

www.laramieucc.org

FEBRUARY 2019 – VOLUME 10, ISSUE 2

Pastor's Bits and Bytes



While I may be a day or two late with the weekly update and the newsletter, it is often because 1) I forget to press the send button before I close the computer, 2) I am busy, and think I'll get to it,

then don't', or 3) I forget what the date is. The last is the case with the newsletter this time, I simply forgot the 1st of February was here. I can't guarantee it won't happen again, so just bear with me.

I have been planning the worship and events for Easter and Lent, so hopefully those will happen on time. I hope you will like what I am planning for lent. It's a bit different than usual, but I think it will be not only worthwhile, but maybe

February Events

- February 3
 - Communion Sunday
- February 10
 - Admin Council Meeting
 - Youth Group
- February 14
 - PFLAG Meeting
- February 18-22
 - Rev Ken takes a vacation but is available by email or text
- February 24
 - Annual Meeting

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



even a teaching moment for some parents, and a learning experience for many of us. Stay tuned.

Again our music program is blowing the doors off the sanctuary (well, not really, but it's been really good lately.) The choir is performing again, and that is always a joy. With the choir on communion Sundays our service is going over about 10 minutes, but I think it's well worth it.

I will be attending two seminars this month, both of them the week of February 4th. One is at Iliff, the other is Congregations Alive, put on by the conference. Marcus will join me at

Congregations alive. I am blessed to have the ability to attend these conferences. Thank you members of St. Paul's for including this in the budget. Speaking of budgets, our annual meeting will be on Sunday, February 24, and at that meeting we will talk about sanctuary changes, budget, and on-going projects of the church. Come join us, and bring your voice. You always have a say in what goes on here, so come prepared to not just listen, but to provide input as well. We will also have a slate of candidates for next years council. If you would like to help out by serving, see one of the current council members, or myself. We are happy to talk with you about serving on the council.

Our youth group is small, but meeting regularly. We have begun meeting with the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Laramie youth. Together our youth groups make up a nice sized group to have fun with, learn from each other, and enjoy a good meal. If you would like to help out with youth group, see Rev. Ken. We can always use Adult volunteers.

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ

1 Corinthians 12:12

Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appoint you a prophet of the nations.

Jeremiah 1:5

Peace and Blessings to all,

Rev. Ken

Annual Meeting, February 24

The annual meeting of St. Paul's UCC will be held on Sunday, February 24, after worship. We will start with a soup luncheon. The church will provide the soup, you provide bread, rolls, dessert, drinks and side dishes. After lunch, we will have our business meeting. Please plan to attend now, and hear about what is coming up in the life of the church, and to hear about our accomplishments this last year.

Youth Group – February 10, March 10

Youth group will meet at 4:00 PM. After watching a movie, we will have dinner together. On March 10, we will meet with the youth from UUFL again. We will give you information about time and place later. Here is a picture of the youth from St. Paul's and UUFL at our last meeting.



PFLAG Laramie Celebrates

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. This month there will be a potluck dinner, and a celebration. PFLAG Laramie is now an official PFLAG group! Join the group as a friend and ally, or member of the LGBTQ community. The next meeting will be on Thursday, February 14. Come mix and mingle with other from PFLAG, and enjoy dinner and games.

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.

Don't forget to check out the Rocky Mountain Conference web page:

<http://www.rmucc.org>

Directory Update

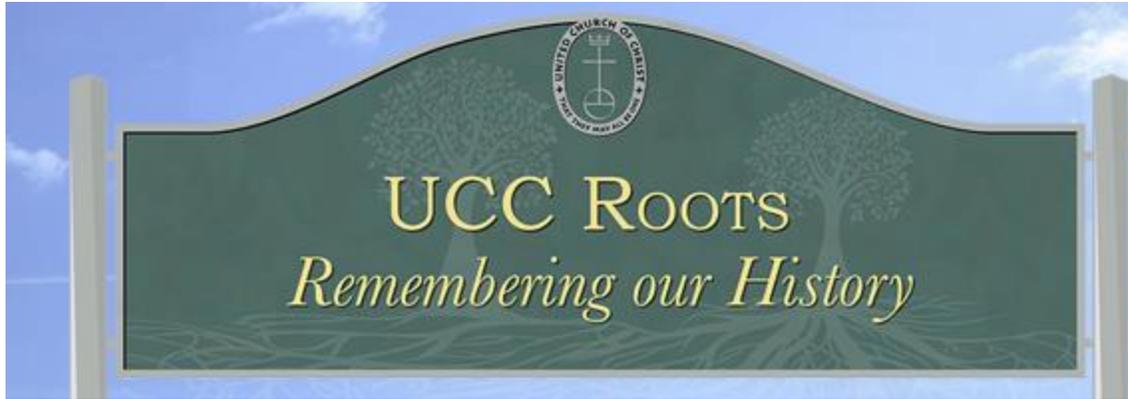
Cindy is working on updates to our directory, and we will publish a new directory, hopefully by the annual meeting. If you have not filled out the information sheet that is in the social hall, please do so. We may be asking you for information we are missing.

