Without clean water ...

... the possibility of breaking the cycle of poverty is incredibly slim. For women and children especially, this crisis is real. It affects one person every minute of the day. With unclean water sources, often miles from villages, many of the able-bodied members of a community are forced to spend hours each day simply finding and transporting water.

The typical container used for water collection in Africa is called a "Jerry Can". A full jerry can weighs 40 pounds or more. Imagine carrying that weight every day, along five or six miles one way, only to hope that the water you collected is not full of bacteria that might make everyone sick or even kill them. Dire, daily reality for so many!

LIFETIME WELLS INTERNATIONAL has a mission to improve the quality of life for communities by providing access to safe drinking water. They envision a world where death and disease from unsafe drinking water is eliminated, and communities are lifted out of extreme poverty through the power of clean water. It costs just \$3,500.00 to construct a well for an entire village. Imagine the excitement of everyone when they see clean water gushing from a well right near them! The possibilities are endless.

Please join us alongside Whatcoat, Wesley and Woodside Churches for our annual

5K Walk for Water - Saturday, May 20

Registration is at 8:30 a.m. with the walk starting at 9.

This year we will be starting and ending our walk at Whatcoat Church in Camden. Please see the display in the Narthex!

If you cannot walk, would you kindly consider making a donation towards the cost of a well? It will have a lasting impact on an entire village by giving everyone clean, life-giving water. Show them that despite all the challenges and changes these days, especially with Covid-19 and its variants, hope is not cancelled. Each one of us still has the power to make a difference; every last man, woman and child deserve clean drinking water.

For more info, to register and to donate directly - **Scan** this QR Code or **Click** on this link

https://www.classy.org/event/2023-kent-county-water-walk/e477271

You can write out a check, too - please enter "WATER WALK" in the memo line.

Watch out piggy

banks... Children in our Sunday School classes will be raising money towards our annual Water Walk to support Lifetime Wells International on May 20th. Each group will be competing in a Penny Wars competition in the month of May.

Each grade level group, Pre-K/K, Ist/2nd, and 3rd/4th/5th will bring in pennies to fill

their class jar. They can also bring in nickels, dimes and quarters to put in the other class jars which will be subtracted from their competitors' total. The class with the highest penny amount left by the water walk will get the opportunity to Pie-A-Pastor (PR!!) Families are encouraged to attend the water walk to witness the excitement first hand!

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... GIVE WATER ... GIVE LIFE ... GIVE PEACE

Bulletin Board





May 20

Many nations around the world observe some kind of Armed Forces Day to honor their military forces. In the United States, Armed Forces Day is celebrated on the third Saturday in May. It falls near the end of Armed Forces Week, which begins on the second Saturday of May and ends on the third Sunday of May (the fourth if the month begins on a Sunday, as in 2016).

First observed on May 20,1950, the day was created on August 31,1949 to honor Americans serving in the five U.S. military branches: the U.S. Army, U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Air Force and U.S. Coast Guard following the consolidation of the military services in the U.S. Department of Defense. It was intended to replace the separate Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard Days, but the separate days are still observed, especially within the respective services.

The first Armed Forces Day was celebrated by parades, open houses, receptions and air shows.

Memorial Day is set aside to honor the sacrifice of military forces in the service to the country. Veteran's Day honors all those veterans, past and present, who serve in the military services. Armed Forces Day is set aside to honor the different branches of the military that serve.





WUMC Sunday School



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



Lord help us to see things like You do.
Your Word says that there is neither Jew nor Greek,
there is neither slave nor free,
there is neither male and female,
for we are all one in Christ Jesus.
We pray that You speak to our hearts so that
we can remember that
no one is better than another because of appearance
or any other earthly attribute.
We pray that we respect the diversity of mankind
and embrace that we are all one,

Amen.

Based on Galatians 3:28

Contact Donna at donnasandbillj@icloud.com if you'd like more information on the WUMC MultiCulture & Diversity Team.



From the Pastors' Desk

And when He had said these things, as they were looking on, He was lifted up and a cloud took him out of their sight." - Acts 1:9

"Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!"

The text above from Acts is the account of Jesus' ascension into heaven. This year, we remember that event that happened 40 days after Jesus' resurrection, on Thursday, May 18th. The account of Jesus' ascension is a simple one, yet also a miraculous one.

We confess the truth of this event in our Creed with the simple words, "He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty." The point of all of this is God's great saving power. It is God's great desire to save us purely out of His love. We confess the truth of Scripture that Jesus came into our world, took on human flesh, true God and true man, in order that He would be the perfect sacrifice for our sin. Thus, we also confess that He suffered, died and was buried as that Sacrifice, the payment in full for our sin that only He could be. And that's what leads us to great joy of the Easter Season.

The Good News of Easter is that Jesus is risen! The tomb could not hold Him. Satan could not defeat Him. He

accomplished His purpose. He overcame the power of sin, death and the devil and now gives us the benefit of His victory. Death defeated. Jesus goes to the depths of hell to declare His victory (1 Pt. 3:19) and then arises from the grave.

Remember the solemnity of the very first Easter morning. There was sadness and confusion. The women going to the tomb were distraught and uncertain of what the future might hold. But what a surprise it was to find the tomb empty! To hear the angel announce the resurrection! To meet Jesus outside the tomb! It was amazing!

