

THE WYOMING MESSENGER

February 2017

Inside this Issue

Live from OC, MD (Pastor Rick)	3
The Dream Lives On (Pastor Dave)	4
The Forecast (Danny Cooper)	5
Our People	6-7
Youth News & Calendar ...	8+9
The Pittsburgh Project - Youth Mission Trip 2017	8
Doubt & Faith	9
Think Summer Camp Now	9
Finance Report	10
Did you know \$\$??	10
White Elephant Fun	11
We Appreciate YOU	12
Jack Frost Memories	12
All about Shrove Tuesday	13
Hero Central, VBS 2017	14
MEN's Retreat	14
All about Quilts	15
LADIES' Retreat	16+17
All about Books	18
More about Golf	19
Serving on God's Team	20
Global 6K for Water	21
Food, Faith & Family ...	22+23
Cherry Pies to Order & Memory Verse	Back Cover

SPAGHETTI & BLUE GRASS

Adult Fellowship will conduct its February meeting at 6PM on February 1. Jim and Kathleen Torbert will serve Jim's famous spaghetti and meat sauce dinner to all who attend. A love offering will be collected to cover expenses. We will be entertained live that evening by the Tucker Brothers and Friends blue grass band, who will feature gospel music as well. This will be the fourth anniversary of this event which has become very popular. Everyone is invited!!

You do not need to be an Adult Fellowship regular member to participate. A signup sheet for the dinner is located in the narthex and will help the "Torberts" know how much spaghetti to prepare. The band will play until 8:30 PM or later. However, feel free to leave earlier if you wish. Contact George Pettyjohn (302) 736-1236 with questions.

The Bible - the "Book of books" - is an integral part of American history.

The ceremonial tradition of using a Bible to be sworn in as the President of the United States dates all the way back to George Washington's inauguration in 1789.

And over those 220+ years, **presidents have chosen various Bibles for their inaugural ceremonies - and many have incorporated into their inaugural addresses Bible passages that hold a special meaning.**

Some interesting facts you may or may not know about this tradition over the years:

The most frequently used Bible during a presidential inauguration (five times) was the 1767 King James Version Washington used for his swearing in.

The most frequently used books of the Bible are Psalms, Isaiah, and Proverbs.

Most frequently used passage (four times) - 1 Corinthians 13 - which begins in the ESV translation, "If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal..."

Its runner-up, at three times used, is 2 Chronicles 7:14 — "If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land" (ESV).

Bulletin Board

Quick... Get YOUR Superbowl Sub NOW!

12" Italian or 12" Turkey sub - \$7.00 each

Turkey and Italian subs sold by the Jr. & Sr. High MYF to help raise funds for the yearly payment to sponsor Jan Marie Macon in the Philippines (Compassion International sponsoring).

Subs will be available for pickup on Saturday, February 4th between 11AM and 1PM or after each service on Sunday, February 5th.

You can order online on the church website wyomingumc.com or look for our display in the narthex.

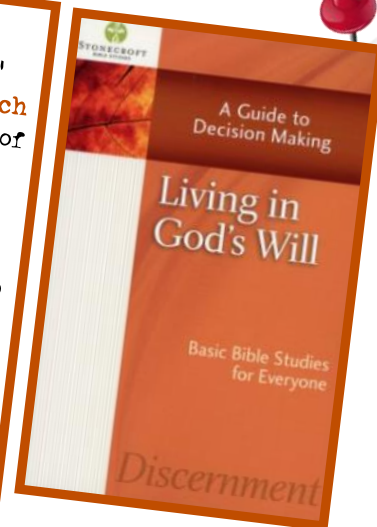


Early 'Greening' Of The Grounds

As you have undoubtedly noticed, the daylight portion of our early Spring days are slowly beginning to be longer and longer. Our grounds and plantings are showing the first signs of their response to this increasing amount of daylight with swelling buds and a brighter green in the lawns. Plans are now being formulated for a 'Grounds Spruce Up/ Clean Up' Day on **Saturday, March 18, from 9AM to 12 Noon**. Look for more details in the March 'Wyoming Messenger'. In the mean time see Terry Higgins if you are interested in putting your 'green thumbs' to work!

Check in the vending area (north wing) for a lovely **CARD** to send to Your **Valentine!** Hand-crafted, even hand-painted cards avail-

A 7 week **Bible study** titled "Living in God's Will" will begin on **Monday, March 13th at 1:00 PM** at the home of Sharon Duncan. This is a Stonecroft study of the book of Ruth. Each lesson on this study works to build your freedom and confidence in God's guidance. Please notify Sharon at 698-1904 to order a book. These Bible studies are very "user" friendly and no prior knowledge of the Bible is necessary.



HAVE YOU
PRAYED
ABOUT IT
AS MUCH
AS YOU'VE
TALKED
ABOUT IT?

MATTHEW 21:22

Are you **PRAYING** about **PRAYING** more?

You are not alone! So we're going to do something about that! Where two or three are gathered, there is Jesus in the midst!

Watch for an opportunity to come together for prayer for our church.

Call Sue Hajec (302-697-2697) for more information about opportunities to pray together.

News from Ocean City *Rick Wessell*

The WUMC youth had a great time again this year in OC, MD! Main speaker was **Steve Fitzhugh**, former professional American football player with the Denver Broncos. Now an author, humorist and motivational speaker for teenagers about drugs, alcohol, and right choices, Fitzhugh is also the national spokesperson for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes 'OneWay2Play-Drug Free' program.



...speaking at the Youth Rally in Ocean City, MD on the "Spittin' Da Word" contest and introducing the winner.



The FUNdraising Team would like to thank everyone who helped to make our recent Book Sale possible. It was a great success and we deposited over \$1,500 for the 2 day event.

We would be remiss in not saying a special "Thank You" to Elaine Kesselring who offered to chair the event and to all of the team members who worked tirelessly to make it happen.

Also, many thanks to the Sexton Team for providing lunch and breakfast to our patrons and having a great Bake Sale Table. As usual, it was YUMMY!!!

**KEEP AN EYE OUT
FOR INFORMATION
ON OUR NEXT FUND-
RAISING TEAM
EVENT!!! WE WILL
BE MAKING AN
ANNOUNCEMENT
VERY SOON. WATCH
YOUR BULLETINS.**



Pastor Dave's Ministry Minute - February 2017

"The Dream Lives On"

Wyoming Church hosted its inaugural MLK Day Celebration on Monday, January 16, 2017. This ecumenical community event began at 3:00 with a warm Wyoming welcome offered by Pastor Rick followed by "Reflections on MLK Day" by Reverend Rita Paige of Star Hill AME Church. Star Hill AME is an historic site as a stop on the Underground Railroad. Reverend Paige reminded us of Dr. King's work and of his vision of the Beloved Community. Star Hill AME also brought their liturgical dance team who offered three selections throughout the event. Dr. Valarie Boyer blessed those gathered with her presentation, "Songs of a Faithful People". This historical presentation included 12 spiritual songs with monologue and depicted the travels of a runaway slave along the Underground Railroad. Reverend Gary Meekins provided a musical presentation, "In Their Own Words" which included a number of spirituals along with narrative relative to the background on these sacred songs. The "Message of The Day" was presented by Reverend Elmer Davis who preached from the seventeenth chapter of the Gospel of John. His message reflected the heart of King's message of unity and oneness. I offered the Benediction as we all sang together "We Shall Overcome". The celebration concluded with a delicious meal provided by The Sexton Kitchen Team. It was a wonderful day for our church and the Kingdom of God. I trust that the Lord was pleased. Discussion and planning has already begun for next year's celebration. If you would like to know more or would like to be involved in any way please let me know.

