

Progressive Spirit

St. Paul's United
Church of Christ

News

NOVEMBER 2021 –
VOLUME 12, ISSUE 11

602 Garfield St., Laramie, WY 82070
www.laramieucc.org
307-742-7733

Pastor's Post

There is a lot in this newsletter. It's also getting to be a very busy time for me. Please read the newsletter. There is an important Conference meeting on November 10, 2021. That's a Wednesday. Please attend. Read the article below. Starting tomorrow is a webinar series about Implementing the UCC General Synod Resolution:

Declaration for a Just Peace Between Palestine and Israel

In October, I recorded two sermons, which aired on Sundays. I would like feedback. What did you think of worship with a recorded sermon? Did you attend worship those days? I thought that recording the sermons was pretty great, but I was at LaForet. What I will discuss with the administrative council is whether that type of worship should be continued. I think this is a great resource. It's very hard, well almost impossible to

November 2021

- 7--Access Sunday
- 7 - Daylight Savings Ends
- 13-20 - Rev. Ken on vacation
- 14 - Marcus Frye is our guest in the pulpit
- 21 – Transgender day of remembrance memorial
- 21 – Rev. Ken remote on zoom
- 28 - First Sunday of Advent (Year C lectionary cycle starts)

December

5- 2nd Sunday in Advent

12 – 3rd Sunday in Advent, *Christmas Carol Sing Along*

12 – Rev. Ken vacation

All events held at Your Home, or in the sanctuary unless otherwise noted

get a minister from CO to come up, especially in the winter. Last time I tried, a few weeks ago, I made 7 phone calls and got some return calls, but only to say it was not going to work for them. Laramie is far from most of the world, it seems. Recording a sermon may not always be best, but it is sometimes the only option when no replacement is available for the pulpit.

I would like all of you to think about volunteering to be a member of the administrative council. This usually involves about a 2 hr. meeting each month. Maybe a bit of follow up with me or with others. Not a lot of time to commit, but a big reward for us!

What's happening in Laramie? I don't get the Boomerang anymore, so I don't see. If you or an organization you involved with has announcements, please get them to church at least a day in advance of the Wednesday update or the monthly newsletter.

I can't type very well because my right hand is in a splint – maybe for 8 weeks! Do you know anyone who might want to help me with slides and weekly updates, and general stuff at church for a couple hours a week? If you do, let me know. Any of you could do it as well.

On November 20, there will be a transgender day of remembrance memorial. St. Paul's will host via zoom, the actual in person meeting will be at one of the other churches in town. I will update you as the time draws near. If you would like to participate in person to read names or light candles during the memorial, let me know.

PROVERBS 16: 1-3

The plans of the mind belong to mortals, but the answer of the tongue is from the LORD.

²All one's ways may be pure in one's own eyes, but the LORD weighs the spirit.

³Commit your work to the LORD, and your plans will be established.

Blessings upon you all,

Rev. Ken

Advent is Coming

Please sign up in the office for candle lighting during Advent. We can pre-record or you can be live in church. See Rev. Ken after you sign up and let him know your preference for live or pre-recorded. If you can help with worship planning for Advent, come let me know, I can use the hands.

During Advent, we will be using many traditional Christmas time hymns. We will also have a Carol sing on December 12. Send the church your requests by Dec 5 so Sean can work on them before the 12th.

Special collections for Family Promise and The Period Project.

Family Promise of Albany County has asked the faith communities that support them to collect items for their diaper pantry, and their personal hygiene pantry. They are especially in need of size 6 diapers. We have set up a collection box in the back of the sanctuary. You can also drop a check for Family Promise in the collection box on the back table where you place your tithes and offerings. If you do have a check for Family Promise, you can make it out to Family Promise of Albany County. You can also make a check out to St. Paul's, and we can write a check to Family Promise at the end of the month.

Items needed for their personal hygiene pantry include toothpaste, deodorant, small containers of laundry soap, toothbrushes, and skin care products.

The Period Project is also collecting feminine hygiene products, some of which go to the Family Promise hygiene pantry. Did you know that there are women in Laramie who can't go to work because they don't have hygiene products? There are girls who miss school for the same reason. These products are not purchasable with SNAP or food stamps. Your donation can help a woman keep her job, or a girl keep current in school. You can order any of these items online and have them delivered to your door. While this may not be something you have ever thought about (I know I did not), it is a problem for women and girls in Laramie. You can also write a check to St. Paul's UCC, with Period Project in the memo line, and we will forward the checks on. These items can be taken to Family Promise, St. Paul's, or to St. Matthews.

