

FEBRUARY 2023

UPC NEWS



United Presbyterian Church Communicator

PASTOR MESSAGE

Lent begins on **Ash Wednesday, February 22**. There will be a community worship service at St. Paul's Newman Center at noon, and in the evening at 7:00 pm at UPC we will begin our Lenten journey together with readings, prayer, music, and the imposition of ashes.

There are three traditional practices for Lent that come from Matthew 6; prayer, fasting, and giving. While all three fit well together, it can be hard to focus on all three at once. This year, during Lent, we are going to focus on **PRAYER**. There will be a **Daily Devotional** from the *Presbyterian Outlook* called *Examen: Inward work for outward living*, which will explore the ancient spiritual prayer practice of *examen*. Each daily reflection will combine personal reflection with meditation, visualization and short prayers. The Christian Education Committee will also provide a **Weekly Lenten Study following worship on Sundays - March 5, 12, 19, 26, and April 16, 23** on *The Lord's Prayer; The Meaning and Power of the Prayer Jesus Taught*, by Adam Hamilton. It is a DVD based study and while the book is useful it is not required. Books can be purchase through Amazon or Cokesbury, or ask Nikki if you need assistance. There will also be two Intergenerational evenings on March 22 and 29. You can find details under *Christian Education* below.

Pastor Michelle

WOW SERVICE

Join us for our February WOW (Worship On Wednesday) Service TODAY, **February 1st** at 6:00 pm. This is an interactive service for children and families. All ages are welcome.

SOUPER BOWL

The Souper Bowl Competition will be held on **February 5th and 12th**. The stadium collection table will be set up as soon as the teams are determined. There will be a stadium for each team so put your soup into the stadium for the team that you predict will win. All donated soups will be taken to the Interfaith Food Pantry.

SOUPER BOWL COOK-OFF

Congregational Life hopes you will plan to join us on Sunday, **February 5th**, right after church, for our Souper Bowl Challenge! We need judges to judge soups. We also need UPC members and friends to sign up to bring their best soups to be judged and eaten! Congregational Life will have bread, crackers, and drinks. We will eat in Fellowship Hall in the basement. The judges will award prizes for their top 3 soups. Everyone eating can vote to award our People's Choice winner. We request you bring in canned soup for Mission Committee's Souper Bowl challenge to the lunch. We hope you'll join us for some good soup and great fun!

[SIGN UP HERE](#)

FEBRUARY SERMON SERIES

Sunday worship live stream service can be found at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCyLkd7kE_It0acTnxJQ_Eg and through the UPC website.

INQUIRER'S CLASS

What does it mean to be Presbyterian? How do you become a member of UPC? What are the responsibilities of membership? If you have been considering any of these questions, join us on **February 19 and 26**, following worship, to learn more about becoming a UPC member. Please RSVP to Pastor Michelle upclaramiepastor@gmail.com. Child care is available upon request.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The Christian Education Committee will meet following church on February 12.

LOGOS will continue to meet in February with the exception of Ash Wednesday. LOGOS Sunday will be held on February 12. Please plan on having your children at church.

CE will be offering two opportunities for **intergenerational experiences during Lent**. We will meet at 5:30 on March 22 and 29 in the Fellowship Hall. A soup dinner will be provided.

The **Mid and Sr. Highs** will be having a **ski day at Snowy Range** ski area on February 25! Todd Bacon will be with us to help any novice skiers. Please RSVP to Michelle Harris asap and let her know if you need to rent equipment. Lift tickets have been donated and UPC will cover the rental fees. We meet at UPC at 8:00 am. Parents, watch your emails for more details to come!

We have reserved our **Senior High summer youth trip** with YouthWorks! Our youth will be traveling to Alamosa Colorado for service July 5-8, with a rafting trip on the way home in Salida. The estimated cost of the trip is \$500.00 per person. (Estimate based on 10 participants). Please let me know if your youth will be attending as soon as possible as we need to lock in our numbers! Please let me know if you have any questions.

NEW FOC COLLECTION POLICY

Per the Book of Order, the Session is responsible for overseeing the money that is collected at UPC (G-3.0205).

To increase communication and to hopefully facilitate this process, when a group or committee is collecting goods (money, clothes, food, etc.), please let the Financial Oversight Committee (FOC) know **BEFORE** it occurs so that they can send a recommendation to Session. Please include 1) the purpose of the collection, 2) how or where the collected goods are stored, 3) how it will be distributed, and 4) who is the owner of this collection.

This is to include any ad hoc giving opportunities outside of the current recurring annual giving events such as a freewill offering.

You may email your request to the FOC chair. A calendar of approved giving events for the year will be available in the posted church calendar.

When in doubt, please send to FOC. Thank you!

