

*St. Paul's United Church
of Christ*

Progressive Spirit News

August 2022-
VOLUME 13, ISSUE 8

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

Musings From Rev. Ken

We had a nice July here at St. Paul's. We finally had our birthday party and blessing for the renovation. The plaque for Cathy Svendson will be hung in the sanctuary when we get some others out of storage to be put up. We celebrated Freedom has a birthday again, with a booth in the park. We had a couple of BBQ's, one for the birthday party and one on the 31st, just because we could. For me personally it was a nice July as well, except for the car accident I was involved in. Don and I attended my niece Mary's wedding, where she become Mrs. Mary Albright. Mr. Ben Albright kept his name. The wedding was beautiful, as was the bride. It was a bit warm in



Tucson, 113 when the wedding started, 109 when the reception started. And, yes, it was all outside, with some ginormous fans circulating the hot air. At least we were under cover of some big trees, and not in the sun. Don and I had planned this trip for over a year, and then I was unable to drive much due to the muscle spasms caused by the accident. The good outcome is we had a rental car, so we didn't put all those miles on our car. I got another bucket list item completed; I rode the Durango – Silverton train. It was a beautiful ride, and I enjoyed it being a train buff. On our way home, we stopped outside Albuquerque to visit a friend. He volunteers rebuilding a steam engine, and wouldn't you know it, the day we were there the engine was open for tours. I had a great month!

I have been following and will continue to follow a secondary lectionary path for our worship this summer and into the fall. It's an alternative path that lets me preach a series of sermons, hopefully building upon each other.
Sermon Series for August/September

After Pentecost II Scripture and Themes “A Plumb Line”

August 7, 2022: Hosea 11:1-11 | “Cords of Love” |

After Pentecost III Scripture and Themes “Treasure in Heaven”

“I have an inward treasure born with me, which can keep me alive if all extraneous delights should be withheld, or offered only at a price I cannot afford to give.”
— Charlotte Brontë (*Jane Eyre*)

August 14, 2022: Luke 12:32-40 | “Treasure in Heaven”

August 21, 2022: Isaiah 5:1-7 | “Song for the Vineyard”

August 28, 2022: Jeremiah 1:4-10 | “To Build and to Plant”

September 4, 2022: Luke 14:1, 7-14 | “Receive the Invitation”

Let me know if you have any comments about the series.

On August 1, we will host a youth group from Loveland for three days. They will be doing service projects during the day and staying in the social hall for eating and sleeping. This is a middle school group, and they are working with Laramie Connections to find projects while they are in Laramie.

Don't forget that Carol and Don have designed some new stickers, with our name and url on them. Take some and tuck them in your purse to give to folks. It's painless to say "Look at what they did at church", and then give one to your friend. These are a great way to get our information in front of people.

On August 14, we have Faith Day at Coors Field. We have tickets available on a first come first serve basis, so see me if you would like to go to the game. That is on Sunday, August 14. Since I will be away for the game and for the LaForet gathering a couple days later, the worship that day will 1. Be inside. 2. Be lay led. 3. Will include the scripture reading for the day and songs and maybe even a poem. Don't stay away just because I'm away.

As always, when I am away, you can contact me via my cell phone. I will return your call if I don't answer, as timely as I can.

On August 19, I am having surgery to remove some skin cancer on my right cheek, and a pre-cancerous spot on my left cheek. I don't know what I'll look like on Sunday. I will find out later this week what condition my back is in, and what will be my path forward. Stay Tuned.

On August 28 we will have a back to school service, blessing the children, and giving them pack pack tags. I am looking forward to this service. Carol, Don and I are putting it together. We hope you all attend and enjoy this service. Also on September 1st, from 4 to 7PM there is the Back To School Bash in Undine park. It's a fun event for the kiddos and adults too. Free food and give aways and games. If you would be interested in helping to man a table for St. Paul's let Carol or myself know.

The new microphones are here! Don will be hooking everything up and doing testing this week or next. So we are well on our way to having more microphones. Thanks to Don for all the work and reserch he did on the best solution for us. In addition to the microphones, Don is working with UW to facilitate our hiring of a new accompanist. There is an interested candidate from Brazil (remember Celso). We should have this wrapped up and have someone in place by September.

Just a reminder. There is a signup sheet for you to volunteer to be a greeter, bring snacks (includes making coffee and cleaning the kitchen after), run audio / visual, or be our worship leader. I really would encourage each of you to sign up for at least one position every month. I consider St. Paul's a community, and commnity to me means we work together to get the tasks done.

*“Whoever believws in me, as the Scripture has said,
Streams of living water will flow from within him”
John 7:38*

With Blessings to each of you, Rev. Ken

Blessing of the
Backpacks and back
to school worship
Sunday, August 28

Our worship on this day will include a liturgy for blessing the children, blessing backpacks, and will include the children in the service. Come one and all!



UCC Digital Programming

Thursdays for the Soul

- Thursday, August 4, 3:30pm ET - [Faithful Abortion Access: Then And Now](#)
- Thursday, August 11, 3:30pm ET - [Sharing Leadership in UCC Community](#)

Thursday, August 18, 3:30pm ET - [Accessible to All Churches and Disabilities Justice](#)

It's Summer, so Let's go to a Baseball Game!