UCC Resources and courses:

<https://frontline-faith.teachable.com/courses>

There are many courses that are online developed by the UCC. You should be aware of these 2, though they will be recorded. If you would like to take one of the courses, see Rev. Ken for possible reimbursement from St. Paul's.

NOTE: Session 1 of this series is on **November 3.**

**Implementing the UCC General Synod Resolution:
Declaration for a Just Peace Between Palestine and Israel**

First in the series:

Israel's Oppression of Palestinians: It is a Sin

Wednesday, November 3, 12:00 PM ET

[Session 1](#) Part 1: Wednesday, November 3rd, 12 pm ET
Israel's Oppression of Palestinians: It is a Sin

Second in the series:

Why We Call Israel's Occupation "Apartheid"

Wednesday, November 10, 12:00 PM ET

[session 2](#) Part 2: Wednesday, November 10th, 12 pm ET
Why We Call Israel's Occupation 'Apartheid'

Looking Ahead

The UCC Palestine/Israel Network's series will offer the last two webinars early in 2022, the third on the human rights based grounding for theological and political analysis of Palestine and Israel and the fourth on Christian Zionism, focusing especially on mainline Christian Zionism.

The UCC PIN is a grassroots network of UCC members committed to promoting justice for Palestinians and supporting Global Ministries partners in Palestine and Israel. It is independent of the national ministries of the UCC.

Rocky Mountain Conference News

Next steps towards a Conference Wide Committee on Ministry: Special All-Conference Meeting

November 10, 6:30 PM

In the United Church of Christ, Associations, or Conferences acting as Associations, are responsible for the authorization, oversight, and accountability of its ministers. This work is incredibly important as any action taken by an Association is done in and on behalf of the entire United Church of

Christ. In the Rocky Mountain Conference, this responsibility has been carried out by Associations through Committees on Ministry (COM).

Over the past 4 years, Association leaders, COM members, and conference staff have, through much conversation, prayer and discernment, determined that bringing our gifts together across all five Associations into one Conference Wide COM will increase our capacity to carry out these responsibilities with greater excellence, intention, and consistency. All 5 RMC Associations are in support of a 2-year experimental Conference-Wide COM (CWCOM). In order to begin this 2-year experiment, the Rocky Mountain Conference bylaws need to be amended to include the creation of this new CWCOM. The official bylaw changes are available for [download here](#).

There will be two votes taken at this special Conference Meeting:

1. Changing the bylaws to include a paragraph on the CWCOM;
2. Election of those who were nominated to serve on the CWCOM.

In order for this to be able to move forward, we need a quorum of 23 churches represented at this special meeting. Your presence is essential! If you are an elected voting delegate for your church, please plan on attending this meeting. Registration is required.

Click on this [link](#) for more information. REMEMBER, you must register for this meeting to have a vote. St. Paul's is allowed two votes from members, and 1 from Rev. Ken. If you can attend, let Rev. Ken know, he wants to confirm we have two people attending. Thank you and blessings.

IN THE MUD GRANT

In The Mud Grants are given by the Rocky Mountain Conference to help churches 'get in the mud', to do something that can be used for church revitalization, to overcome a problem, etc. The end goal is to grant money that can be used in the community, or improve something in the community. We previously got a grant to fund Family Promise as they were getting started in Laramie. Our donation of the in the mud money bought beds and bedding for FP.

St. Paul's has again been given a grant by the Rocky Mountain Conference. I applied for the grant to extend our wifi into the sanctuary, and to the lawn. I am looking at a couple of options, and hope to have everything installed soon.

Memory Care Resources for families –

We received an email from MemoryCare.Com. I am posting it with a link in case anyone has a need or wants to spread the news of this resource available for us in WY. Many families with aging adults are unaware of the several available memory care options and programs in their area that can help them support a high quality of life. So we created a free resource guide that highlights the best memory care facilities in Wyoming. Check out our Wyoming Memory Care Guide here:

- <https://www.memorycare.com/memory-care-in-wyoming/>

From the website:

Wyoming saw 151 deaths related to Alzheimer's disease in 2015, and it continues to be a growing public health crisis in the state. According to the Alzheimer's Association, there are currently 10,100 people aged 65 and older living with Alzheimer's in Wyoming, which is up from 9,700 in 2019. This number is expected to continue growing every year to a projected 13,000 cases by 2025, which represents an increase of 34%. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention indicate that cases of Alzheimer's and related dementias will double nationwide by 2060.

Looking forward to hearing from you soon!

