


... the  beat of your church... cover to cover.

THE WYOMING MESSENGER

February 2025



Oh the little chores are many @ Wyoming Church. Our lives are busy, busy... all the more we appreciate every little **Elf** that would pick up a task, be it ever so small!

Take a Seat, Make a Friend.

The social hour between worship services is great to catch up with folks and enjoy a cup of freshly brewed coffee and a pastry or cookie or two...

Elf needed: every Monday morning to neat-ten the three tables, take tablecloths home to wash as needed, rearrange devotionals and centerpieces.

Green thumb.

Elf needed: once a week to tend to all live plants in the narthex and the two planters outside the church front doors.

Current Information.

Elf needed: once a week to de-clutter and update the welcome desk, three fellowship tables and all team display stations in the narthex. Yes, ideally the teams in charge would do that... can you lend a helping hand?

Behind the worship scenes.

Elf needed: once a month to de-clutter the space behind the altar, up in the sanctuary sound booth and in the sanctuary video booth.

Talk to Renate in the office.



Highly recommended for Sunday School teachers, scout leaders, anyone working with children, special-needs and older persons, and open to everyone!

CPR / AED Training

in the Family Life Center
on **Monday, February 17 at 7 PM & Friday, February 21 at 6 PM.**

Hour-long training graciously provided by Dr. Douglas Ditty.
Love offering welcome.



Email office@wyomingumc.com for registration.

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The Wyoming Messenger goes Bi-Monthly!

Starting with the March, 2025 issue, The Wyoming Messenger will go to a bi-monthly edition. Deadline for the March/April edition will be Monday, February 17th.

The 12 most recent issues of *The Wyoming Messenger* are available on www.wyomingumc.com - NEWSLETTERS.

Bulletin Board

Get on board Noah's Ark with us ...
...in Lancaster, PA! We'll car-pool to see the 30th anniversary show at the Sight & Sound Theater on Friday, May 16th for the 3PM performance. Tickets are selling incredibly fast... earlier Fridays are all sold out already.
Call Renate (302) 399-3898 very soon to get yours! (\$99/adult, \$49/child >12)



NEXT



Food Collection

Saturday, February 8
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. **Thanks for your willingness to feed the hungry in our area!**

Bring your donations to the FRONT 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: ...staples!! The **ONLY** paper products needed are paper towels and antibacterial wipes.

...read much more about it on Page 7!

Yes, we are still collecting **Redners Receipts**, a percentage of your purchase amount will convert into cash for Wyoming Church - we receive an average of **\$130!** for one months' worth of receipts collected. Big thanks to all who keep contributing!
Drop-off box is on the table by the welcome desk.

Redner's
WAREHOUSE MARKETS
SAVE-A-TAPE PROGRAM

Over 80 families were helped during the Mobile Food Drive sponsored by United Way and First State Community Action outside Wyoming Church on Friday, January 24th.



CHRISTIAN
WOMEN
CONNECTION



You are invited to the

HEARTWARMING...

Dover DE Women's Connection

Program & Breakfast Buffet
on Tuesday, February 11

from 9:30 to 11:30 AM

at the Maple Dale Country Club in Dover.

\$22 inclusive (cash or check)

Program: **Stephanie Fletcher** "Squared Away Today"
Getting rid of it all!!!! Chaos to Calm.

Guest Speaker: **Bobbi DeZarn** "What's in a Word"
How a family tragedy led to her love of "the Word"

Music by: **Linda Miller**

Reservations and cancellations for breakfast and free child care are strongly encouraged by February 7th

RSVP to Donna ☎ (530) 921-8936

or Diane ☎ (302) 697-6020

Dover Delaware Women's Connection
Affiliated with Stonecroft Ministries

From the Pastors' Desk

February is invariably the month when our thoughts turn to **love**. The dreary grey of January is quickly replaced with the bright red and white of Valentine's Day. We actually have a good excuse to have boxes of chocolate laying around the house, cards are bought and sent, dinner dates are planned, and **love** is celebrated. Retailers love this time of year, and to be honest, so do I (PR). Being in love and celebrating that love are wonderful things.

This is a perfect time to read Paul's words in 1 Corinthians 13. Just the mention of that passage brings one thing to mind: weddings. Paul's stirring words are paired up with lace, flowers, tuxes, and tears. It's not that the topic of Christian **love** is out of place at a wedding - the best marriages include Christ every day, but that's a topic for another time - but it's just that these words have so much more to offer us.

The lead-in to 1 Corinthians 13 is actually the last verse of Chapter 12: "And yet I will show you the most excellent way." Paul intends to show us the most excellent way to honor Christ and serve him. We do that by showing God's love to the world. The **love** that Paul is talking about isn't temporary affection. It isn't fleeting butterflies in our stomachs. It isn't a passing fancy. Instead, it is deep, rooted, committed **love**. It is **love** for others that meets all the criteria spelled out in Chapter 13: patient, kind, not boastful, and not proud. It is not easily angered or self-seeking, but rather a **love** that embraces the other, lets him or her know they are **loved** by both God and us, and that never fails.

