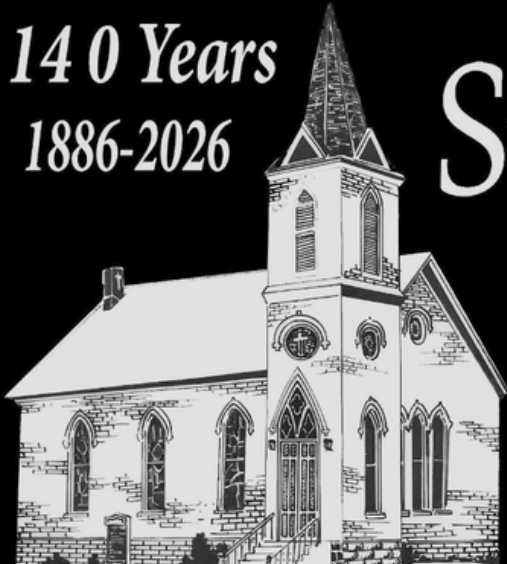


140 Years
1886-2026



St. Paul's

United Church of Christ

THE PROGRESSIVE SPIRIT
JULY 2026 EDITION

602 GARFIELD ST
LARAMIE, WY 82070

OUTDOOR WORSHIP



July 12, 11:15 am

"For the beauty of the earth,
For the glories of the skies...
Lord of all to you we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise!"

Once again we are going to worship at St Alban's Chapel in the beautiful Snowy Range. The service will feature the new musical ensemble Kate has been working with, you will enjoy it! The service will be at 11:15 am, following the Episcopalian's usual service there. That will also give time for anyone who forgets and comes to our normal building to drive on up! After the service, people will scatter to enjoy hiking, fishing, loafing and whatever they bring for a sack lunch.

Directions: Take Hwy 130 west. Go through Centennial and on to the Brooklyn Lake Rd. turnoff. Take the turnoff and go not quite a mile to the parking area. Note that the nearest predictable restrooms are another mile or so at the Brooklyn Lake campground.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/8WwWLHfM2uKyqhPE6>

4TH OF JULY ★ ★ ★

This Saturday, July 4th, join us at booth 23 of Freedom Has A Birthday (right next to PFLAG)! The event is in Washington Park and is held from 10-4. Hope to see you there!

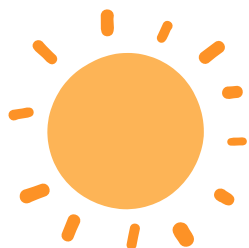
PRIDE IN THE PARK



St. Paul's UCC would like to thank everyone who volunteered for our booth at Pride In The Park. Whether you helped with set-up, tear-down, face painting, or speaking with our many visitors, your contributions were highly appreciated! We truly value all of our amazing volunteers who keep this church moving!

Our booth this year was a great success. We had some amazing conversations with people, and our face painting and temporary tattoos put smiles on so many faces. We hope to keep this momentum going for next year!

ANNUAL PICNIC AT REV. MARK'S RANCH



Saturday, July 25



Pastor Mark is going to open his home to us on the afternoon of Saturday, July 25. Plan to arrive around 2:00 p.m., and you are welcome to stay until dusk. Bring whatever you might like to grill (grill it yourself on the grill Mark supplies) and a dish to share. Mark will provide tea and lemonade, BYOB if you would like something else. We'll fire up the grill and eat as folks become hungry. No grand schedule and a lot of self-service! As it is a working ranch (albeit small), plan to wear closed-toed shoes because there are sharp things and stickery plants (and "nanny berries") in the goat pastures. You are welcome to visit with the dwarf goats, including a kid who will be a month old. Enjoy also the gardens and fruit trees. Bring hats and sunblock, as the main deck is very sunny.

All the church, your families and friends and sojourners are all welcome.

Directions: Address is 2185 W County Road 60E, Fort Collins, 80524.

From Laramie, take Hwy 287 south to Owl Canyon Road (a left turn about 5 miles beyond The Forks and right after going through a major cut in the hogback). Follow Owl Canyon to the roundabout at County Road 70 and County Road 19. Take the first paved exit south from the roundabout onto CR 19. Go 4-1/2 miles to County Road 60E. Just before you get to 60E, there is a wide curve in the road; 60E is the next intersection. Turn right (west) on 60E, go 100 yards to the gate on the left just past the group of mailboxes. Park by the barn or along the drive. From St. Paul's it's right at an hour's drive; downtown Fort Collins is another 15 minutes.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/sHpQ2GYCG5o3SQge8>

WEEKLY SIGN-UPS

In a small church, everyone has to share their gifts and talents to make it work.

Every week we need:

A Greeter – Visitor's first impression of the church, a friendly smile, a visitor's card, invitation to fellowship time and directions to the restrooms.

A Worship Leader – Make announcements, lead various prayers and readings, assist with communion, help worship run smoothly, secure the building at the end of the morning.

An AV person – Work with the worship slides, cue any special music or videos, adjust the sound board if needed.