That is how we, too, understand the events of Easter and the Easter Season. Jesus' resurrection was to bring us salvation. It's all about what Jesus has done for us, purely out of His love for his fallen creatures. Throughout this season we are brought into the wonder of His resurrection and the awe of His ascension. He has done it all for us.

That is why we celebrate God's amazing grace. Grace is God's unmerited mercy shown to us. We do nothing to earn or deserve it. Yet, God gives us His wonderful gifts. He paid a great price them through all that He endured, but it was the only way He could bring about our salvation.



So, our risen Lord has now ascended into heaven where He sits at the seat of glory and power. He rules over all things. He has power over all things, especially the power to save. He willingly and freely does that through faith alone. And He even gives us that gift of faith. What a good and gracious God we have.

That is why we confess our belief in the Creed! Announce to all your faith in what God has done for you. He came that we would have life in His name (Jn. 20:31).

Join us in Worship. Study His Word in a Bible Study. Hear His Word in a daily devotion. Take advantage of all that God gives you to keep you strong in that faith. That believing you may be His now and forever.

"Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!"



NEW! in the Newsletter - Church Ministry Teams Explained

Every month we will introduce one ministry team of Wyoming Church, explaining the profile and purpose of that particular ministry and what's involved for team members.

The Executive Team ...

is the main decision-making body of the Church, and all committees report to ET. The Executive Team helps plan and implement programs of nurture, outreach, witness and resources in the local church. It also provides administration. It does so through communicating and collaborating with all the missions/ministries/committees of Wyoming. The members of Executive Team (as outlined in The Book of Discipline, paragraph 243) include Jesse Spampinato (Executive Team Chair), Larry Towle/lan Fox (Finance), Bill Purdy (Trustees), Mary Dawn Ditty (Outreach), Terry Higgins (Security), Kirsten Higgins (SPRT), Jack Freidel (Lay Leader), Betsy Freidel (Education), Renate Purdy (Secretary), Pastor Rick and Pastor Lindsay. Special topics/guests are welcome as needed. The team meets on the third Tuesday of the month, and the minutes of the meetings are available upon request.



I would like to take a few minutes to share with you what is happening

in the **Sewing Class**.

I presently have an adult class, consisting of 6 students, that meets once a month on Friday. Participants are in process of finishing an apron. They learned about fabric preparation and how to lay out a pattern. At out next meeting, they will learn different cotton fabrics.

I have a young peoples' class on Saturday, and those students just made a pillow case. They look forward to creating some clothes in the near future.

Recently, I met a lady who is involved in a girls' organization in the Wilmington and Dover areas. There are 17 girls in her group who will now be taking sewing lessons. We will have an interpreter as some of the girls only speak Spanish. Some students will attend here at church, and some I will instruct in Wilmington. The first class is planned for the first Thursday in June.

As you can see, the sewing classes are growing nicely. I want to thank everyone for the wonderful sewing machines that you donated. Many of my students do not own machines and without your generous donation would not be able to learn this life skill. Thank you for the many yards of material, the box full of patterns and all your prayers.

With your help, we are reaching out, connecting with our community and fulfilling a need. I pray that my students will continue to sew in the future and maybe pursue a career in the fashion world.

If you are interested or know of someone who might be... classes are \$20 for two hours plus materials. Everyone is welcome to join us. There is a youth class on the third Saturday of the month.

Sharon Burge sleeburge@gmail.com (302) 359-4968 cell & text.





May 2023

If you have a high-school or college GRADUATE in your family, please let us know! Send us their information - graduating from? future plans? and a few photos, too, for a special presentation in church that Sunday.

Email to office@wyomingumc.com, text to (302) 399-3898 or bring photos into the office to be scanned.

Sunday morning, April 16th at Wyoming Church: the **Signing Choir of ASL American Sign Language students** (instructor: Gail Garner, also our ASL interpreter every Sunday at the IIAM worship service).

The group includes Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced signers from classes sponsored by WUMC. Their performance was to celebrate National ASL Day on April 15th. ASL is the third most used language in the USA, behind English and Spanish!





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 May 20, from IOAM 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.

reach ... Outreach ... Outreach ... Out

Thank you to all who bring food donations to our drive-thru food drive month after month!!!

As you can see from this recent photo of the actual shelf in the Kent Interfaith Alliance Pantry, your donations are still very much needed and always welcome!







Food and other items will be collected for *Kent Interfaith*, a cooperative effort among churches in the Dover area.

Bring your donations to the front door portico of Wyoming Church where we will take it directly from your vehicle. Monetary donations to purchase meats and other perishable items will be gladly accepted. Please make all checks payable to WUMC with Food Bank on the memo line and your giving number please if you have one!

Most Needed:

Canned Beans (black, kidney, navy, refried, etc.)
Dried Beans, Dry Rice - Cereal, Quick Oats
Peanut Butter & Jelly - Canned Vegetables
Boxed milk - Flour - Butter/Margarine
Oil - Salt & Pepper - Sugar

Consider Extras like:

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



Saturday, May 27

... welcomes all!