"I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one" John 17:22

- (1) The Message in the Music... the Rev. Gary Meekins on piano, singing that "old time religion" with the crowd.
- (2) Gail Garner, our faithful ASL interpreter every Sunday morning (I I AM), helped our hearing-impaired friends understand the beauty of the program.
- (3) Seeds of Faith presented spirit-filled dances.
- (4) "Our own" Dr. Valarie Boyer lent her beautiful voice to a dozen or so old spirituals in the persona of (her great great grandmother) Susan Petty on the Underground Railroad.
- (5) ... and the Rev. Elmer Davis brought the powerful message, encouraging us "...to be **ONE!**"



"The time is always right to do what is right."

Reflections

Reflections

The Forecast

Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away. But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only. Matthew 24:35-36

I can only speak for myself, but I have begun a routine of sorts in the morning, prior to picking out my clothes for the day (I am not the night before type of person...never that organized!). I find myself on most mornings in front of our computer, quickly typing in the weather channel address, identifying our local area, and scanning the temperature and forecast for the day. How convenient this is. Whether I am in style with my choice of fashion may be easily debated, yet I am typically assured to be sufficiently warm or cool with the trustworthy predictions for the day.

This wintry time of the year is so much fun, isn't it, when it comes to colder temperatures and the possibility of snow. It's not just the kids, am I right, that scan the forecast for signs of the white stuff.

While not always as accurate, but far more entertaining, are the forecasts that our kids bring home from school. I have forgotten how much weather is being discussed in the halls of academia during this window of wintry possibility we know as January, February, and March. How fun it is to hear the predictions, by students and teachers alike. We are all kids, are we not, when it comes to snow?

While life itself is our great teacher, there are small, easily missed lessons scattered all about us, even when it comes to the snow and my beloved weather channel. The truth is, a prediction or forecast is really no more than a guess; an estimation of what is likely or expected based on available information, patterns, history, etc. And there are times when we, in our belief in the facts and the information that we see, take a prediction and try to turn it into a platform or foundation to build on. Case in point. Just a year or two ago, while in our journey through the

winter months, a forecast was developing that predicted a large snowfall. While weather personnel rarely use the word "guarantee", they may as well have in this case, because a snow storm was certainly coming. It's just exciting uttering the words! Well, long story short, the schools closed a day before the snow's expected arrival, stores welcomed the customary droves seeking bread and milk, and everyone braced for impact.

Poor memory aside, I vividly remember waking up the next morning, looking outside, and seeing...my grass, bushes, everything non-white. What in the world just happened, I thought. How can this be? How could this guaranteed event not happen? But it didn't. And the outcome...

No matter what or whom we may lose along our way, we will never be without the companionship of our closest friend, our reliable ally and support through the travels we encounter on the roads of life.

a fun day out of school for the kids, albeit without snowballs and shoveling the driveway, and an easily hidden life reminder from God...life does not always work out the way you may expect or how you may hope for; trust more in Me than anything else.

While I have yet to cross the AARP threshold (although it's coming fast!), I still remember the days growing up on our farm in St. Mary's County, Maryland, observing all the indicators that nature provided to forecast the coming weather. Obviously, with no computer and a television that only received four stations, the weather channel was not an option. Whether it was the movement of the clouds, the changing current of the bay, the behavior of the farm animals, or simply the predictability of aching joints, my aging relatives and neighbors helped to teach me to watch and listen; to feel and smell the world around me. And did all of these signs and cues consistently foretell accurate weather? Of course not.

But more importantly, my farming environs did positively help me to keep looking up and to wait. There is an old adage about farmers that proclaims...*Farming is a profession of hope.* Farming does indeed personify the Serenity Prayer that so many of us are familiar with. Yet beyond the applicability to farming, this beautiful prayer reminds us all that, no matter what tool or insight we may have, the end result, the final outcome, is ultimately in God's hands. *Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. Prov. 3:5&6*

Even for those of us who are devout in our faith, how difficult it can be to accept life results and outcomes that do not match what we expected, or dreamt of, or at a minimum, what made sense to us. It was the inspired writing of Elisabeth Kubler-Ross almost fifty years ago that put words to the human experience of grief and loss. It was Ross who defined the "stages" of grief, with acceptance being the last stop of this arduous human journey that we all must face while on this earth. Accepting the unforeseen or undesired circumstances of life, especially when it involves loss, is a human dilemma that encompasses all. No one can escape this life reality.

As foretold by the Old Testament prophet Isaiah, Jesus would be *...a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.* Like our Lord, we too are going to have our sorrows and disappointments in this life. We are human after all. But let us always remember that we are God's children first and foremost. No matter what or whom we may lose along our way, we will never be without the companionship of our closest friend, our reliable ally and support through the travels we encounter on the roads of life. We will have moments of grief. We will suffer through life changes that cause us hurt and confusion. Yet we have a Savior who comforts us, who understands our pain, and whose love is greater than any anguish this life can produce.

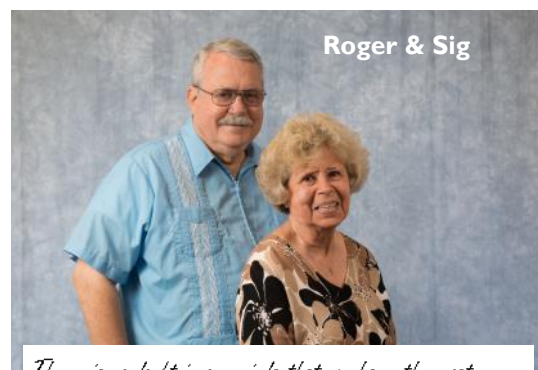
Let us renew, this day, our trust in the One who loves us the most, and who knows our story from the beginning to the end. May the perfect peace of Christ carry us and protect us until our time on

~ Our People ~

~ Birth ~



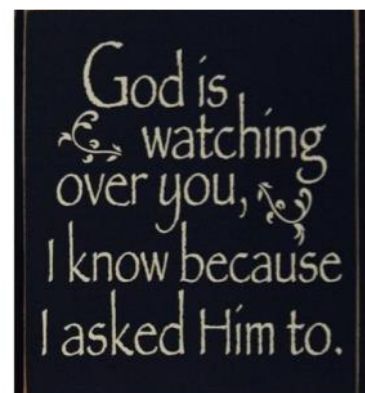
Our Christmas Miracle...
Kenneth Lee "Kenny" Harris was born to Michelle and Chris Harris on December 24, 2016, a little brother to Madelynn and Kayla. Congratulations also to proud grandparents Betsy and Jack Freidel.



