again this week, but there will be donuts! :)

Please help our children's program thrive by volunteering a Sunday or two this fall. Email valerie@uccmissoula.org to let me know what week(s) work best for you.

See you soon,
Valerie

Youth Group

Fall 2022 – Elul 5782

Re-covenanting Sunday this past week was amazing as sanctuary was filled for meaningful worship and our Youth Room was filled with kids. We enjoyed, chips, soda and two truth and a lie, as we got to know each other.

Join us this Sunday for bowling and bring along a friend. We meet at the UCC church 11:00 am following worship to carpool over to the bowling alley. Or meet us at the bowling alley at 11:30 am. The church is treating the youth group to the bowling! So, no cost to you for this event. Parents can feel free to drop their kids off at the bowling alley or hang out. Please contact Paige @ 406-360-1020 if you have any questions.

Thank you, Val and Paige, for your dedication and hard work to reinvigorate our youth program which offers a safe and fun place for kids to gather and feel God's blessing.

Please note the flyer of Fall schedule of regular activities and opportunities to come together.

Please share your ideas to include in our youth programs.

Our UCC supports youngsters of all ages. We are here and want you to be here too.

We are off to a great start. Let's keep going and make it a great year.

God, bless us.

Shalom,

Rabbi Mark

Rabbi Mark Kula

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UCC YOUTH FALL EVENTS

*Youth Programming is directed toward
6th - 12th graders.*

Sept 11th @ 11am - RECOVENANTING SUNDAY

Join us for snacks, drinks, and games in the youth room in the basement.

Sept 18th @ 11AM - BOWLING

Let's meet after church and carpool to Westside Lanes.

Sept 25th @ 6:30 PM - YOUTH DINNER

Gather for a pizza dinner and fellowship

Oct 2nd @ 11 AM - SERVICE PROJECT

Oct 9th @ 11 AM - UCC Fall Festival

Youth will gather in the basement

Oct 16th - BAKING FOR TEENS

Enjoy some delicious treats that we make ourselves

Oct 23rd @ 11 AM - PUMPKIN CARVING

We will provide the pumpkins, tools, and fun!

Oct 30th @ 6:30 PM - HALLOWEEN POTLUCK

Food, Costume Contest, Fun, and Games!

UPCOMING: We are working to plan an interfaith youth dance and a ski trip in January.

Creating Flowering Pollinator Friendly Lawns

A Green Team Offering

Presenter: Marirose Kuhlman , Habitat Coordinator for the Missoula County Weed District

For those of you interested in helping out "Mother Nature" by creating a pollinator Friendly lawn in your yard this is a presentation you will not want to miss!

Come spend 45 min. with the Green Team in the Fireside Room after Church on Sunday, October 2 and learn how you too can promote the health of our native pollinators.

Learn about a special program the Missoula Weed District will be launching and learn how to sign up for a pilot project, seeding a portion of your lawn with a special seed mixture provided by the weed district. Come learn how you can participate in Caring For Creation .

WE hope to see you there October 2 after worship in the Fireside Room!

UCC Green Team

To read more about the lawn project and register: <https://www.missoulaeduplace.org/flowering-lawns-project>

Conference Annual Meeting

This year's 137th Conference Annual Meeting held virtually on Zoom, (no travel needed)

September 23-25

Our theme is "Thresholds: Moving Forward with Courage" and will be led by Rev. Deborah Blood, Transitional Conference Minister with the Northern Plains Conference UCC. During the three 90-minute sessions that focus on thresholds, we will explore in large and small groups who we are as we journey through transitions as a people of faith.

Schedule:

Opening Worship, Friday September 23 2 - 3 pm

Threshold Gathering 1, Friday September 23 4 - 5:30 pm

Threshold Gathering 2, Friday September 23 7 - 8:30 pm

Conference Business Meeting, Saturday September 24 10 am - noon

Threshold Gathering 3, Saturday September 24 2 - 3:30 pm

Please see Carolyn Dewey, Cabinet Moderator for more information and to register.

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