That is the "most excellent way" to live out of faith. I was reading a story last week about a young woman that had a life that was full of rejection... until she met Jesus and found a local



Rick & Lindsay
Messell

church. There she was welcomed, known, and **loved**. That's the church at our best. May we be known as a people of **love**.

**THE
MOST
EXCELLENT
WAY
IS
Love**



**Sub
Sale!**



Pick up your Sub Orders on
Saturday, February 8th
between 11:30AM and 1:30PM
or after all services Sunday,
February 9th.

A BIG Thank you to all
who ordered subs and
contributed to the funding of
the youth (pictured) mission trip to
Pittsburgh in the summer!



Valentine's Traditions - February Adult Covered Dish Dinner!

Plan to attend -- and so you won't forget, mark your calendar for the Wednesday, February 26th Adult Covered Dish Dinner in the Family Life Center. The entrée is Betty Jo Harvath's Mexican Lasagna; thus, you may want to take that fact into consideration as you plan the prepared dish that you are considering to bring.

February's Dinner theme is entitled 'Valentine's Traditions'. As usual, Betty Jo will challenge us with her Trivia Page!

Doors open at 5:00 PM with the Dinner commencing at 5:30 PM. We plan to finish before 7:00 PM.

Please bring your own plates and tableware as well as a dish to share at the food table.

Look for the sign-up sheet and display in the narthex.

All are welcome - both newcomers and long-timers! If you are new to our welcoming congregation, the Covered Dish Dinners are a great Methodist tradition and an excellent way to meet many of the fine, friendly folks that attend and worship at Wyoming Church.

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

Would you like to help with making homemade cherry pies? **Beginners are welcome!**

Remember to wear closed toe shoes and cover your hair or use firm hold hair spray. Show up at the activities that interest you.

Dough Making: Friday, February 7th at 8:30 AM in the Chef's Kitchen.

Dough Rolling: Wednesday, February 12th at 8:30 AM in the Chef's Kitchen

Pie Making: Thursday, February 13th at 8:00 AM in the Chef's Kitchen.

If eating a cherry pie is more your style, don't forget to sign up to buy your homemade cherry pie on the list in the narthex! We are only making 50 pies and there is a limit of two per family. **Pie pick up** will be **Thursday, February 13th** from 1:00 to 3:00 PM inside the south entrance.

See Carol Abbott Sunday mornings at the Social Hour table if you have any questions.



DINGO & DESSERT



Sunday, March 23rd

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

New Year - Next Bench!! Recycle Plastic for our 4th Trex Bench.

In the course of two years, we have collected over 3,000 lbs (three thousand pounds) of plastic, in other words:

we have **three** Trex benches now!

With undiminished efforts we move on to the



next one. Keep those plastic bags, envelopes, and bubble wrap coming!

Remember, **NO bottles or hard plastic.**

Thank you for keeping all that plastic out of the landfills, too!

Help serve...



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 15, 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.



Well done, good and faithful servant...

We are so fortunate to have many "good and faithful" servants at Wyoming UMC, but there is one who I would personally like to lift up as the true definition of those words. Some of you may not be aware that each month for the past several years, **Janet Banaszak**, plans, shops, prepares, roasts, cooks, bakes, etc. meals that feed well over 50 people at the Community Meal Event. I know that 10 people would be a lot for me to prepare a meal for so it boggles my mind that month after month, Janet does all of this out of the goodness of her heart. She has many times said that she feels this calling and she wants to feed the hungry. Janet has an awesome husband, Ken, who assists her with these tasks and a group of devoted volunteers who show up on the third Saturday at Wesley Church in downtown Dover to help get things ready to serve the guests.

However, it is that "good and faithful" servant, Janet, who brings it all together and does a fantastic job month after month.

If you have ever wanted to see her in action, consider signing up to volunteer for a Saturday to help set up, serve, or clean up. You will be blessed by the generosity of this devoted lady! And I have no doubt that someday, the Lord will say to Janet, "**Well done, good and faithful servant!**"

Janet & Ken



Judy Field, Community Meal Volunteer

Monthly FINANCIAL REPORT December, 2024

	2024 Offering	2024 Expense
Weekly Offerings	\$ 571,459.42	
Facilities & Other	\$ 44,966.00	
Totals	\$ 616,425.42	\$ 566,391.20
Net Operating	\$ 50,034.22	

See Ken's Special Article "Sharing God's Bounty" on the back cover.

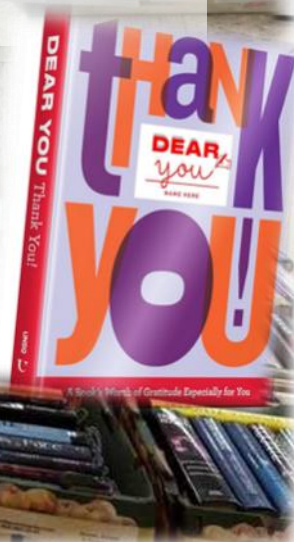
Your Giving Envelopes for 2025 are at the south end of the narthex. If you don't have a giving number yet, you can sign up for one there, as well. Blessed to work in ministry together with you!

Ken Banaszak & the Finance Team

raising FUNdraising FUNdraising FUN!

