

# THE WYOMING MESSENGER

## April 2023

“Why look for the living  
among the dead?  
You won't find him here.  
He is risen.”

### Inside this Issue

<i>Many Purposes of a Pavilion!</i>	
From the Pastors' desk .....	3
ASL - Explained and Celebrated .....	4
<b>Outreach</b> .....	4+5
Community Lunch - Walk 4	
Water - Food Drive	
Church Security - Grounds - Memorial Garden .....	6
Prayer Breakfast .....	6
SKT Scholarship .....	6
<b>Casa de Esperanza</b> .....	7
Sunday School needs YOU	7
High Time for Pecometh ....	7
Relationships (D. Cooper) ...	8
Finances & FUNdraising ....	9
What's Up in April? .....	10
Multi-Culture & Diversity	11
Failure (D. Van Kavelaar) ...	12
<b>In the Library</b> .....	13
Puzzle Swap - Book Discussion Group - Easter Specials	
Community (Lay Leader Jack Freidel) .....	13
Last Call for Moses .....	14
Our People	
Theater - Youth Mission Trip – ... and organizing it all ....	14
Our People .....	15

### Holy Week at Wyoming Church

*Mauwday Thursday, April 6*

**5:30 PM** Soup Supper\*: Family Life Center

\*Can you contribute a crockpot of soup? Sign up here:  
<https://wyomingumc.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/68/responses/new>

**6:30 PM** Worship & Communion: Sanctuary

*Good Friday, April 7*

**7 AM to 7 PM** Prayer & Meditation in the Sanctuary

*Easter Sunday, April 9*

**6:15 AM** Community Sunrise Service @ Wyoming Park

\*Breakfast following in the Family Life Center

**9 AM & 11 AM** Easter Worship

**APRIL**  
*Memory Verse*

He himself bore our sins  
in his body on the tree,  
that we might die to sin  
and live to righteousness.  
By his wounds you have been healed.

1 Peter 2:24

# Bulletin Board

## KNITTING NEWS!

The display and blessing of the prayer shawls and lap blankets at both worship services on Feb. 12 was especially meaningful to those who had created the items for this ministry and prompted delivery of some 20 shawls to bless persons in need of a visit from a caring person and the gift of a symbol of God's love for them. We need to restock so we asking those of you who knit or crochet to continue to make these items. Our additional project is to make sweaters, hats and blankets for babies to be distributed through Bayhealth and other local agencies caring for new mothers and their babies. Please see the table display in front of the office window for further information and supplies. Questions? Contact Karen Priestley ☎ (302) 697-1828



Looking for a volunteer with experience posting items for sale on Amazon or eBay to help us raise funds for this year's Operation Christmas Child shoe box packing event. We already have on hand some donated items. Please contact Dawn Valladares @ (302) 480-4758.

The **Altar Guild** is excited about starting up again. We are looking for new members to join us. We dress the altar each week according to the church parament schedule for the holy Eucharist or general worship. We clean and fill the candles and clean spots off the parament on the altar. We take turns for about two months a year, working with someone else. If you are interested in joining, please call Margaret Bryan ☎ (302) 697-6699.

## Redner's WAREHOUSE MARKETS SAVE-A-TAPE PROGRAM

Thanks to all of you who have brought in **Redner's Receipts, Redner's Rewards** just sent a check in the amount of **\$256** to

Wyoming Church, bringing our revenue up to over **\$450** so far this year!

For the receipts we submit, Wyoming Church receives 1% of the amount you shopped for with your Redner's card. Look for the container near the welcome desk or simply drop your receipts in the church mailbox. We can take receipts from the past 3 years. The money raised helps to provide some of the FREE church events sponsored by the Extended Table Team like our recent Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and Easter SONrise Service Breakfast. Important: You **MUST** use your Redners Rewards card, and the receipt turned in **MUST** have the part showing 'Today's Save a Tape 1% Total'

The **Dover, Delaware Christian Women's Connection** invites you to a **Program & Breakfast Buffet** at the Maple Dale Country Club, 180 Maple Dale Drive, Dover on **Tuesday, April 11 from 9:30 to 11:30AM**. \$17 inclusive.

Program: **Easy Steps to Clean & Glowing Skin** by Merle Norman Cosmetics

Guest Speaker: **Virginia Hiss**  
Active Exhibiting Artist Heritage Crafter

Music: **Heather Jones Tecson**

Reservations & Cancellations for breakfast and FREE child care are strongly encouraged by April 6, 2023.

RSVP to Donna (530) 921-8936 or Diane (302) 697-6020







## National ASL Day April 15th



Early in the 1800s, there were only a few thousand Americans who were deaf. No standard signed language existed at this time, but various signing systems were created in the Deaf communities. These sign systems are now known as Old American Sign Language. The American Sign Language of today is actually related to this language.

The history of American Sign Language really started in 1814 with Dr. Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet. Gallaudet was a minister from Hartford, Connecticut. His neighbor, Mason Fitch Cogswell, had a daughter named Alice Cogswell who was nine years old and deaf. Dr. Gallaudet realized Alice was very smart despite the fact that she couldn't speak or hear, and wanted to teach Alice how to communicate. Gallaudet had a little success teaching Alice reading and spelling, but he didn't know anything about the most effective ways of educating students who were deaf. So, Gallaudet gained community support and enough money in order to go to Europe. Since there was a history of deaf education in Europe, Gallaudet knew he could learn the best educational methods there.

In Europe, Gallaudet met Abbe Sicard, Jean Massieu, and Laurent Clerc. Abbe Sicard was Abbe de l'Epee's successor at the National Institute for Deaf-Mutes. Laurent Clerc and Jean Massieu were once Sicard's students and became accomplished deaf educators. Gallaudet

studied the teaching methods of these instructors and even took private lessons with Clerc, who was one of the best teachers at the institute.

