





Take action today to help end hunger tomorrow.

secondary school. By providing food to nourish lives, Rise Against Hunger is working to alleviate food insecurity in remote areas in countries around the world.

Global Food Insecurity and Hunger: The Latest Findings

Hunger refers to the physical feeling someone experiences when they don't have food, and food insecurity is when a person does not have regular access to the nutritious food needed to live a healthy life. In addition to 783 million people facing hunger, the report also states that around 2.4 billion people are food insecure, nearly 30% of the global population. And while rates of hunger have decreased in Asia and Latin America, hunger increased in Western Asia, the Caribbean and Africa in 2022.

Rise Against Hunger is committed to addressing food insecurity through nourishing lives, empowering communities and responding to emergencies.

People living in rural areas and young children are disproportionately affected by food insecurity, which is why **Rise Against Hunger** works predominantly in remote, last-mile communities. We are focused on supporting people who face challenges in accessing adequate food.

A large percentage of our meals are also distributed through school feeding programs to address children's nutritional needs, like in Madagascar where 10-year-old Ematokisoa receives daily meals at school. Ematokisoa previously did not have enough nutritious food to make it through the school day, but he has been able to continue his studies since receiving meals and is preparing to begin



This is your chance to make a difference in the lives of those suffering from food insecurity by participating in our Meal Packaging Event on Saturday, September 16th from 10:00 am to 12 noon. We will be packaging 10,000 meals and Wesley UMC will join us so we can double that amount to 20,000 meals.

The cost of the 10,000 meals is \$4,000 and donations will be much appreciated.

Envelopes for your donation are at the info station in church, or you may go to the following link to donate:

https://rah.secure.force.com/events/homepage?id=7013Z000002L3q9

We need volunteers to package the meals, and all ages are welcome. There will be jobs for everyone. It is a great time to work beside your fellow members and is a rewarding experience to know you are helping others! You may sign up as a volunteer on the sign-up sheet by the display in the Narthex or online. To God be the Glory!!

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As we're celebrating Deaf Awareness this month, join us for

DINGO & DESSERT on SEPTEMBER 10

from **3** to **5** in the Family Life Center

Turn to Page 14 for more info.



Bulletin Board

From the wonderfully busy hands of *Knitting to Nurture* - deliveries last month:

Three lap blankets and one large prayer shawl to the *Veterans' Home* in Milford. Six prayer shawls to *Complete Care at Silver Lake* in Dover. Both organizations are very appreciative of our gifts.

Later this month, the Outreach Team will donate

23 hats - 5 baby blankets - 18 baby hooded blankets - 7 baby sweater/hat sets - 2 adorable octopus - all to the *New Day Pregnancy Center* on Governors Avenue.

Thank you to all you members of the *Knitting to Nurture* for your donations. WOW!! great work!!



Do babies just make you smile? Let's "shower" them with love!

Our Baby Shower collection for the New Day Pregnancy Care Center continues till September 10! Look for the playpen in the narthex and just add your donation.

Most needed items;
Bottles, newborn diapers, diapers size 5
and 6, wipes, potty seats, diaper cream,
baby wash, bathtubs, the Jesus storybook Bible, board books, teethers, and
new newborn clothes!

With Appreciation from the Outreach Team.





Thanks to all of you who keep bringing in Redner's Receipts, Redner's Rewards checks in amounts around \$100 have been coming in for many, many months, and we appreciate everyone helping with this easy fundraiser!

For the receipts we submit, Wyoming Church receives 1% of the amount you shopped 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. Important: You MUST use your Redners Rewards card, and the receipt turned in MUST have the section showing 'Today's Save a Tape 1% Total'.



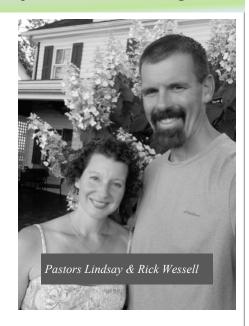
From the Pastors' Desk

A few weeks ago, I (PR) preached about the need for a spiritual reset in our lives, and how September affords us the perfect opportunity to do that. If your Bible reading has particularly slipped over the summer, I'd suggest jumping into the Book of Psalms this month. I have found that people have a love/hate relationship with the Psalms. Many people list Psalms as their favorite book of the Bible; they identify with the shepherd of Psalm 23, they cling to the path laid out by the Lord in Psalm 103, and they love the power and imagery of the book on the whole. Others find the Psalms trite and even silly. The Psalms are, after all, poems, and if you hated studying poetry back in your high school English class, then you might not altogether enjoy the Psalms now.

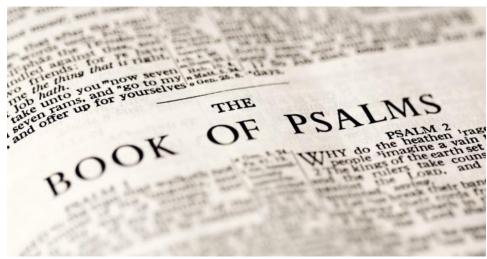
While Psalms is not necessarily my favorite book of the Bible, I do believe it is one of the most powerful and useful books that we can study. Why is that? First, the Psalms teach us a great deal about prayer and faith. The psalmists show us how to rejoice in the Lord when life is going great, how to cry out to God in times of crisis or trouble, how to celebrate God's goodness and mercy, and even how to be brutally honest and let

the Lord know that we are upset with Him and are begging for answers. Read the Psalms for a few weeks and see if your prayer life isn't radically changed.

Second, the Psalms are songs, and because of that they have been used for centuries to teach us the truths of the faith. How often have you been in the car and you hear a song and then you find yourself still singing it hours later? That's how our ancestors in the faith utilized these songs. They could be memorized and sung at home while you were making dinner or playing with the kids, or while you were on the road traveling, or while you were at work. Psalms show us the power of faith in action and the difference that God's truth makes in our lives.



As September begins, try reading through the Psalms. These ancient words will come alive and transform your life.





Are you missing someone in worship? Let them know you are thinking about them. Send them an email, write a note or give them a call. As a member of a family of faith let them know we care about them and hope to welcome them back for in-person worship.