You're invited to the United Church of Christ's Thirty-second General Synod!

The Moderator, Mr. Norman Williams, the Assistant Moderator, the Rev. Penny Lowes, the United Church of Christ Board of Directors, the Officers of the Church, and the members of the Wisconsin Conference of the United Church of Christ invite you to attend the Thirty-second General Synod that will be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, June 21-25, 2019!

The theme for the 32nd General Synod is based on the scripture Matthew 5:16 "In the same way let your light shine before others."

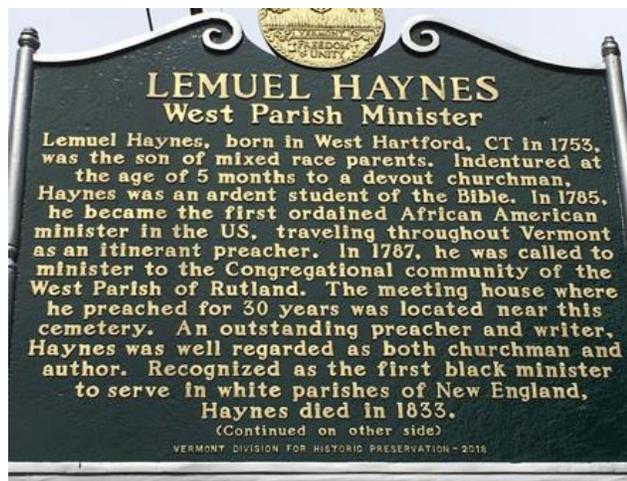
"When we light just one candle in the darkness, it illuminates dimly, but when many candles are lit, and all let their lights shine, together we can bring brightness to the world." – The Rev. Franz Rigert, Wisconsin Conference Minister.



[From the UCC Historical Council](#)

Lemuel Haynes: Recognized in Vermont in 2018

He was an illegitimate child in Puritan New England. His mother was a white servant girl and his father was an African slave. A few months after his birth in West Hartford, CT his mother abandoned him and he spent his early years as an indentured servant. Yet Lemuel Haynes (1753-1833) is someone to remember. Last fall, the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation dedicated a Historical Marker to honor his life and thought. His story is part of our UCC past.



After his indenture expired, during the Revolutionary War Haynes served as a "minuteman." Later he studied with clergy to become a minister and was ordained in 1785 — the first African-American minister ordained in a mainstream denomination in the United States.

For two years, Haynes served a Congregational church in Torrington, CT. New members were joining the church and although he was well received, racial prejudice among some influential members prevented his installation. Finally, in 1788, he moved his family to the wild frontier of Vermont where he became pastor at West Parish of Rutland. His church grew from 42 members to about 350 during his thirty-year ministry. He was a black pastor in a white church and Vermont was a society of independent settlers.

Haynes preached and wrote about the slavery issue repeatedly. When white Christians wanted to liberate slaves and send them back to Africa (the Colonization movement), Haynes argued that the revolutionary war promised "liberty"

for all Americans. He wrote extensively about how combining “Republican ideas” and “Calvinistic theology” could end slavery and cultivate interracial accord. By blending new American political convictions and longstanding Christian theological ideas, Haynes insisted that freeing slaves would do more than simply liberate them. Rather, ending slavery would provide happiness and security for all citizens throughout the new nation. Haynes never faltered in his efforts to convince people of the “equality of all [humanity] before God.”

Contributor: Bill Whiteman

St. Paul’s

United Church of Christ

602 Garfield St.

Sunday Morning Worship at 10:00 a.m.

Laramie, WY 82070

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 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