



THE GATEWAY

First United Methodist Church, Sheridan WY

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How Does Your Garden Grow?

In the "Garden Song" the garden grows inch by inch and row by row as it is planted, weeded, and tended. But the garden also needs sun, rain and warmth from below to help it grow.

If our church was a garden, who would be doing the planting, who would be doing the weeding and in general who would be doing the tending? God provides us with gifts and we have our developed talents and skills. I think we are the sun and rain for the garden. However, we are also the ones who work and tend the garden.

Each year we ask for folks to volunteer to fill the various teams we have that conduct the administrative business of our church and the teams that conduct the missional/serving functions. Where most of the teams are filled for this current year, we still need several people who would be willing to work on the Stewardship Team and the Nominations and Lay Leadership team. On both of the teams you would be working with the Pastor and Lay Leader in the development of and working of stewardship programs (this letter is an example) and Lay Leadership (contacting fellow members to be on the various teams) (this letter is an example). We could use the help of a person to keep minutes for the COFA (Committee on Finance and Administration). This position would take about three hours a month (attend the meeting take and prepare minutes.) Additionally another Member at Large is needed for the COFA. We need another person on the Communications team. Additionally the Alter Guild could use more help. Finally we need folks to volunteer for Ushers, Greeters, and Liturgist. All of the work that each person does is tending the garden. See me for more information and to volunteer.

Next what do we also need to do to help the Garden Grow? Well to be truthful we need to increase our giving. The garden needs water and sun to continue to grow. That is the side of Stewardship that involves raising money to maintain our mission activities and church locally and also to support at the Conference and General church levels. Up through the end of May, we are \$3998 short. We continue to look at ways to cut expenses but there is a point where we can't cut anymore without giving up programs, staff, and other functions. As your Lay Leader I am asking you to pray and consider increasing your giving, sit down look at your finances and see what more you can do. Additionally summer is here and traditionally we receive less as folks are not in church. If you contribute weekly or monthly, please make it a point to give to include those weeks or month(s) you are not with us.

Help us to tend the garden that is God's gift; a church in which to worship and from which to serve others.

Blessings *to* All,

Butch Bennett



PRAYERS ~

- ..for **Our church and its ministries** in this time of transition.
- ..for **Marion Couch**, recently had a stint placed.
- ..for **Mike Ferries** (Pastor Don's daughter's father-in-law), heart surgery.
- ..for **Barbie Flack's nephew, Jacob**.
- ..for **Pat Jones**, continuing recovery.
- ..for **Avery Karns' sister**, awaits biopsy results.
- ..for **Mary Magnuson's uncle**, gall bladder issues & scheduled for heart surgery.
- ..for **Steve Magnuson's niece**, back surgery.
- ..for **Susie Mohrmann**, had surgery June 23.
- ..for **Tena Taylor & Family** upon the death of her father.
- ..for **Those in assisted living care**.
- ..for **Those in senior living**.
- ..for **Those who are homebound**.
- ..for **Those dealing with long-term illnesses**.

Thank You~

As we remembered in worship several weeks ago, Jesus said, "I no longer call you servants but friends." So, dear friends, we very much appreciate the acceptance, support, love and friendship the people of First United Methodist Church of Sheridan have shown us over the past fourteen plus years. We are proud and grateful for the ministries we have shared, the legacy we leave behind and the preparation for the future together we have lain. It has not all be easy, but in God's grace we have been faithful and in God's goodness we have made too many differences to list. Thank you for letting us be a part of it all.

We are also thankful for the wonderful celebration of ministry, the picnic and the many, many, many pies. It is humbling to recall all the people, the kind words, the wonderful

cards, the precious mementos and the gracious gifts.

We are especially grateful to the Staff Parish Relations Committee who on behalf of the congregation worked so hard in the process of the pastoral transition. The planning of the celebration, the plaque recognizing our ministry, the invitation of cards from not only you in Sheridan but from other parishes we served, and the financial gift are truly heartwarming. Their work along with the Trustees to prepare the way and the parsonage for our new pastor have been super.

In many ways it is sad and difficult for us to make this transition from being your pastor and pastor's wife. Yet it is exciting to celebrate the past, to look forward to God's future for our/His church and to make that shift from being servants to friends. Thank you all for so many things. May God bless all of us with an awareness of the ways we have been and are blessed as we discover the ways God calls us to be blessings to each other and the world.

With Christ's Love, Don & Zell

Meet the New Pastor

FUMC Sheridan **welcomes our new pastor, Jim Barth!** Originally from Pennsylvania, Barth served as a youth pastor at two locations before moving west to serve at the Blackfeet UMC Parish in Montana for five years. From there, he moved to the Powell/Lovell UMC for three years before his most recent assignment in Sheridan. Barth's family includes his wife, Larisa, and two children, Kamari, age 4, and Judah, age 1.5. Please **plan to join us for a communion service July 2nd** when we will formally welcome him and his family to our

congregation. Please be sure to wear your name tags.

Bill Avery Potluck



Our longtime friend and member, Bill Avery, is going to **be back in town July 13**, and we are planning a dinner in the church's fellowship hall to give everyone a chance to say hello. We will also enjoy a performance from the bell choir together. Please plan to join us at 6:00 p.m., and bring our signature dish for a potluck celebration!

UMW Retreat



This year's United Methodist Women retreat comes just days before the total solar eclipse that will span southern Wyoming! This will be an opportunity to engage scripture and grow in faith as we prepare to experience the eclipse. Diane Martin will guide us through scripture, spiritual tradition and creative process. There will be fun and relaxing inside and outside activities, crafts, music, campfire, and s'mores. **Please plan to join us August 18-20.** Registration forms are available at the church or on our website.

Serving Lunch Together



Our **LUNCH TOGETHER** service rotation begins the **week of July 10th**. Please note we will not need volunteers for Friday of that week, as the Lunch Together services will be suspended due to parade and rodeo festivities. Sign-up sheets will be available for two weeks

prior to the serving date, or volunteers can call the church office to volunteer to cook, serve, clean up, or provide a salad or dessert.

Help Needed

With the change of leadership within the congregation, we need to reorganize our operational plans. **Please take a look at the opportunities to serve below** and let us know how you can help keep our worship activity vibrant. **Training is available** for all tasks listed below:

Communion coordinator: recruits volunteers to provide and serve the elements, washes towels and chalices for regular Sunday services and special holiday events.

Audio/Visual Tech: Gets to sit upstairs during the worship service and operate projector and sound system. This job is done in teams of two.

Alter Guild: Prepares the altar for each worship service with seasonally appropriate decoration. This commitment is usually less than one hour a week. We need one regular and one alternate person.

Miscellaneous: We need someone to ensure the doors are locked after worship services, cut out newspaper articles relevant to our congregation, and serve on ministry teams for worship, communications, stewardship, scholarship, and evangelism/missions.

School Supplies



SCHOOL SUPPLY Drive

Your Missions/Evangelism team will begin school supply collections this month! **A list of needed supplies** will be made available in the coming weeks, and cash donations will also be accepted if you desire us to shop for you.