Thousands of hardcover, soft cover, children's, fiction, Christian books, documentaries, life-guide Books... were all available at the annual **BOOK SALE on January 25th**. Two-thousand seventeen Dollars (\$2,017) worth of those were sold!! And - over one thousand Dollars (\$1,000) came in for **BAKED GOODS** people purchased. These funds are assigned to special projects, like the **camperships for Pecometh** (Page 7 >>>) by the Sexton Kitchen Team.

To all the many helpers behind the scenes, the bakers and especially our valued patrons:



The next two Outreach Team's FOOD DRIVES

will be held on **February 8th** and **March 8th**. We would like to thank everyone who donated generously to this important initiative throughout 2024. During the past year we transported 12 pickup loads, and 6 SUV loads of provisions to the **Central Delaware Interfaith Alliance Food Bank**.

We see many of the same people on the 2nd Saturday of each month from 10 am to 12 pm. Most of the donations come from our church community; however, several members of the surrounding community donate, as well.

The **Central Delaware Interfaith Alliance** has provided the following

statistics to show the impact of their food distribution on families in Kent County:

In 2024 -

1,478 households were assisted. These households included 3,436 adults and 3,491 children. The Food Bank generally provides two weeks of groceries per family on a quarterly basis if needed. Thus, some families receive groceries four times per year.

The Food Bank keeps records of their distributions to help ensure that they serve as large a population of needy families as possible.

The Food Bank served 300 more families in 2024 than they did in 2023!

Again, we wish to express our gratitude for your donations on behalf of the families served. It is our hope to serve even more of our needy neighbors in 2025.

Please plan to donate on February 8th and as often as you can in 2025! Non-perishable food items can also be dropped off in the narthex during church opening hours 9 am to 1 pm Mondays through Fridays if the second Saturday of the month is inconvenient.

Finally, some members of our church make monetary donations to the Food Bank because it is easier for them. The best way to do that is to write a check to Wyoming UMC with 'Food Bank' on the memo line. Your donation will then be recorded by the church and passed on to the Food Bank.

WUMC Outreach Team



Even while it's still snowy outside...

... it's time to register

for **summer CAMP PECOMETH!**

Check out Pecometh's website (www.pecometh.org) for more information on all summer camps. Day and overnight camps are available for grades Kindergarten through 11.

Or - visit in-person on **Pecometh Day & Open House on Saturday, May 3rd.**

Wyoming Church will again provide some financial assistance

to each child/youth who want to go to summer camp at Pecometh (1 camp per person).

Once your child/youth is registered, you must email the invoice showing the \$50 paid deposit to bfreidell@yahoo.com by **Monday, May 5th** to be eligible for the campership. By mid May we will notify you about the amount we'll be able to provide for your child/youth's camp experience. A BIG thank to the Kitchen Sexton Team for donating \$4,000 toward camperships this summer!

Direct any questions to Betsy, email: bfreidell@yahoo.com, cell (302) 535-3983.



New Years Eve

David Van Kavelaar

"Pass the crossword puzzle from the newspaper, please." BJ puts the Hallmark movie on pause to dig out the paper's puzzle section. We're in our jammies at 2100 (9 P.M.) and settled in for the evening on New Year's Eve. The warmth from the fire place and Zeus's quiet snoring on his TV bed is lowering the

chances we'd make it to the bewitching hour of midnight. New Years Eve had always been a party event for me, not so anymore. But there was this one New Years Eve...

Back in '69, I was scheduled for R&R (rest and relaxation) and thankfully left the bush in Viet Nam. Four months of combat action earned me the right to leave my marine brothers of Echo 2/7. It was December 31, 1969 ...

Continued on Page 8



New Year's Eve... *continued from Page 7*

...and a new decade was two hours away when we landed in Taipei, the capital of Taiwan. As we disembarked from the plane and walked on the tarmac leading to a receiving building, the night was immediately and seemingly punctuated by automatic gunfire. Every marine hit the deck and began praying that this was just some sort of unreal nightmare. We had no weapons to return fire but, as it turned out, it was only some guy who threw a string of fire crackers nearby as they too were celebrating New Years Eve. One of the baggage handlers was loudly laughing at the forty marines as they cautiously arose from the prone position and began standing up. Another handler elbowed the laughing guy in the ribs quite forcibly; he understood why we immediately got down. Despite that harrowing beginning, let's just say the evening went great. One week lies ahead at the Happy Hotel and Fox Bar, both would do wonders for me.

Later that week, I was walking with my new friend in downtown Taipei and the Taiwanese guard (not sure what their real title was) was lining the boulevard. I locked eyeballs with this one guy, he was like stone, quite impressive really. As it turned out, Vice President Spiro Agnew was there to converse with Taiwanese officials. Also that New Year's week I wanted to buy some gifts for folks back home. The shopkeeper gave me the cost for two swords and a hand carved chess set. My friend tore into him like a shark on a tuna and, although I don't understand Chinese, saw she had put him in his place. She told him that I should have a fair cost and, if he didn't follow her demand, she would inform her friends to not bring their dates to this particular shop. After a wonderful New Years Day and week in Taiwan, reality raised its ugly head when I returned to Fire Support Base Ross on January 7. The day before (January 6), the enemy attacked Fire Support Base Ross and thirteen marines were killed. As our chopper descended to the Ross landing zone, thirteen poncho-covered bodies were seen laid out on the tarmac awaiting their departure to Danang for processing. A terrible way to start a new decade. That was fifty-five years ago.