Sincerely,

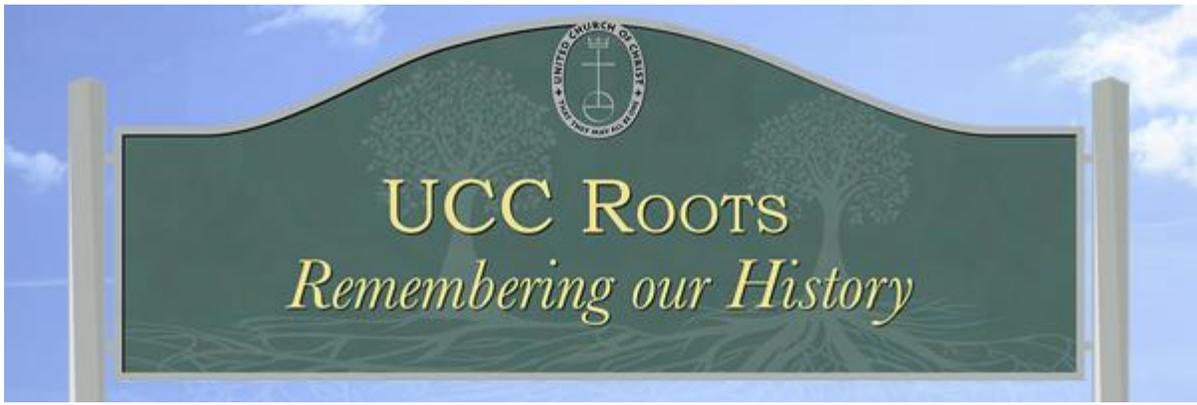
Britney Jones
MemoryCare.com Community Outreach



Laramie Suicide Prevention Hotline

The Laramie Suicide Prevention Hotline is a 24-hour crisis line that you can call or text if you are feeling scared, depressed, alone, angry, or any other painful feelings that are hard to deal with by yourself. Call or text. 307-977-7777. Sometimes the last thing you want to do is talk about the way you are feeling, but often that is the one thing that will help you feel better.

Calls are free and you will be connected with someone in Laramie who is trained to talk or text to those in crisis.



A Woman Who Expanded Her Calling

The growth and development of the United Church of Christ has become more and more diverse. It preserves traditions. It honors various legacies and explores new assumptions.



Audrey Miller (1938-2019) began her vocation as a nun. As a Roman Catholic Sister of Divine Providence, Miller became an educational leader supported youth ministry programs and youth resources. As a teacher, librarian, and community organizer she served in many ways, and later she connected to the UCC.

In 1964 Miller graduated from Duquesne University and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree. Later she earned a Master of Science and Library Science from Marywood University. She taught elementary school for the Diocese of Pittsburgh. She earned another Master of Arts in 1984 at Columbia University. In 1989 she was granted a Doctorate in Adult Education.

Miller believed that “The historic and theological streams that formed the UCC involved inclusiveness and openness, compassion and justice, peace and integrity of creation.” One friend insisted that “Audrey Miller was a visionary who took no delight in denominational boxes that limit Christ’s embrace of the whole world. . . Her humility was real, her laughter winsome and her repertoire of smiles for diverse situations was amazing. She prepared thoroughly for the work entrusted to her care.” After the UCC headquarters moved to Cleveland, Miller was elected General Secretary of the Division of Education and Publication and served the United Church of Christ Board from 1996 until 1999. She also became an ordained UCC minister. Friends said that Audrey had a zest for life that was a deep and fast-moving river of convictions and celebrations. Life was never dull when she was near.

Contributor: Barbara Brown Zikmund

St. Paul's

United Church of Christ
An ONA congregation

602 Garfield St.

Laramie, WY 82070

Sunday Morning Worship at 10:00 a.m. On Zoom and in the sanctuary



St. Paul's UCC

Our Mission:

*To be an emphatically inclusive,
progressive community
on the Path of Christ,
seeking justice and peace for all Creation
through creative ceremony and celebration,
soulful questioning,
and acts of compassion and service.*

Rev. Kenneth Ingram

720-289-2394

revken1957@gmail.com

Rev. Ken's hours:

***Tue, Wed, Thur, Fri and Sunday
mornings – call first to confirm***

IF YOU KNOW OF ANY
ACTIVITIES AROUND TOWN
THAT YOU WOULD LIKE
MENTIONED IN THE WEEKLY
UPDATE OR THE NEWSLETTER,
PLEASE SEND THE
INFORMATION TO REV. KEN AT
STPUCC@GMAIL.COM