

... the heartbeat of your church... cover to cover.

THE WYOMING MESSENGER

December 2017

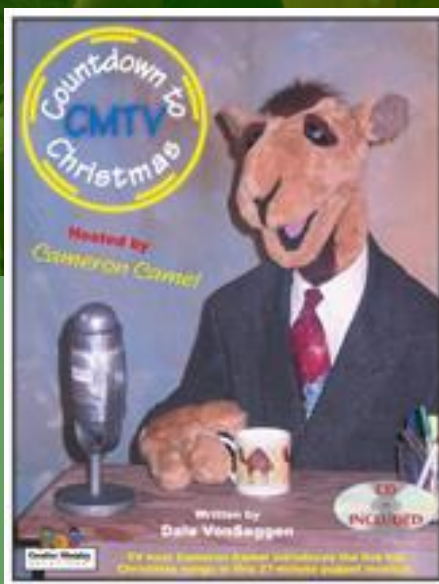


**If you can't come to the
Advent Dinner...**

The puppets will perform their
'Countdown to Christmas'
musical at Dover Place on
**Saturday, December 2 at
11:30AM.**

Sunday, December 3
ADVENT DINNER
and
"COUNTDOWN TO CHRISTMAS"
Puppet Show

The dinner will be a potluck.
The program will feature, for the third year in a row, our Puppets of Praise team with a brand new musical, **CMTV's Countdown to Christmas**. The host of last February's Shrove Tuesday program, Cameron Camel, joins us again to emcee our Christmas extravaganza. Cameron will introduce a variety of Christmas songs in a countdown to #1. Humorous commercials, news items, and dialog are interspersed with our countdown of songs to create a fun 27-minute puppet musical. Dinner will be at 5:30 immediately followed by our puppet presentation.



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Are you able to
snuggle a baby or
play with a toddler
once a month or
occasionally as a
substitute? We are
especially in need of
volunteers
for the
8:30 AM
service.
Please
contact
Kate Kleinot
through
CCB!



*December's
memory verse*



She will bear a son, and
you shall call his name

Jesus
for he will
save his people
from their sins.

Matthew 1:21

Bulletin Board

You Are Needed For A Thrilling 15 Minutes A Month! Yes, You! You are needed for a brief 15 minutes a month to serve as a **Greeter** at the Sunday Morning Service of your choice. You will be able to serve as a **Greeter** at the 8:30 AM (8:15 AM to 8:30 AM), 9:45 AM (9:30 AM to 9:45 AM), or the 11:00 AM (10:45 AM to 11:00 AM) Service. Our Wyoming Church's growing reputation as a friendly, spirit filled place to be is drawing an increasing number of first time visitors and former attendees. We need to be able to extend a positive, first impression, warm welcome to all. To do that effectively, we need more folks to serve as Greeters one Sunday a month for a 6 months period of time beginning with January 7th, the first Sunday of 2018. If, after prayerful consideration, you feel led to serve as a Greeter or if you have questions, please see **Nancy Auten**, Greeter Coordinator for the **8:30 Service**, **Gail Vella**, Greeter Coordinator for the **9:45 Service**, or **Terry Higgins**, Greeter Coordinator for the **11:00 Service**. Try it! It is fun, easy, appreciated, and very rewarding!



Where's the Air Freshener?

We've recently decided to try a safer air purifying method rather than a chemical based air freshener in the church restrooms.

Why the change?

These new air filters should work to decrease any foul odors, and still have our health and safety in mind. No strong fragrances, chemical free, yet still effective.

- ◆ **REMOVE ODORS** the powerful absorption properties of the activated charcoal can remove odors in your refrigerators, wardrobes, closet, bathroom and pet occasions and any other house corners. Activated Bamboo charcoal is the best and safest material that absorbs odors, bad smells and mold spores thus to keep your home fresh, dry and mold-free.
- ◆ **ALL NATURAL** activated bamboo charcoal is an all natural ingredient used across the world since ancient times to remove odors and purify air. Activated charcoal is renewable and does not pose any risk to the environment. You can dispose it with no harm to environment.
- ◆ **REUSABLE:** The charcoal bag inside the box is reusable for up two years. So it is such cash-saving health guarder. After one month use, take the charcoal bag outside. The sunlight rays will clear out the pores of the bamboo charcoal and making it powerful to absorb again.



The next meeting of the **Delaware Family Policy Council** will be at Grottos on **Thursday December 14th at 12:30 pm**. The Vision of this very worthwhile organization is for Delaware to be a state where God is honored, religious freedom flourishes, families thrive and life is cherished. By attending these monthly luncheons you can stay informed of legislation connected to Christian values. More information at DelawareFamilies.org or by calling 302-296-8698.

Christmas Cards and cards for all occasions and cards from kids and cards for kids and hand-painted watercolor cards ...all in the vending area... all proceeds reduce the church mortgage.



Wonderful Stocking Stuffer -Musica Celestial (heavenly music)! 100% benefiting our Hispanic/Latino Ministry: CD 'Blest is the Son of God, Music for Advent and Christmas' by the Holy Cross Chamber Ensemble under direction of Mike Perza. \$15.00.



From the Pastor's Desk

Rick Wessell



As far as I'm concerned, nothing signals the coming of the Christmas season more than hearing the song "Christmastime is Here" from "A Charlie Brown Christmas." Whether you are one that waits to start playing Christmas music until the day after Thanksgiving, or if you are more like a friend of mine that starts promptly at midnight on November 1st, or if you are like me and start listening to it somewhere in between, this really is the

season of "happiness and cheer."

One of the later verses of that song says, "Christmastime is here, families drawing near; Oh, that we could always see such spirit through the year." I wholeheartedly agree with that sentiment. Many of us, myself included, have families that are separated by quite a bit of distance, and we only really see each other at Christmastime. And, wouldn't it be great if people could always be so filled with excitement, joy, and wishes for peace? Sadly, we know that in the blink of an eye the holidays are over, January comes, and life is back to normal.

Does it have to be that way? Must the hope and joy of Christmas be limited to only a few weeks every winter? As people of faith we know it doesn't! The child born in the manger is our Savior, and in Him we have a hope that cannot be taken away and a peace that passes all understanding. In reality, every day for the believer is, in effect,

Christmas and Easter, as Christ was born into our hearts. We need to live out our faith in such a way that makes that reality known. We need to be constantly excited to worship, to serve, and to show our love for God and for our neighbors. The true joy of the season doesn't have to fade away the minute we pack up the tree and the lights.

*I pray that you and
your families have a
Blessed Christmas and a
#Hope-filled 2018!*



Leaving a Legacy *by Dan Mikkelsen*

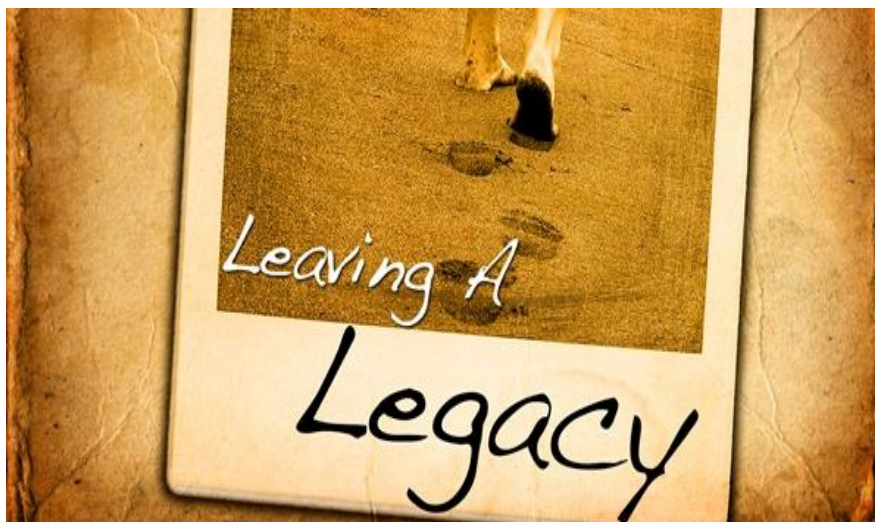
Every spring, our church awards three college scholarships to outstanding high school seniors who are active in Wyoming UMC and community activities, and who have plans to pursue a college or university course of study. While the dollar awards are modest, the scholarships are a tangible way for us to recognize the contributions these young men and women have made to the life of our church, and to encourage them in their future endeavors.

Your financial contributions to the Wyoming UMC Scholarship, the Sexton Kitchen Team Scholarship and the Brown Scholarship funds are encouraged. You may donate to any one or a combination of the three. It's a wonderful way to express your support of these aspiring students.

