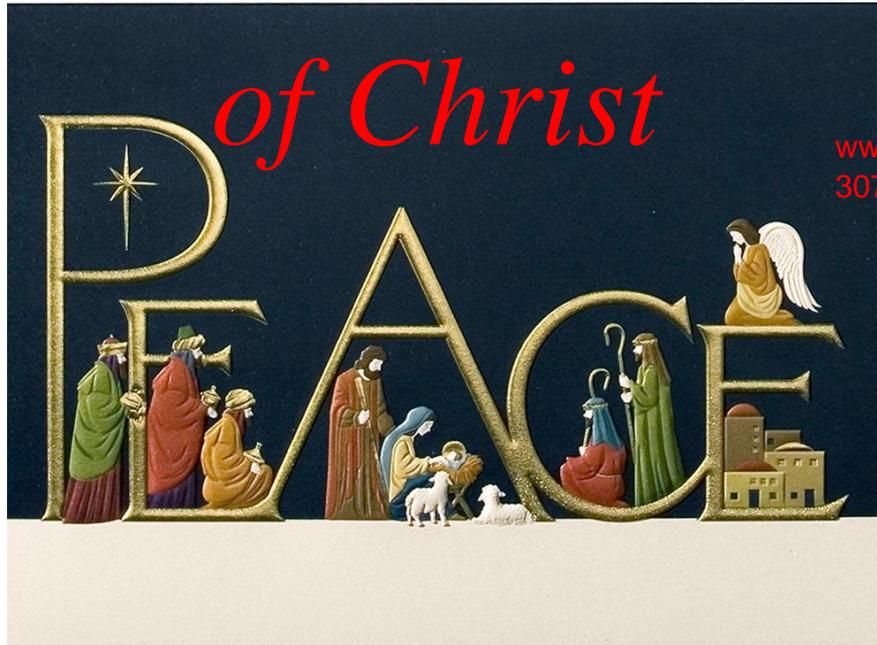


# *Progressive Spirit News* *St. Paul's United Church*



[www.ucclaramie.org](http://www.ucclaramie.org)  
307-742-7733

**DECEMBER**  
**2021** –  
VOLUME 12,  
ISSUE 12

## **Pastor's Post**

It's the holiday season so I'm adding some color to the text. The season of Advent, the beginning of a new church year. We usher in the year, as a time of darkness, before the light, the birth of Jesus. In days gone by, when we had many children and youth, we would probably have a Christmas Pageant in December. We had one three years ago. Here's proof, but with COVID, we aren't able to do a pageant. So, enjoy these pictures, as a way of remembering what was, and looking forward to what will be. Remember what the sanctuary looked like a short time ago.



I will venture a guess that all of us wish it was all over! The pandemic, that is. Currently the CDC is recommending masks for everyone in public spaces, yet again. We will continue to require masks at our worship services. If you are on zoom, then you have the option to wear one or not.

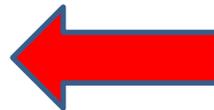
## December 2021

- 5 – Second Sunday of Advent
  - Socksgiving Dedication
  - Worship at 10:00
- 11 – Food Drive For Interfaith
- 12 – Third Sunday of Advent
  - Rev. Ken on vacation
  - Christmas Carol Sing Along
    - (red hymnal, NCH, Standards) give Rev. Ken a list by December 5
- 19 - Fourth Sunday of Advent
- 19 – Christmas Fund Collection Sunday
- 19 – Stone Soup
  - Stay for lunch
- 24 – Christmas Eve Service – 4:00 PM  
*All events held at Your Home on Zoom, or in the sanctuary unless otherwise*

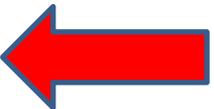
**We have some important collections going on in December.** On the 5<sup>th</sup>, we will bless the socks we have collected for SOCKSGIVING. So bring



in all you can. We will collect for the Christmas Fund, one of the 5 special collections taken each year by the UCC on the 19<sup>th</sup>. If you bring a check, make sure to write



Christmas Fund on the memo line. Our ongoing collections are for the period project and for Family



Promise's hygiene and diaper pantrys. Keep those coming in as well, or write a check with a note on the memo line to denote which



charity gets the money. If you do not designate, then the money will stay at St, Paul's. And don't forget that on the 19<sup>th</sup>, Carol will be leading us in

making Stone Soup! We will have potluck after worship, with soup and bread and whatever else anyone wants to contribute.

