

United Presbyterian Church Communicator

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PASTOR'S MESSAGE

LOVE came down at Christmas...

*Love came down at Christmas, Love all lovely,
Love Divine,
Love was born at Christmas, Star and Angels
gave the sign.*

*Worship we the Godhead, Love Incarnate,
Love Divine,
Worship we our Jesus, but wherewith for sa-
cred sign?*

*Love shall be out token, Love shall be yours
and love be mine,
Love to God and all men, Love for plea and gift
and sign.*

The Scripture readings for the four Sundays of Advent allude to the powerful Love that we wait for, that we witness at the coming of the Christ child, and that we embody as children of God – the Body of Christ. Christina Rossetti's poem reminds us that God's love lives among us and within us, and our love is a token of the presence of God still working today. Please join us each Sunday morning as we prepare for Righteous Love, Fearless Love, Liberating Love, Transforming Love, and on Christmas Eve as we celebrate the birth of Love Divine. As we move through this busy season, may Love be our sacred sign.



ADVENT STUDY

Please join us for our Advent study, "Rejoice! Reflections on Four Seasonal Hymns" on Wednesdays, 6:30 - 7:30pm in the North Lounge.

HOLIDAY COOKIE & FAIR TRADE SALE!

Saturday, December 11th, 9am – noon

United Presbyterian Church (11th & Grand)

Homemade cookies, pecans, Fair Trade and other food and gift items. All proceeds go to Family Promise of Albany County to support their services for families facing homelessness.

COOKIE DONATIONS REQUESTED!

- Drop-off dates the week of December 5th for the sale on Dec 11th.
- Contact Michelle Harris at upckidmin@gmail.com or 307-460-0275.

UW COLLEGIATE CHORALE AT UPC

The University of Wyoming Collegiate Chorale explores the Hope of the Holiday season. Hope is Praise, Hope is Light, Hope is Community. "Joyous Hope" will be on December 5th at 7:30 p.m. in UPC Sanctuary.

Tickets on sale at

[https://www.uwyo.edu/fineart_ticket/tickets.aspx?
EVENT_ID=563&EVENT_DETAIL](https://www.uwyo.edu/fineart_ticket/tickets.aspx?EVENT_ID=563&EVENT_DETAIL)

COOKIE PARADE

Join the deacons Sunday, December 12th to recognize the homebound members of our congregation. We will meet in the north parking lot at 1 pm, then drive our individual cars on a route past the homes of our homebound members. Last year, they felt the love of those who paraded past their homes and enjoyed the delicious cookies.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

LOGOS will meet then first 3 Wednesdays in December. Our month will end with the children presenting our annual **Christmas pageant on December 15th at 6:30 in the sanctuary. Families and the congregation are invited to join us for dinner on the 15th at 5:20 in the basement fellowship hall.** We will be off December 22nd and 29th. We will return January 5th.

The children will be working on the pageant during LOGOS afternoons. If at all possible, we ask that all mid and sr highs arrive for rehearsal by 3:45.

The **mid and sr high youth groups** will have two joint meeting in December. On the 5th we will meet at 1:00 for a gingerbread house building and decorating contest. On the 19th we will meet at 6:00 for dinner and a mov-

DECEMBER SERMON SERIES

Sunday worship live stream service can be found at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCyLkd7kE_l0acTnxJQ_Eg and through the UPC website.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Family Service 4:00 pm

Traditional Service 7:00 pm

CONGRATULATIONS!

Welcome to the world on December 1st, **James "Jake" Philip Gale.** Steve, Chrissy, Tyler and Carter couldn't be more proud! Our church family will be providing meals December 6-20. Please [CLICK HERE](#) if you would like to sign up to provide a meal.



WOMEN'S CIRCLES & MEN'S GROUP

Evening Circle will meet on Monday, **December 6th** at 6:00pm in the Fireside Lounge at the church. All are welcome any time! We will study Lesson Four, from the *Horizons* Bible Study. Contact the church office for more information.

Mary Martha Circle will meet Wednesday, **December 15th** at the home of Freda Dixon, 512 So. 26th Street at 12 pm. For lunch. We will continue our study "What my Grandmothers Taught Me", learning from the women in Matthew's Genealogy of Jesus. Isa Riley will lead us in a study of Ruth. You are invited to join us for prayer, study and fellowship. Please let Freda, fdixon@bresnan.net, or 760-9728 know if you are planning on attending so there is a seat at the table for you. We hope you will join us.

