



ST. PAUL'S United Church of Christ
602 Garfield St., Laramie, WY 82070

www.laramieucc.org

Progressive Spirit news

NOVEMBER 2018 – VOLUME 9, ISSUE 11

Pastor's Bits and Bytes



It's November already, although I'm not sure where all of the rest of the year has gone. The month of October was a busy month for me. I attended an association meeting for Platte Valley,

our UCC association. Then I drove to Gillette to attend the Wyoming Interfaith Network annual meeting. While I was away at the meeting in Gillette, some of our members participated in the UW homecoming parade with the Laramie Ministerial Association. I spent the night at the Unitarian Fellowship, as St. Paul's was the support congregation for Family Promise along with the UU Fellowship. My thanks to Terri, Joe, and Marcus who are the support team for Family Promise. They can always use your help, so

November Events

- **November 4**
 - Communion Sunday
 - Stewardship series starts
- **November 8**
 - PFLAG meeting 6:30
- **November 11**
 - Youth Group
- **November 18**
 - Youth Breakfast
 - Laramie 150yr Interfaith Service at 2:00 PM
- **November 20**
 - Transgender Day of Remembrance – memorial at 6:30 PM
- **November 22**
 - Thanksgiving
- **November 25**
 - Youth Group

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



November Birthdays

- 3 – Rev. Ken
- 4 – Terri Given
- 5 – Carol Uhl
- 7 – Iris Buerkle
- 8 – Marcus Frye
- 9 – Grace Given

see Terri Given if you think you might be able to help with preparing a meal, sharing time with the families in the evening, or even spending the night with the families. As the program grows, so will the need for community members, and church members to help out.

During the month of November, we will be talking about and sharing ideas about stewardship for St. Paul's. There is financial stewardship, but also time and talents are stewardship. Begin thinking about ways you can contribute to St. Paul's, and ways you might be able to help St. Paul's as we share our community and resources with the Laramie community. This year the weekly topics of stewardship include: Gifts of Presence, Gifts of Faithfulness, Gifts of Word and Deed, and Gifts of Love.

I will be meeting with a church architect on November 8 who will look at the list of our ideas, and begin to help us create a plan moving forward. At this time no definite plans have been made, but once he has a chance to work on a design with our ideas and wants and needs, we will host a meeting with him like our discernment meeting. More information to follow, but it will come after the New Year.

I cannot write this article without mentioning the horrific events of the past week in Pittsburgh and Louisville. I was asked to participate in a healing ceremony in Cheyenne hosted by Rabbi Larry Moldo at the Synagogue. As I said when I spoke in Cheyenne, I do not know how to respond, but know that we must support each other as Jesus would want us to do. And, I must remind you to vote next week, if you have not already. While we may not all agree politically, I hope we can agree to the premise that each human person and life is important, and should not be taken lightly.

He shall judge between many peoples, and shall arbitrate between strong nations far away;

they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore;

Micah 4:3

Peace and Blessings to all, Rev. Ken

St. Paul's Community Sponsorships

As most of you know, St. Paul's Church uses the funds from the Springbrook Apartment sale to donate to various organizations in Laramie and other places. Some of those entities are: Interfaith-Good Samaritan, Soup Kitchen, Downtown Clinic, Hospice, and SAFE Project. What you may not know is that you may designate some of those funds to an organization that you would like to help. In the past, we have donated to Cathedral Home, Eppson Center, Special Olympics, Foster Grandparent program, Cheyenne VA, and others.

St. Paul's has an application form that you can fill out and turn in to a Council member or to Rev. Ken. You can request a certain amount of money to be donated to a charity. The Council will discuss all the applications it receives, and will disperse the money the best we can based on the amount of money we receive from the Springbrook Fund. It's possible that some requests will be fully funded, while others may be only partially funded or not funded at all depending on the availability of the funds and the Council's discretion.

Community Sponsorships are one way that St. Paul's Church gives back to our community, and you can help by making a request for a donation to be made to an organization that you think needs our help. Recently, Rev. Ken talked about service to others and mentioned the UCC's "Three Great Loves" campaign. Love of Children. Love of Neighbor. Love of God's Creation. This is a way to be of service.

Carol Uhl

Advent is approaching

Rev. Ken will have sign up sheet in the fellowship hall for anyone (or family) that would like to be a part of our Advent candle lighting ceremony each Sunday in December. If you would like to be a participant, please sign up so Rev. Ken can coordinate the service with you.

New Member Classes in November

Rev. Ken will be holding new member classes in November, and we will welcome our new members during a service in December. If you are not a member, or would like more information, please see Rev. Ken. In conjunction with the membership process, a few of our regular worshipers would like to be baptized, so look for a baptism ceremony toward the end of November. If you would like to become a member of St. Paul's, or be baptized, please see Rev. Ken for more information.

Administrative Council Notes:

The Administrative council had a meeting on October 21. There were no major items to be considered by the council. We discussed community sponsorships, stewardship, and worship for Advent. Rev. Ken gave an update on the three groups that are using our social

hall for meetings. There may be a group that wants to host a Thanksgiving dinner, but details are not complete yet. The next meeting will be on November 11.

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. The next meeting will be on Thursday, November 8th.

