



# THE GATEWAY

First United Methodist Church, Sheridan WY

Jim Barth, Pastor

(307) 672-9779

Kortney & JennaRae Akers, Editors

November 2018

---

We are entering into the holiday season when we celebrate Thanksgiving, Christmas, and the start of a New Year. For many of us this is a joyous season, but for some of us it is not.

John 16:33 I've said these things to you so that you will have peace in me. In the world you have distress. But be encouraged! I have conquered the world.

Jesus is at the end of His ministry when talking with the disciples. He just got done telling them that He was about to go back to be with God and that each one of the disciples were going to be scattered to their homes. It is at that point that Christ tells them that "you will have distress, but be encouraged, I have conquered the world."

The disciples were about to face a scary world without their teacher being physically present with them. I am sure that they had all sorts of questions and fears, especially because they were about to watch their teacher be crucified. The Jesus movement could have started and stopped with them, but God had other plans. Each one of the disciples faced a hard and distressed life, but that did not stop them from sharing the hope, mercy, compassion, and love of Jesus.

This passage has always encouraged me. It has encouraged me because in my life I have faced suffering and hardships. There is no explanation why we face this, (it would have been nice if Jesus would have said a little more here about why we will have distress) but our hope is in the truth that Jesus has conquered the world!

As we prepare to remember what we are thankful for, the birth of our King, and the start of a new year we can be reminded of this truth; that Jesus has conquered this world and shares that victory with us. Even when we are going through suffering, we can be ambassadors of God's hope, mercy, compassion, and love.

Blessings,  
Pastor Jim

**CARES  
CONCERNS  
CELEBRATIONS**



**PRAYERS ~**

- ...for **Dahlia Deeds.**
- ...for **Barbara Braided Hair**
- ...for **Jim & Carol Swartz.**
- ...for **Debbie Williams.**
- ...for **The United Methodist Church.**

**Stewardship Statement**

This is the church, this is the steeple, open the doors and see all of the people. Yes, open the doors to all of the people! Through generations **FUMC has been an open the doors location** for all types of activity. *Through your generosity the doors are still open and the facility is available for our use and for others to use.* Let us keep that tradition of open doors going. Be generous in giving to support the FUMC mission in Sheridan.

~Stew Rd Ship

**Thanksgiving Dinner**



The Men's Group will once again host a Thanksgiving Dinner on Thanksgiving Day. **Serving will start at noon and everyone is invited.** There is a sign-up sheet on the clipboards at church. Please bring a covered dish or a dessert to share. The Men's Group will provide ham, turkey, gravy, dressing, homemade mashed potatoes and rolls. If weather changes your Thanksgiving travel plans but you haven't signed up for the meal you are more than welcome to come down and eat with us, your church family. As with the loaves and fishes, we always seem to have enough. Hope to see you there.

**Holiday Spirit Bazaar November 10<sup>th</sup>!**

Join us for coffee and cinnamon rolls beginning at 8a. Then Sloppy Joes, chips, and homemade pie from 11am – 1:30pm. The Closet will be OPEN! Many crafts, RADA knives, and baked goods!

*Gingerbread Cookie / Candy Sale  
Saturday, December 8  
in the Basement Fellowship Hall*

Join us for our Annual Cookie Sale which provides cookies and candy for our friends, neighbors, co-workers and the entire Sheridan community.



*Get the date on your calendar, get your recipes out, make a shopping list, and warm up the oven!*

Proceeds to our "God's Plan Our Hands" Project!

Watch for more details in the December Gateway.

**Circuit Charge Conference**

Save the date! On **Saturday, December 8** we will be having our Circuit Charge Conference. We will be meeting at **Sundance UMC** this year. Sundance will be having a light lunch from 11:00-noon with our Charge Conference to follow. If you would like to carpool to this event please call the office.

**WELCOMING THE STRANGER**

Due to Billings Churches cancelling unexpectedly, we will be hosting Rev. A.J. Bush's dialogue about Welcoming the Stranger on Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup> from 9am – 4pm. Join us for an interactive day of learning where we will ask the question, "what does it mean to live out our biblical call to love and welcome the stranger in our own community?" You will hear untold histories from the Great Plains, experience contemplative practice, sit in self-reflection, and engage in experiential activities in which participants will examine ways of welcome and systems of power in our local community – both past and present. Leave with **true stories, deepened awareness, next steps, and connection** to local partners.

## Men's Gift Card Program



The Holiday Season will be upon us quickly. Groceries need to be purchased for **baking and for holiday meals**. Gas needs to be bought for holiday travel.

**Gifts** will be purchased for Christmas. **Please think of the Men's Group Gift Cards for these purchases.** They make great gifts to send to children or grandchildren. They eliminate using a credit card for purchases and risking your credit information being stolen, and you help the church at the same time! If you are flying to your holiday destination there are several airlines on the retailer list also.

**Here is how it works.** Order forms are at the church office or I have them with me every Sunday at church. You mark the denomination and number of cards you want per retailer. Drop your order off at the church office with payment (check or cash only please) or give it to me. I place an order every Monday with the cards being here by the following Friday. **The church website also has a link that will take you to the order form.** The order form also has a column that tells you how much of a rebate that particular retailer will give to the Men's Group. There are over 700 companies enrolled in this program and you can browse through all of them at [shopwithscrip.com](http://shopwithscrip.com). I have customized the Men's Group order form to our geographic region of retailers. You can use the cards to place catalog orders or shop online. If you have any questions about whether or not a retailer is on the list ask me.

