

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR CHARLES

Paradigm Shift

Humans first started using tools about 3.3 million years ago, one of the first major advancements in human technology that fundamentally changed the way that we interact with the world. Our species, Homo sapiens did not appear until about 400,000 years ago, so these would have been an early ancestor of ours, like Homo Australopethecus.

It would be another 2 million years before the next major advancement, our use of fire. The next paradigm shift would come much faster. About 20,000 years ago, 1 million years after we started using fire, humans began to grow food, in addition to hunting and gathering. This allowed our ancestors to remain in one place, giving them much more free time to invent and create, a huge shift in how we lived our lives.

The time between these paradigm shifts became smaller and smaller with each successive advancement. 17,000 years after we developed agriculture, we started using iron. 3,000 years after that, the printing press was invented, vastly increasing our ability to disseminate information. In 1844, less than 400 years later, the telegraph was invented, and then the telephone in 1876, giving us widespread access to instant communication. It was only 90 years later that the computer was invented, followed less than 40 years later by the Internet in 1974, and then artificial intelligence (A.I.) in 2017.

Who knows what the next paradigm shift in technology will be? Whatever it is, we can be sure that it is right around the corner.

With each advancement comes great benefits, but also great cost. Human beings use vastly more resources per capita than any other species on the planet, and some people use much, much more than others. We live in a time of great wealth, and a time of great poverty. We live in a time of miracles impossible for our ancestors to imagine, and a time of rampant pollution, violence, and environmental destruction. We can communicate with each other faster than ever, share information with more people than ever before with the touch of a button, and yet loneliness is spreading like an epidemic.

Our latest development with A.I. has seen the rise of thousands of energy and water guzzling data centers across the United States. While some might argue the benefits of A.I. in our lives, the damage being done to God's creation and our relationships with each other and ourselves is undeniable. We are already struggling with energy costs and meeting our demands for water, without the addition of a data center with the water and energy demands of a small town. In addition to that, the noise and pollution that data centers produce has been shown to drastically lower the quality of life of those forced to live nearby.

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MODERATOR'S REPORT

Lynn Bolin

June 2026

We don't accomplish anything in this world alone....and whatever happens is a result of the whole tapestry of one's life and the weavings of individual threads from one to another that creates something." *Sandra Day O'Connor*

Because our Church is shaped by many stories, diversity is not a challenge to overcome but a gift to receive. Each person who walks through the doors carries a different history, a different rhythm of prayer, a different way of seeing God at work in the world. When these differences meet, something sacred happens.

Collaboration becomes the language of love. It's the choir blending distinct voices into one song. It's a team where every idea—quiet or bold—finds a place at the table. It's the recognition that the Spirit speaks through all of us, not just a few.

In this kind of community, unity isn't sameness. It's harmony. It's the choice to listen deeply, to honor one another's gifts, and to build something together that none of us could create alone.

A diverse church doesn't just reflect the world; it reflects our community—wide, welcoming, and wonderfully unfinished. And when we collaborate across our differences, we become a living testimony that God's love is big enough to hold us all.



Women's Fellowship

Tuesday, June 23 -

10 am brunch at the home of Florence Mayer, 527 Diehl Dr. All women are welcome—please join us! Meet at the church to carpool.



The Summer Read portfolios are ready for pick-up. If you did not get a chance to sign up and are interested in receiving a packet, let Jennifer know. All of the packets have been spoken for, but we are creating a wait list.



The new 17 unit apartment complex under construction by Family Promise, located at Cooke Street and Marshall (behind Arby's). They expect the ribbon cutting by the end of July.

Our Outreach and Social Justice Committee continues to be involved in the search for shelter for Helena's homeless population.

Helena Food Share contributions are still needed! With the rising cost of groceries, local food affordability is of increasing concern. Helena Food Share is especially in need of cold breakfast cereal and canned goods. If you are able to assist, please drop food off at the Food Share building on Boulder Avenue or drop food at the church and we will be sure it gets delivered!

Thank you for all your support!