When Gallaudet was getting ready to travel back to America, he asked Clerc to accompany him. Clerc was one of Sicard's best instructors and Gallaudet knew he would be a huge help in starting a deaf school in the U.S. Clerc agreed and joined Gallaudet on his journey. While they sailed from France to America, they taught each other their respective languages.

Gallaudet and Clerc's school, which is now known as the American School for the Deaf, was established in Hartford, Connecticut on April 15, 1817 as the first public free deaf school in the U.S. This was a huge milestone in American Deaf history.

The school grew quickly and students from all over the United States came together to attend this school. Just like it was at Abbe de l'Epee's school, the students brought signs from home with them. American Sign Language stemmed from these signs as well as the signs from French Sign Language that Gallaudet learned from Clerc, Native American signs, and the sign language of Martha's Vinyard.

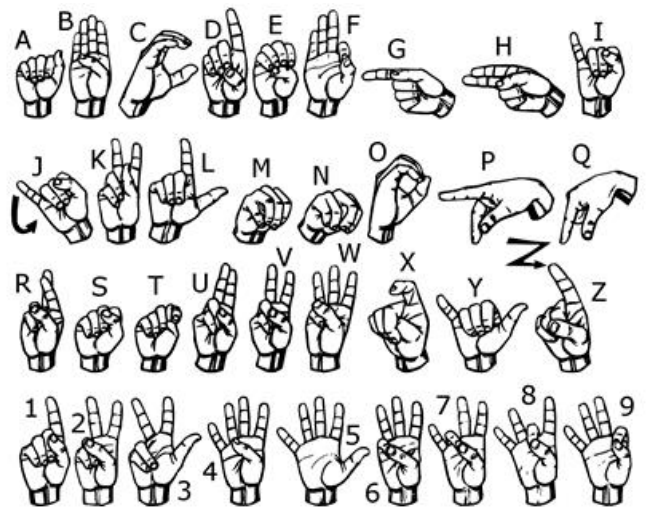
Gallaudet retired in 1830 and Clerc taught at the deaf school until the 1850s. By 1863, twenty-two schools for the Deaf in the U.S. had been established. Most of them

were founded by Clerc's students. They continued to use Clerc's deaf education methods in these schools.

In 1960, William Stokoe, a scholar and hearing professor at Gallaudet University, published a dissertation that proved ASL is a genuine language with a unique syntax and grammar and changed the course of the history of sign language. The perception of ASL changed from that of a broken or simplified version of English to that of a complex and thriving natural language as functional and powerful as any found in the oral languages of the world.

The instruction of ASL as a "foreign language" became popular and ASL's appeal has only grown. Currently, students can take ASL to meet their high school or college requirement of two years of foreign language study.

The ASL in use today is a result of 195 years of Deaf families and students passing down from one generation to next the language that has become the third most used language in the United States.



## Help serve...



Every third Saturday, Wyoming Church volunteers work with folks at Wesley UMC downtown Dover to serve a **FREE Lunch** to the local community.

Next on **April 15, from 10AM to 2PM**, 5 people from Wyoming Church will work with 2 people from Wesley Church to set up, serve and tear down a lunch meal at Wesley UMC downtown Dover. The actual meal is served between 12 noon and 1 p.m.

You can serve in one capacity or two or all three! And if you're not able to volunteer on site, you can still help by providing a dessert (store-bought or homemade) and/or a case of bottled water. We prepare for serving 50 guests.

**Sign up in the narthex** or contact Janet @ (302) 757-2998, email [jkb0022@aol.com](mailto:jkb0022@aol.com).



I'm glad I can help them Together!

**Outreach ... Outreach ... Outreach**



 **Saturday, April 8** from 10 AM to 12 noon.

**Food Collection**

Food and other items will be collected for K&A, a cooperative effort among churches in the Diocese.

Coffee (Can or Keurig), tea  
Baby Food (distant future date)  
Pet Food cans (cat & esp. dog)  
Toilet Paper & Paper Towels

**Thank you so much to everyone who so generously donate to the Kent Interfaith Alliance Food Pantry!**  
***We would not be able to serve the community as we do without your help!***  
**You are making a difference in our community!**

# Prayer Breakfast

**Saturday, April 29**  
**7:30 @ Mike & Mel's**

Mark your calendar or notate your iPhone to remind yourself that the next WUMC **Prayer Breakfast** will be on **Saturday, April the 29th, in the 'Backroom' at Mike And Mel's Restaurant in Wyoming.** Bring your requests for prayer to be incorporated into the healing power of prayer as we are led by Lay Leader Jack Freidel's thought provoking discussion. We will plan to **begin at 7:30 AM** and conclude by 8:30 AM. By placing our meal orders at the offset of our event we are able to enjoy, participate in and be uplifted by Jack's good program before our 'cooked to order' food arrives. All are welcome! Please know that you will be warmly welcomed to our very informal setting.

## Landscaping And Turf Management Services Approved.

Based upon the recommendations from several of the Trustees the decision has been made to secure the professional services to two local firms - one contractor who specializes in landscape management and one who specializes in turf management.

The landscape management contract will concentrate on rejuvenating the very extensive landscaped bed that stretches from the north end to the south end of our Church's west side. This contract will also provide a much needed upgrade to the Memorial Garden's edge and central core.

The turf management contract will be concerned primarily with managing the various portions of turf that are to be found on our Church site. Mowing will commence in April and extend into the fall season depending on the growing conditions.

Our Wyoming United Methodist Church's **Memorial Garden** and **Memorial Grove** continue to grow and thrive. At the moment we now have several Memorial Garden Bricks with completed inscriptions that are awaiting final placement directions. In addition we have an additional batch of Memorial Garden Bricks that are in various stages of completion.

If you have not yet taken the time to visit our Church's Memorial Garden, located behind the Church's South Wing off the Northeast Corner of the South Parking Lot please plan to do so at your first opportunity during the forthcoming warmer days of Spring. When you do visit please feel free to sit on one of the benches and enjoy some contemplative quiet time.