There is no doubt in our minds that we have the most wonderful Church Family not to mention the best chefs in Kent County! From the wonderful meals provided by the TLC Team, and I do mean wonderful, to the beautiful cards, encouraging phone calls and prayers. You all know that being down is very hard, especially for me. But you lifted my spirits, you helped put me back on my feet, headed in the right direction. On behalf of Roger, God Bless You All. A million thanks. Sig Kelsey

February Birthdays

02/01 Rick Sharpe, Pete Thompson, Todd Mahrenholz, Axel Coker
 02/02 Sandy Rager, Nathan Hoyme, Chuck Muldrow
 02/03 Dave Hill, Doug Ditty, Amy Higgins, Brett Krout
 02/04 Aiden Flaherty, Ezra Delgado
 02/06 Judy Field, Wanda Edwards, Aurora Hamblin
 02/07 Norma Bennett, Sarah Scott
 02/08 Lori Carlin, Maggie Kling
 02/09 Caleb Anthony, Will Anthony
 02/10 Tyler Sell, Liam Buczynski, Carol Milton
 02/12 Lynn Shively
 02/11 Dianna Rodgers, Denise Brosius
 02/14 Mike Smith, Ann Rogge
 02/15 Pete Servon, Jonathan Forbes, Krista Nielson, Ellie Simpson
 02/16 Matthew Singleton, Cody Malone, Walker Edwards
 02/17 Jenny Marlow, Charity Roberts, Quinn Westendorf
 02/18 Luke Brosius
 02/19 Mary Schoettinger, Elaina Hill, Lynn Zimmerman
 02/20 Pam Hill, Sandy Robinson
 02/22 Victoria Trice
 02/23 Rose Larimore, Dan Deckard, Joelle Rubino-Sinclair, Ellyanna Mateja, Mahlon Dyer
 02/24 Melissa Mann, Lydia Klecan, Wyatt Lefort
 02/25 Caleigh Hatcher
 02/26 Clinton Marlow, Mark Reed
 02/27 Drake Nichols, Sandy Bazil
 02/28 Karissa Mann
 03/01 Linda Lyon, Bryce Piazza
 03/02 Carol Abbott, Shannon Ritter
 03/03 Renate Purdy, Connie Hagen, Sheila Snyder, Joe Hajec
 03/04 Richard Stockslager, Evelyn Voshell, Jack Kling, Cindy Pearson, Elaina Ditty
 03/05 Melissa Piazza, Frank Sumpter, Jeff Williams



I'm so happy it's been 2 years since I was told I have brain cancer and now I'm doing so much better! I want to thank the Lord, my family Stacy and Ashlynn, and my church family.

Mike McDewitt

On January 19th, doctors told Mike that his cancer is in remission.

~ Our People ~

*To everything there is a season,
A time for every purpose under Heaven.
- Ecclesiastes 3:1*



The next time that you are in the Narthex, take a few moments to look at the Phase I model of the planned Memorial Garden. This scale model, beautifully prepared by Dave Yencer, is an accurate representation of the structure that is to be built on the south east portion of our Church grounds. The projected cost of Phase I, \$30,000.00, is now in the process of being raised.

Our most recent tabulations indicate that the good folks of our Wyoming Church, with both donations and pledges, have us near the 'half way mark'.

Our plan is to have the complete cost of the Memorial Garden in hand prior to the beginning of construction. We have formally added an enhancement that will enable a portion of the ashes from a cremation process to be placed in a permanent container under a memorial brick. You will find on the table of the scale model a description of the project as well as an envelope in which to place a donation, should you feel so led.

Dave Yencer and Terry Higgins will be pleased to answer your questions.

~ Deaths ~

Bobbie Yencer,
on January 7, 2017.



Laura Wanda Barry,
the sister of Liz Marino,
on January 14, 2017.



Ellen Ricchuiti,
a dear friend of Pat Lawson,
on January 19, 2017.

Some 13 years ago, Ellen turned virtually blind, and not being able to drive anymore she had no more use for her car nor her spacious garage. A faithful attendant at WUMC's Soup Days, she received word that the church's Family Emergency Relief

"FERniture" Ministry was looking for a storage place. Right away, Ellen graciously let us use her garage for storage! Countless donations of furniture and household items were stored for brief periods and then taken to families in our community by a group of faithful volunteers. We could not have helped hundreds of individuals and families in this way without the generosity of this dear lady.



Albert Earle Snapp,
the son of Rev. Albert A.B. Snapp,
on January 21, 2017.

Albert's father, the Rev. Albert Snapp led the congregation at Wyoming Church from 1956 to 1963.

YOUTH CALENDAR

February

Jr/Sr. High MYF

Sunday, 2/12/17 – Sardines, 6–8 pm

Sunday, 2/19/17 – College Care Packages, 6–8 pm

Sunday, 2/26/17 – Floor Hockey, 6–8 pm

ServiceSaturday, 2/4/17 – Making of Super Bowl Subs
for Jan Marie, 10 am – 12 pmStudy

A study is a part of MYF on Sunday evenings

Thursday, 2/2/17 – Synago, 7 pm – 8:30 pm

Thursday, 2/9/17 – Synago, 7 pm – 8:30 pm

Thursday, 2/23/17 – Synago, 7 - 8:30 pm



Our bunch of fabulous youth leaders at January's youth rally... Jeff & Tracey Jones, Betsy & Jack Freidel



MISSION TRIP



The trip runs from Sunday, July 23rd to Saturday, July 29th.

The 2017 Youth Mission Trip is set. This year we will be traveling to the city of Pittsburgh to participate in the Pittsburgh Project. The Pittsburgh Project is a Christian nonprofit community development organization with a more than 30-year track record of developing servant leaders and upholding the dignity of vulnerable homeowners.

Their year-round staff of 28 (13 full-time; 15 part-time), along with their summer staff of more than 70 operates a progressive series of afterschool and summer programs for more than 250 urban young people, deploys over 1,500 people annually to perform free home repairs for more than 130 of Pittsburgh's elderly homeowners annually, and provides recreation space through the maintenance of Fowler Park and operation of Fowler pool.

In the summer, they pull out the stops to make a week of service meaningful, memorable and fun. They hire top college students from all over the country to build friendships with participants, and skilled technical staff to oversee the home repairs at the sites. Their staff members share the message of God's transforming love throughout the week. About 200 participants each week converge in Pittsburgh to join in our work, building servant leaders and upholding the dignity of vulnerable homeowners.

Those invited to take part in the trip are the youth who are currently in 8th grade through 12th grade, college-age young adults, parents, and any adults in the church who would like to join the youth in this experience.

We will be staying in a renovated 3-story school building that includes dormitory-style bunkrooms.

Cost of the trip is \$390. The money made from the mission trip fundraisers will significantly lower the cost for those who have participated in them.

Financial Commitment Day for the church is March 15th, so the \$50 to reserve your spot on the trip will be due by March 14th.

For more info, contact Jack Freidel at jfreidel@wyomingumc.com, or by phone at 697-8400 or 535-3981.



Sticky Faith

As I've explored the research related to Sticky Faith, a theme that stuck out to me relates to the importance of doubts and questions when it comes to faith development. The more students are able to ask questions, tough as they may be, and express doubts, scary though they may be, the better.

All too often I want to give young people answers to their questions rather than let the questions sit open for a bit. I want to remedy their doubts too quickly by pointing them to scripture or doctrine. I hastily want to solve things for them.

Instead, I now am trying to consider the ways we can make our church a safe space for young people to ask questions and a place where doubts can be expressed out loud. When we do, we actually strengthen, rather than weaken, our students' growth.

Answer for yourself: **When you're honest, what doubts or questions do you have about faith?** Do you find that you're comfortable with those, or do you try to avoid them? How do you think this response impacts your kids?



It's Time to "Branch Out"!

I know the calendar and the temps tell us it's Winter, but it's never too early to start thinking about **Summer** (camp). Camp Pecometh's theme this year is "Branch Out". And to make sure everyone who wants to go, can go, Camp Pecometh is once again offering discounts for campers that pay in full. Keep these dates in mind:

Pay in full by Feb. 1, 2017 & receive a 10% discount.
Pay in full by Mar. 1, 2017 & receive a 5% discount.