Any concerns or suggestions for ongoing needs, please call Gus at (406) 202-8768

On Sunday June 28, we will observe the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS). It is a Special Mission Offering of the United Church of Christ that supports partners worldwide with ministries that fund health, education, and agricultural development, emergency relief, refugee ministries, and both international and domestic disaster response.



Thanks to all who contributed to the summer floral display.



In Our Prayers

Special Prayers: Maxine Ferguson, Art Gilreath, Loraine Hopgood, Doris Powell, Marlyce Taylor, and Giles Walker. All those who are experiencing the horrors of war and natural disasters.

Medical Treatment: Michael Blanchard, Greg Bolin, Gus Byrom, Carl Carlson, Brian Coplin, Aaron Farnham, Mia Goto-Thompson, Lynda Hayes, Karen Senne Hayes, Kathryn Kern, Frank Kromkowski's daughter Anna, Kelly Murphy, Donna Randolph, Alexander Weaver, Phyllis Weaver,.

To add someone to the prayer list, please fill out the prayer card in the pew backs, call the church office at 442-9883 or email pccofficemgr@gmail.com.



Thank you to the crew who helped unload and place the new chairs in the Fellowship Hall!

Greg Bolin

Marcia Lauer

Gus Byrom

Kyle and Terry Tatchell

Don Harriott



BIBLE HUMOR

Why didn't they play cards on the Ark?

Because they were standing on the deck.

Did you know it's a sin for a woman to make coffee?

Yup, it's in the Bible. It says "He-brews."

BEING A COUNCIL INTERN

Tommy Williams

June 2026

Caryn Adolph and I are serving as council interns this year. This is a new role to let members who have never been part of the council learn how the church operates and to experience the projects and decisions that make PCC such a wonderful congregation.

Unlike the proverbial children who are seen and not heard, Caryn and I have plenty to say. I'm pretty sure no one minds.

It takes a lot more to keep the church running than I expected. There are projects to plan and complete, and choices to make about our finances, the facility and grounds, worship services, personnel, and coordination with other groups that share space with us. But the work isn't all inward-looking. We also try to make our community a better place and to truly live our mission of outreach and social justice.

The meetings and discussions are lovingly free of internal politics. We get things done with little worry about motions, seconds, and points of order. We don't always agree on everything, but resolutions come gently and in good spirits. The diversity of opinions and ideas, and the resulting conversations, lead to better results. Each meeting sends us home with tasks, and we take them on willingly and return with progress to share. Thankfully, our meeting notes are superb, which makes it much easier to keep track of them all.

Pastor Charles brings excellent baked treats every meeting, too, and they are a highlight for me.

I am happy to be learning alongside Caryn about the work behind the scenes and to watch our very capable leaders guide the church. It is a joy to be part of it all.



Party in Pahoā, Hawai'i to celebrate receiving new hymnals!

The United Church of Christ Daily Devotional:

Created by the Still Speaking Writer's Group by The Pilgrim Press, the Daily Devotional grounds our daily faith.

To subscribe:

<https://www.ucc.org/daily-devotional/>

There is also a box on that webpage to search previous devotional messages.

From 6/14/26:

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. – Genesis 1:1-2 (NIV)

The “gap theory” is a theological concept that suggests a long gap of time between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2, proposing that the earth was created in a perfect state and later became “formless and void” due to sin.

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The social cost is just as high, as corporations begin using A.I., stealing jobs from artists, writers, musicians, photographers, models, stylists, groomers, and people working in dozens of other professions. The end result is that we are being presented with products that give us both unrealistic expectations, and an impersonal interaction devoid of human sensitivity or understanding. Many students that use A.I. are not learning the fundamentals upon which all other learning is based on, severely limiting their potential. This is not the world that God envisioned for us.

Changes keep coming faster and faster, and as it happens, we have to remember what is truly important. None of this matters if we don't have a planet to live on. No one is going to care about money if there is no water to drink. A data center is just an empty building if there's no one to look at what it produces.