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

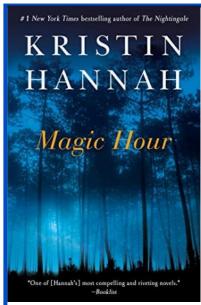


Nice selection of autumn-themed puzzles (think: pumpkins, cats, changing colors of leaves... all different sizes and degrees of difficulty. Take your pick!

Check out the Oldest Books in the Library ...

... a devotional book dated 1898. This is the only book that belonged to Miss Fanny Marvel, former Sunday School teacher after whom the church library was named.

... and a 1917 Christmas book.



Magic Hour by Kristin Hannah.

Read this book chosen by the

WUMC Book Discussion Group

for September... and join them

on Wednesday, September 27

at 7 PM for the discussion!

Please call Kim with any

questions. \$\mathbb{\alpha}\$ (302) 670-1832.



donated **school supplies** this year. Thanks to your generosity, each school district will get a bag of 33 back packs and 3 boxes of school supplies to outfit children who needed our help to do their work this year!!!



It doesn't really show in this photo ... but many hours of sorting and packing went into these boxes and bags before they were delivered to the school districts - a big Thank You to Carol Abbott (Outreach Team) who was again instrumental in making it all happen!

ASL American Sign Language...

SIGN LANGUAGE CLASS

...taught by Gail Garner, in-person and online:

Beginner's ASL

Monday...3 - 4 pm in Rooms 223/225

Conversational ASL Sign Language class for beginners. The fee for classes is \$2 per session, pay as you attend. Participants must be 14 years and older.

Advanced ASL

Monday... 6 - 7:30 pm on ZOOM

Intermediate ASL

Wednesday... 3 - 4 pm on ZOOM

Beginner's ASL

Wednesday... 4:30 - 5:30 pm on ZOOM

Email ggarner58@hotmail.com for your invitation to join!

Our Fall Sunday School session for kids ages 3 to 5th grade will begin on September 10th during the 9 AM worship service.

After the Children's message the kids will join together in the Choir Room (#230) for *Kids Praise* followed by our lesson (video).

Classes will then divide into 3 groups - *Pre K, K + Grade I

*Grades 2 & 3 *Grades 4 & 5.

The nursery is open for all during the 9 AM worship service.

As our program continues to grow, please prayerfully consider joining our Sunday School team by volunteering

one Sunday a month as a teacher or helper. Lesson plans provided for about 25 minutes of individual class time.

To volunteer as a teacher or helper, or if you have questions or concerns please contact Sunday School Coordinator Betsy Freidel at bfreidel1@yahoo.com or mailto:bfreidel1@yahoo.com or mailto:assatz (302) 535-3983.

Pastor Rick leads the study "One Book: Ephesians" on

Tuesdays at 10 AM starting September 5th. Books cost \$15.

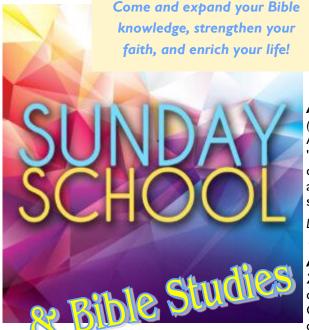
To register, please email therevfdw@gmail.com.

Pastor Lindsay is teaching "The Epic of Eden: Isaiah"

on Thursdays at 6:30 PM starting September 7th. Books cost \$15.

To register, please email pastorlindsay@gmail.com.

Note: We will be offering the same studies again in the spring, so you do not need to try and do both this fall:-)



Adult Sunday School
classes will resume on
September 10 (first Sunday
after Labor Day) -

from 10 AM to 10:55 AM

Adult I - meeting in Room 209 (by the north entrance) will resume with Adam Hamilton's exploration of "Luke: Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts, and Outlaws", Session Four. All adults are invited to join this video/study/discussion class.

Leader: Dan Mikkelson ☎ (302) 670-5761 dan@mikkelson.info

Adult 2 - meeting in Room 223+225 (in the north wing) will continue the streaming TV series 'The Chosen' to delve into the stories and context of the people and events of

the gospels and exploring what it means to "be chosen." All are welcome!

Leader: Jack Freidel 2 (302) 535-3981 jfreidel (@yahoo.com.

Mark your calendars for Sunday, September 17!

Come to a combined worship service at IOAM - with Sunday School classes for children only, and stay for our annual church picnic! Meats and beverages provided, sign up in the narthex with your favorite side dish to share. We will have an inflatable obstacle course for the kids, too!



Sing high, sing low – We want to encourage you to Sing out loud with Joy and Praise!

Come join us as a member of the Chancel Choir for the 11 AM service. Rehearsals resume September 7 and are held on Thursday night at 7:30 in the Choir Room.

For a host of other opportunities to get involved @ Wyoming Church, see Lay Leader Jack Freidel's contribution "A New Year" on Page 9!



THE WYOMING MESSENGER

The annual Indoor Yard Sale

was a huge success thanks to the generosity of our members and friends. We had a steady crowd throughout the day buying items from our sale and the many vendors in our FLC on the day of the annual Peach Festival. Those who rented tables were very pleased with the event.

We are excited to share that our team raised \$3366 in sales, \$925 for table rentals, and about \$850 in food

Thanks to Margaret Bryan and her team* for organizing, pricing, and cashing people out.

Thanks to Kim Reed and her team* for providing food and refreshments, and Lee Sumpter for spearheading the table rentals. Thank you to all who came out to volunteer or purchase items.

Our team would also like to thank Renate Purdy and Sue Lighter in the office for all the pre-sale arrangements and advertising.

Finally, a special thanks to Bob Cousens and his team for set-up and clean-up.

