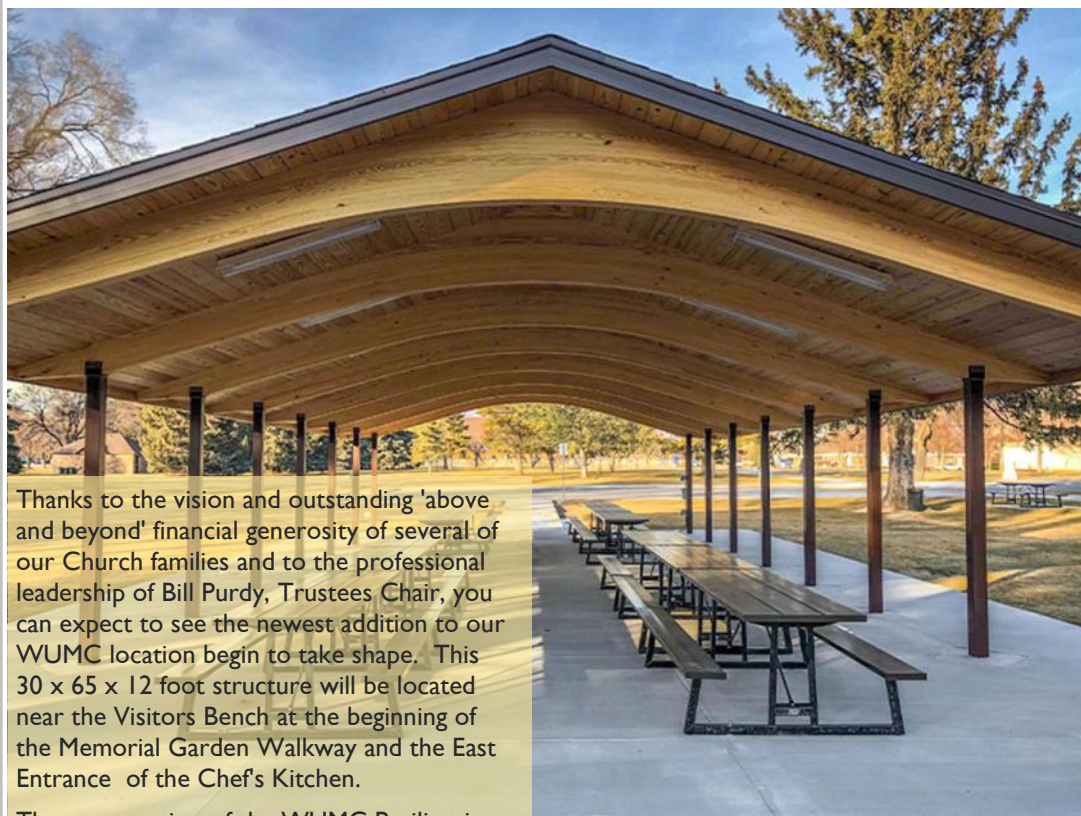


THE WYOMING MESSENGER

March 2024



Thanks to the vision and outstanding 'above and beyond' financial generosity of several of our Church families and to the professional leadership of Bill Purdy, Trustees Chair, you can expect to see the newest addition to our WUMC location begin to take shape. This 30 x 65 x 12 foot structure will be located near the Visitors Bench at the beginning of the Memorial Garden Walkway and the East Entrance of the Chef's Kitchen.

The construction of the WUMC Pavilion is being undertaken by Yencer Builders, a thirty plus year local builder of high quality homes and commercial structures. Should the reader of this article desire to have a more precise understanding as to the site of the Pavilion you are welcome to visit the Coat Room. Upon your immediate entry into the Coat Room you will find a site plan to your right on the wall. The location of the Pavilion can be discerned on the site plan in what is the southeast quadrant of the property.

In the finest, historical tradition of our beloved WUMC, good folks who felt led by prayerful consideration, answered a call when a need was expressed. In fact, the very presence of our WUMC edifice itself is a testimony to many of us who felt led to support the building of our current church structure. To that end, please know that the forthcoming Pavilion is paid for by generous donations above and beyond the regular Church budget.

Very special thanks go out to the untiring efforts of our WUMC FUNdraising Team who - again with your generous patronage - contributed around \$20,000 to this project!

Since the **Memorial Garden** will be my final resting place, I and a few others have pondered how we might beautify the area by trying to camouflage the 'big blue monsters' (dumpsters) that create an eyesore for the beauty of the Memorial Garden.



Plans are now underway to make this happen, combining a fence/gate with some trees around the area. Thanks to Terry Higgins, Bill Purdy and monies from Special Gifts we should see this beautification sometime soon! If you would like to contribute to this project, please consider a financial donation to "WUMC Special Gifts" and mark it 'dumpster beautification'.

Thank you!
Sharon Duncan
Chair, WUMC Special Gifts Team

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Bulletin Board



Date: Saturday, May 11th, 2024

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

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

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

Less than 15 spaces left! Applications for the FALL CRAFT SHOW on November 9, 2024 are now also available - spaces are filling up fast, too!

Wear your crazy, mismatched socks to church on **Sunday, March 17!**
A limited supply of socks will be for sale at the welcome desk, benefitting the Down Syndrome Association.



A special thank you to an anonymous donor who dropped off jewelry in our donation bin. Our FUNdraising Team earned \$120! Spring is a great time to clean out those jewelry boxes and drawers. Silver and gold can bring BIG money to our church. Please consider donating your unwanted jewelry!

Email Linda

linda.lyon@aol.com

with questions.

THANKS!



Would you like to see "Daniel" - the brand-new musical currently showing at the Sight & Sound Theater in Lancaster, PA?

We're organizing a group tour for the performance at 3PM on Friday, **May 17**.

Price per ticket is \$89, for children under 12 \$43.

DANIEL
LIVE ON STAGE

Tickets always sell out quickly - let me know as soon as possible!

