



THE SPIRIT

Of Union Congregational, United Church of Christ

122 East Bennett, Buffalo, Wyoming
Reverend Anne Knighten

August 2022
Church: 307-684-2958



Greetings from Pastor Anne

Dear friends in Christ,

August is a hectic month here in Buffalo, beginning with the Johnson County Fair and ending with our outdoor worship service in the city park. In between are such things as Longmire Days and the beginning of the new school year. For those who are leaving town to visit friends and relatives, I hope you have the time to enjoy worship services wherever you go. For those who are being visited by friends and relatives, please invite them to join us for worship!

Our gospel readings give us the opportunity to reflect on those things that should be important in our lives. We are asked whether we treasure material things more than the things of God, for where our treasure is, there is our heart. We consider how following Jesus may cause division rather than peace. We look at whether we are legalistic in our interpretation of what scripture teaches, observing the letter rather than the spirit of the law, and why God gave us Sabbath. We are given an image of the kingdom of God as a banquet to which the poor and the disenfranchised are invited.

Sunday worship gives us a pause in the busyness of our lives, a time to come together with our siblings in Christ to join in praise and thanksgiving for all that God has done for us. Allow the prayers and the music, the readings and the preaching, to touch your heart and mind. Let them carry you through the week as you live out the vocations to which God has called you. Sing the songs as you go about your daily activities. Ponder the gospel messages. Listen for God, who is still speaking to us today through scripture, preaching, and song. Listen for God, who is speaking to us today in the beauty of creation, in the voices of loved ones, in the quietness of our hearts. Pause and spend some time with the One who loves us beyond our imagining.

Peace and blessings,
Pastor Anne

Office Hours

Regular office hours for Pastor Anne at Union Congregational are a moving target for both Union Congregational and St. Luke's Lutheran Churches. Please feel free to contact Pastor Anne at buffalo.rev@gmail.com or 951-529-2088 or 307-684-2958 if you would like to set up an office visit.

UCC Administrative Contacts: To contact the Church Council, please call Ron McPhee, Moderator, at 307-217-1456. To contact the Church Secretary/Clerk, call Kathleen McPhee at 307-217-1455.

UCC Church Council Members: Ron McPhee, Moderator; Judy Firnekas, Vice-Moderator; Kathleen McPhee, Treasurer; Deane Bjerke, Barb Millett, Don Scantling, Larry Gerard

THE MISSION OF UNION CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

*In Jesus' name, Worship God, Study Scripture,
Joyfully Help those in need*

Moderator's Report

"The best of the summer is gone; the new fall not yet born. The odd uneven time." Sylvia Plath August can be an odd uneven time as we feel the urgency of finishing projects.....like the Fair and Rodeo projects and floats; the haying and irrigating, canning and freezing garden produce.

But at the same time, we look forward to our lives returning to "normalcy" in the "new fall" as we return from vacations, Men's Breakfast and Bible Study will meet regularly in September, kids return to school. Our Women's Fellowship continues to declutter the Fellowship Room and storage areas, pursue painting or cleaning the bathrooms, cleaning the closets. The Worship Committee has been presented an awesome opportunity for community music events. And our Mission Committee continues to ease the difficulties of life for many living in our community

Union Congregational continues to make progress on many fronts as we go about God's work with our hands.

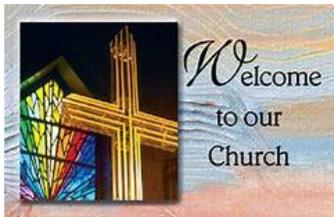
Ron McPhee, Moderator



*May the favor of the Lord our
God rest on us; establish the
work of our hands for us — yes,
establish the work of our hands.*

Psalm 90:17

August Sunday Worship Schedule:



August 7, 2022 – Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

First Scripture Reading: **Genesis 15:1-6**

Responsive Reading: **Psalm 33:12-22**

Second Scripture Reading: **Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16**

Gospel Reading: **Luke 12:32-40**

August 14, 2022 - Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

First Scripture Reading: **Jeremiah 23:23-29**

Responsive Reading: **Psalm 82**

Second Scripture Reading: **Hebrews 11:29-12:2**

Gospel Reading: **Luke 12:49-56**

August 21, 2022 – Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

First Scripture Reading: **Isaiah 58:9b-14**

Responsive Reading: **Psalms 103:1-8**

Second Scripture Reading: **Hebrews 12:18-29**

Gospel Reading: **Luke 13:10-17**

August 28, 2022 - Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

First Scripture Reading: **Proverbs 25:6-7**

Responsive Reading: **Psalm 112**

Second Scripture Reading: **Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16**

Gospel Reading: **Luke 14:1, 7-14**



Larry Gerard - August 4
Ken Buckingham August 15



ANNIVERSARIES THIS MONTH

Ken and Barb – August 1
Larry and Cheryl - August 7
Don and Donna - August 25
Deane and Peggy - August 26
Judy and Lynn - August 30

What's Happening at Union Congregational in August

- ✚ UCC Women's Fellowship, August 10, 1:30 p.m.
- ✚ Council Meeting, Tuesday, August 9, at 2 p.m.
- ✚ Joint Worship Service and Picnic in the Park, August 28, 10 a.m.
- ✚ AA meets every Monday, Wednesday, Thursday at noon to 1 p.m.;
- ✚ AlAnon meets every Monday, 7 p.m.
- ✚ TOPS meets at 8 a.m. every Thursday morning

Mission Committee

Food Pantry. UCC Volunteers at the Food Pantry in August are Ron and Kathleen McPhee..

