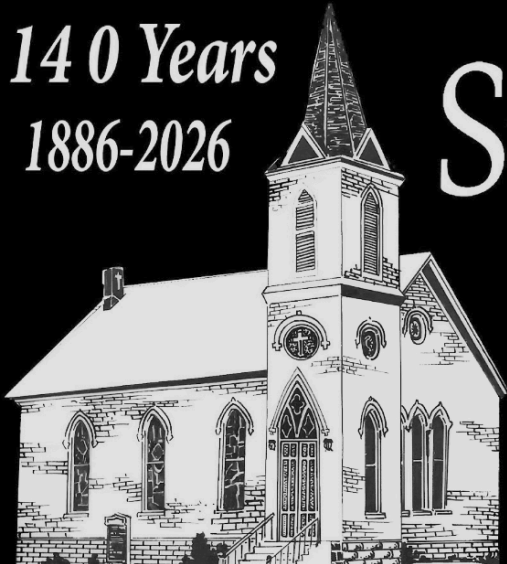


140 Years
1886-2026



St. Paul's

United Church
of Christ

THE PROGRESSIVE SPIRIT
SEPTEMBER 2026 EDITION

602 GARFIELD ST
LARAMIE, WY 82070

SEASON OF CREATION

The Christian year is divided into seasons. The first half of the year explores the life and teaching of Jesus: Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter. The second half of the year focuses on the life of the church. For a long time, all this was the season of Pentecost. In the early 20th century, in response to rising fascism, the latter part of Pentecost was recast as Kingdomtide to emphasize that only Christ had ultimate rule. A few years ago, understanding the depth of the climate crisis, the Season of Creation was developed. This season runs from the first of September through the feast of St. Francis of Assisi on October 4 (Francis being a saint famous for his love of creation). The Season of Creation is observed in Catholic, Orthodox, and many Protestant churches, including our own UCC.

Each year of a 3 year lectionary cycle has a theme ("Living Water" this year), and each Sunday has its own readings different from the Revised Common Lectionary we usually follow. We are just using a single reading to help make time for the children's message, so here are scriptures and themes for each week of the Season.

Sept. 6 "Forest Sunday" (also our regular Communion service). Genesis 2:4b-25. In the second creation account, God makes humanity from the earth, asks humans to care for the world, and experience intimate companionship.

Sept 13 "God made me" Psalm 139:1-14. God made us good, knows us through and through, and loves us always.

Sept. 20 "Outback/Wilderness Sunday" Joel 1:1-7, 11-20. The prophet's literal plague of locusts prefigures what awaits us if we keep destroying our planet's ecology.

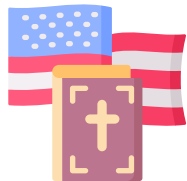
Sept. 27 "Covenant of Rainbow" Genesis 9:9-17. After the judgment of the Great Flood, God commits to caring for the earth and invites humanity to do so as well.

Oct. 4 "Feast of St. Francis of Assisi" Job 38:1-3, 39:1-18. The earth shows the majesty of God, and Job is impressed. "Is Aslan a tame lion?" "No, Aslan is not a tame lion. But he is a good lion."



ADULT ED CLASS

THURSDAYS 6:00 - 7:30



STARTS SEPT. 3RD FOR 10 WEEKS

Unsettled Ground: Faith & the American Story at 250

“Leading religion scholars reflect on America's 250th anniversary — its contested past, its shifting present, and the challenges ahead for people of faith.”

Join an adult ed discussion over 10 weeks with a different scholar presenting each week. The series is curated by Homebrewed Christianity's Tripp Fuller with church historian and author Diana Butler Bass.

Each lecture is 30 minutes long, so there will be ample time for discussion. Meets Thursdays from 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM. The class is fully asynchronous, so if you miss a lecture, you can watch it on your own; the church is paying for our login credentials. Each lecture can stand on its own, so you're not lost if you miss a session.

“Anticipating a flood of Christian nationalist celebrations alongside the broader wave of historical retrospectives, we wanted to create something different: a resource for people of faith to hear what leading scholars of religion and American history want to contribute to our reflection at this milestone.

Each contributor offers a lecture on whatever they are carrying into this moment. Some offer sweeping reads on America's religious trajectory. Others examine a particular tradition, movement, figure, or crisis from our past. Still others look forward — at the shifting religious landscape, the erosion of democratic norms, or the challenges awaiting communities of faith on the other side of this anniversary. No one was asked to fit a theme. The result is a collection of voices that, taken together, tell a more honest and complete story than any single narrative could.”

You can see full info on the class and bios of the speakers at https://tripp-fuller.lpcontent.net/unsettled-ground?utm_source=substack&utm_medium=email

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.

