



THE GATEWAY

First United Methodist Church, Sheridan WY

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I've read, *generosity is a matter of action, intentions, and heart.* One way to describe it might be, *out of our love for God generosity is our grateful outpouring to others.* Since the priceless treasure of the gospel (and all the gifts of, grace, salvation, covenant, relationship, and life that go with it) come from God and are meant to be poured out, through our living, upon others, *outpouring* is a terrific description. Back in the day when we used the term "apportionment" for we now call our "Mission Shares" (money apportioned to the local church by and sent to the conference for administration and mission) I liked the image that our apportionment was "a-portion-ment for others." An *outpouring* of a portion of that with which we have been blessed meant for the blessing of others. Paul addresses this in 2 Corinthians 4:5-7, "We have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us."

The "unadorned pots of our daily lives," as *The Message* puts it, highlight the fact that all of who we are and what we have comes to us from God and is meant to be used for God's purposes. God can use your uniqueness, your limitations, your weaknesses, your life's experiences, your eccentricities, as well as your physical and financial resources to communicate God's powerful presence and love.

In the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) God's people are requested to "tithe", that is to give 10% of their income. Deuteronomy 14:22 says, "Set apart a tithe of all the yield of your seed that is brought in yearly from the field." Meaning one-tenth of all that comes into your possession belongs to God. In Luke 20:25 Jesus said, "Give to the emperor the things that are the emperor's and to God the things that are God's." Meaning, give to the world that which belongs to the world, but give to God all that belongs to God. And what is it that belongs to God? It might be argued that at a minimum 10% of all we have belongs to God. But I believe Jesus sided with the psalmist who said, "The earth is the Lord's and everything in it." (Psalm 24:1)

Generous living is not just about giving money, or even just about giving. It has to do with the whole of who we are and how we love God and care for our neighbors (Mark 12:30). Each of us is called to bring our heart, mind, soul, and strength in our love for God. The Old Testament word for "heart" (*labe*) is literally the leaning or thrust of our lives. We might call it our lifestyle or how we steward 100 percent of our lives.

As you prepare for summer and make your seasonal plans I encourage you to remember God's generosity and let your actions, intention and heart (*labe*) not stray from your outpouring of prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness to God.

Shalom, Salaam & Peace

Don

CARES CONCERNS CELEBRATIONS



PRAYERS ~

- ... for Susan Beasley
- ... for Lou Bennet.
- ... for Carl Carmichael Sr.
- ... for John Knepper.
- ... for Zee Meyerstein.
- ... for Mertie & Hal Quist.
- ... for Janet Ruleaux's daughter.
- ... for Graduates & their family.
- ... for Summer Travelers
- ... for Our Church & its ministries

THANK YOU ~

We wish to thank everyone for the cards and prayers during Fred's illness and passing! Our church family is special, so many cards and words of comfort.

Blessings, The Fred Case Family

THANK YOU!

Thank you for your support of Volunteers of America's recent Empty Bowl event on April 28th. We had a tremendous turn-out with over 1,000 people attending the event. This year's Empty Bowl was a huge success, raising nearly \$40,000 for Homeless Services and the Sheridan Community Homeless Shelter. We couldn't do what we do in the community without the support of wonderful friends like you. Thank you for making sure 'Hope Blooms!' for those who need a hand up!

Vacation Bible School



Children, **ages 3yrs thru 6th grade**; grab your sunscreen, beach towel and surf board and head on out to the "Surf Shack" and "Catch the Wave of God's Amazing Love"! During this fun filled week (**June 6-10, 9am-12pm**) you will learn how God creates, God helps, God loves, God calms, and God sends. Sing fun songs, eat awesome snacks, play fun games, and

create exciting crafts of all kinds. Make it a family affair by helping with VBS. Please **call Claudia Hall @ 751-7148 if you can help out**. The week will end with a picnic for all. Remember your sunglasses!! Also, remember that the Lord is great and awesome! Nehemiah 4:14b

Summer Time and the Living is Easy...

