

# THE WYOMING MESSENGER

December 2023 & January 2024



## Don't forget to pick a tag...

or two from the

### WUMC Giving Tree

in the Narthex!

Purchase the gift that is described on the tag for a boy or girl and then place the gift and the tag under the tree **before December 10th**. If you would like to include a box or gift bag, that would be greatly appreciated. Please **DO NOT** wrap the gifts. Our church elves must match the gifts to the families to make sure that no one is left out. The elves will then wrap and bag each gift for the special-needs adults. The other gifts will be bagged and given to the caregivers along with everything needed to wrap their gifts, from tape to bows. This way, they can take an active part in the gift giving process.

The children and special-needs adults who receive these gifts are very grateful each year. It may not seem like much to us but it's everything to them. Each gift lets them know that someone in the community cares!

With questions, please reach out to Alicia ☎ (302) 222-4363 or Betty ☎ (302) 697-6617.

## Speaking of Gifts...

One of my (PR) favorite conversation starters of the holiday season is "What was the best Christmas gift you've ever received?" It often provides a unique look into the nostalgia and memory of your family and friends. It is a great conversation to have when you have multiple generations present because it is fun to consider how much toys and Christmas gifts have changed over time. If you ask Lindsay, her favorite gift ever is her Heart to Heart teddy bear that she still has some 30+ years later—he's very well loved and well worn, but still hanging in! For me, it was probably my Atari video game system I got when I was about 6. It is the one and only time I remember my Dad playing video games with me as he sat down and not only hooked up the system to the TV, but we spent the day playing hours of Pole Position and Baseball. For a man who never played video games, he won every single one that Christmas Day. When the conversation is lagging this month, try this question out and see how many fun and even funny memories come out.

*The greatest gift ever given came from the Giver of every good and perfect gift (James 1:17). On that night, only Mary, Joseph, and a group of shepherds knew what an amazing gift was there in their midst in the manger of hay. All parents think their precious little one is a gift from heaven, of course, but Jesus was truly special. After generations of waiting and watching, after generations of faithful prayers asking for a Savior, and in the fullness of time, God stepped down to earth, and nothing has ever been the same since (John 1:14). By faith in Jesus, the gifts of grace, mercy, and salvation have been given to you and to me, and our place in eternity with God is sealed. Jesus truly is the greatest gift ever given!*

*As we celebrate and consider the gift that Jesus is to us, may we not keep the good news all to ourselves. A favorite Christmas song of mine from the Ray Conniff Singers says, "The real meaning of Christmas is the giving of love every day."*

**God is love** (1 John 4:7-8), and we are called to walk daily in the love of Christ, sharing it with everyone we meet. May we continue in that mission not only on December 25<sup>th</sup>, but on every other day of the year too.

**We pray  
that you and  
your families have a  
Blessed Christmas  
and a  
Happy New Year!**

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# Bulletin Board

## Consider USHERing?

During the covid pandemic, we suspended using ushers to collect the offering on Sunday mornings and used the buckets at the doors instead. This has worked fine but we would like to again have ushers pass the offering plate and take it to the altar to be blessed.

At the present time, at the 11:00 service, we have only been using two ushers which has sufficed but if we start collecting offering again, we will need more people. We would like to have four people collecting the offering. Couples are fine and they would only be responsible to do the offering; no other duties of the ushers. Looking around our congregation, there are many couples who could serve in that capacity and many single people we could pair up with other single people.

If we get enough response, it would only be a once-a-month job!

If you are willing to help, please contact Judy and Warren Field at (302) 284-4059 or email [warren.judy@comcast.net](mailto:warren.judy@comcast.net) or text (302) 242-3382.

Thank you. This is just another way to glorify God!!

We are looking for a **coordinator** to restart our **Acolyte** Program. Duties would include leading a training session and to coordinate a weekly schedule. Please contact Pastor Rick, Pastor Lindsay or Betsy Freidel if interested.



**New Year, New Ministry??**  
The **MultiCultural & Diversity Team** is always ready to welcome new members, new ideas, and new viewpoints. If you are curious, interested, or committed to joining us, please contact Lynn Ditty, Jesse Spampinato, or John St. Jean.



## CHRISTIAN WOMEN CONNECTION

You are invited to the  
Dover Delaware Women's Connection  
Program and Breakfast Buffet  
on Tuesday, December 12  
from 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM at the  
Maple Dale Country Club in Dover  
\$20 inclusive (cash or check)

It's a **Christmas Silent Auction**  
come shop many, many bargains!!

Guest Speaker: **Gayle Hass**  
"Sharing the Story

of Corrie Ten Boom" - more info under  
"Library News" on Page 8!

Harp Music by: **Sandy Nickerson**

Reservations and cancellations for breakfast and free child care are strongly encouraged by December 8

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

**FUNdraising is collecting gold, sterling, and platinum jewelry that is no longer wanted. Simply collect your items... place them in a zipped plastic bag... fill out the quick form located near the collection box in the church office. Tax paperwork can also be provided. Contact FUNdraising chair Linda [linda.lyon@aol.com](mailto:linda.lyon@aol.com) with questions. THANKS!**

The beautiful flowers on the altar every Sunday are sponsored by members of our congregation to honor loved ones and remember special occasions. Would you think about sponsoring flowers for a special birthday, anniversary or in memory of a loved one? Sign up for your favorite date in the 2024 Altar 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).



## Martin Luther King Day...

### A Day of Reflection and Service

**Martin Luther King Jr. Day** of Service on January 15, 2024, is the only federal holiday designated as a National Day of Service to encourage people to volunteer and give back.

**Martin Luther King Jr. Day** is the perfect day to reflect on the value of service. Dr. King was a man who lived by his principles. He believed strongly in the equality of all people, regardless of race. He used his voice and actions to help others realize their own potential. Dr. King worked hard to make a difference and he inspired countless others to do so as well.

As we celebrate **Martin Luther King Jr. Day**, it is important to remember that we too can make a difference in the lives of others around us. We can be like Dr. King and use our voices and actions for good. It is up to each individual person as to what kind of legacy they will leave behind once they are gone from this world.

**Here are ways you can volunteer or donate on Martin Luther King Jr.'s Day:**

- Help at a local soup kitchen, food pantry, animal shelter or Habitat for Humanity.
  - Leave flowers at a cemetery in honor of African American Civil Rights leaders.
  - Volunteer with an organization working for equal rights.
  - Participate in an AIDS Walk or other events benefiting underprivileged causes.
  - Give back by making donations through your workplace.
- Visit at a local Senior Community or Nursing Home: share your time, your interests, even just a smile goes a long way!



Corporation for  
**NATIONAL &  
COMMUNITY  
SERVICE** ★★ ★



## Musical News...

Meet **Jane Grudzina**,

interim Director of the Chancel and Handbell Choirs!

**Amy Spampinato** will serve as interim pianist at the  
I AM worship service.



...thank you, ladies!



**Elementary School Kids Coat Drive:** Many thanks to all the congregation members that made many students in the Lake Forest, Capital, and Caesar Rodney District warmer with a new coat this winter! And thanks to all who made knit & crochet hats as matching accessories!

