

THE WYOMING MESSENGER

February 2024



Hearty 'Leap Year' Foods & Valentine's Day Revisited!

Adult Fellowship Covered Dish Dinner Plans for the mid-Winter Season.

The members of the Sexton Kitchen Team are pleased to invite you and ALL of your adult family members to attend, participate and enjoy the themed Adult Fellowship Covered Dish Dinner that is planned for the last Wednesday of this month of February 2024.

Date: Wednesday, February 28 Entrée: Hearty Winter Cuisine

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. Love Offering.

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

Should you have questions or comments, please see Carol Abbott or contact her at ceabbott123@gmail.com



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(STILL) NEW YEAR, NEW MINISTRY??

While most of our New Year's Resolutions have probably gone 'overboard' at this point, that also frees us up for considering something new! Check out these opportunities below, maybe there's a way for YOU to serve?

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.

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.

Our faithful 'old-to-new' **Greeting Card maker**, Bernice Ericson, who has single-handedly so-to-speak created hundreds of the most beautiful greeting cards for pretty much any occasion for so many years, has asked to be excused into well-deserved retirement from that ministry. Bernice, we can't thank you enough!! And while many of her creations remain on sale (for a mere \$1/each, in the vending area by the north wing doors), even more donated cards await a new crafter or creative team to take on that task. Talk to Renate if you're interested.

Above all else,
guard your heart,
for everything
you do flows from it
Proverbs 4:23



The Bible tells us to do everything "heartily, as to the Lord" (Colossians 3:23), and to serve Him "with gladness" (Psalm 100:2). If there is no joy in our lives, let's ask Him to search our hearts, to forgive our sin, and to restore our joy (Psalm 51:12).

Bulletin Board



Date: Saturday, May 11th, 2024

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Set up: Friday 4:30 – 7:00 p.m. and Saturday 7:00 – 8:30 a.m.

Fee/space dimensions: \$40 per space includes an 8-foot table and 2 chairs.

There's a limit of two side-by-side spaces.

Food and drinks: Available for purchase

Contact: Craft Show Chair, Kim Reed at (302) 670-1832 or
wyomingchurchcraftshowchair@gmail.com

Download your application from www.wyomingumc.com -
 'HAPPENINGS'



You are invited to the

HEARTWARMING...

Dover DE Women's Connection

Program & Breakfast Buffet

on Tuesday, February 13

from 9:30 to 11:30 AM

at the Maple Dale Country Club in Dover.

\$20 inclusive (cash or check)

Program: Scentsy – products that warm the heart
 through fragrant scents

Guest Speaker: Gayle Alicea

"Surviving the Grand Canyon of Life"

Saxophone Music by: Michelle Danette

Reservations and cancellations for breakfast and free
 child care are strongly encouraged by February 9th

RSVP to Donna ☎ (530) 921-8936

or Diane ☎ (302) 697-6020

Dover Delaware Women's Connection
 Affiliated with Stonecroft Ministries

**FUNdraising is still 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
 with questions.
 THANKS!**



pickleball - anyone?

A small, friendly group plays several times a
 week. If you'd like to play, learn or just watch,
 please call Dawn (302) 480-4758
 for times and location.



Operation Christmas Child-

Special thanks to the person that
 dropped off crocheted frisbees at the
 table in November ... they were all
 placed in boxes destined for a grateful
 child! Please give me a call so I can
 personally thank you -
 Dawn (302) 480-4758.

If you are able to crochet or sew items for
 this year's boxes, any help is appreciated!

From the Pastors' Desk

Fighting the mid-winter doldrums is an annual event for both Lindsay and I. I truly do not like this time of the calendar year. The joy, brightness, and colors of Christmas are replaced in January and February by grey - grey skies, barren trees, and often lots of rain. It's dark, and it's sad. There's no wonder why so many people feel down and "blah." Oh, and because Easter is early this year, Lent is right around the corner.

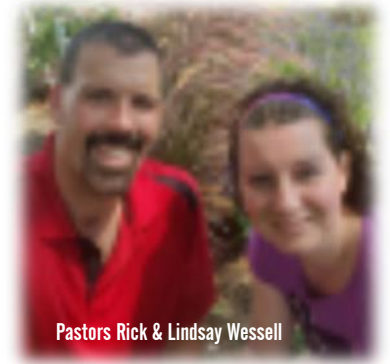
However, there are so many reasons to get out of the depths of mid-winter sadness and find the joy - God is working all around us!

Psalm 19:1 reminds us "the heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands." Sunset, which back in December was 4:30 PM, is now after 5, and by the end of February is will be 6 PM! Every day we are inching closer to spring, longer days, and more sunshine.

The best news of all -

We have hired a new Director of Music Ministries! In the upcoming weeks we will share more about that, including an official start date and time of welcome, but she will be joining us shortly after Easter. If you love traditional worship and the sound of the organ, trust me - just wait until you hear her play! God continues to bless Wyoming Church and we are excited for the future.

2023 was a time of great financial blessing. Just look at the financial report in this newsletter - despite several unexpected expenses, God provided for all our needs, just as he promises to do in Philippians 4:19.



Pastors Rick & Lindsay Wessell

As the classic song "Hymn of Promise" reminds us, "in the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be."

Keep your eyes fixed on Jesus, and watch for all the good that God is doing.

We pray you have a blessed February!

*...in the cold and snow of winter
there's a spring that waits to be.*



Ash
Wednesday

On February 14, come in for the **Imposition of Ashes** between 12 noon and 1 PM and between 5 and 6 PM.



