



# Progressive Spirit news

ST. PAUL'S United Church of Christ  
602 Garfield St., Laramie, WY 82070  
www.laramieucc.org  
307-742-7733

Photo by [Andrew Preble](#) on [Unsplash](#)

NOVEMBER – VOLUME 10, ISSUE 11

## Pastor's Post

I recently attended a Wyoming state wide PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) meeting in Casper. One thing that struck me as I rode home and thought about the meeting was that when I was much younger, PFLAG was mainly a support organization. Started by a proud mother with a gay son, she wanted there to be support for him and his friends. Soon, PFLAG was started, and grew quickly.

PFLAG National—the first and largest organization for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) people, their parents and families, and allies, has chapters in Casper, Gillette, Jackson, and Laramie.

PFLAG is not just a support organization, but is also an advocacy organization, taking on many issues. Check out the PFLAG national website <https://pflag.org/> to see what I mean. As I was thinking about what we talked about during that meeting, I realized that advocacy on the part of many is at the forefront of the organizations I support and belong to. PFLAG is just one such organization.

## NOVEMBER

- All Sundays
  - Stewardship
- November 3
  - Communion Sunday
  - Rev. Eric Whitfield - guest
- November 17
  - Honor Our Elders – Luncheon after worship
- November 20
  - Transgender Day of Remembrance – 6:30, United Presbyterian Church

*Continued on the next page*

The Laramie Ministerial Association of all Faiths is another group I am a member of. This past month the LMA marched together in the homecoming parade. In November the LMA will host a community Thanksgiving service. Members will also participate in the Transgender Day of Remembrance on November 20th. Both of those events are being held at United Presbyterian Church on Grand at 11<sup>th</sup>.

Wyoming Equality, where I am a board member, is one of the leaders in Wyoming for Equality of all. The main focus is on working on issues that affect the LGBTQI+ communities. WE also holds social functions around the state, places where LGBTQI folk and allies can gather in safe surroundings. I work with these organizations, I support them with time and money, and being involved in these groups helps me to be connected to the state.



## November Birthdays

- 3: Rev Ken
- 4: Terri Given
- 5: Carol Uhl
- 7: Iris Buerkle
- 8: Marcus Frye
- 9: Grace Given
- 18: Tara Mattimoe

During November St. Paul's will be doing our stewardship campaign. We will have bulletin inserts, stewardship moments, and articles in the weekly updates. Consider what ways you can contribute to St. Paul's with time, talent, money, and prayer. In addition to annual stewardship, this might be a good time for you to think about what your planned giving to St. Paul's might look like. Some of you have already made some

arrangements with St. Paul's regarding giving after your death, and your wishes for your funerals. If you have and would like to review those, see Rev. Ken. If you have not but would like to do so, there are many resources available, so please see Rev. Ken.

This is a busy month for us here at St. Paul's. There is the stewardship campaign, Honor Our Elders Sunday, Transgender Day of Remembrance, Community Thanksgiving service, and a potluck on Thanksgiving day.

Paul Cors began worshipping at St. Paul's 50 years ago. Paul, along with others in our congregation, will be honored on November 17<sup>th</sup> with a luncheon after worship. Betty Holmes has dubbed this 'Paul Cors Day', in his honor, and we will honor all of our elders. Plan to come enjoy the company of each other, and have a great lunch. Betty has told me the history books will be available that day as well. Come see how all Betty's hard work has become a 'classic' in it's time!

- November 24
  - Community Thanksgiving worship – 3:00 PM United Presbyterian Church
- November 28 – Thanksgiving Potluck
  - St. Paul's will host a Thanksgiving dinner / potluck at 1:00 PM. Come join us if you want to have lunch and make some new friends.

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

This year's stewardship theme is 'The Way', from this scripture:

**John 14:6** (NRSV)

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life...."

