

THE WYOMING MESSENGER

December 2016

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Come celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ!

at 6:30 PM * Christmas Eve

in a service for the whole family, with candle-light, special music of our Kids Praise choir and much more.

at 9:00 PM * Christmas Eve

in a traditional candlelight worship service. Enjoy beautiful hand bell and choral music and familiar hymns and carols to enhance the ancient Good News!

The Mitten Memorial Hand Bell Choir will tune our hearts to worship with a 30-minute prelude, starting at 8:30 PM.

Combined Worship on Christmas Day and New Year's Day : 9:45 AM

Please note that we will NOT have Sunday School on December 25 nor January 1.



...and Mrs. Claus, too!
Saturday, December 3rd,
servicing from 8 AM till 10:15 AM.

All you can eat pancakes, sausage, applesauce. Cost: \$6/age 10 to adult, kids \$3 (ages 3 to 9 years). Ages 2 and younger free. All proceeds toward the youth mission trip.



Sunday School
 Christmas
 Program

Sunday,
 December 4
 6:30 PM

Cookie reception
 following in the
 Family Life Center.



Bulletin Board

Time to send your Christmas mail! A great selection of hand-crafted **Christmas cards** is available in the vending area by the office window... just \$1/each - cute little **gift tags**, too... full benefit: mortgage reduction.



YOU - Can Be A Sunday Morning Greeter!
 As our welcoming Wyoming Church continues to draw more first time visitors and returning families, we need additional folks who are willing to be a Greeter for a period of 15 minutes once a month prior to the Service that you attend. If you feel that God is calling you to be a Sunday Morning Greeter, please see Lisa McCallister (8:30 Service), Gail Vella (9:45 Service), or Terry Higgins (11:00 Service). Being a Sunday Morning Greeter is rewarding, easy, satisfying, and fun!

The **Annual Holiday Craft Show** is happy to report that the vendor rentals and sales at the church craft table brought in \$2,400. Lunch items offered from our fabulous church kitchen as well as the delicious items on the bake table that sold out quickly... as in years past, netted another \$2,200. All who baked, crafted, set up, sold, cleaned up... and **ATTENDED** the Craft Show - **THANK YOU!!** Nikole Moore & Team

We will be **servicing dinner** to the residents at the **Dover Interfaith Mission** for Housing on **Wednesday, December 21 at 6 p.m.** If you would like to join us to serve the meal, or if you can donate a food item, please sign up at the Outreach table in the Narthex. We appreciate it!

Our **Team TLC** needs reinforcement! We provide **Tender Loving Care** to our sisters and brothers after surgery, hospital stay or similar event in their lives, **preparing a meal** for them! If you can help, contact Donna McCartney at (302) 331-0876.

As you make your calendars for 2017... be sure to enter the **Annual Ladies Retreat May 21 - 22, 2017.**
 @ Pecometh Riverview Retreat Center
 Complete details in the January Messenger. You don't want to miss this joy filled event. Still needed - a few women to help with the details of organizing. Contact **Barbara Shaw** ☎ 538-6772



From the Pastor's Desk

Rick Wessell



Herald Angels because not but it is one of songs in our

“Sing” is a masterpiece only is it easy and fun to sing, the most theologically rich hymnal. Charles moves us beyond the simple celebration of Christ’s birth and endeavors to explain the meaning of his birth—“peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!” Through Christ, “the incarnate Deity,” we are brought back into relationship with God; our sins are forgiven, and we have fullness of life. He was “born to give us second birth”—that’s the promise of eternal life in heaven. Through it all, the song invites us to join in the heavenly chorus announcing Christ’s birth, which is good news for us and good news for all humankind.

I am a huge fan of Christmas music. The moment that the local radio station turns to its all-Christmas music format, I have in on in the car. Thanks to Pandora and IHeartRadio I have Christmas music of all sorts at my fingertips 24/7. Some days I like the classic sounds of Bing Crosby, Perry Como, and Ray Conniff, others I like the more modern sound of Pentatonix, while on others I listen to Handel’s Messiah and other classical pieces. I love it all, and it really does make the season merry and bright.

In our canon of Christmas church music, my favorite song is probably “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing.” The song was written in 1739 by Charles Wesley, the brother of the founder of the Methodist movement John Wesley. Charles was himself an ordained minister and was also one of the foremost writers of worship music in his day. “Hark! The

I pray God’s blessings for your family through the Christmas season and into 2017. May it be a time of grace, wonder, worship, and celebration. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

IT'S TIME TO CELEBRATE THE BIRTH OF OUR LORD, JESUS CHRIST! The **Christmas Hymn Sing** at Dover Place will be held on **Monday, December 12 at 6:45PM.** Pastor Dave Hill will lead, with June Papen accompanying, so join the Visitation Team, Dover Place Residents and the Signing Class for a heart-warming event. Everybody is welcome to come and raise their voices in praise at this joyful time of year.



Sacred Music Is In The Air! Thanks to the generosity of Williams Family members and the technical expertise of Wayne Gordineer you and I can now enjoy sacred music being broadcast from the Wyoming Church Carillon at specific times during week days. In addition to the week day presentations, a highpoint in our Church’s renovated Carillon programming is that of a 10 minute continuous presentation of sacred music prior to the beginning of each of the three Sunday Morning services. So -- when you come to Church next Sunday listen for the ‘Sounds Of Sacred Music’!



Pastor Dave's Ministry Minute - December 2016

"Soon and Very Soon"

The Season of Advent proclaims for Christians across the globe the coming of the Christ child... This is a very special time of the year for those who have placed their hope of eternity in the message of the Gospel... The Praise Team is preparing a new worship song that I discovered through a post on Facebook... The title of the song is "Soon"... The first verse proclaims "Soon and very soon my King is coming"... It's a gentle and poignant ballad that offers the eternal hope that Christ is coming soon... As we enter into this season of Advent may each of us take the time to prepare our hearts and minds to be spiritually ready to receive the Christ child into our lives afresh and anew... Jesus tells us to be vigilant as we wait for the coming of the Son of Man for we don't know the day or the hour (Matt 25:13)... We do, however, know the day and the hour that we celebrate the birth of the Messiah, our Lord and Savior Jesus... In knowing when we celebrate the incarnation we make all kinds of preparations... We adorn our homes with decorative items that come out of the attic or the basement (or both) once a year... These decorative items serve as reminders of who we are and whose we are... My Christmas prayer for each of us who call on the name of the Lord is to be prepared in season and out of season... So that no matter when Jesus reveals himself to us that we are prepared to receive the grace and love poured out through him for the salvation of all mankind... So be it and Amen...

...**"Yes, I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**
Revelations 22:20



Greatly Diverse Dishes from many countries and Happy Faces at the International Feast... we hope to see YOU there, as well, next time!



Reflections

Reflections

Waiting...

Continued from back cover.

The research subjects of the marshmallow tests became longitudinal studies, which means to follow research subjects over time. The findings were that the majority of children who were able to delay their gratification (wait for the second marshmallow) grew to have better life outcomes in areas such as higher SAT scores, higher educational attainment, lower body mass index (BMI), etc., compared to subjects who ate the initial marshmallow without delay. The results allow us to generally conclude that waiting for the ultimate reward leads to better life results than indulging self in the immediate or what is readily available.

