



THE GATEWAY

First United Methodist Church, Sheridan WY
Jim Barth, Pastor (307) 672-9779
Kortney & JennaRae Akers, Editors September 2018

The worship committee has been experimenting with a new worship service flow for the last few weeks. I wanted to share with you one of the changes that was made and the reasoning behind it. The change I am referring to is the placement of our “children’s time”. The children’s time is now towards the end of the service instead of at the beginning. This is an intentional change with a desire for our children to be worshipping with us as long as they can. This way we get the opportunity to see, experience, and participate in the worship service together, as multiple generations.

Worshipping with children however, comes with its challenges. There are some not-so-silent prayer times, loud noises, and random screaming. But there are also the beautiful times of laughter, dancing, and teaching the next generation the importance of worship. How will the next generations learn how and why we worship unless we do it together? When an infant or child gets baptized in the United Methodist Church, we make a commitment as a congregation to accept the responsibility of assisting the parents in fulfillment of those baptismal vows. We undertake a responsibility to provide facilities and opportunities for Christian nurture and fellowship. Worshipping and fellowshiping together is an essential part of the Christian life. It is vital for us to teach the new generations.

Maybe we can look at these “challenging” times as not being challenging, but a reminder that we are teaching a new generation the importance of worship. Jesus tells the disciples in Matthew 19:14, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.” We might come to find that by teaching the next generation, they in turn, will teach us something as well.

Blessings,
Pastor Jim



PRAYERS ~

- .. .for **Mary Hanlin.**
- .. .for **Barbara Braided Hair**
- .. .for the **Family of Carl Carmichael.**
- .. .for **Chip Gardner.**
- .. .for **Debbie Williams.**
- .. .for **students and education professionals.**

Evangelism/Missions Committee

The Evangelism/Missions Committee would like to **thank all who have generously contributed to the work of our committee so far this year.** We were able to send in excess of one year's salary to the Angola Pastor project the beginning of the year. Our Spud Spectacular was a success in February. School supplies are being collected and others will be purchased with cash donations and distributed to two Elementary Schools here in Sheridan and also to the Northern Cheyenne Reservation. Through your donations we were able to support the Empty Bowl project here in Sheridan in the amount of \$400.

We are **planning for future projects to include** Trunk or Treat on October 31st, the popcorn giveaway at the Christmas Stroll, a Veteran's Coffee in December where we meet with Veterans from the VA in the fellowship hall for coffee and snacks and they can shop in the Closet at no cost. This is always a rewarding event.

Again, we wish to thank our wonderful church family for your generosity, love and outreach for projects in our church, community and beyond.

Your Evangelism/Missions Committee

FUMC Shirt & Cap Fundraiser

A **big thank you to all who ordered** FUMC shirts and caps. This fundraiser was sponsored by the Communications Team with the proceeds contributed to the Building Fund to help pay down our church remodel debt. We worked closely with

Kilpatrick Creations Inc. to set up our new logo and slogan for embroidery on clothing apparel.

We had 2 different fundraising events, the first one being offered to the Communication Team and all committee chairs. The thought process behind the first order was to be able to work out any bugs and streamline the ordering process. The second offer was to the entire congregation with an open window of 1 month for placing an order.

"Milestone Celebration"

- Total shirt and caps - both orders: **83 items**
- Total proceeds from sale applied to the Building Fund: **\$608.45**

The Communications Team would like to make this an ongoing fundraising event and will be **kicking off another order opportunity to purchase FUMC "Living Out God's Love" merchandise this fall.**

Any suggestions for improvement are welcome. Thanks to all of you for your order!

~Tena Taylor, Communications Team

Emailed Newsletter

We are currently preparing to transition our print newsletter to an e-newsletter. For the next few months we will be sending out a print edition and also an electronic edition through email. **If you do not receive the e-edition please contact the office to make sure we have your email on file.** If you do not receive email we will continue to send a few newsletters out to those who do not have a computer. If you have questions please call the office.

Men's Group News



The Men's Group will **resume monthly meetings in September**, meeting the **LAST Monday of each month.** Meetings are at 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall for a light supper, short business meeting, laughs and fellowship. All men are invited.



Choir Practice will begin Sept 6 and Handbell rehearsal will start Sept 9! Please join us!

Fire Doors



The trustees would like to give a friendly reminder that **all fire doors need to remain closed when the office is not open**. If you prop open a fire door please make sure it is closed before you leave. These doors will be marked with a sign soon. For now, if you open a door, please make sure it is closed when you leave. Thank you!

Blessing of the Backpacks



On **Sunday, August 26th**, {during children's time}, we will have a special prayer for our students as they finish or prepare for their first week of school. Please bring your backpack to worship with you!

A Way Forward

We will be having an open conversation (**a town-hall meeting**) on **Sunday, September 3 at 10:45 AM**, about the 2019 special session of General Conference that will be discussing the Commission on a Way Forward. The 32-member Commission was authorized by General Conference 2016 and appointed by the Council of Bishops to examine paragraphs in The Book of Discipline concerning human sexuality and exploring options to strengthen the unity of the church. The special session will be taking place on February 23-26, 2019 in St. Louis, Missouri. You can find information about the Commission on the UMC.org website as well as a printout of the final report in the office. There are also videos available from some of the individuals that participated in the Commission available online. If you have any questions before we gather please call the office or you can bring them to the town-hall conversation.