And don't forget, Wyoming UMC offers camperships as well so forget the planning which camp your son, daughter or to attend. Go to www.pecometh.org for more various camps offered.

excuses and start grandchild might like information on the



DECEMBER 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	519,976	555,172	555,172
Other offerings	71,803	76,105	76,105
Interest Income	4,300	6,800	6,800
Total Offerings	596,079	638,077	638,077
Finance Team	6,930	6,700	6,700
Office	22,127	21,550	21,550
Personnel	183,019	181,750	181,750
Mortgage interest	87,965	86,450	86,450
Properties and equipment	71,700	84,050	84,050
Total Administrative Council	371,741	380,500	380,500
Nursery and Supplies	27	50	50
Benevolences (Conference)	55,939	56,316	56,316
Education & Youth	6,733	6,600	6,600
Evangelism	3,000	3,000	3,000
Extended Table	-	150	150
Music	2,013	2,000	2,000
Worship	233	250	250
Total Council on Ministries	67,945	68,366	68,366
Pastor Parish Relations	118,341	121,167	121,167
Mortgage principal liability (Reduces debt to PNC Bank)	77,313**	77,601	77,601**
Total Expense	635,340	647,634	647,634
Net Income (Loss)	(39,261)		

** Three Mortgage Principal Payments totaling \$26,183 were 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 12/31/2016

Interest paid in 2016
Principal paid in 2016.

\$ 2,045,808.

\$87,965

\$103,499**

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 any time.

...all the Good **WE** Can

All who worship at Wyoming have an opportunity to **help decrease our mortgage**. In March, our mortgage must be refinanced and the church will be able to pay down part of the principal without penalty. Please, prayerfully consider joining in this effort! Anything we pay off now will help to decrease our monthly mortgage bill and will allow us to use more funds for church ministry. **Contributions made by the end of February will go toward the current pay-down.**

DID YOU KNOW?

....**Envelopes** are ready and waiting for you on the table at the South side of the Narthex! Please pick up **your** envelopes & use them for your offerings. These boxes have special offering envelopes for Christmas, Thanksgiving and Easter which may be utilized at those specific times even if you are currently making your pledge payment electronically through your bank.

Before...

Oh the suspense...



...After

... oh the joy!



White Elephant Party 2017

"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

Church Council

The Church Council represents the whole church. It is governed by the Discipline and it sets policy, deals with funds, property and staffing. Meetings are quarterly in February, May, August and November. Currently, Lynn Ditty is the Chairperson.



Lynn

Liturgists

The Liturgists read Scripture at the 9:45 and 11am services. Their schedules are set up by Elaine Kesselring for the 9:45 service and Rich Harper for the 11am service. If you are interested in joining one of these groups of readers, contact Elaine or Rich.



Elaine



Rich

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

Library

We are very fortunate to have a wonderful Library of reference, fiction and non-fiction selections. The Newsletter often contains some highlights of works available to our congregation (Page 19 in this issue!). Our librarian is Margaret Bryan.



Margaret



A great day skiing, boarding and tubing down Jack Frost Mountain, PA!

Please join us for a night of great family fellowship and excellent food as we prepare to celebrate the forthcoming Easter Season!

The **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner/Lenten Program** will be held on February 28th beginning at 5:30 PM in the Family Life Center. The Chefs of the Sexton Kitchen Team will prepare a delicious pancake dinner, then the **Puppets of Praise** will hold a special performance, and we will end our night with a small **Easter Egg Hunt** for our toddlers and K-5th graders.



SHROVE TUESDAY

If you know that you are coming please take a moment and sign up in the narthex so we can begin preparing. If you won't know until the last minute, don't worry, we still want you to join us. We always prepare extra! If you have any questions do not hesitate to contact Michelle Harris at (302) 531-5431.

The Origins of Shrove Tuesday

Shrove Tuesday originated during the Middle Ages. As in contemporary times, food items like meats, fats, eggs, milk, and fish were regarded as restricted during Lent. To keep such food from being wasted, many families would have big feasts on Shrove Tuesday in order to consume those items that would inevitably become spoiled during the next forty days. The English tradition of eating pancakes on Shrove Tuesday came about as a way to use as much milk, fats, and eggs as possible before Ash Wednesday began. In France, the consumption of all fats and fatty foods on this day coined the name "Fat Tuesday" or *Mardi Gras*.

Originally beginning on Sunday, Shrove Tuesday was a three-day celebration that culminated in large feasts on Tuesday night. By the beginning of the 20th century, however, the event was restricted to the Tuesday observance. *Carnival* became associated with Shrove Tuesday, in part from the Spring Equinox celebrations that were practiced by the Romans and the ancient tribes of Europe. The word "carnival" comes from the Latin *carne(m) levare*, meaning "to take away the flesh". However, in the New Orleans and Rio de Janeiro celebrations, public revelry and carousing have become the tradition for Carnival around the world. It was mostly as a result of the Carnival celebrations that the Church restricted the observance to a single day.

Shrove Tuesday Traditions

Shrove Tuesday has a variety of customs that have derived from different regions around Europe and the Americas. As previously mentioned, England began the tradition of serving pancakes, and for this reason the day is known as "Pancake Day". In addition, there are the annual Pancake Day Races, where contestants dress in aprons and scarves and race down a course flipping a pancake in a frying pan or skillet.

In Eastern Europe, the Carnival people in large are often caricatures as one another and engage telling, and practical jokes.	celebrations masks parade of individuals from in gendered	include boisterous around and play jokes traditional folklore. mimicry. The day is filled with eating, drinking, fortune	processions where on bystanders. The masks Men and women will dress
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Perhaps the most prominent customs are the balls and pageants in New Orleans and Rio de Janeiro. Like Eastern European celebrations, participants wear masks and costumes, many of which are quite flamboyant and elaborate. Rio has a parade of multi-colored feathers, which include hundreds of dancers dressed in costumes decked with feathers, all dancing the samba. In New Orleans, Mardi Gras includes a variety of parades featuring grand floats and giant effigies of eccentric characters. There is much eating, drinking, and dancing, as well as practical jokes and humorous street plays.

For many Protestant believers, Shrove Tuesday holds no particular significance. For Catholics and Anglicans, however, the day is still observed with confession and absolution, in addition to modest feasting and rejoicing.

From: http://www.sharefaith.com/guide/Christian-Holidays/origins_of_shrove_tuesday.html

**Do good! Seek peace
and go after it!**

Psalm 34:14b

This is the HERO VERSE that volunteers and kids will hear throughout the week of this year's Vacation Bible School!

Please consider helping out at this amazing event where we host to about 150 children from Pre-K - 6th Grade. Onsite child care is available for volunteers with children too young to participate.

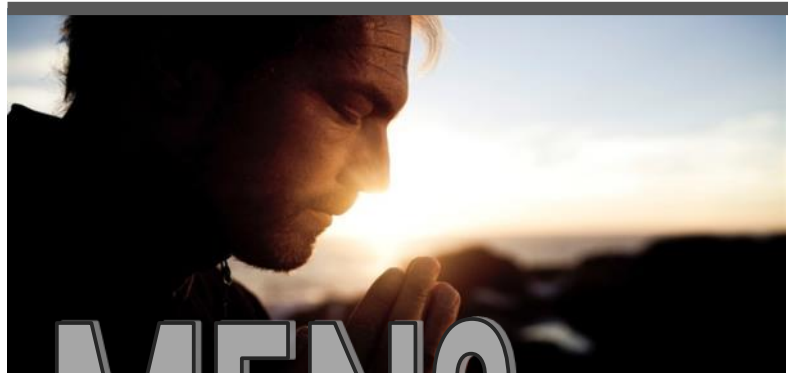
Hero Central will take kids on an awesome adventure alongside some of their favorite Bible heroes and discover the qualities that make us truly heroic in God. There will be epic music, spectacular science, crafty crafts, heroic recreations, and fantastic Bible stories to help kids (and leaders too) discover their strength in God!