The Hallmark flick had just ended and the clock informed us that the New Year was just one hour away. "Hey, how about some popcorn?" The aroma of a couple of Act II popcorn bags out of the micro-wave unfortunately had woken our Doberman Zeus from a sound sleep. We arranged some living room furniture so that Jaws could not interfere with our munching.

"Let's watch an old Matlock." It was a recorded show so that BJ could zip through the commercials, so we began viewing Andy Griffith as a shrewd Atlanta lawyer; I always liked that guy. As New Year approached, this one New Year's Eve came to mind.

Some New Year's Eve back in the '80's, my brother Bob and his wife Claire, BJ, and I went to the Ground Round on the Philadelphia Pike in Wilmington. We had friends in the band that was providing the evening entertainment for a pretty well-packed audience. The beer was flowing and the band actually started to sound better. The partying mindset was immediately drowned out as a waitress spilled a couple mugs of beer on the two ladies of my group. This spillage prompted the necessity for Bob and I to temporarily strip the title of "ladies" from our wives. What the wives were muttering under their breath could be attributed to BJ's dad being a sailor and Claire's dad, a merchant marine. Enough said. Anyway, the girls gussied themselves up, made themselves presentable again, and we continued our partying at the Hall-Burke VFW Post. Happy New Year, y'all! And, of course, Bette and Claire became ladies again, just like that. Amazing!

It was now ten minutes to midnight. We put the furniture back in place and stood up to allow any residual popcorn crumbs to fall to the floor. Zeus immediately went into action and cleaned the area; "Good job boy!" We sat down and, holding hands, awaited the ball dropping at the Time Square event. Zeus was getting jumpy as fireworks outside could be heard. Looking out the door, I could see the psychedelic colorful burst of these celebratory rockets which immediately brought back this memory.

To be honest, I'm not sure of the year when this New Year's Eve party occurred. It was one of the early '70's I'm sure and things were slowly getting out of control for me. My brother's small apartment held about twenty-five folks and individual partying rituals were well under way. Lava lamps, incense, and The Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band album that was playing on the stereo added to the festivities. All of a sudden, all lights and the stereo were turned off. "Hey, what's happening" could be heard throughout the apartment. A strobe light was then turned and a voice responded: "And now ladies and gentlemen, for your evening entertainment, please welcome Johnny Sands!" A few people clapped as Johnny walked to the

center of the room. Because of that darn strobe light, his journey to the room's center was like watching a disjointed old-time movie. Johnny held up his right hand, extended his index finger and then lit his lighter-fluid soaked finger on fire! The ooh and aah sayers were stunned but were not prepared for the final act which followed. With his finger still ablaze, he squeezed a Ronson lighter fluid can so that the stream of fluid reached his lit index finger. A huge fire ball enabled the apartment living room to be brightly lit up as if it was day time. Although the fire ball lasted for only a few seconds, its effect was enough to blow the minds of half the attendees. Everyone was trying to deal with what had just occurred, but I was watching Johnny trying to blow out the flame on his finger. He brought his finger close to his mouth to blow the flame out but, don't you know, he caught his beard on fire. Some people applauded thinking this was part of the evening's entertainment act as Johnny fled from the room. He ran to the bathroom and, believe it or not, put his face in the toilet, flushed, and immediately eliminated the danger. Johnny went into the bathroom looking like a true hippie, and ten minutes later, came out with a clean-shaven Mr. Business Man look. Jiminy Christmas, no more of those parties, thank you!

The Times Square crowd was in a frenzy as the huge ball slowly approached ground zero and the beginning of 2025. As the ball completed its journey downward, Bette and I held hands. "Happy New Year, lovey!" I said. "You too, babe!" she responded. As we stood to wrap things up, a hug and a kiss was certainly in order. The fire place was secured, pillows rearranged, soda glasses and popcorn bags were brought into the kitchen, lights then turned off, and we were off to bed with the ever-present Zeus close behind.

Like all families, we have some issues to confront and medical issues requiring pending procedures. We are truly optimistic that, with God's presence, we can get through these trying times. To all our church family, from BJ and me, may you all have a happy and blessed New Year!



Library news February



At the Fanny Marvel Church Library, check out a book, audio book or DVD and return it when you're done. Take home (and keep!) a puzzle and/or some magazines and/or any item on display outside the library door!

Special Feature!

Discover Children's Classics!

The Giving Tree...

Anne of Green Gables (DVD)...

Charlotte's Web (DVD)...

The Lion, the Witch & the Wardrobe (book & audio CD's).



AND Finally...

NEW in the Church Library >>
If you are up to a challenge, come, browse & borrow for these still cold, snowy days!



Avid readers... check out the WUMC Book Discussion Club!