May's Prayer Breakfast will be on the last Saturday of the month, the 27th, beginning at 7:30 AM in the 'Backroom' of Mike and Mel's Restaurant in the town of Wyoming. Terry Higgins will convene those that are gathered for the opening prayer list of names followed by our Lay Leader, Jack Freidel's, program. We will order from the menu and enjoy good food and great table fellowship followed by an approximate 8:30 AM departure.

Church Grounds Look Great!

As many of you good folks have noticed our Wyoming Church grounds are lush, green and neat. This current condition is a continuation of the many years of very dedicated care that Warren Field, very ably aided by Judy Field, and his committed crew of excellent lady and gentlemen volunteers gave to church grounds.

The intense greening of our front lawn areas is due to the complimentary, annual macronutrient and micronutrient treatment by Lori Graham's Company. Our current landscaping and lawn care professional folks appear to be meeting the high standards set by Warren Field and his volunteers for many years.

Should you have any comments or questions relative to the appearance of the turf or landscaped portions of our Wyoming Church grounds please see Terry.

Memorial Garden And Memorial Grove Are In Full Bloom!

The Memorial Grove that compliments the setting of our Wyoming Church's Memorial Garden is in full growth and bloom. The final touches to the central ring of the Garden is scheduled for completion within the next few days. The semi-annual placement of donated new American flags will occur within the same time frame.

As always you are welcome to use the Memorial Garden Walkway to visit the Memorial Garden, linger as long as you desire and use one of the benches for rest, reflection and meditation.

The opportunity to place one or more Memorial Bricks in the Garden is always open. Memorial Garden Bricks can be used to cherish the memory of a loved one or to honor the memory of someone who has had a most positive impact on your life. Should you feel led to consider placing an order for a Memorial Brick please know that order forms can be found on the Memorial Garden Model that is located in the Narthex.

Safe Secure Sanctuary - "The Next 6"!

This month of May will see the initial planning of the July through December 2023 Safe Secure Sanctuary (S3) Sunday Morning Monitors, Ushers, Greeters and Stewards Schedule for both the 9AM and 11AM Services.

Each of our current volunteers that participate in this vitally important program in the life of our Wyoming Church is to be applauded and appreciated for their excellent and dedicated efforts. We ask each of our volunteers to serve once a month in the position of their choice as a Monitor, Usher, Greeter and/or Steward on the Sunday of their choice.

Shortly after the first of May, Terry will be asking all those good folks currently serving, to prayerfully consider becoming a part of the S3 July through December Schedule.

Refresher Seminars For Current Safe Secure Sanctuary Participants.

All of those folks that are currently serving as Monitors, Ushers, Greeters and Stewards as well as Event Sextons are invited to attend a 'one time' 30 minute Refresher Seminar. The purpose of these Refresher Seminars is to update you on recent improvements that have been incorporated into our S3 Program.

Additional Refresher Seminar days and times will be established so as to make certain that all those good folks that are currently serving will be able to, during the month of May, take advantage of the presentation by Bill Purdy. Trustee Chair and Terry.

Sexton Kitchen Team

Academic 3 For The

cholarship 2023 -- 2024

Academic Year

The members of the Wyoming United Methodist Church's Sexton Kitchen Team are pleased to announce the availability of the Sexton Kitchen Team College Scholarship. This \$1,000.00 Academic Scholarship will be awarded to a member and active participant in the life of the Wyoming United Methodist Church. Applications are now available. The completed application will be due by 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 Higgins at terryhiggins38@outlook.com or

(302) 363-5823.





VBS 2023 June 19-23

VBS is in full planning mode and we are so excited! Kids 5 years old-6th grade... join the "Food Truck Party" and go "on a roll with God" this year at VBS at Wyoming Church!

Monday through Friday, June 19-23, 8:30-12:15.

Online registration opens on Sunday, May 21!

Watch for more info on that!

Calling on...

... AdULtS - would you be willing to help out with VBS and have an awesome, fun-filled week?

We still have the following staffing needs:

- I. Staff Nursery helper
- 2. Pre-K: Group leader, assistant group leader
- 3. Kindergarten: Assistant group leader
- 4. Discovery Leader-this person chooses projects for each day from the book and gathers/organizes supplies
- 5. Substitutes-fills in where needed on any day you're available!

... Youth Helpers!

It takes many hands to make VBS happen-please reach out to Janna (biwhitey@comcast.net) if you'd like to be a part of VBS!

Supplies

We will be putting out boxes soon for items needed for VBS. Thank you in advance for helping with supply donations!



WEDNESDAY LADIES' SUMMER STUDY

'Jesus and Joy'! All materials provided. Everyone is welcome!

When?

June 14 (NOTE: 2nd Wednesday because of VBS)

July 19th (3rd Wednesday) and

August 16th (3rd Wednesday) and...

... Luncheon August 30th TBD

Where? WUMC Room 209

For information call Donna McCartney (302) 331-0876.



Reflections

Reflections

Imperfect Vessels

But he (the Lord) said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.