Renate

(302) 399-3898

office@wyomingumc.com

Irish Blessing
May your troubles be less
and your blessings be more
and nothing but happiness
come through your door.

From the Pastors' Desk

I (PR) have always been amazed at how much children understand what you are saying to them even before they can start talking. Hope has only a few words at her disposal, and she only chooses to use them sparingly, but she understands EVERYTHING we say to her! If any of us so much as mention food, she runs to the kitchen in expectation of a snack. If we ask her to pick up her toys, she'll start rounding things up and setting them in a pile. If we mention



"My child, do you understand?"

bedtime or a nap and she isn't so excited about that, it's an instant meltdown. She loves to look us in the eyes to show that she understands what we're saying, which is always one of the highlights of my day.

The season of Lent is, in effect, our opportunity to grow in our understanding of what God is saying to us. The longer we follow Christ, the greater propensity we have to think that we know everything there is to know about the faith and that we are as "in tune" with the Lord as we possibly can be. Too often we actually tune God out and take our salvation for granted. Lent, then, comes as a six week season where God sits us down to ask, "**My child, do you understand?**" "I sent my one and only Son into this world to show you the way to live - **do you understand?** Jesus endured mocking, hatred, anger, and unspeakable pain on your behalf - **do you understand?**"



Pastors Rick & Lindsay Wessell

He bled and died on a cross to atone for your sins so that you can have eternal life and know peace and prosperity - **do you understand?**"

As we walk through this season together, I pray that our hearts and minds are open to comprehend the love and grace of God. I pray that it moves us to a deeper love for our Savior and a greater commitment to serve him. In the words of an ancient prayer, may we keep a holy Lent so that we might say, "Lord, I understand. Thank you, Jesus."

With one *Laughing* & one *Weeping* Eye... *Staff News!*



We are excited to welcome our new **Director of Music Ministries and Organist, Misty Fiske!** She will officially begin here at Wyoming Church on April 1st.

Misty has been active in worship leadership most of her life. She has most recently been serving as the Organist and Music Director at First Baptist Church of Woodstown, NJ, and as the Organist at Asbury United Methodist Church of Woodstown. She has ties to the area, having served in the past as Organist and Music Director at St. Andrews's Lutheran Church in Dover and St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Smyrna.

Misty holds a degree in Music and Organ from Rowan University, and she is currently completing a Masters in Worship and Music from Drew University.

We are excited to welcome Misty and her husband Mike to our congregation and we look forward to her ministry with us!

After 12 years of faithful duty to Wyoming Church as *Facilities Manager, Church Sexton, Maintenance Supervisor,* and point of contact for contractors and tenants and anyone else who had anything to do in the church building, **Bob Cousens** is going into well deserved retirement. We wish him all the very best for his upcoming knee surgery and will celebrate his years of service once he's fully recovered (date TBA).



Sue Lighter is also leaving her brief but very efficient tenure in the church office.



It was decided that Wyoming Church will not host outside church events of a business or private nature any longer. For the time being, the Wyoming Church building will only be used for large-capacity funerals, the meetings and events of trusted, long-standing groups with a Christian mission and above all, of course, church events and meetings and celebrations of our church membership.

The church office and volunteers will handle any necessary arrangements going forward.

Big thanks to Sue for her faithful work above and beyond her duties as *Event Rental Coordinator*, her co-operation with staff and volunteers needed for large events, and especially also for her research into the improvement of our facility rental policy together with the Board of Trustees.

We wish Sue and her family all the very best!

Again - From Knitting to Nurture: Washcloths & Hats & Blankets

Busy needles in our congregation and beyond!

Through the untiring efforts of so many knitting and crocheting, we were able to bring the following items to different organizations in February:

Operation Christmas Child -
2 face cloths and 4 children's hats
Interfaith Missions -
8 lap blankets and 10 adult hats

Bayhealth -
2 baby blankets and booties,
and 8 baby hats

People's Place / Whatcoat Shelter -
10 children's and 10 adult hats

Caring Hearts Helping Hands -
9 children's and 6 adult hats

'Knit-A-Square' is the current project - probably continuing through April. Check it out 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 at the display, too!



Saturday, March 9

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

In the name of so many individuals and families who can eat and maintain their basic standard of living because of YOUR generous donations - THANK YOU!!

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.

**"Big THANKS" goes out to the Nurses
Christian Fellowship for volunteering to take
care of the meal for March!**

Contact Janet @ (302) 757-2998, email jkb0022@aol.com
with any questions about this wonderful ministry.

Pictured back to front: WUMC Nurses Lisa, Marlene and Kim preparing lunch @ Wesley Church last March.





Record Crowd at the Pancake Supper!

Many thanks to everyone who helped make the **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper** a success this year. We had a record crowd of over 200 people. The Kitchen Sexton Team served pancakes and sausage to all. Dinner was followed by a dynamic puppet show, and even an Easter Egg hunt for the little ones. It was a great night!

Pancakes & Puppets & Easter Eggs, too!

Hey! Foodies! Here are some **FOOD HOLIDAYS** to **CELEBRATE** in March:

March 1: National **Peanut Lovers** Day

March 2: National **Frozen Food** Day

March 3: **Soup It Forward** Day
(a great day to share some warm goodness!)

March 5: National **Cheetos** Day

March 6: **Oreo** Cookie Day

March 7: National **Cereal** Day
& National **Flapjacks** Day

March 8: National **Peanut Cluster** Day

March 10:
WUMC Dingo & Dessert Day

March 11: **Johnny Appleseed** Day
(How many different apple recipes do you know?)