**While we were collecting food at Redner's** for the Interfaith Food Bank, a lady stopped to tell us that when she moved to Delaware from the south a few years ago, this food bank helped her and her children with much-needed food. After she was done shopping, she donated a bag of food to the effort and expressed how much it had blessed her family. As she was leaving, she said that her children are grown now and working all over the world.

**Your contributions make a difference! Thank you so much for generously supporting our on-going food drives. You are helping to keep the pantry stocked. Our monthly donations provide about a week's worth of food for the local pantry at Kent Interfaith.**

Please remember that if you cannot drop your food off at the food drive - typically on the second Saturday each month, you may leave it in the narthex and it will be included in our delivery. Monetary contributions are also accepted and used to purchase

meats. Contributions may be given in your regular envelopes and marked "food bank."

***This food is a blessing to our community!***



Betty Harvath with helpers Casey Condon and Kenny Harris collected food outside Redner's for the Food Drive early November. Thanks to all who volunteered their time!




## Saturday, December 9 & January 13

from 10 AM to 12 noon.

# Food Collections

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

**Thank you for December's Holidays Extras & Treats:**

*Canned yams, mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce, cake mix, cookies...*

**Help serve...**

**FREE**  
*Community*  
**Lunch**

All are welcome  
to come!

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

On **December 16 & January 20, from 10AM to 2PM**, 5 people from Wyoming Church will work with 2 people from Wesley Church to set up, serve and tear down a lunch meal at Wesley UMC downtown Dover. The actual meal is served between 12 noon and 1 p.m.

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

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



## We're still Recycling Plastic for Benches

We're working on the second park bench that the Trex Corp. will send us once we have 500 lbs. of plastic foil and film collected. We're almost there!

Flexible plastics (no hard plastic containers, no combined materials please) goes in the tall, white cartons near our recycling bins and in the narthex. Let's keep it up and get our children involved so recycling will become a lifelong habit! See the program explained: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZDNFXtMu6M0>

**Thanks, everyone, for your participation!**



## ... of the Young Adult Group!

The Young Adult Group will be having a Christmas party on **Thursday, December 28th, from 6:30 to 9:00**. All young adults are welcome to join us for an evening of food fun, and fellowship in the Family Life Center. We are looking forward to seeing those home from college for the holidays. Some of your former youth leaders over the years will also be joining us for the evening.

## Winter Potluck!



### ADULT FELLOWSHIP COVERED DISH DINNER PLANS FOR THE EARLY WINTER SEASON!

The members of The Sexton Kitchen Team are pleased to invite you and your adult family members to attend, participate and enjoy the monthly, themed Adult Fellowship Covered Dish Dinners that are planned for the last Wednesday of each month in 2024.

#### Dates & Themes:

Wednesday, **December 27**, 2023 --- **Welcome New Year!**  
**Entrée: Pasta With Sauce (with or without meat )**

Wednesday, **January 31**, 2024 --- **Winter Stories!**  
**Entrée: to be announced**

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)



Come join us on **Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>** as we celebrate the beginning of Advent!  
**5:30 PM Fellowship Potluck Dinner**  
followed by a performance of our **Puppets of Praise Team!**

Meat and beverages provided, bring a side dish or dessert to share.



**Bring your family, and bring your friends, too!**

**Advent Dinner**

Thank you, everyone who helped clear the litter off Wyoming Mill Road within the **Adopt-A-Highway** program early November!



## **HARD @ WORK - MINISTRIES OF WYOMING CHURCH. THANK YOU ONE AND ALL!**

Oh the exciting hustle & bustle among the booths of some 80 crafters and vendors! This year's **Holiday Craft & Vendor Show** on Veteran's Day was another rousing success; read all about it on the next page!



Folks rolled up their sleeves and helped build the newest **Habitat House** on 2 November workdays!



### **Vendor comments:**

"Great crowds! Love the bake sale and sandwiches!!" - "Great Show. Excellent Attendance!" - "Chili & Egg Salad were delicious!" - "Love this venue!" - "Well organized." - "The staff at WUMC were amazing and very helpful. Ms. Betsy was exceptionally attentive and made my day more enjoyable as a vendor. Thank you for your wonderful service."



### **Here are the impressive numbers:**

Over \$3,000 - tables rented  
Over \$900 - bake table  
Over \$1,700 - food sales

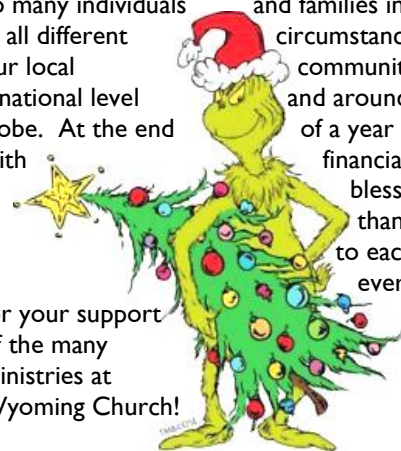
## Monthly FINANCIAL REPORT October, 2023



**Wishing you and yours a Merry Christmas and Blessed New Year!**

The Grinch may have tried to steal Christmas, but our Wyoming Church Family with boundless compassion and exemplary generosity, once again, saved Christmas for so many individuals and families in need in all different circumstances in our local community, on a national level and around the globe. At the end of a year filled with financial blessings, thank you to each and everyone

for your support of the many ministries at Wyoming Church!



## Holiday Craft & Vendor Show

*Fifteen years ago, in 2009, Nikole Moore turned a vision into reality when she held the first **WUMC Craft Show**. As a member of the Extended Table Team, she led this effort to help FUNdraising pay off the church's mortgage. The show started in the Family Life Center and has expanded to fill every available space we can find throughout the church.*

*Now chaired by Kim Reed with the assistance of Alicia Sumpter and Betsy Freidel, the mission continues to raise money in support of WUMC projects. People come from all over to participate in our show. The **Craft & Vendor Show** has become one of the favorites to shoppers in Kent County, and maybe even all of Delaware. If you haven't attended one you are really missing out! Not only is the **Craft Show** a shopping extravaganza, there is food from our amazing Sexton Kitchen Team, a huge Bake Table to satisfy your sweet tooth and, best of all, fellowship with other church members and our community.*

*A big SHOUT-OUT to the Kitchen Team and all the church bakers for supporting our event! A big THANK YOU to all the volunteers who came out to help. And the biggest THANKS!!! again to **Kim and Nikole**.*

**Mark your calendars now for the  
2nd annual**

**Spring Craft & Vendor Show  
on May 11, 2024**

and the

**16<sup>th</sup> annual Fall/Holiday  
Craft & Vendor Show  
on November 9, 2024.**

*And by the way... there is always more room on the FUNdraising Team if you'd like to join us to plan and carry out events to support Wyoming Church! Contact FUNdraising chair Linda Lyon [linda.lyon@aol.com](mailto:linda.lyon@aol.com).*

# Library news

## December & January

### Goodness & Mercy - Sharing the Story!

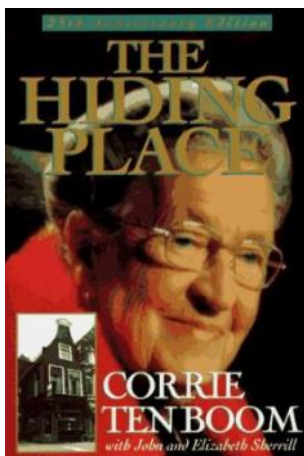
#### Featured:

#### "The Hiding Place" by Corrie ten Boom

A story that proves that the light of God's love can penetrate even the darkest recesses of despair, places like the Nazi extermination camp at Ravensbruck. After protecting Dutch Jews in a secret room in their home, Corrie ten Boom, her sister and father were discovered, arrested, and imprisoned. Only Corrie survived, but her faith in God remained strong---so strong that, after the war, she could forgive a former camp guard in a face-to-face meeting. More than just a spellbinding adventure, *The Hiding Place* is a life-changing story.