You may also want to consider leaving a legacy gift by naming one or more of the scholarship funds as a beneficiary of your will, or as a named beneficiary of a life insurance policy.

You'll be making a lasting connection with these deserving members of our church family as they apply the life lessons learned here at Wyoming Church.

Please prayerfully consider your participation in this ministry, and pray for all of our high schoolers as they embark on the next phase of their lives.





Pastor Dave's Ministry Minute - December 2017

Two Are Better Than One

The Wisdom of Solomon found in the Book of Ecclesiastes tells us that two are better than one... Solomon goes on to say if either of them falls he has the other to help him up... Our brothers and sisters from Casa de Esperanza have had some struggles lately with their most recent host facilities due to some changes in leadership and suddenly found themselves without a place to worship...

In the spirit of grace the leadership of Wyoming Church has provided space for this faithful Christian fellowship for a variety of ministry needs they have including Sunday afternoon worship... Casa de Esperanza began holding worship services at Wyoming Church on Sunday November 5th at 1:00... They are a small fellowship of less than 50 people who love and serve the same Lord that we at Wyoming love and serve... We see their love of God and neighbor through the partner ministries we have worked on over the past 10 months... In a recent conversation with Pastor Eric Fontanez he shared that his congregation is very happy to be able to worship at Wyoming and they have felt the same warm welcome that all of us felt when we first attended Wyoming... He went on to share that they had 4 visitors on their first Sunday at Wyoming... That's certainly a witness to the Spirit of God drawing



people to our church... I know that there will be many questions and even some concerns as time goes by but I'm equally certain that through gracious conversation and with God's help we will be able to continue to advance the Kingdom of God in mighty ways as we seek the Lord's will together... Please feel free to contact me directly with any questions or concerns so that we will be able to not only share the space that we call Wyoming United Methodist Church but we will also make the love and grace of Jesus known through our witness of cooperation and unity through the church universal...

*A word of **thanks** to our wonderful congregation, for all the ways you have shown your appreciation for me, your Associate Pastor, at all different times and in all different ways. I certainly appreciate each and everyone of you! **May God bless us, everyone!***



-Janaras Samuel

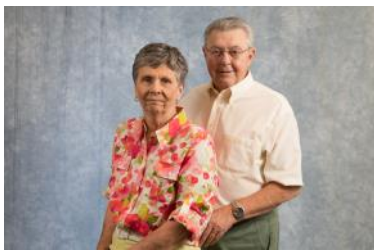
*Two are better than one,
If either of them falls down, one can help the other up.*

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

Dear Church Family,
I would like to thank you so much for the many cards, gifts, and kind words during Pastor Appreciation Month. I consider myself blessed to be able to serve the Lord together with you, and I pray we will do so faithfully for many years to come.
Blessings in Christ,
Pastor Rick



Barbara and George Pettyjohn want to express sincere thanks to all who have responded to her recent illnesses and hospitalizations. Your visits, calls, cards and flowers have meant so much to both of us, especially Barbara. We know you have included us in your prayers and it has been very comforting knowing that God is listening to you and watching over us with love and care. There is no way we can possibly express all of our heartfelt gratitude. Words are not enough. Thank you and God Bless each of you.



Gail with granddaughter Isabel



My dear friends at Wyoming UMC; Thank you so very much for all of your kind thoughts, cards, best wishes, and prayers during my recent illness and recuperation. A special thank you to Sue Hajec and Carol Abbott for keeping us well fed! And to the Knitting to Nurture group for the lovely, lavender shawl. I am so happy to be returning to my regular life, but a little slower!

Thank you!
Gail Garner

ASL Interpreter and Teacher



Reflections

Reflections

Seeking ...?

...the one who seeks finds. Matthew 7:8



Can it really be December already? It's as if the days are falling away all the faster as the end of this year approaches. Thanks-giving... already a calendar casualty. And so, with our seat belts buckled, all we can do is

hang on for the sprint to the Christmas finish line. Oh, but what a finish we can expect as we race our way through the blur of festive decorations, the thoughtful greeting cards from family and friends, the joyful celebrations, and the memorable traditions of this much anticipated holy season.

One of our family's special traditions leading up to Christmas is watching the Dickens classic *A Christmas Carol* on Christmas Eve night. Like any favorite movie seen over and over again, scenes and story lines become seared into memory over time, and that is surely the case with this holiday standard. For those familiar with the movie adaptation, and we prefer the 1984 version by the way, the scene of Scrooge sitting behind his Counting House desk, rifling through his overflowing stacks of gold coins, has certainly become the iconic image of greed and miserliness.

Among the many memorable scenes in the story, I have recently found myself thinking especially about the exchanges between Scrooge and the third of the visiting ghosts, the Ghost of Christmas Future. In his interactions with this particular ghost, Scrooge is witnessing, with much agitation and hurt pride, the very limited impact he had on the world around him while living. His associates deride his memory and grieve not, his possessions

are stolen and sold for scant sums, and nowhere is there any overt sign of his having made a lasting difference in the lives of others. For a man who "had it all" monetarily, through the eerie fog of this ghostly encounter, Scrooge saw with clarity, for the first time, how bereft he in fact was in life. Scrooge then asks the Ghost a "seeking" question, "Can you show me some tenderness... some depth of feeling?" Scrooge is accustomed to having, to possessing, and in his desperate situation, he seeks some demonstration of tenderness and depth. Give me something, he's basically pleading.

And as admirers of the story know, the ghost didn't disappoint... well, on second thought, he did in fact disappoint poor Scrooge. The ghost indeed showed our friend Scrooge true tenderness, and a wellspring of feeling, but to his dismay, these demonstrations had nothing to do with him. He could not lay claim to them. He could not bask in the glow of self-satisfaction as he was accustomed to in life, for the displays of genuineness he was permitted to witness were generated, ironically, by the Cratchit family. What the all-powerful Scrooge so longed for at that moment was on full display, in vivid color, by the family of his lowly subordinate whom he merely tolerated in his worldly quest for more. Thankfully, as all of us Scrooge fans know, he truly did see *the light* and the *error of his ways*, ultimately finding the true joy that comes from investing in people and relationships; that this type of income certainly cannot be counted in gold coins, but in the simple joy that resides in one's heart. Oh, I can't wait to watch it again this year!

Not unlike our friend Scrooge, we can all humanly struggle with the desire to accumulate; to want more; to unwittingly create counting houses of our own in this life. We don't have to be the infamous Dr. Spock to know that most toddlers' favorite word is "mine". Our human quest to possess starts early indeed. Possession is apparently nine tenths of the law, and the average toddler unknowingly lives by this philosophy, as do many of us in our adult years. It becomes increasingly easy, literally a

"no brainer", to continually seek after the things of this life. While we are created to seek after our God while making this earthly journey, it is so very easy to see how we can get sidetracked along the way; seeking the goodness of God, that deepening connection with our Creator and Sustainer in life, but settling instead for *the trappings of this world* that lack eternal value. Just the thought of this helps us to visualize how labored our journey can be with our God, as we become *heavy laden* with the readily available, gravity bound offerings of this life.

Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Matthew 6:25-26

What's the old saying about coming into this world with nothing, and eventually leaving the same way? What's the message here? It will never be the "things" of this world. How many hoarding cable shows must we watch? How many garages do we need to see that are too full to actually be used as intended, or closets, or pantries? The list goes on. Not unlike our forefathers and -mothers wandering in the wilderness with Moses as they awaited the Promised Land, some in this desperate lot fell prey to the temptation of even stockpiling the gift of manna so graciously delivered by God above, leaving them with only foul smells and maggots for their efforts. The temptation for surplus, for holding onto, has always been a human challenge; the vulnerability to envy, to want more, instead of simply allowing God to provide as only God can. Do we seek the things of this world, or that which pleases God?

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. Galatians 2:20

...continued on Page 6.

Danny Cooper Coordinator/Counselor @ Daybreak Counseling Services

BOOK & BAKE SALE

(courtesy FUNdrasing and Kitchen Teams)

January 27

**** All Proceeds toward Debt Reduction**

The FUNdrasing Team now accepts Used Books in Good Condition.

Donation bins in the narthex and on the Family Life Center stage.

****We are especially in need of Children's Books!**

Betsy Freidel ☎ (302)535-3983 or
Kim Reed ☎ (302)670-1832.

Book Bake Sale

Seeking ...?

Continued from Page 5.

