



## Thoughts from Rev. Ken

Last month I shared with you my retirement plans, to leave St. Paul's at the end of March. Rev. Dr. Mark Lee will be joining me at St. Paul's on November 1<sup>st</sup>, as the Transitional Associate Minister. After I retire, his title will be like mine, Pastor. Together we will plan worship, share preaching duties, host meetings, and whatever else comes up for St. Paul's. As for that title, in UCC speak, it means: Transitional – it is usually for a defined

term, in this case, 5 months. Associate – I am the Senior Pastor until I leave. Pastor, because that is what we do.

Basically, Rev. Mark and I will be working together on everything from bulletins, worship planning, slides for worship, Facebook updates, newsletters, and how to update the web page to name a few of the things we will be working on. I ask all of you to not only welcome Rev. Mark, but to be gentle to both of us. Sometimes

REMEMBER THAT WE HOST A 'TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE  
MEMORIAL SERVICE' ON NOVEMBER 20. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER  
TO HELP, LET REV. KEN KNOW.

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things get dropped and lost when two people attempt to work on it.

That's the practical side of things. Here are a few more of my thoughts. For many people, Thanksgiving is the holiday they look forward to every year. Thanksgiving is the time that families gather. Of course, there is the food. For many, it has become a tradition of the clan. Don's mother

SOCKSGIVING IS ON!

LET'S SEE IF WE CAN COLLECT MORE SOCKS THIS YEAR THAN WE HAVE IN THE PAST. THE BASKET WILL BE AT THE BACK OF THE SNACTUARY. I'LL DISTRIBUTE THE SOCKS AFTER WE BLESS THEM ON DECEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup>.



SOCKSGIVING

made sure everyone knew every year to get to her house on Thanksgiving. She could care less about Christmas (well

maybe not exactly). As you plan your family gatherings, remember those less fortunate if you can, and drop off some food for Interfaith, buy a turkey or two for Interfaith, help pack donation boxes, or deliver them. I know that Don and I are blessed, and we help out at both Thanksgiving and Christmas with extra donations to Interfaith. If you can, I encourage you to help.

I ask you to also remember those who are going to have their first, maybe even their second Thanksgiving without a beloved person who was in their life. And those who have lost animal companions. There are many comings and goings in the next couple of months. Be kind to each other, but especially be kind to yourself.

Remember, for the most part, you are imposing deadlines and saying 'YES' perhaps more than you should at this time of the year. It is OK to say NO, to not get something done, because you thought it should be done. Take some time every day between Thanksgiving and the New Year for you. It is OK.

Besides Thanksgiving, Socksgiving is returning to St. Paul's. See the article below for more information. The book study is meeting on Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup> at 3 PM. You can meet at the church or via zoom. Zoom number will be sent  
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later. The 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> are Veterans Day, depending on when you observe the holiday.

Don will be away for a couple weeks, Thank Crystal and Tara for taking up the AV stuff. I will be away for a week, thank Rev. Mark for the worship services.

In Rocky Mountain Conference news, all that I told you last month has changed. Associate Conference Minister Rev. Erin Gilmore was asked by the board of directors if she would stay and take over Rev. Doug Wooten's position, as acting Conference Minister. She has agreed to this change. The Board and the Personnel committee then served Rev. Dr. Wooten notice that effective immediately, he was no longer needed by the conference. He gets three months' severance pay but can do no work for the conference. Prayers for Rev. Wooten and his wife, as they face some difficult decisions for the future.

Normally I leave you with a scripture passage. This month I leave you with a song. (if you are reading the printed version, the song is on youtube :

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tUA1jnWwdrc> )

As Don was picking out music for worship, he came across this song, and said, you should include this in the newsletter, so here you go. It is quite a lovely song.

[Follow this link to hear a version of 'God of Inspiration'.](#)

With Blessing for all of you,

Pastor Ken



### **And now, a word from Rev. Mark:**

St. Paul's members and friends,

I am so happy to be joining you as Transitional Associate Minister. We are engaging a pastoral transitional model which has had increasing popularity in the UCC. Rather than have a gap between ministers when their incumbent retires, an Associate is brought on board for a period of time prior to that retirement. They work together to try to transfer the information and relationships that have been built up in church and community, so that the new pastor is not starting from scratch on arrival. Then when the incumbent retires, the Associate takes over the while ministry role. Several churches in our conference have done this recently with good results. It helps churches maintain momentum by not having a gap period, it provides security for a congregation anxious about their future prospects and gives the new minister a solid foundation to begin their

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ministry. Both Ken and I have consulted with our Acting Conference Minister Erin Gilmore, and she will meet soon with the Council to help facilitate our work together.