**Cornelia "Corrie" ten Boom** (15 April 1892 – 15 April 1983) was a Dutch Christian who, along with her father and other family members, helped many Jews escape the Nazi Holocaust during World War II. She was imprisoned for her actions. Her most famous book, *The Hiding Place*, describes the ordeal.

<https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/corrie-ten-boom>



"When one is born into and leaves this world on the same day, it is believed to be a sign of the total completion of one's life and their God given task on earth."

Taken from the website of "Ten Boom Coffee Roasters". (<https://tenboom.coffee>). Their mission is "to be a force for good in today's world as they are brewing good coffee and goodness in their communities today. Their vision is to change the world one sip of coffee at a time as they are sharing the story of Corrie Ten Boom and working with Agrocafe Israel."

And finally...

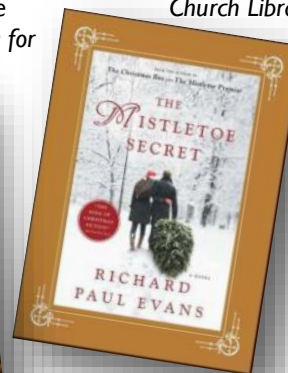
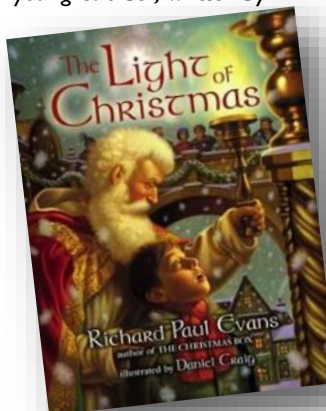
... hear the "Story of Corrie ten Boom" told by the guest speaker at the Dover Christian Women's Brunch & Program (& Silent Auction!) at the Maple Dale Country Club in Dover on Tuesday, December 12 (see 'Bulletin Board' on Page 2).

#### From Betty Brown, our Church Librarian:

"I would like to thank Sharon Duncan for her wonderful review of Richard Paul Evans' book *"The Christmas Box"*."

The 'New Additions' shelf in the several NEW! Christmas books for young & older, written by

Church Library features children, Richard Paul Evans. Check them out!"



### And... for the Love of Books:

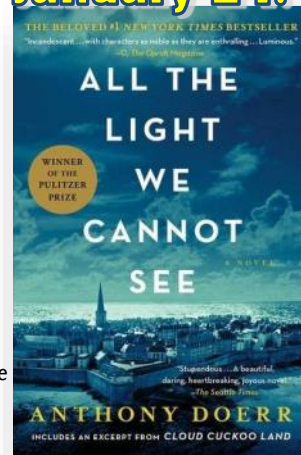


The **WUMC Book Discussion Club** meets **every fourth Wednesday from 7 to 8:30PM**. Read **January's book** now and join us on

**January 24!**

Winner of the Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award finalist, the beloved instant New York Times bestseller and New York Times Book Review Top 10 Book about a blind French girl and a German boy whose paths collide in occupied France as both try to survive the devastation of World War II.

Doerr's "stunning sense of physical detail and gorgeous metaphors" (San Francisco Chronicle) are dazzling. Deftly interweaving the lives of Marie-Laure and Werner, he illuminates the ways, against all odds, people try to be good to one another. Ten years in the writing, *All the Light We Cannot See* is a magnificent, deeply moving novel from a writer "whose sentences never fail to thrill" (Los Angeles Times).



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



Jack Freidel

## Partners in Ministry: Making Disciples for Jesus Christ - Part 2

*Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always to the end of the age. Matthew 28:19-20*

This will be my last article as lay leader as of the end of December I am stepping down from the position. For this final article, I am going to share some thoughts of mine concerning the state of the church.

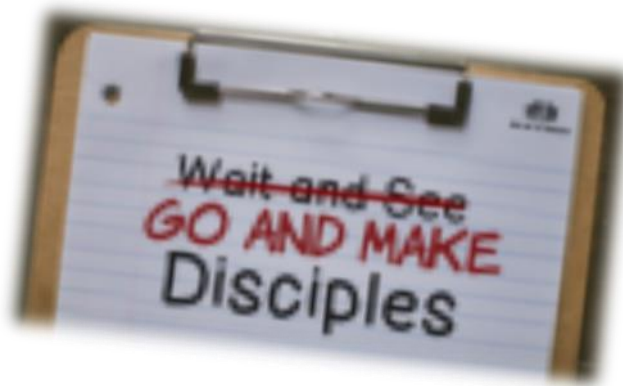
As I shared previously, the church's youth council had come up with the acronym GRACE to describe our mission and vision as a youth ministry. G stood for Growth, which by that we meant that through study we would strive to grow in our knowledge, understanding, and relationship with God and his only son Jesus Christ. R was for Reach, which was how we could draw others into relationship with our Lord. A was Aid, where the focus was on how we could serve others. C stood for Community and the social aspect of the youth ministry. E is for Exalt, think worship. As consistent with the responsibilities of the lay leader, and with the blessings of the Executive Team, I thought it would be good to take GRACE and use it to help us take a look at the ministries within our church.

Over the last two years in the Executive Team, we took a look at the areas of Growth and Community. Concerning growth, we acknowledged that there are ample opportunities offered at Wyoming Church to indeed grow in our faith, whether through Sunday school, VBS, youth group, or small groups. Concerning Community, this church has been there to offer support to others in times of need and pain. We also offer many church events and small group gatherings that bring us together in fellowship and fun.

That leaves three areas I haven't touched on, Aid, Exalt, and Reach. I want to offer a quick look at two of those areas, Aid and Exalt. I believe Aid, under the leadership of the Outreach Team and through the caring and generosity of our congregation, is a strength of our church. As far as Exalt (worship), we have talented musicians and engaging preaching.

So that leaves us with Reach (think evangelism). How are we doing as far as drawing people to Christ as indeed we are called to do in the Great Commission (the verses at the top of this article). By and large, churches in America, with exceptions, are losing members and dropping in attendance. On the bright side, it is my understanding that the churches in Asia and Africa are expanding in followers.

