

# Progressive Spirit

## news

ST. PAUL'S United Church of Christ

602 Garfield St., Laramie, WY 82070

[www.laramieucc.org](http://www.laramieucc.org)

APRIL 2018 – VOLUME 9, ISSUE 4

## Pastor's Post



My second anniversary with St. Paul's was last week. This weekend, I will be preaching my third Easter sermon. I am blessed to be here with the community at St. Paul's and in Laramie.

This last month has been very busy, both personally and at the church. Personally, Don got moved, and sold his house in Texas. Our house here is a mess, as we have stuff stacked all over. We will be downsizing now that we don't have two houses anymore. Please welcome Don to Wyoming as a permanent resident. I spent a week on a mission trip, where "Being Good Global Citizens" was the theme for the week. This trip was a joint UCC and Disciples of Christ trip, for high school juniors and seniors.

## April Events

- April 1 – EASTER
- April 8 – Council Mtg.
- April 10 – Active Shooter Training – see admin council article
- April 11-14 – Shepard Symposium on Social Justice - UW
- April 15 – Spaghetti, Popcorn and a Movie 4:00 PM
- April 21 – May 4 – Rev Ken will be out of town, but available
- April 22 – Rev. Eric Whitfield guest
- April 29 – Celso's last Sunday with us

*All events are in the Church or Church Basement, unless otherwise noted.*

While in New York, we went to the UN, did some work in a food pantry, talked with two churches about what they do as global citizens and local citizens to help locally as well. On Sunday we worshipped at Riverside church, and that was a great experience. A wonderful choir, and a message about the work they are doing to help in Puerto Rico, including sending people there to help with the efforts of the UCC/DOC disaster ministries, feet on the ground. We also exposed the youth to a Broadway play, Phantom of the Opera. We then boarded a train, and headed to Washington, DC. While on the train, a major snow storm hit DC. When we arrived, our plan for touring monuments was squashed, as they were closed, along with the museums. We spent the afternoon and evening eating pizza, and reflecting on our time in NY. The next day, we went to Capitol Hill, as the youth had appointments with their representatives and senators. Before meeting with the legislators, we met with officers and staff of UCC Global Ministries. I went with Sara, a youth from Casper to see Sen. John Barrasso. As there was this huge budget debate taking place, we had a shortened meeting, but we did get to tell him about our trip, and Sara, was able to talk with him about her friend's father, who was deported a few weeks ago. We also discussed some other immigration issues.

We headed to the Holocaust museum, and like before when I have been, this totally drained me, and many of the youth. What was different this time was the feeling I had about how what happened should never happen again, but I fear for the world in our current world climate. We then went to Ford's theater to see The Wiz.

Friday, we worked at the DC Central Kitchen, a food kitchen that prepares about 6,000 meals per day. Next was back to the capital for a tour of the capital building. We finished off the week with a bit of time at the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum. After a 4 am wake up call, we were on our way home. We missed the big rally in DC on Saturday, but I did follow some of it on the news. Every day ended with reflections and prayer.

We held a service of Tenebrae on Maundy Thursday. Next year I would like to do more during Holy Week, maybe some Stations of the Cross or Good Friday service. This is where the worship committee will come in and help. Speaking of that, the worship committee helped with planning our March and April services and music. I am glad for the help and enthusiasm of the committee.

And speaking of music, have you heard our choir? I'm thrilled with the music and the talent. We will continue with the choir even after Celso leaves us, as I think it is an important part of worship. And the sound good!

Our young children joined us for a Palm Parade on Palm Sunday. It was great to have them participate. As we move forward with programming for youth, we also want to encourage any and all of you to volunteer with our younger

children, even if you don't have any yourself in that age range. I have heard that It takes an army to raise a child, and we can always use your talents to help us.

There is an article from the administrative council in the newsletter. We hope to make that a regular feature of the newsletter, and hope it helps you, as members and readers of this newsletter, to be better connected with the church. Remember, you can also be a member of the council, the worship committee, the choir (OK, not everyone can be a member of the choir), the Christian Education team, or a Deacon (Worship Leaders). We can always use the help.

