

JANUARY 2024

# UPC NEWS



United Presbyterian Church Communicator



## ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation is **January 28** at 10:30am. We will elect members to the Congregational Nominating Committee, approve Pastor Michelle's Terms of Call, and hear a financial report from Treasurer Hillary Utton. Mark your calendars!

## PER CAPITA FOR 2024 = \$45.63

[\$32.83 Presbytery of Wyoming, \$3.00 Synod of the Rocky Mountains, \$9.80 General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA)]

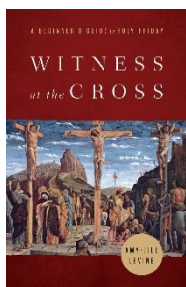
Thank you for your annual support that provides the means to strengthen the connections of our work together, and build lasting relationships to help all Presbyterians share God's love through mission and ministry. Members of UPC please make your checks payable to "United Presbyterian Church" and add "Per Capita" in the memo line, or make your payment online at [upclaramie.org](http://upclaramie.org).

## WOW SERVICE

Join us for our first WOW (Worship On Wednesday) Service of the New Year! **January 10 at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall**. This is an interactive service for children and families. All ages are welcome. Come early for dinner at 5:20 pm in the North Lounge.

## ADULT EDUCATION

The Adult Education class will return on the **2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays** following worship with a NEW DVD/Book study: ***Witness at the Cross***, by Amy-Jill Levine ("AJ"). AJ is a Jewish New Testament scholar and an energetic and engaging presenter. This study is actually a 6 session Lenten study that will conclude on Palm Sunday. The book is not necessary but can be purchased at your favorite online bookstore.



## 2024 PLEDGES

Our deep appreciation to everyone who has made a financial pledge to UPC for 2024. It takes all of us to provide the funds needed for UPC to put Christ's Love in Action. There is still time to turn in a pledge card in the offering plate, or to the office before the 2024 Budget is finalized for the Annual Meeting on January 28. Thank you!

## TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

The Bible study is on Tuesdays starting back on January 9th at 9:30am in the North Lounge. We will study the book of Acts. All are welcome to attend as your schedules permit. It is a good time to join the group in the New Year. For more information, contact Celeste Kobulnicky or Mary Prather.

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

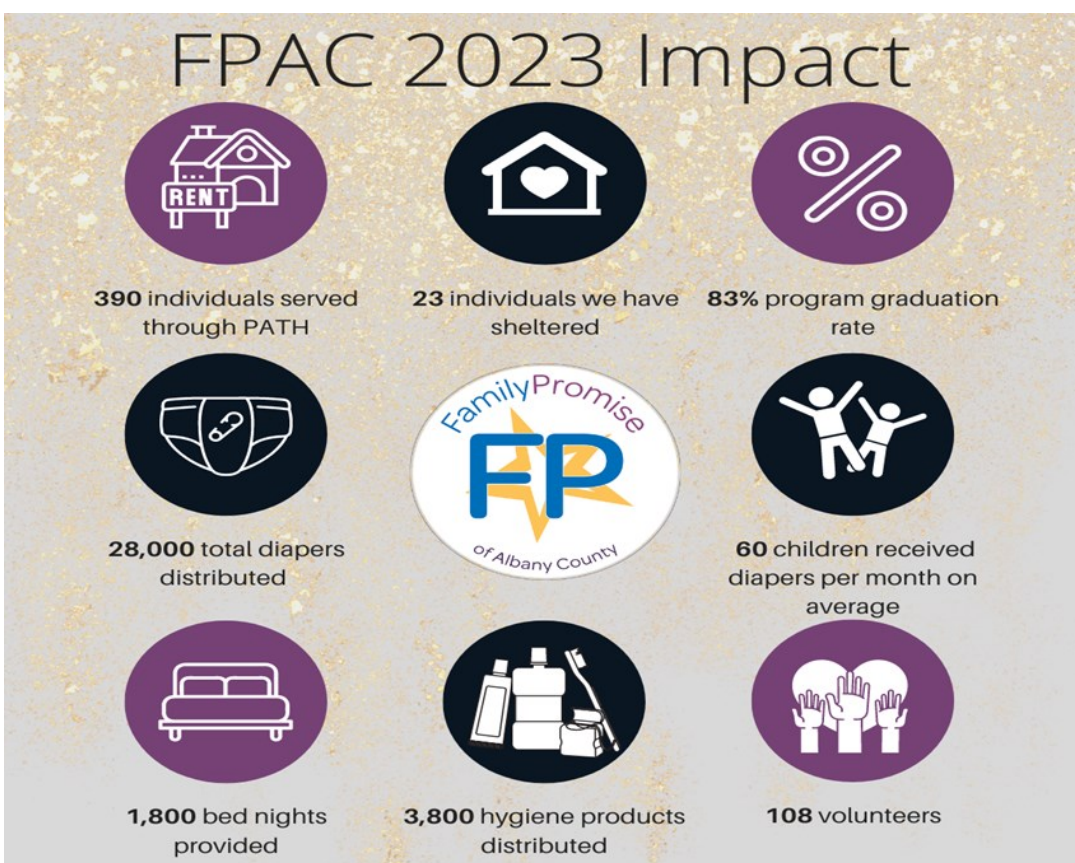
**LOGOS** starts back up on January 10. We will meet each week in January with the 17th being our annual “night out” to Laramie Lanes. Watch your emails for weekly LOGOS updates.

