This is St. Paul’s UCC, Laramie, WY

June 22, 2021

(Taken from ‘The History of St. Paul’s UCC – Betty Holmes, 2020, and from St. Paul’s Annual Meeting Agenda and Minutes)

St. Paul’s UCC has been an active part of the Laramie community since 1886. This building is on the National Register of Historic Places. The building is the oldest continuously occupied church building in Laramie. We’ve never been a particularly large congregation (30-183 members over time), but we have been busy since the early days of the transcontinental railroad to present. We’ve helped at the Soup Kitchen, Co-Op Vacation Bible School, Clothing Cottage, Interfaith Good Samaritan, Family Promise, Cathedral Home, Climb Wyoming, and many others.

We’ve been known as the little “German Church,” the “Shy Church”, and we are now an “Open and Affirming” Church. We’ve had our ups and our downs, almost closing in 1898 and again in 1962. The world wars and the 1918 Spanish Flu, as well as the Great Depression, put a strain on the church, economically, financially and socially, but WE HAVE SURVIVED – and Flourished. We are still a small congregation – we are a community – we are a family.

We have each others’ backs and we back the Laramie community. In 1970, St. Paul’s UCC undertook a project called Springbrook Properties. Financed by HUD, St. Paul’s sponsored the construction of the first low-income housing in Laramie. The properties were overseen by a Board of Directors and a site manager. It took St. Paul's UCC 40 years to pay off the HUD loan. In the meantime, other newer low-income housing was brought to Laramie to help those in need. In 2011, with the loan paid off, St. Paul’s congregation voted to sell the Springbrook Properties. The proceeds from the sale were put into an endowment with an annual pay-out to the church. The congregation also voted to use this pay-out to help the church in it’s mission work, and to help the Laramie community, in the form of community sponsorships.

St. Paul’s supports the National and Regional UCC Churches with all 5 of the National Churches special collections, (Neighbors in Need, One Great Hour of Sharing, Our Churches Wider Mission, Strengthen the Church, and The Christmas Fund). In addition, St. Paul’s supports local and state ministries. We continue to support the Soup Kitchen, Climb Wyoming, Cathedral Home, Interfaith Good Samaritan, Wyoming Equality, Wyoming Interfaith Network, Downtown Clinic, Reproductive Health, and many others that have come to us asking for support.