Another very important and timely event is a community food drive for Interfaith. There is a flyer in the newsletter, but here is the important information that you need. I will be unable to do this as I will be away, but I do hope that St. Paul's is represented. Please let me know if you are going to collect food for Interfaith. We have many volunteer opportunities at St. Paul's. We are still in need of a Family Promise coordinator. **We also need weekly worship leaders.** It would be very nice if we could restart our worship and music committee, which will make planning worship a bit easier for Rev. Ken and Sean. If you are interested in helping with our music ministry, please let me know.

I will be away from Dec. 8 until December 13. On the 12<sup>th</sup> is the hymn sing. I may not have time to get out a weekly update next week, so read the newsletter to see what is happening. The Admin Council will meet on Saturday, December 4, to coordinate the giving of our community sponsorships. If you have a charity or group in mind, let Carol know before 3 pm Saturday.

I am trying to put together a few leaders, so we can once again go caroling. If I am successful, we will pick a date. Since Lucy is at Spring Wind, we may want to see if we can go there to sing to the residents. If you would like to coordinate this activity, see me. We have all the booklets printed, flameless candles, so all we need now is a leader or two.

When you see Don, congratulate him on his retirement!

**Luke 3:21-22**

***<sup>35</sup> The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born<sup>[a]</sup> will be holy; he will be called Son of God.***

Blessings to you all,

Rev. Ken

## **December Birthdays**



**1: Arcy Tabor**  
**8: Karl Knopf**  
**29: Ava Mattimoe**

## On-line Music Depository

Every week, someone lifts up the music that Sean is giving to us. He is saving it all for us to enjoy at any time.

The link to the depository of music is [here](#).

And I'll give you another link, this one to our you tube channel, so you can see updates from Rev. Ken and our worship services (if all goes well). [St. Paul's YouTube Channel](#).

## Hybrid worship continues – at home, in the sanctuary, and via Zoom

As you prepare for attending church in the sanctuary, remember to stay home if you have any fears of coming to church, and to stay home if you have a cough or fever. Before you arrive at church, in the morning before the service, the sanctuary will be cleaned, and disinfected with Lysol. When you arrive at church, your temperature will be checked with a 'touchless' thermometer. Masks will still be required at all times, whether we gather inside or out. This may change as the CDC continues to release new guidance. Hand sanitizer is always available. We will continue to have music recorded by Sean, but he will join us in the sanctuary during December. Feel free to sing behind your mask, but currently we will not have any choir or group singing. Together we are the body of Christ. I encourage each of you to contact me if you have questions.

**Here is the link to our weekly Zoom worship service:**

**Topic: St. Paul's Sunday Worship  
Time: 10:00 AM**

### Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4425252208?pwd=TGxyK2U3ZUxFUUVWYWdFRHptMEFsQT09>

Meeting ID: 442 525 2208      Passcode: 602602

### 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.

We would like to canvas the town by having as many volunteers as possible go door-to-door asking for donations. We would start by having all volunteers meet at 15th and Baker (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints) at 9 am. We'll have donuts and hot chocolate for the volunteers and will pass out assignments for specific parts of town. This will help us avoid overlaps in visits.



