

### Confluence: the Moment of Meeting and the Movement Forward



*Rev. John Lund*

One of the creations Emmaus is helping to grow is the community called Confluence. This is a twice per

month gathering at University Congregational Church led by a six person leadership team. There is no pastor or single leader of the group, but rather a model of shared gifts, wisdom, and roles. The gatherings provide a space for body, mind and spiritual grounding, connections, contemplation, and reflections for the sake of engaging fully in the

suffering and joys of the world around us.

**The Moment of Meeting:** each time we gather, we create sacred space within ourselves and among each other. We invite the Divine to be present in and through the thoughts, words, and experiences that we share together. Confluence is a gathering grounded in Jesus' vision for liberation and in our connections to the earth, all creation, the seasons and one another. We are fed and formed by art, music, poetry, stories, prophetic voices, contemplation, and ritual.

As we focus especially on the

rhythms of the natural world, we invite you to experience soul nourishment and opportunities for connections that are both playful and meaningful. We make space for and acknowledge our own stories and wisdom, wrestle with life's messiness and complexity, and seek to live the questions of faith together. While many of our leaders are grounded in the teachings of Jesus and the Christian movement, we draw wisdom and inspiration from both sacred and secular sources.

**Who Might Come:** Confluence is open to people of all perspectives and ages. We practice Radical Hospitality: your whole self is welcome here and you are loved for exactly who you are. Join us in creating a place where all people belong regardless of age, race, passions, cultural background, socio-economic status, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, relationship status, physical or mental health, or anything else that too often divides us. We are united in God's love.

Shared leadership is essential. Confluence is created by the community, for the community. If you have gifts to share, we would love to connect with you! No need

*(Continued inside)*

#### **Faith And Climate Action Montana presents Dr. George Price: Paths Forward in a Dire New Reality**

*What ways of living can actually sustain natural life in our current global predicament? Can new, life-sustaining, eco-harmonious societies have large scale impact? Are there other viable options for preserving Earth's natural living systems and beings?*

**Tuesday, April 5th at 5:10pm** in the Payne Center Rotunda  
Soup to follow at Emmaus House

Dr. George Price (Assonet band of the Wampanoag) has been living on his organic, polyculture farm on the Flathead Indian Reservation since 1985. Dr. Price is a retired UM adjunct professor (Native American Studies, American History, and African American Studies), organizer and activist. He devotes his time to Earth/Water protecting, organic farming, food sovereignty, writing, and replacing industrial capitalism with local, eco-harmonious, life-supporting, cooperative, alternative societal and economic structures.

# EMMAUS CAMPUS MINISTRY

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*(Confluence, continued)*

to be a professional musician, poet, artist, speaker, or other leader... the point is that we are all creating this moment together.

**The Movement Forward:** we are spiritually refreshed and grounded for the sake of being present and engaged in the world around us, and those things look different for all of us. At Confluence, we strive to be attentive to how the Spirit is moving within us and our communities, seeking to join in with the work that is already happening. If you are engaged in community action, there is a special time during each gathering to share that passion and invite Confluence friends to participate.

Questions are important to us. We don't shy away from the hard stuff, and we engage in dialogue that is thoughtful, rooted in our own experiences, and reflective of the wisdom of experts and teachers that help us deepen our understanding of the world around us.

If you are in Missoula, we hope you join us on the first and third Sunday of each month at UCC church. Contact Rebekah or John with questions or ideas or visit [confluencemissoula.org](http://confluencemissoula.org)

## Emmaus Calendar

### Emmaus Student Group

Weekly meals and in-person conversations with group work around the intersections of faith, spirituality, the Jesus story, relationships, identity, vocation, calling, creation, justice, and equity. **Wednesdays, 6:15-8** at Emmaus House (532 University).

### Confluence

A focus on contemplation through music, stories, poetry, and conversations that considers the intersections of seasons, internal journeys, relationships, and calls for justice in our world. **1st and 3rd Sundays, 7pm** at University Congregational Church.

### Spring Break at Holden Village

For our annual spring break service and learning trip we head to a retreat village in the Cascade Mountains. **March 20–March 25.**

### Spring Foolin' Poetry Reading

Sponsored by Confluence. **Friday, April 1.** Doors **7pm**, First Reader at **7:30.** Union Club (Upstairs).

