

# THE WYOMING MESSENGER

## October 2023

### Annual Stewardship Campaign 2024

A favorite verse of ours is Psalm 145:7, which reads

*"They celebrate your abundant goodness and joyfully sing of your righteousness."*

Wyoming Church has a great deal to celebrate as we end 2023 and look toward all God has in store for us in 2024. Attendance has been steadily growing, nearing the level we had before covid in 2020. Participation in our small groups, studies and ministries is at an all-time high, and we pray for God's continued blessings as we vision for the future. Our Sunday school is full of excited, energetic children and the youth group is growing and gearing up for a busy year. Our many teams and groups continue to lead vital ministries that impact our community and world with the love of God. Worship, ministry, and mission remain the focus of Wyoming Church, and you are a vital part of that work!

We talk often with our fellow pastors about the situation in our respective churches. So many local churches are facing significant financial pressures due to decreased attendance and decreased giving, neither of which we are dealing with at Wyoming, which is a testament to God and His faithfulness, as well as a testament to your faith and commitment to Christ. This year has been a time of great blessing, and we know that God will continue to help us be the church *at the heart of it all!*

Many of you have received a letter from our Stewardship Team along with a pledge card. After prayerful consideration, you can return your pledge in the mail or bring it to church on **Consecration Sunday, October 29!** We thank you for your continued support of Wyoming with your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness!



*Jack Freidel*

#### Partners in Ministry: Making Disciples for Jesus Christ

*1 Peter 4:10: Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others as faithful servants of God's grace in various forms.*

In the early history of the Methodist church in America, many churches did not have a pastor who was there to lead services and see to the mission of the church on a weekly basis. It was the laity who served and maintained congregations between the visits of the circuit riders. Today, most United Methodist churches have a pastor who is there, at least part time, on a weekly basis. However, the laity still play an important role in the church beyond attending services and taking part in Bible studies. Can you imagine where the church would be without the laity? I daresay, it wouldn't exist.

Traditionally, on the 3rd Sunday in October, we celebrate Laity Sunday in the United Methodist Church. The purpose of this Sunday is to recognize the work and mission of all laity, not only within the walls of the church, but in everyday lives. As you read this, we are coming up to that Sunday, and I personally want to say **THANK YOU** to all who serve God through the ministries of our church.

**Continued on the Back Cover Page.**

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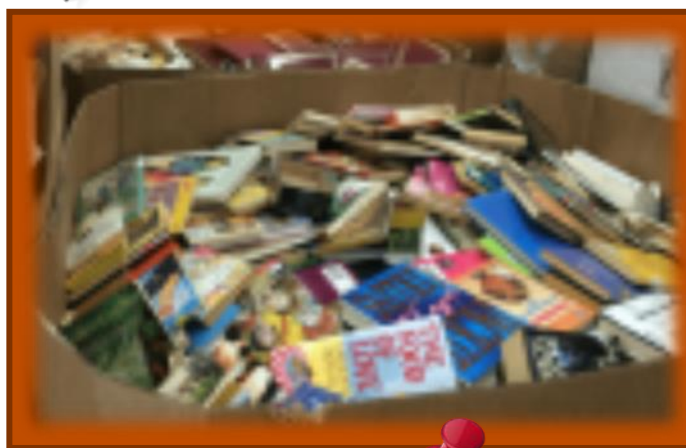
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For the first annual  
**Chili & Cornbread**  
**CookOff** on **October**  
**22**, submit your

**Registration and Payment**  
**no later than October 5<sup>th</sup>**,  
make checks payable to  
WUMC with "Diversity" in  
the Memo line (Page 11).



# Bulletin Board



The FUNdraising Team is accepting Used Books in Good Condition for the January 27th, 2024 Book Sale. Please drop off your donation on the right side of the stage in the family life center.



Play at Southside Baptist Church Friday nights at 6 pm! A group also meets during the day, but their schedule varies. Everyone's welcome! The day time group is open to new individuals interested in giving it a try. Contact Dawn for more info ☎ (302)480-4758.

Thanks to all of you who keep bringing in **Redner's Receipts**, this year we've received **Redner's Rewards** checks for over \$1,000 (!!!), and we appreciate everyone helping with this easy fundraiser!

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!

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

...and on October 15th, *National Sunday School Teacher Appreciation Day*, we honor our Sunday school teachers, for their dedication to their students and the life-changing impact they have. Let's thank those awesome teachers who find creative ways to inspire our children to continue their lives in service to Christ!



**CHRISTIAN  
WOMEN  
CONNECTION**

You are invited to the  
Dover Delaware Women's Connection  
**Program and Breakfast Buffet**  
**on Tuesday, October 10**  
from 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM at the  
Maple Dale Country Club in Dover  
\$20 inclusive (cash or check)

**Program: Dave Tabler**

"Small Wonders" - 10 things about Delaware History you might not know, author of "Delaware before Railroads".

**Guest Speaker: Sylvia Tarro**

"I'm Safe This Far"

**Music by: Jim Tucker**

Reservations and cancellations for breakfast and free child care are strongly encouraged by October 6

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

Several WUMC kids will be performing!  
Saturday, October 14th at 7 p.m. and  
Sunday, October 15th at 2 p.m.  
at the Schwartz Center for the Arts in Dover. Come to see Jane Fennemore as Mrs. Bucket, Ashlynn McDevitt & Austyn Lefort as Oompa Loompas, and Wesley Mann as Charlie!

**CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY**

BASED ON THE BOOK BY  
ROALD DAHL  
DRAMATIZED BY  
RICHARD R. GEORGE





## From the Pastors' Desk

A couple went camping in the desert. After they got their tent all set up, both fell sound asleep. Some hours later, the wife wakes up her husband and says, "Look up toward sky, what do you see?" He replies, "I see millions of stars." "What does that tell you?" she asked. He ponders for a minute then says, "Astronomically speaking, it tells me there are millions of galaxies and potentially billions of planets. Astrologically, it tells me that Saturn is in Leo. Time wise, it appears to be approximately a quarter past three in the morning. Theologically, the Lord is all-powerful and we are small and seemingly insignificant. Meteorologically, it seems we will have a beautiful day tomorrow. What's it telling you?" His wife replied, "You're not as smart as I thought. It means someone stole our tent."

All that we do and all that we know is based upon our perspective. Have you ever known that you were right

about something only to find out that you were in fact mistaken? I have on several occasions. My perspective was skewed for one reason or another and it caused me to misinterpret the things that should have been obvious to me. It brings to mind the old expression, **"You can't see the forest for the trees."** I sometimes can't see the trees for the forest!! How about you? Christ's message about how we are to interact with one another and how we are to relate to Him can be like that. His message is so obvious in passages like Matthew 5:43-48, Mark 9:35 -37, Luke 7: 37-38 and John 11:25, but still we have troubles. We need to re-prioritize and

re-think where these passages lead us, not just in the good times, but more importantly in the tough ones. Christ came into this world for everyone! Let us live our lives celebrating the power of the Holy Spirit, the love of Jesus Christ and the greatness of God. I know this is challenging and I pray it is convicting.

**We pray you have a great October!**



## We celebrate



SPRT will host a **Pastors Appreciation Reception** of special treats in between the services on **October 8**.

We encourage the congregation to bring cards for the Pastors.



*The Wessell Family -  
Pastors Lindsay & Rick,  
Baby Hope, Samuel, Elias*

**We appreciate you,  
Pastor Lindsay  
& Pastor Rick,  
all around the year!**





**friends from Wesley UMC, we packed an incredible 20,000 meals in 2 hours! Once again, we had a great turnout and lots of fun while helping to eradicate world hunger. The financial component is just as incredible - to date we've collected \$4,025 (\$4,000 was needed)!! In the name of so many recipients of this food in Africa... THANK YOU!**

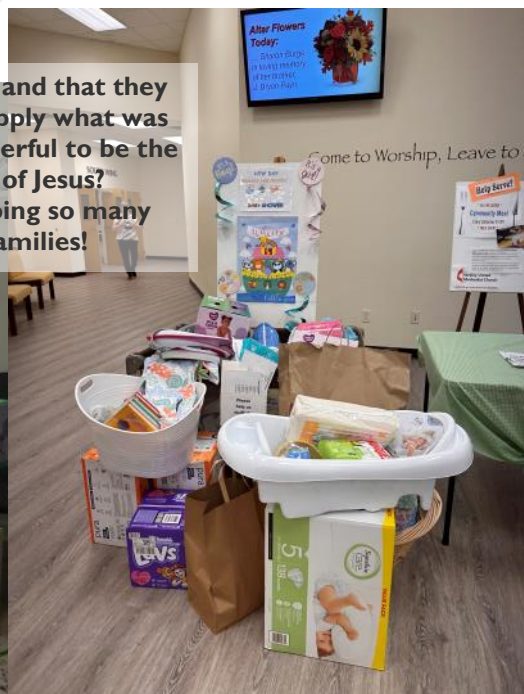


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In the name of so many recipients of this food in Africa... THANK YOU!

**reach ... Outreach ... Outreach ... Outreach ... Outreach**



had donated before and that they knew God would supply what was needed. Isn't it wonderful to be the hands and feet of Jesus? Thank you for helping so many children and families!









## October is... National Down Syndrome Awareness Month



October was first designated as Down Syndrome Awareness Month in the 1980s and has been recognized every October since. It is a time to celebrate people with Down syndrome and make others aware of their abilities and accomplishments.

### What is Down Syndrome?

Down syndrome is a genetic condition that causes delays in physical and intellectual development. It occurs in 1 in every 792 live births. Individuals with Down syndrome have 47 chromosomes instead of the usual 46. It is the most frequently occurring chromosomal disorder. Down syndrome is not related to race, nationality, religion or socioeconomic status. The most important fact to know about individuals with Down syndrome is that they are more like others than they are different.

In honor of the month, here are 12 facts about Down syndrome you may not know:

**Down syndrome is named** for Dr. John Langdon Down, who wrote the most prominent paper describing the disorder in the 1860s. The name Down syndrome was not standardized until 1975

**Down syndrome is far and away** the most common condition involving chromosomes, occurring approximately in one out of every 691 births.

**More than 400,000 people** are living with Down syndrome in the United States.

**The most common type** of Down syndrome is trisomy 21, which means an extra copy of the 21<sup>st</sup>. It is not hereditary. The other two types

are translocation and mosaicism, which account for around 5% of cases.

**While incidences of** Down syndrome correlate with the mother's age, around 80% of Down syndrome babies are born to mothers under the age of 35.

**Nothing a parent does or does not do** is known to cause Down syndrome during pregnancy – it occurs randomly.

**Down syndrome occurs regularly** in both sexes and across socioeconomic classes.

**With the great strides made in understanding** this disorder, individuals with Down syndrome are living long, happy lives. The life expectancy for these individuals has increased from 25 years in 1980 to over 60 years today.

**Down syndrome leaves people** with an increased risk of some medical conditions. These conditions include congenital heart defects, respiratory issues, hearing problems, Alzheimer's disease, leukemia, and thyroid disorders. Parents and caretakers need to take extra care in screening for medical issues.