What about our church? With the Covid epidemic we experienced, as did most churches, a drop in attendance after worship services and other activities resumed. Since then our



average attendance has increased each year, which is something that many churches cannot say. However, we are still about one hundred less in worship on the average Sunday than where we were pre-Covid. Those increased numbers are largely made up of people who have returned to us as the Covid epidemic has waned or came to us from other churches due to relocation or concerns with the church they were at. That growth is good, but I am seeing little or no growth from the unchurched population of our community.

Still another concerning note is the loss of young people as our congregations age. The last youth conference I attended (in 2016) offered this statistic. 50% of the active youth in your church will no longer attend once they finish college. On the bright side, 50% of those no longer attending will return once they have children. Overall, that means that churches are losing 25% of each young adult class. Have you seen this in your families? In my own family, two of my children are actively involved in the life of a church, including one who is a pastor down in a UM church in Georgetown. My other child attends worship or a function at a church occasionally, but not very often. With two young children, I hope she will become regularly involved with a church. Then there is my connection with young adults who went through the youth group at our church. Sad to say, some are no longer involved in a church or attend sporadically. I can't say for sure, but I suspect that number runs close to the 50% I cited earlier.

So how do we reverse this trend? How do we pull in the unchurched? One way, of course, is for all of us to be open to inviting friends, neighbors, and coworkers to join us here at Wyoming. Another is to hold events and have ministries at the church that draw the community in. Our VBS is one such event where I see kids attend who are outside our church family and are sometimes unchurched. Another way is for the church to get involved in events and ministries that put us out in the community. In the Gospels and Acts, Jesus, his disciples, Paul, Silas, and Barnabas did most of their ministry out in the communities, not inside the places of worship. Should we be looking at their example? How would you suggest we reach the unchurched in our community?

As I stated at the beginning of this article, I am stepping down as lay leader. As last words, I encourage those still in leadership positions and those coming into such positions to work on connecting our congregation with the community by taking God's love into it and making disciples.

# Reflections

## Reflections

**Danny Cooper**  
Coordinator/Counselor  
@ Daybreak  
Counseling Services

### The Flower Bed

*The Lord makes secure the footsteps of the person who delights in him. Even if that person trips, he won't fall. The Lord's hand takes good care of him. Psalm 37:23-24*

I had the opportunity recently to learn about a part of WWI that I was totally unaware of... the battles of Isonzo. The battles, 12 in total, were essentially fought to control a vital passageway within the Julian Alps, a mountainous range located on the western edge of Slovenia. This section of the Alps, not as steep as their more well-known neighbors in nearby Italy and Austria, gradually descends into a vast, fertile valley with an easily accessible river that lazily meanders its way to the open waters of the Adriatic. Definitely a prime spot of Alpine real estate. And as international hostilities escalated and territorial positioning became increasingly important during the early days of the war, this formerly quiet and pastoral setting became a literal war zone.

One interesting fact that I discovered in reviewing this regrettable chapter in history, was that due to the incredible amount of snow and numbingly cold temperatures during the winter, fighting was put on hold for a period of months, only to resume when the snow melted away and the freezing cold relented. Sadly, it was the return of warmer weather and better footing that signaled the right conditions for combat to continue.

Unlike a true war zone experience, this episode in military history came to mind recently as I made my last loop around our house, waging one last battle, so to speak, with the relentless weeds that also refer to our home as "home". I'm not a professional gardener by any means, but it seems like I make this particular tour at least 4 to 5 times a year, beginning in March, and concluding in my current October/November circuit. And then begins a cooling off period, literally. The temperatures get colder, the ground freezes up, and the weeds return to... wherever weeds return to! There is a quiet that pervades the flower bed. And

as spring eventually returns next year, my work will begin... pruning shrubs, digging out dead plants, planting new additions, and the list goes on. And the weeds? They don't require any attention or maintenance whatsoever. They are ready for action. They simply wait for the right conditions to make their return appearance. Bothersome? Without a doubt. But consistent and predictable? Yes.

It was C.S. Lewis, during the tumult of World War II in 1941, who wrote a series of "letters" for the Anglican newspaper, *The Guardian*, which were latter assembled into a book more widely recognized as, *The Screwtape Letters*. Utilizing the concept of letters exchanged between a senior level demon, Uncle Screwtape, and Wormwood, his novice demon nephew, both of whom work together to derail the "patient" on earth from following the path of faith, Lewis sought to illustrate the spiritual battle we combat against temptation, which subtly seeks to bind us more fully to this fallen world, while consequently turning our attention and hearts away from the Lord and the path which leads us toward our heavenly home. Not unlike the weeds in the flower bed that may relent at times, yet never fully fade away, Lewis depicted temptations in a similar fashion. Whether it's the temptations that flourish in this fallen world or the pesky weeds in my garden, both will be here for the duration. And like weeds, temptations merely live in the soil, so to speak, of our lives. We are all vulnerable, each and every one of us, for all time. Not a pleasant thought, I know, but it is the truth. Maybe this is why Jesus, in the Lord's Prayer, prayed specifically for God to... *lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil*. As we know, even Jesus was not immune from temptation's pursuit.

This journey of life is like, in many ways, a road trip, one that travels through pretty and quaint farm settings, but which also ventures through its share of dark streets in the tough part of town. And it's not just the tough streets we need to be weary of traveling, because the evil one can reach us just as easily along that idyllic



looking farm road, so to speak.... maybe even easier. It is important for us to remember that we cannot separate temptation out of this life experience, but we can, thankfully, separate ourselves, with God's help, away from temptation. Jesus encouraged us in Scripture to.... *be in the world, but not of the world*. And when His disciples were growing weary and disheartened in their ministry travels, as captured in John's Gospel, Jesus encouraged His friends by declaring, "But take heart! I have overcome the world."