March 14: **Potato Chip** Day

March 16: National **Corn Dog** Day

March 18: National **Sloppy Joe** Day

March 19: National **Chocolate Caramel** Day & National **Poultry** Day & **Raspberry** Day

March 22: World **Water** Day

March 23: National **Tamale** Day

March 24: National **Chocolate Covered** Raisins Day

March 25: **Pecan** Day

March 26: **Spinach** Day

March 31: **Easter Plum Pudding** Day

DINGO & DESSERT

Sunday, March 10th
3:00 pm — 5:00 pm
Wyoming United Methodist Church FLC

Bring a dessert or snack to share

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

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

Sponsored by the WUMC Deaf Ministry
and Committee on Diversity



Narcan (generic name naloxone) is a lifesaving medication that can reverse an opioid overdose while it's happening in just minutes. Anyone can get it and carry it.

There will be a brief training **between services on**

Sunday, April 7 in the Family Life Center.

All are encouraged to attend this 30-40 minute session.

Those who come will receive Narcan to have with them.

Just drop in. You could save a life with this!

Due to the addition of Fentanyl in many opioids, illegal drugs are much more dangerous and life threatening than they were previously. Narcan is an antidote that can help save lives.



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

The Churches of Wyoming, Whatcoat Camden and Wesley Dover will again team up for our Annual 5K Walk for Water on Saturday, May 11, 2024. This is a United effort of our sister churches and ourselves to help those in need of clean, fresh water and to benefit Lifetime wells International and their quest to drill more wells for clean, safe drinking water. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend, walk or donate to one of the world's most precious commodity, WATER, for without it there is no life. More details to come in next month's newsletter.

Sunday, March 10 is UMCOR Sunday.

**Gifts given on UMCOR Sunday
strengthen the church's
global humanitarian
response by underwriting
UMCOR's administrative costs.**

**This allows UMCOR to use 100%
of additional funds for specific
programs like U.S. disaster
response, inter-national disaster
response, and global migration.**

UMCOR SUNDAY

**"When you pass through the waters,
I will be with you."**

—ISAIAH 43:2, CEB



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.
The people of The United Methodist Church

Monthly FINANCIAL REPORT January, 2024

Ken Banaszak, Finance Team Chair

	2024 Offering	2024 Expense
Weekly Offerings	\$ 46,191.85	
Facilities and Other	\$ 5,301.52	
Totals	\$ 51,493.37	\$ 49,708.53
Net Operating	1,784.84	

2023 Offering



Wyoming Church completed several large maintenance projects in 2023, including:

Installing ADA compliant electronic bathroom doors, repairs to the roof and new flooring in the narthex. These expenses were paid out of our regular operating fund. **We appreciate the continued generous support of our members that makes this possible!** Construction of a pavilion will begin soon in 2024 (see cover page!)

FUNdraising FUNdraising FUN



The FUNdraising Team is filled with gratitude and would like to extend a BIG thank you to Margaret Bryan as she passes the baton as Yard Sale Chairperson. For MANY years, Margaret has spent the summer pricing,

organizing, and delegating duties to her hardworking team. There are big shoes to fill as she steps down from this position.

Our team is looking for a New Chair and/or Co-Chair for the annual Church Yard Sale that will be held this year on August 3rd. Work on this project begins in late June through to the day of the sale.

Duties include:

1. Pricing the donated items.
2. Coordinating moving the items and displaying in the sale rooms.
3. Finding volunteers to work the day of the sale.

4. Coordinating the removal of any left over items to a designated place after the sale.

* We have a team who would be able to assist with many of these duties.

Please contact FUNdraising Chair, Linda Lyon at (302) 331-9699 or linda.lyon@aol.com if you would like to help out!



FUNdraising FUNdraising FUN

simply the right way to fundraise.

Raise Right gift card sale dates for Spring:

Orders collected on April 21 & April 28 with delivery on May 5th just in time for spring events like Mother's Day, College Graduations, High School Graduations, Father's Day, and summer vacations. If you don't want to wait you can always order online or directly from the user-friendly app! Check it out at **raiseright.com**.

Please email linda.lyon@aol.com with any questions.



Library *news* March



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.



We also make small quilts
for prematurely born
babies, bereavement
quilts, larger quilts
for the community,
pillow cases for
Bayhealth patients,
and quilts for the
residents of new homes
built through Habitat
For Humanity.



Check us out at
<https://www.helpinghandsquiltguild.com/>.

Contact Mary Dawn Ditty with any questions.
maryditty@gmail.com

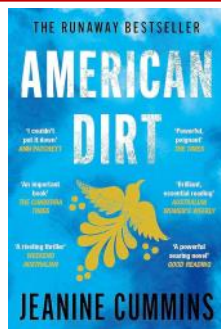
Featured in March:

Books around **Quilts, Quilters and Quilting!** We're celebrating National Quilting Day on March 16.

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

Read "American Dirt" by
Jeanine Cummins, the book
chosen for March (available in the
library, too) and join us on
March 27 for the discussion.

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



Rotating
Display
at the
Church
Library
door -

gracious
courtesy
of the
Helping Hands
Quilt Guild.



National Deaf History Month is celebrated from March 13 through April 15 to commemorate the achievements of people who are Deaf and hard of hearing. The time frame is spread across March and April in recognition of three turning points in deaf education history dating back to the early 1800s.

On April 15, 1817, America's first public school for the deaf was opened.

On April 8, 1864, Gallaudet University — the world's first institution dedicated to advanced education for the deaf and hard of hearing — was officially founded.

More than 100 years later, on March 13, 1988, Gallaudet hired its first deaf president in response to its students' Deaf President Now movement.

The National Association of the Deaf (NAD) first introduced National Deaf History Month in 1997, and in 2006, the American Library Association partnered with NAD in supporting and spreading awareness of this celebration. Congress has not designated any part of it as a federally recognized holiday despite ongoing advocacy efforts toward this goal.

In celebration of National Deaf History Month, we highlight five role models whose stories illustrate the power of activism, education, and perseverance despite a disability.