Many years ago, in the late 19th century, a missionary named A.W. Milne prepared to leave his life in Scotland to serve the tribal people in the New Hebrides in the South Pacific. Given that no missionary had ever survived mission life among the storied headhunters, Milne, instead of packing cargo trunks or suitcases for the journey, simply packed his few essentials in an empty coffin. For all he knew, this would be a one-way trip, yet he was ready. God may have given life to Milne, but Milne had chosen to return his life to God... in full. And the result? For 54 years, Milne served and lived among the tribal people, with his son William continuing on for an additional 13 years. While unsubstantiated, it is rumored that upon his death, Milne was buried in the center of the village, with his tombstone proclaiming, "When he came here there was no light. When he left there was no darkness". Could Milne have known he would be of such great use to our Lord with the people of New Hebrides? Of course not. On the surface, it could have easily been a very long journey for a very quick death. But Milne was seeking to serve the Lord

with his life, and God certainly had a plan that Milne could not see. And what a difference he made for the Lord!

Show me your ways, Lord, teach me your paths. Psalm 25:4

So what are we seeking while we journey along our particular life path? Are we seeking the treasures that the world can offer us... money, prestige, notoriety, power, etc.? In other words, as believers while on the road that leads to our eternal home, is our attention being drawn to the many attractive exits that beckon us to veer from the path with Christ?

Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it. Matthew 7:13-14

Like Milne, we've each been given the gift of life... freely given. Yet it is up to each of us to give our lives back to the One who loves us the most, who wants to provide for us the best, who wants to complete a special work in us that only you and I can do. Is our light truly shining for God, or merely on ourselves, or possibly not at all? When we commit

our way before the Lord, we truly allow God to bless us as only He can, beyond anything we could imagine, even for the truly creative among us. Our all-mighty, all-powerful God cannot force us to give our lives back to Him. But if we willingly submit ourselves to Him, we can then, in faith, sing this beautiful Karen Lafferty hymn together...

**Seek ye first the Kingdom of God
And His righteousness
And all these things
Shall be added unto you
Allelu Alleluia**

... Amen!



OCTOBER 2017 Month End Finance Report

Michael Quarnaccio, Finance Team Chair

The following report includes current year to date financials and the 2017 budget approved at the meeting of Church council held on January 23, 2017.

	<u>Inc/Exp to Date</u>	<u>Budget to Date</u>	<u>2017 Budget</u>
Weekly Offerings –Operating	453,017	488,018	585,622
Other offerings	65,867	65,279	78,335
Interest Income	<u>1,462</u>	<u>4,167</u>	<u>5,000</u>
Total Offerings	520,346	557,464	668,957
Finance Team	6,856	5,583	6,700
Office	20,729	17,729	21,275
Personnel	130,775	141,077	169,292
Mortgage interest	64,668	63,729	76,475
Properties and equipment	<u>82,857</u>	<u>81,477</u>	<u>97,772</u>
Total Administrative Council	305,885	309,595	371,514
Nursery and Supplies		42	50
Benevolences (Conference)	51,580	51,580	61,896
Education & Youth	2,136	5,875	7,050
Extended Table	-	125	150
Music	945	1,667	2,000
Worship	<u>307</u>	<u>208</u>	<u>250</u>
Total Council on Ministries	54,968	59,497	71,396
Pastor Parish Relations	<u>105,562</u>	<u>108,317</u>	<u>129,980</u>
Mortgage principal liability (Reduces debt to PNC Bank)	<u>89,555</u>	<u>80,056</u>	<u>96,067</u>
Total Expense	<u>555,970</u>	<u>557,464</u>	<u>668,957</u>
Net Income (Loss)	(35,624)		

Balance of Mortgage on 01/01/2017

\$ 2,045,807.71

Interest paid in 2017

\$ 64,667.46

Principal paid in 2017

\$ 529,554.96

The **"Wish List"** clothes line, located in the narthex, continues to give opportunities for individuals to **purchase specific items** needed by our church.

If any of the teams within the church have a specific need which they would like to see on the "wish list" please contact Sharon Duncan ☎ 698-1904.



Wyoming UMC

YOUTH MINISTRY

"Don't let anyone think less of you because you are young. Be an example to all believers in What you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity". 1 Timothy 4:12

December UPDATE!

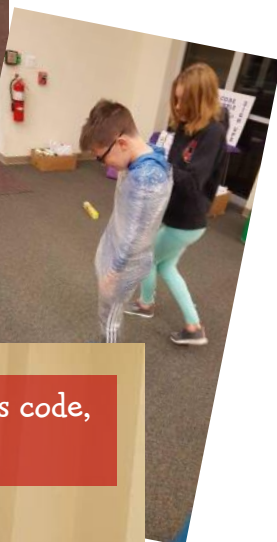
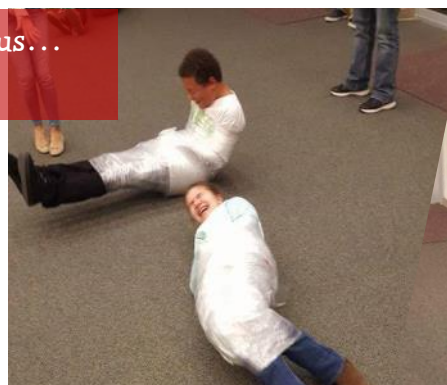
upcoming
events

December 3 rd :	Youth Group, 6-8 PM
December 10 th :	Youth Group, 6-8 PM
December 17 th :	Youth Group, 6-8 PM
December 24 th :	NO Youth Group -



The youth ministries of Wyoming Church are open to all youth in grades 6-12.

We can get really serious...
about having fun!



We don't have a dress code,
really...



Let the Holy Spirit fire you up... join this crazy bunch of wonderful young people, and tell your friends about them, too!



From The Dover District Prayer Stole Journal -

Corporate & Church Prayers of the People

This is the entry of Wyoming United Methodist Church. We'll be publishing our sister churches' prayers in future newsletters. If you'd like to look at this journal, we keep it in the church office.

"Father, Thank You for your love and grace. We thank You for Jesus and the gift of new and eternal life through Him. We thank You for Your Holy Spirit and the Spirit's power and guidance and help. Help us at WUMC to be obedient to Your calling to be disciples of Christ and to go into the world with Your message of mercy and hope. Amen.

Gracious Lord, You are worthy of all our praise! You are worthy of all our worship! We thank You that we can come before You in praise, worship and prayer any time! We know You hear our prayers because You love us. We pray for continued guidance through the Holy Spirit for our pastors, staff, and laity. May all leaders' decisions be made after much prayer and in accordance with Your will for WUMC. We pray we will always be good stewards of the resources, gifts, and talents You give us! Give us eyes to see and hands to serve the needs of the people who come through our doors and who live in the surrounding community. May we serve sacrificially as Jesus, Your Son, sacrificed His life for our sins. We thank You for new life in Him, because of His resurrection. May we truly be His faithful disciples! In Jesus' Name we pray all this and all that remains in our hearts. Amen.

The weather is turning colder. The periods of light are getting shorter, and the darkness longer. The bright colors of summer and fall flowers and trees are fading away to grays and browns. Trees are showing only their stark, dark silhouettes against the sky. Birds' cheery songs aren't heard. Rabbits and other creatures are nestled in their warm winter homes. Starkness and lack of vibrant life prevails when I look outside.

But years of experiencing the change of seasons helps me know that God's perfect plan has allowed for new vibrant plant and animal life to return in the spring! We just have to wait for it's return! In our personal seasons of starkness and darkness, God's perfect plan for us is there also! God's Hope, Truth, Light, Life, and Love are always present! All we have to do is ask for it and "Be still and know that I am God." (Psalm 46:10 NIV)

While we wait for this regeneration of life, in nature and in our personal lives, we can celebrate and give thanks for God's Love for us in the gift of His son, Jesus. Barren and dark times are still

times to celebrate and thank God for His faithful love for us even if we don't see it yet! Let's make an extra effort to stay connected or get reconnected or better connected with our God during this season. Our God is Hope, Truth, Life, Light and Love, who never fades away. He never leaves us. He is waiting for us, loving us all the time! Let's go to him!

Confidence of His steadfastness is in 1 John 5:14-15 (The Message), "...how bold and free we then become in his presence, freely asking according to his will, sure that he's listening. And if we're confident that he's listening, we know that what we've asked for is as good as ours."

So let's talk to God – confidently, boldly out of love – telling him whatever is on our hearts.

We can sit and talk to him in a quiet place and time.

We can talk to him while we work, walk, play or exercise!

We can write to God and tell him our cares, concerns and conquered fears and

failings.

He wants to hear our sorrows, pains and our joys and celebrations. When we come to him with all that is on our hearts, that is our step of faith and trust in our God who hears us and loves us – no matter what!

There are several ways to reach out to God in prayer that Wyoming Church offers in partnership and support for and with you. Please participate in any of these prayer opportunities as our response to God's Love especially during this season.