Rebekah Circle will meet in the church's Fireplace Lounge on Thursday, **December 16th**, at 9:30 am. Linda Sheets will lead us in Lesson 4, "Ruth and Loyal Love." Our hostess is Rita Ver Ploeg, and our co-hostess is Jan Dittimore. For information or to RSVP, please contact Pam at pamelagalbreath23@gmail.com.

UPC Men! Please join us at Perkins on the **1st and 3rd Saturday at 8:00 am** for great conversation! All are welcome!

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

The Church office is open Monday-Friday, 8:00-3:00 pm. Rev. Michelle Bacon's office hours are 9:00-5:00 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Wednesday 11:00-7:00. **The church office will be closed Dec 27-31st. If you are in need of pastoral care please contact Pastor Michelle on her cell phone.** We are all easily available through our cell phones and email listed below:

Any information you would like shared in the weekend reminders needs to be emailed to the office by Wednesday morning.

UPC's ELDERS AND DEACONS



Elders: Bryce Barker, Elizabeth Williams, Erin Irick
Kim Buchanan, Hank Kobulnicky,

Deacons: Codi Broten, Linda Haynes, Rita Ver Ploeg, Marla Smith,
Linda Sheets, Cheri Bellamy, Jan Dittimore, Pam Galbreath

CALENDAR OF EVENTS AT UPC

For a full calendar of events click on the calendar link. If you or your group wants to add something to the UPC calendar please bring it or send to the church office for approval. [CLICK HERE](#) for calendar.



REPORTS AND SESSION MINUTES

The UPC Session Minutes and reports can be read at our website at upclaramie.org/minutes/

MISSION

Testifying through love and action...

· **John 20:21**—Just a reminder that we'll have the opportunity this month to support the Presbyterian Church USA's programs providing help to current and retired church workers experiencing crisis through the **Christmas Joy Offering**. This offering also goes to the development of future church leaders attending our denomination's schools, universities, and colleges.

· **Deuteronomy 15:11**—The **Presbyterian Gift Catalog** will be available in the Overflow Room this month. By choosing an item from the catalog's extensive offerings, you'll be supporting the programs of our denomination's co-workers (missionaries) here and worldwide. These programs through education, equipment, supplies, water, and critters empower people to become self-sufficient and move beyond subsistence living. These programs impact entire communities.

· **Galatians 6:2**—UPC's fundraising efforts for **Family Promise of Albany County** has gotten off to a great start with the Thanksgiving Boutique that has morphed into the Christmas Boutique. You have noticed that Mission has expanded the items available to purchase and new items (check out the Key Lime Cheesecake Bar kits) are being added weekly until the Cookie/Bazaar on Saturday, December 11th. So far, the Harry Potter Chocolate Frogs with the free trading card have hopped off the table and will probably not reappear until found in Christmas stockings on the 25th. There will be many more gift items featured on the 11th, including free-trade items. Meanwhile, Michelle Harris continues to recruit cookie makers and helpers. Please see either Michelle H or Nancy Lick if you are able to volunteer—YOUR HELP is needed. Finally, get your entries in for the Mission Challenge by December 12th—the Golden Pecan awaits the winner. The details for the Challenge are found on the back of the Pecan Recipe Booklet available in the Overflow Room

· **2 Timothy 3:17**—Please [SIGN UP HERE](#) to sponsor one or more of our neighbors for **Community Holidays**. If you need help with registration, please contact Nikki Rogers at the church office. Your unwrapped gifts are due back to UPC by December 5th. Please watch the tree in the Overflow Room fill up with tags. We need to get all 72 tags on the tree to meet our commitment and, as of the 28th, there are 31 tags on the tree. We'll add a tag or tags as folks sign-up as sponsors. Please let Nancy L know if you can help sort the gifts at UPC or would like to help distribute the gifts on the 16th and 17th at the Baptist Church. God bless us, everyone! *Tiny Tim*

A MESSAGE FROM PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Personnel Committee encourages you to send a note to UPC's staff with thanks, blessings and encouragement for their work. UPC staff includes: Pastor Michelle Bacon, Church Operations Assistant Nikki Rogers, Director of Youth Ministry Michelle Harris, Director of Music Kathryn Harding, and Organist Donna Marburger. We also encourage a note of thanks to volunteers including Pete Lindahl in the Sound Room, Kim Buchanan as Bells Leader, David Jones as Praise Band Leader, Nurse Staff of Tanner Rogers and Aidan Buchanan, C4 Assistant Taylor Romshek.