**Will you be a HERO and help
out at Wyoming UMC's
Vacation Bible School June 19-23
from 8:15-12:30?**

Please email Linda Lyon at linda.lyon@aol.com or call 335-4281 so she can match your superpowers with the right position!



But Wait...
**THERE'S
MORE!!**



MENS *retreat*

...at Camp Pecometh

Early plans are now 'in the making' for a first ever Men's 'Prayer, Praise, And Project' Retreat at Camp Pecometh in February of **2018**.

This proposed event will feature a Friday afternoon to a Saturday mid-day, three meal, and service project agenda for all the men of the Church who feel so led to participate.

Frank Roberts has kindly agreed to co-chair this much anticipated event with Terry Higgins. See either Frank or Terry for questions and or information.

We will keep you updated via future issues of the 'Wyoming Messenger'.





Looking to borrow for upcoming Outreach project: Serger sewing machine.

Contact
Mary Dawn Ditty (302) 883-3037
or Judy Field (302) 284-2059.

Help Lindsay fight Lyme Disease

As many of you know, our daughter, Lindsay (pictured above, left), suffers from Chronic Lyme Disease. After months on a waiting list, she recently became a patient of the Jemsek Clinic in Washington, D.C. Soon, she plans to begin a treatment protocol of IV antibiotics that will take from seven to nine months. We are confident it will be effective and hopeful it will restore her to perfect health! As Lindsay's health insurance will not cover the cost of this very expensive treatment, she will need to pay for it herself.

To assist Lindsay in raising the necessary funds, two events have been planned.

Robin Aschenberg of the *Helping Hands Quilt Guild* graciously created a "Millennium Star" quilt (95 X 95) for a raffle to be held **Saturday, June 24, 2017.**

To support Lindsay by purchasing tickets (1/\$5, 3/\$12, 6/\$20) please contact-

Robin Aschenberg at (302) 670-2835 or robinaschenberg@comcast.net

Kathy Deckard at (302) 331-9298 or kathleendeckard@gmail.com

#LEGIONFORLINDSAY will be held at the Walter L. Fox Post 2, 835 Bay Road, Dover, DE on **Sunday, February 19th from 12-6 pm.**

Come and join us for food, drinks, a 50/50 raffle, silent auction, DJ and live music!!

We so appreciate the concern that our church family has expressed for Lindsay. We, and Lindsay, thank all who continue to pray for complete healing.

Blessings!

Kathy and Dan Deckard

"Heal me, O Lord, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved, for you are the one I praise." Jeremiah 17:14 NIV

Like to Sew? Interested in Quilting?

Helping Hands Quilt Guild will have their workshops at Wyoming Methodist in 2017!

The community and members of Wyoming are invited to join in the fun. The guild sponsors guest speakers and workshops that include many techniques and all skill levels. Members encourage each other on their personal "quilting journey."

Meetings are normally the fourth Monday of each month with workshops the next day (Tuesday.) Come, see what we are about! You are welcome any time!

Questions or to learn more, contact Mary Dawn Ditty (302) 883-3037 or visit:

www.helpinghandsquiltguild.com.



THE joy OF THE Lord IS YOUR strength.

Jeremiah 8:10b

WHAT?

Annual Ladies Retreat

“CHOOSE **JOY!**”

RETREAT LEADERS:

Tracy Fennemore (bottom picture, left) and Janna Whitenight (top picture, right)

You don't want to miss what promises to be an inspiring, uplifting, fun retreat planned and led by two of our younger generation church leaders.

WHO?

All ladies of the church... bring a friend!

WHEN?

Sunday, May 21st and Monday, May 22nd

WHERE?

Riverview Retreat Center at Pecometh, Centreville, MD. Each room includes two queen beds and bathroom in this four-year-old Methodist center on the banks of the Chester River on Maryland's Eastern Shore. Handicap rooms available.

HOW?

Fill out a registration form and leave it in the envelope provided at the welcome desk.

WHY?

An opportunity to fellowship in a Christian atmosphere as we sing, pray, eat, laugh, enjoy the beauty of God's creation, share in a comfortable setting, listen to each other and connect in a special way.

COST...

includes three meals and is dependent on the number of guests in a room. **Payment deadline:** May 7th.

QUESTIONS / INFORMATION...

Barbara Shaw 538-6772.



Wyoming United Methodist Church
Annual Ladies Retreat
May 21 - 22, 2017
Riverview Retreat Center at Pecometh

We will leave from church at 4:00 PM on Sunday afternoon and return approximately 3:30 PM on Monday. All ladies of the church are welcome. Invite a friend! Transportation will be car pools. Cost includes room and 3 full meals and the use of all facilities. You can view this handicapped accessible facility on their website: www.pecometh.org.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Roommate Arrangement: _____

Each room is furnished with two queen beds.

_____ 2 to a room \$ 119.00 per person

_____ 3 to a room \$ 103.00 per person

_____ 4 to a room \$ 90.00 per person

**“CHOOSE
JOY!”**

Registration: Return registrations to Nancy Roberts, 77 Hilltop Trail, Camden, DE 19934 or leave it at the welcome desk: attention ladies retreat.

Payment Deadline: Sunday May 7th. Checks should be made out to WUMC with the notation “ladies retreat”; amount depending on choice of room accommodations. Mail payments to Nancy. (To facilitate our record keeping please do not leave payments or registration at church office or place in offering plate). Call Barbara Shaw 538-6772 or email HShaw111@aol.com with any questions.

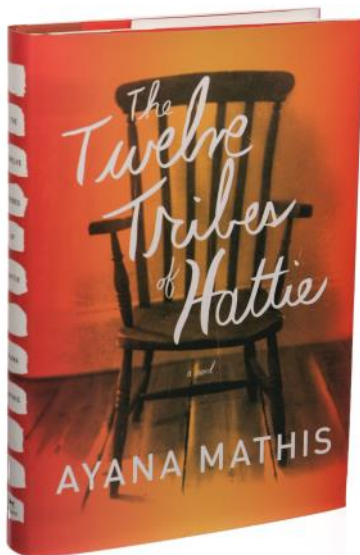
Are you willing to drive? _____ How many passengers? _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT: name, relationship, number (required)

Dietary Restrictions:

Kick off 2017 with some good reads!

*Join the WUMC book group on the
fourth Wednesday at 7 PM
to discuss our monthly
selection.*



February 22nd The Twelve Trives of Hattie by Ayana Mathis

Meet the author when she visits Delaware!

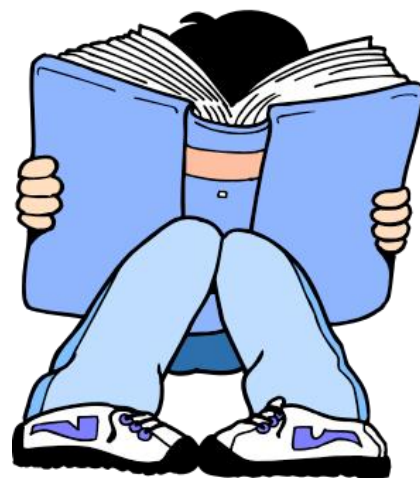
If you enjoy the book New Castle County Library is bringing the author to Delaware on Wednesday, April 26, 2017 at the Chase Center On The Riverfront, 815 Justison St. Wilmington DE 19801. Free and open to the public see more on nccde.org.