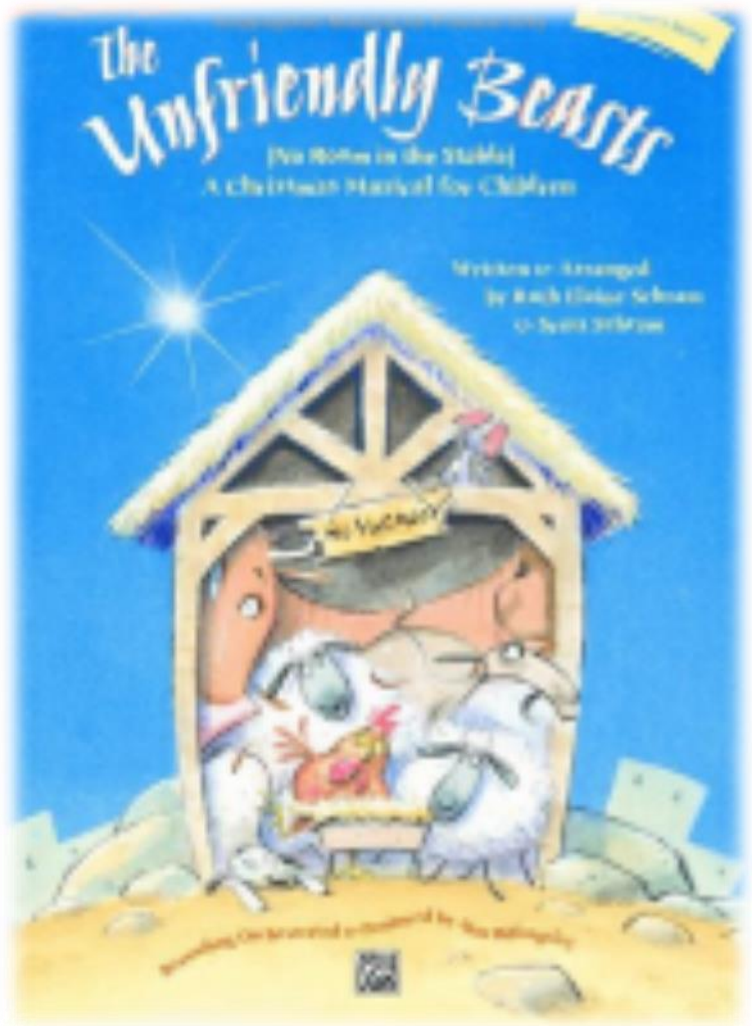
God is great. God is Almighty. Yet we must also do our part, in union with God, to live in the freedom and peace that God offers us from the trappings of this world. And so, what exactly is doing our part when it comes to temptations? For starters, if we are ready to be honest with ourselves, and with God, we will take a sincere inventory of our lives, truly acknowledging what temptations we are vulnerable to. Some temptations are the "tough part of town" variety, easily recognizable adversaries like *jealousy, being judgmental, pride, and self-centeredness*, to name just a few. Some temptations, however, are the "farm road" variety, which on the surface, might appear as "good" things. *Eating* nourishes our body. *Money* allows us to purchase necessities, save for our future, and assist others. *Sexual intimacy* is the loving tie that both solidifies a marriage and creates a family. *Work* is a means of earning an income and supporting one's self and others financially. The list goes on and on... the "good" things of this life, which if allowed to become excessive, typically due to unaddressed emotional wounds from the past, are then "lived out" in a distorted or skewed fashion. This mode of living, or more accurately, this mode of existing, takes a person further afield in life, increasingly apart from a place of balance or moderation which is required for healthy growth, maturity, and sound relationships.

I think I can speak for the bulk of us in saying that we would like to be free from

temptation's hold while on this life journey. We would also like to be healed and renewed from the hurts we've experienced along the way, and as believers, we know that only Jesus can give us this, but we must allow Him. Jesus loves us too much to simply barge into our lives and take over. Jesus will not force us to receive what He willingly offers. We must love ourselves enough to sincerely invite Him in, allowing the Lord to truly be the savior He came to be for you and me. We may have to live in this world, but only Jesus can smooth out the path we walk, protect us from carelessly hurting ourselves along the way, and fill in the empty spots within us; applying the healing balm we need for our wounds to fully heal, not leaving us so vulnerable to the evil one who loves to exploit our hurts, our brokenness, and our emptiness.

The pathway of life will always have its challenges, in particular the potholes of temptation scattered along the way, but there is truly nothing this world can throw at us that can derail our progress when we walk hand in hand with our best friend and savior. Let His strength and love protect us in our travels, for as the Apostle Paul proclaimed in Romans 8.... <sup>38</sup>*And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow - not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love.* <sup>39</sup>*No power in the sky above or in the earth below - indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord...* Amen

Sunday School Christmas Program - Christmas Eve 10 am



We're all looking forward to see our Sunday School children in their performance of "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.

There will be a **Dress Rehearsal on December 16<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 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 obyneharper@yahoo. Thanks so much for sharing your children with us and looking forward to an adorable program!

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

Turn the page and you will see...  
**Goodness Gracious Geeee...**  
**Such was**  
**Twenty-Twenty-Three!**





...made & sold baked creations



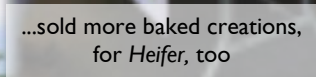
...received the One Matters award at Annual Conference



...danced & played with the ARC, indoors & out



...sold more baked creations, for Heifer, too



...walked & wheeled for water...



... and got to pie-face pastor, too!



...played DINGO in the spring & fall



...collected plastic for a Trex bench



...decked the walls in the youth room



...gave cards to those near to our Valentine hearts, our local heroes



...laughed & sang along with the Puppets of Praise



## The Hobo

David Van Kavelaar



Today, my dog Storm and I arrived at the church's south field just in time for the ten-minute carillon presentation that washed over us on this sunny November day. As usual, we were doing our daily ritual of playing ball and just lazing beneath the oak tree as its leaves were now transitioning to a brilliant orange and its acorns have fallen onto the green grass beneath the tree's drip line. Just then, a freight train chugged its way north and slowly passed our location. I marveled at the exquisite graffiti seen on the rail cars and allowed my mind to conjure up some memories of my past involving railroads. The whispering wind was coaxing the rustling leaves to make their final descent to the grass below and the rumbling freight train just one hundred feet away provided the visual and audio background for my recollections. Yeah, there was a time...

Growing up in Edgemoor Gardens just north of Wilmington, my buds and I were mystifyingly drawn to the railroad tracks that paralleled the Delaware River and the Shanty Town below our community. This was before the construction of I-495. I'm uncertain as to what the magnetic attraction to a railroad yard was to a bunch of thirteen-year old boys; nothing but dust and the intoxicating smell of diesel fuel and creosote. I wanted to talk to a hobo in the worst way because of my similar infliction of wanderlust. I had this thing about going outside of established boundaries placed upon me by my parents. My mom told me of a time when I was around eighteen months old. I was tethered to a leash device that could allow me twenty feet or so of movement along the length of the clothes line my leash was attached to. Somehow I had freed myself of the "hindering leash" and toddled up to the projects. My mom came up to retrieve her wayward son after Butchie, some teen-aged kid from the projects, had dug into his jean pockets and came up with two pennies, a little ball of string, a couple paper clips, a pack of matches,

a bottle cap, and... ah yes, a safety pin to secure my sagging diaper (mom's recollection).

The local train that ran from Wilmington to Philadelphia and beyond would stop at the Edgemoor Train Station. Brother Bob and I would walk to the station on Friday evenings to meet dad who worked in PA. It was a thirty-minute walk to help dad up the hill (dad had asthma) to our house. I told dad of my wanting to talk to a hobo; he strongly discouraged it. On some of our boyhood excursions along the railroad tracks in marshy areas, we'd come across a small pile of fire ashes where some hobo had eaten his meal. "Wow! Let's eat here." We had a pack of hot dogs so Bob, Charlie, Billy and I had two each. We scrounged around for some kindling and, after getting a nice little blaze going, we heated up water for tea (of course we had our boy scout canteens and cups) and grilled our franks to perfection. It was a nice chow down, but our primary goal was to find where few have dared to go; a cool and invigorating experience awaited. We went further into the Cherry Island Marsh area to investigate, had no idea what to expect, but onward we went. How's it expressed in Star Trek, "...where no man has gone before."