In my preaching this month I am telling you some of who I am and what makes me tick, but in this article let me tell you a little about my Wyoming connections.

When I was pastor of MCC Family in Christ in Fort Collins in the early 1990's, we envisioned our service area to include southern Wyoming. At times we held Bible studies in Cheyenne. And I came on several occasions to Laramie to work with the GLBT+ group at UW – which at that time met somewhat underground, in the faculty sponsor Dr. Steve Heyman's office. I also did some more public workshops, including my trademark "Bible and Homosexuality" class (later reframed as "The Gentle Art of Biblical Self-Defense"). I remember being so nervous when one of the religion faculty sat in on it!

When I met my late partner Ivan Loy in 1993, he was just starting a Master's program at UW. He rented a room on the east edge of town, and we drove back and forth the first year we dated. We camped up in the Snowy Range many times, he

would explore while I fished. Those trips were among the best our lives. (I scattered some of his ashes near our campsite this summer.) We also greatly enjoyed backpacking and camping in the Wind River and Bighorn ranges and visiting Yellowstone on several occasions. Quite a few years found us at the UGLW/Equality Wyoming Rendezvous near Vedauwoo. For the last 15 years or so, I have gone annually on retreat at Ring Lake Ranch near Dubois – ask me about it! (It's not just for clergy-critters!)

I founded and served a MCC Church in Cheyenne that ran from 1997-2002; in retrospect, I believe God had called it into existence to help deal with the Matthew Shepard crisis. As you know, that was a tsunami none of us were prepared for. But beyond all the stuff that went on then, I found the Wyoming culture of business-by-a-handshake to be refreshing, as I got involved in what is now called the Wyoming Interfaith Network. I was heartened to find supportive allies from throughout the state.

After I joined the UCC and transferred my ministry credentials and was serving on staff at Plymouth in Fort Collins, on several occasions I guest preached here for the Rev. Jamie Kepros. She and Sharon had been friends of mine prior to her call

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here. I recall preaching about the walk to Emmaus, and suddenly realizing that one of your stained-glass windows was exactly that story. I was so glad to work that visual aid, made by your deep forebearers, into my sermon that day!

So that's a bit of my story leading me to you. Which is actually a long intro to say how much I look forward to getting to know you. Tell me your story – church or life in general. I'd be glad to go to lunch after church. Or if lunch doesn't work on Sundays, coffee or lunch on other days can be good. I plan to set a day to be in Laramie during the week to be available for you. And of course, in emergency situations either and/or both Pastor Ken and I will do our best to be present. May God bless us all in this new undertaking!

Peace,

Pastor Mark

## Transgender Day of Remembrance

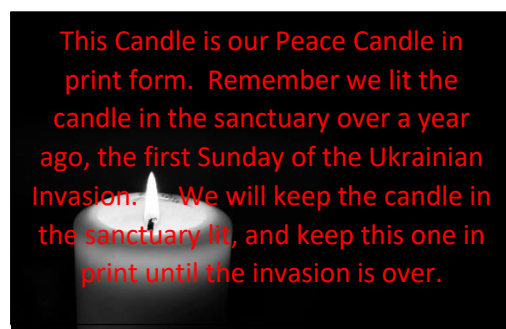
Join us on Monday, November 20<sup>th</sup> for our annual TDOR memorial service. The service will start at 6:00 and will probably be about an hour. Members from the

congregation that would like to be a part



Having a discussion with an Elder Pine, Ring Lake Ranch, WY, 2023

of the service, please see me by November 12. There is a vigil planned by Laramie Pridefest at the community center following our memorial service.



# Income and Expenses

October Financials:

Note that the pastor expense includes wages, health insurance, and retirement contributions.