2 Corinthians 12:9

There is an Indian legend that centers on a vase, a cracked vase to be specific, and the potter who created it. As the story goes, the cracked vase was envious of the other vases in the house, given they could be used for a variety of purposes with the water they were able to carry, unlike the water that would predictably leak out from within the cracked vase. When complaining to the potter about this comparative shortcoming, the potter lovingly highlighted the beautiful flowers that grew along the path between the water fountain, where the water was collected, and the house. The potter went on to explain that the water that spilled from the vase's cracks on the way to the house gave nourishment, every day, to the thirsty flowers; that their beauty was in fact because of the cracked vase. Every day the cracked vase would return to the house empty, having shared all its water in passage. The potter loved the cracked vase, in spite of its imperfections. There was purpose in the cracked vase, regardless of its outward appearance. Because of the cracks, water was able to freely flow, bringing life to all it touched. The cracked vase started to see its flaws as gifts; being filled by the potter only to be emptied along the way, over and over again. The cracked vase began to appreciate its life and the wisdom of the potter who created it.

And so why share a story like this? In short, because we are each a cracked vase too. And not unlike the cracked vase in the story, it is very difficult to make this life journey not comparing ourselves to others; in essence, determining our worth and value against the worldly examples that permeate daily life. This is a tough world that we live in. Grace is hard to find. Humility seems to be evaporating away. There is very little

Danny Cooper

Coordinator/Counselor @ Daybreak Counseling Services

room for imperfection, unless of course, like the cracked vase in the story, we can begin to see the potter's fingerprints in our creation, cracks included. Our misgivings that surface from our worldly comparisons begin to fade as we more fully appreciate that we are indeed fearfully and wonderfully made.

During our recent celebration of Easter, when we focus even more on Christ's ministry and Holy Week in particular, it is natural to also take a closer look at the disciples and close companions who accompanied our Lord, and to be sure, that was an ensemble of cracked vases. Whether it be Peter's impulsivity, Thomas' infamous doubt, James and John's desire for glory, or Judas' love of money, there were cracks a plenty in those that walked closest with our Lord. And as we read through the Gospel stories, we see numerous examples of Jesus' followers struggling with themselves as they journey with the Lord; his light making the "cracks in their vases" painfully visible. But in that visibility, like with the cracked vase from our introductory story, the companions of Christ were given the clarity to see, the ability to choose whether to struggle in their cracks of imperfection, or instead, to turn them over to God, submitting more fully to the One who created them, cracks included, allowing the spirit to more completely dwell within, and as a

consequence, casting a unique and wondrous light outward to a world in need.

Instead of lamenting the cracks that we carry with us, spending time and energy trying to cover over our flaws and imperfections for the audience of the world, let us remember that it was God, in perfect love and purpose, who created you and me. Like the vase from the story, let us shift our attention away from ourselves, and onto the One who gave us life, and who wants so much to fill our lives with the light of his

Spirit. We are intended to be beacons of light to a world inundated with darkness.

May the light we shine to others be the reflection of our Lord through us, imperfect vessels as we are.

Amen

Through God's loving-kindness, He has given us this job to do. So we do not give up. ² We have put away all things that are done in secret and in shame. We do not play with the Word of God or use it in a false way. Because we are telling the truth, we want men's hearts to listen to us. God knows our desires. 3 If the Good News we preach is hidden, it is hidden to those who are lost in sin. 4 The eyes of those who do not believe are made blind by Satan who is the god of this world. He does not want the light of the Good News to shine in their hearts. This Good News shines as the shining-greatness of Christ. Christ is as God is. 5 We do not preach about ourselves. We preach Christ Jesus the Lord. We are your servants because of Jesus. ⁶ It was God Who said, "The light will shine in darkness." He is the One Who made His light shine in our hearts. This brings us the light of knowing God's shining-greatness which is seen in Christ's face. ⁷We have this light from God in our human bodies. This shows that the power is from God. It is not from ourselves.



Monthly FINANCIAL REPORT March, 2023

Larry Towle, Finance Team Chair

Weekly Offerings Facilities and Other	Income/Expense to Date 138,609.48 10,171.00	2023 Budget 540,700 36,500
Total Income	148,780.48	577,200
Total Expense	138,292.29	576,655
Net Income (Loss)	10,488.19	545.00

Ongoing:

Turn your unwanted jewelry into church treasure!

into church treasure:

Turn to Page 12, the end of Dave Van Kavelaar's article, for more information!



It's finally here!



From 9 to 2 on Saturday, May 13, browse the beautiful wares of more than 75 vendors throughout the church building, enjoy lunch foods and goodies from the bake table, too!

FUNdraising.... FUNdraising.... FUN

If you just purchased gift cards at FUNdraising's RaiseRight sale... THANK YOU!!

If you just missed it...

you can always purchase e-cards to use right away! How does it work? Download the RaiseRight™ mobile app from the app store using your smartphone or tablet. Enter the 'Wyoming Church' enrollment code to join: 63B941BB59911

Buy gift cards and earn for Wyoming Church. Browse bonuses, search for a specific brand, shop categories, and more. When you're ready to check out, sign up for secure online payments. You can link a bank account, add a credit card, or both. The brand gives back to Wyoming Church the moment you buy a gift card - at no extra cost to you.

Get and use your gift cards. eGift cards are delivered to the app in minutes - view them in your Wallet.

Physical gift cards (note! Extra shipping fee) are delivered to your door. Many are reloadable so you keep earning with the ones you have. Use both in-store and online.

Shop the brands you love

Earn for the organization

you love



Have questions about getting started?