**From the Kent
Interfaith
Alliance Pantry:**

Please convey our appreciation to the thoughtful people of your church who donated a tremendous amount of food to our Pantry all this year.

Thanks to your generosity for this entire last Calendar Year through the end of December we were able to provide food to each of the 1165 Families, (2665 Adults and 2866 children) who came to our pantry for food assistance. Thanks to the varied kinds of food your people donated, we were able to provide a very wide variety of foods to each family. The above numbers also included an Easter Basket, a Thanksgiving Basket and a Christmas Basket for a complete traditional dinner in addition to our normal food assistance.

Our Thanksgiving dinner provided a Thanksgiving Turkey and the accompanying traditional foods to 146 families, 975 total people (387 Adults, 588 Children).

Our Christmas dinner provided a Christmas Turkey or Ham and the accompanying traditional foods to 133 families, 785 total people (336 Adults, 449 Children).

Thanks to the generosity of the Wyoming Methodist people we were able to give a considerable amount of families two weeks of food that we would not normally be able to do with the foods our people would normally be able to donate.



Saturday, February 10

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

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 **February 17, 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.



**From Heifer
International:**



***Dare to reach out your hand into the darkness,
to pull another hand into the light.***

Norman B. Rice

Thank you so much for your generous donations last year! This would not be possible without the help from our wonderful supporters like you all. Please feel free to contact us directly if we can ever assist you in getting any resources for upcoming events. We are happy to help! Thank you for our life-changing support over the years. We are truly grateful!



**From the Central
Delaware Interfaith
Alliance:**

Thank you so much for your generous donations to Central Delaware Interfaith Alliance over the last year. Your congregation has been so supportive of the mission of the Kent Ecumenical Food & Crisis Fund! The members who make up Kent Ecumenical come from many different denominations and have the common goal of providing rent, utility etc. assistance to families in need. As you are aware, we are a completely volunteer group and all contributions received go directly back to the community. Many local families have experienced hard times that have forced them to seek assistance. We feel truly blessed to be able to help those in need in our local community. It is through contributions like yours that we are able to continue our service. Thank you again!



From Knitting to Nurture: Washcloths & Hats & Blankets

**Many hands in our congregation
and beyond create much
appreciated gifts!**

Pictured above are 36 hats and 27 washcloths (wrapped around soap) that members of our congregation produced lovingly to send to local homeless shelters. Items were gratefully received at the Shepherd Place and House of Hope where they were given to residents at Christmas.

Operations Christmas Child received 27 children's hats, precious 'box stuffers' for this year's gifting.

31 washcloths with soap bars and 40 winter hats were given to the People's Church shelter and another 28 women's hats and 3 lap blankets went to Whatcoat People's Place on College Road.

All around recipients were so very grateful. **Thank you to all who participated!**

'Knit-A-Square' is the new project on the 'knitting' table outside the office window. We'll ship our squares to South Africa where women connect them into beautiful blankets. Sounds worthwhile? You're welcome to pick up instructions and yarn, and let's get those needles going again!



Are you interested in learning how to make a Cherry Pie?

The Kitchen Team will be doing their annual Cherry Pie fundraiser this February in time for Presidents Day.

****Dough making is scheduled for February 21 from 8:30 to 9:30AM.**

****Dough rolling is scheduled for February 22 from 8:30 to 9:30AM.**

****Pies will be assembled with lattice crusts and baked on Friday, February 23 from 8:30 to 9:30AM.**

See Shelby Truitt or Carol Abbott on Sunday mornings if you have any questions about joining Kitchen Team members in making pies for a crowd.

And if your interest is purely in eating cherry pie, please **order** on the sign-up sheet in the Narthex **by February 18.**

We will make both regular pies (sugar) and sugar-free pies (Splenda) in two sizes: large is \$14 and small is \$7.

Pie pick up will be Friday, 2/23 from noon to 4PM. Order yours today!



Blessings in our Community

Our congregation has been amazing in sharing God's love to our community in 2023!

We have contributed \$35,000 to many projects including Lifetime Wells International, UMCOR, Interfaith Alliance food bank, Habitat, Rise Against Hunger, community meals at Wesley UMC, among many distributions.

Through FER contributions, we shared funds with the Interfaith Alliance as well as individual needs. \$12,000 was given to help individuals with rent assistance, utilities, a heater repair, etc. The recipients of these funds were all working families who had a crisis which kept them from being able to handle their bills for a brief time.

In addition, we furnished flood/ cleaning buckets, personal care items, nonperishable lunches, school supplies, coats for school children, Christmas gifts, and baby products for families in Dover.

The regular church budget line was used to support 3 United Methodist missionaries.

You have been caring to our community and world. We look forward to another busy 2024! All this was accomplished through Christ. Who could have imagined we would do so much?

Matthew 19:26:

Jesus said "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."



**Walk for Water benefitting Lifetime Wells International -
Saturday, May 11 at 9 AM.**

Recommendations for Your



help carry. Things down the Steps if you can't. Donations are also accepted on Saturdays from 10 am to 12 noon. No one is able to help carry down on Saturdays.

Clothing and Household Items

The Outreach Team recommends that you donate **USABLE** clothing and shoes to the Wesley UMC Clothing Closet. They also gratefully accept useful household and kitchen items such as sheets, towels, pans, etc. Decorative items are not encouraged. It is at the end of North Street across from the Biggs Museum parking lot. What is different about this effort is that they give items away free to those who are referred by another church (we have sent people there). On Saturdays, their thrift store is open to community members, with prices ranging from \$1 to \$3. And the proceeds are given to our local community, as well.