If anyone who has visited us regularly would like to talk with me about membership, please do. I have reserved 6 spots at the active shooter training being held on April 10<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in attending, please let me know so I can update our numbers if I need to.

Peace, and Blessings to all,

Rev. Ken

## Message from the Administrative Council

At the March meeting of St. Paul's Administrative Council on the 11<sup>th</sup>, we discussed several items that the general congregation might be interested in. As many of you know, there was a fire in Wade's Trailer Court that destroyed nine structures earlier this month. Interfaith-Good Samaritan has been raising money to help the families who have been displaced by the fire by providing them with temporary housing at hotels and helping them find affordable long-term housing. The council approved \$2000 to be donated to Interfaith-Good Samaritan to aid those affected by these fires.

In light of recent violent tragedies that have affected churches around the nation recently, Laramie Police Department is offering an active shooter training specifically modeled for houses of worship. This training will be held on April 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm at First Christian Church, 2130 E Garfield St, Laramie, WY 82070.

The Administrative Council is continuing our conversation about developing a more robust youth program for our church and hiring a youth leader. In the near future we will be sending out letters to families with children in the congregation about setting up times to meet with the council to discuss what kind of programs and activities families with children would like to see in our church.

We also have a movie and dinner night planned for April 15<sup>th</sup>. The movie to be shown will be announced later, but it might be Shrek.

## APRIL BIRTHDAYS



- 11- Cindy Legg
- 16 – Lucy Walker
- 23 – Megan Plant

If your birthday is not listed, then our directory is not updated with your information. Please let the church know your current contact information, address, phone and birthday/anniversary at [stpucc@gmail.com](mailto:stpucc@gmail.com)

We on the Administrative Council feel blessed to serve the congregation of St. Paul's UCC and we look forward to continuing to do so. Please continue to keep us in your prayers that we may continue to serve God and the church faithfully. Marcus Frye

## **Family Fun time, Sunday, April 15th:**

The administrative Council is hosting a spaghetti, popcorn and movie evening on Sunday, April 15 at 4:30. The movie might be Shrek, but if you have a suggestion, let someone on the council know. The council will provide spaghetti and sauce, bring a dessert, salad, drinks or bread to share. We will have popcorn and drinks. Please let the church know if you are vegetarian, or need gluten free pasta.

## **Celso's Last day is April 29<sup>th</sup>.**

During our service on April 29<sup>th</sup>, we will be changing things up a bit. There will be no sermon or homily. We will have a call to worship, children's time, joys and concerns, and a benediction. The rest of the service will be music provided by Celso, maybe a song or two from the choir. After the service, everyone is encouraged to come to the social hall and wish Celso well as he moves back to Brazil and his girlfriend. I know that he has made a difference in our worship experience. If you know someone who might wish to join us on Sundays as our accompanist, please let them know we need a accompanist, and have them call or email the church.

## **Family Promise Training for Volunteers:**

There is training for Family Promise volunteers on Tuesday, April 3 from 5:30 to 7:30, and on Saturday, April 7 from 11:00 to 1:00. Both are at the Presbyterian Church on Grand at 215 S 11th St, Laramie, WY 82070. If you are going to attend one of the trainings, please let Terri Given know. These trainings are required for those who are going to be part of our support team for family promise. The family promise newsletter is in the social hall.

## **Rocky Mountain Conference Women's Retreat**

April 20 - 22 is the RMCUCC Women's retreat at LaForet.

Registration begins is now at [RMCUCC.ORG](http://RMCUCC.ORG)

Space is limited, so sign up early.

Cost: \$150 for the weekend (Friday dinner through Sunday Breakfast)

\$50 for Saturday only (lunch, dinner and activities)

Please let Rev. Ken know if you would like to attend. There are flyers on the tables downstairs and on the bulletin board.

**Feeding Laramie Valley Summer Jobs:** Feeding Laramie Valley has some paid summer jobs available. Click the link below to go to the job descriptions and applications.

[Feeding Laramie Valley](#) Job Applications

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## St. Paul's

United Church of Christ

602 Garfield St.

Laramie, WY 82070

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



## 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.*