Call the RaiseRight

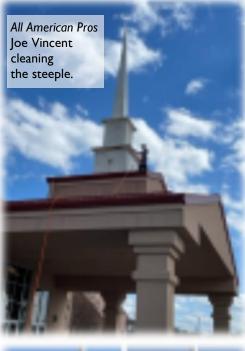
Customer Support team at

(800)727-4715 Option 3.

Or - contact Linda at linda.lyon@aol.com.

... the recent pressure-cleaning of the church exterior. Eleven years after Wyoming Church first called this beautiful building home, it still shines as the bright beacon in the community, for all to see!

www.wyomingumc.com

















National Chicken Dance Day

May 2023

on Sunday, May 14th is all about reliving fond memories of busting out the iconic Chicken Dance. Whether it was in elementary school or at an event last week, everyone has done the Chicken Dance. Did you know that the infamous dance originated in Tulsa, Oklahoma? The song was originally written in Germany in the 1950s, crafted from a Polka by musician Werner Thomas. He initially named it "Der Ententanz" or "The Duck Dance." The Duck Dance crept over to America in the late 1970s. A German band decided to play the song at the 1981 Tulsa Oktoberfest. Organizers tried to find a duck costume for the dance, but could only find a chicken costume from a local TV station. "The Duck Dance" became the chicken dance.

> Wherever you are on May 14th, turn it up loud and proud and remember:

"beak, beak, beak; wing, wing, wing; wiggle, wiggle; clap, clap, clap!"



Pecometh Story: Long Time Camper, First Time Counselor



Karissa Mann has been involved in church for as long as she can remember. When her family joined the Wyoming United Methodist Church they learned about Camp Pecometh and how the church would sponsor kids to go here, it was only natural for Karissa to attend the camp as well.

She was eleven years old when she first came to Pecometh. It was her first time away from her parents for a significant amount of time, and she was excited, but nervous. Being homeschooled in a small community meant that there weren't a lot of children her own age, so camp brought the opportunity to make new friends her age who shared a love for God.

Karissa has attended Camp Pecometh every year since that first summer.

Pecometh has helped Karissa to have grace with those around her. She says the counselors and Spiritual Life Coordinators (SLCs) have modeled how to overcome difficult situations, which has helped her in everyday life. As she finishes her high school education, her journey with Pecometh continues as she gets ready to join the summer staff this year. Karissa maintains the fact that the Pecometh community is a safe place to grow in your faith and is a community of people who truly want the best for you.

With the help of camp and her church, Karissa was able to hear her call to ministry. Pecometh provided the extra structure she needed for her to make that decision. She said talking to the SLCs helped her to hear good guidance through the lens of those already in ministry. She's always been passionate in her love for God, and is beyond excited to take the next step towards ministry.

When asked what she would tell someone who's considering ministry, she said "They should stick with it. They are as essential as a doctor or a mechanic. Serving is the highest honor, it's hard work, and it has its twists and turns, but no other profession would provide such satisfaction and pride." For Karissa, there is no greater reason than to give back to her community.

Karissa is so thankful for everything life has thrown at her. With the help of her stable support system: her family and friends, her church community, and Camp Pecometh. She knows that there's nothing she can't accomplish, and she's looking forward to a bright future.

Lucky campers from Wyoming Church... if you booked your camp by May 1, you'll receive a nice campership - courtesy of the Sexton Kitchen & Education Teams and so many individual donations - and you will now see Karissa's familiar pretty face at camp, too!

National Interpreter Appreciation Day

on the first Wednesday of May celebrates the experts who connect those who want to communicate but they don't speak the same language. They also translate for government services, businesses, hospitals, organizations, and more.

American Sign Language (ASL) Interpreting is a profession like no other. Each day and each assignment is vastly different, offering the ability to learn and see things from a new perspective. This field attracts a certain type of individual with a deep passion for communication and developing relationships. But more than that: ASL interpreters must be gracious friends and fierce allies of both the Deaf and hearing communities that welcome an interpreter into their lives.

The job of the interpreter is to:

take in the message in the primary language, probably English

store that message in short term memory

analyze the stored message for content and intended message

reproduce the message from short term memory in the target language, in this case ASL

WHILE continuing to take in the message, store the message, analyze the message reproduce the message...

Interpreters have the unique opportunity to share in a wide range of unscripted experiences. From personal

interviews to family reunions; from business meetings to parent teacher conferences, they are granted access to the lives of Deaf consumers and these relationships are the human element of interpreting that assist in bridging the cultural gap.



Jewelry

David Van Kavelaar

I was never a big fan of glittering jewelry but I don't have any negative feelings about those

folks who love the stuff. Rings, chains, armlets, and bracelets are adorned by men and women alike; everyone seems to "really dig" wearing precious stones and gold necklaces. Hollywood folks, sports celebrities, and musicians really adore these trappings.

Now, of course, there are some mind-blowing costs incurred in purchasing these items. A Rolex watch sells for sixty-five hundred dollars to seventy-five thousand dollars. Think that's a lot? The most expensive watch ever sold at auction world-wide was the Patek Philippe Grandmaster Chime which fetched about thirty -two million US dollars in Geneva in September of '21.