Memorial Garden Bricks are a very fitting way to honor the memory of a loved one or to pay lasting tribute to the memory of a person who has had a most positive impact on your life. In case you would like to see what a Memorial Garden Brick looks like, take a moment to view the several completed Bricks that are on the Memorial Garden Model display located in the Church's Narthex. Application order forms for Memorial Garden Bricks are to be found on the display model.

## Our Safe Secure Sanctuary Relies On Many Dedicated Volunteers!

There are dozens of Wyoming Church members and attendees that serve as volunteers each day of the week as well as every Sunday including the Monitors, Ushers, Greeters and Stewards. As our Events Program gets underway our Events Sextons and those who serve as Audio-Visual Techs will begin to be enfolded into the ever-present, on-going activities of creating a welcoming and comfortable environment for all who enter to worship and to participate in the myriad of programs that define our beloved Wyoming Church.

As the number of our Church and community outreach activities continue to grow and evolve we will need to be flexible and responsive to the needs and challenges that will present themselves to us as a Congregation. To that end you will find that at different times and in different formats our current volunteers as well as our staff members will have the opportunity to participate in very brief and very effective update seminars relative to the very important roles that they have in the ministries of Wyoming Church.

Bill Purdy, Trustees' Chair, aided by Terry Higgins, Trustees' Member, will under take this multi-faced activity in the next few weeks at times convenient to those folks involved.

Again, thank you to each and every one of our dedicated volunteers.

## Sexton Kitchen Team 2023

**\$1,000.00**



The members of the Wyoming United Methodist Church Sexton Kitchen Team are pleased to announce their decision to offer the availability of the 2023 \$1,000.00 Academic Scholarship. This scholarship will be awarded to a Wyoming United Methodist Church Member who is a 2023 graduating high school senior. The applications for the 2023 Sexton Kitchen Team Academic Scholarship will be available beginning Sunday, April 16, 2023. The completed application will be due no later than Sunday, June 18, 2023. The recipient of the scholarship will be announced on Sunday, July 2, 2023.

Requests for application packets as well as questions can be directed to Terry at [terryhiggins38@outlook.com](mailto:terryhiggins38@outlook.com) or ☎ (302) 363-5823.



The recent dine-in/take-out fundraiser at

Texas Roadhouse, always a popular event supporting this scholarship,



raised **\$2111**!

**Thank you, patrons!**

Contact Terry Higgins for questions, concerns, recommendations:  
[terryhiggins38@outlook.com](mailto:terryhiggins38@outlook.com) or ☎ (302) 363-5823 or ☎ (302) 492-3354.



## What is “Casa de Esperanza?”

Wyoming United Methodist Church has a smaller church within our building. **Casa de Esperanza** worships in Spanish at 1:30 pm each Sunday in the sanctuary. They hold Bible studies and Life Groups on week-day nights and annual events such as youth celebrations for Christians throughout Delaware and Maryland.



**Pastor Eric**

**Casa de Esperanza** is led by Pastor Eric Fontanez, who has been appointed by our Methodist District Superintendent, Joseph Archie, to also lead 3 Methodist churches in Sussex County.

That means this energetic man has four services each Sunday in addition to another (outside-the-church) full-time job!

He has a lot of help at Casa de Esperanza from his family and other church members who assist in leading Sunday services and other events.

**Casa** members join in helping Wyoming Church in many ways. Each month, **Casa** members house-clean different areas of the church facility, and sometimes assist with room and FLC setup. In past summers, they were part of our monthly mowing team.

**Casa** and Wyoming's Outreach teams work together on MANY projects, including the Papen Farms ministry picnic (providing personal hygiene products farm workers), furniture delivery to needy families in our community, the WUMC food drive, and once-a-month meal for Dover Interfaith.

We are fortunate to partner with such a Christ-centered, active church!



Great news... Our Sunday School Program continues to grow... How can you help?? We are looking to add a few more helpers / teachers to our Sunday School program. Sign up for just once a month to come share your love of Jesus with our youngest worshippers at Wyoming Church.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL  
HELPERS NEEDED!**



Please contact Betsy Freidel at [bfreidel1@yahoo.com](mailto:bfreidel1@yahoo.com) or call/text (302) 535 3983.

## Wyoming UMC Sunday School



**benefiting Heifer International  
on Sunday May 7... before,  
between, and after services.**



## IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO REGISTER FOR Summer CAMP PECOMETH!

**Camperships are still available  
by sending the paid registration  
invoice to [bfreidel1@yahoo.com](mailto:bfreidel1@yahoo.com)**

**by May 1st.** The Kitchen Sexton

Team, Education Team and a few members of our congregation have donated funds to the Campership. This amount will be divided and each camper will be contacted by May 10th with the amount of campership awarded.

**\*\* Help us send a child /  
youth to camp this  
summer?**

If you would like to donate to the campership, please place your donation in the offering bucket with a note for Camperships.

Any Questions? Email [bfreidel1@yahoo.com](mailto:bfreidel1@yahoo.com) or call / text Betsy at (302) 535-3983.

Mark your calendars  
for **Pecometh Day on April 29.**  
Bring the whole family and enjoy  
free activities including open house  
tours, games, music, hayrides, food,  
and exhibits.



# Reflections

## Reflections

Danny Cooper

Coordinator/Counselor @ Daybreak Counseling Services

### Relationship

*...In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.*

John 16:33

So what do we do when depression feelings surface... how do we respond? Reflecting back on our traffic signal imagery, what is the depression telling me? What do I need to focus on? What is holding me down? In essence, what haven't I worked through that I have been emotionally dragging along in my life? The answers to these questions have the negative power to leave us flat like my springtime tractor tire.

Let's remind ourselves of the life-giving words Scripture holds for us, to both encourage and challenge us, as we make our journey through this life toward our eternal home.

