

# THE GATEWAY

First United Methodist Church, Sheridan WY

Jim Barth, Pastor

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Tracee Davis & JennaRae Akers, Editors

November 2017

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God is at work all around us. I get excited when I hear how God is at work in the world and in the lives of other people. It makes me want to sing out how wonderful God is. King David wrote a song that starts with these words from Psalm 9:1-2.

“I will thank you, Lord, with all my heart; I will talk about all your wonderful acts. I will celebrate and rejoice in you; I will sing praises to your name, Most High.” (CEB)

I have heard many stories that make me want to sing praises to God. With this being the month that we remember and celebrate what we are thankful for, I feel it only fitting that I share with you about my #HolySpiritSighting and what I am praising God for in my life.

Over the last six weeks we have been having a book study in the filling station. The first week of the study I used the leader guide and prepared for the conversation that was guided by the book. Much to my surprise our conversation did not follow the guide that was prepared. There was this beautiful flow of questions and exploration. I looked forward to each week and wondered what questions would arise. Every night I could feel God in the room as we discussed challenging questions and wrestled with our own thoughts and understandings. I think we had more questions than answers, but it was always a life giving conversation.

The book study was life giving to me and I looked forward to Sunday evenings when we would get together and explore life. I praise God for that time we had together and I look forward to the next study.

Blessings,  
Pastor Jim

**CARES  
CONCERNS  
CELEBRATIONS**



**PRAYERS ~**

- ...for **Jimmy** who has bone cancer.
- ...for the **Carmichael Family**.
- ...for the **Marsden Family**.
- ...for the **Shaw Family**.
- ...for **Dave Todd**, recovery from surgery.
- ...for those **affected by fires**.
- ...for those **recovering from hurricanes**.
- ...for **thanks for the beautiful fall weather**.

**It Is Coming To An End!**

Yes! Our annual commitment campaign is coming to an end. On **November 19<sup>th</sup>** we will **have commitment Sunday** and turn in our commitment cards and then join with each other in a Potluck following church. Just four days after our potluck will be Thanksgiving Day when many will join together to give thanks for what they have been given. We will actually have the opportunity to be Purposely Thankful at least two times within a week. Once for the commitments we make to our church, and once for Thanksgiving Day itself. As we approach Commitment Sunday we ask again that you take an honest and prayerful look at how you can financially make a commitment to the General Fund for 2018 and perhaps increase your giving over 2017. With that done, **fill out your commitment card, turn it in on November 19<sup>th</sup> and join in a potluck** fellowship. All are invited. Your giving supports the administrative costs to operate our church, the missional costs for church programs such as Sunday School, Church Family Care, Evangelism/Missions, Native American Ministries, and the various other programs that we conduct or participate in in the community. Our Church depends on your generosity.

Stew Rd. Ship

**Youth Group Meeting:**

**YOUTH  
Meeting**

Calling all youth! If you were in youth group last year, are in **Junior High (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>)** or **High School (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>)** I would like to invite you to a youth group meeting. This meeting will take place on **Sunday, November 12 at 5:30pm** to help me understand how youth group was run last year and how we can start it up again. If you cannot make it to the meeting please feel free to email me with your insight.

Thank you - Pastor Jim

**Altar Guild**



With Wilma's "retirement", and Elizabeth's move, we are in need of 2 people to help in preparing for each Sunday's worship. Currently, we meet at 10:00 on Friday mornings and usually takes about 15 to 20 minutes. Duties would include:

**Weekly** – fill altar candles with oil, water plants, clean the prayer candle area, and replace candles as needed.

**Monthly** – Place communion paraments and table cloth on the altar.

**Church Liturgical Calendar** – Change large front banners and side banners with the color for that "season" and paraments on the lecterns and altar.

**During Lent and Easter**, we would need to prepare for Ash Wednesday's service, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday and Easter Sunday, which would include the placement of the Easter flowers.

**Christmas** – Have the candles in the box for the candle light service. Place the Poinsettias in the church.

Please contact Tracee Davis, church secretary or Linda Hall (752-3900) if you are interested. (Day and time are not set in stone, and can be changed if necessary.)

## Sanctuary Lighting

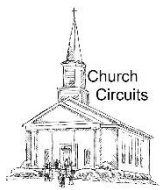
Have you noticed a difference in the Sanctuary? Is it brighter? Easier to read the bulletin? Then give a big **“THANK YOU” to Don and Linda Steadman** who purchased the new LED bulbs and adapters to replace the old bulbs. So THANK YOU Don and Linda for making Sunday Services even brighter!!!