A debut of extraordinary distinction: Ayana Mathis tells the story of the children of the Great Migration through the trials of one unforgettable family.

In 1923, fifteen-year-old Hattie Shepherd flees Georgia and settles in Philadelphia, hoping for a chance at a better life. Instead, she marries a man who will bring her nothing but disappointment and watches helplessly as her firstborn twins succumb to an illness a few pennies could have prevented. Hattie gives birth to nine more children whom she raises with grit and mettle and not an ounce of the tenderness they crave.

She vows to prepare them for the calamitous difficulty they are sure to face in their later lives, to meet a world that will not love them, a world that will not be kind. Captured here in twelve luminous narrative threads, their lives tell the story of a mother's monumental courage and the journey of a nation.

Beautiful and devastating, Ayana Mathis's *The Twelve Trives of Hattie* is wondrous from first to last—glorious, harrowing, unexpectedly uplifting, and blazing with life. An emotionally transfixing novel, a searing portrait of striving in the face of insurmountable adversity, an indelible encounter with the resilience of the human spirit and the driving force of the American dream. (From the publisher.)



March 22nd Freeman by Leonard Pitts

Freeman, the new novel by Leonard Pitts, Jr., takes place in the first few months following the Confederate surrender and the assassination of Abraham Lincoln. Upon learning of Lee's surrender, Sam—a runaway slave who once worked for the Union Army—decides to leave his safe haven in Philadelphia and set out on foot to return to the war-torn South. What compels him on this almost-suicidal course is the desire to find his wife, the mother of his only child, whom he and their son left behind 15 years earlier on the Mississippi farm to which they all "belonged."

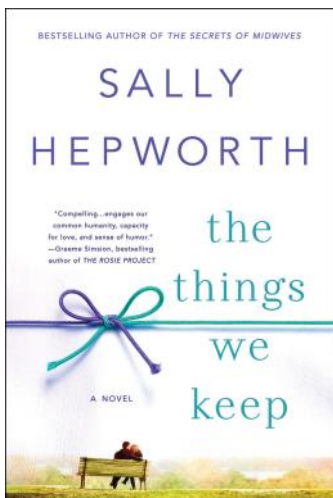
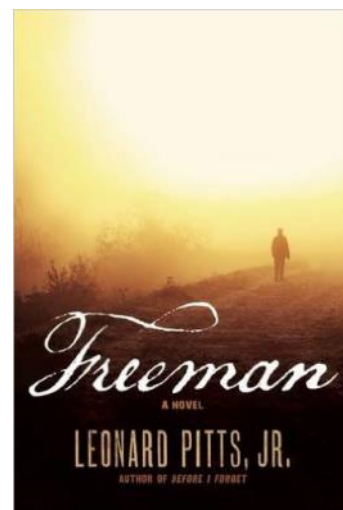
At the same time, Sam's wife, Tilda, is being forced to walk at gunpoint with her owner and two of his other slaves from the charred remains of his Mississippi farm into Arkansas, in search of an undefined place that would still respect his entitlements as slave owner and Confederate officer.

The book's third main character, Prudence, is a fearless, headstrong white woman of means who leaves her Boston home for Buford, Mississippi, to start a school for the former bondsmen, and thus honor her father's dying wish.

At bottom, Freeman is a love story—sweeping, generous, brutal, compassionate, patient—about the feelings people were determined to honor, despite the enormous constraints of the times. It is this aspect of the book that should ensure it a strong, vocal, core audience of African-American women, who will help propel its likely critical acclaim to a wider audience.

At the same time, this book addresses several themes that are still hotly debated today, some 145 years after the official end of the Civil War. Like *Cold Mountain*, Freeman illuminates the times and places it describes from a fresh perspective, with stunning results. It has the potential to become a classic addition to the literature dealing with this period. Few other novels so powerfully capture the pathos and possibility of the era particularly as it reflects the ordeal of the black slaves grappling with the promise—and the terror—of their new status as free men and women.

(Publisher's summary.)



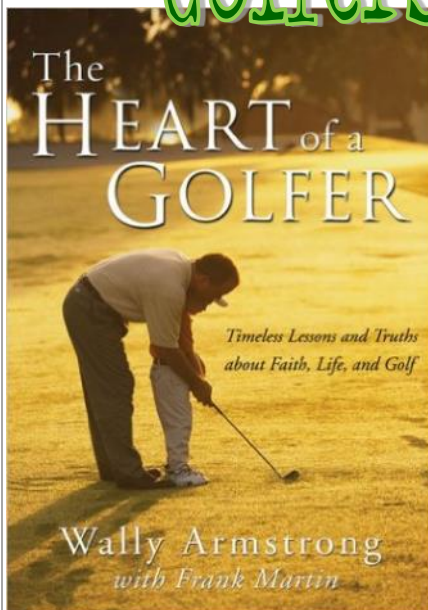
April 26th The Things We Keep by Sally Hewpworth

Anna Forster, in the early stages of Alzheimer's disease at only thirty-eight years old, knows that her family is doing what they believe to be best when they take her to Rosalind House, an assisted living facility. She also knows there's just one other resident her age, Luke. What she does not expect is the love that blossoms between her and Luke even as she resists her new life at Rosalind House. As her disease steals more and more of her memory, Anna fights to hold on to what she knows, including her relationship with Luke.

When Eve Bennett is suddenly thrust into the role of single mother she finds herself putting her culinary training to use at Rosalind house. When she meets Anna and Luke she is moved by the bond the pair has forged. But when a tragic incident leads Anna's and Luke's families to separate them, Eve finds herself questioning what she is willing to risk to help them. Goodreads.com

NEW in the Library

Golfers... check it out!

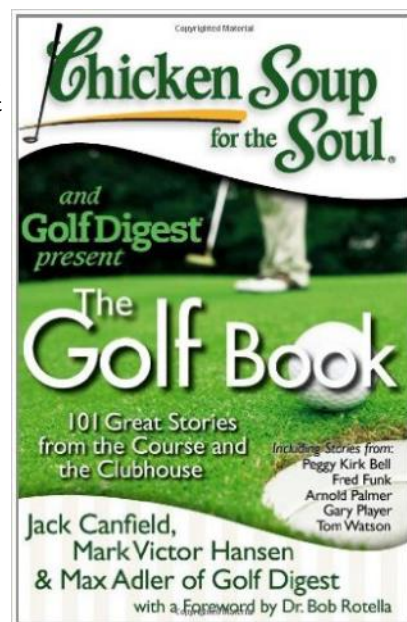
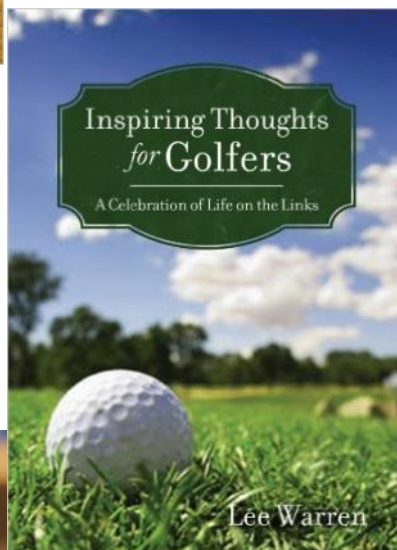


Here's the perfect gift for friends or family who golf—or even yourself. *Inspiring Thoughts for Golfers* is sure to please players of all skill levels. Featuring intriguing golf information and encouraging spiritual truths, this full-color book celebrates “What We Love About Golf” (the title of the introduction), making thoughtful biblical points in four chapters: “Being Outdoors,” “Friendly Competition,” “History and Tradition,” and “Enjoying the Camaraderie.” In a handsome, padded hard-cover binding, *Inspiring Thoughts for Golfers* makes an ideal gift for any golfer!

