

# LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR

No matter their mental health challenge.

No matter their immigration status.

No matter their sexual orientation.

No matter their economic status.

No matter their gender identity.

No matter their disability.

No matter their religion.

No matter their race.

# Progressive Spirit

# news

ST. PAUL'S United Church of Christ

602 Garfield St., Laramie, WY 82070

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



AUGUST 2018 – VOLUME 9, ISSUE 8

## Pastor's Post



It's hard to believe, but summer, as we know it in Laramie, will soon be another memory. I hope that everyone has had a fruitful and enjoyable summer. I have had a very busy summer, but it has been busy is a very

good way. I have visited family, had family visit, attended a couple of great workshops, and was able to keep busy just exploring the area.

St. Paul's and our folk have not been idle either. We hosted the youth choir, Faith Singers, from Omaha. We participated in Freedom Has A Birthday. We were gifted a new piano, and the choir is continuing to sing in our worship services. The Deacons (Worship Leaders) have been busy working to

## August Events

- August 5
  - Communion Sunday
  - Choir Sings
- August 12
  - Worship at St. Albans
- August 9
  - PFLAG meeting 6:30
- August 26
  - Worship Committee

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

ensure we have worship leaders every week. The Church Council, our Administrative Council, has been at work making sure everything runs smoothly here at St. Paul's. Speaking of the council, would you like to serve? We can always use more folk on the board to help us with running the church. See Carol Uhl if you have an inclination and might want more information.

With the departure of Celso upon his graduation, we were able to secure the talents of two pianist to replace him. Nathan and Don are taking turns leading the congregation each week, and have at times played together. Katie Uhl has been invaluable as the choir director/music guru for us. Make sure to thank all of them for the music that we enjoy and that hopefully moves you during our worship services. I also cannot begin to tell you how helpful it has been to me to have a worship committee that is helping to plan worship. If you have an idea for something in worship, let me know. I'm excited to have a group that can help plan and execute worship.

As summer draws to a close, we will be beginning some discernment about what to do regarding updating our sanctuary. I just returned from a course identifying ways in which discernment can be used for anything that brings about change in a church, and I am going to be putting together some meetings so that we can identify what our priorities are for the sanctuary. Be on the lookout for these meetings, and begin to think about our sanctuary and our worship, and how that fits together. If you have any ideas, bring them when we being our meetings, in September.

**“O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever.” Psalm 107:1**

Peace and Blessings to all,

Rev. Ken

### 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.*

## **Worship and Music Committee meeting on August 26**

A worship planning and music planning committee will meet on August 26 after services.

If you have any ideas for worship, please let Rev. Ken know, or someone from the worship committee, who includes, but is not limited to: Ginny, Carol, Katie, Don, Marcus and Nathan

### **Administrative Council Notes:**

The Administrative council met yesterday. We discussed the repairs needed for some of our stain glass windows, and talked about how to incorporate those repairs into overall renovation of the sanctuary. We will begin discernment meetings in late September to gather as a community with our ideas about how to proceed.

This month we will worship outdoor at St. Albans with the members of St. Albans, and in September at Vedauwoo. We continued to discuss the outcomes of the walkthrough the Laramie PD did, and their safety recommendations for the church. The council also talked about some community sponsorships we have received.

Next meeting will be on September 23.

### **PFLAG Laramie**

PFLAG, or Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays continues to meet at St. Paul's the second Thursday of each month at 6:30 PM. Join the group as a friend and ally, or member of the LGBTQ community.

### **Family Promise of Albany County**

Family Promise has begun hosting families. The first family they hosted dropped out of the program, but the second family is well on their way. We want to thank Marcus, Terry, Carol, Grace, Brianna and Joe for providing dinners three evenings last week.

### **Daily Devotional**

If you would like to receive a daily email devotional, you may look at <http://www.perfectpeaceandjoy.org/>, a daily devotional that a friend of mine, and fellow UCC Clergy updates daily. Rev. John Gaudreau is a wonderful photographer, and many of the photos he uses are ones that he has taken. The daily update is something I look forward to every day. Take a minute to look at his website even if you do not subscribe to the daily email.

### **The Deaconess witness in the German Reformed Church**

The deaconess movement, rooted in the early church, was a non-ordained ministry for women. In the 1800s it was very popular among German immigrants arriving in North America and spread among churches in the Midwest. In the United Church of Christ we often hear about [German Evangelical Deaconesses](#), but there were also important developments in the German Reformed Church.

Johanna M. Baur, born in Michigan in 1862, had a conversion experience and joined the Methodist Episcopal Church. At a camp meeting in 1891, she heard about the importance of deaconesses. Soon she moved to Cincinnati to join the Elizabeth Gamble Deaconess Home and Christ Hospital. She became associated with the German Methodist Mother House and Bethesda Hospital in Cincinnati. In 1900, she was asked to go to Terre Haute, Indiana, to found a nursing school.



Meanwhile in eastern Pennsylvania, a German Reformed pastor, Abraham Koplin, suggested that the German Reformed Church needed to bring deaconess services to eastern Pennsylvania. By 1903, three “Classes” of the Eastern Synod – Lehigh, Eastern Pennsylvania, and Tohickon – were granted a charter to incorporate the “Phoebe Deaconess and Old Folks Home” (in Allentown). “Phoebe” is a deaconess mentioned in Paul’s letter to the Romans.

After property was purchased in 1904 Johanna Baur was called to serve as the first house mother. Two local deaconesses were consecrated in 1908. Although Baur was not paid, the Phoebe Home sent the Bethesda Hospital \$30 a month for her services in Allentown.

Unfortunately, in 1910 Baur left Phoebe Home to care for her mother, yet her pioneering work lives on. Phoebe Ministries continues today as an organization affiliated with the United Church of Christ.

It is amazing what one woman can accomplish when guided by the Spirit. Johanna Baur always said, “I never regret that I had the pleasure of organizing the Phoebe Home. The Lord stood by me and the undertaking was a success.”

*Contributor: Caroline Dunleavy*

## St. Paul's

United Church of Christ

602 Garfield St.

Laramie, WY 82070

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



***Rev. Kenneth Ingram***

***720-289-2394***

***[revken1957@gmail.com](mailto:revken1957@gmail.com)***

***Rev. Ken's hours: Tuesday,  
Wednesday, Thursday, and  
Sunday mornings, or by  
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  
STPUCC@GMAIL.COM