**Students with Down syndrome** are now included in many classrooms across the country. In the past, special needs classes were the only option for learners with Down syndrome, but today most experts recommend full or partial inclusion in many standard classes.

**While individuals with Down syndrome** experience cognitive delays, they are often mild to moderate. Most people with Down syndrome lead fulfilling and productive lives.

**Down syndrome is still a little-understood** disorder. While researchers are aware of what this condition is, we know little about what causes it or how symptoms develop. There is hope that future research can lead mitigation of some symptoms.

<https://www.pediatricsoffranklin.com/practice-news/twelve-facts-for-down-syndrome-awareness-month/>

~~yesterday~~  
**NOW.**  
~~tomorrow~~



### It is Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box Packing Time!

We are looking to form a committee of hard-working individuals to continue to have Operation Christmas Child shoe box packing events at the church. If you are interested in helping and passionate about impacting the lives of children in poverty through a simple gift-filled shoebox, please give us a call or text. If you would like more information about the ministry, please check out Samaritan's Purse/OCC: <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/>.

Please contact René and Dawn Valladares ☎ (302) 480-4758 by **Monday, October 16th.**

Get set... ready... build! Habitat work days Wednesday, October 18 and Saturday, October 21, 8AM to 2PM. Sign-up options coming soon!



Outreach Team will be holding a Coat Drive for elementary school students **beginning Sunday October 15,** and **ending Sunday November 12.** New winter coats for boys and girls in sizes 6, 8, 10, 12 and 16 can be placed in the blue tub in the Narthex. We will also take donations during the drive-through Food Drive on November 4, 2023. Donations received will be divided evenly between in the Lake Forest, Caesar Rodney, and Capital School Districts. If you have any questions, contact Carol Abbott. Thanks for helping students in our area stay warm this winter!





**Monthly FINANCIAL REPORT August, 2023**

Larry Towle, Finance Team Chair

	2023 Offering	2023 Expense
Weekly Offerings	\$ 368,640.29	
Facilities and Other	\$ 26,089.06	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 394,729.35</b>	<b>\$ 433,314.57</b>

**What is UMCOR? How can we help?**

As the humanitarian relief and development arm of The United Methodist Church, the **United Methodist Committee on Relief – UMCOR** – assists United Methodists and churches to become involved globally in direct ministry to persons in need.

**UMCOR** responds to natural or civil disasters of such magnitude that they overwhelm a community's ability to recover on its own. Through **UMCOR**, United Methodists extend loving care to people within the United States. When disaster strikes, it is local churches that provide the first response to their communities.

Charity Watch awards **UMCOR** an A+ rating which means that our contributions to **UMCOR** get to the people who need it. We can count on our church's wise use of disaster relief funds.

**How can we help?** You can send funds directly to **UMCOR** Disaster Relief either for use in the U.S. or the world through a check sent in the mail or by contributing online. <https://advance.umcmission.org/p-620-umcor-us-disaster-response-and-recovery.aspx> Some members contribute to Wyoming Church and designate a certain amount of their donations to **UMCOR**.

**COMING SOON... the WUMC GIVING TREE!!**

More to come next month so  
please keep an eye out.

**Saturday, October 14**  
**Food Collection**

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:**

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

**Consider Extras like:**

coffee (can or Keurig), tea  
baby food (distant future date)  
toilet paper & paper towels



# Library news October

## It's Church Library Month!

### And this is how it began:

The Evangelical Church Library Association was founded in 1970 to promote church libraries to encourage Christian growth. They declared October as Church Library Month in 1970.

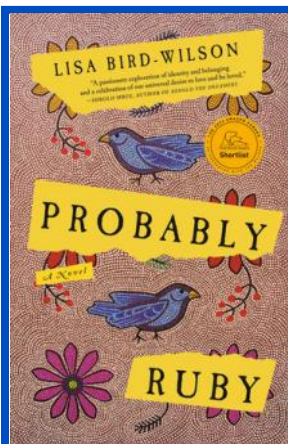
This month, we're encouraging all **CHILDREN** to check out some specially featured books!

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



*"To get to the end result, that beautiful picture, I need to first dump out all those pieces. The table, just cleaned and sparkling after a loving Windex treatment, is now strewn with little puzzle pieces. Now what?"*

Read "Puzzles", Danny Cooper's article, on Page 10.



**Probably Ruby** by  
Lisa Bird-Wilson.

Read this book  
chosen by the  
WUMC Book  
Discussion Group  
for October...  
and join them on  
**Wednesday,  
October 25 at 7 PM**  
for the discussion!

Please call Kim with any questions.  
☎ (302) 670-1832.

## Animal Cruelty

David Van Kavelaar

I know some folks who love hunting, my two sons Jesse and Jeff included. They've brought home deer and turkey and we'd listen to the glory of the hunt. They are strong advocates for hunting and insist that, if they shoot it, they'll have it prepared for a family chow down; it will be eaten. Pictures are taken as they proudly stand by their dinners -to-be. It's that way with fishing too. We were on vacation in Cancun and they went out on a fishing boat and brought back red snapper, black grouper, and other delectables. The boys made a deal with the chef at our five-star hotel (after, of course, the proud photo op) that, if he'd prepare a meal for the six of us with the day's catch, he could have the entire catch that would be gladly added into the hotel's next day's chowder.

Personally though, I never embraced hunting. I understand that the deer population has to be kept in check and hunting addresses that issue. I just couldn't shoot any animal. Once when I lived on Brenford Road near Seven Hickories, my friend asked for my assistance in killing this ground hog who was eating his wife's tomatoes. He'd located both holes used by the groundhog and began pumping pond water into the lower hole. I was at the upper hole and, sure enough, the little chubby critter stuck his nose out and into the barrel of the 12-gauge shot gun in my hands. He wiggled his nose left and right a couple times and then scuttled off into the woods. "Kill him!" my friend yelled. No, I thought, his wife has more tomatoes than they could possibly eat. "Have a good life, pudgy groundhog."

