Montana - N. Wyoming Conference
United Church of Christ

CONFERENCE NEWS

Together in Spirit - November 5, 2026



ECOT Conversation on Zoom

By Conference Minister, Rev. Dr. Tony Clark

Dear Folks:

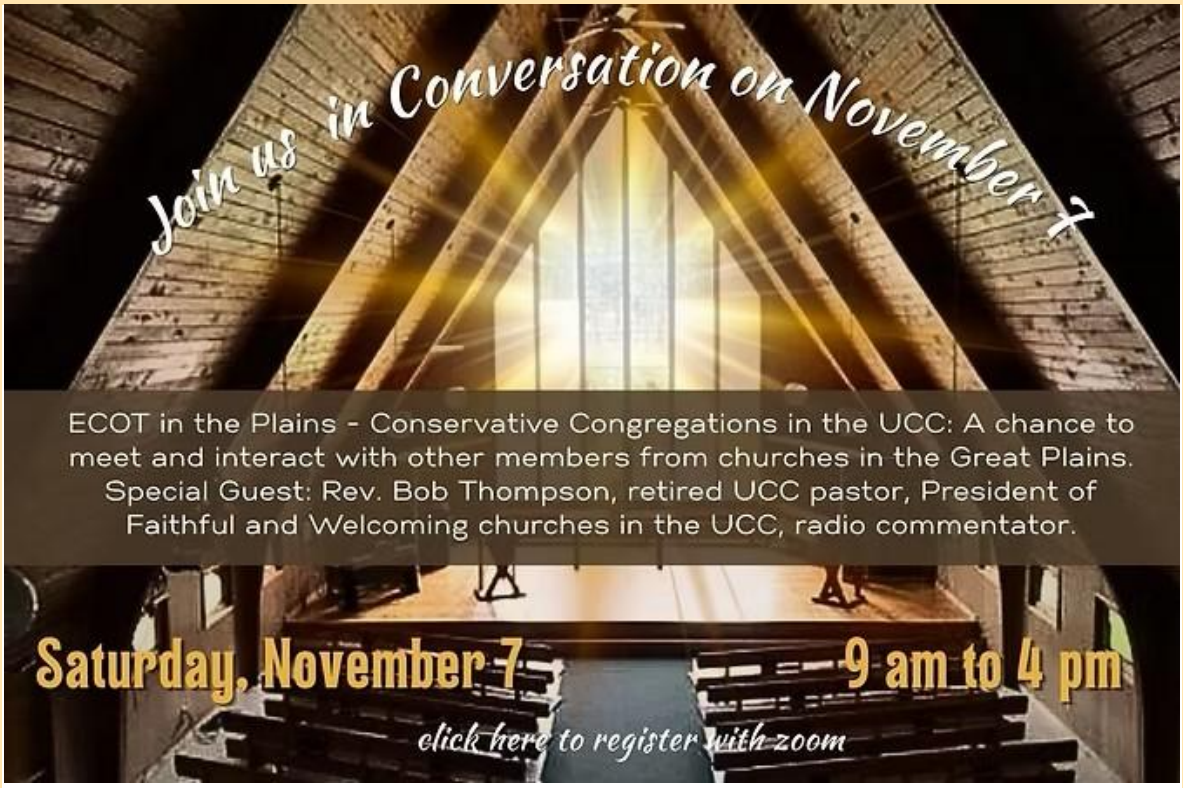
Below you will find a letter from Rev. Bob Thompson, President of Faithful and Welcoming Churches. I've been working with Rev. Thompson and my colleagues in the Dakotas, Nebraska, Southern Wyoming, and Eastern Colorado to develop space for more conservative people in the UCC to meet and have conversation. We will be meeting online on Saturday, November 7 to worship, pray and listen to one another. Since our retreat had to move to a zoom only gathering there is no charge for participating in this event. We welcome you to join us online this Saturday, November 7 from 9-4 on zoom.

Please register ahead with zoom for the meeting link.

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/UVe9puanSY-NByMEqXe8Ng#/registration

In Peace and Prayer,

Pastor Tony



UCC friends in the Plains,

Your Conference Ministers have invited my wife, Linda, and me to join you for a weekend at Placerville Camp near Rapid City, South Dakota, November 6–8. We represent Faithful and Welcoming Churches (FWC) of the UCC, a network of ECOTs—Evangelical, Conservative, Orthodox, or Traditional pastors, churches, and laity.

This gathering will be a "first" in the UCC. We have previously held events for UCC ECOTs and facilitated conversations among them, but this is the first such gathering initiated by Conference staff. Tony Clark, Roberto Ochoa, and Erin Gilmore are among a growing number of UCC Conference and Association leaders who are reaching out intentionally to their ECOT pastors and churches. They are communicating something important: when we say "everyone's welcome" in the UCC, we really do mean everyone—including those whose theological, cultural, or political perspectives may differ from the denomination's more progressive voices.

Our UCC General Minister and President, Karen Georgia Thompson, has also initiated a series of conversations called "A Tent of Our Own Making." She has emphasized that the UCC's theological diversity is not simply part of our past or an ideal we hope someday to achieve. It is "already here." The question is how we live faithfully together within that diversity.

That is part of what we hope to explore at Placerville.

The goal of the retreat is to identify, support, and build relationships among ECOTs in the Plains states. We'd like to get to know you, hear your experiences and concerns, and learn what it is like for you to live out your faith and ministry within the UCC. Linda and I will also share some of what we have learned as we have navigated the dual identity of being both UCC and ECOT for almost fifty years. Together, we can talk about strategies,

perspectives, and relationships that might help all of us.

We want this to be a conversation, not simply a presentation. We want to listen as much as we talk. Whether or not you are ECOT or plan to join us at Placerville, if you have questions, concerns, or suggestions about how we might best use our time together, please email me at RDBobT@gmail.com.

Bob Thompson, President

Faithful and Welcoming Churches





65th Anniversary - Pilgrim Congregational - November 15, 2026

Pilgrim UCC will be celebrating their 65th Anniversary on Sunday November 15th, 2026.
A special worship service in the sanctuary at 10:00 a.m. will be followed by a joyful reception!

We are planning to celebrate the 65th anniversary of our church's establishment in 1961!

Sunday November 15th, 2026 Come for our 10 a.m. worship – in person and online with a dedication of the Rev. Glover and Mary Wagner Solar Panel Legacy Project. Followed by a reception, slideshow, and optional participation in a legacy group photo.

We would love to see you there!

Please Join us



65TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
of Service and Community
at
PILGRIM CONGREGATIONAL UCC,
BOZEMAN

1961 - 2026

WHEN: SUNDAY NOVEMBER 15

WHERE: 2118 S. THIRD AVE
BOZEMAN MONTANA

WORSHIP AT 10 AM | ONLINE AND IN PERSON

with dedication of
The Rev. Glover and Mary Wagner Solar Panel Legacy Project

Followed by a reception, slideshow, and optional participation in a legacy photo.







Rev. Dr. Tony Clark - Conference Minister
Jennifer Penfield - Administrator & Registrar
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