Shirley Jeanne Allen, EdD, is the first Black deaf woman in the U.S. to earn a doctoral degree. Born in 1941 in Nacogdoches, Texas, Allen became deaf at the age of 20 following a bout of typhoid fever. At the time, she was studying music at Jarvis Christian College and continued to play the piano for audiences despite her hearing loss. She went on to earn a bachelor's degree in 1966 from Gallaudet University and a master's degree in 1972 from Howard University. She finally earned her doctorate in education from the University of Rochester in 1992. She was a professor at Rochester Institute of Technology for 28 years before retiring in 2001. Her accolades include being featured in multiple editions of Who's Who of Professional Women, a lifetime achievement award from Who's Who in America, and a place in Jarvis Christian College's Pioneer Hall of Fame.



Robert R. Davila, Ph.D., is a Mexican American who grew up working alongside his parents in the orchards of California's central valley. He became deaf after contracting spinal meningitis when he was 8 years old. His mother was determined that he would receive an equitable education despite his hearing loss and sent him to attend the California School for the Deaf in Berkeley, California. It was there that Davila learned American Sign Language and other essential skills. He went on to earn a bachelor's and a master's degree in education and eventually obtained his Ph.D. in educational technology from Syracuse University in 1972. Davila became a powerful disability rights advocate and assistant secretary for the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services under President George

H.W. Bush. He later served in leadership roles for several organizations dedicated to supporting the Deaf and hard of hearing, including serving as president of Gallaudet University before retiring in 2009.



Eugene Hairston, known as "Silent Hairston," grew up to become the first Deaf African American boxer, having suffered spinal meningitis as a young child. Hairston was born in Harlem, New York, in 1929 and attended schools for deaf children until the age of 15, at which point he dropped out to earn money for his family. After working various jobs, he set his sights on becoming a professional boxer and began attending a New York fighting club. Trainers at the club initially overlooked Hairston because of his hearing loss until they witnessed his exceptional skills in the ring. He soon went pro, winning a total of 45 fights and defeating two world champions before he reached the age of 22. In 1952, doctors advised Hairston to quit boxing for fear he would end up blind from repeated blows to the head. He retired, lived a full life, and died in 2014 at the age of 85.



Juliette Gordon Low was born in 1860 and founded Girl Scouts of the USA in 1912 after enduring multiple ear injuries as a child that resulted in near-total hearing loss. An adventurous spirit, Low channeled her lifelong passions for athletics, the arts, animals, and nature into a global movement that has empowered millions of girls to develop leadership skills and self-confidence. Beginning with her first troop of 18 girls, Low stood up against racism, sexism, ableism, and other forms of bias by uniting young women from diverse cultural, racial, ability, and socioeconomic backgrounds. After Low died of breast cancer in 1927, she received numerous posthumous honors. These included the establishment of the Juliette Low World Friendship Fund, which provides financial support for international travel and service work for Girl Scouts and Girl Guides around the world.



Audree Norton, born in 1927, was the first deaf actress to appear on American network television. Norton acted in major sitcoms throughout the 1960s and 1970s on ABC, NBC, and CBS. In 1967, she became the founding member of the National Theatre of the Deaf, the first production company to regularly feature performances in American Sign Language. The theatre completed tours across the U.S. and Europe and was featured on Broadway. Norton's role as a disability rights advocate includes appealing to the Screen Actors Guild after she and her husband Kenneth North, who was also deaf, weren't cast in roles because of a director's fear of working with Deaf/hard of hearing actors. A graduate of Gallaudet University and California State University at Hayward, Norton taught psychology, English, and media at Ohlone College. In 2012, she received an honorary doctorate from Gallaudet. She passed away three years later at the age of 88.

Reflections

Reflections

When I Am Weak

But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

2 Corinthians 12: 9-10

I've started to see the signs. Have you? Trees are beginning to bud, the robins are busy prodding the soil and singing their songs, and the daffodils are poised to make their grand late-winter appearance. Yes, spring is about to burst forth! And before too long, we'll be seeing the familiar return of tractors to our local farm fields, preparing the soil for yet another growing season. But, as we rural folk know, before a harvest can be enjoyed in the summer or fall, much needs to happen.

For starters, the sleepy winter soil needs to be broken up and turned over so that the sun can provide its warmth, and so the seeds and fertilizer can be received and absorbed. And, of course, rain is necessary, as well as continual cultivation and care along the way. Oh, and we can't forget time. Crops don't grow overnight, of course, even in the best of soil, and with ideal weather conditions. But if all of these steps are followed, the once hardened ground can be transformed, over and over again, into a literal incubator of growth, sustaining all of us just a little bit longer on this journey of life. What a beautiful process!

And speaking of our life journey, I've been amazed over the years to witness a similar dynamic occur while in my counselor role, not unlike the annual transformation of the farm soil. Have you ever talked to someone who has gone through a challenging time in life, yet is able to experience positives along the way, in spite of the surface difficulties? You see, it is customary for many of us when dealing with an adverse situation to pull back, dig in our heels, and attempt to

Danny Cooper
Coordinator/Counselor
@ Daybreak
Counseling Services

ride out whatever we are facing, not unlike a scary storm that has surfaced and is threatening our home and family. Understandable. This could simply be looked at as a natural human reaction. So if this describes you or me and this is our instinctual reaction to such stresses, we're not bad or wrong, just merely human. But as believers, God desires to not only keep us in His care during challenging times, but for us to grow; to become more than we are; to produce a harvest at the end of a season of difficulty.

To look at this process in another way, stresses and difficulties in life cause us to want to clench our fists, white-knuckling our way through the experience or time period, as we do when driving in a snow shower or when the roads are icy. To override this instinct during stressful

God desires to not only keep us in His care during challenging times, but for us to grow; to become more than we are.

times would be making the conscious choice to open our hands instead, receiving God's special offerings of love and care during our trying time. It may be through a phone call, or a card in the mail, a meeting over coffee, or an email or text message. It could possibly be that quiet walk near the woods or that book that is so inspirational. All components of life are instruments of God and at His disposal, for God created all things.