For example, Cabela's pays an 11% rebate. If you give me a \$100.00 check to purchase a \$100 Cabela's gift card the Men's Group receives \$11.00 from your purchase and you received a \$100.00 Cabela's gift card.

Cabela's is only one of the well-known retailers on the **list of 700 plus retailers** listed. Some of the others are; Alberson's, Safeway, Wal-mart, Walgreen's, Home Depot, Lowe's, Menard's, Bass Pro, Kohl's, Herberger's, Bed, Bath and Beyond, Bath and Body Works, Dillards, Sears, Target, Best Buy, LL Bean and TJ Maxx.

Cards are also **available for eating establishments** such as; Red Lobster, Olive Garden, Longhorn Steakhouse, Outback Steakhouse, Qdoba, Buffalo-Wild-Wings, Burger King, Arby's, Papa Murphy's, Papa John's, Domino's, Wendy's, Subway, Ruth Crist Steakhouse and more.

You can also **buy gift cards for online shopping** such as Amazon, Barnes and Noble, Overstock.com and iTunes.

If you have any questions about the program or how it works please contact me at 763-2141.

All the proceeds from this program will go to Men's Group projects for the church and the community.

*~ Happy Thanksgiving!* Rollie Hein, Pres.  
Sheridan Methodist Men's Group

## Monthly Newsletter Mailed

The last several months the Communications Team has announced that November will be the last mailing of the "Gateway" unless you have contacted the church office requesting that you still want to continue the paper newsletter mailed to you each month.

As a reminder, a print friendly version of the "Gateway" is on the web site. You can find each month's newsletter by going to our web site at <http://fumcsheridanwy.org/monthly-newsletter/> or go to our web site home page, click on "Get Connected", then click on "Monthly Newsletter". There will also be paper versions available at the church for pick-up.

If you have any concerns, please contact the Church Office.

Your *Communication Team*

## **Open Letter to the People of the Mountain Sky Conference**

From the Cabinet and the delegates to General Conference 2019

We write in a time when our denomination and nation feel helplessly divided. In political, social, and religious arenas we've seen mounting problems, and when we've sought leadership we've only found division. In times such as these we need leaders to come together, engage in authentic, grace-filled, challenging dialogue and present a path forward.

It is against this backdrop that we, the Mountain Sky Cabinet and General Conference Delegation, write to express our support for the One Church Model, as presented by the Commission on a Way Forward. We believe that the One Church Model is a reasonable compromise that aligns with our Wesleyan heritage, allowing us to live in unity without requiring uniformity, and allows for the least disruptions of vital ministries throughout the Mountain Sky Conference.

We, the people of the Mountain Sky Conference, know the value of unity even in the midst of disagreement; we've lived into this model for many years. Go to any UMC from Trinidad, CO to Columbia Falls, MT, from Wheatland, WY, to St. George, UT and you're likely to find people living in community despite disagreement about any number of divisive issues. Despite these disagreements, United Methodists have welcomed, supported, and loved each other as they have lived out a shared mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Our theological diversity has created increased empathy, conversation, and growth. It has helped us to live in community with each other thus making us better prepared to live in harmony with all of creation.

To be clear, the One Church Model is not perfect. The One Church Model does not completely live into the values of full inclusion for our LGBTQ sisters and brothers; instead, discriminatory practices are allowed to persist within the United Methodist Church. Although we support the One Church Model, we also reaffirm our continued commitment to further the cause of equity and justice for all of those who have been disenfranchised in our Church.

While we acknowledge these imperfections in the plan, we also recognize that the One Church Model provides a significant gift to our conference and the entire denomination: the ability to live in unity without requiring uniformity. The One Church Model invites us to be united across our difference – a difference found in almost every congregation. Unity is difficult but unity teaches us empathy; it challenges us to reconsider the preconceived notions we have about others and ourselves, to grow a deeper understanding of ourselves and others, and to practice loving our neighbor always.

In the interest of unity, we, the Mountain Sky Conference Cabinet and Delegation, offer our prayerful support for the One Church Model as it has been presented by the Commission on the Way Forward. Recognizing its significant challenges, we accept the invitation to live into better community and to increase our love and empathy for each other, and to grow together in the likeness of Christ. Further, as leaders of this conference, we commit ourselves to working diligently to support and serve the conference as it continues to strive to live into God's vision of Beloved Community.

Grace and peace in the name of Jesus Christ,

Doug Palmer, Don McCammon, Kunle Taiwo, Harvey Tukutau, Peg Plimpton, Margaret Hotze, lay delegates and first alternates; Tyler Amundson, Kent Ingram, Jeremy Scott, Brad Laurvick, Megan Armstrong, Cathie Kelsey, clergy delegates and first alternates; Bishop Karen Oliveto, Jeff Rainwater, Youngsook Kang, Margaret Gillikin, Paul Kottke, Marv Vose, Jan Witman, Tezenlo Thong, Deborah Christine, Amy Gearhart, MSC Cabinet