They accept donations on Monday and Friday mornings between 9 and 11 am and have people available to

Furniture and Building Supplies

We recommend that you give usable furniture, lighting, fixtures, etc. to the Habitat Restore. These items will be resold to the community, and proceeds are used to fund local Habitat homes. Pick-up for large items can be arranged.

RECYCLE Used & Un-sellable Clothing

If you have clothing, linens, shoes, or curtains that are torn, worn, or very out of date, please, deposit those items in the bins found in many parking lots in the area (e.g. one near Aldi in Camden). We are told that these donations are often recycled, which means they will not go into the landfill!

Ho Ho Ho!!!

In December of 2023, WUMC brought back **"The Giving Tree"** after using the Amazon Wish List during Covid times.

Tags were hung on the **Giving Tree** in the Narthex with one specific Christmas wish item listed on each tag.

Our church sponsored 64 local children and 16 special-need adults. Each child received 3 gifts, and our special needs adults, through the ARC of Delaware, received 2 gifts each. That means we sent 224 gifts to 80 smiling individuals on Christmas Morning. WOW! We have such a wonderful congregation. We are so grateful because without each and every one of you, this may not have been a success. Thank you to those who purchased the gifts, those who helped with supplies, those who spent time writing each gift on each tag and hanging them on the tree. Thank you to our church elves who sorted, organized, wrapped and packed the gifts and to our office staff who were always there when we needed something. We are so blessed to have each one of you as part of our congregation.



Monthly FINANCIAL REPORT December, 2023

Larry Towle, Finance Team Chair (retired 12/31/2023)

	2023 Offering	2023 Expense
Weekly Offerings	\$ 583,506.31	
Facilities and Other	\$ 54,928.16	
Totals	\$ 638,434.47	\$ 640,206.29
Net Operating	(1,771.82)	



The Membership Contact Team

The Membership Contact Team had their first meeting of the new year in January. For those not familiar with this team, the ministry of the team is two-fold. One focus of the team is to reach out to members who have been inactive in the life of the church and attempt to find out why. Have there been illnesses or other physical problems they have been dealing with? Are they watching online? Have they moved outside of the area? Are work schedules getting in the way of taking part in our church ministries? Are they now attending another church? Are there concerns involving the church they would like to share?

Depending on the responses we receive, the team may take a number of different actions. We may encourage the members to once again participate in the life of the church, refer a person to the visitation team, or pass information along to the pastors. Perhaps the member wants to be dropped from our rolls or have their membership transferred to another church. If someone is watching online or has been away for an extended period of time, we will pass on a friendly greeting and make a note of it for our team's records.

The other focus of our team is a more unpleasant one. It is to prepare for the yearly Charge Conference three lists. Those are the 1 Year Inactive, 2 Year Inactive, and To Be Removed lists. These are lists of members who have not been active in the life of the church for extended periods of time. Contact tries from our team have not been successful in bringing them back into the life of the church. Those listed on the To Be Removed list, are then dropped from membership at the Charge Conference that year.

Enough, though, about the duties of the Membership Contact Team. What I want to touch on now are three ways that the congregation can help out the Membership Contact Team. One is to sign the attendance pads when attending worship. Our team has only six members, split between attending our two Sunday morning services. We don't know everyone in a church our size. So if someone doesn't sign the attendance pad, and someone on the team doesn't know the person, we may make a call reaching out to find out why we haven't seen that person only to be told, "Oh, I've been

attending." That, of course, can be an awkward situation.

A second way that the congregation can help out the Membership Contact Team is by reaching out. When out in the community if you run into a fellow church member who you haven't seen at church for awhile, tell them you have missed them at church, and if it turns out they haven't been attending, encourage them to return. Your expression of care for them may be just the thing to get them back into our church community.

Finally, our team could use a few more members. We only meet 4 times a year, and the only responsibility outside of attending the meeting is to make a few phone calls, text messages, or emails to reach out to those members we haven't seen for some time.

If interested, contact me, Jack Freidel, at jfreidel@yahoo.com or (302) 535-3981.



Library news February



The Fanny Marvel Church Library offers

Puzzles,

Magazines,

DVD's,

Audio Books, and -

BOOKS!! ... for just about any age.

*Check out a book or DVD and return it when you're done..
Take home (and keep!) a puzzle and/or some magazines.*



Featured in February, books around Presidents' Day, specifically Washington and Lincoln as we celebrate their birthdays; and in honor of Valentines Day, check out two movies and an audio book, for the love of it!

Avid readers... check out the **WUMC Book Discussion Club!** We meet **every fourth Wednesday at 7PM.**

Read "Midnight Library" by Matt Haig, the book chosen for February (available in the library, too) and join us on **February 28** for the discussion.

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



Spunky Old Broads Month

is celebrated for the entire month of February! Why is the month



all about spunky old broads, though? It was brought about by a spunky old broad herself - Dr. Gayle Carson. She believes it's for the women who are spunky, open, and brave.

Spunky Old Broads Day (S.O.B. Day) is marked on February 1.

It's a day to celebrate older women for all their courage, wisdom, and vivacity. It is a day to celebrate them and their accomplishments, and simply recognize their importance. It is also for the young ladies to prepare to become a spunky old broad someday.