### Dr. George Price: Paths Forward in a Dire New Reality

What ways of living can actually sustain natural life in our current global predicament? Can new, life-sustaining, eco-harmonious societies have large scale impact? Are there other viable options for preserving Earth's natural living systems and beings? Sponsored by Faith and Climate Action Montana. **Tuesday, April 5th at 5:10pm** in the Payne Center Rotunda. Soup to follow at Emmaus House.



*Emmaus Campus Ministry is a ministry of ELCA Lutherans in partnership with the United Church of Christ, Episcopalian, and Methodist churches, welcoming of all perspectives. We are a Reconciled in Christ Ministry, celebrating diversity in sexual orientation and gender identities.*

## Emmaus Program Update

Emmaus is running at almost full capacity in programming. We are now offering weekly meals and in-person group conversations on Wednesday nights (average attendance 15-17). This space includes group work around the intersections of faith, spirituality, the Jesus story, identity, relationships, vocation, calling, creation, justice, and equity. Confluence, for people of all ages, is on the 1st and 3rd Sundays at 7pm.

In February we connected and had a lot of fun on our winter retreat at Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp.

As you read this, we are probably setting off on our spring break adventure. We will travel by ferry up spectacular Lake Chelan to remote Holden Village in the Cascade Mountains. Holden was a mining village that was bought by a Lutheran community in the 1950s. They have been great stewards of the land and buildings and have created a retreat community with a focus on wilderness, arts, music, justice and simple living.



We will spend mornings volunteering in the village. Afternoons and evenings will be filled with recreation, restoration, connection and learning. Opportunities include skiing, sauna, and time in the huge craft shop. The trip will be a walk back in time to a place without cell coverage or internet. Back to the basics of good food, people, music, art and lots of snow.

Recent service projects include making sack lunches for the Poverello and writing Valentines cards to homebound folks. Our Faith and Climate Action

group has re-formed and will be working on education, conversations, advocacy and action events in the weeks to come. We are also working closely with Common Good Missoula and have offered leadership in the teaching team for

Wrestling with the Truth of Colonization both last November and in February of this year. Around ninety people went through the process each time.

## Love, Acceptance and Becoming a Better Human: View from a Student

*Jonathan Kieffer*

*Jonathan is a senior in Multidisciplinary studies focusing on Religion, Humans & Environment, Human Relationships*

I had the opportunity to go up to Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp for the annual Winter Retreat. It was a great weekend with wonderful conversations and a nice little break from school. There were



also beautiful views, which was something I was looking forward to since I am really into nature photography.

Besides being able to take in all the beautiful nature, there was also bonding time between some people that had not had the opportunity to otherwise get to know each other. While we were up there, the power went out. But that didn't stop us from having fun, and realizing how we might rely on our devices too much. All in all it was a really wonderful retreat, and had powerful conversations about God.

Being a senior, this was my last winter retreat with Emmaus. Everything seems to be my last event that I am going to be doing with this wonderful group of people. But Emmaus has taught me how to love others, and how to be loved by others. That as a Queer Non-Binary person, I am loved and accepted by God. The conversations have also challenged me and made me a better human, which is what we all need a little bit more of these days.



*Return Service Requested*

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If you have an address change or wish to stop receiving newsletters or receive e-news instead, please contact us at [ecmumt@gmail.com](mailto:ecmumt@gmail.com) or (406) 549-7821 to update your information.  
Thanks for helping minimize this expense!

## Exploring Ways to Support

### ***Calling all Thrivent Financial members!***

If you are eligible to direct Thrivent Choice Dollars, this is a great way to support Emmaus.

March 31 is the deadline to direct your 2021 dollars.

### **How will you make a difference this year with your two Thrivent Action Team Grants?**

John always has ideas. He will prepare everything you need to apply for the grant.

Last year Thrivent Action Team grants supported a book study, an MLK Day service project, winter retreat, additions to our resource library, welcome events and more!



### ***Legacy Giving***

If you feel specially connected to the work of Emmaus, you may want to explore making a planned gift. These gifts help ensure a vibrant ministry that will impact students and the community for generations to come. There are many forms a legacy gift can take. Please contact John or Kristen to learn more about supporting Emmaus in this unique way.