Then wait with great expectations in faith and **be Blessed!**

***Prayer box** on altar

***Prayer box** by doors to SS wing

***Call church office** with prayer request (private for Pastor only or to be shared with Prayer Team)

*Come join **People Praying**, from 5 to 6 PM every Wednesday in the sanctuary.

You are invited to the next *Dover Christian Women's Connection* (affiliated with Stonecroft Ministries) breakfast buffet on *December 12th at 9:30 a.m.* at the Maple Dale Country Club.

The Guest Speaker is Karin Williams-her topic is "Learning to say goodbye to painful losses and hello to a bright tomorrow".

The program on "simple decorating" will be by - our very own - **Debbie Grinstead** and the music by our very own **Janna Whitenight and Amy Spampinato**. You will be BLESSED by this event!

Reservations ARE necessary so please call Diane ☎ 697-6020 or Iva ☎ 736-1554 by December 8th. Any questions call Sharon ☎ 698 -1904.

Merry Christmas

SENDING THE WARMTH OF GOD'S LOVE

Pictured are the winter hats created with love by the "Knitting to Nurture" group and many, many other "artists" of our congregation.



Approximately 30 men's hats and 20 women's hats will go to the homeless shelters, while over 50 children's hats will warm the heads of children in need in the CR school district.

Join CIA (Couples In Action) in spreading some Christmas cheer to our shut-ins through our annual **Family Caroling Event on Sunday, December 17!** Meet at **4 PM** in the Family Life Center. We'll have hot chocolate and cookies waiting for us when we return at 6PM!

Where: **Dover Place, Walker Road, Dover**
(formerly: Heritage Assisted Living)
When: **December 11, 2017**
Time: **6:45PM**

Everyone is welcome to join the Visitation Team, Pastor Dave and talented piano player June Papen for the annual Christmas Hymn Sing! The residents of Dover Place look forward to this time when we all gather to lift up our voices (good or bad) praising our Lord, in preparation of the birth of Jesus. A joyous time will be had, please come and be a part of it! Bring the children, too!



Breakfast with Santa and Mrs. Claus on Saturday, December 9th!

Serving breakfast from 8:15 to 10:15.

Santa & Mrs. Claus will be visiting from 8:30 'till 10:00.

Attention Kids' Praise: Please stay for two hours after 10AM for our dress rehearsal of our Christmas Pageant!



Merry Christmas

"The Unfriendly Beasts (No Room in the Stable) is a charming, humorous story of the manger animals who must share their crowded stable with Mary, Joseph and the infant Jesus. When word reaches the stable that the animals must make room for humans, the animals protest....But as the Light of Salvation gradually illumines the stable darkness, their hearts are turned from coldness to compassion...The 'Unfriendly Beasts' become 'Friendly Beasts', and each in turn presents gifts to the Christ Child."

Come enjoy this heartwarming

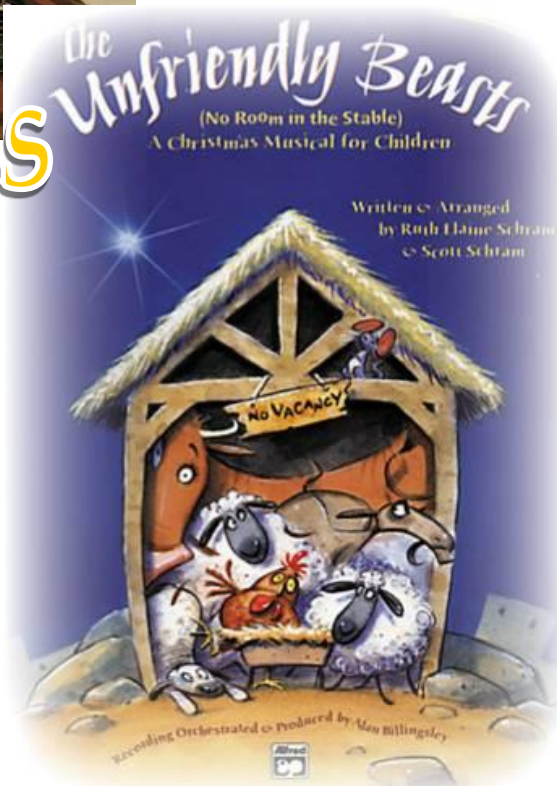
Children's Christmas Musical

**Sunday morning, Christmas Eve (12/24)
at the solo 9:45 a.m. service**

as the kids from Kids' Praise portray these adorable, innocent animals who eventually open their stables, and hearts, to Jesus!

In preparation for this exciting event, there will be a **"dress rehearsal"** in the Sanctuary on **Saturday, December 9 from 10:15 a.m. to 12 noon** following the **Breakfast with Santa**. This will include all children planning to participate in the program. Parents are welcome to leave the kids with us and enjoy some brief shopping time during the rehearsal.

On **Christmas Eve morning**, please plan to have **all kids at church by 9:00 a.m.** so we can have everyone dressed and ready to go by 9:45am. We will provide all costumes. We simply ask the children to wear comfortable clothes, preferably white, brown, or black, over which we can drape small, lightweight tunics. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at (302) 943-4725, call or text, or email at robbyneharper@yahoo.com.



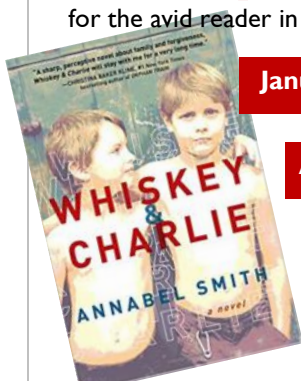
Thanks so much for sharing your children's talents with us and have a joyous Christmas season!
Robyn Lefort, Kids' Praise Director



The WUMC Book Group

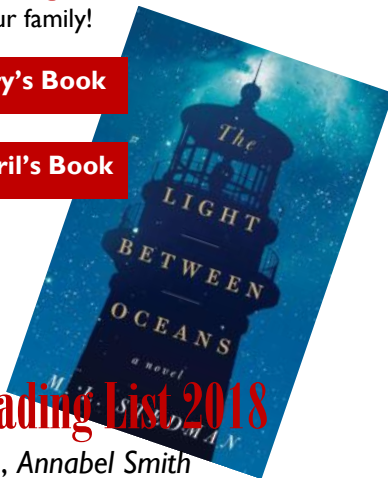
meets
the 4th Wednesday of every month
(except December). All are welcome,
need not be a member or attend church...
bring a friend or co-worker!
Contact Kim Reed ☎ 670-1832 or
email kmreed711@outlook.com.

This Christmas... consider a selection for the 2018 Book Group Reading List (below) for the avid reader in your family!



January's Book

April's Book



Book Group Reading List 2018

Whiskey and Charlie, Annabel Smith

The Red Tent, Anita Diamant

Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks,
Rebecca Skloot

Light Between Oceans, M.L. Stedman

The Man Called Ove, Fredrik Backman

The Secret Chord, Geraldine Brooks

All Girl Filling Station's Last Reunion, Fannie Flagg

Isaac's Storm, Erik Larson

The Heart Goes Last, Margaret Atwood

Before We Were Yours, Lisa Wingate

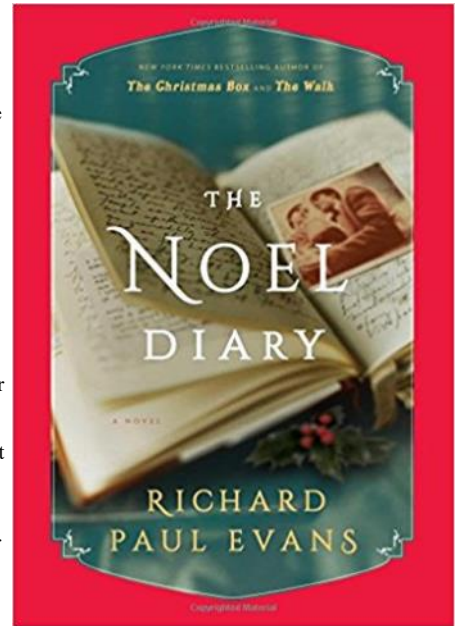
The Mistletoe Promise, Paul Evans



In this new holiday-themed novel from the #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Mistletoe Promise* and *The Walk*, a man receives the best Christmas present he could ask for: the chance to re-write the past. Bestselling romance author Jacob Churcher hasn't been home for almost twenty years-- not since his mentally ill mother kicked him out of the house when he was just sixteen. When a lawyer calls, days before Christmas, to inform him that his estranged mother has passed away and left her house to him, Jacob returns not just to settle the estate but to try and reconcile with the past and the pain and abuse he experienced as a child. Also, maybe cleaning out her house will be slightly less depressing than spending the holidays alone, watching re-runs of Christmas classics.