> Linda Lyon **FUNdraising Team Chair**

* Carol Abbott - Rick and Owen Beaman - Betty Brown - Terry Bryan -Beverly Cannon - Wayne & Joan Davis - Rhonda Davis - Karen DeBloois -Dan & Kathy Deckard - Lynn & Mary Dawn Ditty - Bonnie Eastwick -Tracey Fennemore - Warren & Judy Field - Betsy Freidel - Betty Harvath -Ruth Leister - Theresa McGee - Dennis Major - Chris Mikkleson - Nikole Moore - Gary & Melissa, Hannah and Brock Nelson - Barbara Pettyjohn -Walt & Gloria Ramstedt - Mark Reed - Thomas Roche' - Michelle Sell -Vicki Ward - Debbie Whitmore

(if YOU helped in any capacity and don't see your name listed here, we apologize and want you to know how much we appreciated your participation!)





www.wyomingumc.com



September 2023

Every 3rd Saturday, Wyoming Church volunteers work with

folks at Wesley UMC downtown Dover to serve a FREE Lunch to the local community.

Next on September 16, 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 ikb0022@aol.com.

Monthly FINANCIAL REPORT July, 2023

Larry Towle, Finance Team Chair

Weekly Offerings Facilities and Other **Total Income**

2023 Offering 2023 Expense 330,984.24 22,909.09 353,893.33 384,244.21





your HEART will be also.

Wyoming Methodist Church will be going forward with several large maintenance projects over the course of this year:

- * Installing ADA compliant electronic bathroom doors has been completed.
- * New flooring in the Narthex has been completed.
- * Repairs to the roof (\$25,750) are in progress. These will be paid out of our regular operating fund.

We appreciate the continued support of our members that makes this possible!

Also for members who wish to support the construction of the pavilion, please designate any special gifts as such.

What is FER?

Family Emergency Relief funds.

Funds are regularly collected in the "FER" bucket at the back of the church on the last Sunday of the month.

Extraordinary donations, marked "FER" on your check or cash envelope, are welcome anytime!

How are these funds used?

The church gets requests to help people with utilities or rent when they get behind. Mainly, we help those who get behind due to illness, job loss, etc. Often, we join with other area churches who each help as they can.

A recent request was a mother with 3 children who couldn't work during her cancer treatments. She got way behind on her rent and was very close to eviction. Four churches joined forces to help her continue payments and remain in her home. The individual situations are always verified (check with the State Service Center, landlords, utility companies, etc.). While the young mother of our case now has a job, she would have never been able to pay the past due rent with her wages. Crisis avoided in the name of Jesus who sends those in need our way!

Plastic Collection

We are starting a new effort to earn another bench from Trex!

(See the one we earned with our previous plastic collection in the narthex.) Please, bring your plastic to the 3 bins at church - in the narthex, family life center, and the north hallway outside the office. It will be much appreciated if you drop your plastic in a large, tightly compressed plastic bag; our volunteers emptying the bins and taking the contents to the collecting point thank you!

Needed:



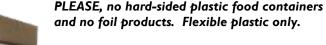
FLEXIBLE PLASTIC, clean and dry

Examples:

Pallet wrap and stretch film Produce and grocery bags Bread bags

Case overwrap plastic Clean, dry baggies

Bubble wrap Plastic shipping envelopes



Together, we will get another bench! Think of all the plastic we are keeping out of the landfills and reusing! A perfect conservation effort!

Watch this brief video explaining the program. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZDNFXtMu6M0









from 10 AM to 12 noon.

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:

NEXT

canned beans (black, kidney, navy, refried) - dried beans - dry rice - cereal - quick oats - Consider Extras like: peanut butter & jelly - canned vegetables - assorted pasta & sauce - mac'n cheese boxes - soup - hamburger helper - manwich - chef boyardee canned pasta - boxed milk - flour - baby food (distant future date) butter/margarine - oil - salt & pepper - sugar

coffee (can or Keurig), tea toilet paper & paper towels



Of course, we all know that

AT WYOMING CHURCH, WE RECYCLE!

Two multi-stream recycling containers are in the church building - one in the north wing and one in the family life center, and one big recycling dumpster is in the south parking lot, clearly designated for RECYCLING ONLY.

As our custodial staff has to regularly pick garbage out of the recycling containers and the recycling dumpster outside, and as DNREC (Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control) officials keep remind ing us in random spot checks -

we want to ask everyone again:

Support your church in this commendable effort of recycling!

Help your environment stay clean, neat and natural for the next generations!

Mindfully dispose of your garbage and recyclable trash in the right containers.

And, better yet, wherever possible, use reusable dishes, containers, and bags!

Click here to read all about Recycling in Delaware https://dnrec.alpha.delaware.gov/waste-hazardous/recycling/

or pick up the DNREC Recycling Pamphlet at either recycling container in church.





A New Year

Jack Freidel

The official new year begins on January 1st as we all know. However, for many, another new year begins in September of each year. For example, September is the start of the new school year, the beginning of the regular season for professional football, and often includes the start of the Jewish new year.

Here at the church, September is in some ways also the start of a new year. Our children move up to their new Sunday school class. Youth group ramps up again. Adult Bible studies start anew.

As this "new year" at the church kicks off, I encourage everyone to consider getting involved in a small group here at the church and enjoy the benefits that come from being involved in such a group. These benefits include the friendships that may develop, the support that the group may offer in difficult times, the opportunity to serve in a ministry of the church, and of course the chance to deepen your understanding of and faith in our Lord and Savior, Jesus

A list of small groups include (and I apologize to any group that I leave out):

- Children's Sunday School classes every Sunday during the 9:00 service
- Two adult Sunday School classes at 10:00 on Sunday mornings
- Youth Group on Sunday evenings
- ◆ ASL classes on Monday both in person (3:00) and online (6:00)
- BYO Bible Study on Monday evenings at 7:00

- Pastor Rick's Bible study on Tuesday mornings
- Pearls on Pages online study on Tuesday mornings at 11:00
- Ladies' Bible Study on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month
- Adult Fellowship on the last Wednesday of each month at 5:30
- Book Discussion Group on the 4th Wednesday of the month
- Puppets of Praise at 5:00 on Thursdays
- Pastor Lindsay's Bible study on Thursday evenings at 6:30
- ♦ Bell Choir at 6:30 on Thursdays
- ♦ Chancel Choir at 7:30 on Thursdays
- Friday morning prayer group at 9:00
- Prayer Breakfast Tre Sorelle
 Dolce on the last Saturday
 at 7:30

As you can see, Wyoming Church offers a large number and variety of groups. I hope you can find one that appeals to you and fits into your schedule as we strive to grow together in promoting God's Kingdom in ourselves, our church, and our community.