There are many I have spoken to over the years who have received so much from our Lord during these challenging seasons of life because their "hands" were open enough to receive, not unlike the soil that was broken up and turned over and able to receive the sun's warmth and the rain's refreshment. The soil is prepared every spring because we are confident that growth will eventually occur. We open

our hands during life's challenges because we are confident that our God will provide in our time of need.

Look at your own hands. When you make a fist, it's a symbolic position of fighting, resisting, and protecting, fueled often by feelings of fear and anger. Again, we are human beings first. Yet God can bring so much more into our lives during the difficult moments in our life journey if we will only open our hands, letting go of the fear and "what if" concerns that plague us, and instead, choosing to anticipate how God will love us and provide for us in the midst of our season of need. I can only receive if my hands are open. And God loves us too much to pry open our hands; too much to force us to grow. Like the soil, we may be designed for growth and to produce a harvest given that we are indeed "wonderfully made", as captured in Psalm 139, but whether this actually occurs or not is up to you and me, not God.

Life will always have its challenges, and this is where our weaknesses are most evident, but if our hands are left open, we can then receive the most tangible examples of God's love and care; where His strength is able to steady us and carry us through the stormy times we must encounter as we move through this imperfect life journey. May we begin to see our life challenges less in fear and with clenched fists, and more as spirit-filled opportunities for our God to love and care for us in the special ways only a loving Father can. May our hands remain open to receive, and may our lives produce a harvest to the glory of our God and friend... Amen.

THAT IS WHY,
FOR CHRIST'S SAKE,
I DELIGHT IN WEAKNESSES,
IN INSULTS, IN HARDSHIPS ...
FOR WHEN I AM WEAK, THEN

I AM STRONG.

2 CORINTHIANS 12:10 | NIV

Crazy Weather

David Van Kavelaar

Friday the 26th of January, and I'm outside in a short sleeve shirt picking up the normal winter offerings of the property's maple and birch trees. The leaves are all gone but dead limbs and branches are plentiful. Seventy-two degrees at eleven AM, you have to be kidding me. Some young guy drives by the house in a blue Mustang convertible with the muscle car's top nowhere to be seen; he's cruising. On the radio they are playing Antonio Vivaldi's "Spring" from his "Four Seasons" (1720) concerto. Talk about rushing things, we're only one month into winter but, for dinner, we'll be grilling weenies and burgers in the driveway and having a cold beer. Speaking of a cold beer, think I'll have one now. "A beer before noon?" says BJ. Darn, where did she come from? "I'll put a cocoa puff in it" I responded. "David" she replies. I know that utterance with the rising volume detected throughout the pronunciation of my name. Its intent and meaning are unknown to anyone around, but in BJ's world, it means for me to "Put a lid on it".

"Come on, Storm, let's go to church!" Darn dog almost runs me over getting to the back of the FJ Cruiser. Windows down, balmy breeze, sun's out, what more could you ask for. BJ brings her new smart phone along and practices with the thing. We pull up to the curb of the church's southern field with the FJ pointing west. The oak tree closest to the curb has shed its leaves in early December but the other oak tree, just a hundred feet away, still had most of its leaves intact. What? Looking around, I have to admire all that happens across Wyoming Mill Road on Papen acreage. In essence, kudos and thanks for the farming community that sustains us; God bless them.

Dobermans need to be exercised daily or they'll eat your house. For the past six years, I and my friend have played here daily when weather permitted. When we cannot go out for play, that's when mi casa is in jeopardy. So, as he romps around from tree to tree and just loving life, I notice the field is finally rid of the snowfall from last week and the only visible indication of that event is the remnants of a shrinking pile of blackish snow in the parking lot. Yes, it was exactly one week ago when...

I got up at 7 AM on that snowy Friday and dragged out my boots from the closet and located my gloves, hat, and heavy coat (that BJ calls "the animal"). Opening the garage door, a blanket of fresh powdery snow awaited my attention. Our son dropped off a small snowblower but it requires some maintenance

before we could press it into service. I shoveled the dog kennel first and knocked out the driveway, side walk, and front deck simply by pushing, not lifting, about three inches of the stuff. Work's done, so let's have some fun now!

"Hey Bette!" She was all ready to go having learned my adolescent behavior of insisting we take the FJ out "for a spin" during a snow fall. That truck cuts through snow like a hot knife through a stick of butter. Backing out of the driveway, we proceeded up to Rt. 13 that has been cleared by state snow plows. Along the way, a kid was spotted here and there telling us that school must have been cancelled. Our life-long friends, Lorne and Robin, live up near Buffalo and chuckle when we report three inches have fallen here. When they get snow, they get pounded with feet of snow no thanks to the effects of Lake Erie.

After picking up two steaming coffees and chocolate chip cookies at Wawa, we drove down to the Woodside light and turned right onto the unplowed roadway. Yeah, coffee tastes great! "Hey, turn it up". The current CD selection was "Calling Elvis" by Dire Straits (with some volume I might add), boy, hadn't heard this in a while.

I shifted into four-wheel drive; let the adventure begin. As we headed west, it looked like we were passing through a beautiful Christmas card scene. A snow-covered, candle-lit cabin was nestled in the embrace of surrounding pines and holly. The cabin's chimney slowly eased out white smoke from the burning logs in the hearth below. Guaranteed to be very comfortable in there, I'm sure.

We were snug and toasty in our mobile party pod as we entered into another picture of winter wonder. Outside, a young colt was happily prancing through falling snow flakes without a care in the world. Such a beautiful sight and a wonderfully spirited animal, I wished that fine creature had a buddy to play with. Talk about an eclectic compilation of genres on the CD, Moe Bandy and Joe Stampley are singing about a "Honky-Tonk Queen"; those guys are hilarious. By the way, who made this CD anyhow? Oh yeah, ...it was me.

We headed west and turned right on to Farm Lane. A spectacular visual treat of snow-covered tree branches was there for us to see. Also, a pure white panoramic display of covered farm land got our attention (thanks, God!). However, the problem here was the roadway was invisible and centerline and edges could only be estimated because there had been no traffic that left tire tracks to safely guide drivers along the way. Full speed ahead, Scotty!

