

MAY 2023

UPC NEWS



United Presbyterian Church Communicator

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

At last weekend's meeting of the Presbytery of Wyoming, we had the privilege of being led in worship by the three leaders of the three New Worshiping Communities (NWC) in our presbytery. On Saturday our meeting was held at the venue one of them meets in. On Sunday morning I shared how these three communities are part of the 1001 NWC initiative of the General Assembly of the PC(USA). Over the last ten years, 750 varied forms of church have been raised up by leaders seeking to ignite discipleship and transformation. Almost half are communities of color, many of them recent immigrants to the US. NWCs are bringing people to Christ by successfully reaching out to the unchurched (those who have never been religious), to the dechurched (those who used to be religious but have given up on church), and to individuals from other religions. You have helped support and sustain these new forms of church through your per capita. The next NWC planned in our presbytery is here, on the campus of UW. The Presbytery of Wyoming is currently searching for a Director of Campus Ministry that is intentionally to combine UKirk (the campus ministry arm of the PC(USA)), and 1001 NWC.

If you would like to see more stories of NWCs across the US, there are short videos here: <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/1001-2/about-1001/videos/> The websites for the three NWCs in the Presbytery of Wyoming are here:

Pine Ridge Ministries: <https://www.pineridgeministries.org/about>

The Table: <https://thetablecasper.org/>

Red Clay Abbey: <https://www.redclayabbey.org/>

May we all be challenged and inspired by these vibrant new forms of church as we seek to obey Christ's commission to be disciples who make disciples.

Joyfully,

Michelle

MAY IS MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

May is Mental Health Awareness Month, a time where we can turn our attention to the emotional well-being of ourselves and those around us. Follow this link from the PC(USA) for resources for both children and adults, and information on identifying emotions, processing our feelings and experiences, trauma-informed care, and more.

<https://mailchi.mp/pcusastore/2rap4ldyit-1145894?e=0e453c1a88>

DEACON'S DONATION

In honor of Mother's Day and the wonderful women in our lives, your UPC deacons have made a donation to STORK SUPPORT. This non-profit agency is an extremely valuable resource for mothers in our community who are unable to afford essential and expensive items (car seats, pack-and-plays, breast pumps) for their newborns. As an Obstetrician/Gynecologist, Dr. Samantha Herriott, recognized this need and began Stork Support with a grant from the WY Department of Health. Now, however, the program is primarily funded through private donations and costs around \$10,000 annually. We are very grateful that we at UPC can be a part of this compassionate and caring project.

PENTECOST OFFERING MAY 28th

A gift to the Pentecost Offering helps the church encourage, develop, and support its young people, and also address the needs of at-risk children. 40% of the Pentecost offering can be retained by individual congregations wanting to make an impact in the lives of young people within their own community. The decision was made to use UPC's share for the Whiting High School that is an Alternative High School serving ACSD1—grades 9-12. The remaining 60% is used to support children-at-risk, youth, and young adults through ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

GRADUATES


We will be recognizing our graduates on May 14th. Congratulations to LHS graduates Aidan Buchanan, Brayden Williams, Sophia Killeen, and Jesse Prather.



PRESBYTERY OF WYOMING LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

A gathering at Camp Story to meet the Holy on the mountain! Let us develop a more generous trust and love within the presbytery. An event sponsored by the Evangelism, Church and Leader Development Committee for leaders in the Presbytery of Wyoming.

- ⇒ Arrive at 1pm on Tuesday August 8 and leave after lunch on Thursday August 10
- ⇒ Registration open for up to 50 members of the Presbytery of Wyoming
- ⇒ Cost is \$75 for room/board, payable on August 8 when you arrive.
- ⇒ Program to center on group work and fellowship of the church
- ⇒ Mark calendars and register no later than July 1 at aa.presbywy@gmail.com with your name, church, email, phone and dietary needs.



Ice Cream

PENTECOST SUNDAY SUNDAES

After Church May 28
in the North Lounge

A Congregational
Life event

Made with PosterMyWall.com

USHERS NEEDED!

Do you like giving things away for free (bulletins)? Do you like taking other people's money (offering)? Then being an usher at the UPC is for you! The responsibilities are few, but the need is great! If you are interested in serving as an usher from time-to-time, please contact the church office, or speak to David Jones, chair of the Worship Committee.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

A BIG Thank you to everyone who donated and or attended the youth groups Congregational Family Fun Night on April 21. Over \$1400.00 was donated to help cover the cost of our youth and leaders to travel to Alamosa Colorado in July.

We will have a **combined youth group on May 21** at the church.

Vacation Bible School will be held the week of June 12. Our theme this year is "Hero Hotline, Called Together to Serve God". Please reach out to Michelle Harris at upckidmin@gmail.com if you are interested in volunteering and to register your child(ren).

All the children are invited to bring a friend!