[Adopted by UPC Session, January 22, 2023]

JANUARY SESSION SUMMARY

At their January 23, 2023 meeting, the Session of UPC:

- Discussed Chapter 7 of Growing Young
- Confirmed the final Operating Budget for 2023 with a \$18,658.23 deficit
- Approved a new Collection Policy from FOC to be shared with the congregation at the Annual Meeting
- Agreed that a policy/process was needed for outside groups/individuals who want to make presentations or provide workshops at UPC; David Jones volunteered to create a first draft
- Change the March Session meeting to Tuesday, March 28, 5:30 pm
- Will revisit the discussion about Houses of Hope at the February meeting
- Adjourned with Prayers of Gratitude
- Next meeting will be February 12 at 11:00 am

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

The Book of Luke Bible study continues on Tuesdays 9:30am in the North Lounge. For more information, contact Celeste Kobulnicky or Mary Prather. All are welcome to attend.

WOMEN'S CIRCLES & MEN'S GROUP

Mary Martha Circle will meet Wednesday, **February 15th** at the home of Janice Shuster, 530 Beaufort St. #119 at 1 pm. Lynnette Hoover is our co-hostess. We will continue in our study "Celebrating Sabbath, Accepting God's Gift of Rest and Delight". Freda Dixon will lead lesson number 6 titled Sabbath and Hospitality. You are invited to join us for prayer, study and fellowship. Please let Freda, fdixon@bresnan.net, or 760-9728 or Janice jmshust@outlook.com or 745-3132 know if you are planning on attending.

Rebekah Circle Rebekah Circle will meet for Social & Study time on **February 16th** from 9:30 to 11:15 in the church's Fireplace Lounge. Marla Smith and D. J. Yocom will be our hostesses, and Corrine Seebart will lead us in "Lesson Six: Sabbath and Hospitality" of the Horizons Bible Study. For more information, email Pam at pamelagalbreath23@gmail.com. Guests are welcome.

Evening Circle will meet **February 16th**. We will meet at 7:00 in the Fireside Lounge. We will study chapters 9-15 of the book Lamb: The Gospel According to Biff, Christ's Childhood Pal. For more information contact the church office. All are welcome!

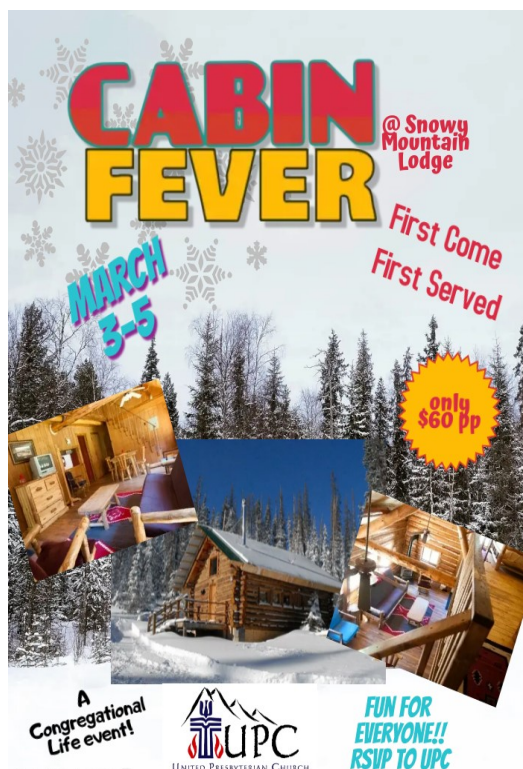
UPC Men! Please join us at Perkins on Saturday, **February 4 and 18th** at 8:00 am for great conversation! All are welcome!

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Please be sure to get the following events that interest you into your calendars now! We will send monthly reminders for activities as well, so watch the Communicator and Weekend Updates. We'll also be looking for helpers for any of the events. If you can volunteer some time, let Hillary or Nikki know by emailing upclaramie@gmail.com or calling the church office at 742-2061.

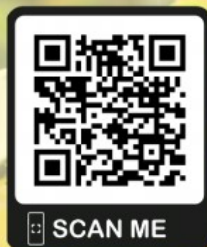
Feb 5 Souper Bowl Cook-off
March 3-5 Cabins
April 2 Palm Sunday Potluck
May TBA Movie & Conversation
June 11 Spring Spruce Up
August TBA Rockies Faith Day
Sept 17 Desserts to Die For
Oct 29 Trunk or Treat

Feb 22 Ash Wednesday Simple Supper
March 12th Tea
April 16 Tour of the World Lunch
May 28 Sunday Sundaes
July Lake Day
August 13 Grilling on the Green
Oct 8 Fall Spruce Up
Nov 19 Advent Cafe
Dec 13 LOGOS pageant



Congregational Life is planning another fun weekend at Snowy Mountain Lodge on **March 3-5**. The cabins are located just above Centennial. Cost is \$60 per person for the weekend. A deposit of \$30 per person is required with your registration. Registration forms can be found just outside the sanctuary or by emailing Nikki upclaramie@gmail.com. The cabins have a bathroom with a shower/toilet/sink, kitchenettes including fridge, oven, stovetop, limited dishes, bedding, towels and more. You do have to walk a short distance to the cabins. The caretaker can help get luggage to your cabin with their snowmobile. Cabins will be awarded on a first come, first paid deposit basis. Join us for fun in the snow!