We saw Liberace at the Valley Forge Music Theater back in the early '80's and what an entertainer and show! (Did you know Barbara Streisand got her start in show biz as an upcoming protégé on his show?) He had a thing for furs, gold and precious stones. Jiminy Christmas, his ring had a diamond as big as a ping-pong ball. As he danced around the revolving stage with an admiring concert goer, the woman asked him "What do I have to do to get that ring?" and Liberace dead-panned "Honey, you have to do more than dance!" The place went nuts!

Let me tell you of my five "jewelry" items. Although it is not needed, I do have a watch (somewhere). Bought it for ten bucks at Walmart, don't you know! The last place it was seen by me was in the garage, or was it in my man-cave? Anyway, the thing had a stop watch (and even a beeper) I could use when running up past Fifers Orchards. I really don't need the thing because my flip phone has a time teller as long as I can keep it recharged and with me plus my truck has a clock. Clocks are everywhere along the highways also! Trash the watch.

While in Vietnam, I came across a St. Christopher's medal nailed to a wooden pillar in a bunker at LZ Ross. We were told during my eight years in Catholic school that he was the patron saint of protection. Good deal! I wore it up until I caught some shrapnel and was medevac-ed and returned home safely. Unbeknownst to me, the Catholic church removed ninety-three saints from the universal calendar and revoked their feast days in 1969 when Pope Paul VI revised the canon of saints and determined that some of the names had only ever been alive as

legends and not enough was known about them to determine their status. As for St. Christopher, he was listed as a martyr. Legend had it that he carried a child who grew increasingly heavy across a river. The child was supposed to be carrying the weight of God. But there was not enough historical evidence the man ever existed, so Pope Paul VI dropped him (St. Christopher). Also getting the axe was St. George, the dragon slayer. But my St. Christopher medal is still on my USMC dog tag chain hanging in our home office. As for the watch and medal, I don't wear them anymore.

Although those two items have "been retired", I do have three rings that never come off my hands and are the only jewelry items I wear. When my graduation approached in the spring of '93. BJ asked if I'd like the University of Delaware ring as a graduation present, a nicelooking thing indeed. But, no, I wanted a First Marine Division ring. These rings are worn with pride by thousands of United States Marines around the world. We Marines are a tight group and live by our motto "Semper Fidelis" (always faithful). The ring is a true and powerful outward symbol of military achievement that honors and celebrates the brave veteran wearing it and is a tangible means of wearing your pride. OOOO-rah!

I also have a steel ring on my right little finger. Cost? I don't know; maybe fifty cents? It is the engineer's ring and here's the story. In 1900, construction began on the Quebec Bridge, a structure over the St. Lawrence River which linked Winnipeg to Mancton on the National Trans Continental Railway in Canada. As construction neared completion, it collapsed under the weight of a locomotive loaded with steel. Seventy-five people were killed and a subsequent inquiry showed the accident was due to an error in judgement by the engineers who designed the bridge. Tragedy struck again due to the second attempt to build the bridge in 1916. The center span collapsed while being hoisted into place killing ten more people. Finally, the bridge was completed in 1917. In an effort to reduce or prevent future engineering catastrophes, the Canadians originated the Order of the Engineer in 1926.

Taking the lead from our northern neighbors, the United States began the Order of the Engineer in 1970 to foster spirit of pride and responsibility in the engineering profession, to bridge the gap between training and experience, and to present to the public a visible symbol identifying the engineer. Every year, graduating engineering students receive an iron ring at a ceremony that calls upon

engineering students to uphold the principles of professionalism and to perform their work to the best of their ability. It is believed that the engineer's ring is forged from the steel recovered from the initial bridge collapse, but that notion is unverified. It's not the cost or origin of the ring that counts, it's the symbolism the ring represents. Although retired, I still wear my engineer's ring.

And then, there's my wedding band. It has been proudly worn since June of '83 and it never comes off. Most of the guys I hung out with back in the '70's never wore wedding bands when they got married. That always puzzled me but, not surprisingly, they all were divorced in less than ten years. BJ and I had some things to deal with in our '20's and never met until we were 31. From the day we met at the '78 Delmarva Chicken Festival, we seemed to be able to easily cancel out each other's demons. Life with my wife has been a fun trip over the decades and we're hanging in there, enjoying the whole septuagenarian thing, and still learning. I like being married to my best-est friend in the whole wide world and am happy and proud to wear my wedding ring.

So, there you have it. I proudly wear three meaningful rings with sentimental values exponentially greater than their cost. Each ring represents a significant change and addition to my life experience (USMC, professional engineer, and marriage) and they each mean the world to me.

Speaking of Jewelry...

If you have any jewelry you haven't worn in years or might otherwise consider parting with broken necklaces, solitary earrings lost from their mates, silverware, etc., you can turn it into church treasure! In this ongoing FUNdraising project Wyoming Church appreciates your donations of gold, sterling, and platinum jewelry that is no longer wanted.

In just two months, March & April, FUNdraising reported proceeds of \$420! There's a box in the office for ongoing donations. 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.





Throughout the month of May, mindful of

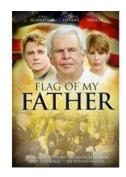


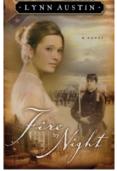
and all it stands for, check out books & DVD's around war & peace, conflicts & resolution.

Special feature movie:

"Flag of my Father"

Jealously fractures an already fragile relationship between and Army nurse and her four older half brothers when their veteran father unexpectedly.





