

OCTOBER 2025

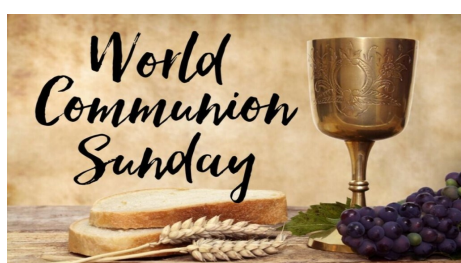
UPC NEWS



United Presbyterian Church Communicator

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5TH

The **Peace & Global Witness Offering** enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of conflict and injustice across the world. Through the Peace & Global Witness Offering, congregations are encouraged and equipped to find and address the anxiety and discord that is prevalent throughout this broken and sinful world. The recipient of UPC's 25% of this year's special offering for Peace and Global Witness Offering is the Wind River Food Sovereignty Project.



World Communion Sunday is a global ecumenical celebration, held on the first Sunday of October, that emphasizes Christian unity and the interconnectedness of all believers worldwide through the sacrament of Holy Communion. Established by the Presbyterian Church in 1933 and later adopted by other denominations it provides a spiritual and tangible reminder that all Christians, regardless of denomination or background, are welcome at Christ's table.



UW HOMECOMING PARADE
EXTENDING HOSPITALITY



UPC is restarting our Homecoming Parade tradition of having hospitality tables at both the north and south areas of the church. Parade attendees can get a cup of coffee or a glass of cider (hot if it's chilly and cold if it's warm) along with donut holes. If you are planning to attend the parade on October 4th, please consider watching the parade in front of the church. The parade route starts at 14th & Grand, travels south on Grand Avenue to 2nd & Ivinson, and then returns to Ivinson & 9th in Laramie on Saturday, **October 4, 2025**, at 10:00 AM.

MISSION POSSIBLE GAME NIGHT!

October 29, 6:00-7:30 pm, North Lounge

Brought to you by the Good Futures team and Rooted Good, *Mission Possible* is a fun, engaging, challenging workshop-in-a-box that will inspire creativity, resourcefulness, and teamwork. The game challenges multiple participant groups to take a set of "dealt" resources and create a team project for the most transformative or creative solution to a complex social problem. Groups will play against each other to come up with the most transformative or creative solution to their given problem. There might even be prizes! Want to know more? Watch a video: <https://youtu.be/5nmfu3yxlo8>

DO YOU LIKE TO COOK?! NEW OPPORTUNITY

C4 and the Adult Study share a meal on Wednesdays at 5:30 in the North Lounge. We are looking for a volunteer each week to provide a SIMPLE entrée that feeds about 12 people. You do not need to coordinate. Beverages and a green salad will be provided each week. [SIGN UP HERE](#)

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE **-NEW NAME!**

The **Christian Education Committee** has voted to change the committee's name to The Spiritual Development Committee. We feel the new name encompasses all we do as a committee whose purpose is the life-long Spiritual Development of the congregation through education for all ages. Our committee is currently made up of Kim Buchanan, Kaylee Thompson, Celeste Kobulnicky, Corrine Seebart and Michelle Harris. We are always looking for additional members. Please reach out to any of those listed above if you are interested.

Our Annual **Trunk or Treat** event will take place on October 26 following Worship. We will gather in the Fellowship Hall to put together the Mission Committees disaster assistance and education kits before enjoying a time of food and fellowship. Please bring your favorite brunch item to share! Following brunch, the children will Trunk or Treat in the church parking lot. Please let Michelle Harris know if you will be bringing your car to participate.



LOGOS will continue to meet through the month, but will take a break on October 29.

The **Mid High youth group** will meet on October 12, and the **Senior High youth group** will meet on October 18. Parents, watch your emails for details.

