

AUGUST 2025

UPC NEWS



United Presbyterian Church Communicator

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

If you don't know where you're going, you'll end up someplace else.

-Yogi Berra

After several months of thoughtful, prayerful work, the Session of UPC has created a new mission statement to help direct where we are going. Using the information collected in the Holy Cow! assessment, they have captured the common themes expressed by you all that are at the heart of why UPC exists and what we aim to do:

**The United Presbyterian Church of Laramie
strives to embody Christ's love
by cultivating a welcoming & inclusive community
through worshiping, learning,
and serving our neighbors near & far.**

It is our intention for this to be a foundational statement for our future together; a guide along the way; and a measuring stick to hold us accountable. This is not going in a drawer to be forgotten. You will see and hear more in September when the new program year begins. But for now, I hope you will join me in open-heartedly praying about how you will join the "new thing" God is doing among us.

*Look! I'm doing a new thing; now it sprouts up; don't you recognize it?
I'm making a way in the desert, paths in the wilderness.*

Isaiah 43:19

SESSION SUMMARY

At their July 22, 2025 meeting, the Session of UPC:

- Approved the minutes of the May 20 regular session meeting
- Approved the minutes of the June 29 meeting of the congregation
- Completed a new mission statement for UPC
- Confirmed the new "Welcome" sign accompanied by explanation
- Received written staff and committee reports for information

P.I.G.G.S.

P.I.G.G.S. (Presbyterians in gourmet gatherings) get together is happening at the Haynes' home on August 8th. If you signed up but did not receive an invitation by email, please contact Nancy Lick (sadielady2@charter.net). The groups will be announced at this event. If you still wish to sign up, please contact Nancy, Linda (lghaynes93@gmail.com) or Marla (marlasmithr47@gmail.com). Please remember, all adults attending UPC are welcome.



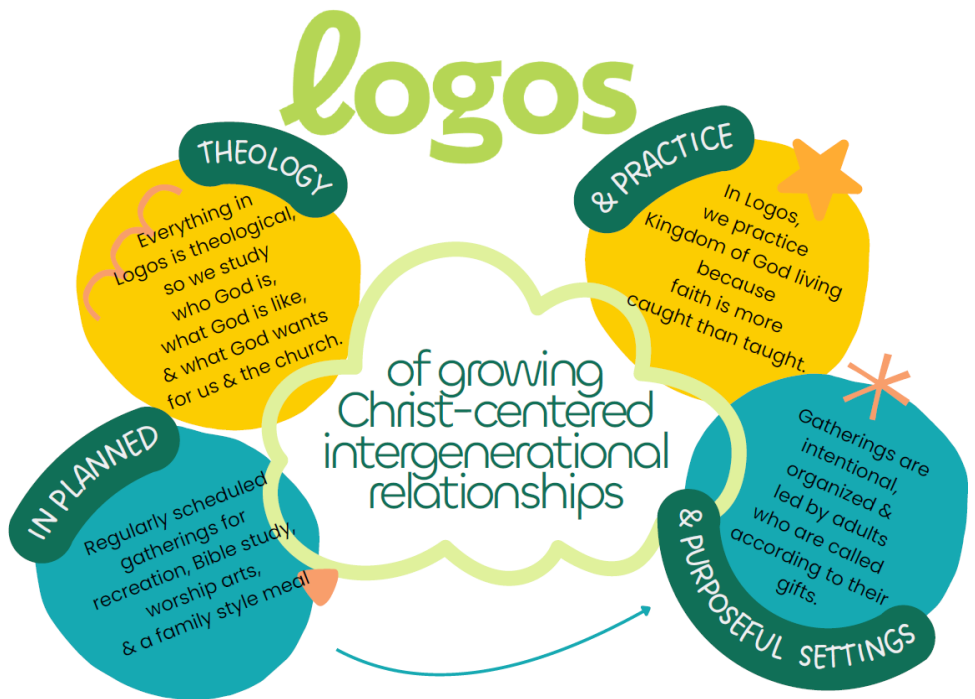
WHAT IS LOGOS?!

LOGOS IS an intentional time for all ages to experience activities that grow their relationship with God and others. At each Logos gathering, participants take part in Bible study, recreation, a family-style meal, and a variety of worship arts to lead in worship. These four parts are fashioned after the early church in Acts 2:42 (CEB), “The believers devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, to the community, to their shared meals, and to their prayers.”

LOGOS IS a planned ministry led by parents, grandparents and other caring adults who offer their God-given gifts in service to the whole church.