We meet **every fourth Wednesday at 7PM** - next time on **February 26!**

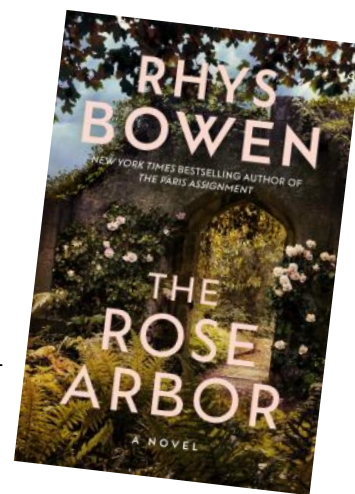
Read "The Rose Arbor" by Rhys Bowen (see below), the book chosen for February and join us on **February 26** for the discussion.

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

London: 1968. Liz Houghton is languishing as an obituary writer at a London newspaper when a young girl's disappearance captivates the city. If Liz can break the story, it's her way into the newsroom. She already has a scoop: her best friend, Marisa, is a police officer assigned to the case.

Liz follows Marisa to Dorset, where they make another disturbing discovery. Over two decades earlier, three girls disappeared while evacuating from London. One was found murdered in the woods near a train line. The other two were never seen again.

As Liz digs deeper, she finds herself drawn to the village of Tydeham, which was requisitioned by the military during the war and left in ruins. After all these years, what could possibly link the missing girls to this abandoned village? And why does a place Liz has never seen before seem so strangely familiar?



Book Discussion Group's 2025 Reading List & Meeting Dates

February 26 - The Rose Arbor by Rhys Bowen

March 26 - Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell

by Robert Dugoni

April 23 - The Island of Sea Woman by Lisa See

May 28 - Remarkably Bright Creatures

by Shelby VanPelt

June 25 - The Kitchen Front by Jennifer Ryan

July 23 - The God of the Woods by Liz Moore

August 27 - Brave by Mesu Andrews

September 24 - It Ends with Us

by Colleen Hoover

October 22 - The Women by Kristin Hannah

November 19 - Christmas in Bethel

by Richard Paul Evans



Wyoming Church "Knitting to Nurture"

...a most interesting History!

19 years ago, Doris Taylor and Karen Priestley discussed the possibility of a knitting/crocheting group to gather periodically at church for fellowship and to create items for charities. Doris named it "Knitting to Nurture" and a group of 10 to 12 ladies was begun. Our first project was to make **prayer shawls**, given to those in need of a reminder of God's love and the prayers of our church.

Soon the interest began to grow and many other members of our congregation joined in producing beautiful knitted and crocheted creations.

Our first project to extend blessings to others beyond Wyoming Church was **hats for the seamen coming into the Port of Wilmington in the winter!**

Through the years projects have expanded to:

Baby hats, sweaters, blankets – given to Bayhealth for newborns, and to UMCOR for disaster aid

Men's and women's hats – given to local homeless shelters

**115 have just been delivered - to the Fostering Wishes Foundation, the Dover Men's Shelter at Interfaith Mission and the Dover Women's Shelter at Hope & Faith!!*

Chemo caps – given to those being treated for cancer

Knitted squares – sent to South Africa, where women would make them into afghans for AIDS orphans

Helmet liners – requested for a Coast Guard crew! ...and many, many more!

THEN CAME COVID. And group meetings ceased, but with much participation of so many in the church, the projects continued. At the present time, as a project is displayed on the table by the

church office window, you may pick up yarn and patterns to join into the ministry with your skills! And a big Thank You! to all of the "secret" crafters who continually donate items that you can be assured spread God's love to many, many persons in need.

And now - a Personal Note.

As we no longer meet in-person, the ministry has been in the hands of Karen Priestley with aid from BJ Van Kavelaar, Betty Brown and Barbara Roos. Karen will soon be passing the leadership to someone else in the congregation. Please prayerfully consider if you have a calling to lead Knitting to Nurture onward to maintain this important aspect of the WUMC ministry.

Please call Karen at (302) 697-1828 to get further details on the position's responsibilities.



"Knitting to Nurture" on Broad Street
Vintage 2006

a win-win for your church!

Join our RaiseRight program so you can buy gift cards to use as payment for everyday expenses and shop online through RaiseRight. Every gift card purchase and online purchase earns up to 20% back - and it adds up fast! Plus, with a mobile app (<https://www.raiseright.com/mobile-app/>) available and instant access to your eGift card and reload purchases, you can buy gift cards and shop online through RaiseRight anytime, anywhere.

Go to <https://www.raiseright.com/> to learn more. **Our church code is 352B786L59911.**

If you don't like eGift cards our FUNdraising Team offers the **opportunity to purchase plastic cards** a couple times per year. The next ordering opportunity will be in **April**.

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



Solar Power Task Force Update

IT'S OFFICIAL! At the All-Church meeting on Monday, January 13th, those in attendance voted unanimously to approve the construction of a solar ground mount array. As an update for everyone involved with our church, here are some key facts and figures:

- The size of the system is 168 cells (panels) and is expected to be located in the field behind the north parking lot or north side of the building. It will have a fence around it.
- Total cost of the system is \$278,300 which will be paid out of our cash reserves.
- The church will receive a \$35,000 Delmarva Power Incentive for the system and a Federal grant of \$83,490 which will bring the net cost after incentives down to \$159,810.