Thanks should also be given to fellow Trustees Don Winkelmann, Bob Hall, Paul Jolovich and Ken Way for successfully changing the bulbs without any broken bulbs, antique globes or bones. There were no 911 calls made.

We (the Trustees) are all hoping that since we installed LED bulbs that they will not have to be changed out again in our lifetime!

~Rollie Hein, Co-Chairman Board of Trustees

## Church Conference:



“With the roll-out of Circuits (regional groupings of churches within each District) across the entire Mountain Sky Area this Fall, Bishop Oliveto

and the Cabinet have decided that it’s time we get together, lean into our Circuit organization, and have this year’s church conferences as Circuit gatherings! Instead of scheduling individual church conferences, I have scheduled five circuit gatherings where we will fellowship and worship together before separating into individual church meetings for the usual business of our annual gatherings.

First and foremost, we want these circuit church conferences to be a time of worshipping God and building relationships between the churches within a circuit. Though miles and miles often separate us, we are not so small or isolated as we think we are. Having church conferences in Circuit

gatherings also means that while attending fewer meetings, I can actually be present with more churches during our church conference season, have time to focus my travel on where I am needed most and hopefully even save our conferences some money.” - from Jeff Rainwater our District Superintendent

Our Church Conference will take place **Saturday, November 18<sup>th</sup> at the First United Methodist Church in Gillette, WY.** The worship time **will start at 12:00 noon** and conclude by 2:00pm. There will be a time of fellowship before worship if you would like to have lunch together. If you would like to carpool please contact the church office or sign up on the sheet in the clipboards. There will be a meeting on **December 4<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00pm** in the sanctuary to review what took place at the Church Conference and also vote on the Church budget for 2018. We hope that you can attend both meetings.

## Healing Run

The Native American Ministry is gearing up for the Sand Creek Massacre Healing Run in November. This will be the 10<sup>th</sup> year of NAM's participation. This is a **healing run, not a race and it is dedicated to healing for the victims and descendants of the massacre**, as well as for the land and trail into Denver. This is a public run so all who wish to join this event are welcome. In addition to prayerful participation to support the runners, NAM's Runza fundraising helps with motel and travel expenses for the youth that are in the run. The dates of this year's run are **November 22-26**. NAM welcomes anyone interested to join with us as we continue our important healing work, for the massacre descendants

## Modernization Committee



After a lot of discussion and praying, the modernization committee has decided to conduct an in-house capital campaign to eliminate modernization debt. Results from the congregational surveys taken this spring and comments from John Laster of Horizons in his September presentation has encouraged us to move forward with the final campaign ourselves. John was very complementary about the health and spirit of our church. In addition, running the campaign ourselves, will allow us to apply \$24,500 toward paying down the loan instead of hiring outside help from Horizons.

**Preliminary campaign activities will take place this fall** with the main event occurring in early 2018. Terms of our loan commits us to monthly payments and since pledged contributions from the last campaign ends on December 31<sup>st</sup> this year, we will experience a potential funding gap for up to 3 months. To cover the gap, **we are asking that contributions continue at the same rate as currently occurring until the 2018 campaign** is complete.

It truly is an exciting time in the life of our church, a time of rejuvenation. Think of the possibilities with new leadership, a freshly modernized facility and no debt. Pray for the Lord's guidance and helping hand as we enter this time.

Lunch Together Starts Nov. 13!



Our next week of serving Lunch Together (the community soup kitchen) starts Nov. 13! We need volunteers to bring side

dishes and work in the kitchen. Sign up during worship services or call the church office if you're interested!

## Thanksgiving Dinner at FUMC!



The Men's group is once again hosting a Thanksgiving dinner on Thanksgiving Day at noon. Everyone in

invited to RSVP on the clip boards that circulate during worship services in November.

The Men's Group will provide turkey, dressing, potatoes, gravy and rolls. There is no reason to spend Thanksgiving alone when you can spend it with your church family. Please bring a covered dish, dessert, or pie.

## Christmas Stroll Popcorn



Please join us in getting our name out to the Sheridan Community on Friday, Nov. 24 at 5 p.m. on Main Street during the annual Christmas Stroll.

We will be passing out popcorn to members of the community. Volunteers are needed to bag popcorn and pass them out. Thank you – Missions/Evangelism

## United Methodist Women News

- The UMW general meeting is Nov. 1 at 1 p.m. It's the World Thank Offering meeting.
- The Holiday Bazaar will be Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> from 8-2. We need everyone in our congregation to bring a pie to sell that day. Proceeds go to UMW Mission work.