LOGOS IS growing Christ-centered relationships – setting our will to love one another as Christ loved us, giving each other unconditional, unearned, undeserved grace and love – is at the heart of the Logos experience. Learning to do this takes time and practice and Logos provides both in a safe environment.

LOGOS IS the theology and practice of growing intergenerational Christ-centered relationships in planned and purposeful settings.



WHO CAN HELP? Adults who:

- love God
- love young people
- have gifts to share

For more information please contact Michelle Harris at upckidmin@gmail.com

LAY PASTOR PROGRAM - EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

The Synod of the Rocky Mountains (and all the Presbyteries) have partnered with Dubuque Theological Seminary to offer training for those who are interested in becoming a Commissioned Lay Pastor or just taking one of the classes to help support the ministry of your congregation or the larger Presbytery. The preaching class has already taken place. However, the next scheduled class to come is:

August 11, 2025: Reformed Worship and Sacraments
October 13, 2025: Presbyterian Polity

The cost is lowered drastically, it is only \$150 to take one course – paid to the Presbytery of Wyoming. Contact your General Presbyter, Rev Jeromey Howard, to let him know you are interested/have questions/participating, and then contact the University of Dubuque as soon as possible and at least a week before the class begins. You can reach Becky Shellabarger at UDTs at rshellabarger@dbq.edu or DERegistration@dbq.edu.

MISSION

The Mission Committee again wants to thank all who donated to the Wind River Clothing Drive. If you want, you can check out the 90+ bags already sorted with about 10 more to go. They are in the room north of Marcia's Closet. The **Wind River Food Sovereignty Project** will be here to load their trailer in late August. Help will be needed to fill a space in the human chain up the stairs to get this onto their trailer. They will also be picking up our harvested chokecherries. Please let the committee know if you have been able to find chokecherries. We understand that a recent severe hailstorm took out their crop, but they are hoping that our donation will be able to have them continue with their planned project with their school age kids. Don't forget, we are invited to attend the agency's celebration on September 11th. See Nancy Weidel or Nancy Lick for more information.

Please use the shopping list found in the Sunday bulletins to get supplies for the Hygiene and Kids Kits for the **Gift from the Heart Kits**. The needed donations are also listed in the July Communicator or on the posters in the Overflow Room. We'll put the kits together in late October.

Jill Johnson has alerted the committee that the **University of Wyoming Household Giveaway** is being held on August 23rd. If you have donations, they need to arrive at the circle drive/parking lot directly across from the North door of UPC before 8 a.m. All items need to be set up by that time. All questions should be directed to Jill at jillj@uwyo.edu.

The Mission Committee will reimburse the \$25 registration fee for ZOOM to anyone wanting to attend the Fall Gathering of the **Syria-Lebanon Partnership Network** of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. scheduled for September 16-18 at First Presbyterian in Cheyenne. Just put a completed voucher in the Mission box in the North Lounge. The on-site registration fee is \$100. Volunteers are still needed for the registration desk. See Nancy Lick or Gerald VanCampen if you wish to volunteer.

International Students & Scholars

✦ HOUSEHOLD GIVEAWAY ✦

Saturday August 23, 2025

Each year the UW and Laramie communities come together to provide items that international students may need for their homes. You can participate by donating your gently used small furniture, kitchen supplies, linens, and home decor that you no longer use to our annual International Student Household Giveaway

All items must be in good condition, not broken or missing any pieces. Items will be inspected by staff and may be rejected if they are deemed inappropriate. No clothing will be allowed.

Please direct questions to UWGlobal@uwyo.edu

Brings items to the entrance to the UW Parking lot near 12th and Iverson August 23th between 7:00 and 7:30 AM. Staff will need to approve all donations. ISS does not have any available storage for donated items. All items not taken by students and scholars must be picked up by the original owner after the event.



WORSHIP & PICNIC IN THE PARK



AUGUST 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 SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

The church office is open **Monday-Thursday**, 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-noon 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 is away Aug 4-13 for vacation. The office will be closed Aug 11-13, as Nikki is away too, and Aug 28 in honor of Labor Day.

WOMEN'S & MEN'S GROUP

UPC Men! Please join us at Perkins on Saturday, **Aug 2** and **16** at 8:00 am for great conversation! All are welcome!

Mary Martha Circle will meet again in September 2025.

Rebekah Circle will meet again in the fall.

UPC's ELDERS AND DEACONS



Elders: Art Snoke, Nancy Lick, Hank Kobulnicky, John Galbreath, David Jones, Elizabeth Williams, Cam Collamer, Corrine Seebart

Deacons: Nancy Fillion, Linda Haynes, Linda Sheets, Pam Galbreath, Gerald Van Campen, Marla Smith

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.