Reflections

Reflections

Wait

Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand." John 13:7

One of the more challenging lessons we face in life is learning how to wait. There is probably a clever riddle that captures this quest in our human development, something like... what do most parents try to teach their children that they themselves struggle to achieve? That's not half bad! In fact, the mere concept of waiting is quite the paradox if we look at it closely. For to wait gives the impression of idleness, anticipation, and inaction. Yet, in truth, the word "wait" is a verb; it's an action word grammatically. So, to wait, to be visibly inactive, is in fact an action. That sounds confusing, doesn't it? And maybe it is difficult to understand given the expectations of the world around us and how reactive we can be in our innate humanness, but hopefully through the lens of our faith, we can begin to see the waiting experience with more clarity.

But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently. Romans 8:25

It is this Scripture and others like it that leave many of us tied up in knots. This sentiment is so dramatically opposed to, dare I say it... the American way of life. What we want, we go after. In fact, if you don't operate in this

fashion, you are often looked down upon, considered lazy or uncaring, while the "go-getters" are lifted up as models to emulate 'successes"

and their broadcast to the populace to

inspire and motivate. So what's the problem, you might be wondering?

Well... where does God fit in? What role does

God play when it comes to waiting in life, or more specifically, does God even have such a role for you and me?

Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails. Proverbs 19: 21

Whether it's our nationality or our mere humanness, it seems universal that we like our own ideas, our own plans, and don't see why things shouldn't proceed accordingly. Much time can elapse in the counseling office where the client rehashes an episode in their life that

Danny Cooper

Coordinator/Counselor @ Daybreak Counseling Services

> didn't turn out the way they planned or anticipated, and the retelling of the story, sometimes over and over again, is the painful process of realizing that not all of life is going to play out the way we would like or expect. It can be a harsh reminder of what we all know intellectually and spiritually, which is that there is one God above us all, and it's not you or me. Meaning, as the Scripture above reminds us, we might set out a plan and put steps together for its realization, but it is ultimately God's purpose that will prevail. It is God who sees beyond what you or I could possibly visualize or imagine. And so there are times that we must slow down or wait while in the midst of "our" plans, making sure that it is God leading the way, ultimately steering the course on our behalf, and not me or you pushing our way along, trying to force our will on the world around us. Bulldozing a path in life doesn't leave a lot of room for God's companionship and guidance.

The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still. Exodus 14:14

If we take a look at the book of Exodus, we can see a vivid picture of what a true relationship with God looks like, and one that, for our purpose, involves a great deal of waiting. From the onset of the Old Testament story, the Israelites waited more than 400 years as slaves to be freed from captivity. Once Moses arrived as God's appointed agent of freedom and performed, under God's instruction, numerous signs and wonders before Pharaoh, his heart remained hardened and the

God's faithful servant, under His direction, was just the right tool for the job. God's mightiness is so much more evident when demonstrated through simple instruments. That was the case in Moses' time, and that's still the case today.

While there are many dramatic moments scattered throughout the Exodus story before the remnant of the Israelites finally cross into the Promised Land, let's look at the scene which relates to the Scripture reference above. If you can picture the situation, the Israelites anxiously and speedily packed up their scant belongings, as well as the bountiful extras given them by their Egyptian neighbors, and began their long awaited journey from bondage to freedom. It's important for us to remember that the Israelites just witnessed events leading up to their departure that go far beyond anything they had ever experienced or could have imagined. This awe-struck mass of people had no true concept of what it was to be free, and yet here they were, leaving their bonds behind, the whips and chains that symbolized their powerless position, all they've ever known and were certain of, and now they were following their newly found leader who merely carried a staff and beckoned them to follow. What a shocking, unbelievable spot to be in. And then they came face to face with the Red Sea!

Being in the desert and on the move was one thing, mobile for the first time in life, but now they were facing this enormous barrier of water. I'm sure someone (many) in the masses said the obvious. "Now what?" I could certainly imagine myself asking that question. When you read the book of Exodus, you hear words like "grumbling" and "complaining" at various points in the text. It's not hard to see why. Slavery was terrible, yes. But wandering in the desert. without steady this

provision. and now wait ubon waiting continued. You see, it wasn't a

magic wand that God gave to Moses to use in the presence of Pharaoh, but a staff. This vasn't going to be a quick wave and the gates of Egypt fly open and the journey to the Promised Land begins. No, even though freedom was coming, the Almighty was demonstrating his power incrementally, and not because of the obstinate Egyptian leader, but in actuality, for the children of Israel, who were just beginning to understand the power of the God who had set them free and who was leading them to a new home. Waiting has the power to build trust and it was trust that needed to grow, not just a quick exit from a

bad situation. And so, a simple staff used by

incredible obstacle of the sea... what next? And in rather dramatic fashion, next was coming. From behind, and moving up fast, was Pharaoh and his army! Could this get any worse for the Israelites? And after conferring with God, which Moses consistently did, it was the excerpt above which Moses shared with this scared, lost, weary people who didn't know which way to turn. The message, in essence, was to be still and wait; to let God make a way, for he is fighting on your behalf. And as we know from the story, God does just that. He somehow carved out a path through what was a seemingly impossible obstacle. God performed the unimaginable, because with God,

nothing is out of the question; all is possible with our God. We're not the Israelites, of course, yet we are God's children and we certainly live in a challenging, imperfect world as they did. Has God ever forged a path for you through a sea of difficulty where there seemed nowhere to turn and no way in sight? It was probably not as grand as the Red Sea, but it was likely life altering; a clear demonstration of not only God's supernatural power, but his steadfast and perfect love. We are that important. He loves us that much. Our lives are a gift from God, and we have been given the responsibility to care for the gift. This is what stewardship is all about. But like with Moses, God wants a relationship with us as we journey along; to communicate with us, to guide us, and most certainly, to fight for us when we face the challenges that come our way; when our plans or expectations have hit a wall, like the Red Sea was during the exodus, and we aren't sure which way to turn. Waiting on God to fight for us, to direct our path, and to open a way where there is no way to be seen, is to trust in God above all; trusting him with our life and future. It's not a fun place to be when we feel stuck and without a clear path to follow, but let us in these times look and listen more closely for the working of God on our

THE WYOMING MESSENGER

behalf... to have the eyes to see and the ears to hear. We may be waiting, but God is lovingly and actively working on our behalf, making a way for us to continue our journey, with him, to the next steps in life. It may not be as incredible as crossing through the Red Sea, but traveling the roads of life with God is meant to be an adventure, and we can rely on him to be with us every step of the way.