This is a book for the man or woman who loves God and golf. In these pages, you'll discover how the two go together. Because without question, golf is a game filled with parallels to the Christian life—and as you'll see, Wally Armstrong knows how to help you fine-tune your approach so that, whether on the links or in life, you're always improving. Inside are a few of the things Armstrong has learned at God's lesson tee. “It's a collection,” he says, “of stories and anecdotes from my many years in golf, each used in some way by God to bring home a truth about life, faith, relationships, and my walk with Christ in general.” In *The Heart of a Golfer*, Armstrong offers thirty-six “lessons” covering different aspects of life's game: the fundamentals, swing mechanics, course management, mental agility, the spirit of the game, and giving back to the game.

Are you eager to shave off a few points on God's golf course? Then step up to the tee and let the lessons begin.

Golf is a sport of passion and obsession like none other. Chicken Soup and Golf Digest magazine have put together a great collection of true personal stories that will inspire, amuse, and surprise golfers. Celebrity golfers, weekend golfers, beginners, and pros share the best stories they've told at the 19th hole, about good times on and off the course. Chicken Soup's golf books have always been very successful—with addition of Golf Digest, this book should hit a hole in one.



Attention KIDS!

Here's a retelling of the Old Testament story of Daniel and how his belief in God saved him when he was thrown into the lion's den.

Are YOU serving on God's Team?

Want to find out what a Team does? Are you on a Team and want to understand their purpose? Want to understand your role on that Team?

First, **thank you for saying "Yes!"** to serving on a church Team or ministry! You will enjoy the connection and the servanthood with and for others! To make the most of your service on a Team you should understand the purpose and functioning of that Team. The District offers a **Day of Leadership Training** in the many ministry areas of the church. Informational sessions are offered for:

Staff Parish Relations Team
Accountable Leadership
for Laity

Trustee Board
Finance Team
Nominations and
Leadership Development
Evangelism
Strategic Leadership
Planning

Worship
Prison Outreach
Race Reconciliation
Small Group Leadership
Children's/Youth Ministry
Prayer and Healing
Ministry

Safe Sanctuaries
Connectional Giving
for Mission

Select which training session you would like to attend. There you will

meet others from our Dover District who are interested in or serving in the same area of ministry that you are. A leader, usually clergy, specialized and highly motivated in that area of service will lead the session with a combination of teaching and answering questions from those attending.

The Training date/time is:

Saturday, February 25, 2017

8:30 AM — 2:30 PM

**At Avenue Methodist Church,
Milford, DE**

Lunch is provided.

Registration is required **by February 15th.**

Cost is \$7.00 per person for registration and resource materials.

Get your **Registration Form** in the church office or on the Pen-Del Conference/ Dover District website www.pen-del.org

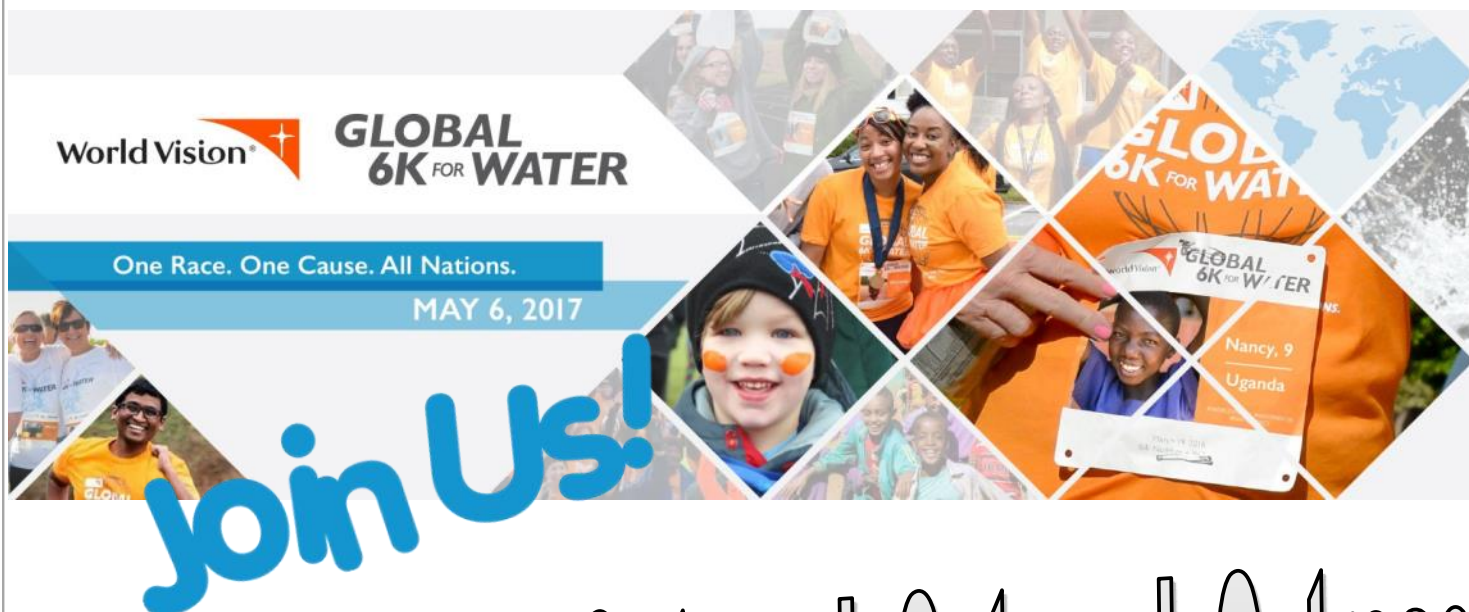
There are course descriptions available in the office, as well.

Call Sue Hajec (302) 697-2697 to let her know you are going and to arrange rides.

*****Understanding more
about how you are being
called to serve will enhance
your servanthood!
Praise God***!**



Watch for details on World Vision's Global 6K for Water on May 6th and how you can join the **Wyoming United Methodist Water Walkers** to provide clean water for children who walk 3.72 miles to get water each day.



World Vision **GLOBAL 6K FOR WATER**

One Race. One Cause. All Nations.

MAY 6, 2017

Join Us!

Outreach Outreach Outreach Outreach Outreach Outreach

**Socks,
Socks
and more
Socks
!!!**



Just before Christmas, Wini Walton (Tracey Jones' mother and faithful friend of Wyoming Church), called me to ask if we could use men's socks for our Code Purple Shelter. Of course, I said "yes" because socks are the number one needed item for homeless people. Little did I know that she didn't mean a dozen pairs of socks but rather 150 pairs of socks!!!

It seems that Wini decided that her community, Longacre

Village, a 55+ community, take on the project of collecting socks for homeless men and they collected 150 pair!!

What a wonderful outreach and a wonderful, generous idea!! Thanks, Wini, for your loyal support of so many of our outreach projects here at Wyoming.

You and the residents of Longacre Village are really special people!!



collect...

Redner's WAREHOUSE MARKETS

receipts

As you may or may not know, Redner's Warehouse Markets, of which there are three in the greater Dover/Camden-Wyoming area, has a community support program that provides a one percent refund on all tallied Redner's receipts that are submitted by any non-profit group. To qualify for this program the recipients of this refund policy must be engaged in meaningful, volunteer activities that provide legitimate services and support to our local communities.