But as it turns out, the house holds more than just difficult memories, Jacob's mother had become a hoarder and he must excavate through two decades worth of clutter.

As Jacob digs through the detritus, like an archaeologist, he uncovers many puzzling items including a diary left by someone named Noel, a young woman he has no recollection of, who stayed with Jacob's family during her pregnancy. That's not the only echo from the past. Jacob has an unexpected visitor, Rachel, a woman looking for the mother who put her up for adoption thirty years before. United by their quest to make sense of the past and rewrite their futures, Jacob and Rachel begin a search for Noel. Along the way they find more than they possibly imagined, including grace, forgiveness and a chance at love.

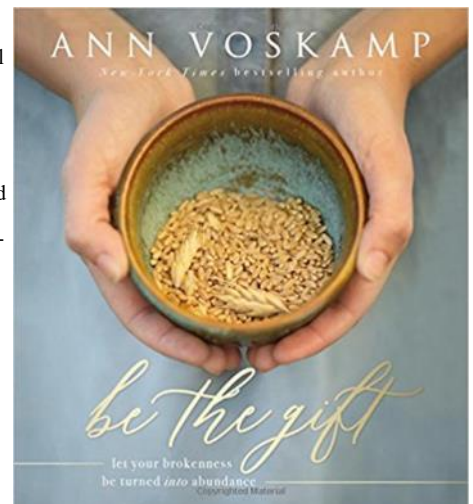


In the Church Library for you...

The idea that even in the depths of our own brokenness God can use each of us to be a gift to someone else is powerful—that He makes each of us enough to give to someone else. Just as powerful is the realization that in becoming God's gifts to others, our lives become more abundant: "Maybe the only abundant way forward is always to give forward." Ideas this powerful need to be put into action.

Live out the messages in Ann's bestselling books, *The Broken Way* and *One Thousand Gifts*, with *Be the Gift*, a practical guide that takes you through each day of the year with ways to bless those around you. Featuring selections from *The Broken Way* and Ann's blog, beautifully designed quotations, inspirational verses, and Ann's signature photography, this gorgeous book will be an incredible gift to any loved one. It also includes pages of perforated gift tags in the back to include with a meal dropped off for an ailing friend or a pie baked for a friendly neighbor or even passed to a friend with a much-loved book.

One Thousand Gifts encouraged readers to live a life of thanksgiving and to chronicle the gifts from God in their everyday lives. *The Broken Way* reminded that freedom is not found beyond fear and pain, but within it. Now *Be the Gift* will unpack and chronicle the next step to really live in communion—opening ourselves up to given-ness in spite of our brokenness.



~ Our People ~

~ December Birthdays ~

12/01 Pat Brown, Noelle Robinson,
Bill Rhodes, Theresa McGee

12/02 Joel Brosius

12/03 Betsy Freidel, Kathy Delong,
Darlene Seip

12/04 Jack Freidel, Olivia Chase,
Stephanie Nichols

12/05 Lois Seyler

12/06 Bill McMahan, Angela Donastorg

12/07 James Laufer, Amelia Houtz,
Danielle Malone

12/08 Louise Berry, Carole Pearce

12/09 Nancy Rubino, Stan Leczner

12/10 Warren Field, Dave Watson,
Marie Ferguson

12/12 Jazmin Tinsley, Taylor Klecan,
Brenda Will

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, Ruth Ann
Mitchell, Kate Norcross, Sydney Stover

12/17 Frank Roberts, Lyndsey Collison

12/18 Arlene Matulonis, Sue Willson

12/19 Debra Petro, Doug Cool

12/21 Samantha White, Marlene Loomis,
Cookie Scheas

12/22 Emme Gebhart

12/23 Rose Ann Townsend, Kenny Harris,
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 Laufer, Morgan Rigby,
Dave Kleinot, John Aaron Kling,
Stephen Jackson, Jennifer DeVore

12/31 Dawn Miller

1/1 Jan Fasulo, Kim Bryan

1/3 Justin Smith, Michael DiNuova

1/4 Sue Rigby

1/5 Natalia Marlow

1/6 Ernie Piazza



~ Birth ~

Benjamin Ronnie was born to Tabitha Esther in Gaithersburg, MD on November 7, 2017. Congratulations also to grandparents Allison & Ken Eisig and great-grandparents Nancy and Frank Roberts!

~ Baptisms ~

Everly Josephine Thompson, the daughter of Ian and Michelle Thompson on November 19, 2017.

Reagan Raughley and Bristol Raughley, the children of Brent and Jessica Raughley, on November 19, 2017.



Sisters Michelle Thompson (right) and Jessica Raughley with husbands Ian (right) and Brent at their girls joint baptism

~ Deaths ~



Doreen Zentmeyer
on October 29, 2017.



Dorothy Marker, the mother of Dotty Failing and Becky Walton, on November 8, 2017.

*"The day which we
fear as our last
is but the
Birthday
of Eternity."*

Lucius Anaeus Seneca

Reflections on A PILGRIMAGE TO SOUTH KOREA

"...Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name... so that they may be one as we are one... I am coming to you now but I say these things while I am still in the world so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them... Protect them from the evil one... Sanctify them by the truth... As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world... My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me... May they be brought to complete unity to let the



to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have

world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me... I have made you known

this trip was to learn and understand the missionary spirit, evangelical zeal, radical hospitality and deep prayer lives of the Korean churches that have burst into flames of faith out of the dust of Korea's painful history of subjugation.

The protestant faith was brought to Korea in 1907 by Methodist and Presbyterian missionaries from the United States. The working of the Holy Spirit through the priority and practice of daily faith-filled prayer, confession, repentance and evangelism with testimonies of sacrifice and faith instead of fear, spread Christianity at an unbelievable rate through all of Korea. John 14 was the first scripture the missionaries were led to share as words of comfort and assurance of Jesus' presence now and in eternity. From those committed and dedicated servants of Christ, the hungry, hopeless and fearful people of Korea heard messages of hope, peace and love. This message was so different from the oppressive conditions under which the Koreans had been living for hundreds of years. These missionaries gave their lives so that Koreans might find true life and live in Christ. Hundreds of Koreans were baptized, became disciples of Christ and then led others to Christ and a life of faith, not fear.

We toured several Methodist and some Presbyterian churches in and around Seoul that have become centers of daily prayer, praise, peace, education, and provision of basic needs with radical hospitality for South Koreans as well as for pilgrims from all over the world. A part of their mission is to house, feed, teach and show pilgrims the results of things learned from the Missionaries long ago. Living lives of dedicated sacrifice, service and fervent prayer to displace fear is still the way of life for 80% of the people in South Korea. They told us that because missionaries came to rescue them from their hopelessness, fear and oppression, they now want to rescue other hurting, seeking and lost souls all over the world.

Specific disciplines of the mission of Korean Christian churches today, as modeled by the missionaries who came to Korea over 100 years ago are:

- ◇ to regularly, openly and specifically confess and repent;
- ◇ to train, send and support missionaries



for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them."
(John 17:11-26 selections, NIV)

These are some of Jesus' words – a passionate intercessory prayer to His Father - after he had shared the last Pass-over Feast with his disciples before being betrayed, arrested and crucified. The rest of Jesus' loving words of warning and comfort to his disciples that night can be found in John 13-17.

The selections from John 17 quoted above became fully alive and passionate for me during the spiritual pilgrimage I took to Seoul, South Korea this September. Dr. Kyung Hee Sa, Superintendent of the UM Pen-Del Dover District, led a group of 29 pastors and laity to Bupyeong Methodist Church, outside of Incheon, South Korea. The purpose of

**Welcome,
Delaware
pilgrims, to
Bupyeong
Methodist
Church
in Seoul!**



to other countries to teach and disciple others in the Christian life and service;

- ◇ to support seminaries and provide more training opportunities for seminarians;
- ◇ to provide continuous discipleship training of laity for leadership and selfless service for the good of the church and the community ("Good minister and good laity.");
- ◇ to participate in a small group (cell groups) for revival, accountability and support;
- ◇ to nurture the whole being of people by educating and training in faith, family and social life;
- ◇ to stress the importance of worship attendance and participation;
- ◇ to provide a meal with fellowship time after each service;
- ◇ to encourage and model Bible reading and study;
- ◇ to nurture new-comers by establishing and maintaining personal connections and use of their spiritual gifts;
- ◇ to support smaller churches with finances and leadership;
- ◇ to have openness and transparency of all church leaders;
- ◇ to give testimonies of faith and transformed hearts;
- ◇ to provide facilities, programs and support for people who are homeless or have different abilities;
- ◇ to partner with local business owners for services and training opportunities;
- ◇ to provide Christian education daily and weekly for people from infancy through adulthood;
- ◇ to stabilize and promote church growth by having a long-term plan for each church;
- ◇ to honor those faithful disciples who went before them.