Entering summer we approach a time when, typically, church attendance and financial giving drop off. As we move into this time our attendance is above average and **we are about \$3,000 behind**. I pray you won't let the exciting activities and expenses of summer get in the way of your regular attendance for praise and spiritual growth or your support for the ministries of Jesus Christ through your church. May God bless you this summer with an awareness of the ways God is blessing you and blessing others through you.

Stew R.D. Ship

Ohio Northern University Choir to Return

This choir is returning to Sheridan for a concert on Friday, June 10th. As the host church we need to provide an evening meal and housing for about 40. Singers are prepared to share a bed with a fellow singer or sleep on a sofa. Host families will need to supply the singers with breakfast prior to returning them to the church the next morning. They will arrive at FUMC around 4:00 pm, rehearse, and have dinner at 5:30 pm with the concert at 7:00 pm. At 9:00 pm students will meet Hosts and go home for the evening. **We still need housing for around 20 students**. If you can host one or more students and assist with providing and or serving the evening meal please sign the clip board on Sunday or call the church office 672-9779. We also need a person to coordinate the details. Invite friends to your church to hear this wonderful choir.

Plant for Farmer's Market



Spring is Planting Time! The weather is perfect for growing! May Rains brings out the VEGGIES! While you are planting that productive garden, **why not** plant and designate what grows on that tomato/bean/pea/squash/cucumber plant (or plants) is (are) for our Farmer's Market Table?

What a giving way to share the bounty of God's world! The proceeds of our table go to the Caring & Sharing Fund (helps people in need). Let's get those seeds/plants growing for good!

Your Faith Journey Starts at Summer Camp



Church Camps provide lots of fun experiences for children, youth, adults and families. No matter what direction your faith is going, or needs to go, the journey can

travel at the camps provided at Circle J Camp (near Ten Sleep), Luccock Park (south of Livingston), Flathead Lake (south of Kalispell), or Camp on the Boulder (south of Big Timber).

Check out the camping opportunities on the bulletin board outside the office or go online to www.yacumc.org. You can also get information on camps at Circle J at this website www.circlejretreatcamp.com

The registration deadlines are fast approaching, so **Register Today!** Full or partial scholarships are available from our United Methodist Women and Men's groups. **Let's Go Camping!**

Yellowstone Annual Conference

The annual gathering of United Methodist clergy and lay people of Montana, half of Wyoming and a piece of Idaho will be **June 16-18** in Helena, Montana. We gather for the purpose of worship, prayer, fellowship and conducting church business (to guide us in doing the business of the church). **Items for discussion and legislation this year include:** Establishing a Disability Awareness Sunday, Update guidelines for Bishop Melvin Wheatley Lectures, Change in Mission Shares formula, 2017 Conference Budget, Discontinuance of the Lemhi United Methodist Church, Realignment of Conference Boundaries to unite Yellowstone and Rocky Mountain Conferences. Complete petitions are available in the church office. Pastor Don, Butch Bennett and possibly others will be attending.

CHURCH FAMILY CAMP



If you participate in any activities of First United Methodist Church of Sheridan Wyoming, you are a member of our church

family. As such you are invited to take part in Church Family Camp. This year **Church Family Camp will be September 9th-11th at Circle J United Methodist Camp** in Ten Sleep Canyon. The facility, on Ten Sleep Creek, has tent and R.V. spaces as well as cabin space. There are showers and flush toilets. Specifics still need to be finalized and we are interested in input from all who desire to attend. If you are interested please call the church office 672-9779.

For those interested, we have the **4-H Camp on Owen Creek reserved July 22-24** for personal camping.

Building Modernization Update

The building modernization is going well. We are **slightly ahead of schedule and slightly under budget** (however, this could change at any time). Though we expect to begin soon, thanks to your financial giving we have not had to use borrowed money to fund the project. **Much of the first and third floors are finished.** It should not be long until we can use the new restrooms, move the offices upstairs and begin having after worship fellowship downstairs. Watch for the upcoming notices and invitations to assist in relocating items from the main floor so work there can begin. Thanks for you continued financial, prayerful support and understanding.