We got back on the plowed Rt.10 and headed toward Willow Grove, smooth sailing. Pulling into town, some kid in his front yard was attempting his first snowman of the season. I don't know, Frosty looked a little like the Michelin Man but hey, I give the little guy credit; he looked as happy as a pig in mud. Turning on to Honeysuckle Road the same hazard as to the guess work of roadway location confronted us. The snow-covered tree branches on both sides bowed across the road giving the impression that this heavenly decorated canopy was created just for us; wow, how lucky!

As we headed toward Westville Road, some young dude in a red Ford pick-up came toward us in a not too controlled way. My guess was it's his first attempt in driving in snow. He made a right on to Fox Den Road and, bang, right into a stop sign. He was not hurt, the truck was OK, but the sign was crooked. Further up the road, three Amish kids were walking home from school while snowflakes fell. Tough bunch, those Amish. If there is one snow flake per square mile per hour in Delaware, the school systems shut down. We're such wimps. I used to walk to and from school from seventh to twelfth grades, a mile and a quarter each way; straight scoop. Well, we took some photos of our Friday adventure but, as good as they were, they paled in comparison to the experience of traveling through such a scintillating and pure heavenly-designed earth scape.

Reaching Westville Road, we turned toward home. Upon arriving, some more snow had accumulated during our snow ride; I just have to keep up with it. One thing that's a bummer about snow is that the clumps of snow clinging to the bottom of the truck fall onto the garage floor, melts, and leaves large puddles. But all in all, what a fun day it was! But back to today...

The tree branches on the lawn have been broken down and deposited into the "Earth can." Might as well enjoy this warm day and clean up the two sheds and put things away that have sat on the work benches since late October; lazy me. But this warm day isn't fooling me. There are eight weeks left of winter, but I see crocuses and daffodils peeking out from under their earth blankets reminding me that the promise of Spring and new life is around the corner.

I smile.



The Sexton Kitchen Team \$1,000.00 Academic



For 2024!

The members of the Sexton Kitchen Team are pleased to announce that they will be prepared to fund up to **TWO** \$1,000.00 College Scholarships for the 2024 - 2025 Academic Year. Those members of the forthcoming area High School 2024 graduating classes that are active members of the Wyoming United Methodist Church are invited to consider requesting a scholarship application.

The following dates will apply to this year's Scholarship Protocol.

Sunday, March 3, 2024: Scholarship Application Packets are available from Terry Higgins, 9:00 AM to 12 Noon, Coat Room, WUMC.

Sunday, June 16, 2024: All Scholarship Application Packets are due to Terry Higgins, 9:00 AM to 12 Noon, Coat Room, WUMC.

Sunday, June 30, 2024: All Applicants who applied will be notified in writing of their selection status by Terry Higgins, 9:00 AM to 12 Noon, Coat Room, WUMC.

Sunday, July 7, 2024: The Academic Scholarship Recipient(s) to be announced by the Pastors at both the 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM services.

Request for application packets as well as questions can be directed to Terry at terryhiggins38@outlook.com or (302) 363-5823.

Blood Drive

The Outreach Team has partnered with the Blood Bank of Delmarva to host a blood drive. On **Tuesday, April 30th, 2024**, the BBD Bloodmobile will be parked in front of the church **from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.** Scheduled donations will be taken every 15 minutes during those hours. An easy way to schedule a donation is to scan the QR code with your phone. Doing so will provide a link to the Wyoming Church Blood Drive website. Alternatively, you can type into your browser: https://donate.bbd.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/9876



Blood cannot be manufactured, and donated blood has a limited shelf life. Therefore, there is a vital need for continuous blood donations.

Please volunteer and schedule an appointment for our blood drive! A photo ID will be needed for verification at the time of your appointment. As it is mandatory to rest for 15 minutes following your donation, chairs and snacks will be available in the narthex.

For those who donate blood on a regular basis you might want to schedule an appointment for April 30th. And, for those who cannot donate blood, you might want to support the Delmarva Blood Bank by writing a check made out to Wyoming UMC, with the Outreach Team designated on the memo line. All proceeds will then be given to the Delmarva Blood Bank.



**Donating
Blood
Saves
Lives!**

As many of you may be aware, there was an accident at **Barratt's Chapel** in early January. We give thanks to God that there were no serious physical injuries to anyone involved. In the crash, the cemetery's wall (with bricks laid in the 18th and 19th century) and some of the oldest headstones (dating back to the 1700's) right beyond that wall section were crushed. The driver was un-insured, and it remains to be seen how much the museum's insurance will cover.

The challenge extends beyond costs; the historic significance of the wall, listed on the

National Register of Historic Places, requires meticulous reconstruction.

Plans are underway to identify and repair the damaged headstones.

Any contributions of offers to physically help repair the damage will be greatly appreciated. Call Rev. Philip Lawton, ret. or Barbara at Barratts Chapel (302) 335-5544 or email barratts@aol.com.

**Barratt's Chapel & Museum
is located at:**

6362 Bay Road
Frederica, DE 19946

**Please send any
donations to
the Barratts Chapel
Mailing Address:**

P.O. Box 668
Frederica, DE 19946.



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

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.)

*Please note that once your child / youth is registered, please **email the invoice showing the \$50 paid deposit to bfreidel1@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 bfreidel1@yahoo.com or call / text Betsy at (302) 535-3983.