The shooting of animals is a touchy subject to me. I hate senseless killing of God's creatures. Most folks have no objection of "thinning the herd" to keep the deer population in check. But there are other goings-on that need to be mentioned. Hunting may have played an important role in human survival in prehistoric times but the vast majority of modern hunters in developed countries stalk and kill animals.... for recreation and for the "sport." Hunting is a violent form of outdoor entertainment that kills hundreds of millions of animals a year, many of whom are wounded and die a slow and painful death.

It is written that hunting is often called a "sport" to disguise a cruel needless killing spree as a socially acceptable activity. However, the concept of sport involves competition between two consenting parties, adherence to rules and fairness ensured by an intervening referee, and achieving highest scores, but not death, as the goal of the sporting event. In hunting, the animal is forced to participate in a live or die situation that always leads to the death of the animal, whereas the hunter leaves, their lives never remotely at stake.

Last year, bounty hunters armed with hi-tech call devices, dogs, and high-powered rifles lured, chased, and killed at least thirty-four coyotes during a recent killing spree incentivized by cash prizes and giveaways during the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Sullivan County Hunt in Pennsylvania. By the way, the event was not because of human-coyote incidents. Female coyotes, who are devoted mothers to young pups who often can't survive without them, were particularly prized with the hunt offering \$1,025 award to the hunter who bagged the heaviest female each day. There was also a \$200 prize for the hunter who shot the smallest coyote and all participants who brought a slaughtered coyote to the weigh station were paid \$50 per carcass. Coyotes aren't the only species killed mercilessly in Pennsylvania killing contests. Raccoons, foxes, squirrels, bob cats, and crows are among the targets for at least 28 of the state killing contests.

I can't watch the TV ad when we see a baby elephant nudging its dead mother to stand up. The baby elephant's future life has been terrifyingly and tragically destroyed. It's called trophy hunting. The Centaurus Foundation states trophy hunting generates billions of dollars world wide with hunters willing to pay enormous sums of money to kill majestic creatures for their own personal satisfaction and, despite revenues generated by trophy hunting, only a small fraction is allocated to wildlife conservation. Trophy hunting has led to a tragic decline of endangered species populations. African lions have seen a 43% decrease in their population in the past twenty years partly due to trophy hunting. All this carnage is so a hunter can have a lion's head mounted above the fireplace in his home. Personally, I don't think that's a bit cool at all. The haunting images of lifeless elephants, rhinos, and leopards are a stark reminder of the irreversible damage caused by this practice. Many trophy hunting practices inflict unspeakable pain and suffering on animals. Bow hunting can cause prolonged agony for wounded animals while "canned" hunting involves shooting captive bred animals in enclosed spaces with no chance of escape. The despair and helplessness of these creatures are beyond comprehension.



Several states allow a spring bear hunt during the months when bears emerge from hibernation. These bears are not only still lethargic, which makes them easy targets for hunters, but many of the females are pregnant or lactating. Mother bears are often shot while out and about foraging, while hiding their cubs in trees or leaving them in their dens. When mommy bears are killed, the nursing cubs have little to no chance of survival as they will either starve to death or be killed by predators.

A growing number of people world wide are opposed to trophy hunting. Survey data indicates that a majority of Americans, Europeans, and Africans disapprove of the practice. The shift in public opinion is occurring as more people recognize the heartache and devastation it causes to these magnificent animals, God's creatures one and all, and their habitat.

Kenya, Botswana, and Costa Rica have successfully banned trophy hunting. The Centaurus Foundation states that, by understanding the shocking and sorrowful realities of this practice, we can join the growing movement to advocate for compassionate alternatives and protect those vulnerable creatures from senseless suffering.

Despite increasing opposition, hunting is permitted on 60% of public lands here in the U.S. including in over 50% of wild land refuges, many national and state forests and state parks; on federal lands alone (more than half a billion acres) more than two hundred million animals are killed yearly.

Another activity involving animal cruelty is bullfighting. There is such a conflict between this cultural practice and an emerging sentiment to ban it. It masquerades as a celebration or tradition but is nothing more than the most egregious form of cruelty to animals. On another Mexican vacation, everyone wanted to attend the bullfight in downtown Cancun. I declined because I just can't watch such a horrible, blood lust event. Frightened bulls are forced into an arena with screaming people and pitted against picadors wielding spears, and eventually, to the joy of observers, the death thrust by the matador before El Toro dies an agonizing death. It is estimated that a quarter million bulls are killed each year in bullfights around the world.

But change is underfoot. According to Parametria, a leading polling agency, 73% of Mexicans support a nationwide ban on bullfighting and, in the past decade, five Mexican states-Coahuila, Guerrero, Quintana Roo, Sinaloa, and Sonora have banned bullfighting. There will be no bullfights during the 2022-23 season in Mexico City. The world's largest "death"arena remains free of animal suffering... for now.

As previously stated, I am not against hunting that is allowed to address overpopulation and hunting that provides food for family dinner tables. I am not a vegan (described as a poor hunter!) either. But I am abhorred by the brutal and senseless practices of trophy hunting, bullfighting, dog fighting and the like.



The massacre of  
God's creatures is repulsive  
and needs to be **stopped**.  
But when?

## October, the month of



If you have  
the power to  
make someone  
happy, do it.  
The world  
needs more  
of that.