But why can't we find a hobo guy to talk to? Merle Haggard expresses the sentiment of a hobo as he requests the Lord to give him one more train to ride in the song "Where Have All the Hoboes Gone?"

*The silver rails have lost their shine,  
they're just a victim of our time.*

*They might as well rust in the rain,  
what good's a track without a train?*

*I'd love to hear a whistle whine  
and ride a box car one more time*

*So, Lord, if you're still on my side  
you'll send me one more train to ride.*

Let's focus in on the hoboes and see how they "evolved" over time but first, in case you weren't aware, there is a societal "pecking order" among the unfortunate hoboes, tramps, and bums. Tramps and hoboes are commonly lumped together, but in their own view, they are sharply different. A hobo is simply a migrant laborer; he may take some longish holidays, but sooner or later he returns to work. A tramp never works if it can be avoided, he simply travels. Lower than either is the bum who neither works or travels, except when impelled to motion by the police.

Some history now. With the end of the American Civil War in the 1860's, many discharged veterans returning home began hopping freight cars. Others looking for work on the American Frontier followed the railways west aboard freight trains in the late 19<sup>th</sup>

century. The number of hoboes increased greatly during the Great Depression Era of the 1930's. With no work and no prospects at home, many decided to travel for free by freight train and try their luck elsewhere.

Around the end of WW II, railroads began the move from steam to diesel locomotives making jumping freights much more difficult. This, in combination with post-war prosperity, led to a decline in the number of hoboes.

In the 1970's and 1980's, hobo numbers were augmented by returning veterans many of whom were disillusioned with settled society. Overall, the national economic demand for a mobile service labor force has declined over time leading to fewer hoboes.

Life as a hobo was dangerous. In addition to the problem of being itinerant, poor, and far from home and support, plus the hostility of many railroad yard crews, they faced the railroad police, nicknamed "bulls", who had a reputation of violence against trespassers.

Well anyway... back to reality. I've come to realize a thirteen-year old boy in 1960 only saw the excitement and romanticism tied to the notion of riding the rails to who knows where. But now, the urge to attempt such an undertaking has dissipated with time and, after abandoning the Hobo Dave dream, I still enjoy the many train songs that have been around for a long time, you know, King of the Road, Chattanooga Choo Choo, Wreck of the Number 9, Mystery Train, The Orange Blossom Special, Rock Island Line, all of Boxcar Willie's stuff, and much more.

Here's a little thought from John Prine's "The Hobo Song":

*Please tell me where have all the hoboes  
gone to, I see no fire burning down by the  
rusty railroad track.*

*Could it be that life has gone and left them  
all tied up in life's eternal traveling sack?*

So as Storm yawned and traipsed southward to "reclaim" the other oak tree on the church campus, my fond remembrances of our gang's "railroad escapades" slowly ebbed away with the fading clickety-clack of the north-bound freight train. But boy, were those days fun!



**FUNdraising gratefully announces that \$633 was raised in the Team's November sale of Gift Cards!!**

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

**63B941BB59911**

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

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

**THANK YOU!**

Shop the brands you love

Earn for the organization you love



**raising ... FUNdraising ... FUN**

*for eating... shopping...  
gifts... or filling your tank*



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**raising ... FUNdraising ... FUN**

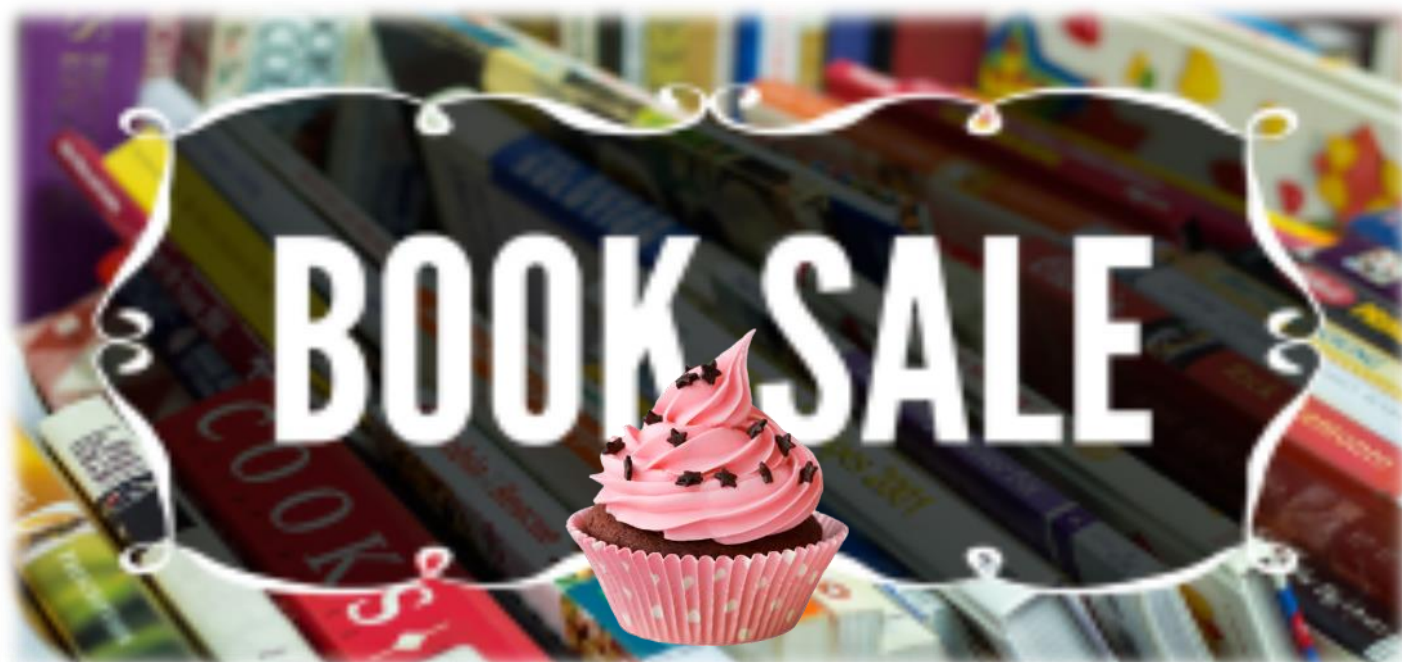
Have questions about getting started? Call the RaiseRight Customer Support team at (800)727-4715 Option 3.

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

## **Books & Baked Goods ...**

## **... Saturday, January 27!**

The WUMC FUNdraising Team will be holding their very popular **BOOK SALE** in the Family Life Center **from 8 AM to 1 PM**. No book over **\$1.00!!** And don't forget to pick up a yummy treat from the bake table to take home!



We are accepting donations of **BOOKS** for adults & teens. We also gladly accept any children's books. Bags may be placed in front of the "cage door" on the FLC stage at any time. Please note that we do **NOT** accept text books, magazines, or encyclopedias.

