



THE SPIRIT

Of **Union Congregational, United Church of Christ**

122 East Bennett, Buffalo, Wyoming
Reverend Anne Knighten

February 2022
Church: 307:684-2958



Greetings from Pastor Anne

Dear friends in Christ,

On Jan. 30, we held our Annual Congregational Meeting, where we conducted the work of the church, including the election of some new members of the Church Council. On behalf of the congregation, I wish to thank the Council members whose terms have been concluded for their faithful service. I also wish to thank the new Council members for stepping forward to continue the good work that has already been done by your predecessors.

There is much that needs to be done over the next year. The continued existence of Covid-19 makes it difficult to make plans for how that work is to be accomplished. However, I am confident that by following the example of those who have gone before us who have trusted in God to guide and provide, we can do the work of being God's hands and feet in the world.

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

Our Congregational Annual Meeting was held January 30 following Worship Service. Every year it is inspiring to read the collection of annual reports from the committees and church organizations. It is like walking through the year....one step after another can climb a high hill....and many outreach project, after many prayer chain requests, after gifts to the Adopted Family, after serving at the Food Pantry and many other acts of kindness result in touching and enhancing many lives in our community and our world.

Election of Council members at the Annual Meeting brought the Council back to the required seven members: Deane Bjerke, Don Scantling, Larry Gerard, Barb Millett, Judy Firnekas, Ron McPhee and Kathleen McPhee. Members of the Pastor Parish Committee elected for 2022 are Kathy Reimann, Cheryl Gerard and Judy Firnekas.

We regret that Covid has again become an issue for our nation and world, but we will continue doing God's Work in 2022 as He directs.

Ron McPhee, Moderator

February Sunday Worship Schedule:



February 6, 2022 – Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

First Scripture Reading: **Isaiah 6:1-8**

Responsive Reading: **Psalm 138**

Second Scripture Reading: **1 Corinthians 15:1-11**

Gospel Reading: **Luke 5:1-11**

February 13, 2022 - Sixth Sunday After Epiphany

First Scripture Reading: **Jeremiah 17:5-10**

Responsive Reading: **Psalm 1**

Second Scripture Reading: **1 Corinthians 15:12-20**

Gospel Reading: **Luke 6:17-26**

February 20, 2022 – Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

First Scripture Reading: **Genesis 45:3-15**

Responsive Reading: **Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40**

Second Scripture Reading: **1 Corinthians 15:35-50**

Gospel Reading: **Luke 6:27-38**

February 27, 2022 - Transfiguration Sunday

First Scripture Reading: **Exodus 34:29-35**

Reading of the Psalm: **Psalm 99**

Second Scripture Reading: **2 Corinthians 3:12 – 4-2**

Gospel Reading: **Luke 9:28-43**



Sienna Lulias

Feb. 14

Ron McPhee

Feb. 24

Diana Miller

Feb. 26



ANNIVERSARIES THIS MONTH

No UCC Anniversaries in February

What's Happening at Union Congregational in February?

- ✚ Men's Breakfast, Wednesday, February 2, 8 a.m.; UCC
- ✚ UCC Women's Fellowship, Wednesday, February 2, 1:30 p.m.
- ✚ Prayer Shawl Ministry, Thursday, February 3, 1 p.m., St. Luke's Lutheran
- ✚ Council Meeting, Tuesday, February 8, at 2 p.m.
- ✚ Bible Study, Thursdays at 10 a.m., starting February 10, by Zoom and in-person at UCC Conference Room
- ✚ St. Luke's Bible Study, every Tuesday, 10 a.m. at St. Luke's
- ✚ 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



REMEMBER THE PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY First Thursdays, 1:00 p.m.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry meets at 1:00 p.m. on the first Thursdays of every month at **St. Luke's Lutheran Church**. If you can knit or crochet—or want to learn how—or can tie on fringe, we need you. Contact Pastor Anne if you have any questions.

Thank you, Dick Reimann!



Dick Reimann has resigned as Council Treasurer after 20+ years and declined re-election to the Church Council after 40+ years. A presentation of appreciation was made to Dick at the Annual Meeting for his many years of dedicated service to Union Congregational Church. A photo memory book, letters of appreciation from numerous church members and a gift certificate were given as a grateful Thank You!

Mission Committee

UCC volunteers at the Food Pantry in February: Ron and Kathleen McPhee, February 14, 12 to 1 p.m.