Attention Parents and Guardians

There will be a conversation about education possibilities for our children and youth on **Sunday, September 9th at 10:45 AM** following worship. We will be asking you what your hopes are about

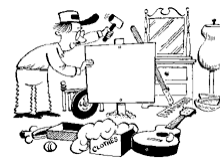
Sunday school and what will work best for you. Please plan to attend this conversation as **your input is important to us** as we look for new possibilities and ideas. If you cannot make this meeting, please give Pastor Jim a call to share your ideas.



Sheridan FUMC will once again host the *9-week FPU every Tuesday evening, 6:30-8:30 pm, September 11 thru November 6, 2018. First 5 to register thru Sheridan UMC receive a church discount registration fee of \$80; all others who register thru FPU link receive a Sheridan UMC promotional registration fee of \$109!*

Check out the FPU website daveramsey.com or contact Eloise Saltzgaver at (307)421-6053.

Parking Lot Sale



The Methodist Men's Group Annual Fall Parking Lot Sale will be held on **Saturday, September 15, 2018, from 8am-1pm**. The following Saturday, September 22, will be our rain out date.

As usual, we will have coffee and cinnamon rolls and hamburgers hot off the grill for lunch.

You can **rent a space for \$10** to use your own table or rent **space and a table for \$15** or **two tables and a space for \$20**.

You can also donate items and we will sell them for you. Donation pickups will be on the Thursday and Friday before the sale. **PLEASE, NO TV'S** nor will we accept computer monitors, computer key boards or CPU's for the reason that they don't sell and cost us to dispose of them at the dump.

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.

All the proceeds from the donated items, tables and food will go to the Men's Group. In the past year the Methodist Men's Group has donated money or gift cards to the VOA, Lunch Together, Circle J Camp, Food Group, Christmas Coat Tree

and Project Graduation. We have given a \$1000 to the Trustees to help with the work at the parsonage. As you can see, the proceeds are used to help and support our church and community.

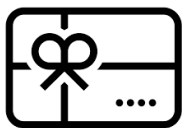
Trinity Circle Meeting

On Monday **August 27th @ 5:30pm**, 65 Jack Road, Big Horn WY. Buns, Brats, Beans, Condiments, Drinks, and Tableware will be provided! A car pool from the church parking lot will LEAVE at 5:15pm Contact Sandy: 673-0321 OR Linda: 673-5969 **RESERVE YOUR RIDE**

Fall Book Study

On **September 16th at 6:00 PM** we are starting a new book study. We will be using the new **book by Adam Hamilton, "Unafraid"**. In this five-week study, Adam explores the worries and fears most of us experience. We will learn to identify fears and discover practical steps for overcoming them...all in the light of Scripture and a faith that promises again and again that we can live with courage and hope. **Books will be available the first week in September.** Sign up using the sheet in the clipboards or by calling the office.

Gift Cards (Scrip Program)



It is time for Fall Projects, sports and the start of school. **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 Cabalas or Bass Pro. You will need groceries and snacks. We have Walmart, Albertson's and Safeway. Going on a fall road trip? We have cards for all the major hotel chains. You will need gas. We have Holiday store, Chevron, Sinclair, BP, Texaco, etc., etc. You will need to eat. We have Wendy's, Burger King, Taco Bell, Outback Steakhouse, Olive Garden, Qdoba, Papa John's, Papa Murphy's, etc., etc. Are you flying? We have Delta Airlines and Southwest Airlines. Buying a new snowblower? We have Ace Hardware, Home Depot, Sears, Lowe's and Menards.

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.

~Peace, Rollie Hein

LC&C Book Club meets in October!



It has been great sharing coffee & conversation this summer around a few books that have provided inspiration, joy, and hope! With fall fast approaching, our last 2018 LC&C book has been chosen and the date has been set!

Book: Mead Mountain: A Matthew 17:20 Story, by B. K. Dell

Date/Time: Saturday, Oct 6, 2018, 10-Noon

Location: FUMC's Filling Station

It's a fictional story based on Matthew 17:20. It has been named an Illumination Gold Medal Award Winner for 2018.

One reviewer, Beth Wyant, describes this book as a *"Gripping novel that gives great insight to the human condition and our faith in God...I am an avid reader of Christian Fiction and was so excited to see this new book with 5 star reviews. I wasn't disappointed and will be sharing with friends. I'll be thinking about this one for a long time. Today, I plan to buy a mustard seed and tie a string around my finger."*

Order your book from Amazon.com or Roosters (mention you are ordering for a book club and receive a Roosters' discount) and join us for coffee and conversation!

Ladies' Bible Study begins next month!



Ladies! Mark your calendars for the return of **Thursday**

Ladies' Bible Study next month! A six-session video-based study that will take you to sites in Israel and provide you with fascinating background details to make the story of the New Testament come alive begins **October 11 and will meet each consecutive Thursday through November 15.** More details coming in the October newsletter!