Page 11

May our future moments of waiting become the opportunities we've been given to trust more fully in the care and guidance of the One who will always love us the most. How wonderful it is to be loved so much... Amen

Pastor Rick's Youth Mission Team update from Dinwiddie, Virginia

"Today [June 30, 2023] is our last work day in VA. We've had an amazing week of serving this community. Last night we shared in a time of worship and prayer where we literally knelt at the foot of the cross and gave ourselves to Jesus. It's been a powerful time of fun, fellowship, and spiritual renewal. Y'all should be so proud of these youth. Here's a few pics from dinner the other night where we



Seven

David Van Kavelaar

I am not a believer in numerology or horoscopes but occasionally check out the daily Gemini offering appropriately found on the funnies page of the newspaper. BJ likes my Gemini status because she's getting two for the price of one! In numerology, I am supposedly ruled by the number 8. Boy did they get that wrong because, in reality, I'm ruled by the number 1, my wife. My wife. always says that, in a marriage, one person is always right and the other person is the husband. Yuk, yuk. We get along just fine, thank you! But I do have a favorite number, 7. As a kid of eight years old I adopted the number 7 as my favorite number thanks to that (now) retired number worn on the back of the Yankee center fielder, the incomparable Mickey Mantle back in '55. All through my organized ball playing years, everyone knew that my jersey had to be that of my idol. Like Mickey I even learned to switch-hit, that is, bat from the left and right side of the plate.

But first, I was and am not a serious gambler. We worked too hard for the money we earned and couldn't justify gambling it away. Once every ten years or so, we'd eat at Dover Downs and, on the way out, I'd just have to put that twenty-dollar bill in the slot machine. Five minutes later, I'm fuming as we slink out the door minus my twenty spot. Happens every time!

Numerologists claim the number 7 has an intellectual, spiritual, and creative energy. For example, the number 7 as a symbol is knowledge and urges people to search for answers to life's spiritual questions. Additionally, the number 7 has creative energy because of its association with the Biblical story of creation. Spiritually, the number 7 means that although 7's are very much in tune with the spiritual realm, they'll face some setbacks on their quest for a spiritual enlightenment. More of this line later.

We see the word seven used as a descriptive numeration of, for example, the Seven Wonders of the World, the seven deadly sins, the seven continents, seven card stud, seven days in a week, Seagram 7, seven dwarfs, seven swans a-swimming, the Seven Seas, seven sacraments, The Magnificent Seven, and that thrilling cinematic 1958 blockbuster (tongue in cheek), The Seventh Voyage of Sinbad. But let me tell you how 7 surfaced in one way or another in my most meaningful days.

Depending how I looked at my life's unfolding, 7 always seemed to surface in one way or the other. In March of '69, I stood on

line at the enlistment center at 1401 Broad Street in Philadelphia. With forty other USMC recruits I didn't know, we raised our hands and recited the oath of enlistment. "I, David Van Kavelaar, do so solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I will obey the orders of the President of the United States and the orders of the officers appointed over me, according to regulations and the Military Code of Military Justice, so help me God." The magnitude of this event would put us on the path to the combat zone in Vietnam. No time for second thoughts now. I sat and studied my service number on my orders, 2552927, USMC. Hmm, 2+5, 5+2, 9-2, 7, sevens all the way around. It strangely felt comforting. Later that day, we boarded a bus that brought us to the train station where our journey to the Parris Island Marine Corps Recruit Depot would begin.

Later in my seventh month of service, September of '69, we boarded a chartered jet airliner at Camp Pendleton, CA, and left the states to proceed to Vietnam, a senior trip for many young Marines. We landed in Okinawa where the plane was refueled and we filled out our last will and testament. We eventually got to Da Nang, Vietnam, on September 2 (9-2) and were assigned to a unit. I was assigned to Echo Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment. So, "E" is the fifth letter of the alphabet, numerically I was in 5-2-7. Again, some (false) sense of security embraced me. I was WIA (wounded in action) seven months later on, do you believe it, April 3, 1970, 4-3-70.

So why is the number 7 so special? Again in numerology, the number 7 represents the 7 heavens in Muslim and Judean beliefs. The 7 heavens are the 7 individual levels of heaven that correspond with the 7 classical planets. The 7 classical planets were those easily seen with the naked eye and were thus known to ancient astrologers to be the Moon, Mercury, Venus, the Sun, Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn. Secondly, the number 7 is special because there are 7 notes in a scale which are the first 7 letters of the alphabet, A, B, C, D, E, F, and G. Thirdly, there are 7 prime colors in Isaac Newton's color sequence, red, yellow, orange, green, blue, indigo, and violet. Fourthly, the number 7 is special throughout many religions and cultures. For example, in Islam, babies are named 7 days after their birth. In Christianity, God created the universe in 7 days.

Biblically, the significance of the number 7 relates to the creation week in Genesis 1. God spent six days creating the heavens and the

earth and rested on day 7. In Revelations 1-3, 7 stars are referenced four times. Also, 7 lampstands, 7 spirits, and 7 historical churches in Asia Minor are mentioned. In all, if you include "sevenfold" and "seventh", 7 is referenced 860 times in the Bible.

Some mathematicians and scientists believe that there are specific properties of the number 7 that make it appealing to people. Alex Bellos, a mathematician, set out to find the world's favorite number in a massive public vote on his web site and 7 was the winner. Says Bellos, "7 is the only number among those we can count on our hands (1-10) that cannot be divided or multiplied within the group. One, two, three, four, and five can be doubled to two, four, six, eight, and ten. Nine is divisible by three. Seven, then, is the only number between two and ten that is neither a multiple nor a factor of the others. In this way, lucky number 7 stands alone-and we grasp this implicitly." I think this guy had too much time on his hands.