FAMILY PROMISE

Family Promise is partnering with WyoTech in Leaves & Laces 5K Run/Walk! Join us Saturday, October 18th on the Laramie Greenbelt at the Optimist Park! Registration opens at 9:00 AM with kickoff for the race at 10:00 AM. We ask that you donate a pair of new/gently used shoes for our shoe drive or pay the registration fee; \$15 for adults, \$10 for 15 & under! To register, visit <https://bit.ly/LeavesLaces>

SESSION SUMMARY

At their September 16, 2025 meeting, the session of UPC:

- Examined deacon-elect Kathryn Blaney for ordination
- Set the date of ordination/installation for September 21, 2025
- Waived the building use fee for Unaccompanied Students Initiative
- Supported the Mission Committee providing coffee, cider, and doughnuts at the UW
- Homecoming Parade
- Placed C4 under the CE committee for support
- Shared “elevator” stories connecting to the UPC mission statement
- Received written reports from the clerk, treasurer, staff and committee chairs
- Adjourned with prayers of gratitude
- Next meeting is October 21 at 5:30 pm

MISSION COMMITTEE

Honoring Our Elders: A Celebration of Food Sovereignty
Wind River Food Sovereignty Project: September 20, 2026

Gerald VanCampen and Nancy Lick report that their trip to Wind River was well worth the drive. Not only did they see the beautiful setting for the Food Sovereignty Project with all its enhancements of the last few years, but they met the staff whose enthusiasm and passion for their work is very evident. Kelly and Billie were happy to see us and send their greetings to everyone. Following a session on traditional plants, Gerald and Nancy participated in the grand opening of the lovely Elder Garden with ribbon cutting by tribal leaders followed by a prayer in Shoshone. The drumming and singing were terrific. The lunch feast featured bison stew and fry bread with choke cherry gravy for dipping (good stuff!). A flute player and a storyteller rounded out the program before the farm tours began. The best thing was meeting the project volunteers as well as the families with their children and elders. You couldn't tell who was having more fun—the kids or the elders. Gerald and Nancy left before the additional farm tours to get back to Laramie but knowing that this is a partnership to be excited about.



The recipient of 25% of this year's special offering for Peace and Global Witness Offering is the Wind River Food Sovereignty Project . Let's help them get the 80-foot hot house to augment their current 40-foot facility that holds 18 vegetable beds.

Anyone still wanting to donate to the **Gifts from the Heart** kits can bring their items to the church and place them in the little room off of the Overflow Room (where the Christmas Bazaars have been held in the past).

The results of the first meeting of the **Community Holidays** on the 24th were fruitful. The 2024 event was reviewed and decisions on this year's schedule were made. The program will not be offering live trees this year but it is hoped that this resource will be available in future years. However, donations of holiday decorations are much wanted and can be left in Marcia's Closet. Several new partners will be working with the program to augment the help from Toys for Tots, etc.

Don't forget that grocery bags are still needed for the **Soup Kitchen**. Please leave them in Marcia's Closet or give to the church office.

"USHER-ING" IN HOSPITALITY

When members, visitors, and newcomers enter the UPC on Sunday mornings, one of the first people they encounter is an usher. We tend to think that the role of the ushers is simply to hand out bulletins and collect the offering, but there's more to it than that! Our ushers extend a warm welcome to all who come to the UPC. It's the first opportunity for visitors to experience the hospitality that the UPC has to offer everyone. Youth, families, men, women, **ANYONE can be an usher**. If you would like to play a part in "usher-ing" in hospitality, please contact Alan Ver Ploeg or David Jones. (Training will be provided.)