A refreshment person/family – Provide snacks for after worship; set-up and clean-up.

There are sign up sheets for these on the bulletin board in the back of the sanctuary.

On occasion we need:

Weed pullers – if you see a weed and have a minute, you know what to do!

Building maintenance – Luke Ballard has a list of small projects that anyone with a penchant for hand tools can take care of.

Special cleaning – from disorganized cupboards to refrigerator science projects, there's a variety of small jobs someone with an hour to give can do.

FREE ESTATE PLANNING

One of the things that Pastor Mark learned while at Rocky Mountain Conference is that the UCC Pension Board has a free program to help people write wills valid in their state. This is not just for clergy but for anyone in the UCC. The website will walk you through the process, including giving you the opportunity to name the church or UCC among your beneficiaries (not required to use the program). You end up with a document you can print, take to a notary public to be notarized, and give to your proposed executor, next of kin, or other important people. The website also has other important documents to fill out similarly – durable power of attorney, advance medical directives, medical power of attorney, and living wills.

Pastor Mark cannot emphasize enough how important it is to have a will, learned from sad personal experience when his longtime partner Ivan died suddenly without a will. His family has been extremely gracious to Mark, but in many cases that is not a foregone conclusion. Much would have been simpler, and Mark more secured, had they followed through on the wills they started many years ago but never finalized.

You can watch a YouTube introductory video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MYYlg6JG2ag>

Direct link to the UCC's FreeWill portal site:

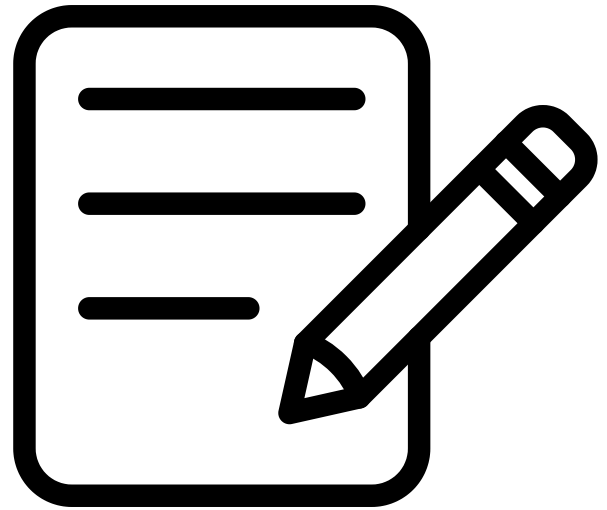
<https://pbucc.mygiftlegacy.org/>

LAY PREACHERS NEEDED

Through the next several months, Pastor Mark will be away a number of Sundays for vacation and his sabbatical. We have budgeted to fill this time with paid clergy and unpaid volunteers from within the church. Several members and friends of the church have indicated interest in filling in. We will slot those folk in and then set about recruiting clergy for the remaining Sundays.

Here are the dates remaining:

- August 16;
- October 11, 18, 25;
- November 1 (needs to be a clergy because it is a communion Sunday)



JULY BIRTHDAYS

"I Thank My God Every Time I Remember You." (Phillipians 1:3)

In your prayers for these members and friends in July, please include thanksgiving to the Lord for:

**Erin Campbell, July 4;
Kim Gasson, July 8;
Nick Swartz, July 16;
Roger Iverson, July 18; and
Arlo Swartz and Jack Swartz,
July 20.**



In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel From the first day until now, being confident of this, that God who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. (Phillipians 1:4-6)



BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

Leif Liberty Boss, born June 27, 2026 at 1:08 AM

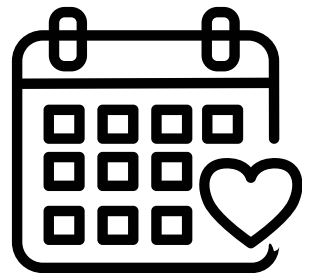
Leif was born to Erik(a) and L Boss just a few days ago. Please keep Leif and their parents in your prayers for a happy and healthy life and a swift recovery from the trials of birth.

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations." Jeremiah 1:5, NRSV



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

UPCOMING CHURCH EVENTS



JULY 2026

July 4th: Freedom Has A Birthday at Washington Park. **Volunteers needed!**

July 12th, 11:15 AM: Outdoor Worship, St. Albans, Snowy Range. **Musicians needed!**

July 13th-21st: Pastor Mark vacation (staycation)

July 19th: Guest Preacher Erik(a) Boss

July 25th: Church Picnic at Pastor Mark's

July 26th: Student Preacher Aliya Santistevan

AUGUST 2026

August 9th: Outdoor Worship, Vedauwoo. **Musicians needed!**

August 10th-29th: Pastor Mark vacation

August 16th: Guest Preacher TBD

August 23rd: Guest Preacher Hunter Ostrem

August 30th: Student Preacher Aliya Santistevan

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Worship every Sunday at 10:00 AM
602 Garfield St, Laramie, WY 82070



If you are involved in any organizations and would like to include their upcoming events in our newsletter, please email stpucc@gmail.com