We are in need of a few recyclable items for VBS. They include:

Empty 16-ounce plastic bottles

Empty paper towel rolls

Newspapers

Please drop the items off in the church office or leave in overflow room on Sundays!

If you are still looking for camp options for your children and youth for this summer. Here are some options:

Camp Story - <https://www.campstory.org/>

Table in the Wilderness - <https://www.tablecamp.org/>

Highlands Summer Camp - <https://www.highlandscamp.org/>

WOMEN'S CIRCLES & MEN'S GROUP

Mary Martha Circle: will meet Wednesday, **May 17th** at the home of Freda Dixon, 512 So. 26th Street at noon for a salad luncheon. Each member is asked to bring a salad to share. We will continue in our study "Celebrating Sabbath, Accepting God's Gift of Rest and Delight with lesson number 9 titled Sabbath and Community. You are invited to join us for prayer, study and fellowship. Please let Freda, fdixon@bresnan.net, 307-760-9728 know if you are planning on attending.

Rebekah Circle will meet for Social & Study time on Thursday, **May 18th** from 9:30 to 11:15 in the church's Fireplace Lounge. Linda Sheets and Marla Smith will be our hostesses, and Linda Haynes will lead us in our final lesson of the season, "Lesson Nine: Sabbath and Community" of the Horizons Bible Study. For more information, email Pam at pamelagalbreathe23@gmail.com. Guests are welcome.

Evening Circle will resume in the fall.

UPC Men! Please join us at Perkins on Saturday, **May 6th and 20th** at 8:00 am for great conversation! All are welcome!

FAMILY PROMISE

UPC will not be providing meals for Family Promise again until the end of June. Another way of helping the program is to become a member of Club 307. Use this link to learn more:

<https://fpalbanycounty.org/donate-now/join-club-307/>

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.

CHURCH CHORES

Please consider helping with church chores during the coming summer. Two sign-up sheets are on a table in the overflow room. If you have questions, please address them to a member of the church property committee. Thank you!

SESSION SUMMARY APRIL 2023

At their April 17 meeting, the Session of UPC:

- Received verbal and written reports from the staff and committees
- Celebrated the generosity of UPC with ice cream! Pastor Michelle reported that in 2022 the combination of the PC(USA) offerings, youth mission trip fundraiser, and gifts-in-kind (health & school kits, Community Holidays, cans of soup, etc.) UPC gave \$23,092 to mission work beyond the \$12,050 for mission in the operating budget.
- Approved the recommendation from FOC to make the Christmas Eve Offering part of regular contributions unpledged rather than dedicated to a Mission designation.
- Changed the date of the June meeting from June 20 to June 13 at 5:30 pm.

MISSION

Many thanks to the members of the Mission Committee for their workshop on April 30th for the luncheon and to Gerald Van Campen for his fact-finding efforts at the Mexican Border. His presentation was highly informative. The Committee is happy to restart its in-person workshop series and are planning on several for the late summer and early fall. We hope to see you then.

For your consideration, **Wyoming Interfaith Network** is sponsoring three upcoming statewide events that look very interesting:

Call To Action—Mobilize for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons

- Sponsor—Riverton Peace Mission
- Action—a march from Tonkin Stadium to Riverton City Park for a rally
- Date and Time: Saturday, May 6th at 9:45 a.m.
- Where Tonkin Stadium in Riverton (parking lot at 121 N. 5th Street; Riverton Peace Mission will have a booth at this parking lot))
- Wear red and bring signs

May's Monthly Thursday Series

- Sponsor—Riverton Peace Mission
- Event—zoom workshop session
- Topic—Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons (MMIP)
- Speaker—Nicole Wagon
- To Register—go to < info@rivertonpeacemission.org >

Wyoming Interfaith Network Book Club sessions

- Topic—*The Faith Club: A Muslim, A Christian, A Jew: Three Women Search for Understanding*
- Session 1—May 15th, 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.; Session 2—June 21, 7:00 p.m. to 1 p.m.
- These sessions are a memoir of spiritual reflection in three voices that will make participants feel as if they are eavesdropping on these authors' private conversations, provocative discussions, and often controversial opinions and conclusions. The authors wrestle with the issues of anti-Semitism, prejudice against Muslims, and preconceptions of Christians at a time when fundamentalists dominate the public face of Christianity.

FOC & STEWARDSHIP

Thank you for your generosity! This is how UPC stands financially at the end of March 2023:

Total Income \$95,654.92; 37.76% of 2023 operating budget.

Total Expenses \$68,513.29; 25.37% of 2023 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.

MAY SERMON SERIES

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

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: The church office is open Monday-Friday, 8:00-3:00pm. Rev. Michelle Bacon's office hours are 9:00-5:00 Monday-Thursday. If you would like to make an appointment to meet with her please call the church office. On Tuesdays, from 10:00 am-1:00pm Pastor Michelle is in her office available for conversation. Feel free to drop in.

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, Isa Riley, Hank Kobulnicky, John Galbreath, Donna Marburger, David Jones

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