*I lift up my eyes to the mountains - where does my help come from? My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth. He will not let your foot slip - he who watches over you will not slumber.*

Psalms 121:1-3

As steadfast as our Lord is in our lives, we must never lose sight of the fact that our relationship with the Lord is just that... a relationship. It is not a one-sided, God does all the heavy lifting for the two of us, kind of connection. What is that old saying... **It's good to pray for God to move the mountain in my life, but it doesn't hurt to push.** So yes, let us be patient as we wait to see what God is doing or going to do in the challenging areas of life, but let us also take the initiative to *push* on our own behalf. This is the recipe of what a relationship with God looks like.

In working with pre-married couples over the years, an important part of our time together is going over the bride and groom's family history... in other words, the early chapters of their stories that predate their relationship. Often, sadly, this is a challenging component of our work. There can be much pain and disappointment that surfaces during this time of sharing. When we finish this

tough segment of the marriage preparation, my job is to both encourage and challenge the young couple. First the encouragement... much of the pain and heartache that you carry with you was a consequence of your upbringing, early life experiences, etc. which was, in large part, out of your control. In essence, it was not your fault; it was not by your choice. Then the challenge... you may not have asked for the pain you carry from your past, but it is your responsibility, with God's help, to deal with it. Life is not easy. We know this. This is a fallen world after all, but we are never alone along the way. It is our relationship with the Lord, his steadfast and dependable presence, which makes the difference; that delivers us from the trappings of this world, both physical and emotional, which can tie us in knots.

If we read the Gospel account of the blind man Bartimaeus, we can see what a relationship with the Lord looks like. Obviously a man of faith as we learn from the reading, Bartimaeus most likely prayed daily for his sight to be restored, but blind he remained. Yet when hearing that Jesus of Nazareth was passing by, this steadfast believer yelled out to be seen by the great healer, and Jesus responded to his calls and came to his side. And was Bartimaeus' sight instantly restored by the Lord? No. In fact, Jesus, the Lord of all... all knowing... asked instead, *"What do you want me to do for you?"* Wow! Wasn't it obvious to all, painfully clear, that this man was blind? And so why did Jesus not just heal him on the spot, no questions asked? Answer... because it's a relationship. And so while there is no doubt of Jesus' love for Bartimaeus... he did stop after all to speak with him, even though his companions urged him to ignore the blind man... Jesus wanted to see if Bartimaeus loved himself as well. In other words, was the blind man willing to push on the mountain in his life, or simply expect it to suddenly disappear? We know that Bartimaeus quickly said, *"Master, let me receive my sight. And Jesus said to him, Go your way; your faith has made you well."* Mark 10:51b-52a

We can only imagine the life journey of Bartimaeus. Being blind in that time

period must have been beyond challenging. But while he prayed, he was also ready to act if given a chance, and as Jesus literally came within reach of him, our blind model of relationship moved purposely toward the Savior. And as Jesus stated, it was his faith that healed him. Jesus' words in Matthew's Gospel come to mind... **"With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."** We are not to rest comfortably, so to speak, with our emotional hurts and afflictions, but to seek our deliverance that can only come from God, and this through our relationship with him. Seek after the Lord. Life is difficult. Emotional hurt and pain touches us all; no one in this imperfect life can make the journey unscathed. It is our relationship, though, with the Lord, like a life preserver in the middle of deep water, that keeps us afloat and able to look ahead. There is nothing of this world that can overmatch the Almighty, and so we keep a firm hold on that life preserver, we kick our legs, and we move. It is a relationship, is it not? And as the Apostle Paul proclaimed in Romans, *"What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?"* May the words of Isaiah below remind us of the beautiful relationship we are each offered in the Lord, no matter how challenging life has been, and may we share this life-giving truth with others who may be emotionally weighed down in this journey of life. God is good... all the time. Amen

*The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion - to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor.* Isaiah 61:1-3



**Monthly FINANCIAL REPORT February, 2023**

Larry Towle, Finance Team Chair

	<u>Income/Expense to Date</u>	<u>2023 Budget</u>
Weekly Offerings	94,892.31	540,700
Facilities and Other	5,134.09	36,500
Total Income	100,026.40	577,200
Total Expense	85,260.19	576,655
Net Income(Loss)	14,766.21	545.00

**Spring**  
**Craft & Vendor Show**  
**May 13 : 9-3**  
**FUNdraising... FUNd**

## simply the right way to fundraise.

It's time to start thinking about Mother's Day, Father's Day, graduations, yard work, and summer vacations! *Raise Right* gift cards are the perfect gift and a wonderful way to pay for work and fun while giving to our church! Here are some great ways to help our church!

Macy's \$100 - \$10 for our church  
 Sally Beauty \$50 - \$5 for our church  
 Bass Pro Shop \$100 - \$10 for our church  
 Royal Caribbean \$500 - \$65 for our church

Take a look online at [raiseright.com](https://raiseright.com) or check out the list at the Welcome Desk.

Dates to turn in order forms will be

**April 23 and April 30** with a delivery date of May 7th.

Please email [linda.lyon@aol.com](mailto:linda.lyon@aol.com) with any questions.



## gift cards.

## Turn your unwanted jewelry into church treasure!



FUNdraising is again collecting gold, sterling, and platinum jewelry and decorative pieces that are no longer wanted - broken necklaces, solitary earrings lost from their mates, silverware, etc.

Please consider taking a minute to sort through your jewelry boxes and drawers for precious metals you are no longer using.

There's a box in the office for ongoing donations. Not sure if you have anything of value? Several presumably 'junk' donations in the past valued at nearly \$100 and even over \$500. **Your generous donations through February alone amounted to \$1,974 !** In any case, our

contact will happily sort through your donations and return your items, if you'd like. Tax paperwork can be provided, too.

**So...** collect your items and drop them off in a zipped plastic bag. Fill out the quick form near the collection box. Email [linda.lyon@aol.com](mailto:linda.lyon@aol.com) and we'll empty the box. **Thank you!**

Linda Lyon, FUNdraising Chair





We're celebrating

## diversity and inclusion

in April, recognizing and appreciating other cultures and populations! This month, take time to recognize the diversity in your workplace, school or home. By celebrating the unique cultures, backgrounds and traditions of others, we can gain a greater appreciation for the diversity that surrounds us.