Meals on Wheels. Thanks so much to all who donated their time to deliver a meal to those less fortunate!

Worship Committee

Excerpts from Minutes of Worship Committee meeting on July 21:

Ron Krikac. John Egan introduced his friend, Ron Krikac, who is a pianist and a collector of grand pianos. Ron is known as the "piano guy" and searches out old grand pianos worthy of restoration. He currently has 17 grand pianos that have been restored by associates in Laramie. Ron has placed most of them in homes and churches in Sheridan County. He has another such piano which he is willing to place in Union Congregational Church to be used for special performances and concerts. John Egan volunteered to arrange for performers for concerts to be open to the public, anticipating starting in September. The Committee members were enthusiastic about the project and the benefits to the community. They will seek permission from the Church Council; upon approval the Committee will move forward with the project. Here's an article about the "Piano Guy" from the Sheridan Press from two years ago -

https://www.thesheridanpress.com/news/local/the-piano-guy-krikac-long-term-lends-17-pianos-around-sheridan-country/article_015bcab6-25e7-11eb-9ca9-ab5af4704584.html

Worship Service and Picnic in the Park on August 28. UCC, St. Luke's Lutheran and St. Luke's Episcopal churches will be invited to join together for a worship service at 10 a.m. on August 28 in the park, followed by a carry-in picnic meal.

Steel Drums. Pastor Anne has spoken with David Romtvedt of the Steel Drums ensemble about providing a musical program for a worship service. David has suggested *I'll Fly Away* and has said it will take time to prepare for the program.

Updates to Prayer Chain:

- From Pastor Anne: Please hold John Miller, a friend in California, in prayer. He is suffering from End Stage Liver Disease. Please keep his wife, Sharon Miller, in prayer. She serves as his caregiver and has physical issues of her own that require prayer.
- Michael Shea, a friend of Pastor Anne's in California, is currently in a nursing facility. His health continues to fail. Please keep Michael and his wife, Ann, in your prayers.
- Bob Boebinger, a friend of Pastor Anne's in California, has died. Please pray peace and comfort for his family.
- Please keep Diana Miller in your prayers as she waits for more test results.
- Pastor Anne asks that we continue to pray for Scott and for relief from the constant pain.

Thanks to everyone for keeping the prayer chains going.



June 20, 2022 - Church Council Minutes (excerpts)

The meeting was opened with prayer by Pastor Anne. Council Members present were Barb Millett, Ron McPhee, Deane Bjerke, Larry Gerard, Judy Firnekas and Kathleen McPhee.

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The Minutes of the May 10 meeting were approved. The significant loss to investment accounts as of May 31 due to the volatility of the stock market were discussed. The financial statements for May were reviewed and the Treasurer's report was approved.

Pastor Anne is encouraged by the volunteer response for worship services at Union Congregational to provide music and other services as needed. She was pleased at the attendance at the Salad Luncheon hosted by our Women's Fellowship with members of St. Luke's Lutheran and St. Luke's Episcopal participating; the speakers were informative and entertaining. It was a pleasure to welcome Mary Lett and Eric Sack as new members of Union Congregational during the worship service on Pentecost Sunday.

Buildings and Grounds. No bid has been received for installing a bigger furnace to provide heat and air conditioning for both the upstairs and downstairs levels of the parsonage. Mike Keller will do the lawn care this summer. Pastor Anne asked for assistance in getting the screens put on the windows in the parsonage.

Mission Committee: Donations have been given to the Buffalo Community Outreach, the Gatchell Museum Art for Kids Program, and Friends Feeding Friends. All three entities promptly send Thank You Notes in sincere appreciation of the donations.

Worship Committee: The Committee continues to work with the Council to provide pulpit supply and music supply when needed.

Old Business: Greg Haas has made real progress with UCC's facebook page and website. He has also worked with the routers and equipment placement to improve internet reception for Pastor Anne at the parsonage and church office. Regie Kottke has entered into an internship program for two months as church secretary, starting on June 16, as she refreshes her word processing skills preparing bulletins and newsletters

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.



Please send committee reports and articles to be published in The Spirit to ucucc@vcn.com or to mcphee@vcn.com by the 24th of each month to allow us to get our newsletter out by the 1st of each month. Thanks!

Established October 12, 1884, Union Congregational Church has continuously served God, our parishioners, and the community from the days before the Johnson County Cattle War to the present time. The church looks forward to being of ever-increasing service in the future.

Union Congregational Church History Corner



HISTORY QUESTION: WHY IS OUR CHURCH CALLED THE "UNION CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH"?

In 1883 Reverend Addison Blanchard was supervisor of mission for Colorado and Wyoming. After having learned that Buffalo was a town of several hundred but was destitute of a church and regular preaching, he made a trip to Buffalo in December 1883. He found a Sabbath School conducted by a S. A. Sturgis who lived on Shell Creek about 12 miles north of town and a general favorable feeling among the people of the community to sending a minister here.

After visiting nearly every family in the town, he found a few people who were living Christians and who would rejoice in having a church. The consensus seemed to be that a church should be established based on pure Christianity in which minor differences in opinion and forms should be tolerated and fellowshiped. He came to the conclusion that a Congregational Church founded in such a way as to unite all true Christians would meet the needs of the people. This uniting feeling resulted in the name "**Union Congregational Church.**"

THE UNION CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
122 East Bennett Street; P. O. Box 889
Buffalo, WY 82834

The Spirit

Of Union Congregational Church

