



THE GATEWAY

First United Methodist Church, Sheridan WY

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Have you ever tried something new that didn't end up the way you were expecting? Ben and Jerry's Ice Cream has tried many different flavors over the years. Some very unique and interesting flavors, but not every one of those flavors have been a success. So, at their factory in Vermont they have a cemetery for all failed ice cream concoctions. This picture here is of one of the ice cream flavors that only lasted a year. Sweet potato pie ice cream, yum!

In Mark's gospel, we hear a story of when the disciples tried to follow Jesus' example and cast out a demon in a boy. They were unable to do it. You can read the story in

Mark 9:14-29. They were trying to do something that they had never done before and it did not work out the way they hoped.

When we experience moments like this what is our response? Do we stop and say: "I can't do this", "this is a waste of my time", or "I am not going to try this again"? It is a very good thing that the disciples did not say, "we couldn't do this so we are not going to try anymore". And it is a very good thing that Ben and Jerry's did not say we will stop making ice cream after a few flavors weren't a hit!

I can imagine that the disciples were confused and frustrated. They had watched Jesus do this countless times and when they tried it, it didn't work. So Jesus goes and does it for them. There was a crowd of people around them by the time Jesus came to help. The disciples followed Jesus into a house and asked him; "Why couldn't we throw this spirit out?" They wanted to learn why they weren't successful so that they could do it next time without Him. Jesus then shares with them the answer. This was a very important learning experience for the disciples as they listened and understood more about who Jesus was and what He wanted of them.

In every failed experience there is something to learn and a way for us to grow.

Blessings,
Pastor Jim

**CARES
CONCERNS
CELEBRATIONS**



PRAYERS ~

- ...for **Mary & Richard Barth**
- ...for the **Family of Carl Carmichael.**
- ...for **Chip Gardner.**
- ...for **Mary Hanlin.**
- ...for **Joe Wetherington.**
- ...for **Francis.**
- ...for a **new Great Grandson's healing.**

Building Fun Raisin'



The Committee has been assigned the task of making our church's new logo more visible and recognizable to the church and community. The members of the

Communication Committee are Becky Dvorak, Tracee Davis, Jim Barth and Tena Taylor. Several people have asked if they could get shirts with our logo and brand. A great avenue to accommodate this request is to offer a "fundraiser" selling shirts and caps with a portion of the cost going to help pay off the Capital Campaign debt.

The time is here! The committee has been working closely with Kilpatrick Creations to be able to offer you clothing that have been accredited with the title of "Socially Responsible" products. In other words, clothing that has met the standards of the "Fair Labor Association and Sustainable Apparel Coalition".

Our initial order was offered to all of the committee chairs as well as the Communication Committee to visually show the variety of options and to work out the ordering process.

The time frame to place the next order for shirts and caps will run from **Sunday, April 22nd to Friday, May 18th**. You will have a chance to view samples of the various items after the worship service each Sunday or come to the church office to review the order booklet. There is a wide variety of items offered in Caps, Tees, Polo shirts (long and short sleeves), sweatshirts and pullovers in many colors and sizes including youth. Individual order forms are available and payment will be due at the time of order.

After the close of the order, it takes approximately 2 weeks for Kilpatrick's to get the embroidered items back to us. This will be an ongoing fundraiser. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Tena Taylor or any of the committee members. Happy shopping and thanks for supporting the Building fund.

Ladies Coffee & Conversation Book Club Begins in June!

Summer is almost here, and it is a great time to read a good book and have great conversation with your fellow sisters in Christ! Join us for **Coffee & Conversation** on **Saturday, June 23rd, 10:00 am – Noon** at **FUMC's Filling Station.**

Our first book club read is: ***Running for My Life: One Lost Boy's Journey from the Killing Fields of Sudan to the Olympic Games*** by Lopez Lomong. It is a true story, one described by Michael Johnson, Olympic Gold Medalist, "...about outrunning the devil and achieving the impossible faith, diligence, and the desire to give back...every reader will find his story (one) of courage, hard work, never giving up, and having hope where there is hopelessness all around. Lopez is a true role model."

Books can be ordered from Amazon.com, Christianbook.com, or from your favorite



bookstore! Order yours soon and join us next month for coffee and conversation!