Now more than ever we live in a world with endless opportunities and resources to learn about the cultures and people around us. Take advantage of learning about other cultures and customs, as we focus on the importance of understanding all cultures and people while taking advantage of opportunities and resources to connect us and learn from one another.

**Diversity is the one true thing we all have in common. Celebrate it every day!**

Launched in 2004, Celebrate Diversity Month is featured each April to recognize and honor the nation's diversity. The purpose is to help people from all walks of life gain a deeper understanding and appreciation of each other. The world is rich with diversity, which is reflected in the observances celebrated by its various cultures and populations. Knowledge of the diversity can enhance diversity and inclusion efforts.

**Here are some of the diverse celebrations that occur in April:**

### March 13 - April 15:

**National Deaf Heritage Month**, an opportunity to highlight the importance of inclusivity and equal accessibility for those who are Deaf or hard of hearing.

**March 22 - April 21 (sundown to sundown):** **Ramadan**, an Islamic holiday marked by fasting, praise, prayer and devotion to Islam.

**April 2:** **World Autism Awareness and Acceptance Day**, created to raise awareness of the developmental disorder around the globe.

**April 2:** **Palm Sunday**, a Christian holiday commemorating the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. It is the last Sunday of Lent and the beginning of the Holy Week.

**April 4:** **Mahavir Jayanti**, a holiday celebrated by the Jains commemorating the birth of Lord Mahavir.

**April 4:** **Lord's Evening Meal**, Jehovah's Witnesses commemorate an event believed to have occurred on the first night of Passover in approximately 33 CE (AD), the Last Supper, known as the Lord's Evening Meal.

**April 5-13 (sundown to sundown):** **Passover**, an eight-day Jewish holiday and festival in commemoration of the emancipation of the Israelites from slavery in ancient Egypt.

**April 6:** **Holy Thursday (Maundy Thursday)**, the Christian holiday commemorating the Last Supper, at which Jesus and the Apostles were together for the last time before the Crucifixion. It is celebrated on the Thursday before Easter.



(see back cover for **Maundy Thursday** celebration at Wyoming Church)

**April 7:** **Good Friday**, a day celebrated by Christians to commemorate the execution of Jesus by crucifixion. It is recognized on the Friday before Easter.



(see back cover for **Good Friday** commemoration at Wyoming Church)

**April 8:** **Lazarus Saturday**, a day celebrated by the Eastern Orthodox Church and Oriental Orthodoxy to commemorate the raising of Lazarus of Bethany.

**April 9:** **Easter**, a holiday celebrated by Christians to recognize Jesus' return from death after the Crucifixion.



(see back cover for the **Easter** celebration at Wyoming Church)

**April 14:** **Vaisakhi** (also known as Baisakhi), the celebration of the founding of the Sikh community as the Khalsa (community of the initiated) and the birth of the Khalsa.

**April 14:** **The Day of Silence**, during which students take a daylong vow of silence to protest the actual silencing of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) students and their straight allies due to bias and harassment.

**April 16:** **Orthodox Easter** (also called Pascha), a later Easter date than observed by many Western churches.

**April 17 (sundown to sundown):** **Yom HaShoah**, Israel's day of remembrance for the approximately 6 million Jews who perished in the Holocaust.

**April 20-May 2:** **The Festival of Ridvan**, a holiday celebrated by those of the Bahá'í faith, commemorating the 12 days when Bahá'u'lláh, the prophet-founder, resided in a garden called Ridvan (paradise) and publicly proclaimed his mission as God's messenger for this age.

**April 22:** **Earth Day** promotes world peace and sustainability of the planet. Events are held globally to show support of environmental protection of the Earth.

**April 23:** **St. George's Day**, the feast day of St. George celebrated by various Christian churches.



**April 24:** *Armenian Martyrs' Day* recognizes the genocide of approximately 1.5 million Armenians between 1915 and 1923 in Turkey.

**April 28-29** (*sundown to sundown*): *Ninth Day of Ridvan*, a festival of joy and unity in the Bahá'í faith to commemorate the reunification of Bahá'u'lláh's family, and by extension the unity of the entire human family the Bahá'í faith calls for. It permeates the symbolic meaning of the Ninth Day of Ridvan.

**April 28-29** (*sundown to sundown*): *Yom Ha'Atzmaut*, National Independence Day in Israel

**Would you like to join the Multi-Cultural & Diversity Team and explore the possibility of supporting and expanding diversity at Wyoming UMC?**

**Please contact Donna McCartney at [donnasandbillj@icloud.com](mailto:donnasandbillj@icloud.com).**



### **Wyoming United Methodist Church and the Multi-Cultural & Diversity Team**

On February 21, the team delivered fresh fruits and thank you cards to our community Fire Departments, in Camden-Wyoming, Dover - Kenton Road and Dover - South Governors Avenue. This was to honor them for their service, and being our **February 2023 Community Heroes**. We wish to thank everyone who signed thank you cards and would encourage all to pray for their safety and blessing for them and their families. In November we will be selecting our February Community Heroes for 2024.



*Exemplary for our February 2023 Community Heroes - In March, a Celebration of Life was held at Wyoming Church for **James W. Queen, Sr.***

#### **From his obituary:**

*James spent his life serving others as Life Member, Past Chief, and Past President of Camden-Wyoming Fire Company. Known to many as "Chief" and "Queenie", he achieved his dream of being a professional firefighter after obtaining his degree in Fire Protection Engineering from Delaware Tech and subsequently worked at many fire companies throughout the State of Delaware. Always one to put others before himself, he was awarded the Heroic Fireman of the Year award in 1993 by the Delaware Volunteer Firefighter's Association in honor of his life saving efforts of two individuals who were drowning in Derby Pond.*



## Spectacular Failure

David Van Kavelaar

At the February 19<sup>th</sup> worship service, Pastor Rick's (PR) sermon addressed his utterly disappointing showing in a chicken pickin' contest at the Delaware State Fair. Rick practiced and rehearsed the steps required to dismantle a chicken in mere seconds. Despite all his preparation, his competitors in the contest trashed poor PR in his quest for the chicken pickin' title. PR's morale during the ride home that day must have been in the dumps as a result of his spectacular failure; a crash and burn. I'm familiar with this crushing experience.