## PLEASE VOLUNTEER

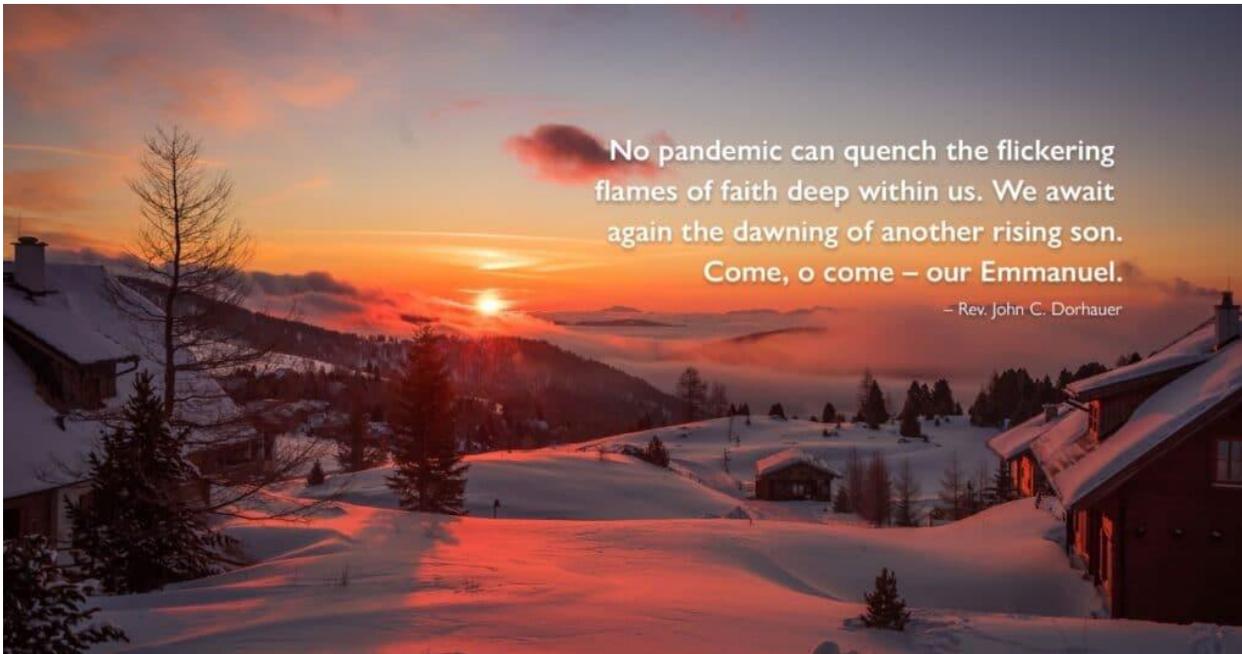
The estimated time for this community project is about 2 hours.

Once volunteers have finished in their assigned areas they will take the food items directly to Interfaith. We hope to have everything done by 11 am.



### Individual & Family Camping

Have your vacation plans been canceled or maybe you just need a change of scenery? Families can book a cabin getaway at a low fixed rate. Enjoy the labyrinth, sports courts, trails, etc. There is plenty to see and do! Email [mail@lafort.org](mailto:mail@lafort.org) or call 719-495-2743 to book!



## **Faith brings hope that no pandemic can quench**

by [John Dorhauer](#) | published on Nov 26, 2021

*In his 2021 Advent letter to the church, United Church of Christ General Minister and President John C. Dorhauer acknowledges the world's second COVID Christmas.*

Dear Friends in Christ,

The world has changed.

Familiar patterns in life, in worship and in work have been closeted in order to secure the safety and health of ourselves, our loved ones, our classmates and colleagues.

New patterns will arrive, some of which we will welcome, some of which we will not.

Grief upon grief has been visited upon us all. Hope and joy are harder to locate these days; while virulence and distrust, anger and vitriol appear around every corner.

In his Advent hymn “Night of Silence”, Marty Haugen has composed these lyrics:

*Cold are the people, winter of life.*

*We tremble in shadows this cold endless night.*

*Frozen in the snow lie roses sleeping.*

*Flowers that will echo the sunrise.*

*Fire of hope is our only warmth.*

*Weary, its flame will be dying soon.*

His poetic lyrics capture our collective ennui. He names it: cold are the people. Frozen in the snow lie roses sleeping, flowers that will echo the sunrise. With every aching bone in our body we want this winter to come to an end and for the shadows of this cold, endless night we have been living through to accede to the light of a new sun.