And so, interesting concept for study and certainly entertaining to watch, but what is the relevance to you and I? How does the marshmallow waiting game relate to our lives as Christians? Our annual journey into the Christmas season, albeit typically a slow one, serves as such a poignant reminder. If we can move a bit beyond the gifts we wait for, or the precious vacation time we long to enjoy, we may remember anew the awaited birth of our Savior so many years ago. And what a gift worth waiting for! And so this season, we remember the most precious gift to ever be experienced in our flesh and blood journey here on Earth. Yet there is more, so very much more. We still wait, do we not, as believers? Is our time here in this world a permanent one? As followers of Christ, we know that the best, eternity with our Creator, is still to come. But do we demonstrate this faith-truth in how we live our lives? What is that old cliché... *living like there is no tomorrow.*

I think I can safely say this without any supporting research, that we live in an age, unlike any other in the history of man, where living in the immediate, in the moment, has so thoroughly invaded the human experience. In other words, there has likely never been a time when waiting was more irrelevant than it is today. *Wait for what*, one may sincerely ask, when so

Danny Cooper
Coordinator/Counselor
Daybreak Counseling Services



much is available to us, right at our very fingertips. The danger, of course, our subtle danger as believers, is that we slip progressively further into the deep end of the pool, with the world simply swimming around us. With so much available to us, with such ability to navigate life as we see fit, as is most convenient to us in the moment, is not our vision invariably pared down to what is immediately before us? And in this scenario, has not the instantaneous, self-indulgent, entitled voice of the world become a filter for our life experience? And so, what about the *still small voice* of God? How can we truly hear, how can we fully receive His reassurance and guidance if we so willingly respond to the array of clanging cymbals conjured up by a dying world? How can we not become the over-stimulated child; captive to the now; unable, and maybe unconcerned, about waiting? In other words, how many of us would simply gobble down the aforementioned marshmallow in one fell swoop? Once again, why wait? I'm going to guess that many of you were given similar advice as young believers... *when facing questions or concerns, turn to the Word for the answer.* Is that still relevant advice in this day and time? I certainly think so. No matter the number of people who may find the Word unfitting for the time, or woefully outdated and irrelevant, both in and out the church ironically, I am one who still finds great assurance in the power and timeless truths of the Scripture. It seems that no matter how many years go by, no matter how many "advancements" we make in our human experience, the Word never fails to illuminate and clarify the path toward eternity. Remember, God is a still small voice....easy to bypass, overlook, talk over, etc. There is a lot of noise in our world, a never ending stream of, well, you name it, and God, the Creator of all, is simply not going to compete. The first commandment is still the first commandment... *love the Lord your God...* This is a choice we each must make. God loves us too much to force us to pay attention, to listen... to wait.

So, back to the Word. What does scripture have to say about this time

period we live in, and the importance of waiting; living for eternity, instead of over-indulging in today as if there is no heavenly tomorrow? There are actually many reassuring scriptures that thankfully apply, but I have included only three: the introduction scripture from Paul's letter to Titus, and the following two from Jesus' disciples, those who literally walked day in and day out with the very Savior of the world. May we take a few minutes as this article closes to ponder on these very old words, asking ourselves what they mean to us as believers living in this current age.

Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world—the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does—comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever. 1 John 2:15-17

Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul. Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us. 1 Peter 2:11-12

Let us remember that living the life of a believer, living with our sights set on eternity, will not always be in accord with the world around us. This is why Jesus reassured us in scripture to *take heart*, for He has *overcome the world*, and *blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness*. As Paul aptly declared in Romans...*if God is for us, who is against us*. The light of God, as we know, can never be extinguished, and as believers, no matter how dark our surroundings may appear, we have the honor and responsibility to shine forth that unending light. As we wait for our eternal homecoming someday, may the humility and courage of our Lord Jesus be our strength along the way... Amen

"2,4,6,8... Who Do We Appreciate !!"

At Wyoming UMC we are very fortunate to have many wonderful volunteers who, by their participation, allow us to extend our ministries within and beyond the walls of our building. To recognize these groups and/or individuals we will be highlighting selected groups each month throughout the year as a regular article in The Wyoming Messenger. One of these might be a good fit for YOU! This month we want to say "Thank you" to

Altar Guild

The Altar Guild prepares the altar for worship ensuring that the proper cloth and candles are in place and that, when necessary, communion service items are ready for use. They also make certain that the baptismal font is prepared when a christening is scheduled and that flowers are ordered and positioned. Likewise, after services, they remove and clean items that have been utilized. Gloria Barker and Margaret Bryan are co-chairs of the Altar Guild.



Gloria



Margaret

Sanctuary Decorating

A big "thank you" goes out to Sharon Duncan and Renate Purdy as the primary decorators for the Sanctuary. At specific times of the year they are called upon to create and interpret visual accents on a large scale to accompany themes of



Sharon



Renate

worship and celebration. Their creativity inspires us all.

Bake Table Bakers

During Soup Day, at the Holiday Craft Show and the Yard-, Book- and Clothing Sales we call on the many talented bakers in the congregation to prepare yummy delights for purchase. The profit from these sales helps in lowering building debt or in support of a special project. Sig Kelsey and Susan Gant are the coordinators for this group.



Sig



Susan

FUNd- raising Team

This truly amazing group of people is constantly at work creating new FUN and innovative ways to raise FUNds in an effort to reduce the debt of our wonderful new church. Whether they are taking us on a dinner Cruise (auction), bringing in terrific talent (concerts) or giving us new opportunities to "repurpose" our stuff (book, clothing, and garage sales) they are always on the lookout for new ideas that would be a benefit to all. We are blessed to have this hard-working team putting so much effort and enthusiasm into their projects. Guiding this team is Debbie Grinstead and they are always ready to welcome new members to their merry band.



Debbie

We are so very thankful for these volunteers and ask that you include them in your prayers and support their efforts wherever possible.

At the recent Parents' Night Out'...

Parents got to enjoy a quiet dinner, shopping or just get some R&R, while our Jr. & Sr. High Youth had some fun activities for their little ones.



The CIA (Couples in Action)...

... would like to extend a very special thank you to everyone who contributed to our Operation Christmas Child project. Thanks to your generosity and help, we blessed 42 children with a very special shoebox present. We also filled 50 lunch bags for the Dover interfaith mission. What a blessing to give locally and globally all in one night. God is so good!

Our next event will be sharing Christmas cheer with our **Family Caroling Night, on December 18 (4 pm).**



YOUTH CALENDAR *December*

Jr./Sr. High MYF

Sunday, 12/4/16, MYF Study and Children's Sunday School Christmas Program,
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Sunday, 12/11/16, Indoor Soccer Games/Practice for Family Eve Service,
5:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Sunday, 12/18/16, Christmas Party/Practice for Christmas Eve Service,
4:30 pm – 9:00 pm

Friday, 12/30/16, Lock-in, 7:00 pm – 9:00 am (Saturday)

Service

Saturday, 12/3/16, Breakfast with Santa Mission Trip Fundraiser, 8–10 am

Study

Sunday school lessons are a part of MYF in the evening.