- The year 1 electric savings for the church will be about \$11,000.
- If the annual electric rate of inflation is 1%, the 30 year savings will be about \$355,000. If the annual electric rate of inflation is 3%, the savings will be about \$482,000. If the annual electric rate of inflation is 5%, the savings will be about \$668,000. Electric rates due to increased demand are expected to go up significantly.
- Estimated years to breakeven are 12 (at the 3% electric inflation rate).

- The environmental impact will see our solar power system offset about 98 tons of CO2 per year (or about 207 barrels of oil).

The next steps for the Solar Task Force Team is to finalize the contract and come up with some fundraising ideas to help the church replace some if not all of the \$159,810 net cost for the project. Thank you to the Fundraising Team who have already committed \$20,000 to the cost of the project.

Stay tuned for further updates on the progression of the project.



Habitat Faith Build



Wyoming United Methodist is participating in Habitat's building a home for Charlene Austin's family. The mother with her five lovely children will live in this home. The groundbreaking is finished, and foundation is started! We hope to send some helpers to help construct the home when we are needed. We also want to furnish a lunch or two for the helpers. We will have an appeal so members can contribute to fund this build. Any time you wish to contribute, please, label your envelope "Habitat."

To learn more about Habitat and its recipients, we will have a lovely lady, Rebecca Hurst who just moved in to her home, tell us her story. She will be here on February 9. You may

ask her questions at the Coffee Hour between services.

If you have an interest in helping with construction, please, contact Mary Dawn Ditty (610) 428-9579, maryditty@gmail.com so we can email you about the days when you will be needed.





Get the mailing address of any birthday child from CCB or the church office if you'd like to send congratulations!

- 02/01 Amy Schmidt, Rick Sharpe
 02/02 Chuck Muldrow
 02/03 Doug Ditty, Amy Higgins
 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
 02/22 David Blake
 02/23 Dan Deckard, Rose Larimore, Ellyanna Mateja, Joelle Rubino-Sinclair
 02/24 Lydia Klecan, Wyatt Lefort, Melissa Mann, Patti Sandy
 02/25 Josefena Marasco
 02/26 Clinton Marlow, Mark Reed
 02/27 Brianna Gordineer, Drake Nichols
 02/28 Karissa Mann

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

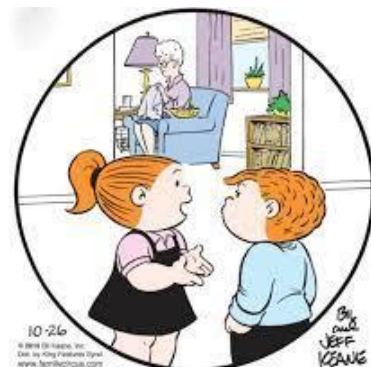
~ Our People ~

~ New Members ~

Rachel & Troy Rowland
 joined Wyoming Church
 on January 12, 2025.

WELCOME

... to our church family!!



"The two places we know we're always welcome are church and Grandma's house."



The New Pictorial Directory is in the works ... and will be for a while yet. In the meantime, if you would like an updated directory (addresses only), please let the office know to have one printed.

Turf, Meadows And Plantings Await The First Signs Of Spring!

Our Wyoming Church's acres of Turf, Meadows and Horticultural Plantings are just weeks away from beginning to show the very first signs of Spring. Before this happens the last few winter projects of shaping, shearing and trimming need to be completed.

In some situations the extreme cold temperatures accompanied by harsh, windy conditions results in the demise of a portion of a plant that is not readily noticeable until early Spring. Once discovered, the most effective solution is to remove the affected portion as quickly as possible.

Suggestions for plantings and care are always welcome and appreciated.

Thanks!! Volunteers Make The Safe Secure Sanctuary (S3) Program Successful!

It is often said and noted that the success of any program, project or organization that relies on volunteers depends totally upon their dedication, their commitment and their availability. Our Wyoming United Methodist Church's S3 Program is truly blessed with Christian Brothers and Sisters who very successfully serve in the program as Monitors, Ushers, Greeters and Stewards. They give freely of their time and energy to create a welcoming, comfortable and informative environment for both newcomers and long-term members. In addition to all those that serve as Monitors, Ushers, Greeters and Stewards we are further blessed to have those that serve as Technical Advisors.

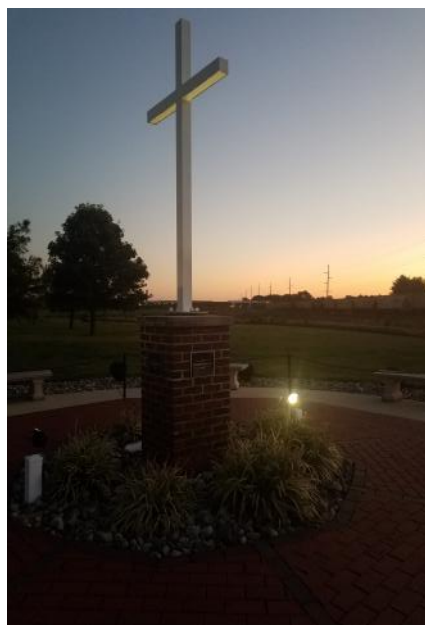
It is a truly distinct pleasure to work

with the dozens of excellent volunteers that are kind enough to give unselfishly of their valuable time and energy to participate in the S3 Program here at our beloved Wyoming Church.