Special feature book: "Fire by Night" by Lynn Austin

Two young women in a land shattered by war test the limits of their strength.



Big Little Lies -**Liane Moriarty**

Read this book chosen by the **WUMC Book Discussion Group** for **May...** and join them on

Wednesday, May 24 at 7 PM

for the discussion! Please call Kim with ??

2 (302) 670-1832.



COMMUNITY, PART 2

THE WYOMING MESSENGER

As I wrote in the last newsletter, what I feel I am picking up from the congregation is that there is a desire for a greater sense of community in our church. People are wanting more face to face communication, more sharing of time together, and deeper relationships here in our church.

We have heard on the news about how children in school had their socialization skills (not to mention academics) suffer because of the Covid-19 pandemic. Church congregations also suffered as we turned to online worship, studies, and meetings and saw the cancellation of many other church happenings. We are learning, that although there are some great things about being able to do things remotely through the wonders of electronic communications, we were made for having personal face-to-face interactions.

With Covid waning, we have seen the return of many of the in-person ministries here at Wyoming Church. Worship services, Sunday school, and small study groups are just a few. And now, another ministry, another fellowship activity has started back up, and that is the return of Adult Fellowship. This event started up again this March with plans to meet most months. (August will feature a special whole family event with the Puppets of Praise Team performing afterdinner.) Adult Fellowship dinners will be the last Wednesday of the month. Doors will open at 5:00 and a potluck dinner will be served between 5:30 and 6:30.

At the May Adult Fellowship events we will be discussing further what we want our time together to include. I have heard some comments for some activities to augment the dinner. So do we return to the format used previously, or do we change or add some things? Of course, the main objective will be just to use the opportunity to be in touch with others, to get to know each other better, and to share Christian love. So please consider coming on May 31 and join us in some fellowship time.



in the Family Life Center on Wednesday,



The theme will be 'Memorial Day'. Doors will open at 5, and dinner will be served from 5:30 to 6:30. Our Kitchen Sexton Team will provide drinks and Redner's chicken as an entree. Please sign up at the display in the Narthex to help us plan seating and food. Bring yourself, your favorite dish to share, and your own tableware. See you there! Mental Health Month

YOU ARE NOT ALONE

Now more than ever, we need to find ways to stay connected with our community. No one should feel alone or without the information, support and help they need.

Mental health is something everyone should care about. Mental Health Awareness Month (also referred to as "Mental Health Month") has been observed in May in the United States since 1949. The purpose of Mental Health Awareness Month is to raise awareness and educate the public about: mental illnesses, such as the 18.1% of Americans who suffer from depression, schizophrenia, and bipolar disorder; the realities of living with these conditions; and strategies for attaining mental health and wellness. It also aims to draw attention to suicide, which can be precipitated by some mental illnesses. Additionally, Mental Health Awareness Month strives to reduce the stigma (negative attitudes and misconceptions)

that surrounds mental illnesses. The month came about by presidential proclamation.

Mental Health Facts & Figures - These data points that speak to the scope of mental health:

I in 5 adults in America experiences a mental illness.

Nearly 1 in 25 (10 million) adults in America lives with a serious mental illness.

One-half of all chronic mental illness begins by the age of 14; three-quarters by the age of 24

Approximately 10.2 million adults have cooccurring mental health and addiction disorders.

How important is meeting face-to-face when it comes to networking, family ties, and love?

As the Zoom-ification of Planet Earth transformed communication while the great pandemic, COVID-19, entrenched itself in human life, one of numerous revelations took hold: There are many aspects of meeting face-to-face we missed, and some we didn't. But when is it most important to be in the same room with someone else for work, networking, family, friends, and romantic partnerships? How do we make the best use of Zoom and other digital platforms? We talk with experts, including ... psychologist Sara Algoe, at UNC Chapel Hill, to update your before-times communication habits and optimize for our new hybrid reality.

People Need People: Relationships Matter

A wealth of studies show we are hard-wired to be social to survive and thrive physically and mentally. "Relationships are so important," says Professor Algoe. She addresses the full spectrum of human connections, including new acquaintances and everyday encounters, to help us understand what goes *right* in social interactions. Well beyond pleasantries, social interactions have a bearing on life and death. ...

Social Interaction, Covid, and The Zoom-ification of America

Then came the pandemic. On the one hand, some of those who lived with others during the COVID-19 stay-at-home orders continued to flourish. ...

However, stay-at-home orders led to crippling loneliness for others. And not just in the U.S., but worldwide. Japan, for example, appointed a Minister of Loneliness in 2021. The most susceptible to loneliness are adolescents, young adults, people who live alone, and the elderly. The antidote? In large part, building positive relationships and social support, even via online connections.

Surprise! Connecting Online Can Be Good For Your Health

Not all online activity is created equal: social media

trolling, compulsive online shopping, and excessive news consumption amplified emotional distress during the pandemic. On the other hand, research ... showed that during stay-at-home order, connecting electronically via meaningful social exchanges facilitated a sense of connectedness and support. It isn't about being online vs. not. It's about being social vs. non-social.

... People of all ages participated in virtual parties, holiday family gatherings, live-streamed events, online fitness activities, FaceTime romances, digital staff meetings, and more.