Wednesday, 12/7/16, Intergenerational Bible Study: *When Christians Get It Wrong*,
7:00 pm – 8:30 pm, Rm. 225

Worship

Saturday, 12/24/16, Christmas Eve Family Service, 6:30 – 7:30

Every Sunday, Services at 8:30, 9:45, and 11:00



JR./SR. HIGH MYF: NERF WAR/MYSTERY DINNER

Nerf War? Mystery

Dinner? What strange things are going on in MYF on Sunday evenings, you may ask.

On Sunday November 6th, the youth and their leaders battled it out with nerf guns. We divided into two teams in a nerf variation of the game of Capture the Flag. Our flag was a small orange cone that Ms. Betsy hid in various places in the church. The teams' mission was to find the cone and get it back to their starting point all the while shooting their nerf guns at the other team and avoiding being shot by them. If you got hit by a nerf dart, it was back to the starting point and then head out on the hunt again. My team won all 3 rounds (yeah), although I got shot and sent back numerous times. There was quite an array of nerf weapons along with lots of ammo. Emma Holsten was spotted with a fully loaded gun and 20 additional darts. Mojo (Tracey Jones)

secretly bought a bow and arrow nerf weapon, and then surprised her husband, Jeff, shooting him down in his prime.

What is 20/20? What is a Roman Mix Up? What is a Boxer's Best? Those are 3 of the 25 food items that the youth were guessing at for The Mystery Dinner that took place on November 13th. The meal was served in 5 courses. The youth selected 5 items for each course. This was all done before any food was brought out. Then the first course was served. Once the youth were done eating the items in course #1, any items not eaten (edible and non-edible) were removed and they were given course #2. This continued until all 5 courses were completed. Prior to the meal each youth was given 3 items (not included in the 25 items)

that they could keep throughout the meal. They were.... A drop in the bucket (water), a carpenter's splinter (toothpick), and a sleepy relative (napkin). It was interesting to see what combinations came out in each course. Sandra Nasim was surprised to receive her fork, spoon, and knife all in one course along with 2 food items she did not even need them for. Fortunately she had the toothpick for the rest of the courses.

Thank you to the following adults who came and served the youth: Mindy Anthony, Jessica Flaherty, and Jeff and Tracey Jones. Also thank you to Betsy for setting up the dinner and preparing the food.

Jack Freidel,
Family Ministry Director



The youth travelled to Mariners Bethel Church in Ocean View for a Pre Youth Rally. We heard a great message from David Burke and enjoyed Illusionist David Knight !



STICKY FAITH: THEY BELIEVE WHAT?

Hello Parents,

I hope this finds you well. We're exploring some of the sub-themes of Sticky Faith (see stickyfaith.org for even more ideas) as we continue to think about building lifelong faith in our students.

Dr. Christian Smith and Melinda Lundquist Denton at Notre Dame study adolescence, faith, and identity development. Their study of thousands of teens across various religious traditions (The National Study of Youth and Religion) has had a major impact on how people understand the spiritual lives of adolescents.

In a nutshell, they found that most teens, no matter what religious tradition they claim, tend to believe the same thing: Moralistic Therapeutic Deism (MTD).

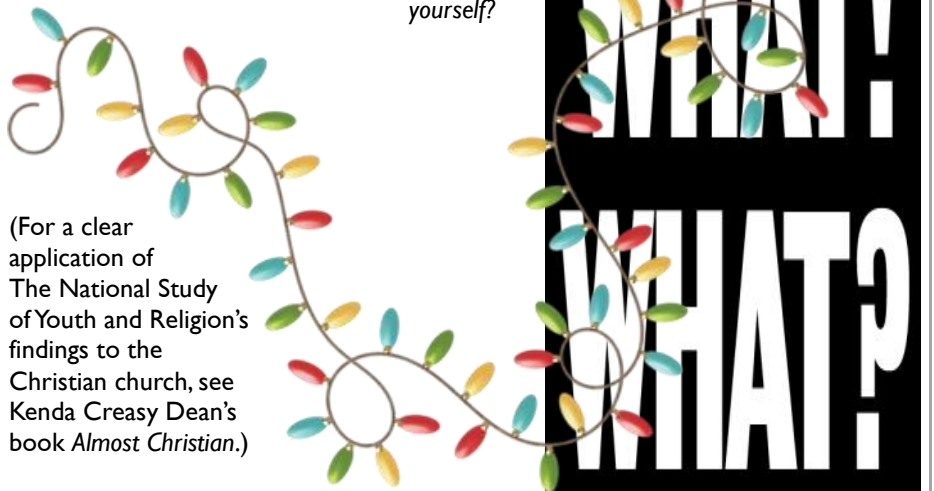
That's fancy, isn't it? But what does it mean? If you look at each word, you get a sense for what this "faith" is about:

- Moralistic: I should try to be good. That's the most important marker of faith.
- Therapeutic: God exists so that I will feel good about myself and my life. God wants me to be happy and have a good day.
- Deism: God is "out there," available if I need him, but not really involved in my day-to-day life. God is like a genie I can summon when I need a special favor.

In effect, teenagers are being socialized into a kind of "Christian" faith that does not look like the life of discipleship Jesus invites us to follow. It's watered down, self-centered, and does not have much, if anything, to do with Christ.

Given this research, it might not be surprising that when the Fuller Youth Institute asked youth group graduates what Christianity was all about, 35 percent gave an answer that didn't mention Jesus at all.

Here's what we're wondering at Wyoming Church. *Are we talking about our faith in a way that is unique and truly Christian? Are we talking about Jesus, grace, and the great story of God's work in the world? What do you think your kids would say? How would you answer that for yourself?*



(For a clear application of The National Study of Youth and Religion's findings to the Christian church, see Kenda Creasy Dean's book *Almost Christian*.)

OCTOBER 2016 Month End Finance Report

Michael Quarnaccio, Finance Team Chair

The following report includes current year to date financials and the 2016 budget approved at the 2016 Charge Conference.

	<u>Inc/Exp to Date</u>	<u>Budget to Date</u>	<u>2016 Budget</u>
Weekly Offerings –Operating	417,386	462,643	416,379
Other offerings	56,965	63,421	76,105
Interest Income	<u>4,108</u>	<u>5,667</u>	<u>6,800</u>
Total Offerings	478,459	531,731	638,077
Finance Team	6,726	5,583	6,700
Office	19,105	17,958	21,550
Personnel	149,352	151,458	181,750
Mortgage interest	72,350	72,042	86,450
Properties and equipment	<u>60,692</u>	<u>70,042</u>	<u>84,050</u>
Total Administrative Council	308,225	317,083	380,500
Nursery and Supplies	27	42	50
Benevolences (Conference)	46,459	46,930	56,316
Education & Youth	5,683	5,500	6,600
Evangelism	1,950	2,500	3,000
Extended Table	-	125	150
Music	1,813	1,667	2,000
Worship	<u>233</u>	<u>208</u>	<u>250</u>
Total Council on Ministries	56,165	56,972	68,366
Pastor Parish Relations	<u>97,700</u>	<u>100,973</u>	<u>121,167</u>
Mortgage principal liability (Reduces debt to PNC Bank)	<u>77,313**</u>	<u>64,667</u>	<u>77,601**</u>
Total Expense	<u>539,403</u>	<u>539,695</u>	<u>647,634</u>
Net Income (Loss)	(60,944)		

** Three Mortgage Principal Payments will be paid from Fundraising Income. The Principal Payment of \$8,639.04 for the month of July was paid from Fundraising Income. The Fundraising Team and other teams raise money throughout the year for debt reduction. Please continue to support their efforts.

