



# THE GATEWAY

First United Methodist Church, Sheridan WY

Jim Barth, Pastor

(307) 672-9779

Kortney Muir, Editor

January 2019

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Habakkuk 1:5 Look among the nations and watch!

Be astonished and stare

because something is happening in your days  
that you wouldn't believe even if told.

Starting a new year can be a time of anxiety. What is going to happen this year? However, it can also be a time of excitement. How is God going to use us this year? With a new year comes new adventures and challenges. We will be exploring new ideas and hope to try new ministries as we strive to live into our mission and vision. We will face challenges along the way, but we know that God is going to be working with us as we go through those. We remember from advent that God has given us the gifts of hope, peace, joy, and love. Not only has God given us these gifts, but has invited us to give these gifts to the world. Jesus is our example of how to do this and following that example, we will step out and try new ideas.

At the start of the New Year, I like to remember this passage from Habakkuk. God was talking to the prophet Habakkuk about what was going to happen to the Israelites. Even though what God was about to do was going to be a hard and long adventure for the Israelites, it was what needed to happen. I believe that God is going to continue to use us, in a big way, in the work that God is already doing in Sheridan. So big, that we would not believe it even if we were told! I am looking forward to this upcoming year and I am excited to see where we go. So let us keep watch to see where God is moving and be astonished at what God will accomplish through us!

Happy New Year,  
Pastor Jim

**PRAYERS ~**

- ...for **The Kougl Family**
- ...for **Barbara Braided Hair**
- ...for **Jim & Carol Swartz.**
- ...for **Debbie Williams.**
- ...for **Becky Volmer**
- ...for **The United Methodist Church.**

**Town Hall Meeting**

On Sunday, January 13 following the worship service we will have a town-hall meeting. We will be discussing the Special session of General Conference that will be held in February 2019. This will be a great time to ask questions and have a group discussion.

**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.

**Women's Bible Study**

Thursday Women's Bible study will start up again February 7th!

Join us for this seven-week DVD-based study on Nehemiah authored by Kelly Minter. Through this study, we will discover a man whose compassion for his people lead him to walk away from the comforts of wealth and position to help his people who were suffering. Nehemiah will inspire you to listen to what God has placed on your heart to help others by living out God's love. Book will be available in the FUMC office starting in January.

**ATTENTION NURSERY HELPERS!**

We will be having a meeting for Nursery Helpers on January 6<sup>th</sup> @ 11:00 am in the Mini-kitchen. We really need everyone that is helping in the nursery to attend. If you are unable to make this meeting, please contact the office @ 672-9779 to make an appointment with the Pastor. If you have any questions, please contact Kortney in the office.

**UMW Mission Team**

The UMW Mission Team will be meeting Wed, January 9th at 1:00 pm and again Wed, January 23rd at 1:00 pm.

**Worship Committee**

The Worship Committee will meet twice this month. First meeting will be Thursday, January 10 @ 5:30 p.m. with another meeting on Thursday, January 17 @ 5:30 p.m.

## Celebrating 130 years!

On December 23, 1888, the Rev. D. B. Vasseller of the New York East Conference organized the First Methodist Episcopal Church. Here's to those that have been a Member of the First United Methodist Church for ***Fifty Years and longer!***

Rose Hill, 70 years  
 Bill Avery, 66 years  
 Karen Rader, 64 years  
 Frank Shaffer, 64 years  
 Judy Musgrave, 62 years  
 Wilma Deeds, 61 years  
 Mac Grimm, 59 years  
 Bill Grimm, 59 years  
 Shirley Zeglin, 59 years  
 Ethel Willms, 58 years  
 Eva Burton, 58 years  
 Nancy Elkins, 57 years  
 Lola Deming, 55 years  
 Doris Case, 53 years  
 Audrey Ferries, 53 years  
 Richard Rader, 52 years  
 Jean Lobach, 50 years

### **2019 Fellowship Schedule Available**

The 2019 Fellowship schedule is available from Kortney at the office. Copies have also been placed in the committee mailboxes for committee chairperson to pick up. The schedule is available to anyone interested from Kortney.

There are some notable changes. With the schedule, you will receive a "Fellowship Guidelines" and a list of names and numbers of volunteers who have come to me and said they are willing to provide food or drink for fellowship. Church Family Care and Evangelism/Missions/Memorial and Mile of Pennies committees have been removed from the Fellowship rotation due to small committee membership. Six **NEW** groups have been added.

They are- Trinity Circle, Circle 5, Deeds Family, Ritterbush Family, Closet Ladies and the Hein Family. With these additional groups that have kindly volunteered or agreed to host Fellowship, each group will serve only 4 times per year, or once every 12 weeks. Also, there will be NO FELLOWSHIP OR POTLUCK on the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month. Unless someone wants to sponsor a potluck 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday. If so, let me know we can get the word out.

