

THE GATEWAY

First United Methodist Church, Sheridan WY

Jim Barth, Pastor

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January 2018

Happy 2018! I cannot believe that it is a new year! New Years is usually a time when I sit down and look over last year and think about what I have learned. It is also a time when I think of a new year's resolution. I take my time and consider my options on how I want to challenge myself this year. I have come to learn that every time I think I am going to exercise to get in better shape, I usually stop a few months into the year (if not sooner) and get back into my old habits. I don't really have the time to work out anyway! I think that is a legitimate excuse, don't you? There is always some excuse we can give for not changing our current habits, even if we know we should.

When I look at my walk with Jesus, as a disciple, I am also reminded of how I have been challenged year after year. I am reminded of what Paul says in 1 Corinthians 13:11 (CEB) "When I was a child, I used to speak like a child, reason like a child, think like a child. But now that I have become a man, I've put an end to childish things." In order for us to grow in our understanding we need to remember that being a disciple means being a pupil. In order to be a pupil, we need a teacher to learn from. Our teacher is Jesus the Christ.

Like any student, everything is not revealed to us right away. I have yet to see a first-grader be taught multivariable calculus. It will take years of learning before the pupil will be able to do this level of mathematics. Likewise, Jesus will teach us and challenge us over the course of our life time, if we let Him. Here is one of the biggest challenges of being a disciple: change. If we accept Jesus' teachings we will not only come to believe, but our lives will be changed in the process. How we live, treat others, view the world around us, and live our lives, will constantly be challenged by our teacher.

My hope for us as we move into this new year is to open our eyes to see, and our ears to hear; how Christ is going to challenge us and invite us to transform our lives into His image. It will be hard, but it will be life giving, for us and our community.

Blessings,
Pastor Jim

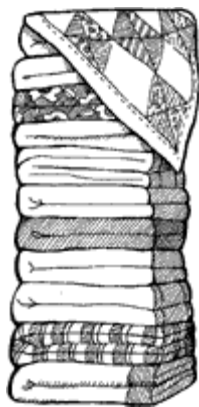
CARES CONCERNS CELEBRATIONS



PRAYERS ~

- ...for Gene Abbott.
- ...for the Family of Carl Carmichael.
- ...for those in senior & assisted living care.
- ...for those that are homebound.
- ...for healing from surgeries.
- ...for those that have lost loved ones..
- ...for the homeless.
- ...for safe travels over the holidays.
- ...for those affected by fires.

Blessings of Prayer Blankets



The Church Family Care Committee would like to report that **23 prayer blankets have been created, tied, prayed over and delivered this past year.** Since this project of Sheridan's FUMC first began in 2008, **227** have been **made.** The blankets go to those who are ill, have been injured, had surgery, or are in need of special prayers. They have also been made and given to new babies.

We have been fortunate that purchase of the material for the blankets has all come entirely from donated funds. They have been made for members of the church family and/or friends and family of church people. Zudie Martin, Linda Westwang and members of Church Family Care have cut and assembled the blankets. If you **know of someone who would benefit from a prayer blanket,** contact Zudie Martin, 674-6360, Pastor Jim or the church office.

NAM Giving Tree



FUMC's NAM has **extended the date for the Northern Cheyenne Christmas tree.** We will accept gifts of children's coats (all sizes), diapers (any size) and formula (any kind). Since we got off to a slow start announcing the changes for the tree this year, we have delayed delivery a few weeks to give our congregation time to gift Cheyenne children with some basic needs. Thank you!

Worship Live Stream



You can now worship with us wherever you go, as long as you have an internet connection! If you cannot make it to worship in person, you can join us live online through our new worship stream. We have a **channel on YouTube** that you can find by searching for **FUMCSheridanWY.** You can subscribe to the channel and get email updates of the stream. You will also be able to access the worship stream on the website, Facebook page, and twitter page. Please call the Church office if you have any questions about how to access the service or if you would like a informational sheet mailed to you.

#HolySpiritSighting

Pastor Jim is **still looking for individuals to share their Holy Spirit sighting.** If you have a story that you would like to share about how you see God at work in your life, and in the life of the Church, please contact Pastor Jim. We would like to share your story with others, because these stories help strengthen the work of the church.