An S.O.B. is a successful, independent, self-reliant, smart, intelligent, outgoing, out-spoken, resourceful, bold, brave, and anything but shy lady. The word 'spunky' itself means courageous, spirited, feisty, and determined. That's what the originator of this trademarked holiday, life coach Dr. Carson says. The self-proclaimed spunky old broad is the author of "How to Be an S.O.B. - A Spunky Old Broad Who Kicks Butt." It is a must-read for the namesakes, as well as anyone who aims to be one someday.

Since a day wasn't enough, she decided to declare the entire month as a celebration of the broads back in 2002. She also chooses the Spunky Old Broad of the Year, with previous winners such as Helen Mirren, Dolly Parton, Frida Kahlo, Michelle Obama, Sharon Osbourne, Cloris Leachman, Goldie Hawn, and Katie Couric, among others.

She said, "I started it because I found that once a woman hit 50, she was almost invisible and as a woman who keeps reinventing herself and is very active in business, media, etc., I wanted to acknowledge that is not the truth. Wellness expert and speaker Beverly Beuermann-King adds, "S.O.B. Month celebrates all women over 50, who believe it is never too late to live their dream, be who they want to be, create and do whatever they want to do."

To celebrate S.O.B. Month, try to do something you've never done before. Step outside, be loud, bring out your spunkiness, and live each day to the fullest. If you're below 50, you can share a pic of yourself and an older woman who inspires you and ask your followers to do the same. Your inspiring post should encourage anyone and everyone to get out and try something new.

A wise old woman once said: "When I get old, they're never going to say, 'What a sweet old lady.' Rather they will say, 'What on Earth is she up to now?'"

Who is the S.O.B. in your life? How has she inspired and influenced you? When was the last time you chatted, laughed, shared advice and secrets together?

No time like the present!





David Van Kavelaar

The sermon in church today, January 14, given by Pastor Rick dealt with the prejudging of an individual without knowing the particulars surrounding that person. An uninformed evaluation of anyone can easily lead to a baseless discriminatory viewpoint of him or her. It's an ugly word, discrimination, that describes the unjust treatment of different categories of people, especially on the grounds of ethnicity, age, sex, and disability. Other realms where discrimination can occur include parental status, religion, national origin, pregnancy, and sexual harassment. I would bet everyone has experienced discrimination of some kind along their life's path.

Growing up in the '50's, our houses in Edgemoor Gardens were homesteads for returning veterans and their families. Our development was an all-white neighborhood. As it turned out, discrimination in Edgemoor was alive and well and not primarily ethnicity related. So, in white Edgemoor Gardens, the discrimination was focused on religion; go figure. Protestants, Jews, and Catholics living amongst each other in societal harmony and all is well... as far as the kids were concerned. As for adults, they "enlighten" the younger on tasteless sayings meant to hurt someone's feelings. Kids are not born with prejudices, they are learned from within a particular group. I sensed that the sayings or quotes we were hearing were meant to inflict hurt on someone. We were guilty of prejudging, I guess, because we were only concerned if a newbie on the block could catch grounders, pass a football, or shoot hoops; not their religion.

Prior to military service, my posture on ethnic differences was difficult to ascertain due to my lack of exposure to other cultures. My schools were all white as was my neighborhood. My exposure to blacks was limited to the four or five times I'd been to Prices Run swimming pool in east Wilmington as a kid. Buzzy's dad would haul us to the pool on summer nights where we'd fork over a dime for a locker and key. Guys would change into their suits and hop into the pool. Everything seemed OK to me; I had no issues with discrimination or racial uneasiness.

A black man, Mr. Aubria Hope, ran the largest garbage hauling fleet in Wilmington back then. On occasion, he and his wife would come to our door in Edgemoor Gardens requesting payment for "services rendered". Mr. and Mrs. Hope were always dressed to the max and the clothes she wore and the jewelry he had on could never be found in our home or on mom or dad. I think we were sometimes delinquent in keeping up with the bills. So, for the first eighteen years of my life, my exposure to African Americans was limited to maybe ten occurrences, but that was about to change.

Having just graduated from High School, not having a plan

forward, and being in possession of the fifth worse academic rating in the senior class, ah yes, I wondered so what's next? I later get a call from, get this, the Mount Pleasant High School main office wanting to know if I'd like to spend some time at the U of D as an enrollee in the Upward Bound Program. How ironic, as much disciplinary time that I served in that school's main office, they now want to send me to college. Jiminy Christmas! I talked it over with mom and I agreed to take their all-expense paid trip into college world for a month.

I arrived at the university and found the meeting locale. I walked into the numbered room and found myself in the presence of all black guys. Man! There were two other white guys, Steve and Jerry from my HS but all the other guys were from inner city schools and Newark High. Not sure about this, but let's give it a shot. My roomie (we were in Russel A dorm) was a guy named Frank and we got along fine. One of the students was a guy named Larry who had a band and performed locally. Another guy, actually a huge guy, named Conway wound up playing for the Washington Redskins and Houston Oilers football teams. But I had a good and rewarding experience at the U of D with these guys in the summer of '66. I wonder if the whole thing was some sort of social engineering program and Larry, Steve, and I were the "token" ten percent. A while back, I attempted to locate Frank to see how he made out. Couldn't find him, but I'd bet he made out just fine.

I offered the notion that we've all been discriminated against along our life's trail. BJ was in a male dominated work environment for thirty years (DeIDOT) where professional civil engineers were the hot item for the personnel section. But she was in possession of a Bachelor's of Science degree (business administration) and attacked her work load like a terrier on a rat. Amidst sporadic discrimination, she excelled in all she did and worked her way up to be the Assistant Director of Financial Management and Budget. Yeah wifey!