Balance of Mortgage on 09/30/2016

Interest paid in 2016
Principal paid in 2016.

\$ 2,063,354.

\$72,350
\$77,313**

Notes:

In our efforts to reduce operating costs, the Finance Team has decided to only send Giving Statements via mail at year end. The church utilizes CCB software which will allow you to view your account at anytime.



Check out the **WISH LINE** In the narthex! Items on this **WISH LINE** are needed for the many ministries of Wyoming Church. To **support Wyoming Church**, feel free to pick one or more of the items on the **WISH LINE**.

Happy Cruising... at the Annual Dinner Auction and then...



...Happy Bidding, too!



Get ready...

... the New Year is right around the corner and so is the next FUNdraising Team **Book & Bake Sale.**

Join us on **Saturday, January 21, 2017**

from 8:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. for one of our very popular book sales, where...

... no book is over \$2.00!!!

While you are browsing, have some breakfast/lunch and don't forget to pick up a yummy treat from the bake table to take home. We hope to see you there!!!

Please place your donations for the Book Sale in the "Book Box" located in the Narthex. Thank you.



Preparing for Code Purple 2016-2017

Sunday, December 4th
11:00 a.m. to 12 Noon AND
12:15 p.m. to 1:15 p.m.
Sunday, December 11th
11:00 a.m. to 12 Noon AND
12:15 P.M. to 1:15 p.m.

These are especially important for *all* volunteers who are new; however, we encourage "seasoned" volunteers to attend as well. There are some new requirements and changes in procedures.

At a recent Code Purple training session at the Presbyterian Church, Reverend Lee emphasized that **"It takes a village to pull this off... a large village!"** Thank you to all who are stepping up to be part of our village of volunteers. I am sure God is pleased with our efforts!!

Inflatable beds, pillows, food and supplies are arriving daily at WUMC in preparation for our Code Purple season. We will be hosting a men's shelter when the temperature drops to 32° and below. We will be sharing weeks with Dover Presbyterian and Peoples churches.

Our first scheduled week is **December 26th through January 1st.**

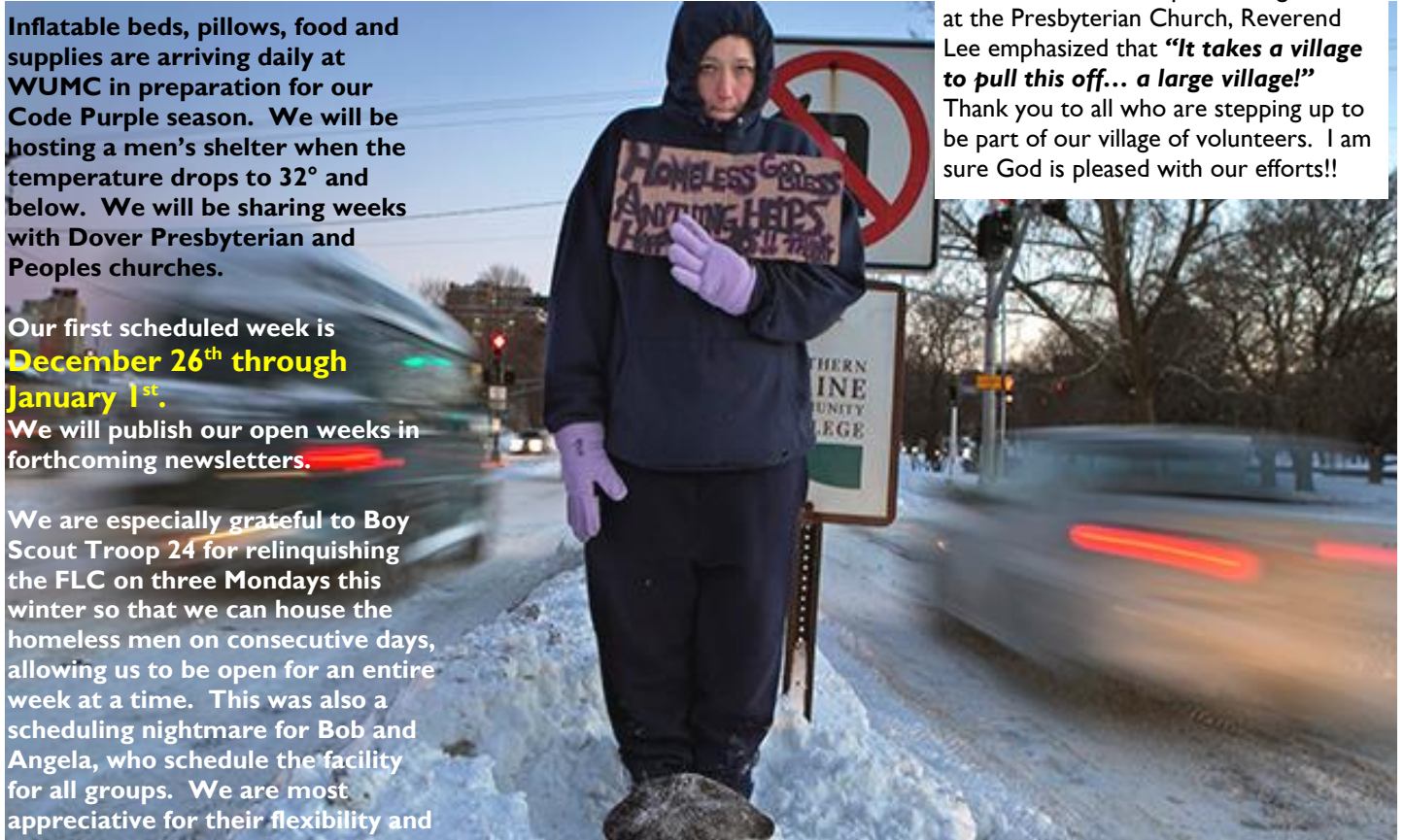
We will publish our open weeks in forthcoming newsletters.

We are especially grateful to Boy Scout Troop 24 for relinquishing the FLC on three Mondays this winter so that we can house the homeless men on consecutive days, allowing us to be open for an entire week at a time. This was also a scheduling nightmare for Bob and Angela, who schedule the facility for all groups. We are most appreciative for their flexibility and patience during this process.

Lynn Ditty will be recruiting volunteers to stay at our shelter so contact him if you are ready and willing to reach out into this ministry!! You will find it so rewarding to know you are part of an effort to save lives right here in our community!

If you wish to cook a meal, or provide fresh fruit or frozen breakfast items, such as pancakes, waffles, sausage, etc., please contact Judy Field. We also can always use some DVD movies, PG or PG13, as the men like to watch movies. They would be on loan to us and returned at the end of the season.