Income

Contributions: \$5269  
Parsonage Rent \$1100

Total Income: \$6369

Expenses

Parsonage: \$255.50  
Building: \$194.55  
Conference Dues: \$416  
Minister \$5777.57  
Office: \$1585.51  
Programs: \$ 464.02  
  
Total Expenses: \$8693.51

Total September Deficit: **\$2324.51**

## Halloween Party and Pizza Dinner and Games!!

On October 26<sup>th</sup> a group of our members gathered for dinner and games. They had a great time. We should try to gather every month; it would be a lot of fun.

Here are a couple of pictures.



# November 2023

**Birthdays:**

- 3 – Rev. Ken
- 4 – Terri Given
- 5 – Carol Uhl



5 – Daylight Savings Time Ends – Reset Your Clocks

7 – Election Day

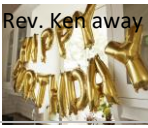



8 – LMA Meeting 1:00 PM

9 – PFLAG 6:30

15 – Book Study

20 – Transgender Day of Remembrance Memorial

23 - Thanksgiving

'Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Rev. Ken away	2 Rev. Ken away	3 Rev. Ken away 	4 Rev. Ken away 
5 Rev. Mark Rev. Ken away DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME	6	7 Election Day 	8 Laramie Ministerial Association Meeting at St.	9 PFLAG 6:30	10 Veteran's Day (Observed)	11 Veteran's Day
12 Rev. Ken Socksiving Starts	13	14	15 Pilgrim's Progress study 6:30 via zoom or in person	16	17	18 Rev. Ken away
19 Rev. Mark Rev. Ken away	20 Rev. Ken away	21 Rev. Ken away	22 Rev. Ken away	23 	24 Rev. Ken away Black Friday	25 Rev. Ken away
26 Rev. Mark Rev. Ken away	27 Rev. Mark away Rev. Ken away	28 Rev. Mark away	29 Rev. Mark away	30 Rev. Mark away		

## Socksgiving Returns

As we have done the past few years, we will collect new and slightly used socks until Decemberr 3<sup>rd</sup>. Rev. Ken will take the socks to The Soup Kitchen, and to Interfaith for them to distribute. Let's see if we can make it to 300 pairs, we were very close last year.



**SOCKSGIVING**

## Laramie Suicide Prevention Hotline and National Resource

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 to someone about those feelings, 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. The new National Hotline number is **8888**, which will connect the caller with a site for them to interact with.

UCC Daily Devotional

**SUBSCRIBE TO DAILY DEVOTIONAL**

Did you know that the UCC has an on-line store for all things UCC, and more. This link will take you to the main page. From there you can find clothing, bibles, jewelry, and many more products, many with the UCC logo on them.

<https://www.uccresources.com/>




# LARAMIE CLOTHING DRIVE



Start collecting your unwanted, gently used clothing to donate. Grab something new to you for free!

\*\*\*We are not accepting undergarments.

Questions? Call Wendy

 (307) 314-9339



Made with PosterMyWall.com

## Saturday, November 11th 9am-1pm

Donation Hours:

Mon. 11/6 - Fri. 11/10 10am-12pm

Thur. 11/9 - Fri. 11/10 1pm-3pm

Wed. 11/8 - Fri. 11/10 6pm-8pm

You can make a big difference in a small way! Donate an hour or two helping sort clothing and get first pick before the doors open to the public.



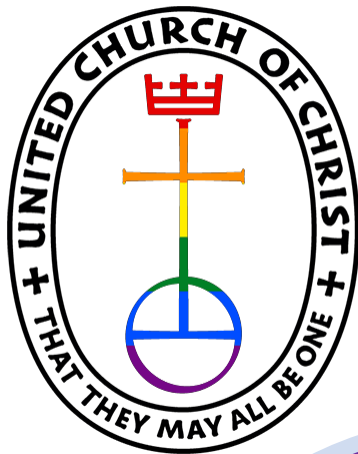
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints  
3311 Hayford Ave.

## St. Paul's

United Church of Christ  
602 Garfield St.

### Sunday Morning Worship at 10:00 a.m.

Laramie, WY 82070  
Communion the First Sunday of Each Month  
Call the church for zoom worship information.  
307-742-7733



## 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](mailto:revken1957@gmail.com)

*Rev. Ken's office hours vary weekly. Rev. Ken is usually in the church office on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday mornings – please call first to confirm he will be in the office or to schedule an appointment.*

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