I encountered the "d" word at a young age and relate now my first encounter with it. My brother Bob (9 yo) and I (8 yo) were playing in the backyard, loving our summer vacation in 1955 and most likely doing the scene where the cowboy shoots the bad guy routine and we each tried to have the most dramatically performed reaction to the fatal shot. Just behind our little lot lived Robin and Harriet. They too were just about our ages. I asked if they'd like to join us in "a shoot-out at the OK Corral." They politely suggested basically that we pack sand and offered "no thanks but thanks for asking." Now Robin said she was having a birthday party that day and would Bob and I like to come. "Wow! Thanks Robin, what time?"

We went in the house and told mom that we'd been invited to Robin's party at 1 PM. She then walked to Woolworths 5 & 10 in the Merchandise Mart and picked up Robin's gift. Bob and I were really excited, come on one o'clock! At a quarter to one, mom combed our hair and off we went to Robin's house just on the other side of the block. As we approached the front door, we heard some kids having a ball inside, party time! We banged on the door and Robin's mother came to greet us. So here we are with grins on our mugs and holding Robin's gift aloft like some form of ritual offering. "Um, come in." she hesitatingly said. We stepped into the hallway and were immediately whisked into the kitchen. But I did see the kids in the living room adorned with skullcaps. The kitchen doors were closed and we were told that Robin should not have invited us. Basically, we were not on the invite list (2 catholic school boys) of Jewish children but "Thanks for stopping by". Bob and I were prejudged to be unworthy to socialize with Robin's other friends based on religious grounds, I guess, and wondered just what the heck was happening here. *(ctd. on back cover)*

Reflections

Reflections

The Windshield

Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. Psalm 51 10-12

For whatever reason, there was a brief time not long ago that my car stood idle in our driveway for a number of days. I forget the exact circumstances. Quite possibly we were away over a long weekend and used an alternate vehicle, but my trusted four-wheeled friend waited patiently for my eventual return to the driver's seat. We're close like that! And my first time back behind the wheel was a late afternoon/early evening reunion of sorts; a drive at dusk to the grocery store, if memory serves. The headlights automatically helped offset the growing dimness as I travelled to and fro. No complaints. Just a nice time with an old friend... I mean, a successful trip to the store!

It wasn't until the day after, in the peak of the sun's mighty presence over greater Camden-Wyoming, did I once again jump in behind the wheel. And to my surprise, to my shock and dismay if I am being honest, the condition of the windshield was simply awful. There were not only smudges in virtually every conceivable direction from behind the wheel, there was also an impressive array of insects, or at least remnants of what used to be intact little creatures, scattered across the glass surface like confetti cast about on a wet sidewalk. It was literally impossible to find even a small surface area not marred by nature's fingerprints. Unlike the early evening trip only a day earlier, this drive was not at all enjoyable, but in fact, one of amazement and frustration. How could this windshield have gotten so dirty? And why did I not see this train wreck of a sight last night when I was behind the wheel? The mission was now clear. The windshield needed to be cleaned, pronto, so that it could actually be a help to me and not a hindrance. And don't worry, the windshield was cleaned and we (the car and I,

Danny Cooper
Coordinator/Counselor
@ Daybreak
Counseling Services

of course!) were thankfully back on the best of terms. We need to take care of our friends!

This adventure with the windshield played over in my mind for the next few days. How could the same windshield appear so differently from one early evening to the daylight of the next day? But the answer, thankfully, was actually quite simple. You see, the dimness, the growing darkness of the late afternoon drive, concealed the smudges and debris that littered the windshield's surface, in essence, allowing them to stay hidden while in plain sight. The car's headlights merely did their job, casting light out in front of the car, but, of course, not backwards onto the car windshield, meaning the dirt and grime was definitely present but not illuminated. I was simply an unaware driver, oblivious to the true condition of the windshield right before my eyes. The true, authentic sunshine, radiating down from above the following day, cast perfect light all around, not just in front of my car like the headlights do. As we know, the sun spreads light everywhere, and it completely filled the windshield with pure light, creating flawless visibility of the windshield's surface, and for our interest today, highlighting the canvas of yuck that I had been unaware of just the day before.

And so why all this fuss about the windshield, apart from the obvious need to clean my car more often and possibly invest a bit more time into my human friends? Well, for starters, the windshield experience helps to highlight for us, on a deeper level, both the importance of pure light, as well as the subtle, illusion-like influence the dark can have on us as we journey in this life. **The darkness has the ability to lull us to sleep to the reality right before us, while the clarity of light is inescapable.** Have you ever walked through a dimly lit restaurant and wondered why your shoes keep sticking to the floor with every step? Or the realization that at about 4:00 pm in the afternoon, when the sun is setting and coming through your back windows at just the perfect angle, your kitchen



countertops always look a little worse for wear. Quite simply, the darkness conceals what only the light can reveal.

While there are a few folks who, maybe due to their work, might drive exclusively when it is dark outside, most of us who take the wheel are going to log in plenty of time during the sunny parts of the day.