All proceeds will go toward specific church building projects.



Celebrate with a soup a day to keep the chill away. Enjoy your favorite soup with friends and family...and don't forget to share your best recipes!

**Soup is...** a flavorful and nutritious liquid food served at the beginning of a meal or a snack. Traditionally in France, soupé was a slice of bread on which the contents of a cooking pot (potage) was poured. Soup was designated as unstrained vegetable meat or fish soups garnished with bread, pasta, or rice.

However, it is the good stock which gives the body or strength to the soup. After an appetizer, soup is the first meal in real sense. Soups have many forms...some soups are thin and served as broths, while some are served as clear soups such as consommé.

## The Top Five Soups in America (according to Campbell's)

### I. Chicken Noodle Soup



2. Tomato Soup
3. Clam Chowder
4. Potato Soup
5. Minestrone

**... and your favorite?**

## Chicken Noodle Soup... ...from scratch.

### Ingredients:

- 1/2 Tablespoon butter
- 2 ribs celery , diced
- 3-4 large carrots diced
- 1 clove garlic , minced
- 10 cups chicken stock , or broth
- 1 teaspoon salt , to taste
- 1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper , to taste
- 1/8 teaspoon dried rosemary, or more, to taste
- 1/8 teaspoon dried sage
- 1/8 teaspoon crushed red pepper flakes
- 5 cups dry egg noodles, farfalle or other bite-size pasta
- 3 cups rotisserie chicken
- 1 teaspoon better than bouillon chicken flavor, (or more, as needed), or chicken bouillon granules

### Instructions:

Add butter, diced celery and carrots to a large stock pot over medium-high heat. Sauté for 3 minutes. Add garlic and cook for another 30 seconds.

Add chicken stock and season the broth with rosemary, sage, crushed red pepper, and salt (definitely TASTE the broth before adding more salt), and pepper. Taste and add a spoonful of "better than bouillon" chicken or chicken bouillon cubes or granules as needed.

Bring broth to a boil. Add noodles (either uncooked homemade egg noodles, or dry store-bought pasta) and cook just until noodles are al dente.

If using store-bought noodles, be cautious not to overcook them! Remove pot from heat as soon as they are just barely tender. The noodles will continue to cook once you remove the pot from the heat, and you don't want them mushy.

Add chicken meat from the rotisserie chicken. Taste the broth again and add more seasonings, if needed.

Store leftovers in an airtight container in the refrigerator for 4-5 days, depending on the freshness of the chicken you used.

## The Safe Secure Sanctuary (S3) Program Responds To Changing Circumstances.

Currently the S3 Program is on track to recruit and retain dedicated volunteers to serve as Monitors, Ushers, Greeters and Stewards for the forthcoming January through June 2024 calendar. Providing that I can have and continue to be assured of direct 24/7 access to our Church's off-site technology provider, I will be prepared to assume the multi-faceted, complex responsibility associated with this program.

The continuing, outstanding success of this vitally important program in the life of our Wyoming Church is due entirely to the dedicated Christian sisters and brothers who serve as Monitors, Ushers, Greeters and Stewards. If, after prayerful consideration, you feel led to finding more about how your unique gifts and graces could best serve in the S3 Program please see Terry or contact him at [terryhiggins38@outlook.com](mailto:terryhiggins38@outlook.com) or (302) 363-5823.

## Turf And Grounds 'Put To Bed'!

Our manicured and well-cared for Church turf and grounds have been 'put to bed' until next season. Unless we have an unusually warm and wet winter we should anticipate the beginning of the 2024 grounds care season sometime during the forthcoming month of April.

Plans are now being made to solicit the most favorable plan of care for the approximate 9.2 acres that comprises

o u r  
Wyoming  
Church  
setting.  
J e r r y  
W a l l a c e,  
our professional  
landscaper  
for 2023,  
actually  
v o l u n -  
teered to  
take on



several more additional weekly services that were not part of the original contract at no extra charge. It was this writer's distinct pleasure to meet with Jerry on site on an almost weekly, sometimes twice a week, basis. He was always very receptive to suggestions and often had some very helpful improvements to incorporate into the protocol care plans.



## The Memorial Garden Is Always Open!

E v e r y  
morning our  
Church's  
Memorial  
Garden, on  
the eastern

portion of the property, is the east-most structure to catch the first rays of light and the accompanying rising Sun. The quietness of those first few minutes can often set the stage for the tenor of the day -- both in the Garden and wherever we happen to be.

As you undoubtedly know by now our Wyoming Church's Memorial Garden is open to all who would care to visit. The Memorial Garden provides an opportunity for a family to honor the memory of a loved one or for an individual to honor the memory of a person who has had a most positive effect on their life by making the decision to acquire a Memorial Garden Brick to place in the Garden.

The acquisition process is quite simple. To begin you will need to select a Memorial Garden Brick Order Form from the Memorial Garden Model in the Narthex. Once you have completed the order form take it to the Church Office for subsequent transmission to Terry Higgins. Upon confirmation of your order it will be forwarded to the Stone Mason for the requested engraving. Following two quality checks for accuracy your engraved Memorial Brick will be ready to be placed in a location in the Memorial Garden that you have preselected.



**Everybody's Invited!**

**SATURDAY, January 27, 2024**

**Prayer Breakfast**

**THE TOTAL HEALING  
POWER OF PRAYER!**

**Start A New Tradition -  
Attend The Prayer Breakfast -  
All Are Accepted And Welcome!**

**The LAST SATURDAY  
OF EACH MONTH -**

Please Note: We do NOT meet  
the Month of December.

**On Saturday, January 27, we will  
begin to gather at 7:30 AM in the**

**Private Party Room at**

**TRE SORELLE DOLCE in**

**Wyoming for our Church's  
monthly Prayer Breakfast.**

**Upon arrival we will place our  
individual orders which will then be  
taken to Mike And Mel's**

**Restaurant, across the street in  
Wyoming, where they will be quickly  
and accurately filled and warmly  
returned for our enjoyment.**

**We usually conclude between  
8:30 and 9:00 AM.**

**Thanks to Mike and Becky Marasco,  
the TRE SORELLE DOLCE Owners;  
we have exclusive use of their Party  
Room for our Monthly Prayer  
Breakfasts.**