ATTITUDE  
IS  
EVERYTHING  
PICK A  
GOOD  
ONE

*“Dear God, I believe in the power of positive thinking, but lately I need your help to get there. Please fill me with faith, hope, and optimism. Thank you for helping me to be genuinely positive.”*



# Reflections

## Reflections

**Danny  
Cooper**  
Coordinator/  
Counselor

### Seeing God in the Everyday...

#### Puzzles

As challenging as the Covid experience has been, as with many difficult patches in life's journey, there are often little blessings that rise to the surface in spite of the heaviness of the moment. For our family, one such bright spot has been the rediscovery of puzzles. And since the spring of 2020, there has rarely been a time when a puzzle, in some degree of assembly, has not been the recipient of our family's attention. That's quite a few puzzles over the past couple of years. All of that experience hasn't led to us being any quicker in the construction process, however. It is simply a fun, relaxing hobby that everyone can easily participate in.

If you are of the belief that God can teach us and connect with us in virtually all aspects of the life experience, then maybe you can join me in appreciating the deeper meaning that exists in the process of assembling a puzzle. If we have the eyes to see and the ears to hear, God's presence, companionship and guidance are forever within our reach. What a comfort to us as believers. But for the sake of this particular article, let's look at the lessons God has for us as we put together our next puzzle.

I don't know about you, but looking at the picture on the outside of the puzzle box gets the excitement started. Typically a beautiful scene with a variety of colors... how pretty this will look on our "puzzle table"! But then I shake the box... why, I have no idea. But the hundreds of individual pieces rattling around inside make that unmistakable sound, and if I'm honest, the excitement I just had seconds ago becomes tempered just a bit. What is surfacing... is it fear, and if so, fear of what? Is it disbelief in my ability to take all those pieces and actually create that beautiful picture... well, that may be somewhat justified! There is a realization, though, that surfaces. To get to the end result, that beautiful picture, I need to first dump out all those pieces. The table, just cleaned and sparkling after a loving Windex treatment, is now strewn with little puzzle pieces.

Now what?

And so where does God fit in to this part of the puzzle story? Well, for starters, God won't force us to dump out the pieces. We must always remember that in all matters of this life, ours is a relationship with God. And this means what? This means that God will not do our work for us. God certainly wants to work with us, on our behalf, as we make our way along the roads of this life, but God will not compel us to do our part. So, the fear or angst I feel as the pieces rattle around in the box... if I want to see that pretty picture become reality on our puzzle table, I need to have more faith than fear; that even in something as simple as a puzzle, I need to take steps of faith, of what God and I can do together, instead of being lost in my fear and forgetting how almighty our God truly is. The faith is not in me, but in what God and I can do together, because... *I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me (Philippians 4:13)*. And... *If God is for us, who can be against us (Romans 8:31)*. Wow... look out puzzle! Yet more importantly, of course... look out life! Our God brings order out of chaos. With our God, we connect hundreds of independent pieces which culminates in one beautiful picture. With God by our side, our lives continue to develop into the beautiful picture that our loving Father intended. Our God is always with us, every step of the way.

Which brings us to our next puzzle lesson... the edges. While it's hard enough to dump all of those pieces onto the table, we're then faced with a chaotic scene of pieces everywhere. And so we need some order here, and the easiest way to achieve this is to assemble the edges. In essence, finding and connecting the edge pieces creates a literal framework from which to work. Some order has just been introduced, and the angst of the chaos begins to subside. Now it



becomes easier to evaluate the other pieces, to begin putting pieces in groups based on color or scenery, and the overwhelming feelings created by the chaos begin to be replaced with a sense of security and confidence; a hopefulness surfaces that this construction process is moving in the right direction; that the beautiful picture on the box cover is indeed possible. Revelations 22:13 reminds us... *I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End*. Our God is literally the framework of our lives. It can be so easy to forget this awesome truth, but our puzzle helps to remind us. It is God that surrounds our life experience; it is God who is big enough for all the pieces of our lives to fit within. He can contain them all. *As far as the East is from the West...* our God is able, and together, as we do the work of assembling, we find our picture taking shape within His loving framework. Our God can help us feel secure. For some of us, a feeling we have hungered for our whole life. Can we see how our loving God, as with outstretched arms, encircles our lives, from beginning to end? Let His "framework" give you the security and safety that you long for.

The room that houses our puzzle table is unfortunately dimly lit, and this can make seeing the pieces rather difficult. Colors are hard to distinguish, especially shades of the same color, and the whole process can easily become more tedious than enjoyable. The puzzle is going to be challenging enough without the added difficulty that poor vision brings. And so, to offset the dimness of the room, we've placed a special light next to the puzzle table, one that due to its height, casts clear light over the entire circular work space. The pieces that used to be hard to distinguish now can be seen with distinct-



ness and in heightened clarity. There is still much work to be done, but at least our vision has improved, making the labor far more rewarding.

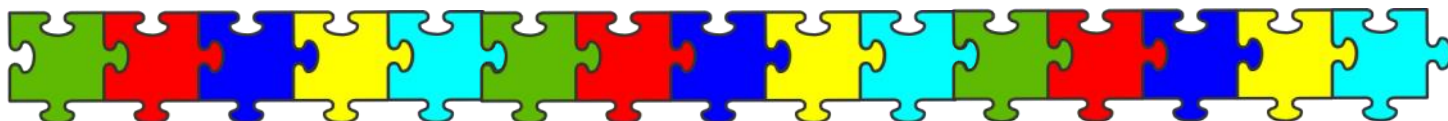
Psalm 119:105 reminds us that... *Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.* A quick read of the newspaper, a trip to the grocery store, maybe even a family get-together can all sufficiently remind us that darkness still has a strong presence in this world that we live in. And not unlike our puzzle room, the more darkness that we experience, the blurrier things become, the more we unintentionally grow to accept the lack of light, and sadly, the more we continue to adjust our lives to accommodate the dark. Yet it is light that helps us to see; to see not only where we are, but how are lives match up to the Word... *the lamp for our feet and the light for our path.* Without the light, we allow ourselves to stumble in this challenging world, and to potentially veer off the path that leads to life. The puzzle pieces are challenging, yes, but manageable when operating in the light. Without the light, I start wondering if the puzzle can truly be completed.