We will have a combined **mid and sr high youth group** outing on January 14. Watch your emails for more information as we get closer to the date.

The **Christian Education committee** will meet on January 7 following the 9:30 service. We are always looking for additional input. Please join us!

## FAMILY PROMISE

Once again Family Promise of Albany County has made a tremendous impact in our community. Please take a look at the attachment below to understand what they do! The 3rd Thursday of each month order online from Papa Murphy's and use code SHARE at checkout. The best part? 25% of the profits will support Family Promise of Albany County!



## JANUARY SERMON SERIES

Sunday worship live stream service can be found at [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCyLkd7kE\\_lt0acTnxJQ\\_Eg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCyLkd7kE_lt0acTnxJQ_Eg) and through the UPC website.

# **MISSION**

Mission hopes that everyone had a blessed holiday.

The February Communicator will provide the financial results of the **Holiday Bazaar and the Christmas Joy Offering** as those numbers will be clearer this month. Mission thanks all of our UPC Bazaar customers that were augmented by the friends and neighbors who were told about the event as well as the folks from Hospice. The most popular items so far this year have been the stuffed animals, the adult books, the jigsaw puzzles (adult), the critter pens, the adult coloring books, and the calendars. The Bronco items that were so hot last year were a hard sell this year.

Mission thanks Linda Sheets and Corrine Seebart for their help with **Community Holidays**. This year, the number of applications/individuals assigned to UPC was reduced at our request. This allowed us to limit the number of items for each tag. Mission had heard the comments on certain of the items and these concerns have been presented to the Community Holiday Planning Group. UPC is represented by Nancy L. She reminded everyone of the original policies of the program and how far it has deviated from these guidelines. This issue will be thoroughly discussed at their next meeting that will recap this year's program. One idea is that the application form will clearly spell out these limitations on requests but if there is a critical need, such as the wagon stroller for the mother waiting for a heart transplant, that there would be a separate application process generated by the non-profit working with the individual/family. For the first time, there were no attempts to "double dip" with applying to both the school and the Community Holiday programs. The system to check and double check with the schools to prevent this seems to be working. Meanwhile, the distribution process went smoothly resulting in a great many thankful people. It is wonderful to watch parents "shop" for the surplus items from Toys for Tots. They spend a great deal of time making sure the item that they have a chance to select is "perfect" for their child. This is the only opportunity that most have to "shop" and select gifts. The cookies and candy contributed by UPC in Christmas take-home bags were very well received though we ran out before the final distribution as we did with the donated holiday wrapping. The Vedauwoo Fire Department delivered 35 trees so the donated ornaments disappeared in a flash. What made Nancy's day was the woman who needs the transplant. She arrived slumped over and her attempt to smile wasn't matched by her eyes. When she saw the box holding her requested wagon stroller for two, she asked if that was for her. When assured that it was, she straightened up and could barely get her "thank you" out because of her real smile and tears. Nancy L only wishes that more UPC members would volunteer for one of the four two-hour distribution events and get to meet our neighbors in need whom we are helping. The stories shared by her and others reinforces the need for a program such as Community Holidays that replaced the Salvation Army's Angel Tree Program.

