From the Pastor:

This Sunday, November 6th is All Saints Day. Asked recently, “What is a saint?” I thought of the long drawn out process and requirements use by the Roman Catholic Church to confer sainthood upon special disciples after their death. But, why is it we tend to focus on saints in heaven? Looking at scripture it’s easy to see the emphasis is on the saints who are living right here on earth. Paul addressed his letter to the Philippians (1:1) “To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippe.” And his letter to the Ephesians (1:1), “To the saints who are in Ephesus and are faithful in Christ Jesus.” And to those in Rome, “To all God’s beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints.” When Paul spoke of saints he talked about living members of the church, the community of Christ, that group of people who had heard and answered God’s call to do God’s work in the world. According to Paul, Saints are Holy people, but their holiness doesn’t come from a life-time of achieving some kind of moral perfection. Instead, saints have a holiness that comes from being marked as God’s people. A holiness that does not mean they are better than others, but different. People of God, saints, live life by a different set of rules than the world offers. Rules like these suggested in the prayer of St. Francis.

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen

Sunday we will give thanks for the Saints, living with us and alive in our memories, those through whom God has touched our lives. In worship we will rededicate ourselves to follow their example of steadfastness and faithfulness through our prayers, presence, finances, service and witness to the glory of God so we too may be known as Saints of God.

Shalom
Pastor Don
Cares
Concerns
Celebrations

Prayers ~

. . for those dealing with long term illness Mac McKinney, Linda Lemieux (Joel Dvorak’s sister), Cindy Boyd (Killy’s Deli).

. . for those dealing the death of a loved one Jean Damson family, Jack Burke family, Dale Dowdell family (Linda Hall’s brother)

. . for those in assisted living care (Sheridan Manor) Jean Robinson, Sandy Stoker, Betty Taber; (Green House Living) Clint Foslien, Jeanette Hall, Shirley Zeglin; (Brookdale) Pat Soloman, Suzanne Knepper, Maxine Watson; (Westview) Eyvonne Cotton, Zee Meyerstein, Bev Stoker.

. . for those in senior living (Heritage Towers) Dorcas Ward, Orel Robbins, Darlene Barbula, Dorothy Hackman; (Sheridan Square) Kay & Gene Abbott, Dorothy Harper;

. . for those homebound Jerry & Shirley Higgs, Richard Rader, Mary Hanlin, Mac Grimm, Hal & Mertie Quist.

Tweens Youth Group

Though small in number our new youth group is going well. We’ve explored put downs and affirmations, dressing like a Christian, What we own, and begun making personal posters. In November we’ll explore Time, Wishes, and Thanksgiving. We still need more adult assistance in fixing meals and sharing leadership. If you want to play, talk to pastor Don.

Day Light Savings Time

In order to be on time for worship on Sunday, November 6th, be sure to reset your clocks back an hour. Unless you want to come an hour early for prayer.

Church Conference Reports Needed

As we approach Church Conference, Tuesday November 15th, we need each church task/work, team and work area chair to prepare their report. Reports need to be in the church office by November 7th to give us time to get them included in our Church Conference booklet. Each report should include highlights of the past years ministry and plans for the coming year. Most of this information may be on your 2017 budget request. If they can be sent by email that will make things much easier for the office.

Annual Church Conference

On Tuesday November 15th at 6:30pm, under the leadership of the Rev. Jim Barh our pastor in Powell, we will celebrate the ministries of First United Methodist Church of Sheridan, Wyoming. After lifting up the ways we have served God with our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness in the past year we will set our course for 2017. Our guiding scripture will be Matthew 5:13-16 where Jesus calls us to be “the salt of the Earth and light to the world”. Together we will listen for ways God is calling us as individuals and as a congregation to make a difference as disciples as we set the 2017 ministry budget and elect church leadership. Plan to be a part of this exciting celebration and warm fellowship.
Dressing for Advent & Christmas

On Sunday November 20th following worship & fellowship, we will dress (decorate) the church sanctuary with its Advent & Christmas finery. Then it will be ready to extend our blessings when our Bishop is here on November 21st and ready for our first Sunday in Advent on November 27th.

Lunch with the Bishop

On her tour of the state, Bishop Karen Oliveto will be in Sheridan Tuesday November 21st. She and District Superintendent Jeff Rainwater will be here from 12noon until 1:30pm. The agenda will include: Greeting & prayer, personal introductions & sharing, lunch, open conversation about First United Methodist Church (history and ministry), and a tour of our building. This will be a chance for us to begin to get to know her and she us. Plan now to have lunch with the bishop. If you would be willing to prepare or help prepare the meal please contact the church office.