Change is inevitable. Advancement is inevitable. But, we need to pay attention to the cost. Is human advancement worth the cost of our humanity? No, it is not. Our relationships with each other and with God are the most important thing of all, because this is what makes us truly human. So, as long as we can be honest about what is really happening, and understand what is really happening, then we can hold on to what is truly important, and be God's children, a community with true human connection, in a constantly changing world.

Happy late June Birthdays to:

21 Jeannine Nelson

22 Jeanne Wolf

And Happy Early July Birthday to:

12 Carol Gleason



Chime Choir
practice

Two weeks ago, faith leaders of the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO) gathered in a bustling plaza outside of a Citizens Bank in Boston to urge the bank to end its practice of financing two companies notorious for running detention centers and private prisons.

With a symbolic giant withdrawal slip in hand, the group announced its withdrawal of \$1 million from Citizens Bank, as well as plans to routinely withdraw \$1 million until the company agrees to schedule a meeting with GBIO organizers and ultimately change its practices of financing companies that build and run detention centers.

Among the faith leaders who spoke at the May 4 rally was the Rev. John Edgerton, senior minister of Old South Church, a United Church of Christ congregation in Boston. Edgerton spoke with UCC News about organizing money as protest, solidarity with migrant neighbors, and the call of faith to commit to local, collective efforts to make a difference.

As a 365-year-old congregation, Old South has well-resourced financial resources from monetary gifts received over the centuries, which means the church can creatively bring money to bear in organized efforts like this one with GBIO, Edgerton said.

"We ought to use the tools that we have to further God's realm, to further God's kingdom, right? And to build up the beloved community. Money is a tool that we can steward and deploy to make a difference in the world," he said.

At the GBIO rally and withdrawal event, Edgerton joined around 40 others to launch a strategic protest of Citizens Bank's use of customer's deposits to finance CoreCivic and GEO, two companies at the forefront of running ICE detention centers.

"We need to let the banks know that people of good faith, people of good conscience, people of goodwill, our neighbors, will not stand for building private prisons, for building deportation machines, for crushing our neighbors underneath their wheels for profit," Edgerton said at the rally.

"We call upon Citizens Bank to become citizens of justice," said the Rev. Greg Groover at the rally, pastor of the historic Charles Street African Methodist Episcopal Church in Boston. "Stop supporting these humanly unlivable prisons and this current administration's effort to deport our good-meaning sisters and brothers in ungodly ways ... or in the name of the Jesus of justice, we will stop doing banking with you."

At the center of this protest is the well-being of immigrants who have been targeted and detained in U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention centers.

Emmanuel Damas, a Boston resident, died in ICE custody after being sent across the country to a detention center in Arizona. Damas was legally present in the United States, and he died on March 2 after being denied timely medical care for a toothache, his family said.

"He died from a lack of basic care," Edgerton said. "And that lack of basic care is one of the ways that CoreCivic keeps its bottom line high. They are valuing money over people."

You're Invited!

Bible Study:

Every Tuesday

9:00 a.m.

Fireside Room

Sandwich Ministry:

Second & Fourth
Wednesday of the
month. 9:30 a.m.
Kitchen

Chime Choir:

Tuesdays, 1:30 p.m.
Sanctuary

Women's Fellowship

Tuesday, June 23
10 am Brunch at the
home of Florence
Mayer. All Women
Welcome!

Cleaning Crew

Saturday mornings
Contact Kathe to
volunteer:

603-860-4539 or
kathe@simonshome.
org



United Church of Christ
400 S. Oakes St. Helena, MT 59601

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Plymouth's Mission is to nurture our congregation and the wider community with acts of love and a vision of God's image in all things.



Office Hours

Pastor Charles Wei:
9:00 am—1:00 pm Tues—Thurs
and by appointment

Administrative Assistant
Kendall Larson:
9:00 am—1:00 pm Mon –Fri

Contact Us

Church Office: 406.442.9883

Web:
www.plymouthmontanaucc.org

Email: pccofficemgr@gmail.com

Also: www.facebook.com/plymouthcongregational



Sundays 10:00 am Worship Service in person and on
You Tube through our website