

APRIL 2024

UPC NEWS



United Presbyterian Church Communicator



“Holy Cow! Is an idiom used as an interjection to express surprise or excitement (says Merriam-Webster). It is also the name of a church consulting group, that hopes the experience clients have when they work with their tools is a “wow!” or “eureka!” moment.

The Session of UPC is hoping for the same thing. It is vital that we do some short, medium, and long-range planning this year, and gathering information from the congregation is the first step in that process. We want to hear from you! Watch your email for an invitation to complete the Church Assessment Tool (CAT), an on-line instrument that will help us gauge the strength, vitality, and trends in our church. The CAT is the only benchmarked, customizable assessment designed especially for congregation planning processes. The information gained from this assessment will be valuable in helping the Session as we make decisions about the future of UPC.

In mid-April, you will receive an email with a unique link to the CAT. Click on the link and tell us about your experiences in and priorities for our church. Please do not discuss the survey or your answers with others as this may influence their answers. Paper copies will be available at the church office with a self-addressed stamped return envelope.

All answers are strictly anonymous. We have no way of matching any assessment to a particular person, so please feel free to candidly share your perceptions, opinions and experiences. Our planning for our future together is dependent on your participation and honest answers.

If you have questions, please contact David Jones, or any member of the Session.

We are eager to hear the results and begin discerning the future of UPC.

With gratitude,

The Session of UPC: John Galbreath, Erin Irick, David Jones, Hank Kobulnicky, Nancy Lick, Ron Smith, Art Snoke, Hillary Utton, and Pastor Michelle



SESSION SUMMARY MARCH 2024

At their March 19, 2024 meeting, the Session of UPC:

- Received written reports from the Staff and Committees
- Explored, discussed, and approved using the “Holy Cow” Church Assessment Tool to gather information from the congregation to assist with vision planning and stewardship. This online survey will be available to the congregation mid-April.
- Next meeting will be April 16, 5:30 pm

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

We will have a combined **youth work day on April 21**, following church. We will celebrate Earth Day a day early by helping some members of our congregation with outdoor tasks. We will grab lunch after we are finished with the work. Parents, watch your emails for more information.

As we approach spring, summer is not far behind. While planning your children/youth's summer remember the following:

UPC will host **Vacation Bible School June 10-13**. Children entering kindergarten through 5th grade are invited to attend. We also will need mid and sr high helpers. Please let Michelle Harris know if your youth can help!

There are several great **church camp** options for your children and youth – Here are some websites for a few:

<https://www.tablecamp.org/>

<https://www.campstory.org/summer-camps-1>

<https://www.highlandscamp.org/>

FAMILY PROMISE

FP Giving Day: Thursday, April 11th

Similar to our beloved WyoGives this 24-hour online day of giving is designed specifically to support families in our programs that are currently facing or at risk of facing homelessness!

For this event, we are focusing on raising awareness and money for our Shelter Program. This program provides temporary shelter for families that have been displaced and are in need of a temporary place to stay while they work with us to find a new home!

Our goal for this event is \$5,000 which covers our yearly budget for our Shelter Program since we currently do not have grant funding to support the program.

If you have any questions or need more information about our Shelter Program, reach out to us at info@fpalbanycounty.org



MISSION

Mission will be meeting at the church on Tuesday, April 9th at 5:30 p.m. to discuss possible revisions to its 2024 plan. We want to determine whether or not the current version meets the needs/interests of the Congregation. Please direct any suggestions to Gerald VanCampen, Diana Denison, Patty Butler, Linda Haynes, Nancy Weidel, Dona Coffey, and/or Nancy Lick. The current plan contains the Bazaar, Disaster Kits, Community Holidays, Syria/Lebanon Involvement, clothing donations, the Souper Bowl, and the International Student Giveaway.

APRIL 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 CHORES

The UPC property committee is again asking UPC members and friends to assist with a variety of church chores during the summer and fall of 2024. The committee is providing two sign-up sheets, one for weekly lawn mowing, [CLICK HERE](#) if you want to sign up online, and one for miscellaneous other church chores, for your consideration. Please sign up for one or more chore, including your name and phone number. The sign up sheets are in the overflow room or you can contact the church office to have your name added. Completion of these chores by volunteers will save UPC a significant amount of money. More than one person may sign up for any chore shown below. After you have volunteered to work on one or more of the church chores shown below, a member of the church property committee will contact you to determine a mutually agreeable date(s) to complete the work and will organize additional volunteers to assist with the work as required. The property committee very much appreciates your participation in this effort.



Miscellaneous chores

<u>Chore number</u>	<u>Chores</u>
1	Remove leaves from east stairwells and window wells (autumn)
2	Paint windows in window wells - east side of sanctuary
3	Paint windows in window wells - south side of church
4	Paint windows in window wells - north side of church
5	Clean gutters - north wing
6	Extend screen at northeast stair well
7	Check and repair as needed - gutter guards along east side of sanctuary
8	Clean gutters along west side of sanctuary
9	Varnish cross on church sign
10	Repair drip irrigation system around north parking area

Lawn chores

11	Spray weeds - lawn and parking areas
12	Trim shrubbery along south side of the church
13	Trim hedges around parking lot
14	Reset yellow parking blocks in north parking lot
15	Remove weeds from around south handicap entrance door

Lawn mowing

The church lawn mower and gasoline are available in the wood storage shed in the east church parking lot.

<u>Week beginning</u>
5/12
5/19
5/26
6/2
6/9
6/16
6/23
6/30
7/7
7/14
7/21
7/28
8/4
8/11
8/18
8/25
9/1
9/8
9/15
9/22



MEN AND WOMEN'S GROUPS

Mary Martha Circle will meet Wednesday, **April 17th** at the home of Fre-da Dixon, 512 So. 26th Street at 1pm. We will continue our study "Sacred Encounters. The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts with Lesson #7. All women are invited to join us for prayer, study and fellowship.

Rebekah Circle will meet for Social and Study time on Thursday, **April 18**, from 9:30 to 11:15 in the church's Fireplace Lounge. Celeste Kobulnicky will lead us in our discussion of Chapter 7 of James Bryan Smith's book. Our hostesses will be Linda Sheets and Linda Haynes. Guests are welcome. For information, contact Pam at pamelagalbreath23@gmail.com.

UPC Men! Please join us at Perkins on Saturday, **April 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.

Pastor Michelle will be away from the office April 22-30 for vacation.

UPC's ELDERS AND DEACONS



Elders: Art Snoke, Nancy Lick, Erin Irick, Hank Kobulnicky, John Galbreath, David Jones, Ron Smith

Deacons: Nancy Fillion, Linda Haynes, Cheri Bellamy, Jan Dittimore, Pam Galbreath, Gerald Van Campen

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.