Thanksgiving Dinner

The Men’s Group will once again host a Thanksgiving Dinner on Thanksgiving Day. Serving will start at noon and everyone is invited. There will be a sign-up sheet on the clipboards at church starting Oct. 30 until Nov. 13th so we will be able to determine how much food to order. The Men’s Group will provide the turkey, dressing, potatoes, gravy & bread/rolls. Please bring a covered side dish or dessert.

This event was started many years ago by Len and Janice Nielsen and has grown in attendance every year. Come and have a traditional Thanksgiving Dinner cooked and served from our wonderful, efficient new kitchen with us. There is no reason to spend Thanksgiving alone. Let us provide the food (except for the covered dishes, dessert and pies. Did I say dessert and pies?). Come spend Thanksgiving with your church family! Don’t forget to sign-up! Dessert and pies too!
If weather changes your Thanksgiving travel plans, but you haven’t signed up for the meal -- you are more than welcome to come down and eat with us, your church family, in our brand new beautiful downstairs Fellowship Hall. As with the loaves and fishes, we always seem to have enough. Hope to see you there.

Christmas Stroll Popcorn Giveaway

Please join us in getting our name out to the Sheridan Community on Friday, November 25th at 5pm on Main St during the Sheridan Annual Christmas Stroll. We’ll be passing out popcorn as we have in years past.
-> We ask you to contribute already popped popcorn and would like to have you bring it to church by Wed., November 24th. We will get it bagged and passed out the evening of the stroll.
->Volunteers are needed to help bag the popcorn in special Sheridan First United Methodist Church bags and pass them out during the stroll.
->Signup Sheets will be on the clipboards for you to "sign on the dotted line".

~ Thanks! Missions / Evangelism

Giving Tree

The giving coat tree for Northern Cheyenne children will be up and ready to receive coats by mid-November, giving us a chance to gather coats and get them to Lame Deer in time to be given away by Christmas.
Plan now to provide coats for this worthy ministry.

**Building Update**

Construction on the 2nd floor should be complete by early November and allow us to reoccupy. We anticipate the contractor will be on site a little longer to finish.

The Modernization Committee and Trustees have received a bid of $39,395 to replace the east side stairs and a portion of the sidewalk, curb and gutter adjacent to the stairs. The cost will be shared between the Trustees and the Modernization fund and should start in November. There will be no access on the east side during construction.

It is exciting to see the end in sight! Thanks for your patience during this time.

**Native American Ministry Sand Creek Healing Run**

November is coming fast and that signals the time for the Annual Spiritual Healing Run in Colorado. Members of FUMC Native American Ministry will attend and provide support as we do each year. The run is not a race, rather it is a healing run that is open to the public. People come from around the world to participate. The run begins at the Sand Creek Massacre site and ends up on the Capitol steps in Denver. This year the run will begin on Thanksgiving Day and end on Saturday, November 26th. We would welcome any interested church members to join us so please contact a NAM committee member if you are interested in attending the run this year.

**United Methodist Student Day Offering**

*Nurture. Advocate. Give.*

“In college you don’t have your family there to remind you to go to church regularly. Your spiritual life is whatever you want it to be and you have to make the time for it.”

Your gifts to the United Methodist Student Day offering---Sunday November 27, 2016---supports scholarships and the UM Student Loan Fund. We are called to support United Methodist qualified students as they prepare for life in uniting faith with knowledge. Special offering envelopes will be in the Sunday bulletin on November 27th for your generous gift. Thank You!

**Ask the UMC**

Ever wonder whether The United Methodist Church has an official Bible? Curious about the church’s global structure or certain phrases said each Sunday during worship? Find answers to these questions and more with “Ask the UMC,” a new UMC.org feature inviting readers to submit questions about the denomination. Explore Ask the UMC

**Lay Leadership – Nominations**

As we prepare for ministries in 2017 we are in need of Team and Task Force members. We could use new and additional leadership in all our areas of ministry: The Board of Trustees, Staff Parish Relations, Worship Planning Team, Alter Guild, Education Team, Evangelism/Mission, or Communications. Let pastor Don or the church office know where you feel called to serve.
Gingerbread Cookie / Candy Sale
Saturday, December 10th in the Basement Fellowship Hall

Join us for our 8th year of providing cookies and candy for our friends, neighbors, co-workers and the entire Sheridan community.