Amy Faircloth will be conducting training sessions for all volunteers who will be staffing the shelter. **There will be 4 training sessions conducted in the Family Life Center:**



... to those who took an hour out of their day on Friday, November 18th and Saturday, November 19th to help with our Kent Ecumenical Food Drive in front of Camden-Wyoming Market! The food collected and monetary donations will help to restock local food pantry shelves during this holiday season and help many families in need.

Thank you!



...to all who donated children's coats during September and October. Carol Abbott, Outreach Team, delivered 3 large boxes of coats to our local school districts. All children will have the opportunity to have a nice warm coat when the weather gets colder. God bless!

Oh Come, All Ye Faithful ... to



The Giving Tree

Don't forget to pick your tag off our Giving Tree on Sunday, November 27 or Sunday, December 4th.

All gifts due back under the tree by Sunday, December 18th!

Outreach Outreach Outreach Outreach Outreach

2016 UMC's Board of Child Care

"Red Stocking" Project

The power of the Christmas spirit is one so strong that it transforms us and fills our hearts with such an incredible joy... and it all began with the birth of a child.

This child, Jesus, serves as the inspiration for the work of the Board of Child Care. An outreach ministry of the United Methodist Church, the Board of Child Care strives to be the hands and feet of Christ to heal those less fortunate. This monetary support is used for the homeless youth within our Peninsula-Delaware Conference.

This Sunday School project will run from **December 4th through January 1st**. If your child inadvertently receives more than one Red Stocking, please return it to your child's Sunday School teacher.

If you are not in Sunday School, you may also fill a **"Red Stocking"** and put it in the offering anytime during the duration of this project. They will be available on the table by the Welcome Desk.

Why not make your **"Red Stocking"** a part of your Advent Season and, in so doing, you will be helping many young people find hope.

Many blessings during this Christmas season!



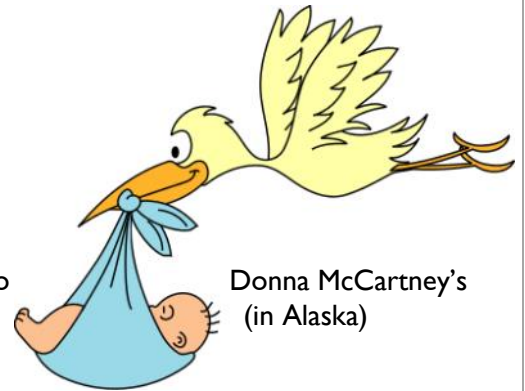
~ Our People ~



- 12/01 Pat Brown, Noelle Robinson, Theresa McGee
 12/02 Joel Brosius
 12/03 Betsy Freidel, Kathy Delong
 12/04 Jack Freidel, Olivia Chase, Stephanie (Dale) Nichols
 12/05 Lois Seyler
 12/06 Bill McMahan, Angela Donastorg
 12/07 James Lauffer, Amelia Houtz, Danielle Malone
 12/08 Louise Berry, Carole Pearce
 12/09 Nancy Rubino,
 12/10 Warren Field, Linda Holderbaum, Dave Watson, Marie Ferguson
 12/11 Marion Hudson
 12/12 Jazmin Tinsley, Taylor Klecan
 12/13 John Stuart, Krissy Brown, Jennifer Forbes
 12/14 Bert Riley, Vera Kundler
 12/15 Barbara Shaw, Katlin Cooper, Gary Pippen
 12/16 Emily Carlin, Mia Ritchey, Kate Norcross, Sydney Stover
 12/17 Frank Roberts
 12/18 Arlene Matulonis, Sue Willson
 12/19 Debra Petro
 12/21 Samantha White, Marlene Loomis, Haley Scott, Cookie Scheas
 12/22 Emme Gebhart
 12/23 Rose Ann Townsend, Barb Shepperson, Madelyn Flaherty
 12/24 Marilyn Wise, Michael Westendorf
 12/25 Sue Hajec, Lynn Ditty
 12/27 Lily Wagner
 12/28 Wanda Spiering, Silvana Nasim
 12/30 Kyle Lauffer, Morgan Rigby, Dave Kleinot, John Aaron Kling, Stephen Jackson, Jennifer DeVore
 1/1 Jan Fasulo, Kim Bryan
 1/3 Justin Smith, Michael DiNuova
 1/4 Sue Rigby
 1/5 Natalia Marlow, Madison Price
 1/6 Ernie Piazza

~ Birth ~

Baby Owen Benson was born to granddaughter Maquel Benson on November 15, 2016.



Donna McCartney's
(in Alaska)

~ Deaths ~

Martha Mahrenholz, the mother of Todd (and wife Emy) Mahrenholz, on November 1, 2016.

Dorothy Meyer, the mother of Dwight Meyer (and wife Janet), on November 1, 2016.

Sarah Richards, the mother of Valarie Boyer, on November 12, 2016.

Esther Sammons, the mother of Buddy Sammons, on November 14, 2016.

Alice Carrico on November 15, 2016.



Barbara and George Pettyjohn want to thank all who responded with prayers, cards and visits during Barbara's recent illness. She is much better now and able to participate outside of the home. We have never known and been blessed by a more loving and caring group than our friends at Wyoming Church. Thank you and God Bless you all!

Thank You

Christmas, 1969

We took to the hills on December 24, 1969 per orders from the 1st Marine Division rear in Da Nang. So, a short respite from the war was in store and we gratefully trekked up Hill 218 in the dreadful Que Son Valley to rest and celebrate. No patrols, LP's (listening posts), or night ambushes for the thirty eight United States Marines in the 3rd platoon of Echo Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment; no, a Christmas cease fire was ordered. The grunts (riflemen) of E 2/7 had been in the bush since early September and, because of the numerous encounters and ensuing fire fights with VC guerillas and NVA regulars in that time frame, we all were relieved to take to the high ground for the holiday. As dusk descended, we were situated as our hooches (two man tents) were constructed, fighting holes were prepared, and dinners (well, C-rations actually) were cooked with the plastic explosive C-4 and consumed. Night watch schedules were established where we'd sleep for 2 hours and be on guard for 1 hour. An interrupted four to six hours of sleep (with one eye open and both ears on full alert) was the norm in the bush.

On Christmas morning, we all were in a pretty good mood as a chopper thudded onto our hill top and mail bags were dropped off along with SP's (cigarettes, candy, etc), ammunition, a Chaplain and, of all people, a barber. We curiously looked at the barber as if he was a bug or something; no way was he getting to shave our Fu Manchus or cut into our Mohawks. He stated for the record that every Marine will get their hair cut per CG (commanding general) orders but I gave the guy a lot of credit for correctly interpreting our cold steely glare to mean that hair cutting just wasn't going to happen. Yeah, we disobeyed orders but what were they going to do, send us to Viet Nam? We made an altar out of cases of C-rats for the Chaplain to conduct his Christmas service. Half of us attended the service while the other half stood guard along the CP (command post) perimeter and then we stood guard so our brothers could attend the second service. Last years Christmas service which I attended was in the warm confines of St. Helena's Catholic Church in Wilmington, Delaware. Now, literally half way around the world in the Land That God Forgot, the Christmas message was again spoken.

