

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

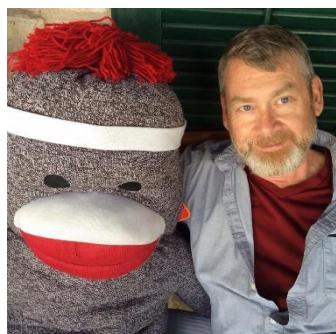
www.laramieucc.org



MARCH 2018 – VOLUME 9, ISSUE 3

March Events

- March 3
 - Celso's Recital, UW BPCA, Recital Hall, 7:00 PM
- March 11
 - One Great Hour of Sharing Offering
 - Daylight savings time
- March 16 – 24
 - Rev. Ken on a mission trip
- March 18
 - Eric Whitfield guest
- March 25
 - Palm Sunday
- March 29
 - Maundy Thursday, Tenebrae service
 - 6:00 PM
- March 30
 - Good Friday
- April 1
 - Easter Sunday
 - Communion Sunday



The season of Lent is upon us, we are preparing for the resurrection of Jesus on Easter. Lent for many is a time of discernment, what will I do with my life,

how will I fulfill all I want to do with my life. It is also a time for many to give up something for 40 days, the same time Jesus was in the wilderness. I have, in the past few years, added to rather than denied something in my life. This year, I'm doing both. I have given up diet soda. It's not healthy, and I am finding that ice tea and water quench my thirst, actually better than soda.

I have also added additional worship and prayer time to my life. It's quite amazing how much time I spend doing 'stuff',

but it's not always the stuff I need to do, or want to do. Prayer time, while I have always prayed daily, has become really meaningful, probably because I have given it a priority in my daily life. Attending the memorial for the child of friends who committed suicide, talking with a friend who has been diagnosed with cancer, these events have made me glad that I am praying more, praying purposefully, and not just praying because it's something I do. I encourage you to begin a prayer practice if you don't have one. If you do, keep it up. Remember, prayer does not have to be kneeling down, or sitting still. I pray often when I am outside walking the dogs, it's wonderful to pray and be in nature. It's a spiritual practice once I get outside, and one I have followed for many years. The weather here sometimes puts that on hold, but I do enjoy being outside.

In the near future, the council and I will begin the work of finding a youth coordinator. If you have any leads on a youth coordinator, or perhaps have some ideas that we could bring to a youth coordinator, please talk with me or a council member.

Now that the worship and music committee as met, look for some upcoming changes and additions to worship. Let us know if you like what we are doing, or if it is the wrong direction we are taking. The Sunday service is our service, so we all have input. I want to thank everyone who has taken the time lately to help with the music, and worship. And an especially big thanks to Carol and Katie and Mickie who decorated and coordinated our Mardi Gras pancake dinner. This is an awesome church. As I was told the other day, when some things happen, "it reminds me why we are here in this town. There needs to be a progressive and accepting place for all people." Well, that's close anyway.

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" Matthew 22:37-39

Peace and Blessings to all,

Rev. Ken

Worship in the life of our church

- March 4
 - Psalm 19
 - Focus Scripture: John 2:13-22
 - Worship Leader: Marcus Frye
- March 11
 - Psalm 107:1-3,17-22
 - Focus Scripture: John 3:14-21
 - Worship Leader:
- March 18
 - Rev. Ken on mission trip
 - Eric Whitfield visiting
 - Psalm 119:9-16
 - Focus Scripture: John 12:22-33
 - Worship Leader: Crystal Ballard
- March 25
 - Palm Sunday
 - John 12:12-16
 - Psalm 118:1-2,19-29
 - Worship Leader:
- April 1
 - **Easter**
 - Communion Sunday

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 update

The worship committee has met!! YEAH! We have planned our worship and music for March, and think you will enjoy some of the elements we hope will make worship more meaningful for you. We are always in need of more folks to help us with the worship and music for services. The time commitment is about one hour per month, and would usually be right after services the third or fourth Sunday of each month.

The worship and music committee members will help Rev. Ken and Celso to pick out music for the upcoming month. In addition, the members would help with ideas that might be used during our worship services, and for dressing the sanctuary.