However, the one discipline that guides and provides for all these aspects of mission in the churches is the faithful participation and dedication to corporate (with the whole congregation) worship and prayer in the sanctuary daily at 5 AM! This sounds unattainable, but it has been and still is happening! A Pastor leads this service with singing, a general prayer, a motivating message based on a passage of Scripture and then "tongsung kido" begins. That is the Korean method of praying. It begins when the Pastor and

congregation shout "Lord! Lord! Lord!" Then all the people start at the same time, out loud, praying, praising, talking, and crying out to the Lord. What a beautiful, bountiful, and busy sound of people talking to God! That must be what Pentecost sounded like!

At first this method of praying was overwhelming and intimidating, but soon I realized nobody but God could actually hear what I was praying because every person was in their own conversation with God! That was all that mattered! It was freeing to pour out and release to Jesus any and all emotions, thoughts, requests, confessions and burdens that were bottled in my heart and head! It was comforting and encouraging being with other believers who were connecting to God at the same time that I was! But nobody was listening to anybody - except Jesus! Then came the time of being totally emptied and ready to listen! That beginning swell of emotion-filled conversations with God in the sanctuary eventually ebbed down slowly. It was only guided by the Holy Spirit, not a clock or a person. It was a quieter time when people were waiting, listening, being filled, led and calmed by The Holy Spirit. During this entire time of talking and listening, I discovered there was no lack of what to pray, what to say, what to praise, what to be thankful for, what to confess, what to repent, or what to release. Best of all, there was no lack of time for God to listen and then for me to listen! Time was lost. There was no time schedule for when you had to stop praying or listening and to leave the sanctuary. What a precious gift! What a precious way to start each day! For me it was not about the sleep I lost by getting up at 4:00 every morning, but it was about all I gained!

Getting back to the passion that John 17 evoked in me since my trip to Korea, I realized this passage explains the spark that ignited the flames of love and servanthood in the Koreans. Jesus prayed for protection and sanctification (setting apart from the world for God's purpose) for his disciples and those who come to faith through them, discipleship, unity of believers in and with Christ Jesus, understanding and continuation of Jesus' mission on earth and finally God's love for each person. This is what the missionaries showed and taught the

Koreans. This is what we saw practiced in the churches in South Korea today! That prayer is for all Christians today as well as those that went before us, just as Jesus stated. What a calling to live up to - to have His full measure of joy, to go out and make disciples, to have unity among all believers with God through Jesus and his love so that the world may know God sent his Son, Jesus, to be our intercessor because He loves us!

How can we *not* live up to that? So how *can* we live up to that? That's what the Koreans showed us. They learned out of great necessity and desperate situations from caring missionaries. Today, Americans are much more comfortable than the Koreans were when they opened their hearts fully to Christ. So it may be much harder for us to learn!

Probably our biggest stumbling block to recognizing that we need unity with God and fellow believers through Jesus is the richness of living in this country. Many Americans, including myself, like to think of ourselves as self-sufficient and enjoy having the ability to get what we want, when we want it! Abundance of stores, methods of transportation and incomes make it easy to satisfy our wants and needs, so our souls seem fine! How easily we forget or don't see there are people with unmet needs and souls to be saved right in front of us. There is need for unity to be achieved here in this church, community and across our nation. There is need for love to be shared right here. We forget or just don't see those needs because of our own comfortableness or how far away from us those situations seem to be. The hundreds of years of suffering and fear made the Koreans hungry for God. Am I hungry for God? Am I filled with the full measure of God's Love? Am I living proof to someone else of God's loves for Jesus and therefore God's love for us? Am I reflecting Jesus' love for me and therefore unity with him and God, The Father? Those are the sparks of faith that got ignited into flames of faith in my heart while I was in Korea. Those flames of faith are being fanned now by the time I spend in prayer! Watch! The flames are spreading! Praise God!

The Koreans have learned to put their flames of faith into action, so there is no room or place for fear in their lives!

"...perfect love drives out all fear." (1 John 4:18 NIV) Many times Jesus told his disciples and those he ministered to, "Fear not!", "Do not fear!", "Do not be afraid!", "Have faith in God... and do not doubt." Fear is the absence of faith. Faith will bring you through any circumstance and can enable you to "move mountains." This is the faith Koreans put into action and the flames of their faith are growing and glowing.

The rescued have become the rescuers! That truly is the role South Korean Christians feel called to and have sacrificially taken on for the good of the world! Really, though, that is every Christians' commission and mission from Jesus Christ. He came and saved us! His Word tells us in Luke 10:37 from the NIV, "Go and do likewise." As written in Matthew 28:19-20 from the NIV Jesus tells His disciples just before ascending to Heaven "...go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

We heard Koreans' historical and heart wrenching personal stories of

...lives of Koreans' and missionaries at risk and some even given up in order to bring the knowledge of the saving Grace of Jesus to occupied Korea,

...terrifying escapes from North Korea before it was shut off, in order to be with family in South Korea,

...living in extreme poverty and fear through the destruction of their country during the Korean War (1950-1953).

However, those stories were quickly and faithfully followed by their faith-filled stories of

...personal sacrifices of pastors and believers made for the growth of the church,

...confession and repentance then reconciliation and blessings,

...huge belief that God is with them always and will provide,

...putting their faith into prayer and action, instead of fear

...the importance of serving and helping their neighbors and those less fortunate,

...ministering in small towns by holding worship services even if only one person comes for years and then seeing the congregation grow to thousands,

...embracing, igniting and empowering new members, children and youth,

...the never ending desire and commitment to serve Jesus, no matter how big or little the job might be, all done voluntarily out of love for Jesus (cleaning the bus at the end of the long day; cooking and serving meals after each worship service; cleaning Pilgrims' rooms and bathrooms each day and leaving treats for us; making the wine for Communion; cleaning and polishing all the wood, floors and pews in the sanctuary; driving the buses for the Pilgrims' and each Sunday to pick up people for worship; serving and cleaning the Coffee House; greeting and serving the Pilgrim Teams; teaching Sunday School and youth programs).



**Translator
Rev. Hae-Rin Lawson**

During this Pilgrimage, I was moved to improve not just the amount of time spent in prayer with Jesus, but the quality of content, sincerity, truth, and assurance of my relationship with God in Christ Jesus through prayer.

I am continuing to participate in the daily corporate worship and prayer, in Korean style, with other faithful souls. That takes place every morning at 5AM at Camden Whatcoat UM Church. All are welcome! Will you join us? You have to experience it to believe it!

Join with fellow believers, wherever and whenever, in praying regularly and faithfully that the embers of our faith be fanned into flames of faith that will spread so that unity with God and other believers, through the power of the Holy Spirit, will transform the world selflessly and sacrificially. Then the world will know that God loves them!

*Know God.
Go with God.
Be Blessed!
Be a Blessing!*

In His Service,
Sue Hajec

Amen!

**Erin Rozumalski
(middle) grew up in
Wyoming Church,
married a UM pastor...
so happy to visit her
country of birth.**





Just like back home: choir practice before the I AM service



Organic grapes for Communion



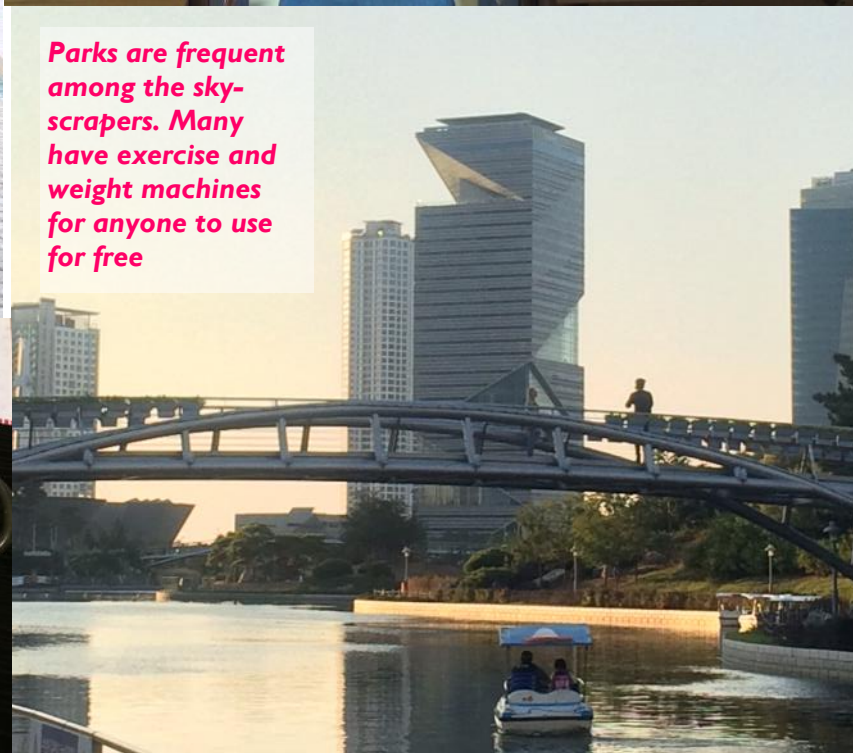
Sunday School



The Sanctuary holds 1,500 Worshippers!