Now, despite a cease fire being in place, there was enemy movement in the tree lines and rice paddies below. This activity was carefully watched and the grid coordinate information was passed on to the platoon commander, a young lieutenant, who forwarded that info to FSB (fire support base) Ross and LZ (landing zone) Baldy. The Christmas cease fire actually gave the Viet Cong an opportunity to set booby traps, regroup, and set up future ambush sights as we would eventually have to come back down into the wretched Que Son Valley and resume combat operations. But that would be tomorrow; Christmas would be observed and enjoyed today.

My new family on this Christmas day

consisted of men (average of 19 years old) from the farm lands, mountains, and cities of the U.S., a Sergio Mendez look alike from Puerto Rico, a guy named Ed Q from Guam, and a Cajun named Frenchy from the Louisiana bayous. The only commonality here was that we were United States Marines, a brotherhood forged from the heat and pressure of combat and made only stronger by the sweat and blood we shed. Can't explain it; just believe it. When we say "Semper Fi", we mean it. After worship services, we opened our mail and shared cookies, candy canes, and a rum soaked fruit cake. Guys kind of moved away toward their fighting holes to read letters and cards from their mothers, girlfriends, and wives. I had an envelope with thirty little Christmas cards made by Sister Marie Julia's third grade class at St. Helena's School where I had attended. Two of those children lived on my block in Edgemoor Gardens. Thoughts of home, the Christmas ritual of putting up the tree, and last minute shopping now began to surface. And we were still monitoring the enemy movement and activity in the valley below.

Around 1400 I borrowed a transistor radio from PFC Cruz in the second squad for a pack of Pall Malls. Bob Hope and the USO Christmas show was being aired on AFVN radio live from one of the bases in country. Connie Stevens, the Gold Diggers from the Dean Martin Show, 1969 Miss World Eve Staier, Neil Armstrong (5 months removed from his historical moon walk), and Les Brown and His Band of Renown highlighted the program. Dancers, singers, and comedians spiced up the show but Bob Hope, golf club in hand, was always the star as he cracked jokes about the military that was specific to the base they were currently on and also happenings in the states. "Here we are in Bien Hoa, that's Vietnamese for duck!", or "...the Crickets, the Beatles, at least it answers the question where our new talent is coming from...under the kitchen sink". And for the anti-war protesters "...and how about the new draft lottery, last week 17 students burned their birth certificates". Bob quipped "The Marines have a great history...they've landed on more beaches than Frankie Avalon and Annette Funicello!" And "Everything's going up back home: prices, gas, and mini-skirts, even some guys are wearing them. Don't laugh, if you'd thought about it, you wouldn't be HERE!" During the show, another chopper arrived from 7th Marine Regiment rear with our Christmas dinner and what a banquet it was! Our meals in the bush were always C-rations that had the consistency of Alpo and tasted probably not much better. But today, hot turkey, roast beef, real mashed potatoes, all the fixings, pumpkin pies, nuts, hard candy...it was the best meal I had in over four months. On the flyer accompanying the meal was the CG's Christmas Day

Message that began "Today throughout the world, Christians celebrate the birth of Christ. For all men, regardless of faith, this is a period of peace and good will toward their fellow man". Because of destructive forces currently in America, I wonder if that statement is permitted today.

No Santa Claus or Snowman sweaters were seen that day, our Christmas attire was flak jacket, helmet, jungle boots, and the same utility shirt and trousers we'd worn since September when we arrived in country. We ate our meal in shifts. Diners chatted among themselves as plastic sporks tore into the government issued feast while the other half of the platoon stood guard and kept a vigilant eye on activity below Hill 218. After the repast, I and others relieved our brothers of guard duty so they too could enjoy Christmas dinner. While sitting on the edge of my fighting hole, a lonely feeling began to permeate as the USO show was winding down. As always, they would sing Silent Night at the conclusion of festivities and that was when emotions just overtook me. With visions of Mary's and Joseph's tears of joy dripping on to the tenderly caressed baby Jesus, a tear or two of sadness splashed on the automatic M-16 assault weapon cradled in my arms. The irony was inescapable.

Shortly thereafter, explosions in the valley below brought me back to reality. Artillery shells were exploding below and puncturing the landscape by tearing trees out of the ground. The relentless deafening barrage was in response to the enemy activity we had relayed to the regimental rear throughout the day. The areas where enemy movement was spotted were being prepped with howitzer rounds for our descent from Hill 218 on the 26th and, as the bombardment continued, the PRC 25 field radio hissed and crackled the following message: "It is 1800 hours, Christmas is secured".

From BJ and me, may you have
a peaceful and blessed
Christmas Day surrounded
by those you love.

Dave Van Kavelaar





Memorial Garden - an Update

If you haven't already, the next time that you are in the Narthex, stop and take a look at the Memorial Garden Phase I Model that has been beautifully constructed by Dave Yencer. Feel free to pick up a copy of the sheet that describes the Memorial Garden Project and, if you feel so led, an envelope in which to place a monetary donation. Upon the completion of the \$30,000.00 Memorial Garden Phase I Fund Drive, we will construct Phase I and then begin to accept applications

for the individual Memorial Bricks.



The Chefs of your Sexton Kitchen Team, as part of the Team's expanding Food Ministry of 'Food And Faith' will be offering their signature **Lasagna Dinner on Saturday, January 7, 2017 from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM** in the Family Life Center.

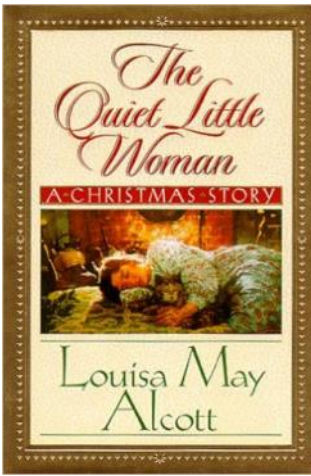
This is a 'Eat In Or Take Out' event that features Lasagna, Tossed Salad, Bread, Beverage, and 'Make Your Own Ice Cream Sundays'. Sign up in the Narthex beginning on Sunday, November 27 for these generously portioned, \$10.00 dinners.

Lasagna Dinner -- 'Eat In Or Take Out!'

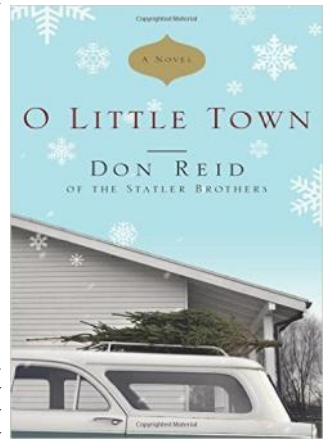


All proceeds from the Sexton Kitchen Team's Food Ministry Program are used to support Church and community activities that aid children, youth, families, adults, and seniors.