Dating during my teen years had some, actually many, heart-breaking turn-downs. I was shot down so many times for a date I contemplated wearing a parachute when asking young ladies out. Those ego-busting date refusals seemed cataclysmic at the time but, looking back, it was just the teen processes we get exposed to and, in reality, no big deal. So now, my spectacular failure...

I had a two-year Associates Degree in Civil Engineering Technology from Del Tech when my career began with Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT) in '81. I had been working at the DOT for nine years as a Highway Engineering Technician. While getting experience on roadway and bridge job sites and all the labs within the Materials and Research Section, I began (also in 1981) taking college courses at Del State. Over the first nine years at DelDOT, I completed three semesters of calculus, two semesters of chemistry, two semesters of physics, courses in material engineering science, physical mechanics, geology, fluid mechanics, analytical mechanics, and some humanities. If there are readers who went, or are going, through further education as an adult, you know the drill, full time job, teens in the house, civic activities, care of the home front, and now schooling. Studying and homework was put off to the weekend which left very little time for socialization. Curiously, that was OK because I was not crazy about the haunts and bars anymore. Sunday at church was our day for mingling and talking with others.

The DOT had a very liberal education benefit. They would pay for the course as long as the subject matter was job-related and you received a grade of "C" or better. I petitioned for a leave of absence from work to attend the University of Delaware (U of D) full time in the Fall of '90. The U of D initially turned down my application for admittance to the civil engineering program. I spoke with the admissions personnel and convinced them to put me in the program. A tax paying, wounded combat veteran was refused for admission because... why? "Permission was granted" and I took a leave of absence from the DelDOT, packed up some stuff, and headed to the campus (Rodney F dorm) to begin classes on a full-time basis in September. Fifty credits from my Del State days gave me a solid start in pursuit of the Bachelors of Civil Engineering Degree.

My spectacular failure occurred in the Fall of '90. Five weeks into the semester, it became

obvious that I couldn't keep up with the program and, on October 20, officially withdrew. What a disheartening and crushing defeat, the definition of a spectacular failure. Ten years of accumulating transferable credits to the U of D had all gone up in smoke leaving a pile of glowing embers and ashes of heartbreak. BJ came up to the dorm and all my belongings were loaded up in the car. We headed home. It was a very quiet retreat. All the hours spent studying on week-ends; and now this?

When I returned to work, there was an undercurrent of "Ha, I told you so" around the morning coffee pot. The Chief of the Section also told one individual that I would never make it at the U of D. It was hard keeping my head up and my eyes off the deck; what a totally complete failure I had to endure. Remember those glowing embers previously mentioned? There was still a spark left.

While on break in the DOT cafeteria, a high-ranking DOT engineer from upstairs on Mahogany Row stopped by my table and asked how schooling was going. I told John of my miserable performance. After a brief discussion of my class load, John thought my class schedule was not advisable (sixteen credits) and because some courses were assigned without the prerequisite subjects taken (so much for faith in my U of D advisor.) John said "Dave, submit another request for educational leave; I'll sign off on it." I reapplied for the Spring semester. I took four courses for twelve credits; the minimum amount to be considered full-time and made sure the course selections were in sequence.

Despite the unpleasant Fall withdraw BJ, my source of encouragement, had faith in me. "You can do this!" she kept repeating. Back up to Rodney F dorm we went. Picture this. A forty-three year-old man, and a grand-father at that, in a freshman dormitory; they called me Major Dad. I showed some kids how to shave but never got them beer. Some crazy stuff was going on in my dorm but that's beyond the scope of this essay. And when BJ came up to my dorm for an over-nighter on Valentine's Day!... good grief!

I was on good terms with the U of D maintenance crews and cafeteria workers. I performed their jobs when I was younger and let them know I appreciated their effort. The younger students seemed stand-offish toward them, I treated them like gold and, in return, they treated me likewise. We had a scrounge (snacks at night) next to my dorm. I'd call down to the snack shop and say "Is this Carol?"

"Hi Carol, this is Dave in 109-F. Can I have a cheese steak with fries?" "Sure thing, Dave, give me ten minutes." I'd go down stairs, walk up past students waiting in line to place their order, go to the cash register where my snack awaited, and paid my bill. Age has its privileges.

The Spring semester went well and my confidence returned. I repeated the twelve credit per semester program up until graduation in May of '93. As I listened to someone delivering our graduation speech, it occurred to me that, for the first thirty years of my life, the thought of becoming a civil engineer had never crossed my mind. Wow! Now, I was in possession of a Bachelors of Civil Engineering Degree, who'da thunk it.

Having a bachelor degree, however, is only a stepping stone toward the pro-fessional engineer status. I immediately sat for the EIT (engineer -in-training) exam, a grueling eight-hour affair and began four years of mentorship with a registered engineer. Upon completion of the four years, the next milestone was to sit for the PE (professional engineer) examination, another eight-hour mind-bending session. After that exam, I was so burned out that I couldn't find my truck in the U of D's Clayton Hall parking lot ... in a driving rainstorm. Six years after the PE success, I completed coursework for the Masters in Civil Engineering Degree from the U of D ('03). At that time, I was then licensed to be involved in geotechnical concerns of projects for the states of Delaware, Maryland, and Pennsylvania.

I guess the point being made here is to keep at it and don't let up on pursuits that you want to accomplish. Have faith in yourself and others. My whole education process was similar to a marathon, not a sprint race. There will usually be bumps in the road and snags in the fabric of your life's quilt. Stay with the program. God has gifted us all with a talent and capability to perform extraordinary feats. It is up to you and I to seek out this talent and to investigate different areas of interest.