For one of our summer events, some of us will be going to a Rockies baseball game on Sunday August 14th. The tickets are pre-paid and we encourage you to invite friends that may be interested in the church. Tickets are available on a first come-first served basis. See Rev. Ken to reserve your tickets. We will have a worship service at St. Paul's that day, led by the members of the council and congregation. If you would like to be a part of the worship service, let Rev. Ken know soon. It would be best to car pool as much as possible, as parking is expensive and hard to find. Remember to see Rev. Ken for tickets. After the game, there will be a concert, so you might want to stay for that.

The details are: **Colorado Rockies vs. Arizona Diamondbacks**, Sunday, August 14 at 1:10 PM.

The Colorado Rockies invite you to the **17th Annual Colorado Rockies Faith Day** at Coors Field! This year's event will take place on **Sunday, August 14**. We are pleased to announce that this year's musical guest will be **We The Kingdom!**

An On-going Mission Project For This Year

Crystal Ballard is involved with the Foster Grandparents program in Laramie. She has asked that our community of St. Paul's help and support the program. Here is what Crystal sent to me. Please support this program, and Crystal.

*The Foster Grandparents are going to try to help stuff backpacks or do something for our 911 project that we do every year. When I called the Laramie Foster Closet, on their voicemail, they said they **are in need of Socks and Underwear in Youth sizes.***

St. Paul's will help Foster Grandparents fulfill this mission. There is a box in the back of the sanctuary for you to donate your socks and underwear. Crystal will take them to the appropriate place when we have some. This is a wonderful mission project for us. Think of it as an exercise for the Socksgiving Mission in

RMC Jubilee!! August 16, 2022

Hello RMC

Ahhh...it's been really a rough time these past few years since COVID struck -- seems like everywhere you turn something gets upended by COVID or other implications of it. So it is this year with our **inaugural 2022 Jubilee**. But wait -- all is not lost -- we are simply shifting it.

What to Expect

Instead of the three-day overnight extravaganza we had planned, we are turning it into a **one-day event on Tuesday, August 16**. We will start at **9:30AM with a gathering in Inglis Hall** (you are invited to wear masks if you choose). The outline for the day will include time for open conversations, getting together with your colleagues, meeting people you haven't met, and break outs for our three key conversations: Anti-Racism, Small Church, and A New Spiritual Consciousness. We will close after dinner with a reflection on the day.

Cost

Pricing has also changed. For this one-day event, you will get all the day's events plus both lunch and dinner for \$60. We have already contacted all of the people who have already signed up for the Jubilee with the change in details. **If you would like to attend and haven't already registered, please email sue@rmcucc.org, and we'll contact you for registration details.**

Workshops include:

- Small Church Symposium: Challenges & Best Practices for Small Churches
- Moving Toward a Culture of Anti-Racism: What's Next for Me and My Church?
- Exploring a Divine Spiritual Consciousness: A Renewal of the Great Commission

Financial need? Ask for a scholarship at admin@rmcucc.org

COVID precautions will be taken based on county restrictions at the time of event — be prepared to bring a mask, show vaccination card.

To register [click here](#). Registration deadline is August 5.

It would be nice if some of our members could attend this event. St. Paul's will pay if you attend.

August Birthday



o 13 – Paul Cors

To see important updates from the Rocky Mountain Conference, just click here: <https://rmcucc.org/just-the-facts/>

Rocky Mountain Conference News – and learning opportunities

The Rocky Mountain Conference of the UCC is offering some opportunities to talk/listen/interact with others around racial justice and how we can help dismantle racism in our churches, and in ourselves. Please check out <https://rmcucc.org/anti-racism-resources/> for resources, though it might be out of date as the conference web person has left her position.

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.

FEEDING LARAMIE VALLEY

We are happy to announce our Food and Fun in the Park event this Saturday, August 6! Join us for a day of music, food, and llamas in Labonte Park. This year, we'll also be hosting our first-ever PIE contest! We invite kids, family, and community members of all ages to come have some Food and Fun in the Park with us!



Home-baked pie contest with prizes!

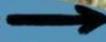
Games & scavenger hunt

Irish music by Ceol Laramie

LaBonte Park garden tours

Visit with Llamas of A Coral Dawn



To enter a pie 
or for more information
Or
click on the picture to go
directly to our site!



CELEBRATING AND SHARING LOCAL FOOD
**FOOD AND FUN
IN THE PARK**
FREE LUNCH SERVED WITH A TASTE OF PIE!

SAT. AUG.

6

11 AM - 1 PM

Feeding Laramie Valley Building in LaBonte Park • 307.223.4399
968 N. 9TH STREET • feedinglaramievalley.org/food-and-fun-in-the-park
Special Thanks to Sheila Bird Farms, Red Door Kitchen and Ridley's

St. Paul's

United Church of Christ

602 Garfield St.

Laramie, WY 82070

307-742-7733

Sunday Morning Worship at 10:00 a.m.

Call the church for zoom worship information.



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 office hours vary weekly. Rev. Ken is usually in the church office on Monday, 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
NEWSLETTER, PLEASE SEND
THE INFORMATION TO REV.
KEN AT