STAR OF THE MAGI



Professor Henry (Chip) Kobulnicky, son of Hank and Celeste, will present the program, "The Star of the Magi" at the Planetarium December 10th at 7PM and December 11th at 2 PM. Call the Planetarium for tickets.

LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE

A service of hope and healing will be held at UPC on December 21st at 7:00 pm.



FOC & STEWARDSHIP

Thank you for your generosity! This is how UPC stands financially at the end of October 2021: Total Income 181,653.82; 82.52% of 2021 operating budget. Total Expenses \$208,086.11; 85.13% of 2021 operating budget. The ministry of UPC continues and relies on your generosity. Please consider sending your tithes and offerings through the [on-line giving](#) on the UPC website or mail through the US postal service. On-line is very easy and categories that you can choose from have been created to direct your donation to the correct place. There is a “Notes” box at the end of the form which will allow you to be more specific if you so desire. We now have a new fund on our on-line giving. It is called Miscellaneous Non-Charitable Payment. This can be used for such things as Easter Flowers, Congregational Life events such as the Faith Day at the Rockies, Mission nuts sales, VBS donation, etc.

BIBLE STUDY

We will take a break from studying the Gospel of John during Advent. Mary and Celeste will put together 5 sessions based on the book Sent by Jorge Acevedo. It is not necessary to purchase the book to participate. Newcomers welcome. Come and bring a friend to whichever sessions your schedule allows. Scripture readings are short, and the format is informal discussion. Questions? Call Mary Prather or Celeste Kobulnicky. Join us in person or via zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83791027076?pwd=MzIhNmFo1ZzdUcXI4NmVTNm5lV0RiQT09>

SESSION SUMMARY NOVEMBER 2021

At their November 16, 2021 meeting the Session of UPC:

- Examined and approved Art and Judy Snoke for membership
- Heard a report from the Property Committee on information being gathered re: replacing the boiler and learned that there are memorial monies available for this
- Approved displaying the “history of the stained-glass window” next to the newly restored window
- Agreed to host the Presbytery’s Youth Ski Trip, date TBD
- Changed the date of the December Session meeting to December 14
- Approved the following worship services in December: The Longest Night, Dec 21, 7:00pm; Christmas Eve Family Service, 4:00 pm, and Traditional Service, 7:00 pm
- Continue the “Fifth Sunday of Service” in 2022 (January, May, July, and October)
- Affirmed current precautions for Covid
- Postponed until December meeting a request from Sampson Construction to allow a time lapse camera in the bell tower
- Received reports for information from the staff and committees

FAMILY PROMISE

While UPC will not be hosting Family Promise in December, we have an excellent opportunity to support the program. On December 11th UPC will host our annual Cookie and Fair-Trade Sale. We will be accepting cookie donation up until the sale starts at 9:00 am on the 11th. Not only can you support the sale by providing cookies, you can purchase cookies as well as some great items from 10,000 Villages, Frontier soups, and Intermountain Specialty Food Group. All profits from the sale will be donated to Family Promise.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Congregational Life would like to invite everyone to cheer on our UW Cowgirls Basketball team at their game against Fresno State on Sunday, January 9th at 1:00pm. Tickets are \$5 for those 13+ and free for those 12 and under. All tickets must be purchased by 12/30. Please call Nikki or email her at upclaramie@gmail.com. Go Cowgirls!

Congregational Life would like to thank all who participated in UPC's first ever Advent Cafe! We had more than 50 people come for brunch, advent decorating and crafts. We so appreciate everyone who brought in delicious dishes to share with others. Thanks to everyone who helped prepare the Sanctuary for Advent with the paper hearts, setting up the tree and decorating wreaths. We loved the creativity of those who made ornaments to take home. It was so nice to see so many generations of members and friends get together until after 12:30!

Congregational Life invites you to share in a Christmas Eve Cocoa! We hope you'll join us, after the 4:00 and 7:00 services, for a festive hot cocoa before you head home in anticipation of celebrating the birth of our Savior.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE EVENTS COMING SOON

December 15: LOGOS Pageant and Chili Supper



December 24: Cookies & Cocoa



January 9: UW Girls Bball

UW COWGIRLS
BASKETBALL

JOIN US
1:00 PM
JANUARY 9th
UW VS FRESNO

TICKETS \$5.00 KIDS 12 and UNDER FREE
SIGN UP BY 12/30/21

CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE
FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Congregational Life Event