This means, of course, that most of us are going to be able to recognize the debris as we drive, inhibiting our view and making our journey more difficult, and potentially dangerous. Some of us daytime drivers are merely lazy, thinking it too much effort to actually clean that big, old windshield. And some of us are experts, trained from our youth, at merely putting up with messes around us, not realizing, yet, that as an adult **I don't need to tolerate or accommodate things that hinder or frustrate.** It's really not that hard, after all, to get a bucket of soapy water, a sturdy brush or rough cloth, and tackle the dirt and grime that has grown comfortable on the glass surface of the windshield. There is definitely some work involved. But there is also the presence of belief at play here... if I clean this surface, I can then see better, and will likely have a more pleasant driving experience. **The bottom line... the windshield in our car won't get cleaned by itself. The light will merely show me where the work is needed. It is up to us whether we care enough about our windshield to scrub away the dirt that is revealed.**

God is light. God is truth. Whether it is in reading Scripture, going to church, engaging in a small group, prayer time, or any other spiritual exercise, it is the light of God that shows us the truth of how we are living while making this

journey of life, and even more importantly, what kind of person we have become along the way. As we have acknowledged on numerous occasions before, God loves us, but too much to do our work for us. **God will reveal truth to us if we have the courage to walk in the light**, but the question always comes back to us, individually... do we love ourselves enough to deal with what the light is revealing, both in who we are as individuals, and how we are living out our days?

We have a tendency in our humanness to prefer looking outward, evaluating and critiquing others in how they should live. In essence, we can be too comfortable simply using our *headlights*, filling our time and expending our emotional energy outward, where the cares and distractions of the world are limitless, while our own windshield still awaits the soapy water and scrub brush that only we can apply. It's important to remember a simple yet challenging truth... I can't claim to truly love others with my helpful assistance, when I am not loving myself by first doing my own work. "Loving" others without first tending to myself relegates me to the company of emotional thieves and hypocrites. That may sound harsh, but it is

merely the truth. I don't tell others how best to clean their windshield, so to speak, or take a rag and soap to my neighbor's windshield, when I haven't first tended to my own. Let's not steal a feel good. Let's not sell ourselves as some kind of life expert, promoting a presence that says, "I've obviously got my life in hand, let me reach down and show you how it's done."

You see, when we are looking within, with the penetrating light of God from above, we will be far too humbled to sing our own praises, and with far less time to invest in overdoing our "help" to our neighbor. Paul, the greatest ambassador for Christ that ever lived, said... *May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ*. And Paul also shared in his letter to the Corinthians that the strength of Christ could only be manifest in him if he first acknowledged and lived in the truth of his own weakness. It is clear that Paul was looking honestly at his own windshield, so to speak, and saw much that needed to be cleaned. Yet his message is hopefully clear to us still today; that in cleaning the glass, in doing our own work, more of God's light is actually given room to fill our vehicle, so to speak. Paul could only be increasingly filled with the Lord's spirit by first recog-

nizing the dirt on his own windshield and then getting to work. And thankfully, Paul's model is still viable today for those of us who seek to live out a life of faith. The degree to which God is manifest in our lives is actually dependent on you and me, not God. Once again, God loves us completely. **But do we love ourselves enough to do our work and welcome more of His light into our lives? Do we truly hunger for more of His light and less of the din of this world?**

We, unfortunately, have no choice in whether we live amidst the darkness of this fallen world, but we do have the gift of choosing whether we let the light of Christ more and more fill our vehicle as we make our way in this life.

May His redeeming light shine increasingly through us to a world in need... Amen

NEW: **Combined Adult** **Sunday School Class** **starts February 4**

As culture warriors divide the world into us and them - fracturing families, friendships, and churches - most of us long for an end to the constant fighting. But does a practical path exist?

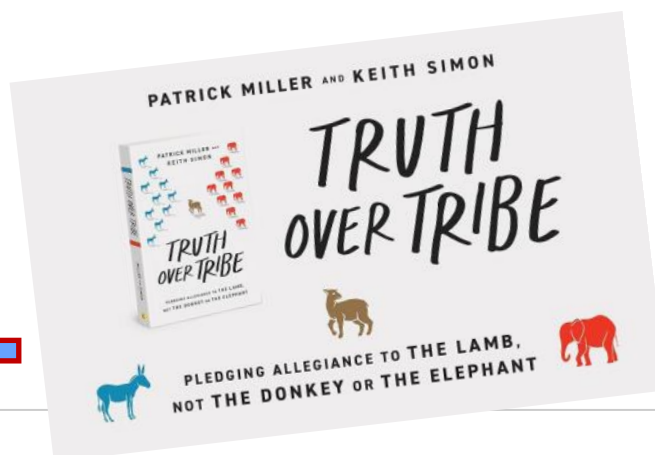
Jesus lived in a culture split by tribalism, but he resisted its allure by choosing something bigger: *truth*. He's now inviting you to apply his ancient path to the modern culture war.

In *Truth Over Tribe*, you will learn:
How tribalism makes your life miserable
How to lovingly resist when a tribe demands your allegiance
How to heal relationships fractured by tribalism
How to unite diverse communities
How would your community change if you became a catalyst for Christlike unity?
Rejecting tribalism is the first step.

Please consider joining the **Adult**
Sunday School classes
for this study **beginning**
February 4th
from 10:05 to 10:50
in Room 223-225.

Cost of the book is \$6.

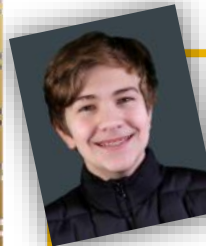
If interested please contact Jack Freidel
(302-535-3981, jfreidel1@yahoo.com)
or come to Room 223-225
on February 4th.