Many beautiful crosses were evident throughout the city of Seoul



Parks are frequent among the skyscrapers. Many have exercise and weight machines for anyone to use for free



Korean BBQ cooked on the table



The December 'OPEN TO ALL MEN' **Prayer Breakfast** will convene in the 'Backroom' at Hall's Restaurant on Saturday, the 30th from 7:30 AM to 8:30 AM. Prayers of Joy And Inspiration will be the mini-message theme. Ordering from the menu expect great fellowship and good food in a relaxed, informal, and friendly setting. Invite a friend to attend with you!

Information/Questions — Josh Turner ☎ 678-9818.

Food & Faith & Fellowship & Family & Food & Faith

Plan to be a part of the *December 6th Adult Fellowship* gathering at 6 PM. As

always we will enjoy "good cooking", a hospitable environment and Christian Fellowship with friends and neighbors. Santa will not likely be there, but we can still celebrate the season by singing a few Christmas carols. Bring your own tableware (plate and utensils) and a covered dish serving about 10 people that goes well with Christmas ham. Friends and neighbors are welcome. Membership at WUMC is not a requirement. Remember, we will fill the "brown bag lunches" after the meeting. Call Valerie Riggins for information.

Start the new year out right and save the date for Adult Fellowship - January 3rd, 2018!

Call George Pettyjohn for more information ☎ 736-1236.



Food & Faith & Fellowship & Family & Food & Faith

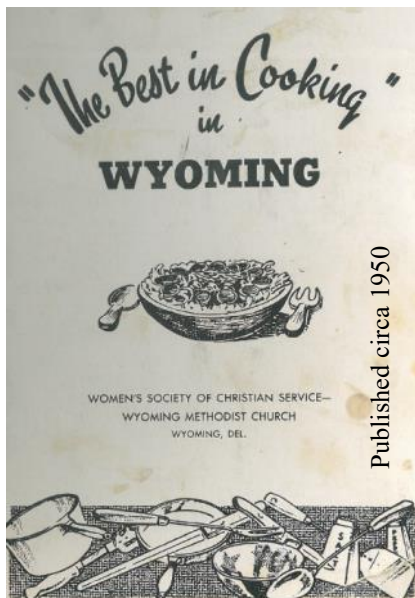
'Heads Up!' *January 2018 Soup Day* on Wednesday the 10th from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM will feature your choice of

Broccoli & Cheese, Vegetable Beef, Pasta Ham & Bean, or Vegetable Vegetarian. For a donation of \$4.00 you will receive a hearty serving of your choice of soup, fresh bread/roll/biscuit, dessert, and beverage. \$3.00 'Tastes Like Seconds' option available. After you finish your 'Soup Day' repast feel free to visit the Bake Table where you find an irresistible collection of culinary delights awaiting your selection. Soup Day proceeds benefit the great work of the Outreach Team and Bake Table monies go toward mortgage reduction. P.S. To all of our great Congregational Cooks — we need your excellent baked goods... thanks!

Food & Faith & Fellowship & Family & Food & Faith

For your *Christmas* Baking...

from the *Church Cookbook*



DATE STICKS

2 eggs
3/4 c. flour
1/2 tsp. salt
1/2 c. nuts, chopped

Mrs. J. J. VonHagel

1 c. brown sugar
1/2 tsp. baking powder
1 c. dates, cut in small pieces

Mix baking powder, salt and flour; add nuts and dates; stir well. Beat eggs until foamy and gradually add brown sugar. Then, stir in dry ingredients. Bake in moderate oven, 325 deg, about 30 or 40 minutes. Remove from pan while warm, cut into strips and roll in powdered sugar. Grease pan and put waxed paper in same.

BROWN SUGAR COOKIES

1 c. shortening
2 c. brown sugar
3 1/2 c. flour
2 Tbsp. water

Mrs. Louisa M. Virdin

1 tsp. vanilla
2 tsp. baking powder
1 tsp. soda in flour
1/2 tsp. salt
2 eggs

Your Sexton Kitchen Team - Planning For A New Year of **Food, Faith & Family**

At the same time that the Sexton Kitchen Team is hammering out the final details of the Team's reorganization, the Team is wrapping up the forthcoming events for December and planning for the events of January through March.

December will find members of the Team working to prepare and serve the Quilt Guild Dinner on the 5th of the month. The following day, the 6th, the Team will be supporting the preparation of the Annual **Christmas Adult Fellowship Covered Dish Dinner** in the Family Life Center at 6:00 PM. **January** of 2018 begins with a 'Pot Luck' Adult Fellowship Covered Dish Dinner on Wednesday, the 3rd. **Soup Day Prep and Soup Day** occur on **January the 9th and January the 10th**, respectively.

On the 13th the Team will prepare the **Staff Appreciation Luncheon** that will be served on the 14th. And finally, the Team will be preparing food on the 26th for the **Book & Bake Sale** which will commence on **Saturday the 27th**.

The members of your Sexton Kitchen Team urge and appreciate your continued support for all of the Team's activities. All of the proceeds that are generated through your patronage of our

activities will provide support through the Team's Food Ministry Program that aids the children, youth, families, adults, and seniors of our Congregation. Should you have any questions about the Sexton Kitchen Team's projects or wish to become a member of this Team, please see Linda Booher, Chair.



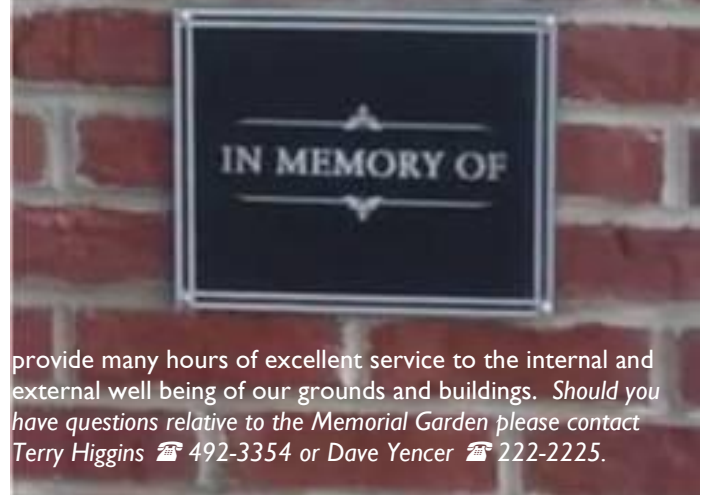
Edging, Bricks, Benches & Beds!

The first order of Memorial Bricks with their requested inscriptions have been returned to the Church and placed on display on the Memorial Garden model in the Narthex. Upon the completion of the final approval by the folks who ordered these bricks a time of placement in the garden will be arranged. A second and third order are now in process and should be ready in a few days. Eight bricks have been inscribed with the letters 'A' through 'H' and have been placed in a clockwise pattern in the garden. These eight letters represent the eight portions of the brick bed and will be used as reference points in locating a specific brick in future years. In addition to the development and implementation of the Memorial Garden Brick Order Tracking System a protocol is now being established to record the actual location of each Memorial Brick. Upon completion of the protocol a permanent location record will be located in the Memorial Room of the Church.



The six Memorial Garden Benches have been placed on the Garden's concrete walkway in addition to the repositioning of a concrete bench at the beginning of the upper walk. Each side of the Garden's four sided pylon has had a sign affixed that reads 'In Memory Of'. We are now at the point of nearing the construction phase and eagerly awaiting the completion of the landscaped inner and outer rings.

As the final touches for the Memorial Garden are being prepared, plans are being finalized to complete the two south wall vegetative beds. In addition the front-of-building landscaped beds will continue to be subjected to weed removal. A refurbished 'John Deere' professional edger will be used to test the effectiveness of a proposed walkway and curbing maintenance program. Dave Yencer, Trustee Chair, and the trustees as well as a number of other volunteers continue to



provide many hours of excellent service to the internal and external well being of our grounds and buildings. Should you have questions relative to the Memorial Garden please contact Terry Higgins ☎ 492-3354 or Dave Yencer ☎ 222-2225.