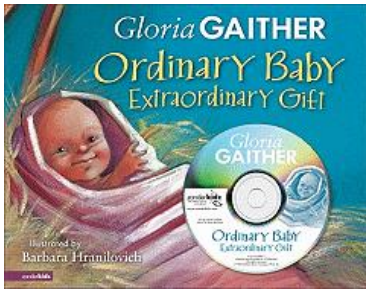


"If someone would only come and take me away! I'm so tired of living here I don't think I can bear it much longer," Patty cries. Patty's life in an orphanage is a dark world with little hope, beauty, or love. Even after a family finally does come for Patty, it is only because they need a servant. But there is one person who does care about Patty. And soon Patty's life will never be the same! Honor Books is pleased to present Louisa May Alcott's newly discovered literary treasure as a book publishing first! In the 1870s, Louisa May Alcott made friends with five earnest fans of her best-selling "Little Women." The young Lukens girls had written to Miss Alcott telling her that they were so inspired by the examples of Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy, that they, too, were launching their own literary publication. Soon the Lukens girls received a very special gift - a Christmas story from Miss Alcott about a lonely orphan girl who finds a family to love her. Following its publication, the story stayed in an old magazine until many years later, a reader chanced upon it. Now it's available to Alcott fans once again, released by Honor Books for the very first time as a stand-alone volume. You will cherish this enchanting tale filled with quiet moral lessons in which orphan Patty finds her heart's desire . . . and you will find heartwarming inspiration for filling your own life with more love.

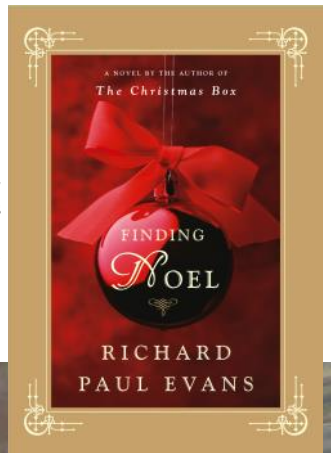


Christmas, 1958: Elvis is on the radio, Ike is in the White House, the Lord is in his holy temple, but there is no peace in Mt. Jefferson. In a small town where everybody seems to know everybody, there are still a few secrets. Three families find they are connected in ways they never suspected: an angry teen, a dying man, a lonely wife, a daughter in trouble. Just ordinary people, muddling their way through ordinary challenges. Illness. Marriage. Bad decisions. Friendship. Faith. Forgiveness.

Spanning three generations, *O Little Town* is a tender tale of love and redemption and a lonely gravesite where roses mysteriously appear every Christmas. It will touch your heart.

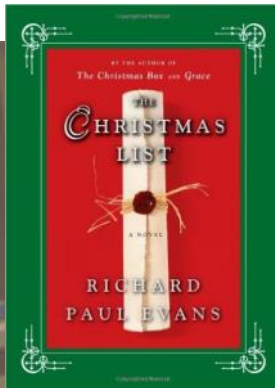


In this heartwarming story, celebrated author and award-winning lyricist Gloria Gaither uses her song "Ordinary Baby" as the basis to share the timeless truth of Jesus' birth and life. Children will enjoy reading the simple text along with the CD, *Ordinary Baby* not only makes known the story of just why Jesus came, but why he chose to come to earth as a baby. With its vibrant and engaging illustrations, *Ordinary Baby* is certain to become one of your child's most treasured books.



A heartwarming and inspirational Christmas novel in the tradition of *The Christmas Box*, *Grace*, *The Gift*, and *The Christmas List*. The *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Christmas Box* and *The Walk* series returns with a holiday novel of hope, love, and redemption.

A young woman, who has been adopted as a child by a loving family, has only a Christmas ornament inscribed with the word "Noel" as a keepsake of her birth family, about whom she remembers nothing. When long hidden memories resurface, she begins an emotionally challenging personal journey as she searches for her biological sister and clues about her mysterious past...



When I was in seventh grade, my English teacher, Mrs. Johnson, gave our class the intriguing (if somewhat macabre) assignment of writing our own obituaries. Oddly, I don't remember much of what I wrote about my life, but I do remember how I died: in first place on the final lap of the Daytona 500. At the time, I hadn't considered writing as an occupation, a field with a remarkably low on-the-job casualty rate. What intrigues me most about Mrs. Johnson's assignment is the opportunity she gave us to confront our own legacy. How do we want to be remembered? That question has motivated our species since the beginning of time: from building pyramids to putting our names on skyscrapers. As I began to write this book, I had two objectives: First, I wanted to explore what could happen if someone read their obituary before they died and saw, firsthand, what the world really thought of them. Their legacy.

Second, I wanted to write a Christmas story of true redemption. One of my family's holiday traditions is to see a local production of Charles Dickens's *A Christmas Carol*, I don't know how many times I've seen it (perhaps a dozen), but it still thrills me to see the change that comes over Ebenezer Scrooge as he transforms from a dull, tight-fisted miser into a penitent, "giddy-as-a-schoolboy" man with love in his heart. I always leave the show with a smile on my face and a resolve to be a better person. That's what I wanted to share with you, my dear readers, this Christmas -- a holiday tale to warm your season, your homes, and your hearts.



...all in your church Library -
check it out!

Join us December 7th at 6PM



Adult Fellowship will gather for dinner and fellowship at 6 PM on December 7th. All adults are invited. If you have not attended before, come and enjoy yourself. The group which meets monthly September through June has nothing to do with marital status or age. If you consider yourself an adult, please feel welcomed.

All you have to do is bring a covered dish item for 8 to 10 people and your own table setting (plate, fork, knife, etc.) If you cannot do that, come anyway as we turn no one away. The main dish (baked ham), desserts and beverages will be provided and you will have an opportunity to leave a "love offering" to offset the costs of the ham.

We will do some Christmas Carol sing-a-long during the meeting. Who knows??? Even Santa might show up. Contact George Pettyjohn ☎ (302) 222-3008 with questions.

December's Wyoming Church's Men's Prayer Breakfast

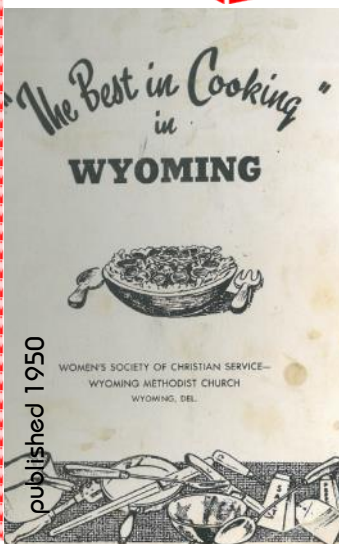
The Wyoming United Men's Prayer Breakfast will meet on **Saturday, December 31, from 7:30 PM to 8:30 PM** in the 'Backroom' at Hall's Restaurant. An inspiring mini-message of faith, the power of prayer, good food, and great table fellowship await all who attend.

Questions & Information: See Josh Turner, Wayne Davis, or Terry Higgins.



From the Church Cookbook

Wyoming United Methodist Church published a total of 5 cookbooks over the past 65 years. Every month, we will present a recipe that has been a cherished part of the great Methodist tradition of food & fellowship!



"That sounds tempting to try for Christmas Dinner..."

SWEET POTATOES IN ORANGE SAUCE

Mrs. Lillian Benson

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| 2 tsp. grated orange rind | Pinch salt |
| 1 Tbsp. cornstarch | 1 c. orange juice |
| 1/3 c. granulated sugar | 3 Tbsp. butter |
| 1/3 c. brown sugar | |

Cook 6 medium sized potatoes. Skin and cut in pieces. Arrange in casserole. Pour over the orange sauce; cover and place in oven at 350 deg. for 20 minutes; cook. Uncover and cook for 15 minutes longer.