Maybe that picture on the box is not possible. How discouraging this life can be, hopeless for some, when we try to live in the darkness of the world without the guidance and security that can only come from the light. We can never go wrong when we choose to remain in the clarity and hope of the light.

Our last puzzle lesson has to do with speed. I can only speak for myself, but I've never sat down and spent hours upon hours to put a puzzle together. It typically is a bit of time here and bit more time there. In fact, have you ever found yourself unable to find that elusive puzzle piece, only for it to suddenly appear the next time you sat down to the puzzle project? To assemble a puzzle, to work towards that picture on the box, takes time... it takes patience. I don't think it's meant to be a race, but an ongoing experience, in some ways like a journey; a journey that takes time and which is not intended to be rushed along. As the journey continues, the picture gradually takes shape. Many pieces fall into place on one occasion, and maybe only one or two during the next visit to the puzzle table. The

number of pieces is not the point, of course, but the continuation of the journey, the enjoyment of investing in something that develops and matures, and eventually, at some future point, the picture will be complete. It is this part of the puzzle lesson that gives us a glimpse of the life journey we have with our God. It is a journey, first and foremost. It is going somewhere, yet at its own unique pace. We invest our time in the journey with the anticipation of what will happen next... sometimes much, sometimes little.

But something always happens. Our God is a creator. He brings newness into our lives. And when we seek His companionship in this life, when we choose to invest our time and energy into this most precious relationship, our journey is like the ongoing assembly of a beautiful puzzle. Piece by piece, minute by minute, we move along our life path with the One who loves us the most, from beginning to end. And so, may our life pictures continue to grow in beauty and color as we journey ahead with our God and friend. Amen



**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 22<sup>nd</sup> from 3 to 5.**

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 (at the narthex display table) and get ready to compete!

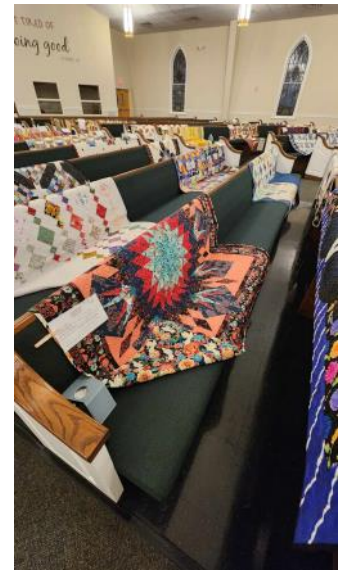
**Have you always wanted to be a judge on one of those food competitions?**

**Now is your chance! Sunday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>**, 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!



"A [breath-taking] rainbow of quilts", all for wonderful community outreach, on display at the recent Quilt Show, organized by the Helping Hands Quilt Guild.



Cowboys & -girls, dancing in the sunset at the recent ARC Outdoors Dance



The Puppets of Praise delighted their audience of young and old(er) at the recent Family Dinner

# Oh my GOODness!!



A sizeable group of high schoolers are off into a great new season of studies & games with Pastor Rick! We meet from 6 to 8 in the FLC on Sunday evenings.

Nikole Moore,  
Chair of the  
WUMC  
Sexton

Kitchen Team, presents the SKT 2023 \$1,000 Academic Scholarship to Karissa Mann. Upon completion of her undergraduate and graduate degrees, Karissa plans to enter a career of full time ministry.



Thank you, ladies... Vicki Ward and Elizabeth Fox off to 'greater heights', mounting a meaningful message in the youth room (and another in the family life center). Have you seen it yet?



Sunny skies, great food, fun fellowship & activities at the recent church picnic. Did you miss the young-at-heart members of the Kitchen crew whizzing down the bouncy slide??



## Volunteers Make The Safe Secure Sanctuary Program Successful!!

The many dedicated good folks serving as Monitors, Ushers, Greeters and Stewards are the most important components of our Wyoming Church's Safe Secure Sanctuary Program. The program provides consistent coverage for each Sunday's 9AM and 11AM Services. Every six months a new schedule is prepared; hence, each calendar year will have two phases - January through June and July through December.

Most folks volunteer to serve once a month in the capacity and Service of their choosing, although some outstanding folks serve far more - by their own choosing. Every once in a while unforeseen changing circumstances occur in a persons life that preclude their service on a particular Sunday. The program director then steps in and takes over that set of responsibilities.

Beginning in November, you will have the opportunity to serve once a month as a volunteer Monitor, Usher, Greeter or Steward during the forthcoming January through June 2024 Schedule. Your prayerful response to this opportunity would be most appreciated.

## Beautiful Church Grounds!

Do me a Favor! The next time you have the opportunity to visit our Wyoming United Methodist Church, whether to worship and/or participate in one or more of the excellent Christian programs and activities that occur on an almost daily basis, PLEASE take more than just a few moments to note how professionally well cared-for the church turf and grounds look.

Up until this year we, as a congregation of believing Christians, have enjoyed the benefits of many dedicated folks that served as landscapers and lawn mowers. Due to a multiplicity of factors including family demands, time availability and health challenges the decision was made by the Church Trustees to engage a professional turf and lawn company to maintain the 9.2 acres of our grounds that require weekly care.