Thank you to all the groups who will be hosting Fellowship in 2019, especially the new groups. To me it is an important gathering of families to share conversation, food and drink. In other words, Fellowship.

If you have any questions please contact me. Thanks again to all the participants and those who volunteered to help provide food.

Rollie Hein  
 763-2141

### ***"The Closet"***

The Closet will be opening again on January 8<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. In addition, donations will also be accepted!

### **From the Office:**

If you have any information that you wish to add to the Daily Devotion, Facebook, or Monthly Newsletter, please email Kortney using **office@fumcsheridanwy.org**. There has been some confusion is the relay of messages using an older email address. Please note this address for communication with the office. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me @ 307-672-9779, Monday – Friday 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

### **NOTE FROM THE TREASURE**

**If you want your Contributions for the year 2018 tax return, we need to have your check by Sunday, December 30<sup>th</sup>.**

## 2018 in Retrospect

When we talk about mission, we often think of the work that is done by the Missions/Evangelism team. However, mission unfolds in our congregation in many ways, often these ways are not considered mission or ministry, but are activities that are just expected to occur or be there.

That being the case, let me list for your information the missional activities that have taken place from our church and by our church.

**The Closet:** worked by a dedicated group of ladies that work hard to provide low cost and at times free clothing to members of our community. Through their hard work, our Sheridan community and our church has benefited.

**Lunch Together:** a dedicated group of members that work to feed the hungry and through their work and our membership in the volunteer rotation we can provide up to or over 100 meals in the week that we serve. Your congregational support and the work of the cooking team is a gift to our community for not only do we feed the body, but by being there and opening, the doors we also provide a place for folks to meet and socialize in a safe location.

**United Methodist Women and Methodist Men:** both organizations offer to our congregation and our community gifts of money and service to support those in need. Those in need can be anything from support to our youth locally up to support regionally and internationally for a variety of programs. Through their fund-raising efforts to their careful consideration of supporting those in need, both organizations embody the Open Hearts in the United Methodist motto for not only do they support outside the walls of our church but also inside the walls.

**Church Family Care:** Those prayer blankets, home communion, gift bags, cards and well wishes do not appear out of thin air. The team of dedicated ladies that make the above appear embody the spirit of loving and giving. Ask a person who has received a prayer blanket what that blanket has meant in their time of need. Associated teams such as Hospitality and Bereavement offer support to newcomers and families who have lost loved ones.

**Native American Ministries:** In deed, this is a Ministry for a group of our church members, as well as, some who do not attend our church. A ministry that started as a healing process between the Norther Cheyenne and the United Methodist church has become a ministry that provides financial support to Native American activities as well as other support as demonstrated by the Christmas Coat tree. Where we as a congregation provide support to this team, they also work hard to make money to support their own efforts.

**Missions/Evangelism:** a small but active team who sponsors within our church and outside of our church a variety of missional activities. With YOUR financial support to this team and the various missional needs they bring to you, you as a church support programs such as Angola Pastors, The Volunteers of America Empty Bowl project, Veterans Coffee, United Methodist Committee on Relief projects, Pop Corn at the Stroll, Trunk or Treat, school supplies drive and more.

**Mission Partners:** consider that a group of dedicated folks individually or as a family provide ten dollars a month so that literally hundreds of mission dollars go to local, regional, national and international programs each year.

I cannot forget the other ministries that are a critical part of our church family. Preparing our sanctuary for worship is carried out by the Alter Guild so that we can also have a visual representation of what it means to worship, Music from our Choir and Bell Choir enhances our worship experience but the few minutes we see them in our services is preceded by hours of practice. We can also be thankful that others provide their musical talent that is consider special musical moments in our worship. I cannot help but mention that just a very few folks set up or take down our communion table.

In the administrative efforts of our church, the Communications team, the Worship Team, the Trustees, the Memorials Team, the Committee on Finance and Administration, the Staff Parish Relations Team all work to make sure that we are being diligent about our commitment to each other and to the church.

Have I missed some, I am sure I have, but the last group I want to mention is us. We are the folks who provide the time and work as well as the financial support to the ministries above. We are the ones who are dedicated to Offering Christ to each other and to the greater world.

I look forward to seeing what 2019 has in store for us.

Have a Productive and Blessed New Year,  
An Observer

Transparency Block

Monthly Numbers for November 2018	
Last Month's Income	\$ 17,225
Last Month's Expenses	\$ 16,117
Income Year to Date	\$171,473
Expenses Year to Date	\$178,088
Building Loan Balance	\$291,100
Weekly Worship Attendance Average	92.75
Weekly Online Attendance Average	7

To view the proposed 2019 budget you can go onto the church website: [fumcsheridanwy.org](http://fumcsheridanwy.org) or call the office @ 307-672-9779.