SPACKMAN THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who helped in providing my family and I meals as we mourned the passing of my father. A difficult couple of weeks was made easier by your kind assistance. UPC was very important to my day for over 56 years. My dad lived a long and fulfilling life. He will be missed! **Lowell & family**

OUR AUG & SEPT COMMUNITY PUZZLES



CONGRATULATIONS TO KENDRA HEIMBUCK



Nominees

WOMEN OF INFLUENCE

HONORING & ENGAGING WOMEN ACROSS WYOMING

Sylvia Bruner
Executive director
Jim Gatchell Memorial Museum
ARTS
Sylvia Bruner has worked in the museum field since 2000. As the executive director of the Jim Gatchell Memorial Museum, she has guided the museum through re-accreditation by the American Alliance of Museums and led the museum to receive the Institute for Museum and Library Services' National Medal in 2023.



worked in medical technology and field service. Her passion for fighting hunger began in Sheridan County and continues today through volunteering and advocacy, highlighting efforts across Wyoming to reduce food insecurity.

Kayla Fitzgerald
Photographer
Authentic By Fitz Imagery
ARTS
Hi my name is Kayla Fitzgerald. I'm the owner of Authentic By Fitz Imagery. I love to help capture all of life's beautiful moments as authentically as possible.



Kendra Heimbeck
Executive Director
The Brinton Museum
ARTS
Kendra Heimbeck, Executive Director of The Brinton Museum, leads efforts to connect audiences to the art, history, and cultures of the American West. Passionate about community engagement, she is also President of the Bighorn Arts Collective and Vice Chair of Wyoming Community Development Authority.



Autumn Paige Smith
Mrs
Art Official
ARTS
Artist and business owner from Rock Springs Wyoming. Lover of art for a lifetime, professional tattoo artist for 11 years. I'm proud to help bring consistent beautiful art to our community and to have made art into a lifelong career.



Kimberly Pezeshki
Owner
Pez Photography
ARTS
Kimberly Pezeshki, Master-Photographer (2016), Master-Artist (2023), Craftsman (2017), and Certified Professional Photographer(2010). Evanston, Wyoming. Started Pez Photography in 2009. Board member of WPPA and Past-President. Selected to show and sell at: Regional-Fine-Art-Show at Lincoln Gallery, Western-Spirit-Art-show, Art-Connect-Gallery, Solo-show CACE Gallery of Fine Art Wyoming Governor's Art Show PPA GIA in Digital Art 2025



Angela Trujillo
Owner at Old School Creationz
Old School Creationz
ARTS
I am a proud stay-at-home mother running my own small business, balancing family life with my passion for creativity and hard work. I truly love helping others in any way I can, offering support, encouragement, and a helping hand to those in need. Seeing others succeed brings joy.



Claire Snyder
Vice President - Commerical Lending
Banner Capital Bank
BANKING FINANCE
Claire graduated from the University of Wyoming in 2006. Awarded the Emerging Leader in 2014 and Wyoming's 40 under 40 in 2017. Graduate of Leadership Cheyenne in 2015 and The Graduate School of Banking at Colorado in July of 2025. Claire has 17+ years of banking experience.



WOMEN'S & MEN'S GROUP

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

Mary Martha Circle will meet Wednesday, **October 15th** at 1pm at the home of Janice Shuster, (530 Beaufort St. #119) We will begin our study "Finding Resilience, Joy, and our identity in Jesus Christ by Rhashell D. Hunter. Please contact Freda Dixon, 760-9728 for a study book All women are invited to join us for prayer, study and fellowship. We hope you will join us.

Rebekah Circle will meet on Thursday, **October 16**, from 9:30 to 11:15 in the church's Fireplace Lounge. We will gather for conversation and light refreshments followed by a discussion of Chapter Seven of James Bryan Smith's book, The Good and Beautiful Community: the Generous Community. Our hostesses will be Corrine Seebart and D.J. Yocom. Guests are welcome. For information, contact Linda at mljsheets7@gmail.com.

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Tuesday Morning Bible Study continues every Tuesday morning using scripture from Matthew. We will begin a study for advent on October 28, For more information, contact [Celeste Kobulnicky](#) or [Mary Prather](#).

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:

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.