Administrative Council Notes:

Minutes of all the administrative council meetings are available if you would like a copy. Everyone is invited to attend any of the meetings of the council. The next meeting will be March 11 after services.

PFLAG Laramie

PFLAG, or Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays will hold their March meeting on March 8. The meeting will be a pot luck, and everyone is invited. The group is still working to get the chapter recognized by the national office, and will continue to meet on the second Thursday of each month at St. Paul's. Come and enjoy some food, and hear about the plans ahead for the group. The PFLAG meetings will be on the second Thursday of each month at 6:30 PM.

Click the graphic to see a video about the 3 great loves initiative of the UCC



Youth Coordinator Position: Now Open

At our annual meeting, the budget was approved, and it included funds for a youth coordinator. If you have an interest in this position, or might know of someone who would, please contact Rev. Ken and let him know. This position would be for our youth (middle and high school), who don't attend Sunday school during worship. We also need some ideas of what the youth coordinator will do, so bring those to Rev. Ken or an administrative board member.



American
Red Cross
of Wyoming



Red Cross Training in Laramie

The American Red Cross of Wyoming will be offering a free, four-part training series in Laramie on four Wednesday evenings in March and April. These goal of these classes is to provide local residents with information on ways they could assist their communities following an emergency or disaster alongside the Red Cross. Below is the itinerary for our training series, along with a brief description of each of the classes. Please feel free to share this information to anyone within your network who may be interested in attending any/all of these classes.

I've also attached a flyer that can be used to disseminate all the relevant information for the training series.

- **March 28th – Disaster Action Team.** *Learn how you can respond to local disasters and work firsthand with clients to provide basic needs.*
- **April 4th – Sheltering Fundamentals.** *Learn how to open, operate, and close a Red Cross shelter in the wake of an emergency or disaster.*
- **April 18th – Response On Call.** *Serve as a dispatch for Disaster Action Teams. Time commitment is flexible and you can do it from your home!*
- **April 25th – Emergency Response Vehicle (ERV) Orientation.** *Learn about our ERVs and how ERV drivers assist communities following an emergency or disaster.*

There are flyers in the basement if you need more information

"For though my faith is not yours and your faith is not mine, if we are each free to light our own flame, together we can banish some of the darkness of the world."

Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks



www.JewishMonkland.com

He shared our past and shaped our future.

In 1962, the formation of the United Church of Christ was scarcely five years old when it gave birth to another union. This time two midwestern theological schools rooted in the Evangelical and Reformed tradition and in the educational efforts of the Congregational Christians established the “United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities” in New Brighton, Minnesota. It was a union of “Mission House Seminary,” an Evangelical and Reformed school in Plymouth/Sheboygan, Wisconsin and “Yankton School of Theology,” a Congregational Christian school in Yankton, South Dakota. The dean of the new school was Louis Herman Gunnemann, who served from 1962 to 1974.



Gunnemann (1910-1989) had attended Mission House and served as a pastor in Iowa and Indiana. In the 1950s he joined the Mission House faculty, later becoming its dean. Building on his studies at Princeton Theological Seminary and his active involvement in the ecumenical movement, Gunnemann helped chronicle and define the evolving UCC. His book, *The Shaping of the United Church of Christ* (1977) is still basic reading.

As chair of the UCC Commission on Worship, Gunnemann nurtured innovative new UCC worship resources—*Services of the Church*—booklets in a loose-leaf binder. Members of the Commission were impressed by his capacity to balance widely divergent views of liturgical and free church worship. Some years later he served on the worship commission of the Consultation on Church Union (COCU), focusing on the importance of worship liturgies in the ecumenical movement. He was a member of the United Board for Homeland Ministries and was assistant moderator of the UCC General Synod in 1975.

In the 1980s Gunnemann became one of two co-editors of a new journal—*PRISM: A Theological Forum for the United Church of Christ* that was sponsored by UCC seminaries to stimulate theological conversation in the church.

Contributor: David Beebe

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

***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