The final verse of this beautiful hymn of Marty's speaks again of the hope faith engenders from the shadowed valleys we have been navigating with deepening depths of despair. He gives voice to our longing for new light – a light we once knew when love was incarnated in Jesus:

*Spirit among us, shine like the star*

*Your light that guides shepherds and kings from afar*

*Shimmer in the sky so empty, lonely*

*Rising in the warmth of your Son's love*

*Star unknowing of night and day*

*Spirit we wait for your Loving Son.*

Spirit, we wait.  
We have waited long.  
Month after long, lonely month.  
We wait for your Loving Son.  
"Come, O Come, Emmanuel," we sing.

O come, thou Dayspring from on high, and cheer us by thine advent here.

Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.

We need Thee, O we need Thee. Every hour we need Thee. From the shadowed valleys we cry our "Emmanuel, come!" — waiting for the dayspring to cheer us, knowing that frozen in the snow lies roses sleeping.

This is our hope. No pandemic can quench the flickering flames of faith deep within us.

We await again the dawning of another rising son.

Come, o come – our Emmanuel.

Happy Christmas,

***The Rev. Dr. John C. Dorhauer***

***General Minister and President  
United Church of Christ***

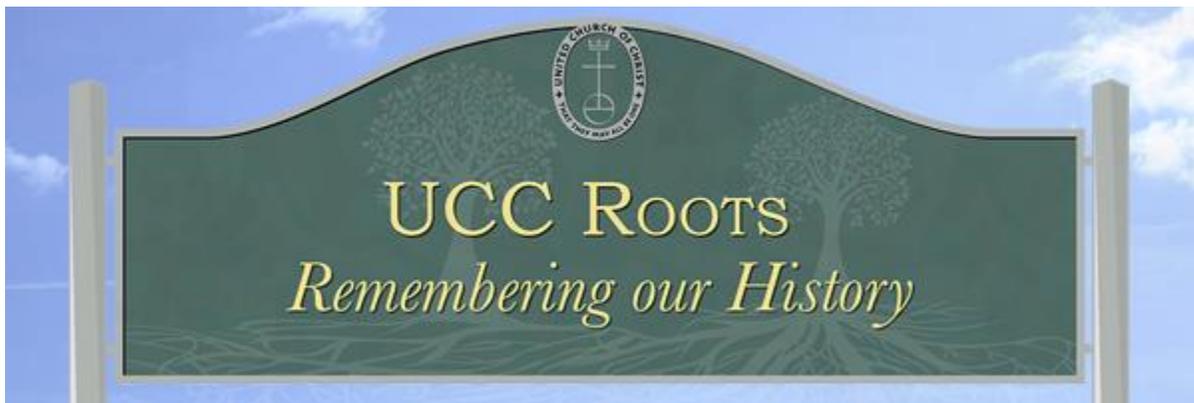
## **UCC Update**

The Three Great Loves initiative is being retired by the UCC. 3GL, love of children, love of neighbor, and love of creation has been our initiative for the past 4 years. Now, the UCC will be moving forward with

***“Join The Movement toward Racial Justice”*** You can read all about this new movement at [UCC Build On The Love, Join The Movement](#)



**I waited to send the newsletter for the monthly UCC Roots article. It seems there is not one ready at this time, so I will leave you hanging until next month. If one does come out, I will post it to you in e-mail.**



## St. Paul's

United Church of Christ

602 Garfield St.  
Laramie, WY 82070

**Sunday Morning Worship 10:00 AM  
in the Sanctuary, or on the lawn.  
On Zoom at 6:00 PM.**

### St. Paul's UCC, Laramie, WY

#### 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  
[stpucc@gmail.com](mailto:stpucc@gmail.com)

***Rev. Ken is available by phone  
and email. If you wish to meet  
with him, call him or email to  
schedule a time, as he is not in  
the church for regular hours  
except on Wednesdays and  
Sundays.***

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