YOU ARE INVITED



6TH ANNUAL

Trattoria Promessa

GALA DINNER & SILENT AUCTION

Alice Hardie Stevens Center

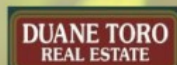
February 18, 2023

Starts at 6:00 PM

**TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE
NOW! PLEASE VISIT:**

<https://www.accelevents.com/e/trattoriapromessa>

Thank you to our sponsors:



SHELTER PROGRAM SUCCESS STORY

A mother and her son came to our organization in need of assistance. They were homeless and had nowhere to live. Despite starting from square one, the mother was determined to provide a better life for her son and was motivated to make a change. One of the main challenges the mother faced was her lack of employment and the difficulty of finding a job in her current circumstances. With our help, the mother was able to secure a job and she also received assistance in finding and applying for an affordable apartment. The mother and son moved into their new apartment after a stay in our shelter program and they were so excited to have a safe and stable place to call home. The son is now excelling in school and the mother says she feels more stable financially. Our organization is incredibly proud of this family's progress and we are thrilled to have played a role in helping them achieve their goals. Their story is a testament to the hard work, determination, and resilience of our clients, and the positive impact that our services can have on families in need.

OPERATION COST NEEDS

In order to cover operation costs, we need to raise \$142,000 annually. We achieve this through grants, donors, and community support. We could not help families the way that we do without the generosity of the Albany County community!

DONOR HIGHLIGHTS

Thank you to our many generous donors throughout Albany County who make everything we do possible! Some of our major donors over the past year include:

United Way of Albany County

The Still Liquors

Guthrie Family Foundation

Mary Mountain's Cookies

Rocky Mountain Power

Wyoming Hunger Initiative

One West Real Estate

Ace Hardware

Duane Toro

First Interstate Bank

Laramie Police Department
Foundation

Wyoming Community Foundation

City of Laramie

Zonta Club of Laramie

Critter Home Care

MISSION

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE FOR YOUR PICK TO WIN THE SUPER BOWL—on February 5th and 12th at UPC's Souper Bowl you can vote for your "pick" for the winner of the Super Bowl. Just mark your canned or boxed soup (mixes are accepted) with the adhesive dot that is provided – green for the Eagles and red for KC Chiefs—and put your "vote" in the specific team's stadium. All Souper Bowl donations ending on Super Bowl Sunday will be donated to the Interfaith Food Pantry for their clients' supper bowls.

TACKLE



HUNGER

THE CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING of \$837 has been sent to the Wyoming Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault located here in Laramie for their important work in prevention, education, training, and legal assistance.

THE CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING of \$1055 has been sent to Presbyterian Church USA. This special offering supports church workers in need and the development of church leaders from underrepresented groups.

COMMUNITY HOLIDAYS 2022 over 200 individuals including 79 children and 33 residents of Spring Wind were served by the program. New bikes donated by the Laramie Fire Department and rehabbed bikes collected by the various police agencies were raffled off. The Vedauwoo Fire Department arranged for 38 live trees to be distributed. UPC also donated lots of cookies and candy along with a raffled \$50 gift certificated to the Church's Bazaar.

Mission is truly grateful to all who made these "gifts" possible.

GIVING CATALOG

Looking for that special something to celebrate your favorite people this year? The Presbyterian Giving Catalog has you covered with five categories of gift giving options, each one representing a meaningful cause. Find one that's close to their heart and send them a gift they're sure to remember.

Choose an item from:



[Agriculture](#)



[Aid, Kits and Tools](#)



[Livestock](#)



[People](#)



[Water](#)

For the thoughtful gift-giver, our honor cards let you plan ahead for all your special celebrations! [Give today](#) and schedule your surprise for someone on any day that's meaningful — whether it's sent via email or snail mail. This year, you can take steps toward improving the lives of others by supporting these important causes through the Presbyterian Giving Catalog.

FOC & STEWARDSHIP

Thank you for your generosity! This is how UPC stands financially at the end of December 2022:

Total Income \$222,018.74; 99.9% of 2022 operating budget.

Total Expenses \$252,766.66; 97.6% of 2022 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 nut sales, VBS donation, etc.

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 11:00-5:00. We are all easily available through our cell phones and emails. Any information you would like shared in the week-end reminders needs to be emailed to the office by Wednesday morning.

The office will be closed Monday, February 20th in observation of President's' Day.

UPC's ELDERS AND DEACONS



Elders: Bryce Barker, Elizabeth Williams, Erin Irick, Isa Riley, Hank Kobulnicky, John Galbreath, Donna Marburger, David Jones

Deacons: Nancy Fillion, Linda Haynes, Linda Sheets, Cheri Bellamy, Jan Dittmore, 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/. Call the church office if you are in need of the password.