As an ongoing fund-raiser, Sheridan First United Methodist Church Native American Ministry is excited to offer for sale the popular Rada knives and cooking utensils, **now available online!** Through the Native American Ministry link on the church web page, it is now possible to access the Rada catalogue, place an order and have it delivered right to your own home (or to a friend as a gift!). All profit from these online purchases will be attributed to our Native American Ministry fundraising account, so be sure to share this information with friends and family. With an internet connection, now anyone anywhere anytime can purchase a Rada knife and support Sheridan First UMC Native American Ministry!

Here's how it works: go to Sheridan First United Methodist Church web page and scroll down to the black and white menu. Click on the Rada Cutlery Fundraiser link.

At the top of the page you will see the banner "Your purchases support the fundraiser for Native American Ministries." Below the blue banner you will see tabs for "Shop All", "Kitchen Knives", "Cooking Utensils", etc. Choose a tab, then simply follow the prompts to place your order.

Native American Ministry **does keep a small inventory for those "but I need it today!" purchases.** Just call the church office and they can help you get in touch with Eloise Saltzgaver, who will help you find just the knife you need!



Women's Brunch in May

The United Methodist Women's Brunch will be held on **Saturday, May 5th at 11:00 am.** in the basement fellowship hall. UMW has invited women from six local churches to join us for food, fun and fellowship. **If you can attend, please call Barbie Flack** at 672-3813. This will replace our May general meeting of Wednesday, May 2 and there will be a short business meeting following the brunch see you there!



Special Music

The worship committee is seeking individuals or groups of people that would like to **bless 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 the office or Pastor Jim.

VBS in June



Vacation Bible School will be held this year **June 4th – 8** for kids **3yrs old- 6th grade.**

Mark your calendars as this will be the first week of summer vacation.

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.

Gift Cards (Scrip Program)

It is time for spring projects and for planning summer vacations. Please don't forget our Gift Card Program for all your needs. We have retailers for all your project or vacation needs. Need new camping or fishing gear? We have cards for Cabalás or Bass Pro.

You will need groceries and snacks. We have Wal-mart and Albertson's.

Need a new baseball glove or shoes? We have Dick's Sporting Goods, Target, Kmart, Foot Locker and Wal-mart.

Going on a summer road trip? We have cards for all the major hotel chains such as Comfort Inn, Comfort Suites, Hyatt House, Hyatt Regency, Hyatt Place, Clarion, Rodeway Inn, Quality Inn, etc., etc.

You will need gas. We have Holiday store, Cenex, Chevron, Sinclair, BP, Texaco, etc.

You will need to eat. We have Wendy's, Burger King, Taco Bell, Outback Steakhouse, Texas Roadhouse, Olive Garden, Carrabas, Qdoba, Papa John's, Papa Murphy's, Black Angus, etc.

Are you flying? We have Delta Airlines and Southwest Airlines.

Buying a new lawn mower? We have Ace Hardware, Home Depot, Sears, Lowe's and Menards.

Buying a graduation gift? Oh my gosh, where do I start? Amazon.com cards, Barnes and Noble, iTunes, Gap, Old Navy, etc.

Mother's Day? Bed Bath and Beyond, Bath and Bodyworks, Macy's, Herbergers, 1-800-FLOWERS, Kohl's, etc.

Fathers Day? I could go on and on.

So please, think of us for your purchasing needs. The church office has a list of retailers that are part of the program. It is a partial list that I customized for our local Sheridan, Billings, Rapid City, Casper geographic area. If what you are looking for is not on the list let me know and I can check out the full retailer list or you can check yourself on the church website.

If you have any questions about our Gift Card Program feel free to call me at 763-2141 and I will be more than happy to help.

Have a great spring and summer. Hope to see you at the Parking Lot Sale.

Parking Lot Sale



The Methodist Men's Group Annual Spring Parking Lot Sale will be held on **Saturday, May 12, 2018**, from **8:00am to 1:00pm**.

The following Saturday, May 19 will be the back-up day if they get rained out on the 12th. You can rent a space for **\$10** and use your own table or rent **1 table for \$15, 2 tables for \$20**. To reserve tables/spaces, or schedule a pick up for donated items call the church office at **672-9779**, or call Rollie at 763-2141.