Thank you to all who provided a **winter coat** for elementary school children. Carol Abbott has delivered boxes of coats to each of our 3 local school districts and children will have a warm coat to wear this winter!

Our extended **Food First Sunday** was a huge success.

Thank you to Mary Dawn and Lynn Ditty for delivering the items to the two food pantries of the Kent Ecumenical Food and Crisis Fund. Thank you to all who participated!



Thank you to the Psychology Club at Caesar Rodney High School for donating fleece blankets that they made themselves to our Code Purple Sanctuary. The Psychology Club is under the direction of Mary Ann Noel. These blankets were presented to Judy Field at the school



on October 31st! How wonderful that these young people are so giving. We so appreciate it!!

Ladies... mark your calendars for Wyoming's Annual *Women's Retreat* at Camp Pecometh. *May 20-21, 2018* ...makes a great Christmas present, too!



MEN'S ★ RETREAT ★

January 12/13

There is still time to sign up for the **Friday, January 12 to Saturday, January 13 Men's Retreat** at the luxurious Riverview Retreat Center on the shores of the Chester River located on the grounds of the well-known Camp Pecometh, our Methodist Church Conference facility. We will begin on Friday, the 12th at 5:00 PM and end on Saturday, the 13th at 1:00 PM.

This event will feature a time of reflection, rededication, and prayer as well as a brief service project. The Friday evening dinner, the Saturday breakfast, and the Saturday closing noon luncheon will feature the Retreat Center Chef's outstanding 'Traditional Eastern Shore' meals served buffet style. Accommodations include large guest rooms with two queen beds, private baths, adult menus, 24 - hour beverage service in the lodge sunrooms, individual climate control, bed and bath linens, a dedicated on-duty host, and convenient parking. One person to a room or two persons to a room arrangements are available. Application forms with cost information are now available in the Narthex. You won't want to miss this inaugural opportunity of great fellowship and good food in a setting that readily lends itself to inspiration and renewal. Frank Roberts ☎ 538-5594 or Terry Higgins ☎ 492-3354



Our Christmas Giving Tree is Here!!

Our lovely evergreen Giving Tree, donated by Terry and Martha Higgins, has arrived in our Narthex and is decorated and filled with tags suggesting gifts for children and some adults with special needs. Please feel free to take as many tags as you desire, keeping in mind the following tips for shopping:

- ◇ If you want to choose siblings from the same family, pick tags of the same background color.
- ◇ Please refrain from purchasing holiday clothing which can be worn for such a short time. Pick something that the child or adult can wear at any time.
- ◇ Please buy just what is on the tag. If you have a problem finding something, contact Judy Field at (302) 284-4059. It is tempting to buy more than what is on the tag, but please refrain because we want each sibling to get the same amount of gifts.
- ◇ Please do not wrap gifts but do place them in boxes suitable for wrapping or in Christmas gift bags with tags attached. We have decided for some of the families, we are not going to wrap the gifts this year but rather give the parents wrapping paper and bows so they can join in the fun of wrapping. We will be wrapping the adult gifts.

◇ If you want to sponsor a whole family, contact Judy. This is not necessary, but there have been some interest in that in past years.

Gifts are due back under the Giving Tree by Sunday, December 17th.

We will have our **Wrapping Party on Tuesday, December 19th at 6:30 p.m.** in the Narthex. This will not involve as many gifts to wrap but we will need help in sorting and boxing up wrapping paper and bows for each family. This project has become a beloved event for our whole church and we pray that all of you will have an opportunity to brighten someone's Christmas this year.



Preparing for Code Purple 2017-2018

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, Mt. Carmel and Peoples churches. Our first scheduled week is **December 10th through December 16th**. We will publish our open weeks in forthcoming newsletters.

We are especially grateful to *Boy Scout Troop 24* for relinquishing the FLC on 3 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. And we are most appreciative of *Angela* for helping with the schedule for the 3 weeks plus a few days. *Melissa Mann* and *Lynn Ditty* will be recruiting volunteers to stay at our shelter and drive the CP bus so contact them 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 provide 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:

Sunday, November 26th AND Sunday, December 3rd 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!!

Judy Field ☎ (302) 242-3382
Melissa Mann ☎ (215) 808-5867
Amy Faircloth ☎ (302) 745-8648
Lynn Ditty ☎ (610) 442-3741

Fellow Parishioners,

In light of what has been in the news these past few months, specifically with churches around the world and here in this country, we are all concerned about our own Wyoming Church security. These are trying times with misguided souls lashing out at even God's house. We must face the reality that emergencies happen and be prepared for their eventuality. As some of you may be aware, the **Security Task Force** these past eighteen months has been working on developing proactive plans and procedures to improve security here at Wyoming Church. Our goal is to create an alert and aware environment that we as a congregation may be better prepared to react to an emergency.

Vulnerability assessments and inspections of our church have been done internally and through local first responders, identifying areas of improvement so that we can now build our security plans and capabilities to respond to these vulnerabilities. We have also trained staff and volunteers in our Lockdown Procedures to better protect our children - and adults - in the nursery, Sunday School, Vacation Bible School and Boys & Girls Club when confronted by a potential threat while they are in the church building. However, the job is not done

"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms." (1 Peter 4:10)



and more work is required by the Task Force - and YOU.

We are developing an All-inclusive Action Plan to address emergency situations and threats that our church may face, such as weather (hurricanes, tornadoes, etc.) and medical emergencies, fires, bomb threats and the one I fear the most - the "lone wolf" active shooter, the big scare around our nation after most recent events. The plan is under development but it will take some time to complete.

Plans are good, however, they will not work if there are no volunteers to help make them work or put them to the test. Subsequently, we have developed special training for USHERS and GREETERS and ANYONE ELSE interested in how to recognize behavioral indicators of someone intending to do harm to our church and those worshiping there. Training will also focus on how to react to a potential threat.

Again, **ANYONE interested in receiving this training is more than welcome!** Training dates will be announced in the very near future.

A word concerning



Ushers and Greeters are our eyes and ears before, during and after worship. Folks - We are seriously understaffed!

PLEASE contact the church office if you can serve in that capacity at any worship service.

The Task Force will also be looking for volunteers willing to assist in the planning by forming teams to address our evacuation procedures, security at special events and coordinating a volunteer recruitment program.

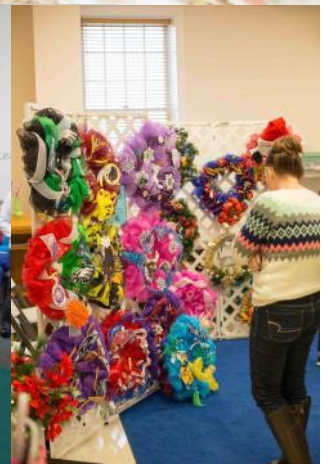
Thank you for everyone's anticipated cooperation in this endeavor and
God Bless.

Bill Purdy, CFE
Chairman Security Task Force

"Be strong and courageous for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." - Joshua 1:9

Impressions from the Holiday Craft Show,

another hugely successful event, bringing in \$1,800 from vendor spaces and \$2,300 from food sales, including our ever-popular bake table!





To: You!

Saturday, **December 2** - Advent Dinner & Puppet Musical @ Dover Place (cover page)

Sunday, **December 3** - Advent Dinner & Puppet Musical (cover page)

Sunday, **December 3** - register for the Men's Retreat (page 2)

Sunday, **December 3** - 11AM and 12:15PM Code Purple Training (page 21)

Wednesday, **December 6** - 6 PM Adult Fellowship (page 18)

Saturday, **December 9** - 8:15 AM Breakfast with Santa (page 11)

Saturday, **December 9** - 10:15 AM Dress Rehearsal Christmas Musical (page 11)

Monday, **December 11** - 6:45 PM Christmas Hymn Sing (page 10)

Tuesday, **December 12** - 9:30 AM Dover Christian Women's Connection (page 10)

Sunday, **December 17** - 4 PM Presents under the Giving Tree (page 21)

Sunday, **December 17** - 4 PM CIA Caroling (page 10)

Tuesday, **December 19** - 6:30 PM Giving Tree Wrapping Party (page 21)

Sunday, **December 24** - 9:45 AM combined worship & Christmas Musical (page 11)

Christmas Eve - **December 24**

6:30 PM Candlelight Family Worship

8:30 PM Handbell Concert & Prelude

9:00 PM Candlelight Worship

...and after Christmas:

Saturday, **December 30** - 7:30 AM Men's Prayer Breakfast (page 18)

Sunday, **December 31** - 9:45 combined worship - no Sunday School