Once again, 7 is my favorite number, and this is solely due to a pro-baseball uniform number and not embraced as a lucky number, but an extremely interesting one. Getting back to my relationship with 7, four of my most notable days occurred in the month of June of various years. BJ and I met at the Delmarva Chicken Festival on June 3 in 1978 and were married exactly five years later on June 3. 1983. On June 10. 1961 the day before I graduated from St. Helena's Catholic School, my father passed away. This baby-boomer was born on June 17, 1947, and my mom left this world on June 24, 1989. So those days of June, 3-10-17-24 as you can see, are in 7-day increments, how peculiar. In keeping with significant occurrences in my life, the day of my heart valve replacement was on May 2, 2014 (5-2-14). Yikes!

So to me, numerology and astrology are mildly entertaining but I'm not planning my life around some comic page word salad. But it seems that, and I know it is coincidental, that 7 surfaces in different ways all through my journey. But I'll stick to the Ten Commandments, thanks.

In closing, some tasteless humor. One guy realized that the word "seven" has "even" in it. That's odd.

7 DelDOT construction men are working in a trench... that's the joke. Anyway, those 7 trench workers are being laid off because the State has found shovels that can stand up by themselves.

Uh-oh, gotta' go. Bye bye to 7!

Speaking of corny jokes...

...let us pray:

"Lord, give me a sense of humor and give me the grace to see a joke to get some humor out of life!"

DO YOU KNOW YOUR HYMNS?

The Dentist's Hymn Crown Him with Many Crowns

The Weatherman's Hymn There Shall be Showers of Blessings

The Contractor's Hymn The Church's One Foundation

The Tailor's Hymn Holy, Holy, Holy

The Golfer's Hymn There is a Green Hill Far Away

The Politician's Hymn Standing On the Promises

The Optometrist's Hymn Open My Eyes That I May See

The IRS Agent's Hymn I Surrender All

The Gossip's Hymn Pass it On

The Shopper's Hymn Sweet Bye and Bye

The Realtor's Hymn I've Got a Mansion Just Over the Hilltop

The Massage Therapists Hymn He Touched Me

The Doctor's Hymn The Great Physician

And for those who speed on the highway...

45mph God Will Take Care of You **65mph** Nearer My God To Thee

85mph This World is Not My Home

95mhp Lord, I am Coming Home

100mph Precious Memories



"It's important that the music flows with the same theme as the sermon... Know any popular hymns about eternal damnation?"

The door is always open... youth, young adults, take time for a game or just a rest? ... in the WUMC Youth Room #221 in the North Wing.

Special thanks to Sharon Duncan for revamping the looks of it over recent weeks, and thanks to Elizabeth, Carlton





Deaf people are a highly diverse population with a wide range of communication preferences, cultural and ethnic backgrounds, and additional disabilities that shape their interactions with their environment. It is important to recognize that for many deaf individuals, "identity" is fluid and can change over time. Some experiences are shared by all members of this diverse community but there is also value in honoring differences such as communication preferences. This section is dedicated to understanding more about the diversity within the deaf community and working with individuals to create accessible environments.

Defining Deaf

What do we mean when we say "deaf"? The term deaf is an all-inclusive label, to include people who may identify as Deaf, Deafblind, Deaf-disabled, hard of hearing, or late-deafened. For many individuals, identity is fluid and can change over time or with setting. The use of one term, Deaf, meets the goal of recognizing experiences that are shared by all members of diverse communities while also honoring differences.

I've always wondered: How do I get a Deaf person's attention?

The number one rule is don't throw something at the person who is Deaf. Not a shoe, not a pencil, not a coin, not a piece of crumbled paper, etc. Don't throw anything at them; it's usually considered to be insulting. The four most common strategies are to:

Lightly tap the person on the shoulder. Remember, you are not a woodpecker tapping into a tree; just a tap or two is plenty.

Wave your hand to catch the person's attention. Unless you are across the room or in a huge setting, a small wave is enough.

If you are not standing on a cement slab floor, you can try stomping on the floor. The person who is Deaf can feel the vibrations through the floor. This will also work when seated at a counter or table. Knocking on the surface will create vibrations that the person who is Deaf will be able to feel.

Flash the lights in the room on and off, not like a strobe light, but ones or twice should suffice in getting someone's attention.

Can Deaf people read lips?

Yes, but it depends on the person. Those who are more fluent in English tend to read lips well. Most people who are Deaf can read lips at least a little. It's not easy, but with a lot of time and practice, they can improve. Some people may not be able to catch every word that's spoken and may miss parts, especially in busy or crowded situations with a lot of people talking at the same time. They may not be sure what is being said. Many hearing people read lips, too.

How do Deaf people listen to music?

Many people who are Deaf LOVE music! They may have the volume turned up so they can feel the bass. Those that wear hearing aids or cochlear implants may be

able to understand lyrics for the most part. Many, however, prefer to feel and see the beat: the drums and bass working together, the keys of the piano, the strum of the guitar. They may feel more in tune with the music than the lyrics. Sometimes the lyrics are not as good as the music anyway!

Many people who are Deaf can feel the beat of the music, providing a greater connection.

Can Deaf people talk?

Some people who are Deaf can speak and some don't. It is going to depend upon the person's lifestyle. Some people who are Deaf don't really have vocal capability but will try their best to speak. Others may have some residual hearing. They may be hard of hearing and may be able to speak.

Others who are late-deafened learned to speak when they could hear and can continue to speak, although their speech may become a little less clear over time. Then there are those with even more residual hearing who may speak well and use speech reading to follow along in a conversation.

What is the Deaf Ministry at Wyoming Church doing?

The Deaf Ministry at Wyoming UMC helps to expand the welcoming nature of the WUMC family. We provide access to weekly worship services, social events, and Bible Study.

Members who are Deaf or hard of hearing have access to events like the Puppets of Praise, the once-a-month Worship Breakfast, Bible Study sessions, adult socials, and so much more.