Are You Wearing Your Name Tag?



Have You Found Your Name Tag? It is on the 'tree' in the elevator entryway. We ask you to wear it so everyone can learn everyone's name! **We are a growing and changing community** --- putting names and faces together can be a challenge. Wearing your name tag helps! Besides, **it is the friendly, welcoming, and inviting thing to do!**

An additional 'tree' is being created for name tags of those who enter via the Works Street door (at the back of the sanctuary). If you cannot find your name tag, please write a note on the attendance pad, drop a note in the offering plate, call or e-mail the office. We will make you one!

A Summer with Paul



If you have ever wanted to know about Saul of Tarsus, better known as the Apostle Paul, this summer pastor Don plans a **sermon series on the life ministry and writings of Paul**. Paul traveled thousands of miles by sea and by land. He was beaten, ship wrecked, imprisoned and finally beheaded in Rome. He was man second only to Jesus in his impact and influence on the Christian faith. In this series we will study and explore Paul's remarkable life and life-changing message:

- June 12 – Called to Follow Christ
- June 19 – Sent to the Gentiles
- June 26 – First missionary Journey
- July 3 – Communion Sunday
- July 10 – Second Missionary Journey
- July 17 – Third Missionary Journey
- July 24 – Message through the Thessalonians
- July 31 – Message through the Corinthians
- August 7 – Communion Sunday
- August 14 – Message through the Galatians
- August 21 – Message through the Ephesians and Colossians
- August 28 - Message through Philemon, Timothy & Titus
- September 4 – Communion Sunday
- September 11 – Paul's final Years

Offerings of Music



June through August the Chancel and Bell choirs will be taking a break. **If you would like to offer special music**, for the glory of God, during worship please let Judy Birdie (church organist) or pastor Don know. Again this summer we will invite the congregation to request a verse from 3 or 4 hymns or songs each Sunday.

Welcome the Davis Family

Justin and Tracee Davis and their two darling daughters, Cora 3 and Eleanor 1, have been attending our church for quite some time now. Tracee hails from Kemmerer and Justin from Torrington but they only moved here in 2010. Professionally, Tracee has been a Veterinary Technician, a Journalist (on call) and has worked for the Sheridan Press; not only that: an active

member of the Marine Corps with tours to Japan, So. Africa, Berlin, Hurricane Katrina and Iraq. When Tracee finished her enlistment, she took advantage of the G. I. Bill and majored in Human Services—the outcome being six and a half years as a Journalist. In her free time, Tracee likes camping, hiking, fishing, yoga, running and crafts.

Justin's profession is a Manager of Title, employed by Western Land Service where he oversees the documentation and legalities of various properties; i.e. such as taxes and ownership, etc. In his leisure time, he enjoys gardening, fly-fishing, fitness and hunting.

It should be mentioned that Cora's favorite topic and interests are the Fruit Bat and the Snow Leopard! We're very happy to welcome this charming family to our Church!!!

Memorial Service for Loraine Lowe

We will celebrate the life of Loraine Lowe on Saturday June 25 at 11:00 with lunch reception to follow.

United Methodist Motorcycle Gang



The UMMG will ride again this summer and we invite everyone who would like to join us on motorcycle, car or truck.

Proposed dates (they may change because of weather or schedules) are: **Saturday June 11, Sunday July 17, Saturday August 20 and Sunday September 18**. Saturday rides will leave from the church at 9:30am with lunch on the road and return mid to late afternoon. Sunday rides will depart from church after worship. If you see any community or church scheduling conflicts please inform pastor Don.

Father's Day – CWS Tools of Hope Empowering families. Strengthening communities

Contributions to CWS Tools mean Church World Service will be ready to help people around the world gain the resources and develop the skills necessary to sustain themselves and their families and to build viable communities.