Interfaith Good Samaritan Collecting Donations

Interfaith Good Samaritan has published a list of needed items for the Thanksgiving baskets they will be giving out. The items needed are soup, vegetables, stuffing, and if you can, turkeys. You can help by bringing items to church, and it will be delivered to Interfaith before they set out the baskets for families. If you prefer, you can make a purchase at Ridley's or Safeway and just deposit your donation in the basket at the store.

Interfaith Good Samaritan is always in need of donations, as is the Clothing Cottage at St. Matthew's. Please pick up a wallet card in the back of the sanctuary for those items that are badly needed by Interfaith. Baby items are in short supply, so those are especially welcomed at this time.

Youth Group News

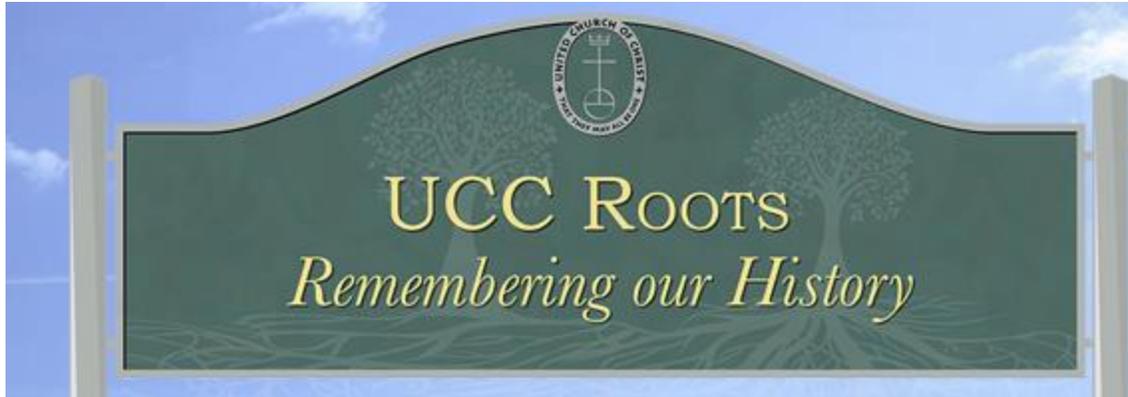
Three of our youth are attending the fall youth retreat with the UCC conference at LaForet the first weekend in November. This is the first time in over 10 years youth from St. Paul's have attended camp. Thank you for everyone who has been supportive of the youth group, and the work they are doing to raise money for Houston, the therapy dog for the Jr. High. The youth will also be hosting breakfast again on November 18 and December 2. Youth group will meet on November 11, and November 25. Youth will also lead worship service on December 16.

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.

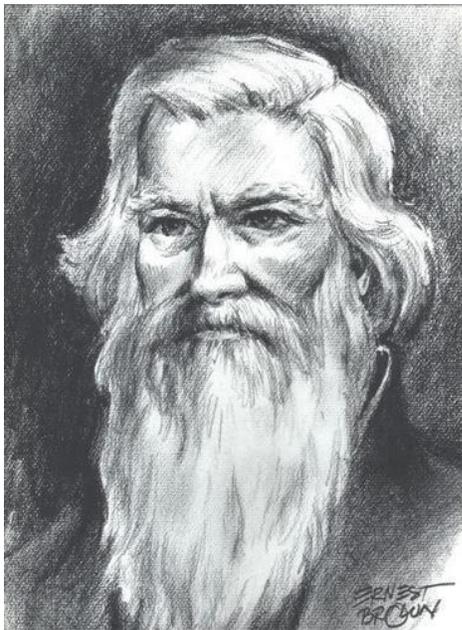
Don't forget to check out the Rocky Mountain Conference web page:

<http://www.rmucc.org>



James O'Kelly

Revolution was in the air. Between 1775 and 1783 colonial settlers in America fought a war that created a new nation committed to liberty, freedom, and human rights. They also had new ideas about the church.



James O'Kelly (1735–1826) was born in North Carolina. He rejected the Church of England and was inspired by Methodist revival preaching. In 1784 he was ordained a Methodist and appointed district elder for churches in Virginia and North Carolina.

O'Kelly had been a soldier during the Revolution and was imprisoned by the British. After the War, his attitudes about government, slavery and church practices changed. In 1789 he wrote a radical anti-slavery tract entitled "An Essay on Negro Slavery." It seems that in 1785, he freed a woman named "Dinah" who had been his slave.

For O'Kelly, slavery and all hierarchical systems were unacceptable. In 1792 he challenged how the Methodist Bishop assigned clergy to churches, arguing that clergy ought to have some say about where they served. His proposal was rejected.

In protest, O'Kelly and 19 other ministers withdrew from the Methodist Episcopal Conference and started calling themselves "Republican Methodists." They had fought a war to replace their King with a Republic. They believed that the church needed to break free from ecclesial authority. O'Kelly wrote *The Author's Apology for Protesting against the Methodist Episcopal Government*, articulating "republican" views of church rooted in scripture. Christ is the sole head of the church. Clergy and lay members should share decisions.

O’Kelly, and other like-minded Christians in the Midwest and New England, started hundreds of independent “Christian Churches.” They refused to act like a denomination. Yet in 1929-31 their passion for “unity” led them to partner with Congregational churches to create the “General Council of Congregational Christian Churches.” Several decades later, in 1957, they become part of the United Church of Christ.

Contributor: Sid Fowler

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