What have we learned from virtual communication during the pandemic that can help us moving forward? Below are lessons that we can apply both in person and in the digital space.

Share A Laugh

One thing that we've been seeing in our data is that shared laughter actually is a really nice signal that people seem to feel more connected with the other person when they laugh about the same thing at the same time. ... Shared laughter seems to be really powerful. ...

See Eye-To-Eye

Making eye contact is really important to be able to have empathy or simulate other people's experiences ... The old training to look someone in the eye when you shake their hand - the data really does show this. It is very hard to make eye contact through Zoom. It's easy to get distracted looking at yourself instead of being present and really focused on the other person. ... During videoconferences, look at the web camera, not the screen, when possible. ...

When Face-To-Face Really Matters

Affectionate (But Appropriate!) Touch

...a pat on the arm, a high five, or a hug. ... Those little things can be signals that things are already going right.

Disclosing Sensitive or Personal Information

...The challenge is many of us don't feel comfortable being intimate on Zoom. There's a sense of, you don't know who's listening, you can't tell who may be in the room around the corner ... There are also sensitive things. Having difficult personal conversations. If somebody says they're having problems with mental health, or they've got a health issue, or someone is bullying them, ...these are not conversations that people really feel comfortable doing on video calls. ...

Meeting face-to-face is still incredibly important, but gathering virtually can also strengthen social bonds.

... There is a range of ways we communicate in the modern world, including texts, phone, videoconferencing, and in person. ... In-person communication is often ideal for close connection, given the myriad of non-verbal cues and the opportunity for greater privacy. However, in-person and digital communication need not be viewed as competitors. By being mindful of what each mode can achieve, we can employ both to broaden and deepen our personal and professional relationships.

From The John Templeton Foundation, May 2023 -

https://www.templeton.org/news/planet-zoom-how-important-is-meeting-face-to-face-when-it-comes-to-networking-family-ties-and-love?

Our People





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, Rev. Frank Sutton
05/10	Collin Ditty, Jeff Jones
05/13	Evelyn Greenwood
05/14	Aaron DeJesus
05/15	Kade Seip, Doris Wilt

	Judi Leczner
5/05	Emily DeJesus, Sherry Kijowsk
	Liz Marino, Janet Meyer
5/08	Michelle Sell, Rev. Frank Sutto
5/10	Collin Ditty, Jeff Jones
5/13	Evelyn Greenwood
5/14	Aaron DeJesus
5/15	Kade Seip, Doris Wilt
5/18	Pat Sweeney, Beth Wessell
5/21	Kevin Lighter, Dan Rigby
5/22	Debbie Killen
5/23	Melanie DeJesus, Lillian Petro

05/24	Lynne Singleton, Mandy Stant Everly Thompson
05/25	Katana Edwards-Coope
05/26	Matt Gordineer, Wini Walton
05/29	Nancy Sammons
05/31	Loretta Walls
06/01	Jack Luke, Okemah Strickland
06/03	Isabel Marlow
06/05	Peggy Ciminera, Tamryn Coleman,

Amy Spampinato

06/07 Dennis Major

Madelynn Harris, Michael Sell,

A Prayer for Renewal and Fresh Beginnings

"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland." (Isaiah 43:18-19 NIV)

Father, thank you for a fresh start today.

Thank you for the reminder of "renewal" that spring represents to us in the earth.

You "spring forth" a new thing!

I am excited and expectant of your goodness in this spring season.

Thank you, Father!

Prepare me for all the new and wonderful things you have for my life.

Help me to let go of the old things that hold me back,

the things that do not bring me life,

the things that keep me living in the past.

I will cling to my new identity in Christ!

Help me to keep "springing forward" in my journey with you!

https://www.ibelieve.com/faith/10-prayers-for-new-life-and-new-beginnings-thisspring.html







Joseph Kundler passed away on April 7, 2023



A UNITED METHODIST CONGREGATION

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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

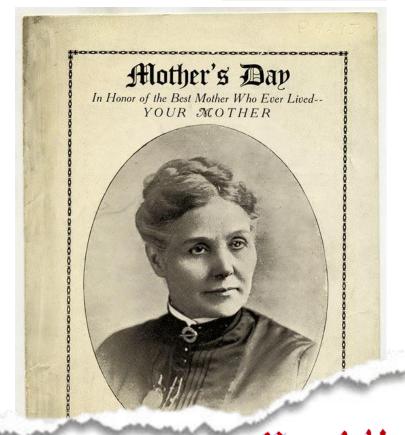
To: You!



If you recently signed up as a proof-reader to check the monthly editions of *The Wyoming Messenger* one or two days before they go to print and other publications occasionally - THANK YOU! If you're interested in doing so, let me know!

Your newsletter editor, Renate Purdy





Did you know?

Remember May 14!

2Nother's Day was established by the former Grafton resident Anna Jarvis in memory of her mother Ann Reeves Jarvis. She was inspired to establish the holiday by a speech her Mother made to her Sunday School class in which she said, "I hope and pray that someone, sometime, will found a memorial mothers day commemorating her for the matchless service she renders to humanity in every field of life. She is entitled to it."

The first celebration was held at Jarvis's church, Andrews Methodist Episcopal, in Grafton, West Virginia on May 10, 1908 and has since become a national holiday held the second Sunday of each May.