Compassion Child International: UCC sends \$38 per month to help support Prince Genial in Quezon, Philippines, Age 9. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for volunteers to choose a month in which to supply the \$38 for Genial. His grandmother writes: *Have a nice day to you! How are you? May you always be in a good condition and away from any sickness. I pray that our God will continue to take care of you and guide you as well as your family. If you greet me, our condition is fine, by the grace of God. No one got sick and we are also always on guard because of the spreading virus. Our family survives despite the trials that come in life. As for Genial, they still do not go to school, but they study at home..(to be continued in the March Newsletter).* The Committee would appreciate a volunteer from UCC to write a short letter and perhaps send a photo to Genial. Kathleen has a form and envelope to be used.

Worship Committee

Plans are being made for Soup Suppers and Mid-week services during Lent. UCC, St. Luke's Lutheran, and perhaps St. Luke's Episcopal will join together for the mid-week services. Pastor Anne and John Egan are choosing hymns for the mid-week services as well as the Easter service.

Updates to Prayer Chain:.

- Please pray for Bob and Diana Miller's son, Jacque
- Please pray for Linda Morgan's niece in Co. who is in the hospital and has been diagnosed with multiple myeloma
- Please pray for Scott, Pastor Anne's husband, who is finding recovery from gallstone surgery much more difficult than expected.
- Please pray for Alice Diehl, Kay Thomson's mother, who has broken both hips in successive falls.
- Please continue to pray for Ken Ott who is improving and has been released from the hospital but is still struggling from the effects of covid; please also pray for Barb as she nurses Ken back to health.
- Melanie Zeuske has recovered from Covid; thank you for your prayers for her.

Thanks to everyone for keeping the prayer chains going.



December 14, 2021 - Church Council Minutes (excerpts)

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The meeting was called to order by Moderator Ron. Present were Pastor Anne and Council members: Ron McPhee, Larry Gerard, Deane Bjerke, Don Scantling, Barb Millett, Judy Firnekas and church secretary, Kathleen McPhee. The meeting was opened with prayer by Pastor Anne.

The Minutes of the November 9 Council meeting were approved as was the Treasurer's Report. The two investment accounts values have dropped recently, but the aggregate increase in value for the year is still over \$155,000. A company in the church stock portfolio that fell to 2 stars was replaced with a 5-star stock in accordance with the Finance Committee's strategy.

2022 Budget Draft. Council reviewed a draft Budget for 2022 revised as directed at the November Council meeting. The Council approved the draft Budget and will recommend it for approval at the Congregational Annual meeting in January.

Pastor's Report. The book Bible Study at St. Luke's. meets at 10 a.m. on Tuesdays. UCC is invited to attend. Pastor Anne is also leading an Advent Bible Study on Sunday evenings at UCC and by zoom. A Bible Study of an Overview of the Bible will start in mid-January on Thursdays at 10 a.m.

Pastor Anne will lead a "Blue Christmas" gathering on December 21 at St. Luke's Lutheran for those grieving for lost loved ones in 2021.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry delivered 5 prayer shawls this month. More shawls are available for delivery to those in need of comfort.

St. Luke's Lutheran Women's Group has invited UCC and St. Luke's Episcopal to join them for a Funny, Fuzzy, Fur luncheon Wednesday, December 15, at 12:30 p.m.

Pastor Anne's husband Scott will be having surgery on December 23 in California and she will take family leave during his recovery in the first week of January.

Buildings and Grounds. Larry has three smoke alarms to install in the parsonage. Ron and Eric will help dispose of the old snowblower. Action on a bid received from Alpine Construction of \$13,787 to replace the ramp to the Council Room was tabled until next spring. The cost for remodeling the stairway in the parsonage was approved.

Mission Committee: UCC purchased four Thanksgiving meals through the Food Pantry. Gifts will be collected for our new Adopted Family for Christmas. UCC and St. Luke's will participate in the Christmas dinner for Meals on Wheels on Christmas Day.

Worship Committee: John Egan will be available to provide music for our worship services starting on January 2.

Old Business:

Subscribing to a music copyright licensing company will be investigated next month. Council tabled a decision on joining the Buffalo Chamber until next year. Council was reminded that UCC is invited to the St. Luke's Children's program on December 19th at 9 a.m.

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 THE ROOM WITH THE STEEL DRUMS IN THE BASEMENT OF UNION CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH CALLED THE "GRIGGS ROOM?"

Watch for the answer in the next issue of The Spirit.

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

The Spirit

Of Union Congregational Church





WE LOVE
BECAUSE HE
FIRST LOVED US.
1 JOHN 4:19