Wyoming Church sponsors several Conversation ASL groups, in person and online via ZOOM.

We also sponsor a twice-a-year DINGO & Dessert. This is an opportunity for everyone (ages 8 and up) to gather and learn a card game favored by the Deaf community. It provides a safe opportunity to meet and interact with some of our neighbors and friends who are Deaf while learning something new.



DINGO & DESSERT



Sunday, September 10th

3:00 pm — 5:00 pm Wyoming United Methodist Church FLC 216 Wyoming Mill Dover, DE

Bring a dessert or snack to share

Learn to play a favorite card game in the Deaf Community No competition, no charge, lots of fun and friends.

DINGO is a great family game for players **aged 8 and older**.

Sponsored by the WUMC Deaf Ministry and Committee on Diversity



This could be said for our amazing quilters, too!

- Maya Angelou



Do you have a chili recipe that is beyond compare? Is your cornbread recipe everyone's favorite?

Now is your chance to find out for sure. The Committee on Diversity, in celebration of National Chili Month, will be hosting Wyoming's First, Annual Chili and Cornbread Cookoff. This event will take place on

Sunday, October 22nd from 3 to 5 PM.

Dust off your recipe and gather your ingredients! You can compete individually or as a team in one or both areas. Fill out the registration form and get ready to compete!

Have you always wanted to be a judge on one of those food competitions?

Now is your chance! Sunday, October 22nd, the Committee on Diversity, in celebration of National Chili Month, will be hosting Wyoming's First, Annual Chili and Cornbread Cookoff. But we don't just want a panel of 4 or 5 judges to have all the fun!

For just \$5 per person, it is a fund raiser after all, you will get to taste and judge all the Chili and Cornbread. Let your vote count!

Wyoming United Methodist Church - Committee on Diversity presents:

First Annual Chili & Cornbread Cookoff

Competing	☐ Individually ☐ as a Team		
Main Contact:			
Phone:	Email:		
Competing in: ☐ Chili (\$10.00) ☐ Cornbread (\$10.00) ☐ Both (\$15.00) Chili Categories: Cornbread Categories:			
☐ Spiciest☐ Meatiest☐ Best Vegg	☐ Best Sweet ☐ Best Savory		
_	nter more than one area of competition, each additional area after ill be \$5 more. Registration and payment must be received by		

Registration may be returned to the church office or to Gail Garner. More information available upon registration.

October 5th, make checks payable to WUMC with "Diversity" in the Memo line.

Safe Secure Sanctuary (S3) Continually Refined!

The S3 Program at our Wyoming Church continues to grow in the numbers of church-related activities and the number of folks that it supports. A prime example is the recent Vacation Bible School held earlier this summer. All five VBS days (Monday-Friday), as well as the Friday evening closing, had 22 Monitor and Steward available opportunities for service.

I am pleased to say that through the good efforts of Ed Krieger, Laura Martin, Mike McDevitt, Charles Wilt and myself, we were well covered with responsible volunteers for this event.

Should you feel led to consider how you might share your talents and graces in our Church's Safe Secure Sanctuary Program on a once-a-month Sunday (your choice) from now through December please contact Terry (info at bottom of page). You will find that you 'll be associated with an excellent, dedicated group of fellow Christians.

Elevated Temperatures And Humidity Pose A Challenge To The Church's Turf!

The last several weeks of extreme temperatures and high humidity levels have placed some unseasonably stressful demands on our church's 9.2 acres of professionally cared for turf and mowed meadow. Our professional landscaper is using his multi-year talents to keep our turf and mowed acreage in excellent condition and appearance.

Several of the trees at the North Entrance had some of their lower whorl branches removed so as to allow access for proper lawn care. As some of our other tree plantings have added excellent growth mass, their increase in size provides inviting opportunities for insect nests. In fact, one of our evergreen specimens hosted a large paper wasp nest that had to be removed very carefully so as to not 'upset and or otherwise unduly excite' the occupants. The fig and burning bush bed at the south end of out Church's complex is due for pruning, weeding, new soaker hose and mulching in the next few weeks by a volunteer.

All of these on-going activities are designed to create an excellent setting for all those good folks that would choose to worship with us. Should you have any questions or comments relative to the upkeep of our church's grounds please do not hesitate to contact Terry.

The Memorial Garden Grove Continues To Flourish!

Several years ago three church families, including the Harpers and the Ericsons, donated a variety of deciduous and evergreen trees that formed the basis of the flourishing Memorial Grove that is now part of our church's Memorial Garden. Currently the tree species that comprise the Memorial Grove include Zelkovas, Pears, Cypress, Overcup Oak, White Pine and Deoar Cedar. This particular species of Cedar is often found in the Holy Land.

At the present time the lower branch growth on some of the trees in the Memorial Grove have become so thick, long and heavy that they are beginning to create a challenge for proper lawn care around the tree base. Thus, within the next few weeks, a few of the branches will be trimmed so as to increase the efficiency of the lawn care operation while still maintaining a pleasing appearance that compliments the serenity of the Memorial Garden.

If you should ever feel led to consider having a Memorial Garden Brick honoring the memory of a family member or the memory of a friend who had a most positive effect on your life you may well want to consider placing a Memorial Brick in the church's Memorial Garden.





Monthly Prayer Breakfast Blends Great New Location With Traditional Food Source!

The monthly 'OPEN TO ALL FOLKS'
Prayer Breakfast will meet on
Saturday, September 30
beginning at 7:30 AM
in the Party Room at
TRE SORELLE DOLCE
in Wyoming.
Mike and Becky Marasco
have kindly donated the
complimentary use of
this room for our
monthly Prayer Breakfasts.

Upon arrival we will place our individual breakfast order along with the respective cost and gratuity at which time it will then be taken over to Mike and Mel's Restaurant, freshly prepared and warmly returned to our Party Room at Tre Sorelle Dolce for our enjoyment and nourishment.

Jack Freidel,
our Church Lay Leader,
will lead us in our discussion.
We are indebted to and deeply
appreciative of Mike and Becky
Marasco, Tre Sorelle Dolce
owners, for their generous
hospitality.

