

Progressive Spirit News

St. Paul's United Church of Christ

JUNE 2021 –
VOLUME 12. ISSUE 6

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Pastor's Post

It happens every other year. What, you might be asking yourself. It's the United Church of Christ General Synod. Held every other year, in a different city around the country, it's when the business of the denomination gets done. This year, the location is in your living room, bedroom, out on the deck. That's right, this year General Synod, like so many other things in our lives, is virtual. There is information and links below in the newsletter, for those who want to sign up and attend. If you want to attend, please contact Rev. Ken, as there is funds available for members to attend. In addition to General Synod, with summer comes the Rocky Mountain Conference Annual Celebration, and this year the

www.ucclaramie.org
307-742-7733

June 2021

- June 5 – Clean Up Day at St. Paul's
- June 6
 - Worship at 10:00
 - Mark 3:20-35
- June 7 – June 13
 - RMC Annual Celebration - online
- June 8 – Bible Study 7:00 PM
- June 13 – June 20
 - Meals for Family Promise
- June 13
 - Worship at 10:00
 - Mark 4:26-34
- June 20
 - Worship at 10:00
 - Mark 4:35-41
- June 22 – Bible Study 7:00 PM
- June 26 – Laramie Pride In The Park
- June 27
 - Worship at 10:00
 - LGBTQ Pride Sunday

All events held at Your Home on Zoom, in the sanctuary, or on the church lawn unless

celebration is also virtual. Links to sign up are below. We need two delegates to represent and vote for St. Paul's at the RMC business meeting. We have one person signed up, will you be our other voting delegate? The church has already paid the fees for both attendees and delegates, so cost is not a hindrance to anyone. The business meeting is on June 12, from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. Check in is at 8:45. Anyone can register as an attendee. Delegates must register as delegates.

If you register to be a delegate from St. Paul's, please let Rev. Ken know. If you register to attend, please let Rev. Ken know. You can find all the events that span all week at the RMC website, <https://rmcucc.org/annual-celebration-2021/>. The keynote speaker is Valerie Kaur a civil rights activist, lawyer, award-winning filmmaker, founder of the Revolutionary Love Project, author of *See No Stranger: A Memoir and Manifesto of Revolutionary Love*, and Sikh American voice.

General Synod takes place July 11 – July 18. Information is at <https://www.generalsynod.org>. Both of these meetings are virtual this year, so no need to travel further than your sofa or your bed or your deck.

Those of you who read the newsletter will continue to see this appeal. We need Sunday Morning Saints, and we will continue to need them in the future. We have 1 person trained, and another is starting to work with us on the AV stuff. I am still looking for a couple more Sunday Morning Saints. Look below for more information on how you can help St. Paul's with a donation of a couple hours. If we get 3 or 4 volunteers trained, then your time commitment is relatively short each month. As I always say when talking about stewardship at St. Paul's, I value the time commitments that people give to St. Paul's, very much. I have had so much help from so many of you. Your time donations are the most valuable thing we have. It's not hard to learn to run the AV and Zoom, and Don has put in place some standards, so once you know them, it's not hard to run the slide show and zoom.

I am going to quit scheduling outside events for St. Paul's. My track record seems to be in constant conflict with the weather. I'm going to let the council decide dates for outdoor events. Our clean up day, and our first outdoor worship of the season were utter disasters (well maybe not, but the weather sure did not cooperate.) We will return to outdoor worship on June 6th, weather permitting. If there ever is a Sunday when the weather is questionable for outdoor worship, we will meet in the sanctuary. Remember, we will worship via zoom every Sunday, as long as we are meeting in the sanctuary or on the lawn. Zoom requires the internet, so unless we are at a park or away from the church, zoom is always available.

June is LGBTQ Pride month in many places the world over. There will be a pride week in Laramie June 20-27, culminating with two events. Pride in the Park will take place in Washington Park on Sat., June 26. St. Paul's will have a table there, so please plan to come help us by volunteering to hand out information about St. Paul's that day. Then on Sunday, June 27, we will celebrate LGBTQ worship, or Pride Worship. There will be special music, and other events planned. We may have some guests that day, so join us for worship.

Matthew addresses the great number of Jewish laws and prophetic teachings — including those that many consider to condemn homosexuality — by making clear that the overarching command of a faithful life is love: love of God, and love of neighbor. This command to love underpins any and all other commands. And so, pursuit of law-abiding faithfulness that does not first root itself in love fails to understand the true purpose of the law and the true call of faith.

