



# THE GATEWAY

First United Methodist Church, Sheridan WY

Jim Barth, Pastor

(307) 672-9779

Tracee Davis & JennaRae Akers, Editors

October 2017

---

I try to go for an evening walk after I help get the kids to bed. The seasons are changing and it is getting dark a lot earlier in the evening. I have a loop that I am accustomed to walking but now when I get to the place where I usually turn around, it is completely dark. While I walk I enjoy listening to podcasts, usually a sermon. I focus on my walking (so I don't fall), and listen to what the preacher has to share with me. But, this walk was different.

The sermon ended when I was getting to my turn-around point and I found myself standing next to a field, looking around at the night sky. The view was breathtaking. It was a clear, chilly night and you could see the stars glimmering in the dark black night sky. I found myself lost in thought and stood there in awe and wonder. As I was standing there I was reminded of two verses in the Old Testament:

Joel 2:28 "After that I will pour out my spirit upon everyone; your sons and your daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, and your young men will see visions." (CEB)

Habakkuk 1:5 "Look among the nations and watch! Be astonished and stare because something is happening in your days that you wouldn't believe even if told." (CEB)

As I was staring into the night sky I found myself thinking; God, what do you have next for me, for my family, and for this Church? What amazing thing are you going to invite us to be a part of now?

There are so many amazing attributes that make us ready for more Kingdom work. We are welcoming and have a genuine love for people; a desire for them to be a part of the family atmosphere that has been cultivated over the years. The building modernization is completed (the debt almost paid off), and ready to be used for this work. It is time for us to look toward the heavens, to dream dreams, and have visions of how God is calling us to move into this new chapter of our journey.

My questions for you. What dreams and visions has God given to you? How has God called you to make Sheridan look more like the Kingdom? How can we help each other in this work? What do you need from me to help you on this journey?

I am thankful for all that God has done, is doing, and will do in the life of this Church. It is an exciting time to be here as your pastor!

Blessings,  
Pastor Jim

**CARES  
CONCERNS  
CELEBRATIONS**



**PRAYERS ~**

- .. .for **Isabella** in CO children’s hospital.
- .. .for **those going through cancer treatments.**
- .. .for **those recovering from earthquakes & hurricanes.**
- .. .for **our Government.**

\*\*\*\*\*

The **trustees** have **moved** their **monthly meeting** to the **third Thursday** of the month from here forward. The meetings are at 6 p.m.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Town Hall Meeting**

We will have a town hall meeting on **October 15<sup>th</sup> following fellowship at 11:30 am.** This open meeting will be a discussion about the 2016 election of our current Bishop. We hope to enter into dialog about questions, feelings, and ways we can move forward together with our mission and ministry here in Sheridan. Please plan on attending this meeting. If you have any questions call or email Pastor Jim.

**Lunch Together**



Here are stats from our latest shift for Lunch Together! During the week of Sept. 11, we served **155** people, not including volunteers.

Thirty-six people helped in the kitchen and/or provided food. THANKS SO MUCH for making this possible! **Our next time to serve is November 13 - 17.**

**What Percentage Is God Asking Me to Give?**

If we were to look Biblically, the answer could be 10%. Of course, in the Laws there were certainly other things beside 10% of your earnings. Every seven years you were to forgive debts owed to you. Fields were to be left alone around the edges at harvest and grapes that struck the ground were to be left there. Both allowed less fortunate people to glean what they could from the crops. The widow gave a mite. John Wesley said that you should “earn all you can, save all you can, and give all you can.” Additionally, Wesley indicated that after the Christian has provided for one’s family, the creditors, and one’s business (assuming a person is a business man or woman) then what is left over is to meet the needs of others.

There are a lot of guides for how much we should give, and there are lots of demands in each household that eventually dictate how much we have to give. So in regard to giving to church, consider what you are doing now on an annual, monthly or weekly basis and ask yourself the question “**Can I do a little more?**” What we give to the work of the church is personal. But what the work of the church does is offer Christ. Let us continue to support the mission of our church.

Stew-Rd-Ship

.....  
We are **in great need of people to serve on the communications committee.** The committee is generally charged with thinking of new ways to spread information, what to include in newsletters and social media, and compiling information relevant to our congregation. Please call the church office if you can be a formal participant or just have a few ideas to share.  
.....

**Trunk or Treat**

We will hold our Parking Lot Trunk or Treat **on Halloween Night** (Oct 31, Tuesday) from **5PM to 8 PM** or until the candy is gone. The point person this year is Janice Wetherington. If you are interested in supporting this fun evening with children from the community, contact Janice so we know how many cars will be in the lot. For our general congregation, we are looking for candy or cash donations for candy. Candy can be dropped off at the church office or given to Janice.