UW'S "THE BIG EVENT" COMES BACK TO ST. PAUL'S UCC

Each year, the University of Wyoming hosts "The BIG Event" as an opportunity for its students to volunteer in their community. Last year, St. Paul's hosted a group of volunteers with great success. This year, we will be hosting another group of students to complete some more projects. But these students need your help! This year, we have several projects that need to be done, including but not limited to:

Outdoor Projects

- Pulling weeds around the parsonage
- Hosing off the parsonage to rid it of cobwebs and dust
- Removal of a dead tree
- Pruning various bushes and tree branches

Indoor Projects

- Installing sound reduction panels
- Storing boxes up in our loft
- Deep cleaning the woodwork, kitchen, and bathrooms

The Care Team will be providing snacks and warm drinks throughout the day for volunteers from the school and church alike. There will be a sign-up sheet that is passed around on Sundays during September. Please consider signing up if you're available. We need folks to direct traffic, instruct students, and help with the projects themselves. **The BIG Event will be on Saturday, October 3rd, from 9:30 AM to 1:30 PM.** Tools will be provided by SLCE (UW's Student Volunteer organization) and by the church; no need to bring your own. We hope to see many of you there as we work towards improving our church!

"For the Son of man also came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."
(Mark 10:45, RSV)



SABBATICAL UPDATE

Guest preachers have been confirmed to cover the weeks Pastor Mark is away on Sabbatical. He'll be in the UK for most of the month of October and the beginning of November. The core of his time will be studying at the restored abbey on the island of Iona off Scotland.

He is still welcoming donations through the GoFundMe at <https://gofund.me/2c092689b> or by checks directly to him (can be sent care of the church) which avoids GoFundMe's commission.

The guest preachers for the month are:

Oct. 11 – Beth Henden, Member in Discernment from Wheatland

Oct. 18 & 25 – Reverend Rodger McDaniel

Nov 1 – Rev. Laura Nelson (includes communion and All Souls/Totenfest)

“SHOWER” FOR CATHEDRAL HOME FOR CHILDREN



**CATHEDRAL
HOME**
EST. 1910

The Cathedral Home has long provided residential support for at-risk children and youth. Gina Gibson, of Lighthouse Ministries of Laramie (primarily a prayer ministry) is working with the Laramie Minister's Association to coordinate a “shower” of needed items for the home, to be delivered when the Association visits there September 9. This gives our faith communities an opportunity to give to the community in practical ways. Gather items in the basement, and either Pastor Mark can deliver them on September 9, or if it's a lot of stuff, Gina will help make arrangements. Check out their Wishlist, attached on the next page.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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

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



Sarah Wagoner, Sept. 1;

Mickey Uhl, Sept. 7;

Bri Given, Sept. 11;

Betty Holmes, Sept. 21;

Diana Swartz, Sept. 22;

Thomas Burkett, Sept. 23; and

Olive Swartz, Sept. 26.

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)



CATHEDRAL
HOME
EST. 1910

wishlist

for Residential, Laramie Youth Crisis Center, Resource Center

- WalMart gift cards, small amounts (Residential client awards)
- LED lights and bedroom decor (posters, tapestries)
- MP3 players (bluetooth capability, no internet access)
- NEW weighted blankets
- NEW stuffies/warmies
- NEW twin-sized bedding
- NEW twin-sized waterproof all-around zippered mattress covers
- NEW pillows
- board games & decks of cards
- art supplies (canvases and paint, clay, pipecleaners, glue, pompoms)
- NEW socks & underwear (all child/youth sizes, boys & girls)
- diapers (all sizes)
- grocery gift cards (Safeway or Ridleys, Resource Center client food needs)
- gas gift cards (Resource Center client appt needs & Residential vans)

* full Wishlist can be found at
cathedralhome.org/wishlist



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

UPCOMING CHURCH EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 2026

New liturgical season begins Season of Creation

Fall adult education class begins Thursday evenings, 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

OCTOBER 2026

October 3rd: The BIG Event (**Volunteers needed**)

October 11th: Guest Preacher Beth Hendon

October 18th & 25th: Guest Preacher Rodger McDaniel

NOVEMBER 2026

November 1st: All Saints/Totenfest & Guest Preacher Rev. Laura Nelson

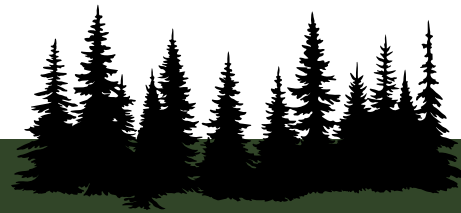


LAFORET FALL YOUTH RETREAT

Mark your calendar for the Rocky Mountain Conference Fall Youth Retreat at LaForet!

October 16th - 18th. Tiered pricing available.

Full details: <https://www.laforet.org/events/camps/fall-youth-retreat>



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