Blessing of the Animals in honor of St. Francis

- What:** Blessing of the Animals
Sponsored by the Laramie Ministerial Association
- When:** **Sunday, October 12, at 2:00 p.m.**
- Where:** Ivinson Mansion Grounds
603 Ivinson Ave, Laramie

THE SYRIA LEBANON PARTNERSHIP NETWORK FALL GATHERING

September 16 -18, 2025—Cheyenne, Wyoming

For the first time, PC USA's Syria Lebanon Partnership Network (SLPN) met in Wyoming at First Presbyterian in Cheyenne. UPC has been a member of this partnership for over 8 years and has supported the Presbytery of Wyoming's efforts with refugee services in Tyre, Lebanon, and a children's clinic in Aleppo, Syria. UPC has also held workshops with guest speakers from Lebanon, Syria, and SLPN. Gerald VanCampen and Nancy Lick attended this Fall Gathering and were happy to meet up again with California's Rev. Tim McCalmont who has spoken at UPC. This Fall Gathering was filled with hope for Lebanon and dire news from Syria.

Nancy and Gerald learned a lot from the other attendees—both in person and via Zoom. Concerned Presbyterians from Georgia, Tennessee, Washington, New York, New Jersey, Illinois, Rhode Island, Ohio, Syria, and Lebanon, participated. Bob and Holly Gerrard did a wonderful job of organizing the Gathering. Bob was reelected as one of SLPN's Executive Committee members.

As presented by Rev. Joseph Kassab, the General Secretary of the National Evangelical Synod of Syria-Lebanon (NESSL), the situation in Lebanon continues to be hopeful despite the daily shelling in South Lebanon from Israel regardless of the truce. The government's infrastructure remains intact, and they are hopeful for their future. However, in Syria, factions continue to divide that country. The Rev. Ibrahim Nseir, pastor of the heavily damaged Aleppo church, is very frightened-- bordering on desperation. He believes that the West is receiving the wrong impression from Syria's new president. Rather than the hopeful picture being painted, the country is more divided than ever before. Rev. Nseir feels that there will be a Syria but in reality, there will be four or five independent states working outside the Syrian government. He reported that the Syrian government does not have any functioning infrastructure to deal with their many problems. When asked how SLPN can help, he kept asking for partnerships but, when pressed for how to proceed, he kept asking for partnerships. Personally, Rev. Nseir misses his adult children two of whom have left the country and Rev. Nseir continues to wait for permission for he and his wife and his youngest son to leave Syria. He has been waiting for several years.

The current decision of the United Nations to discontinue its support for half the costs of maintaining the refugee camps in Lebanon will force the Lebanese government to begin closing the camps in January 2026. This means that the refugees will be forced to return to Syria (many have been in the camps for over 10 years) where the government is incapable of dealing with the many thousands of returning Syrians without homes, food, and employment. According to the staff of the Carter Center who have been in Syria for years, this catastrophe in the making will further weaken the Syrian government.

If you are interested, SLPN will be in Lebanon from January 14 through January 23, 2026. ElMarie Parker, PC USA's past co-worker for the region, has planned this trip to the greater Beirut area with visits to Roman sites and Baalbate. The cost is \$1700 which includes ground transportation, hotels, tours, and fees in Lebanon but not air fare and most meals. Currently, there is no cost for visas for Americans. Additional highlights of the Fall Gathering were the joint worship services. The Bible reflections were from Paul's letter to the Philippians. Representatives from both Syria and Lebanon ask for our prayers for their survival and safety.

UPC's Mission Committee will continue to work with our Presbytery to determine how to proceed as conditions have changed during the last year, particularly in Syria. Prayers for direction and guidance will be most appreciated.



OCTOBER 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

The church office is open Monday-Friday, 8:00-3:00pm. Rev. Michelle Bacon's office hours are 9:00-5:00 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Wednesday 1:00 -7:00. If you would like to make an appointment to meet with her, please call the church office.

Any information you would like shared in the weekend reminders needs to be emailed to the office by Wednesday morning.

The office is closed October 13th



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, Kathryn Blaney, 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.