This writer firmly believes that the Trustees' decision on this matter was truly correct and effective as evidenced by the consistently excellent appearances of our turf and lawns.

## Memorial Garden Cremains.

One of the little known services associated with the Wyoming United Methodist Church's Memorial Garden is the ability to provide a permanent resting place for a portion of a loved one's cremains. The concrete base that supports the entirety of the Memorial Garden is several inches thick and thus, by design, serves as an ideal, secure, and permanent location for cremains.

The procedure is quite simple. A small, cylindrical opening is drilled into the upper three inches of the concrete base into which a sealed cylinder containing cremains is placed. The exposed top of the centrally located drilled aperture is then permanently closed and the respective Memorial Garden Brick is placed over the cremains site.

The acquisition of a Memorial Garden Brick is an excellent way to honor the memory of a loved one or of a person that has had a most positive effect on your life. Should you feel led to consider learning more about the opportunity to acquire a Memorial Garden Brick please feel welcome to take an application form that is to found on the Memorial Garden Table Model that is on display in the Narthex.



**Everybody's Invited!**

## Prayers for Wyoming Church's Outreach

**'Bright And Not So Early' will find a growing number of good folks gathering at 7:30 AM on Saturday, October the 28<sup>th</sup>, in the 'Party Room' of TRE SORELLE DOLCE in Wyoming for our monthly Wyoming Church's PRAYER BREAKFAST.**

**The month of October's Prayer Breakfast theme is PRAYERS FOR OUR CHURCH'S OUTREACH ACTIVITIES. Terry Higgins will serve as this month's leader. Everyone, including singles and couples are welcome and you do not have to be a member of Wyoming Church to attend.**

**Thanks to Mike and Becky Marasco, TRE SORELLE DOLCE owners, we have exclusive use of their Party Room for our Prayer Breakfasts. Upon arrival we will place our individual orders which will then be taken to Mike & Mel's Restaurant, quickly and accurately filled and warmly returned for our enjoyment.**

**Should you plan to attend, please know that you will be sincerely welcomed. We usually conclude between 8:30 and 9:00 AM.**

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





- 10/01** Kathi Thomas  
**10/03** Avery Whitenight  
**10/04** John deBloois, Braydon Flynn  
**10/05** Brianna Ditty, Dottie Harper, Danielle Paugh  
**10/07** Melissa Nelson  
**10/08** Kim Reed  
**10/11** Beau Lord, Jim Murray, Janice Watkins  
**10/13** Elias Wessell  
**10/15** Evan Fennemore  
**10/17** Vicki Buckworth, Wesley Mann  
**10/18** Eddie Eichholz  
**10/19** Mike Kijowski  
**10/20** Sylvia Bongers, Ginger Jankowski, Adam Jones  
**10/21** Connie Quarnaccio  
**10/23** Reagan Raughley  
**10/26** James Moore, Vianna Spampinato  
**10/27** Bill Forbes  
**10/28** Debbie Watson  
**10/29** Dominic Cousens, Ashlynn McDevitt, Suzanne Sutton  
**10/30** Al Stockslager  
**10/31** Matt Tappan, Vicki Ward  
**11/01** Michelle Harris  
**11/02** Garrett Caldwell, Chloe Coleman, Kyle Jankowski, Gregg Marker, Barbara McCleat  
**11/03** Seth Flaherty, Timothy Higgins  
**11/04** Dick Gabler, Tanya Williams  
**11/05** Alicia Porter, Samuel Wessell  
**11/06** Ron Auten, Laurel Beaman, Eileen Kling, Johannah Petro  
**11/07** Linda Booher, Bethany Dejesus, Izabela Marasco, June Stevens  
**11/08** Linda Newsome, Jacob Tullis

**Thank you** for your cards, calls, and prayers during my recent surgery. Christian love and care from my church family certainly helped me through the experience and made for a good and quick recovery. I appreciate all of you!

Sincerely,  
Martha Higgins

I would like to **thank everyone** for the cards, prayers, and words of comfort during my brother's decline in health. I made sure I was home for Sunday services as I knew my support group was here to rally around me. This is such a loving and caring congregation.

Thank you again,  
Sharon Burge

## ~ Our People ~

**Rowan Michael Siegfried**  
was born to  
Karly & Mike Siegfried,  
a little brother to Ezra,  
on September 26, 2023.

Congratulations also to  
proud grandparents  
Tracey & Jeff Jones  
and great-grandmoms  
Mickey Jones and  
Wini Walton!



*To see the World in a grain of sand,  
And a heaven in a wild flower,  
Hold infinity in the palm of your hand,  
And eternity in an hour. William Blake*

## FALL POTLUCK



### ADULT FELLOWSHIP Covered Dish DINNER PLANS For This FALL SEASON!

The members of the Sexton Kitchen Team are cordially inviting you and your adult family members to attend and participate in the monthly Adult Fellowship Covered Dish Dinners set for this Fall's months. Mark your calendars with the following event dates.

#### Dates & Themes:

Wednesday, **October 25, 2023** --- **Thanksgiving Season**

Wednesday, **November 29, 2023** --- **Holiday Traditions**

Wednesday, **December 27, 2023** --- **Welcome New Year**

Location: Family Life Center.

Doors Open: 5:00 PM.

Dinner Begins 5:30 PM.

Conclusion and Closing 6:30 PM.

Bring your own plates and tableware.

Entree provided by the Chefs of the Sexton Kitchen Team.

Love Offering.

Please take note of the SIGN-UP opportunity and Themed Display in the Narthex several Sundays prior to each event.