As we enter this season of the year, safe travels, good health, and blessing upon you,  
Rev. Ken



### Stewardship Moment: Caretakers of the Way

Humans leave traces of connection. The British naturalist Robert MacFarlane has written *"that once you begin to notice them, you see that the landscape is still webbed with paths and footpaths .... Pilgrim paths, green roads, drove roads, corpse roads, trods, leys, dykes, drongs, sarns, snickets –say the names of paths out loud and at speed and they become a poem or rite – holloways, bostles, shutes, driftways, lichways, ridings, halterpaths, cartways, carneys, causeways, herepaths."* Robert MacFarlane, *The Old Ways*, p. 13

Faith too is a path of connection but unless the way is practiced it disappears. Stewardship is the practice that generates and regenerates the path of faith.

Stewardship is less about sharpening our pencils and more about sharpening our tools for trail maintenance, equipping ourselves to be caretakers of the path connecting us to our Creator and guiding our steps.

Robert MacFarlane reports that in the 19<sup>th</sup> century small sickles were hung on stiles or posts where paths connecting communities began. Walkers would pick up the sickle or hook to lop off branches as they walked. They would then leave the 'hook' on the stile or post at the end of the path so a walker going in the opposite direction could do the same. This shared caretaking of the path benefited each individual walker but also the larger community.

The early Christian movement was known internally as well as to its persecutors as the way (Acts 9). The life of faith is a way of being human, a way of interpreting, a way of practicing, a way of living.

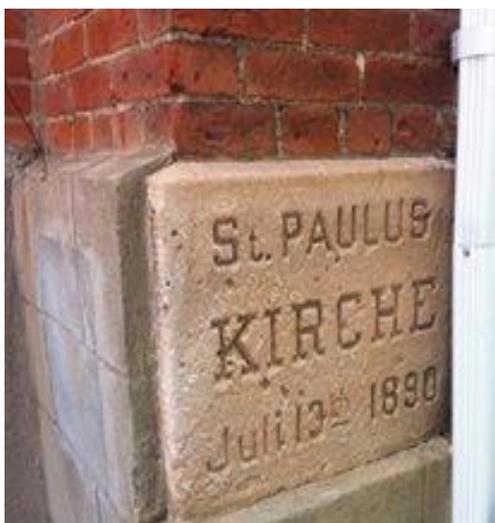
As we journey towards the reign of God, we are following in the tracks of others, ways walked by Jesus himself, paths as ancient as Abraham and Sarah. Today we are not just signposts pointing the way but the caretakers, the stewards of that way. Come and join in the way.

## **Stewardship Sunday, December 1st**

Pledge cards for time, talents and money will be distributed during November. for collection and blessing on December 1st. Please consider making a pledge, as pledges help us to create a budget for the coming year. Our stewardship drive will run from Nov 1 to Dec 1, with bulletin inserts, a letter sent to homes, and articles in the newsletter and in the weekly updates. Next year is our 130th birthday. St. Paul's has a long history, and could not be here without the support of the members.

## **St. Paul's is having a birthday, and next year will be BIG!!**

St. Paul's was founded in 1886. On July 13, 1890, the cornerstone was placed at St. Paul's. That was 129 years ago! Who knows, we may be the same size now as the founders of St. Paul's in 1890.



Betty Holmes has told Rev. Ken that the book is ready! Get your copy on November 17<sup>th</sup>. You may want to get copies for some of your friends as well.

We have received paint samples and carpet samples. During November, we will have them on display, and will ask you to help us pick what you like. If nothing suits you, let Rev. Ken or Betty Holmes know what you would like to see. The architects are working on replacing the front doors as the first step to the process. Watch for updates. Work is anticipated to start after January 1, so that our worship is not disrupted during the Christmas and advent seasons.

## **Honor Our Elders Sunday - November 17**

St. Paul's will be holding a honor our elders Sunday luncheon on November 17th.. Paul Cors will be celebrating his 50 years of membership with us. Betty Holmes is coordinating a luncheon after worship that day. Please contact Betty if you are able to help her out.

