



THE GATEWAY

First United Methodist Church, Sheridan WY

Jim Barth, Pastor

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March 2018

Once every four years we get the excitement of watching the Olympic winter games. These games are my favorite to watch as I'm a huge fan of snow sports. Last night as I was writing this, I had the opportunity to watch the women's figure skating. I have always been impressed with figure skating; how they can do the spins and jumps and not get dizzy is intriguing to me. Last night, however, really stands out in my mind. I do not remember ever seeing so many women fall after their jumps. When I watch this I almost feel the disappointment with them, but what truly impressed me is that they get right back up to finish their program.

The Apostle Paul tells the Church in Corinth in 1 Corinthians 9:24-27: "24 Don't you know that all the runners in the stadium run, but only one gets the prize? So run to win. 25 Everyone who competes practices self-discipline in everything. The runners do this to get a crown of leaves that shrivel up and die, but we do it to receive a crown that never dies. 26 So now this is how I run—not without a clear goal in sight. I fight like a boxer in the ring, not like someone who is shadowboxing. 27 Rather, I'm landing punches on my own body and subduing it like a slave. I do this to be sure that I myself won't be disqualified after preaching to others." (CEB)

Paul is reminding the church that we have a mission to complete. When we are working towards that mission there are going to be times that we fall and fail. And when we do, we are called to get ourselves up, dust off the disappointment, learn from our mistake, and then keep running. To me, this is one of the reasons why I appreciate our core value, change. We need to be constantly changing and evolving into what God desires us to be. So this year, let's try some new ideas to connect with our community and see what happens.

Blessings,

Pastor Jim

**PRAYERS ~**

- ...for **Mary Barth**
- ...for the **Family of Carl Carmichael**.
- ...for **Diane Hall**.
- ...for **Pat Jones**.
- ...for **David Todd**.
- ...for **Joe Wetherington**.
- ...for **families affected by the Florida shooting**.
- ...for **those with the flu**.

Holy Week and Easter Schedule**March 29, 2018**

- Maundy Thursday Service 7:00 PM

March 30, 2018

- Good Friday Service at 7:30 PM

April 1, 2018

- Sunrise Service, Kendrick Mansion at 6:45 AM
- Easter Worship Service at 9:30 AM with egg hunt following

Let's get our brand out there!

We are hoping to increase the use of our newly adopted church logo! It is our intention to use our custom artwork to create a "brand" for our congregation. We ask that all **committees or people hosting events please include the new FUMCSheridanWY logo** on their flyers, pamphlets, and electronic promotional material. The image appears at the top of the Daily Devotion e-

mail and many formats are available at the church office for member use.

New Website for FUMC

First United Methodist Church has a new website to include the new look with our logo and brand. Our hopes are to make it a **more user friendly site with pertinent information**. Some of the new features include Upper Room Daily Reflections, our "Streaming Worship" achieved in case you miss one, the new "Attitude of Gratitude" video's, Gratitude Posters and links to various social media outlets like our YouTube, Twitter, Facebook, and more. The new website is being updated and tweaked all the time, so please take a look at it for new information. If you have a particular ministry you would like to have a page for on the website, just supply me with the information.

Your opinion is valuable and suggestions for improvements are welcome.

The **address of our new website is <http://fumcsheridanwy.org>** however if you forget, I have put a link on the old website to connect to our new location. Remember to save this new site in your browser for quick reference. Our goal is to have all contact information linked to "fumcsheridanwy" for consistency, identification and the ease of remembering.

~Tena Taylor-FUMC web admin

Altar Guild

We are **looking for individuals to help hang banners and set the altar for worship.** If you would be interested in helping to make our worship space more meaningful please call the Church office.

Special Music



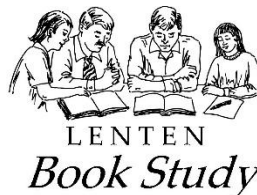
The worship committee is seeking individuals or groups of people that would like to **ble^ss the worship service with their musical gifts.** It could be instrumental, singing, or other creative worship expressions. If you would like to give in this way please contact Pastor Jim.

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 an informational sheet mailed to you.

Lent Book Study



Sunday, February 18th at **6:00 pm**, we started a **6-week book study.** We are reading a book written by Rob Fuquay called, "The God We

Can Know: Exploring the "I Am" Sayings of Jesus". Books were ordered the first week of February and are ready for pick-up. Please sign-up for the study on the clipboards in worship or by calling the Church office. If you are interested please be sure to get a book and start reading the first few chapters for our discussion. Contact Pastor Jim with any questions.

Lenten Luncheon



Every Wednesday throughout the Lent season, **from 12 (noon) - 1:00 PM** we have a joint lunch with a brief discussion about, "The God We

Can Know". Lunch is provided by different groups or individuals of the Church. If you or your group would be willing to provide a light lunch please sign-up on the clipboards in worship or call the Church office.