So, part of my life's journey brought me through one spectacular failure where, out of a heap of smoldering ashes and embers, a rewarding career emerged thanks to those who encouraged me during trying times, BJ, and the good Lord.





# Library news April

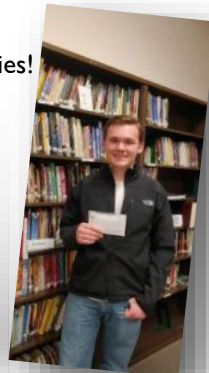
It's a Puzzle Exchange! Bring in a puzzle and/or take one to work on.



The lucky winners of a \$20 Chick-Fil-A gift card in the different age categories!

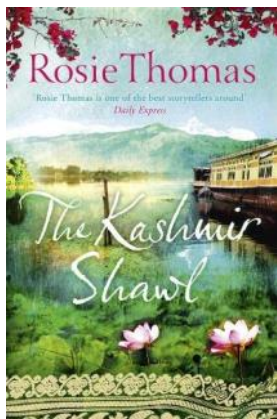


Dawn Valladares (left)  
Pictured with Librarian  
Betty Brown.



Brock Nelson

Not pictured: Tressa Stant (kids' category)  
Watch upcoming newsletters and weekly announcements for a similar competition!



## The Kashmir Shawl By Rosie Thomas

Read this book chosen by the **WUMC Book Discussion Group** for **April...** and join them on **Wednesday, April 26 at 7 PM** for the discussion! Please call Kim with ??

☎ (302) 670-1832.



Jack Freidel

Corner



It was September of 1988 when my family and I moved to the Dover area from South Dakota. I had just started as a teacher in the CR school district. The Sunday after Labor Day we visited a church in the area. We dropped Michelle off in a Sunday school class that had only one other child. Betsy and I attended an adult class that I would describe as cold and judgmental. When we picked our 4 year old Michelle up from Sunday school, the teacher was critical of us because Michelle did not have The Lord's Prayer memorized. We decided, that even though the pastor was friendly and welcoming, that this was not the church for us.

Fast forward a week. We tried another church. It was not far from the first church we visited, so Betsy did not have high expectations for our visit. When we entered the church, what did we find, but a church full of families with lots of kids running around, a welcoming atmosphere, and another friendly pastor! Right away we fell in love with the church, and within a few weeks Betsy had been recruited to teach a Sunday school class. That church, you may ask? The one we still attend today, Wyoming UMC.

On to the recent past and today. For the last several months, I've been encouraging participation in small discipleship groups. As part of that focus, Janna Whitenight invited people who might be interested in small groups to meet with her between services. At that meeting

she passed out a questionnaire to help judge interest in small groups. Janna has passed on the questionnaires to me to peruse. I found the responses quite interesting.

What I gleaned from the questionnaires and from other comments that I've recently heard, is that what many of the people in our congregation are interested in, are really hungry for, is community. Now I don't want to be misinterpreted. I feel involvement in small discipleship groups is important in deepening our walk with Christ, and I would hope everyone can find such a group. However, I wonder if the focus of our church should first be on strengthening and building the community spirit we already have.

If you share this sentiment, and if anyone has any ideas on how you would like to see our church build on the idea of community, seek me out, and let's have a conversation.

Jack Freidel

[jfreidel1@yahoo.com](mailto:jfreidel1@yahoo.com)

☎ (302) 535-3981.





Now that we've heard the whole story - in Sunday sermons over recent weeks... we'll go to see "**Moses**" - the musical currently showing at the Sight & Sound Theater in Lancaster, PA. Join the group tour to the performance at **3PM on Friday, May 19**. Very few tickets remain (\$84 adults, \$39 children <12) - let me know as soon as possible!

Renate (302) 399-3898  
office@wyomingumc.com



... celebrated on April 26 every year, recognizes and celebrates the work of **secretaries, administrative assistants and other office professionals** for their contributions to the workplace. Most businesses would flounder and fail without this team of amazing people.

Wyoming UMC's office is run under the guidance of a most amazing woman, Renate Purdy.

Take a moment to thank her for all she does to ensure the smooth operation of our church!

The 'Mercy Me fan club' of Wyoming Church had a wonderful time at their recent concert in Salisbury.



"Sing the name that hushed the sea  
Sing the name that hell won't speak  
*Jesus, Hallelujah!*  
Sing the name that took on sin  
Sing the name that finished it  
*Jesus, Hallelujah!"*



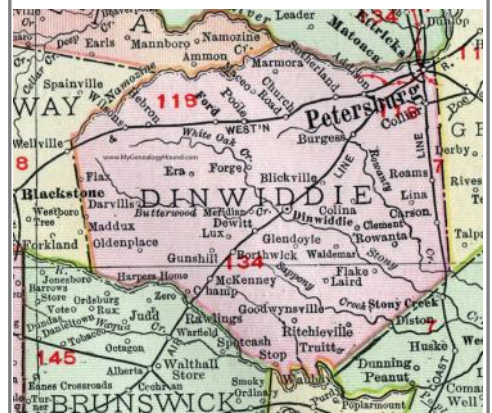
**Our 2023 mission trip will be...  
Dinwiddie, Virginia!  
The trip is June 25-July 1.**

Our team this year will consist of four adults and nine youth. We will be joining 400 youth from around the country for a week of active service. We will be building decks and handicap ramps, hanging siding, fixing skirting on mobile homes, painting, and other construction projects for a community in desperate need of love and attention. This will be a very meaningful week both for them and for our youth.



*"Ann of Green Gables"*

will be presented by **The Children's Theater** - under heavy participation by young actors and actresses from the Wyoming Church family (pictured), at the Schwartz Center for the Arts downtown Dover on **April 1 at 7pm** and **April 2 at 2pm**.