The **Presbyterian Gift Catalogs** will be distributed in January. Linda Haynes is scheduled this month for a Minute for Mission on goats with Nancy Weidel presenting on chickens in February.

UPC recently received notes from the **Downtown Clinic** and the **Laramie Thanksgiving Dinner**:

· Thank you so much for the very generous donation of 6 cases of yams (the large ones). We had our best year ever at nearly 700 meals served and then we had the privilege of sending leftovers to the Fairgrounds where the victims of the crash on I-80 were being gathered. We were given so much then to be able to give to others sure made my heart smile. We have so very much to be thankful for.

· Thank you for being a community partner of the Downtown Clinic and helping us provide Wednesday night dinners to our staff and volunteers removing one or more barriers for individuals to access care during late evening hours. We appreciate your support in providing high-quality care to friends and families who need a helping hand...we can commit to providing care and finding solutions for our clients because you have committed to us. Again, thank you.

The church thanks everyone who has worked on these efforts in our name. Thank each and every one of you.

Happy New Year...

Your Mission Committee



# CABIN FEVER

@ Snowy Mountain Lodge

FEBRUARY  
9-11

First Come  
First Served

only  
\$50 pp



A  
Congregational  
Life event!



FUN FOR  
EVERYONE!!  
RSVP TO UPC

## JOIN US IN THE SNOWYS

Congregational Life is planning another fun weekend at Snowy Mountain Lodge on **February 9-11**. The cabins are located just above Centennial. Cost is \$50 per person for the weekend. A deposit of \$25 per person is required with your registration. Registration forms can be found just outside the sanctuary or by emailing Nikki [upclaramie@gmail.com](mailto: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!

## SESSION SUMMARY DECEMBER 2023

At their December 19, 2023 meeting, the Session of UPC:

- Finalized a new Use Agreement and Lease with Family Promise of Albany County including rent of \$100 a month
- Called the Annual Meeting of the Congregation for January 28, 2024 immediately following the Worship Service
- Reviewed the Pastor's Terms of Call for 2024 to be approved by the Congregation at the Annual Meeting
- Approved Pastor Michelle's request to carryover 5 vacation days, 5 Continuing Education days, and 1 sick day into 2024
- Elected Gerald VanCampen Commissioner to the Presbytery of Wyoming, and Elizabeth Williams, Alternate Commissioner
- Approved a Provisional Operating Budget for 2024
- Thanked Isa Riley for her leadership and service on the Session
- Received written reports from the Staff and Committees

## **MEN AND WOMEN'S GROUPS**

**Mary Martha Circle** will meet Wednesday, **January 17th** at the home of Janice Shuster, 530 Beaufort St. #119 at 1pm. We will continue our study "Sacred Encounters. The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ" in Luke-Acts with Lesson #5. All women are invited to join us for prayer, study and fellowship. We hope you will join us.

**Rebekah Circle** will meet on Thursday, **January 18**, from 9:30 to 11:15 in the church's Fireplace Lounge. We will study Lesson 5 of of James Bryan Smith's book, The Good and Beautiful Life. Our hostesses will be Jan Dittmore and Rita Ver Ploeg. Guests are welcome. For information, contact Pam at [pamelagalbreath23@gmail.com](mailto:pamelagalbreath23@gmail.com).

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

## **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.

**The Church office will be closed January 1 and 15**

## **UPC's ELDERS AND DEACONS**



**Elders:** Art Snoke, Nancy Lick, Erin Irick, Isa Riley, Hank Kobulnicky, John Galbreath, David Jones

**Deacons:** Nancy Fillion, Linda Haynes, 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/](http://upclaramie.org/minutes/). Call the church office if you are in need of the password.