Recent **Young Adults** Highlight: Christmas Party

We enjoyed seeing some of our former youth who were in town for the holidays and joined us at the Young Adult gathering on December 28th.

If you're a young adult - post high-school / college or know of another who may be interested - come check out our **Young Adult Study** every first and third Wednesday at 6:30 PM in classroom 223+225. We're working with the video series 'The Chosen'.



See our own **Wesley Mann** as Billy Jr in the timeless American classic, *On Golden Pond* at the **Riverfront Theater in Milford**. This is the love story of Ethel and Norman Thayer, who are returning to their summer home on

Golden Pond for the forty-eighth year. Billy Jr quickly becomes the "grandchild" the elderly couple has longed for, and as Norman revels in taking his ward fishing and thrusting good books at him, he also learns some lessons about modern teenage awareness - and slang - in return.

Remaining showtimes:

Friday **FEB 2** at 7:00p - Saturday **FEB 3** at 7:00p
Sunday **FEB 4** at 2:00p

Recent **Sunday School** Highlight:

The 2nd graders received their Bibles in December.

L to R: Harper Yeager, Ginny Fox, Wyatt Lefort, Ryder Powell, Evelyn and Allison Maahs.

Missing from this photo:

Chloe Coleman and Cooper Barth.

Your Opportunity to Enhance the Youth Room

In the process of revamping our church's youth room last year, the very well-used, old, heavy ping pong table had to travel to the dump. It had always been a favorite in the youth room, and many fans of the sport, young and old(er), would appreciate if we'd furnish another ping pong table – this time a lighter-weight, more mobile unit. \$150.00 would pay for that.



The pool table in the youth room is still holding its own, but the queues (pool sticks) have certainly seen better days. \$100 would buy 6 very nice, durable new queues to make that game more fun again.

To the generous donor(s) of the dollar amounts needed to realize these enhancements –

THANK YOU!!

It's Time to Register for **CAMP PECOMETH!**

There are camps available for kids / youth from K through 11th grade. Check out Pecometh's website www.pecometh.org for more information on all of the summer camps.

Wyoming Church will again provide some financial assistance to each child / youth who want to go to summer camp at Pecometh.

*Only 1 camp per person will qualify for assistance.

*Please note that once your child / youth is registered you must email the invoice showing the \$50 paid deposit to bfreidell@yahoo.com by May 1st to be eligible for the campership. In early May we will notify you how much campership \$\$ we will be able to provide for their camp experience.

Any Questions - email bfreidell@yahoo.com or call / text Betsy at (302) 535-3983.



...and finally: **Ice Cream for Breakfast Day**

The informal holiday celebrated on the first Saturday in February when some people deliberately eat ice cream for breakfast!

The holiday was invented on a snowy winter day in the 1960s by Florence Rappaport in Rochester, New York, the mother of six children. It was her youngest two, Ruth (now Kristal) and Joe Rappaport, who inspired her on a cold and snowy February morning. To entertain them, she declared it to be Ice Cream for Breakfast Day. She explained, "It was cold and snowy and the kids were complaining that it was too cold to do anything. So I just said, 'Let's have ice cream for breakfast.'" The next year, they reminded her of the day and a tradition began. The exact year of the first ICFBD is unrecorded, but it is speculated to be 1966, when a huge blizzard hit Rochester in late January, dumping several feet of snow on Rochester and shutting down schools. When the siblings grew up, they held parties and introduced the tradition to friends while in college, and the tradition began to spread.

The holiday has only three rules:

Eat ice cream.

**On the first Saturday
of February.**

For breakfast.



- 02/01** Amy Schmidt, Rick Sharpe
02/02 Chuck Muldrow
02/03 Doug Ditty, Amy Higgins,
Pastor Dave Hill
02/04 Aiden Flaherty, Lucas Quiroz
02/06 Judy Field
02/07 Norma Bennett
02/09 Caleb Anthony, Will Anthony
02/10 Carol Milton, Tyler Sell
02/11 Denise Brosius
02/12 Dawn O'Connell, Lenna Joy Stant
02/14 Carol Boulanger, Ann Rogge
02/15 Jonathan Forbes
02/16 Cody Malone
02/17 Jenny Marlow
02/19 Mary Schoettinger, Lynn Zimmerman
02/20 Abigail Lumia, Sandy Robinson
02/23 Dan Deckard, Rose Larimore,
Ellyanna Mateja,
Joelle Rubino-Sinclair
02/24 Lydia Klecan, Wyatt Lefort,
Melissa Mann
02/25 Josefena Marasco
02/26 Clinton Marlow, Mark Reed
02/27 Drake Nichols, Brianna Gordineer
02/28 Karissa Mann

03/01 Linda Lyon
03/02 Carol Abbott
03/03 Joe Hajec, Renate Purdy,
Sheila Snyder
03/04 Elaina Ditty, Jack Kling,
Richard Stockslager
03/05 Jeff Williams
03/06 Jeffrey Purdy
03/07 Joyce Stockslager

~ Our People ~

~ Deaths ~



Scott James McDonald
the nephew of
Larry & Barbara Towle
on November 15, 2023



Marcos A. Quiroz
the father of Andrew Quiroz
on December 10, 2023



Nancy Zwicker
the sister of Bill Purdy
on December 30, 2023



William F. Fields
on January 8, 2024

*"Some glad morning when this life is over,
I'll fly away
to a home on God's celestial shore
I'll fly away."*

From the obituary of Scott McDonald:

(<https://www.mcgeehanfh.com/obituaries/Scott-James-McDonald?obId=29938819>)

"... his lifelong calling to not only fly but to help others in their aviation pursuits through instruction. ... a highly skilled pilot with more than 7,000 hours in more than 75 different aircrafts. ... Scott will be forever remembered for the smiles and fun that he brought to so many."