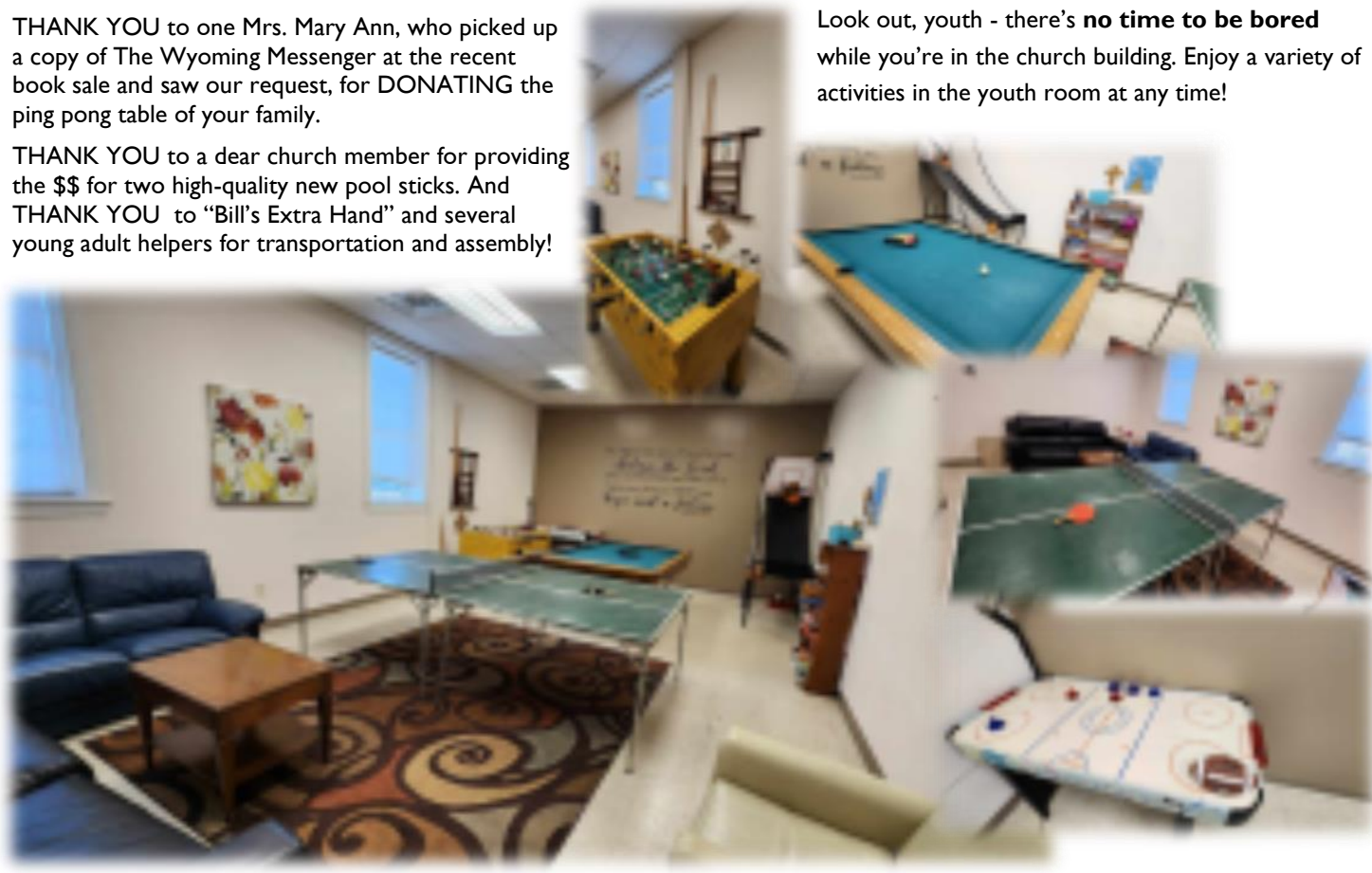
Are you interested in heading to HERSHEY PARK this spring or summer? The Young Adult Group is planning an outing in the spring. They are opening the opportunity to purchase tickets at the group rate to the entire church. There is no need to go the same day as the Young Adult Group. Go when and with whom you desire. (Tuesdays through Thursdays are less crowded in the park, especially in the spring.) Depending on the ticket purchased, it is valid any day through June 30th or until January 1st of 2025. Tickets valid through June 30th are \$36.95. Tickets valid through January 1st, 2025 cost \$43.95. If interested in tickets, please contact Jack Freidel by phone (302) 535-3981 or email (jfreidel1@yahoo.com), or speak to him at church. Please let him know by April 1st as the will be when the ticket order will be placed.

Youth Room... Enhanced!

THANK YOU to one Mrs. Mary Ann, who picked up a copy of The Wyoming Messenger at the recent book sale and saw our request, for DONATING the ping pong table of your family.

THANK YOU to a dear church member for providing the \$\$ for two high-quality new pool sticks. And THANK YOU to "Bill's Extra Hand" and several young adult helpers for transportation and assembly!

Look out, youth - there's **no time to be bored** while you're in the church building. Enjoy a variety of activities in the youth room at any time!





- 3/01 Linda Lyon
 3/02 Carol Abbott
 3/03 Joe Hajec, Renate Purdy, Sheila Snyder
 3/04 Elaina Ditty, Jack Kling, Richard Stockslager
 3/05 Jeff Williams
 3/06 Jeffrey Purdy
 3/07 Joyce Stockslager
 3/08 Sharon Burge, Gloria Ramstedt, Rod Thompson
 3/09 Gwen Robinson
 3/10 Joan Davis, Janice Jordan
 3/11 Susan Higgins, Karen Priestley
 3/12 Dana Sharpe, Gail Vella
 3/13 Dwight Meyer
 3/15 John Riggins, Tressa Stant
 3/16 Robert Hawkins, Mike Marasco
 3/18 Chloe Malone
 3/20 Walt Ramstedt
 3/22 Blake Fennemore, Richard Seyler
 3/23 Clara Gravatt, Chris Harris
 3/27 Wayne Gordineer, BJ VanKavelaar
 3/28 Carlton Passley
 3/29 Cooper Barth, Jennifer Fontanez, Donna McCartney, Kathy Schmidt
 3/30 Gemma Dolbey
 3/31 JoAnn Makdad

 4/02 Irene Gillette, Buddy Sammons
 4/03 Ross Lancaster, Allison Maahs, Evelyn Maahs
 4/04 Gary Green, Cort Massey, Alicia (Lee) Sumpter
 4/05 Kathy Deckard, Reileigh Gray

~ Our People ~

~ Birth ~



Lincoln Joseph Yochis
 was born to Christianna & Jamy Yochis on 1/24/24. Congratulations also to proud first-time grandparents Dawn & René Valladares!