'Take Out' Chicken 'N Dumpling Dinner

Pick up & pay for your dinner(s) on Saturday, December 3, anytime between 2 PM and 5 PM at the Chef's Kitchen in the Family Life Center.

Questions/Info: Linda Booher or Shelby Truitt.



Food, Faith & Family

The Sexton Kitchen Team's (SKT) Food Ministry's Program emphasis on 'Food And Faith' continues to grow by 'leaps and bounds'! In addition to the forthcoming Adult Fellowship Dinners, Soup Days, and special 'Food And Faith' events related to the Christmas and Easter Seasons, your hard-working SKT members are planning for additional 'not to be missed' fantastic food events from December through March of 2017.

So -- let's take a close look at 'what's coming up in December and January.

December, 2016: On Saturday, December 3, those folks that have reserved the regionally acclaimed \$10.00 'Take Out/Take Home Chicken 'N Dumpling Dinners consisting of hearty portions of Chicken, Dumplings, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Green Vegetable, Cole Slaw, Cranberry Garnish and Cake can pick them up at the Chef's Kitchen in the Family Life Center between 2 and 5PM.

On Wednesday, December 7, everyone is invited to the Adult Fellowship Covered Dish Dinner that begins at 6PM in the Family Life Center. The only thing that you need to do to attend this Christmas 'themed' dinner is bring one of your favorite culinary creations that will provide 8 servings and your own place settings. The Chef's of the SKT will provide the entrée of Christmas Ham and beverages. This dinner is a great way for folks new or not so new to our Congregation to acquaint and/or reacquaint with many of the truly fantastic Christians that call Wyoming Church their home Church. The environment is comfortable, friendly, informal, and accepting!

January, 2017: On Wednesday, January 4, beginning at 6:00 PM in the Family Life Center, we will have the opportunity to attend the Adult Fellowship's 'Welcome The New Year' Covered Dish Dinner. The next activity that you need

to put on your calendar is the forthcoming SKT's Lasagna Dinner. This 'Food And Faith' sit down dinner will be served on Saturday, January 7, from 3PM to 6PM in the Family Life Center. The menu will consist of generous portions of



Linda Booher at the International Lunch on November 16

Lasagna, Tossed Salad, Bread, Beverages, and 'Make Your Own Sunday's'. These \$10.00 dinners can be reserved at the 'Sign Up' kiosk in the Narthex beginning on Sunday, November 27. There will be a limited number of 'Take Out' Lasagna Dinners available as well. The January Soup Day on the 11th of the month will feature 'Hearty Chili' and Broccoli Cheese Soups from 11:30AM to 1PM in

the Family Life Center. Finally, look for the SKT's Bake Table, laden with culinary delights, at the Fundraising Team's Book Sale on Saturday, January 21st, in the Family Life Center.

Look for a detailed description of the SKT's forthcoming 'Food And Faith' activities of February and March in the January 2017 issue of the Wyoming Messenger. If you feel called to consider becoming a part of the SKT Linda Booher, our very capable SKT Chair, would be delighted to talk with you!

In this season of the year when we are especially thankful for the many blessings that we receive on a daily basis from Our Lord and Savior, we need to recognize and appreciate the many hours that the dedicated women and men of your SKT team contribute to the outstanding and ongoing success of the Team's Food Ministry Program. All of our Team members are or are in the process of being professionally trained and certified through the DineSafe Program. *Our current SKT members are Carol Abbott, Dot Adams, Beth Barlett, Linda Booher, Sharon Burge, Kathy Chalmers, Warren Field, Larry Gant, Martha Higgins, Terry Higgins, Nancy Hughes, Tina Klecan, Ruth Leister, Marilyn Massey, Nikole Moore, Peg Mosher, Barbara Pettyjohn, George Pettyjohn, Walt Ramstedt, Frank Roberts, Nancy Roberts, Nancy Sammons, Shelby Truitt, Gail Vella, and Vonnie Williams.* We do appreciate the aid and support that we receive from Bob Cousens, Angela Donastorg, and Renate Purdy!

All of the proceeds that are generated from the SKT's Food Ministry Program activities are returned to projects and programs that benefit the children, youth, families, adults, and seniors of our Wyoming Congregation and the surrounding communities. Thanks for your continued support and prayers.



Food, Faith & Family

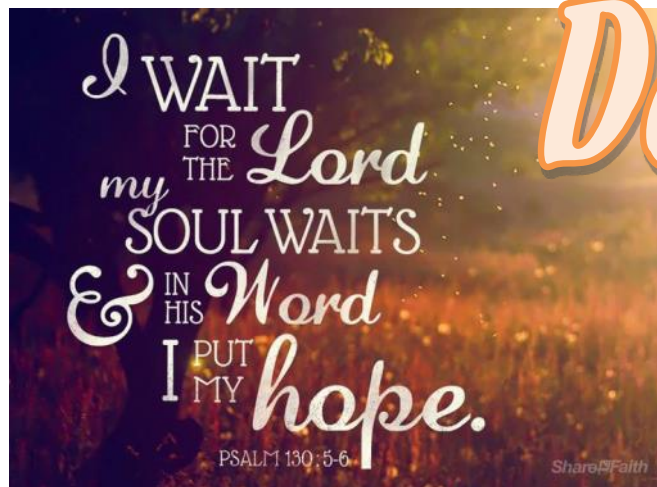


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To: You!



December

Memory Verse

Waiting

For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. Titus 2:11-13

As we continue our annual passage through the end of the year holidays, much like a hard charging train, the Thanksgiving depot is already miles behind us, leaving the really big stop still to come. In just a few short weeks, yes, we'll ease into Christmas station, the spot many of us are increasingly looking forward to. Whether to be with family, to have time off from work or school, to enjoy special meals and occasions with friends, and of course, a present or two, so much expectation abounds for the wonders ahead.

Yet, we must wait.

This period of waiting, this season of Advent in our Christian calendar, reminds us, annually, of the significance of waiting; the patience and discipline that is necessary to simply wait. There is surprisingly a lot of work and effort required to wait! As I have thought about this concept of waiting recently, the work of psychologist Walter Mischel has come to mind. It was Mischel who conducted some very interesting, and humorous, research on this topic of waiting. But instead of using the term waiting, Mischel coined the phrase "delayed gratification". The research was so successful and replicated so often, that even though originally conducted some fifty years ago, current demonstrations of Dr. Mischel's work are easily found on Youtube, such as the clip I have included in this text... https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QX_oy96I4HQ

The premise for his study was quite simple; to give the test subject a marshmallow on a plate with this basic instruction....*You can either eat this one marshmallow now, or if you wait until I return, you can receive another.* And this study by the way was with children, young children at that, making the scenes, as could be imagined, quite entertaining. The purpose of Mischel's research was to project the potential impact on a person's life if they were able to wait; to prolong an immediate indulgence, for the greater reward that awaits, hence the phrase "delayed gratification". And for those who may be wondering, the results were quite interesting.

Read the entire article by Danny Cooper, Christian Counselor at Daybreak Services, on Page 5.