The Memorial Garden Is Always Open To All!

Come long days or short, sunny or cloudy, as well as bitterly cold or very hot --- the Memorial Garden is always open. Memorial Garden Bricks can be placed in the Garden any time of the year. Memorial Garden Bricks are a very appropriate way to honor the life of a passed family member. It is also an excellent way to remember a person who has played a very important positive role in your life.

Application forms for Memorial Garden Bricks can be found on the Memorial Garden Model display in the Narthex. Should you have any questions or comments please share them with Terry.



FEBRUARY!



Prayers For All Your Prayer Requests At The February Prayer Breakfast!

On **Saturday, February 22, 2025** mark your calendars as a reminder to attend the monthly PRAYER BREAKFAST **beginning at 7:30 AM** in the Community Room at **TRE SORELLE DOLCE in Wyoming**. Our monthly Prayer Breakfasts are open to all - everyone is welcome!

Bring all of your Prayer Requests --- prayers for healing --- prayers for comfort --- prayers for understanding --- prayers for patience --- bring them all! We will pray individually and collectively as the spirit moves us!

Upon arrival and greeting you will fill out your Breakfast Order Form from whence it will be sent 'across the tracks' to Mike & Mel's Restaurant where it will be prepared and returned to us at its peak of perfection.

We will plan to spend about an hour in individual and collective prayer as we give serious consideration to all the prayer requests that are brought before us. We do so believing in the healing and transformative power of prayer. All of our prayers for our selves, our families, our state, our nation and our world will be placed before our Lord and Savior.

The last half hour of our time together will be spent enjoying our food and table fellowship. We will complete our time together with a closing corporate prayer. Jack Freidel will serve as the prayer leader for February.

How Our Calendar Came to Be

Today, we follow the Gregorian calendar, but it's based on the ancient Roman calendar, believed to have been invented by Romulus, who served as the first king of Rome around 753 BC.

The **Roman calendar**, a complicated lunar calendar, had 12 months like our current calendar, but only 10 of the months had formal names. Basically, winter was a "dead" period when the government and military weren't active, so they only had names for the time we think of as March through December.

- ♦ March (*Martius*) was named for Mars, the god of war, because this was the month when active military campaigns resumed.
- ♦ May (*Maius*) and June (*Junius*) were named for goddesses, Maia and Juno.
- ♦ April (*Aprilis*) is thought to stem from the Latin *aperio*, meaning "to open"—a reference to the opening buds of springtime.

- ♦ The rest of the months were numbered; their original names in Latin meant the fifth (*Quintilis*), sixth (*Sextilis*), seventh (*Septilis*, September), eighth (*Octilis*, October), ninth (*Novilis*, November), and tenth (*Decilis*, December) month.
- ♦ Eventually, January (*Januarius*) and February (*Februarius*) were added to the end of the year, giving all 12 months proper names. January was named after Janus, the Roman god of beginnings and transitions.

When Julius Caesar became *Pontifex Maximus*, he reformed the Roman calendar so that the 12 months were based on Earth's revolutions around the Sun. It was a solar calendar, as we have today. January and February were moved to the front of the year, and leap years were introduced to keep the calendar year lined up with the solar year.

The winter months (January and February) remained a time of reflection, peace, new beginnings, and purification. After Caesar's death, the month *Quintilis* was renamed July in honor of Julius Caesar in

44 BC, and later, *Sextilis* was renamed August in honor of Roman Emperor Augustus in 8 BC. Of course, all the renaming and reorganizing meant that some of the months' names no longer agreed with their position in the calendar (September to December, for example). Later, emperors tried to name various months after themselves, but those changes did not outlive them!



February

February comes from the Latin word *februa*, which means "to cleanse." It was named after Februalia, the Roman festival of purification, which was a month-long festival of purification and atonement that took place this time of year. **Are you curious about the naming of the rest of the months?**

Hear, hear...!!

SHROVE
TUESDAY
PANCAKE
SUPPER

March 4



Come join us on Tuesday evening, March 4th, 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** musical, *Countdown to Easter*. Bring the whole family and friends too!

CHOOSING YOUR SIDE OF THE MIRROR

OPTIMISM: [op-tuh-miz-uhm]: noun

a disposition or tendency to look on the more favorable side of events or conditions and to expect the most favorable outcome.

the belief that good ultimately predominates over evil in the world.

the belief that goodness pervades reality.

the doctrine that the existing world is the best of all possible worlds.

HOPE: [hohp]: noun

the feeling that what is wanted can be had or that events will turn out for the best.

a particular instance of this feeling.
grounds for this feeling in a particular instance.

a person or thing in which expectations are centered.

something that is hoped for.

GRATITUDE: [grat-i-tood, -tyood]:

noun

the quality or feeling of being grateful or thankful

Lately, I have been considering the possibility that I am looking at life from the wrong side of the mirror. Everyday events, and worldwide catastrophic events seem to have the same weight in the current news cycle. Something awful happens and we hear about it for a few hours or days until the next horrible event pops up. Disappointments are too often expressed in violence and destruction. Somehow, hate and anger have become an everyday way of life. And with that has come fear.