## ~ Our People ~

## Happy Birthday



04/02 Irene Gillette, Walt Jankowski,  
Buddy Sammons  
04/03 Ross Lancaster  
04/04 Gary Green, Cort Massey,  
Alicia Sumpter, Doris Taylor  
04/05 Kathy Deckard, Reileigh Gray  
04/06 Rachel Edwards, Jim Klecan  
04/07 Marty Downing  
04/09 Josh Turner  
04/10 Colby Lyon  
04/11 Derek Leister  
04/13 Bonnie Luke  
04/14 Lois Murray, Ryder Witherell  
04/15 Michael Davis, Margaret Jones,  
Doni Purdy, Wendy Witherell  
04/17 Joyce Ann Green  
04/18 Michelle Thompson

04/19 Susan Cook  
04/20 Justin Anthony, Lauren Forbes,  
Cheryl Weil  
04/23 Colleen Papen  
04/25 Tim Lyon, Barbara Roscoe  
04/26 Roger Kelsey, Jim Papen, Valerie  
Riggins  
04/27 Mary Dawn Ditty  
04/28 Jacob Williams  
04/30 Patricia Lawson  
  
05/01 Karly (Jones) Siegfried  
05/02 Juliet Klecan  
05/04 Eric Jones, Kate Krieger, Judi Leczner  
05/05 Emily Dejesus, Sherry Kijowski,  
Liz Marino, Janet Meyer  
05/08 Michelle Sell, Frank Sutton

## A Prayer for Diversity, Inclusion, Unity, and Acceptance

We trust in God who loves diversity, whose love is beyond our imagining,  
and who creates persons with all abilities in the image of God.

We rejoice that our value as humans is not determined  
by "perfection" of mind or body but by our preciousness to God.

We trust in the love of God as we know it in Jesus,  
who broke down the walls that divide us,  
who called all to follow him,  
and whose work of healing was a ministry of inclusion.  
We rejoice in Christ's continuing presence in our lives  
and that we are called to join with people of all abilities  
in Christ's work of reconciliation.

We trust in the Holy Spirit who makes us one in Christ  
and whose gifts we share as we work with God  
in the healing of our communities.

We rejoice that every one of our gifts is a trust from God  
and that it is our call and our privilege to "do justice, to love kindness,  
to walk humbly with our God."

Joining together, we commit ourselves to work  
for more inclusive churches and communities,  
where walls of fear and prejudice do not separate us,  
and where all are known as persons named and loved by God. Amen

*From the depths of despair and darkness' grip  
Comes boldest joy in resurrection life.*

Ellen Carr 2017

## ~ Deaths ~

**John Guernelli,**  
the cousin of Carol Milton  
on February 24, 2023



**Robert Fox,**  
the father of Ian Fox  
on March 17, 2023



A UNITED METHODIST CONGREGATION

216 Wyoming Mill Road, Dover, DE 19904

Phone: 302-697-8400 Fax: 302-697-8470

E-mail: [office@wyomingumc.com](mailto:office@wyomingumc.com)



[www.WyomingUMC.com](http://www.WyomingUMC.com)



To: You!

### Church Office Hours :

**Monday-Thursday 9AM - 3PM**

**call & text for appointments:**

**☎ (302) 399-3898 Renate**

### Pastors' Office Hours :

**Monday-Wednesday 9AM -12:30PM**

**or by appointment.**

**call & text ☎ (302) 423-3911 Pastor Lindsay ☎ (302) 423-4237 Pastor Rick**

## The Resurrection of our Lord as told by...

### Matthew (EHV Evangelical Heritage Version):

After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. <sup>2</sup> Suddenly, there was a great earthquake! For an angel of the Lord came down from heaven, and going to the tomb, he rolled away the stone and was sitting on it. <sup>3</sup> His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing was as white as snow. <sup>4</sup> The guards were so terrified of him that they shook and became like dead men. <sup>5</sup> The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid! I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. <sup>6</sup> He is not here. He has risen, just as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. <sup>7</sup> Go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has risen from the dead! And look, he is going ahead of you to Galilee. There you will see him.' See, I have told you!"

<sup>8</sup> They hurried away from the tomb, with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. <sup>9</sup> Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!"

They approached, took hold of his feet, and worshipped him.

<sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go, tell my brothers that they should go to Galilee, and there they will see me."

### Mark (ESV English Standard Version):

When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. <sup>2</sup> And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. <sup>3</sup> And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?" <sup>4</sup> And looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back—it was very large. <sup>5</sup> And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed. <sup>6</sup> And he said to them, "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here. See the place where they laid him. <sup>7</sup> But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you." <sup>8</sup> And they went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

### Luke (NIV New International Version):

On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. <sup>2</sup> They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, <sup>3</sup> but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. <sup>4</sup> While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. <sup>5</sup> In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? <sup>6</sup> He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: <sup>7</sup> 'The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.' " <sup>8</sup> Then they remembered his words.

<sup>9</sup> When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others. <sup>10</sup> It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles. <sup>11</sup> But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense. <sup>12</sup> Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. Bending over, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves, and he went away, wondering to himself what had happened.

### John (NLT New Living Translation):

Early on Sunday morning, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. <sup>2</sup> She ran and found Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved. She said, "They have taken the Lord's body out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!"

<sup>3</sup> Peter and the other disciple started out for the tomb. <sup>4</sup> They were both running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. <sup>5</sup> He stooped and looked in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he didn't go in. <sup>6</sup> Then Simon Peter arrived and went inside. He also noticed the linen wrappings lying there, <sup>7</sup> while the cloth that had covered Jesus' head was folded up and lying apart from the other wrappings. <sup>8</sup> Then the disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in, and he saw and believed—<sup>9</sup> for until then they still hadn't understood the Scriptures that said Jesus must rise from the dead. <sup>10</sup> Then they went home.

**"MATTHEW, MARK, AND LUKE, SEE ME AFTER CLASS."**



**YOUR BOOK/REPORTS ARE SURPRISINGLY SIMILAR."**