Your comments, suggestions and/or questions are most welcome and can be directed to Terry .



09/01 Dana Tappan

09/03 Sharon Duncan, Pastor Lindsay Wessell

09/04 Dennis Klecan, Lucas Nichols, George Pettyjohn, Russ Riggins

09/06 Jonathan Abbott, Nancy Hughes, Michael McDevitt, Kendall Metz, Konner Metz, Sam Tullis, Dot Ziegler

09/07 Anne Elise Miller. Joe Seip

09/08 Elizabeth Fox, Kennedy Thompson

09/10 Zachary Petro, Laura Wagner

09/11 Colton Stallings, Noah Webb

09/13 Larry Towle

09/15 Jim Rogge

09/16 Janet Banaszak

09/19 Ryan Flaherty

09/20 Kim Holston, John St. Jean

09/23 Grayson Cousens, Bob Larimore

09/24 Barbara Towle, Nicholas Williams

09/25 Mindy Anthony, Sarah Cattie, Don Quillen, Bristol Raughley, Andrea Snyder, Chase Stallings

09/27 Bill Purdy, Andrew Quiroz, Alyssa Snyder, Denise Tappan

09/28 Mike Wagner, Judy Weiner

09/29 Jeannie Major, Tiffany Tullis

10/01 Kathi Thomas

10/03 Avery Whitenight

10/04 John deBloois. Brady Flynn

10/05 Brianna Ditty, Dottie Harper, Danielle Paugh

10/06 Gwen Pritchett

10/07 Melissa Nelson

10/08 Kim Reed

~ Our People ~

World Communion Sunday is October 1st.

In recognition of the diversity within our own church family, the Committee on Diversity is asking everyone to share their cultural heritage on Sunday, October 1st.

Is your family from France, Spain, Africa, Germany, Great Britain, Scotland, Ireland, South America, the Middle East, etc.?

Share your diversity by wearing artifacts that represent your culture or wearing a nametag listing your family's cultural blend.

Take this time to be thankful for the blessings that have come to you based upon your heritage. And for the opportunity to participate in the free observance of your cultural and religious preferences.



The Secret Power of Hospitality

Excerpts from an interview with Mona Sidiqqi, Islamic Studies Scholar

Podcast on the John Templeton Foundation August 3, 2023

https://www.templeton.org/news/the-secret-power-of-hospitality

"I think my first experience was, I was in Egypt, and I was a very young undergraduate doing ten weeks in Cairo at a language institute. And my friend who had accompanied me, she had a rather wealthy uncle who lived in Egypt, who basically met her at the airport and whisked her off for a few days. And I was kind of left there knowing that I was going to be in some grotty flat for the next 10 weeks, but while I was waiting outside my flat, waiting for the administrator to come and give me the keys, there was a young Egyptian woman who looked at me and she took a piece of cardboard that was kind of, you know, there in the dust, patted it down and put it on the steps for me, beckoning to me to sit down there.

And I thought that was such a lovely gesture. It was like all she could do in her own poverty, but make a clean space for me. There I was, a complete stranger in that neighborhood. Nobody knew me. But she'd kind of welcomed me as a guest. And later on that day, two young children kept coming up to my flat and I couldn't understand their Arabic. Later on I found out that what they were asking, they were the children of the same woman, is, you are a guest in our neighborhood, do you need anything? And I felt so ungracious because I thought they were just pestering me and I wanted to be left alone. And I think that kind of always being with people who are slightly different to you has made me realize that most of the time people want the same things in life. And when you are hospitable in your personality with people, that has a transformative effect. So I don't see hospitality just as things that you do for one another. It's also the way you are, the way you smile, the way you greet someone, the way you remain true to yourself without thinking, "I have to change because I have to impress someone or that person will see me differently if I say this". And I think we don't think about these things because we're in an environment where competition and getting to the top and sometimes trampling over others seems to be the kind of zeitgeist of the day.

So for me, hospitality is really about how do you welcome someone, ... just in terms of any kind of human relationship. But it's also about gratitude. And these are not uncontested virtues. But I think just knowing that I can do something for someone, but I should also be grateful that I'm in a position to do something for someone, rather than that person now owes me a favor, is a really, I think it's a powerful way of being humble."





David Field the brother of Warren Field, on July 11, 2023



Liz Marino on July 18, 2023

Thank you, church family, for all the cards, notes, calls, heartfelt hugs and prayers at the passing of my aunt Lizzy - Liz Marino. Thank you, Pastors and musicians, for one wonderful, awesome memorial service celebrating her life.

Let me repeat in Aunt Lizzy's own words that we would read a thousand times on the prayer chain, as we were asked to intercede for countless individuals and situations, "Thank vou, church family!"

Deeply grateful, Nancy Sammons & Family



John C. "Jack" Papen the stepfather of Tracy Boyer, on August 12, 2023



Byron Payn the brother of Sharon Burge, on August 24, 2023



216 Wyoming Mill Road, Dover, DE 19904

Phone: 302-697-8400 Fax: 302-697-8470 E-mail: office@wyomingumc.com



www.WyomingUMC.com



Church Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday 9AM - 3PM call & text for appointments:

(302) 399-3898 Renate



To: You!

Pastors' Office Hours:

Monday-Wednesday 9AM to 12:30PM or by appointment.

Call or text

雷 (302) 423-3911 Pastor Lindsay 雷 (302) 423-4237

☎ (302) 423-4237 Pastor Rick

A Prayer for Calm

Risen Christ In the darkness of the storm. In our loneliness. isolation, despair, We are afraid. Remind us that you are the calm and the beacon in the night. When we cannot sit close or embrace those dear to us. Remind us that you carry us together in your loving arms. No matter where we are, Whether alone or with others at home. Remind us that you are by our side, always. May we, in this storm, find in you, Shelter, strength, peace, and hope. May we bring these to others. **AMEN**



Do not let any

UNWHOLESOME TALK

come out of your mouths, but only what is

HELPFUL

BUILDING OTHERS

according to their needs,

that it may B

BENEFIT

those who listen.

Ephisians 4:29