Fear of retaliation, fear of retribution, fear of self-expression.

For the past few months, I have felt this fear deeply. In a world that is often uncertain, aspects of our existence as a safe place seem to be waning. Children do not have the luxury of feeling safe in their schools. Parents do not have peace of mind knowing that their schools are able to care for and protect the children.

Neighborhoods that were perceived as safe are no longer seen that way. The constitutional right to Freedom of Speech has been so maligned that many see that right as the freedom to say whatever you want to whomever you want regardless of the truth behind it. With the rampage of social media and anonymous posts creating and spreading half-truths and lies; with the addition of AI generated images, how are we to know what is real and what is manufactured for shock value or personal gain?

So... what to do? I decided that this was not going to be a New Year's Resolution. Most of those don't last longer than the month of January anyway. I decided to wait until February... the month for cleansing. I have decided that I want to look through the other side of the mirror. The side that opens a window on the good things that are happening in the world. I have decided to look through the lenses of optimism and hope. I am choosing to look for the good around me, for the good in people. I am choosing to expand my view beyond the limited scope of the news cycle and the anonymous doom-sayers prevalent on social media. I'm not sure how that will look. I will probably have to "fake it till you make it" for a bit, but I have to believe that there is still enough good and right in the world to justify my one, small voice calling out, and to satisfy my viewpoint.

I will start with gratitude. There is a lot in this world that we take for granted will always be available to us. There is a lot that we expect or feel we are entitled to have. This is where I will start my search for the other side of the mirror.

I am grateful to have lived as long and as well as I have. I am grateful to see a new year begin and to have plans to look forward to enjoying. I am grateful for my family and friends, those I see regularly and those who are always in my heart.

I am grateful for my sweet kitties who are sleeping all around me as I type this message.

Change is difficult, old habits are hard to break, outlooks are challenging to modify. My choices will probably not matter too much in the world at large, but I think that they will matter to me. I hope for my

part of the world to be less frightening. I hope for my part of the world to find more joy and peace. I am optimistic that this can make a change in my life and, hopefully, in the lives of those with whom I am close.

For 2025, I am striving to cleanse myself of negative, non-constructive thoughts and actions. I am turning my gaze towards the positive, productive aspects of the world and the people around me. I am seeking to find a way to keep my head above the waters of anger and division that seem to swirl around too many of us. I am optimistically looking to find myself, my world, my joy, my peace, my hope, my gratitude on the other side of the mirror.

Gail Garner



"I'm starting with the man
in the mirror
I'm asking him to change his ways
And no message could've been
any clearer
If they wanna make the world
a better place
Take a look at yourself and then
make a change!"

Michael Jackson



A UNITED METHODIST CONGREGATION

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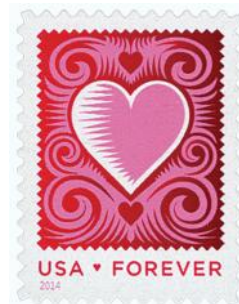


Church Office Hours :

Monday-Thursday 9AM - 1PM

call & text for appointments:

☎ (302) 399-3898 Renate Purdy



To: You!

**Our Pastors are available
by appointment.**

Call or text

☎ (302) 423-3911

Pastor Lindsay

☎ (302) 423-4237

Pastor Rick

Sharing God's Bounty

Have a Heart

February: the month devoted to love. Stores are filled with heart-shaped boxes of candy and heart-shaped cards and vases of flowers with heart-shaped gift tags. All this is available for the consumer so that he can find the appropriate expression of his devotion to his loved one. If that expression of love has been preceded by a year of thoughtful and loving words and deeds, it is welcomed and cherished by the recipient. If not, it is just an empty ritual, done out of duty rather than true devotion.

Our relationship to the Lord is similar. God, too, desires our sincere devotion, not empty lip service.

"The Lord says: 'These people come near to Me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.'" (Isaiah 29:13).

Stewardship is serving, helping, giving, but love is the basis for stewardship. Without love, our good deeds are empty and without merit. The first act of true stewardship is to *"love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength"* (Deuteronomy 6:5). Jesus called this the most important commandment (Mark 12:29,30). With that love for the Lord in us, we are enabled to be good stewards. Then we can do acts of good stewardship, acts of true devotion. We are enabled to...

- *"Give generously to him and do so without a grudging heart"* (Deuteronomy 15:10).
- *"Carefully observe [his decrees and laws] with all your heart and with all your soul"* (Deuteronomy 26:16)
- *"Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality"* (Romans 12:13)
- *"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men"* (Colossians 3:23)

God, through Ezekiel, promised, *"I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you: I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws."* (Ezekiel 36:26-27). This promise he has fulfilled in his Son, Jesus, who has followed his Father's decrees and kept his laws for us. As we strive to live fruitful lives of stewardship, at the same time, we rest in Christ who has been the perfect steward for us.



Tithing is an outgrowth of a sense of thankfulness. Since God's mercies are constant and unfailing, our response should be of the same nature in proportion to our ability. The "grace of gratitude" has high rating in the Christian standard of virtues. It is developed by saying "Thank you" to God. At the entrance of life abounding stands the cross of self-denial.