



THE GATEWAY

First United Methodist Church, Sheridan WY

Jim Barth, Pastor

(307) 672-9779

JennaRae Akers, Editor

June, July, August 2018

When I was learning to drive I remember someone telling me that the stop signs with the white boarder where optional. It was a good thing that I noticed the smile on their face when they said that. {Even though a lot of people around here seem to believe this! I believe that as a culture, we are in too much of a hurry. We don't even have time to fully stop at a stop sign. Here is the problem with this. When we go through life as fast as we can we often miss out on the joy that is around us.

In different passages throughout the gospels, (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John), we read that Jesus took time to be by himself. We hear Jesus sending his disciples ahead of him or going to a quiet place to pray. Matthew 14:23 says, "When he sent them away, he went up onto a mountain by himself to pray. Evening came and he was alone." (CEB)

Jesus took time to stop and re-center himself. Jesus only had three years of ministry on earth. I am sure that he had a full schedule, responsibilities, people to talk to, and people to see. In fact, Jesus went into the mountain by himself because he had just fed thousands of people! Yet he realized, that in order to complete what he was doing well, he needed to stop. It was not optional, it was essential.

Summer is a perfect time to slow down or press pause. It is the time to enjoy moments with friends, family, yourself, and God. Usually summer is a time for us to travel and plan vacations that are so full, that when we get home we feel like we need a vacation from our vacation! We get involved in as many summer activities as we can. We live in a beautiful community that offers a lot when the weather is warm. But just remember that these events are optional, not essential.

In the next few months, I hope that you take the time to slow down and stop. Enjoy building more meaningful relationships, and be the best YOU that you can be. May the time you take to find your SLOW, fill your soul with peace and joy.

Blessings,
Pastor Jim

**CARES
CONCERNS
CELEBRATIONS**



PRAYERS ~

- ...for the **Family of Carl Carmichael**.
- ...for **Chip Gardner**.
- ...for **Mary Hanlin**.
- ...for **Gloria Reihemann**.
- ...for **Joe Wetherington**.
- ...for **summer travel**.
- ...for the **People of Hawaii**.
- ...for safety for **Students** over summer break.

Summer Gateway Newsletter



The small but mighty "Communications Team" met in May to discuss the monthly newsletter. It was decided to try a **Summer Gateway Newsletter** that will cover activities for **June, July, and**

August. We ask the Leadership Chairs to submit information to the Gateway regarding the next three months of activities around the church. We will kick off the numerous fall events with an **early Gateway to be sent out mid-August**. The early mailing will allow for planning of all activities for our very busy fall kickoff. If new information comes up during the summer that is important to disperse, we will include that information in our daily emails and weekly bulletins. We are opened to suggestions. Feel free to contact anyone on the communications committee. The team consists of Becky Dvorak, Tena Taylor or Pastor Jim Barth. Thank you.

Special Thanks!

We would like to say **thank you to the girl scouts** for sharing their cookies with us. They graciously gave us cookies as a thank you for using the building. We are blessed to have you with us!

Church Family Care News



Church Family Care **will not meet during the summer months**. We encourage everyone to

check the "Care Board" for our folks that might need extra care and attention. Just a reminder that there is an e-prayer group that will pray for special requests; please send requests through the church office email, Pastor Barth or June Simon (simoncj33@yahoo.com).

Summer Book Study



Starting **Tuesday, June 19 at 10:00 AM** we will have a summer book study. We will be reading the book "**The Class Meeting: Reclaiming a Forgotten (and Essential) Small Group Experience**" by **Kevin M. Watson**. In this book we will explore the original "class meeting" and the importance of having these connections in our lives. **Books will be available June 12 in the office**. Please sign up in the office or on the clipboards in worship. Call Pastor Jim for more information.

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.

Picnic in the Park



We would like to have a **Church-wide picnic following worship on August 12th at 11:15 AM.**

We are currently looking for the best option for a park to use. It will be a potluck lunch. Please mark this on your calendars and watch for another mailing to give the official park where this will be held.

2018 Bazaar Brainstorm Session



On **Sunday June 17,** following the worship service, will be the 3rd bazaar brainstorming session. This meeting is **open to anyone who would like to express**

their creative ideas. It will take place in the back of the fellowship hall. You will get to enjoy coffee and goodies while you share your creativity. Please contact Penny Becker or the office (672-9779) for more information.

Native American Ministry



The Sheridan Native American ministry will continue through the summer, **planning to meet with the aunties** that we have traditionally met with in December when the coats were delivered. Health issues

prevented the Christmas gathering in 2017 so hopefully we will meet at the Wild Rose Healing Center this summer to share stories, food and connection with each other. We will also be attending a memorial for Steve Brady who is the person responsible for initiating the work between FUMC NAM and the Northern Cheyenne. He was a remarkable man with many accomplishments in his life. He was dedicated to preserving culture and spirituality as well as historic and sacred sites.

FUMC NAM would also like to initiate a quarterly or semiannual diaper and formula drive for the Northern Cheyenne. This reservation, as do many, have serious shortages of employment opportunities, resources, diapers and formula. I am sure that many of us have not felt the stress of not having basic necessities and hope our congregation will share gifts of diapers and formula with mothers and babies on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation. **Stay tuned for dates and calls for these items.** We would also be grateful for any **help with making and selling runza's this summer.** The proceeds fund our ministry's work and helps with meetings, travel, expenses for the healing run and other needs that arise. As always, anyone interested in joining our ministry of relationship and healing would be welcomed.

A Note from the Trustees

The Church recently had an inspection from the Fire department and several things were noted. We replaced emergency lights, installed exit signs and smoke/co2 alarms and some other changes.

The changes that we, as facility users need to adhere to, are the following:

- All fire doors must remain closed when not in use. Do not leave door propped open. If you see a fire door (all of the newer heavy doors) propped open, please close.
- Extension cords can only be used for temporary situations-no permanent use.
- All storage closets must have a 24 inch clearance from ceiling to top of items stored there. That includes janitor, choir, ladies sale Closet - all storage areas.
- Areas in front of electrical circuit breaker boxes and aisle leading to them, must be kept clear.
- Combustible items (ex: paper products, chemicals) cannot be stored in mechanical/equipment rooms.
- Mechanical room interior areas must be kept clear for access.
- Under Narthex area, hallway must be kept clutter free.

Paul Jolovich spent a lot of time correcting many of these items. We appreciate everyone's help and assistance in keeping our Church safe and code compliant.

Another item to be noted is our donation policy.
ALL ITEMS THAT WISH TO BE DONATED TO THE CHURCH, MUST BE PRE-APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES BEFORE BEING BROUGHT ON CAMPUS.

Items that might be considered for donation but not limited to this list are: furniture, pictures, personal items, pianos and other musical instruments, maintenance equipment, etc.

The exception to the above statement would be items donated for sale with the women's or men's group sales.

Remember, that just because you don't want it anymore, Jesus will - is not our policy. If items wish to be donated they must be brought up to the trustees for approval first. The board will then approve or deny the request.

I would also like to thank Paul, Don Winkleman, and Pastor Jim, for all the time and work they put in on the repair/remodel of the master and main bathrooms at the parsonage (moisture damage).

Any questions or concerns on the above items, please contact Paul Jolovich or me.

Thank you, Ken Way