Safe Secure Sanctuary (S3) Program Improvements "Off To A Good Start"!

The beginning of the 2004 Safe Secure Sanctuary (S3) Program is off to a good start with a ninety three percent volunteer return rate, several new volunteers including families and an improved rapid contact protocol with our IT provider. We will continue to improve our basic training with the hand held radios for better communication during the services between the Monitors, Stewards, Ushers and Greeters. Printed protocol directions for the camera and door access systems will be reviewed and updated as needed.

Many continued thanks to all of those dedicated Brothers and Sisters in Christ who serve as volunteer Monitors, Ushers, Greeters and Stewards. Questions and comments can be directed to Terry (contact info at the bottom of this page).

Brown Winter Grass ?

To those of you who have wondered and not asked as well as those who have wondered and asked, the questions are basically the same; "Why are large areas of the Church grounds turning brown?" The answer is quite simple.

The entire 9.2 acres that are mowed consist of several acres of turf that are fertilized and treated as well as several acres of mowed meadow consisting of a variety of forbs and grasses including wire grass that are neither treated nor fertilized. What is called wire grass, which also has several less complimentary names, has a tendency to go dormant once the really cold weather of the Fall Season

arrives. Once this dormancy sets in the chlorophyll pigments disappear and the typical brown color becomes highly visible.

With the coming, warming days of the Spring Season the wire grass chlorophyll pigments begin to become more plentiful with the brown colors slowly changing to green. The Church's landscape management plan for 2024 will begin the end of March/first part of April.

The Solitude Of Winter Befits The Memorial Garden.

Our WUMC Memorial Garden, located within the Memorial Grove, is always a place that offers time for reflection and solitude. This time of reflection and solitude is never more so evident than in the quiet time of the Winter Season.

A vital component of the Memorial Garden is the opportunity to place a Memorial Garden Brick that honors the passing of a loved one or to honor a person that has had a most positive impact on your life. Order forms for Memorial Garden Bricks are to be found on the Memorial Garden Model Display located in the Narthex.



Everybody's Invited!

On SATURDAY, February the 24th,
ALL are invited to 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 will be honored to have Jack Freidel bring us a current topic that will generate much discussion and uplifting prayer requests. Upon the conclusion of Jack's presentation we will enjoy our meal together as we consider the topics of the day.

We plan to 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.



A UNITED METHODIST CONGREGATION

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E-mail: office@wyomingumc.com

www.WyomingUMC.com



Church Office Hours :

Monday-Thursday 9AM - 3PM

call & text for appointments:

☎ (302) 399-3898 Renate



To: You!

**Our Pastors are available
by appointment.**

Call or text

☎ (302) 423-3911

Pastor Lindsay

☎ (302) 423-4237

Pastor Rick

**SHROVE
TUESDAY
PANCAKE
SUPPER**

February 13



Come join us on Tuesday evening, February 13th, for our annual **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper** as we begin our observance of the season of Lent. Dinner, which consists of pancakes, sausage, fruit, and drinks will be served at 5:30 and be followed by the **Puppets of Praise** program, *Easter Stories and Songs*. Bring the whole family and friends too!



(continued from Page 9)

I felt like dragging my finger across the top of the birthday cake as we were ushered out of the house. Our early exit was so confusing. Pretty sure it was an ousting predicated by religious discrimination but the whole concept was unclear at that time. Bob and I both felt what in God's name just happened, almost a Twilight Zone experience with an Alfred Hitchcock ending.

Here's another discrimination episode with a kick butt resolution. I was discharged from the military in August of '70 and attempted to seek employment "back in the world". The following March, I get a phone call from a VA lawyer in Philly asking how my transition back into society was going (you don't want to know). I lied, said all is OK. He asked how my job was going, what job? Joe the lawyer said I had XYZ company listed as my employer prior to USMC service. I told them I stopped by XYZ in late August and asked about my job. They informed me I was not needed. "What?! Stay there, I'll call you in fifteen minutes" says Joe. Sure 'nuff, he calls and tells me to

meet him at XYZ tomorrow at 0900. The next day I introduce myself to lawyer Joe. All the biggies at XYZ are at the meeting. Joe asked the plant secretary if he could see the guest register from last August. Sure thing! Joe points to my signature on August 20 and informs all in attendance that "Mr. Van Kavelaar will receive full pay from the August 20, 1970 to the present March 11, 1971". I got enough to buy a new 1971 455 cu/in Pontiac Bonneville and I parked it in front of the plant managers office all the time to rub it in. My relationship with my employer was, mmm... not too good. And we were in the process of getting the union in... a real mess. But I was prejudged, for what I'm not sure, and found to be unacceptable to be employed in their workplace. All lawyer Joe had to say was the XYZ Company did not want the bad press of their discriminating practice of not hiring back a wounded combat veteran. Oh, and lawyer Joe got my hourly wage increased to \$3.53 from \$2.89 (22% increase).

As previously noted, almost everyone has encountered discrimination of some type. It's hurtful, ugly, and totally uncalled for in our lives. And remember, Mathew writes to us this tidbit of wisdom: "Judge not lest ye be judged." If you're not sure of this bible quote, to me it's an early version of "What goes around, comes around."