## **Transgender Day of Remembrance - November 20**

St. Paul's along with United Presbyterian Church and the University of Wyoming Choirs will be holding a service of remembrance for all of the transgendered persons who were murdered in the United States since last year's remembrance service. The service will start at 6:30, and will include three choral pieces, the reading of the names of those murdered, and speakers from the community. Join us for this solemn service.

## **Community Thanksgiving Worship - November 24**

The Laramie Ministerial Association of All Faiths will be holding a service of Community Thanksgiving on Sunday, November 24 at 2:00 PM. The service will be held at United Presbyterian Church. This is our second annual thanksgiving service. Come meet some of your neighbors.

## **Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner - November 28**

Don is cooking a turkey, and bringing it to St. Paul's at 1:00 PM on Thanksgiving. We ask you to bring something to share, desert, veggies, salads, appetizers, it will all be good!! The Macy's parade will be over, so this is your chance to come enjoy some amazing food, great kinship with others, and have some fun. This is open to members and friends of St. Paul's, Our AA groups who meet here, our Death Café members whom we host, and those who may not want to cook a big dinner, or prefer the company of others on this day. Last year we had over 50 folk come for dinner, so join us this year and enjoy a meal, without all the work. Don is hoping that some of you will stay afterwards and enjoy some board games, and maybe some late afternoon leftovers and desert.

## **Advent: December 1 to December 24**

During Advent, Rev. Ken needs to have candle lighters and readers for the lighting of the Advent Wreath. If you are interested, please see Rev. Ken, or sign up on the board in the office.

We will also be using the UCC Advent Devotional, 'A New Earth'. Each week we will discuss a reading or two, and will solicit your input each week for which reading to discuss. This will take place during the 9:00 am hour each Sunday. Weekly attendance is not required, but you will probably enjoy coming every week.

## **St. Paul's generosity – two special collections**

We had two special collections this month. One was for Neighbors in Need, and \$391 was collected. The other was for Marcus, and \$560 was raised. I spoke with Marcus yesterday, the car is being towed in to get fixed today (Monday, October 28, 2019), and he asked me to make sure I let you all know how thankful he was for all of us, and our support for him. If anyone would like to talk to Marcus, I have his number, and if you would like his address, we can get that to you. If you have some time, he would not mind getting cards from us here at 'home'.

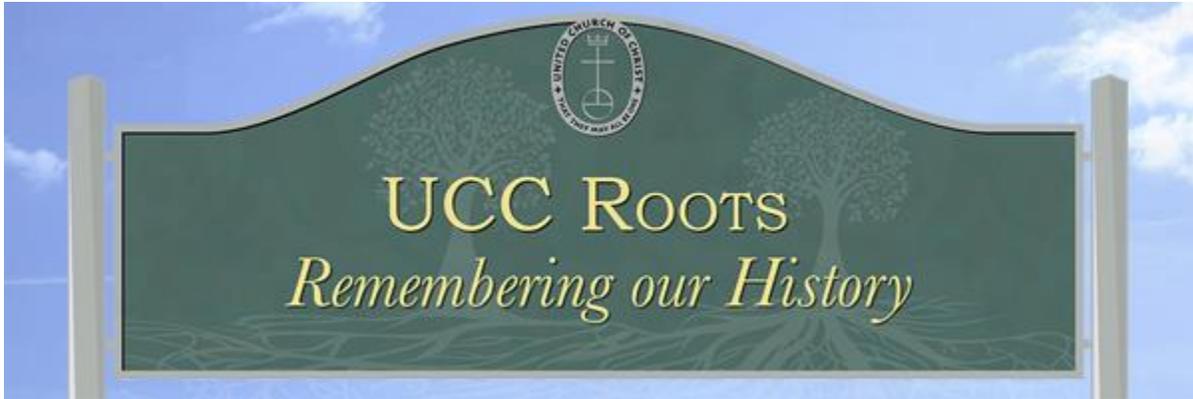
## **Laramie Suicide Prevention Hotline available**

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.

