



# THE GATEWAY

First United Methodist Church, Sheridan WY

Jim Barth, Pastor

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Kortney Muir & JennaRae Akers, Editors

October 2018

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A few months ago a group of four individuals from this congregation attended a seminar entitled, “5 things your visitors are thinking but won’t ask”. This was a wonderful seminar about preparing to receive and welcome guests into the life of your congregation. We were encouraged by how many of the ideas presented are already being put into practice in our church. There was something that grabbed our attention however, it was the top ten list of reasons people give for not coming back. The number one reason... (drumroll please): Having to stand up and greet people in the worship service.

The worship committee took this information and used it by trying a new way of honoring our guests and placing the passing of the peace at the end of the service. This way, we are honoring our guests in a way that does not make some feel uncomfortable. For many, this is going to be a shock, but let me give you the perspective of an introverted person. The thought that I would have to stand up and get introduced in a worship service makes me nervous. I understand that not everyone feels this way, most extroverted people I know are fine with getting introduced. However, we decided to use guest cards, develop a hospitality center, and move the greeting time to the end of the service.

We realize the importance of having a connection time in the service. Having a passing of the peace and the personal connection it brings, is a vital part of worship. There is a reason why Paul tells the communities in Rome, in Corinth twice, and in Thessalonica, to greet one another with a “holy kiss”. In some cultures today, people still greet each other with a kiss; however, we usually use a handshake or a hug. It is important for us to express our brotherly and sisterly love and friendship to each other. This is the bedrock of building meaningful relationships with each other and demonstrating Christian fellowship.

May I encourage you when it’s time to greet one another, if you see a guest, introduce yourself. Put your hand out to shake theirs and say: “My name is \_\_\_\_\_. What’s yours?” That is the start of a meaningful and lasting relationship that represents true love of your neighbor.

Blessings,

Pastor Jim



### PRAYERS ~

- ..for **Dave Hanlin & family.**
- ..for **Barbara Braided Hair**
- ..for **Jim & Carol Swartz.**
- ..for **Debbie Williams.**
- ..for **those affected by hurricane Florence.**
- ..for **students and education professionals.**
- ..for **travelers.**

### Communications Team

In the Sept. Gateway, the Communications Team announced the experiment of transitioning from a printed monthly newsletter to an electronic version in a way to lower the costs acquired and environmental input. In addition to the electrical emailed version of the Gateway Newsletter, we have also created a “printer friendly” version through the FUMC’s website ([fumcsheridanwy.org](http://fumcsheridanwy.org)) for those that would like to print a copy themselves.

However, ANYONE that would like to receive the printed copy of the Gateway Newsletter can sign up on the clipboard’s in worship or call the church office. There will also be paper versions available at the church for pick-up.

We desire to be good stewards with the responsibility given to us. A review of the potential cost savings of cutting down on the printed newsletter was done. We considered the postage, paper, labels, and ink. The estimated cost savings would be **\$1,116 annually!** If you have any concerns, please contact the Church Office.

*Your Communication Team*

### 3rd Grade Bibles

Please join us on Sunday, October 14, as we present Bibles to our 3rd graders.

### Stewardship

2019 is just around the corner! As we prepare for another year of ministry, we find ourselves needing to create a new operating budget. During the month of October, you will be receiving a letter from the stewardship committee inviting you to prayerfully consider a pledge for 2019. A pledge that we are referring to is what you hope to give towards the mission and ministry of First United Methodist Church of Sheridan, WY. We will be collecting the pledge cards on October 28 during the offertory time. Our hope is to create a balanced budget and will use the pledges we receive to help create that budget.

### Evangelism/Missions Committee

Your Evangelism/Missions Committee would like to thank our church family for your support for the School Supply Project. With cash donations and supply donations we were able to provide 31 children with all the items on the school list. The supplies were distributed to Sagebrush and Coffeen Elementary schools and to the Northern Cheyenne Reservation.

We have several programs coming up in the future. Of course, **our Trunk or Treat will be on October 31<sup>st</sup>** in the church parking lot. We saw somewhere around 500 children for this event last year. We invite you to come, participate and dress up in costume if you can. We also will be accepting donations of candy to give out to the kids. Candy can be taken to the church office until Oct. 31<sup>st</sup>. Other future programs include Popcorn to be given out at the Christmas Stroll and the annual Veterans Coffee.

Stay tuned for dates, times and other events.

Your Evangelism/Missions Team



**OCTOBER 31<sup>st</sup> 5:30pm – 7:30pm**

Come as you are or come in full Halloween garb! Bring the kiddos for some safe family fun!