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



- 12/01** Pat Brown, Theresa McGee, Bill Rhodes,  
Sandy Rhodes, Noelle Robinson  
**12/03** Kathy Delong, Betsy Freidel, Darlene Seip  
**12/04** Jack Freidel, Stephanie Nichols  
**12/06** Bill McMahan  
**12/07** Danielle Malone  
**12/08** Carole Pearce  
**12/09** Nancy Rubino  
**12/10** Warren Field, Linda Holderbaum, Dave Watson  
**12/11** Scott Bittner, Alan Schmidt  
**12/12** Pastor Eric Fontanez, Taylor Klecan  
**12/13** Jennifer Forbes, John Stuart  
**12/14** Vera Kundler  
**12/15** Katlin Cooper, Gary Pippin  
**12/17** Lyndsey Collison, Frank Roberts  
**12/18** Bill Parkhill, Sue Willson  
**12/19** Debra Petro  
**12/21** Marlene Loomis  
**12/22** Emme Gebhart  
**12/23** Madelyn Flaherty, Kenny Harris, Barb Shepperson  
**12/25** Lynn Ditty, Sue Hajec  
**12/26** Hannah Nelson  
**12/27** Brock Nelson, Lily Wagner  
**12/28** Christopher Jones, Ed Krieger, Wanda Spiering  
**12/30** Dave Kleinot, John Aaron Kling, Morgan Rigby  
**12/31** Dawn Miller  
**1/1** Kim Bryan, Adam Hanna, Viviane Salib Gourgy  
**1/4** Sue Rigby  
**1/5** Natalia Marlow  
**1/7** Chris Cattie  
**1/8** Deedee Duncan  
**1/10** Dawn Melson-Williams  
**1/12** Diane Metsch  
**1/13** Scott Kannon  
**1/14** R.B. Downing, Tim Stant  
**1/16** Ian Fox, Brayden Whitenight  
**1/17** Christopher Saxton  
**1/19** Brenda Bittner  
**1/20** Jamie Ahl Ditty, Karen deBloois, Carl Ravilious,  
Vonnie Williams  
**1/21** Tina Klecan, Greg Williams  
**1/22** Kirsten Higgins  
**1/24** James Miller  
**1/25** Nikole Moore  
**1/26** Marilyn Massey, Jenn (Boyer) Volk  
**1/28** Dotty Baker, Marie Henriques, Kyle Hodges  
**1/29** Brad Whitenight  
**1/31** Becky Minor  
**2/1** Amy Schmidt, Rick Sharpe  
**2/2** Chuck Muldrow  
**2/3** Doug Ditty, Amy Higgins, Rev. Dave Hill  
**2/4** Aiden Flaherty, Lucas Quiroz  
**2/6** Judy Field

## ~ Our People ~

## ~ Baptized & New Members ~

**Michael & Dena Lumia with daughters Abigail and Emma**  
 were baptized  
 on November 19, 2023 -  
 Dena & Michael were also  
 received into membership.



**David & Heydi Fontanez**  
 (pictured with their son David  
 Hezekiah) were recently received  
 into membership, too!



Welcome all to the  
 Wyoming Church family!

*Thank you, my Wyoming Church family, for your many cards and letters and calls expressing your loving care and compassion at the recent brief illness and death of my brother-in-law James here in Massachusetts. Your thoughtfulness and prayers mean the world to me!*

*Kathy Chalmers, Buzzards Bay, Mass.*

*Dear Friends,*  
*Frank and I want to **thank everyone** for the prayers, calls, cards, notes, food and visits during this time of my recuperation. Hip surgery is a simple thing. But other adjustments were made in my knee and leg, which have put a delay in progress.*  
*Your loving kindness in your welcoming us back to the Wyoming family has been awesome. We are home once again. Thank you all. Blessings to you for the holiday season. God is good.*

*Frank and Nancy Roberts*

## ~ Our People ~

## ~ Deaths ~



**Dr. James William Pierce,**  
the brother-in-law of  
Kathy Chalmers  
on September 13, 2023

**Sharon Dalton,**  
the cousin of  
Donna McCartney,  
on November 7, 2023



### 12 Prayers for Christmas

**LOVE** Lord, help us follow the way of love -  
let the love of Christ compel us. 1 Corinthians 14:1; 2 Corinthians 5:14

**JOY** Restore the joy of Your salvation to us;  
let us experience the joy of Your presence. Psalm 51:12, 16:11

**PEACE** Let Your peace rule and guard our hearts;  
give us more of You, Jesus - You are our peace.  
Colossians 3:15; Philippians 4:7; Ephesians 2:14

**HOPE** Enlighten the eyes of our heart so that  
we may know the hope You called us to. Ephesians 1:18

**FAVOR** Let Your favor rest on us. Luke 2:52

**LIFE** Shine Your light of life on us; help us to walk in it.  
Job 33:30; Psalm. 56:13

**SALVATION** Help us to fear You so we can  
unlock the treasure of Your salvation. Isaiah 33:6

**SELFLESSNESS** Keep us from self-seeking  
attitudes that reject truth. Romans 2:8

**GENEROSITY** Make us rich in ways that result  
in generosity on our part so You will be praised. 2 Corinthians 9:11

**RECEIVING** Help us receive Your kingdom,  
Your Spirit, and Your grace. Daniel 7:18; John 20:22; Romans 5:17

**SEEKING** Encourage us to seek Your face  
with all our hearts. Deuteronomy 4:29; Psalm 27:8

**PRAISE** We ascribe glory to Your name, Lord;  
we come before You in worship for You are holy. 1 Chronicles 16:28-29



### December is Spiritual Literacy Month...

... listed in Chase's Calendar of Events as a month for "promoting respect for and among the world's religions and spiritual traditions by encouraging people to 'read the book of the world' (liber mundi) for sacred meaning."

Spiritual Literacy Month was founded by two authors, Frederic and Mary Brussat in 1996 with a goal of advocating for respect for the religions of the world, and the spiritual traditions that come along with them. They said the way to do this was to encourage people to read text from all different kinds of religions.

#### *This is a time to remember three things:*

1. Life is a sacred adventure.
2. Every day we encounter signs written in the texts of our own experience that point to the active presence of spirit in the world around us.
3. We can learn to read the signs; we can become spiritually literate. We can get the message.

*"To read the sacred in everyday life, requires that we develop new qualities of the mind and heart, qualities that open us to the presence of the spiritual within all aspects of existence. No moment, no thing is to be excluded."*

—Frederic and Mary Brussat

**To see a world in a grain of sand  
and a heaven in a wild flower  
To hold infinity in the  
palm of your hand  
and eternity in an hour.**

— William Blake



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!**

**Our Pastors are available  
by appointment.**

**Call or text**

**☎ (302) 423-3911**

**Pastor Lindsay**

**☎ (302) 423-4237**

**Pastor Rick**

**WINTER**  
*Memory Verse*

**HOW PRICELESS IS  
YOUR UNFAILING LOVE,  
O GOD!  
PEOPLE TAKE REFUGE  
IN THE SHADOW OF  
YOUR WINGS.**

*Psalm 36:7*

*Worship News:*

**Sunday, December 17 -**

wear your crazy Christmas gear  
(let the Wessell's inspire you, see picture on the cover page)

**Sunday, December 24 -**

**10 AM** combined worship  
& Christmas Musical (page 11)

**Christmas Eve - December 24**

4:00 PM Contemporary Candlelight Worship

6:00 PM Handbells "Carols of Christmas"

6:30 PM Candlelight Worship

*...and after Christmas:*

**Sunday, December 31 -**

10 AM combined worship  
(no Sunday School)

**...and finally - an idea for worship in 2024??**



We have 3 worship services to choose from...  
"Suits and Hymns" at 8am...  
"Polos and Powerpoint" at 10...  
or "Hoodies and Hallelujahs" at noon.