Matthew 23:37-40 ³⁷ **He said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind."** ³⁸ **This is the greatest and first**

June Birthdays



1: Don Denham
13: Taylor Ballard
15: Colin Ballard
13: Rusty Ridley

commandment. ³⁹ **And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'** ⁴⁰ **On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."**

Blessing to you all, Rev. Ken

Sunday Morning Saints

Do you want to help St. Paul's with a time pledge? Can you run the powerpoint slides and zoom on Sunday morning? We still need two more people to step up and volunteer, so we have people to rotate Sundays. When Don and I are away, we need someone that can start the worship and the equipment. Please let me know if you are interested.

Training provided, and it is only about an hour and a half on Sunday morning.

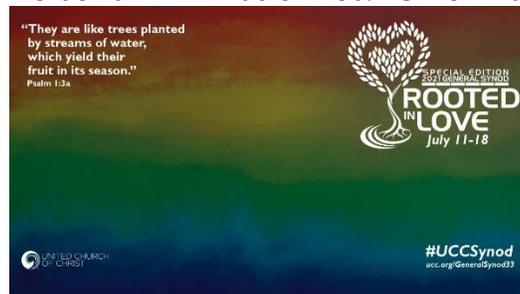
Rocky Mountain Conference Annual Celebration

We need one more delegate to the RMC business meeting. The church has already paid the fees for both attendees and delegates. The business meeting is on June 12, from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. Check in is at 8:45. You must be registered as a delegate or attendee for the zoom links.

If you register to be a delegate from St. Paul's, please let Rev. Ken know. If you register to attend, please let Rev. Ken know. You can find all the events that span all week at the RMC website, <https://rmcucc.org/annual-celebration-2021/>. The keynote speaker is Valerie Kaur a civil rights activist, lawyer, award-winning filmmaker, founder of the Revolutionary Love Project, author of *See No Stranger: A Memoir and Manifesto of Revolutionary Love*, and Sikh American voice. If you register for the annual celebration, you might receive a free copy of Valerie's latest book.

UCC GENERAL SYNOD: The other big summer event is the UCC General Synod. That takes place July 11 – July 18. Information is at <https://www.generalsynod.org>.

Here is a SAVE THE DATE video to remind you about General Synod this July 11-18. This time around, Synod will be held virtually, so everyone can attend all or part. Sam Burkett will be attending synod as a delegate from the Rocky Mountain Conference, Persons With Disabilities. Give this a look:



[General Synod Save The Date](#)

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 YouTube channel, so you can see updates from Rev. Ken and our worship services (if all goes well). [St. Paul's YouTube Channel](#).

Family Promise – we are serving meals the week of June 13-19. More details will be provided, but please plan to make a meal that can be delivered to Family Promise that week. We will have details of the number of meals required. We all cook and eat, so making an extra meal is an easy way to help out. If you would like to help out, but don't want to cook and deliver a meal, there is the option to have something delivered from one of our local restaurants.

So far we have Sunday thru Wednesday covered, but we still need three or four days to be covered. Please contact Rev. Ken to add your name to the sign up sheet. This is an important ministry for St. Paul's to be a part of, a great help to the Laramie community.

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

As you prepare for attending church in the sanctuary, or outside on the lawn, 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, if we are meeting inside, 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. Feel free to sing behind your mask, but currently we will not have any choir or group singing. I am hoping that we can work on a bit of choral music sometime during the summer. 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 worship service:

Topic: St. Paul's Sunday Worship

Time: This is a recurring meeting Meet anytime

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4425252208?pwd=TGxyK2U3ZUxFUUVW
WWdFRHptMEFsQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4425252208?pwd=TGxyK2U3ZUxFUUVW
WWdFRHptMEFsQT09)

Meeting ID: 442 525 2208

Passcode: 602602

During June, you will see many rainbow flags, a symbol of support for the LGBTQ community. I wanted to share this with you.

What is the symbolism of the rainbow flag?

The Pride flag was first designed by artist Gilbert Baker, according to [CNN](#). In 1978, Baker was commissioned to create the banner for San Francisco's pride celebration by city supervisor Harvey Milk, one of the country's first openly gay politicians.

The flag draws inspiration from the stripes of the American flag but uses the colors of the rainbow to represent the different groups within the queer community and traits.