~ Death ~



Jon Dart
 passed away on February 19, 2024. Pictured is Jon with his wife Laurie; former church members at Wyoming, they had moved back to MD closer to their former community and church for Jon's struggle with Alzheimer's

What is a Seder?

The Seder meal is a Jewish meal that has been eaten for thousands of years during the Pesach or Passover festival. It is eaten to remember the Jewish enslavement in Egypt and the quick escape led by Moses. The religious nature of the seder with its carefully prescribed ritual makes the dinner quite unlike family dinners held on other types of holidays.

The Seder meal is important because it allows each participant to relive the Exodus as a personal spiritual event. The meal also has symbolic foods that help members of the Seder relive the story of the Exodus.

A Model Seder is the opportunity to explore the traditions and stories from the Old Testament. A Seder is an annual tradition used to pass on knowledge of the Exodus to younger generations in a format that has been in existence for many generations, dating back to the night of the Exodus itself.



Join us at 5:30 on Maundy Thursday, March 28th, as we participate in a Model Seder with our traditional Soup Supper. The Seder & Soup Supper will be followed by Communion in the Sanctuary. Sign up in church or online if you can bring a crockpot of soup.

Forthcoming Upgrades And Improvements Coming To The Safe Secure Sanctuary (S3) Program.

A somewhat quiet, 'behind the scenes' review is currently taking place relative to the ongoing implementation of our Wyoming United Methodist Church's Safe Secure Sanctuary (S3) Program. At this point in time the most obvious changes that you may notice will be the addition of door signage that will be helpful to both first-time visitor as well as long-time, beloved Church member. These developing, minor changes will enable the efforts of the many dedicated, volunteer folks who serve as Monitors, Ushers, Greeters and Stewards to continue to be very effective in warmly welcoming all who come to worship and serve.

Should you feel led to learn how your talents and graces could be used in the S3 Program, please contact Terry (info at the bottom of the page).

2024 Turf And Grounds Care To Begin This Spring.

Depending on the early Spring weather patterns you can expect to see the initial evidence of professional landscape care of our Church's plantings and shrubbery. This professional care will continue through the mid to late Fall season - again depending on the weather that we are experiencing at that time.

We are fortunate to be able to retain the same professional landscape company for 2024 as we had in 2023 and, at a price that is very favorable to our Wyoming Church. The excellent care of our Church grounds that we are expecting this season will continue to amplify the beautiful setting of our Church edifice.

Our Memorial Garden To Receive Upgraded Flag Display.

Our Wyoming United Methodist Church Memorial Garden, located within the Memorial Grove on the East side of the building, will receive a new and larger American flag display during the month of March. The several flags, courtesy of an anonymous benefactor, will be placed around the circular walkway of the Garden. These flags will be used as a reminder to continue to honor those families and individuals who have served our nation over the years.

The placing of a Memorial Garden Brick (s) is an excellent way to honor the memory of a loved one or someone who has played a major, positive role in your life. To begin the simple process of placing a Memorial Garden Brick pick up an application form that is to be found on the table holding the Memorial Garden model located in the Church's Narthex.



Everybody's Invited!

Those who were in attendance at the January Prayer Breakfast agreed that we would meet the last Saturday in February but **not meet in March** since the March meeting date occurred between Good Friday and Easter Sunday at which time many of our attendees would be very busy.

We will resume our attendance-growing Prayer Breakfast Series on **Saturday, April 27 at 7:30 AM in the community room at Tre Sorelle Dolce.**



The Next Adult Fellowship Covered Dish Dinner will Be On **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 2024.**

Whoa! What happened to our 'March Dinner Date' that we had talked about at the beginning of 2024? When the good

folks of the Sexton Kitchen Team began to take a closer look at the last week of March they realized that the last week of March is the traditional Easter Week packed with several very important religious activities.

Specifically there is Palm Sunday on Sunday, March 24; Maundy Thursday Soup Supper on Thursday, March 28; Good Friday on March 29; and the Easter Community Sunrise Service and Breakfast as well as Easter Worship on Sunday, March 31.

This last week of March is going to be a fantastic opportunity to celebrate our religious heritage with Christians all over the Globe!

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



A UNITED METHODIST CONGREGATION

216 Wyoming Mill Road, Dover, DE 19904

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

E-mail: office@wyomingumc.com

www.WyomingUMC.com



Church Office Hours :

Monday-Thursday 9AM - 3PM

call & text for appointments:

☎ (302) 399-3898 Renate

To: You!

**Our Pastors are available
by appointment.**

Call or text

☎ (302) 423-3911

Pastor Lindsay

☎ (302) 423-4237

Pastor Rick



Holy Week at Wyoming Church

Maundy Thursday, March 28

5:30 PM Seder & Soup Supper*: Family Life Center (see Page 14)

*Can you contribute a crockpot of soup? Sign up here:

<https://wyomingumc.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/71/responses/new>

6:30 PM Worship & Communion: Sanctuary

Good Friday, March 29

7 AM to 7 PM Prayer & Meditation in the Sanctuary

Easter Sunday, March 31

6:30 AM Community Sunrise Service @ Wyoming Park

*Breakfast following in the Family Life Center

9 AM & 11 AM Easter Worship



**... at 2:00 a.m.
on Sunday,
March 10th!**

March

For **GOD**

Gave us a Spirit not of fear but of

POWER & love

& SELF*CONTROL.

— 2 TIMOTHY 1:7 —

Memory Verse