Get the date on your calendar, get your recipes out, make a shopping list, and warm up the oven!
Proceeds to our “God’s Plan Our Hands” Project!
Watch for more details in the December Gateway.

POINSETTIAS

As in years past, you will have the opportunity to purchase a Christmas Poinsettia for $10. These beautiful flowers will be displayed in the church in memory or in honor of someone special. If you would like to have a designated plant in worship with the opportunity to take it home after Christmas, call the church office at 672-9779 or watch your upcoming Sunday bulletins for inserts/order forms. Fill out the order form with your information and place them with your payment in the offering plate or mail or drop by the church office by Sunday, December 11th.

Church Finance Update

The past several years First United Methodist Church has been blessed with abundant generosity from our congregation. However, through the summer and fall our operating receipts have fallen short of our budget. As a gentle reminder, it is through consistent and regular giving that we are able to meet our operating and ministry costs. With everyone’s continual attention to regular giving we will successfully meet our ongoing operating and ministry expenses in order to end the year in good shape.

New Secretary

Hello All! My name is Teresa Williams. I have lived in Sheridan for 20 years with my husband Mike Williams and three children: Bryce – 22, Marisa – 20, and Colton – 17. More about me later.

Men’s Gift Card Program

The Holiday Season will be upon us quickly. Groceries need to be purchased for baking and for holiday meals. Gas needs to be bought for holiday travel. Gifts will be purchased for Christmas. Please think of the Men’s Group Gift Cards for these purchases. They make great gifts to send to children or grandchildren. They eliminate using a credit card for purchases and risking your credit information being stolen, and you help the church at the same time! If you are flying to your holiday destination there are several airlines on the retailer list also.

Here is how it works: Order forms are at the church office or I have them with me every Sunday at church. You mark the denomination and number of cards you want per retailer. Drop your order off at the church office with payment (check or cash only please) or give it to me. I place an order every Monday. The cards are here by the following Friday. A link is also on the church website that will take you to the order form. Also on the order form is a column that tells you how much of a rebate that particular
The retailer will give to the Men’s Group. You can browse through over 700 companies enrolled in this program at shopwithscrip.com. I have customized the Men’s Group order form to our geographic region of retailers. You can use the cards to place catalog orders or shop online. If you have any questions about whether or not a retailer is on the list ask me.

For example, Cabela’s pays an 11% rebate. If you give me a $100 check to purchase a $100 Cabela’s gift card the Men’s Group receives $11 from your purchase and you received a $100 Cabela’s gift card.

Some other well-known retailers on the list are: Alberson’s, Safeway, Wal-Mart, Walgreen’s, Home Depot, Lowe’s, Menard’s, Bass Pro, Kohl’s, Herberger’s, Bed, Bath and Beyond, Bath and Body Works, Dillards, JC Penney’s, Sears, Target, Best Buy, LL Bean and TJ Maxx.

There are also cards for eating establishments such as: Red Lobster, Olive Garden, Longhorn Steakhouse, Outback Steakhouse, Qdoba, Buffalo-Wild-Wings, Burger King, Arby’s, Papa Murphy’s, Papa John’s, Domino’s, Wendy’s, Subway & more. You can also buy gift cards for online shopping such as Amazon, Barnes and Noble, Overstock.com and I-Tunes.

If you are planning holiday trips or vacation, you can purchase hotel gift cards such as: Comfort Inn, Quality Inn, EconoLodge, Hyatt Hotels and many others.

If you have any questions about the program or how it works please contact me at 763-2141. I will also help you place orders.

All the proceeds from this program will go to Men’s Group projects for the church and the community.

~Happy Thanksgiving! Rollie Hein, Pres., Sheridan Methodist Men’s Group

December Holiday Events:

Dec 7 -- UMW Christmas Party
6:00 pm  Fellowship Hall
Dec 10 -- Gingerbread Cookie Sale
10:00 am - 2:00 pm  Fellowship Hall
Dec 11 – Choir Cantata
9:45 Worship Service
--UMM Caroling
5:30 pm  Shut-Ins Homes
Dec 16 – January Gateway Articles Due
Dec 16 & 17 – Veteran’s Shopping
10:00am – 2:00pm  The Closet
Dec 21 -- Longest Night Service
Dec 18-- Children’s Program
9:30 am  Sanctuary
Dec 24 – Christmas Eve Services
7:00 & 9:00 pm  Sanctuary
Dec 25 – Christmas Day
No Sunday School
9:30 Praise Singing
9:45 Worship Service
Dec 26 – FUMC Offices Closed
Dec 27 – January Gateway Mailing