Decorate your trunk or have a fun Halloween tailgate!

Sign-up on the clipboards if you wish to participate or donate candy!

### Faith & Life Groups

**Beginning Wednesday, October 10** we will be starting Life & Faith Groups based off of the summer book study “The Class Meeting”. We are offering two different meeting times. The **first group** will meet in the morning at **10:00 AM** and the **second group** will meet at **4:30 PM**. The Life & Faith groups are for individuals who want to grow spiritually, have a deeper life in prayer, support others in “doing life together” and put hands and feet to work in service. We hope you will prayerfully consider being a part of one of these gatherings.

### Church Family Care

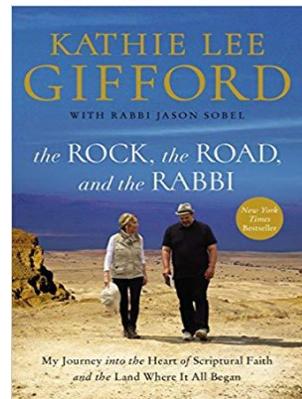
The church family care committee will meet at **9:30 am on October 10th**.

If you are willing to respond to email Prayer Requests that are made to the church through the office or June Simon, (simoncj33@yahoo.com), please make note on the clip board page or call the church office.

It is good to have a collective group who are willing to be notified by email and are willing to

pray for requests made from our church members, friends or those in the community.

### *The Rock, the Road, and the Rabbi*



**2018 Fall Women's Bible Study Begins!**  
**Thurs., Oct. 11–Nov. 15**  
**10:00 -11:30 am.**

#### **FUMC Filling Station**

Join us in this DVD-based six-week study to the Holy Land and develop a deeper passion for understanding God's Word in its original setting. We will explore Jesus' life through the interpretation of the Greek language by Messianic Rabbi Jason Sobel that may bring new insight into some of our traditionally-held thoughts and views.

Won't you join us?

Books are available in the FUMC Office.

*“For where two or three are gathered in My name,  
 I'm there with them.”*  
 Matthew 18:20 (CEB)

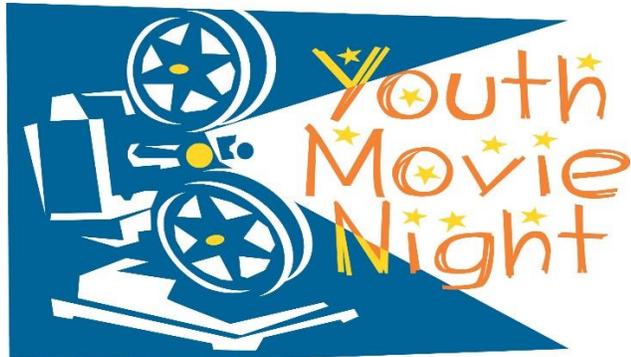


### **Pumpkin Carving**

On **Sunday, October 28 at 5:00 PM** we will be having our 14th annual pumpkin carving event and dinner. Please bring your own pumpkin and carving tools. This event is for children, youth, adults, and prayer partners. Following the

pumpkin carving we will eat a meal together. It will be a fun evening and we hope to see you there.

**Youth movie and discussion**



Our first Junior and High School connection will take place **on October 26 at 5:30 pm**. We will gather together to watch a movie, eat pizza, and have a discussion about the movie when it is over. We will conclude the evening around 8:00 pm. Feel free to invite your friends and get ready to have fun! If you would like to know the movie we will be watching please call the office. We look forward to seeing you there!

**S.W.O.T. Worship Service Evaluation**

Over the last few months we have been experiencing a new worship flow. The worship committee is going to be hosting a town hall meeting on October 28 following the worship service to conduct a S.W.O.T. analysis. This will be the time you will get to evaluate the worship experiment. S.W.O.T. stands for: Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats. We invite you to start thinking about your responses now and bring them to the town hall. We will then brainstorm, as a congregation, using each of these categories as the worship committee discerns the next steps for our Sunday morning worship service. Our goal is to complete the process by noon. We hope to see you there.

**A Way Forward**

In 2019 a special session of General Conference will be held to discuss 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 about the commission please call the office.

**Holliday Spirit Bazaar**

*Holiday Spirit Bazaar*

*November 10, 2018*



**ALL ARE INVITED TO A PLANNING MEETING FOR THE NOVEMBER 10 BAZAAR ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30 IN THE BASEMENT BACK ROOM FOLLOWING THE FUMC SERVICE. QUESTIONS, CONTACT PENNY @ 672.3291.**

**Chancel Choir will meet 7 p.m. each Thursday 10/4, 10/11, 10/18 and 10/25.**