The Sexton Kitchen Team, under the very effective leadership of Linda Booher, qualifies by virtue of the Team's Food Ministry Program of 'Faith, Food And Family'. Frank Roberts, a very active Team member, continues to serve as an excellent coordinator of this facet of the Team's ministry.

Therefore, if and when you shop at any of the Redner's Markets, have them scan your Redner's card. When you return to your home, let your Redner's receipts accumulate and then bring them to the Narthex, place them in the appropriately marked container that is found at the North end of the Narthex. Frank will collect these receipts, tally them, and then submit them to the appropriate Redner's office. Within a few days a refund check is sent to our Wyoming Church to the attention of the Sexton Kitchen Team, which is then used to provide additional resources to the Team's Food Ministry Program. Frank reports that the Food Ministry Program receives between \$800 to \$1,000 year from this project. So ... if you feel led to do so, the Team would be pleased to have your participation!

All men of all ages are invited to join our Wyoming United Men's Group for our monthly Prayer Breakfast on **Saturday, February 25, from 7:30 AM to 8:30 AM** in the Backroom at Hall's Restaurant.

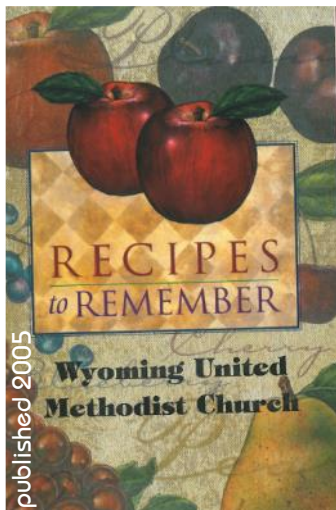
Ordering from the menu, we will enjoy a mini-message of faith, good food, and great table fellowship.

Information/Questions — Josh Turner 678-9818.



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!



COLD PIZZA

- 1 (8 oz.) cream cheese, softened
- 1 bunch green onions, chopped
- 2 green bell peppers, chopped
- 1 (8 oz.) can garbanzo beans (chickpeas)
- 1 small can sliced black olives

- 1 (6 oz.) pkg. small cooked shrimp
- 6 oz. fresh mushrooms
- 1 bottle chili sauce
- 4 oz. shredded Mozzarella cheese
- Corn tortilla chips

Spread cream cheese over serving dish in a thin layer. Mix next 6 ingredients; spread over cream cheese layer. Pour chili sauce on this layer, and top with shredded Mozzarella cheese. Refrigerate. Remove from refrigeration 1 hour prior to serving. Serve with tortilla chips, using as a scoop.

Teenagers, this is for you!

Kathy Chalmers

Sexton Kitchen Team's *February*

Food, Faith & Family

Your Sexton Kitchen Team's Food Ministry Program of 'Faith, Food, And Family' continues to respond to an ever increasing series of requests for their culinary services from both congregational and community sources. **Beginning at 6PM on Wednesday, February the 1st**, in the Family Life Center, the members of your Sexton Kitchen Team (SKT) will host the **February Adult Fellowship Dinner**. The February event has become our traditional **Spaghetti/Gospel/Blue Grass Night**. The Adult Fellowship hosts the Tucker Brothers Gospel/Blue Grass Band and Jim Torbert's Spaghetti. Jim and his wife Kathleen prepare and serve pasta along with their own special sauce while the Chefs of your SKT prepare the breads, salad, and beverages. A 'Love Offering' is taken to help defray the Spaghetti Dinner expenses and to support the religious outreach efforts of the Tucker Brothers Band.

On **Wednesday, the 8th of February**, the Chefs of your SKT will welcome all the members of our growing Congregation to our **February Soup Day** event in the Family Life Center from **11:30AM to 1:00PM**. For a donation of \$4.00 you will receive a hearty portion of your choice of Clam Chowder or Vegetarian Bean Pasta, Bread/Rolls, Beverage, and Dessert. The \$3.00 'Tastes Like Seconds' option as well as 'carry outs' will also be available.

Sunday, the **12th of February**, will once again see the members of your SKT provide a **catered Employee Appreciation Luncheon** in the Family Life Center hosted by your Church's SPRT. The following Thursday and Friday will find your SKT Chefs in the Chef's Kitchen preparing the many **Cherry Pies** that have been ordered at the SKT Kiosk located in the Narthex. Those 'World Famous Cherry Pies' that have been requested by the fortunate recipients can be paid for and picked up on **Saturday, February the 18th**, at the Chef's

Kitchen in the Family Life Center from 9:00 AM until Noon. On **Tuesday, the 28th of February**, the SKT Chefs will be extremely busy preparing for the **Shrove Tuesday Dinner that begins at 5:30 PM** in the Family Life Center. This traditional dinner, with a love offering, is a vitally important component of our Church's celebration of the Easter Season.

Beginning on Sunday, February 19, you will have the delightful opportunity to sign up at the SKT's Kiosk in the Narthex for your SKT's first ever **Friday, March the 17th, 'St. Patrick's Ham 'N Cabbage Take Out/Take Home' Dinner**. This complete dinner will be prepared by the SKT Chefs in the Chef's Kitchen at the Family Life Center where you will be able to pay for and pick up your ordered dinner(s) any time between 3:00 PM and 6:00 PM on Friday, March 17. Also in March make notes in your calendar and plan to participate in the Adult Fellowship Dinner on the 1st and the Soup Day on the 8th.

Your SKT members appreciate the support that you give to our Food Ministry Program events including the recent Lasagna 'Dine In/Take Home' Dinner that was held on a very snowy January 7. Despite the challenging road conditions of both that Saturday and the following Sunday, all of the dinner orders and extras (the Chef's always make more) were sold. Please know that the members of your SKT stand ready and willing to consider your private events in the Family Life Center should that option arise. Should you feel led to consider joining the SKT, Linda Booher, our very capable chair, would be pleased to talk with you about membership.

Remember that all of the proceeds from the Soup Day's Bake Table continue to be donated to the Church's Mortgage Reduction Project.



The Day of the Soup...

Wednesday, February 8 - 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM.

The Soups of the Day...

Clam Chowder or Vegetarian Bean Pasta

Get a generous helping of your choice soup, roll or bread, dessert, and beverage.

'Taste Like Seconds' option for an additional \$3.00.

Don't forget to check out the culinary delights at the Bake Table.

The funds generated from the Soup Days are donated to the Church's Outreach Ministry.

Calling All Of The Great Bakers Of Our Wyoming Church...

YES ---

That's YOU!

The Bake Table at the forthcoming Soup Day needs you to prepare one or more of your most favorite desserts for display and sale. Please bring them to the Family Life Center by 10:30 AM so that they can be properly priced and displayed.

Questions/Information —
Susan Gant 734-8622.



To: You!

'I Cannot Tell A Lie...'

World Famous

Delicious
Cherry Pies

You have the opportunity to sign up for one or more of the Sexton Kitchen Team's Chef's World Famous' Cherry Pies at the Team's Kiosk in the Narthex now through Sunday, February the 12th.

These hand-crafted, 9 inch, \$10.00 pies can be paid for and picked up on Saturday the 18th at the Chef's Kitchen in the Family Life Center from 9:00 AM to Noon. All proceeds go to the Team's Food Ministry Program that benefits the children, youth, families, adults, and seniors of our Church. Questions/Info --- See Shelby Truitt.



February
Memory Verse

Be devoted to one another

in
Love

Honor one another above yourself.
Romans 12:10