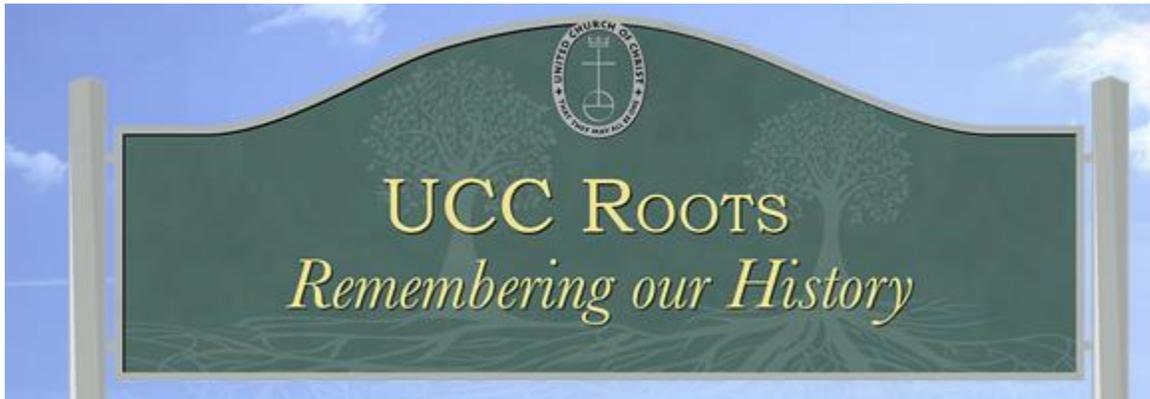
According to [Pride.com](#), hot pink represents sexuality, red represents life, orange represents healing, yellow represents sunlight, green represents nature, turquoise represents magic and art, indigo represents serenity and harmony, and violet represents spirit. Black and brown were added to the flag in 2017 to demonstrate that the LGBTQIA+ community is comprised of diverse individuals.

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.



Anton T. Boisen and

Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE)

Pastoral education for American clergy changed dramatically during the 20th century. Theological seminaries had been shaped by Biblical scholars and liturgical traditions focused on scholarship. However, the most important changes in theological education were shaped by a man named Anton Theophilus Boisen (October 1876–1965).

Boisen was born in Indiana, he graduated and taught at Indiana University, he studied at Union Theological Seminary, he explored forestry at Yale University, was ordained as a Presbyterian pastor, and did rural church work in a midwestern Congregational Church. He referred to himself as a “Presbygationalist.” During his ministry, and World War I, Boisen suffered several psychotic episodes, and felt a religious calling to bring religion and medicine closer together. Eventually he became a hospital chaplain; and for a time he taught at Chicago Theological Seminary.

Mental illness, according to Boisen, represented *“a crisis brought about by a failure to grow into higher social loyalties, including loyalty to God.”* Mental illness was purposive, and it could be cured by the power of religion. *“Crisis situations often create possibilities that involve religious quickening.”* *“All true life is social life.”* *“It is life-together.”* It is *“being-with”* and *“being-for”* the other.

In the 1930s, Boisen joined with medical and theological leaders to form the “Council for the



Clinical Training of Theological Students”--exposing students to extended relationships with people suffering illness and crisis, mainly in mental hospitals. He believed that some mental illnesses, such as schizophrenia, could be interpreted as one's attempts to solve "*problems of the soul*". Later, he argued that mental illness is a crisis brought about by the failure to grow into higher social loyalties, especially including loyalty to God.

Today, thousands of seminarians from diverse religious traditions have been shaped by Boisen's views of pastoral care. Ministers and church leaders regularly insist that Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) provides essential training to shape ordained ministry.

Contributor: Barbara Brown Zikmund

[Click here](#) to view a PDF of this article.



Registration for Summer Camp at La Foret is OPEN!

The Platte Valley Association has scholarships of up to \$150.00 per person for scholarships for camps at LaForet. Contact Rev. Logan Bennett for more information, or to request a scholarship. St. Pau's also has some scholarship money for camps, so if you want to attend, please contact Rev. Bennett, email logan@lafort.org. or Rev. Ken.

Contemplative Camp | July 18-24

This adult event has been facilitated for the past 30+ years by the RMC's own Rev. Sally Palmer! Sal will be joined this year by Buddhist practitioner Ron Frost. Spend time in celebration of stillness and Mystery. [Register here.](#)

Grand Camp | July 2-4

For grandkids ages 5-11 and their grandparent(s) or grandparent surrogates. This is an extra special camp because it focuses on celebrating and building up the special bond between grandkids and grandparents through facilitated games, crafts, campfires, worship and other fun, classic camp activities. We believe this is such a valuable offering, that we have kept the costs quite low to make it accessible to more grands! There is room for only 4 more family groups, so sign up soon! [Register here.](#)

Pioneer Camp | July 11-17

This week-long overnight camp is for kids entering grades 2-4. The seasoned counselors are excellent at creating an amazing camp experience for our youngest campers, fostering independence, spiritual growth, and the all-important, social-emotional learning so essential to that age group. There are 10 spots left, and there are **even more camperships available to first-time campers** (in addition to usual, need-based camperships). [Register here.](#)

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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@laforet.org or call 719-495-2743 to book!

St. Paul's

United Church of Christ

602 Garfield St.
Laramie, WY 82070

Sunday Morning Worship On Zoom and in the Sanctuary, or on the lawn.

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

***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