# Worship and church calendar:

## November 2019 Worship Calendar and Church Happenings

- November 3
  - Rev. Eric Whitfield guest preacher
  - Communion Sunday
  - Worship Leader: Carol Uhl
  - Accompanist: Nathan Sonnenschein
    - MV 17: God In The Darkness
    - NCH 202: O God, How We Have Wondered
    - NCH 478: I've Got Peace Like a River
    - Communion: NCH 335: Come, Gather In This Special Place
    - Luke 19:1-10
- November 10
  - Worship Leader: Crystal Ballard
  - Accompanist: Sean Stone
    - MV 182: Grateful
    - NCH 423: Great Is Thy Faithfulness
    - SING 217: Peace I Leave With You
    - Choir: Sing 21: Your Word
    - 2 Thesalonians 2:1-5,13-17
- November 17
  - Honor Our Elders – ‘Paul Cors Day’ celebrating Paul’s 50 years of membership – Lunch after worship
  - Worship Leader:
  - Accompanist: Nathan Sonnenschein
    - NCH 68: God Is Truly With Us
    - NCH 414: Incarnate God, Immortal Love
    - NCH 377: Forward Through The Ages
- November 20
  - Transgender Day Of Remembrance
  - Memorial Service at United Presbyterian Church: 6:30
- November 24
  - Worship Leader:
  - Accompanist: Sean Stone
    - NCH 376: God We Thank You for Our People
    - NCH 301: Crown With Your Richest Crowns
    - Sing 213: Wherever You Go
  - Community Thanksgiving Worship Service: 3:00 PM United Presbyterian Church
- November 28
  - Thanksgiving Day
  - Pot Luck and lunch at St. Paul’s at 1:00 PM
    - Turkey provided, bring sides, deserts, bread to share
    - Board games after the dishes are cleaned up



### “Michael Schlatter: Organized Churches and Cultivated Relationships”



On August 6, 1746, an adventurous Swiss pastor arrived in Pennsylvania, eager to serve as a pastor to new German Reformed emigrants. He was born in 1716 in St. Gall, Switzerland, and attended the University of Leyden. Although his youthful *wanderlust* involved travel and teaching for some years, he eventually focused on ministry. His name was Michael Schlatter (1716-1790).

Initially Reformed church leaders in Holland sponsored Schlatter’s mission, charging him to establish needed patterns of “polity” (church organization) for North American Reformed churches. Although Schlatter was called to be a local pastor, his mission was also to help new churches cultivate wider relationships and patterns of accountability

Schlatter saw that many Christian groups were establishing districts, presbyteries and conventions during the colonial period. Survival depended on collaboration. Schlatter established the “*Coetus*” – a German word for synod or an assembly of pastors and lay people in a geographic region. Within a year after Schlatter’s arrival, the “*Coetus*” of German Reformed churches in Pennsylvania was established on September 24, 1747 in Philadelphia.

Schlatter expanded his vision. He met Lutheran missionaries and together they were able to heal long-standing theological disagreements between the Reformed and Lutheran groups. Schlatter supported the establishment of “union churches” –whereby Reformed and Lutheran churches shared buildings. Some “union churches” are still in existence.

After German Reformed churches united with German Evangelical churches in 1934, and in 1957 became part of the United Church of Christ, collaboration expanded. In 1997, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and three Reformed denominations -- the United Church of Christ, the Presbyterian Church (USA), and the Reformed Church in America formed a four-way relationship of “full communion” known as the “Formula of Agreement.” These denominations continue to honor common sacramental traditions and recognize each other’s clergy.

Michael Schlatter set the stage for ongoing ecumenical relationships 250 years ago. *Contributor: Caroline Dunleavy*

**St. Paul's**  
United Church of Christ  
602 Garfield St.  
Laramie, WY 82070

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



### 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](mailto:revken1957@gmail.com)***  
***Rev. Ken's hours:***  
***Tue, Wed, Thur, Fri and Sunday***  
***mornings – call first to confirm***

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