Should you have questions or comments, please see Carol Abbott or contact her at [ceabbott123@gmail.com](mailto:ceabbott123@gmail.com)



Happy Fall WUMC Families!

With a hint of cool weather trying to creep in, it's a reminder that Christmas is not so far away! And with Christmas not being too far off, that means our Sunday School Christmas program is also coming!

**The WUMC Sunday School children will be performing "The Unfriendly Beasts" on Sunday, December 24, at a combined 10am Worship Service.**

This is a charming, humorous story of the manger animals who must share their crowded stable with Mary, Joseph, and the infant Jesus. The animals originally protest to the idea, however, as the Light of Salvation gradually illumines the darkness of the stable, their hearts are turned from cold to compassion.

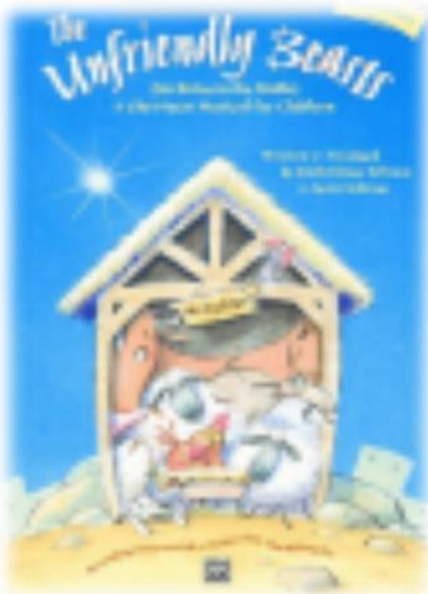
**All are invited to participate**, and we hope all are willing to do so! There are several solos, as well as speaking parts, throughout the program. **If your child(ren) is/are interested in having one or both, please let me know by October 8**, so I can assign the parts and quickly distribute the scripts. Costuming is quite adorable as most of the parts are animals in the stable - all will be provided via our WUMC costume vault. We will also provide the needed props to enhance the program.

There will be a **Dress Rehearsal on December 16<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 am to 11:30 am**, to allow the kids to be more comfortable singing and speaking at the front of the Sanctuary with costumes.

If you have any questions, please find me at church, or reach out to me either via phone/text (302) 943-4725 or email at [robyneharper@yahoo.com](mailto:robyneharper@yahoo.com).

Thanks so much for sharing your children with us and looking forward to an adorable program!

Blessings!  
**Robyn Lefort,**  
Kids' Praise  
Director



## Sunday School Christmas Program

What a Wonderful World it would be



Have you noticed the beautiful flowers on the altar every week? These are sponsored by members of our congregation to honor loved ones and remember special occasions. As we enter the end of 2023, would you think about sponsoring flowers for a special birthday, anniversary or in memory of a loved one? 2024 sign up sheets have been placed in the Alter Flower book at the welcome desk. Arrangements are \$35 each billed directly to the sponsor by our florist Jen Mor. For questions, please contact Stacy McDevitt at (302) 724-0205 or [stacy.mcdevitt@yahoo.com](mailto:stacy.mcdevitt@yahoo.com).

To those I have **wronged**,

I ask **forgiveness**.

To those I have **helped**,

I wish I did **more**.

To those I **neglected**,

I ask for **understanding**.

To those who have **helped me**,

I sincerely **thank you**.

**What a wonderful world  
it would be...**

**...if everyone lived this**

**every day.**

**- Moioz**





A UNITED METHODIST CONGREGATION

216 Wyoming Mill Road, Dover, DE 19904

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

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

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



#### **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**

**☎ (302) 423-3911**

**Pastor Lindsay**

**☎ (302) 423-4237**

**Pastor Rick**

#### **Lay Leader's Corner, continued from Cover Page.**

There are so many who do so much. To list everyone individually who serves in one capacity or another in the church and how they serve would take up for too much space, but I do want to make mention of the many ways the laity are serving The Lord through the church.

To begin with, there are all the laity involved in our times of worship on Sunday mornings. People serve in the choir, the bell choir, and the praise team. Then there are the ushers, those who man the audio and sound booths, and greeters. And I don't want to forget those behind the scenes who provide security, serve in the nursery, and prepare the altar for worship each week. Thank you to those who participate in these ministries.

Also there are all those involved in ministries outside of worship but within our church walls. Sunday school teachers, small adult group leaders, the puppet ministry, and VBS staff serve both children and adults helping them to learn about God and his kingdom. Members of the trustees, finance and staff parish relations teams strive to keep the church in good shape from an administrative standpoint. Membership contact and visitation teams reach out to members who can no longer attend or haven't been at church for a while. Fundraising continues to raise money to help finance projects at the church. The kitchen team plans, prepares, and serves the food for many and myriad events over the course of a year. Thank you to all of you who serve in these areas.

Then there are those involved in serving on the behalf of the church outside our church walls. The outreach team is constantly coming up with projects that extend our church's witness in both the community and around the world. We have members who lead services at Dover Place and others who help at Wesley UMC once a month to help serve a meal to those in need. We also have provided support to Code Purple over many years. Thank you to all who have volunteered your time and efforts in these ministries.

As I bring this article to a close, I apologize to those who serve in areas that I may have missed and thus didn't thank. Also, I raise a challenge. What are ways that you as the laity of this church can continue to support Wyoming UMC in our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ?

Finally, I want to remind everyone that in our everyday dealings with everyone, we are ambassadors of Christ to the world. and should strive, however imperfectly we do it, to show Christ in our lives.

## **OCTOBER** *Memory Verse*

Each of you should use whatever  
gift you have received to serve  
others, as faithful stewards of  
God's grace in its various forms.

1 Peter 4:10

