

The Circuit Rider

A Publication of: First United Methodist Church,
Cheyenne, Wyoming
Open Hearts. Open Minds, Open Doors
December 2009



Pastor's Pen

It's about this time of year that I begin to gain weight. Mostly by osmosis. You know, all the magazines come out with holiday editions full of Christmas cakes, cookies, candy recipes. I don't have to make any of them, much less eat any of them. Just looking at them in the magazines, imagining how they taste, will put weight on me.

I wish I could gain other things that easily.

My daughters are starting to fill out their Christmas wish list. I've been asked what I want for Christmas. I'm not sure. Most of my answers sound a lot like the lyrics to "My Grown-Up Christmas List."

No more lives torn apart,
That wars would never start,
And time would heal all hearts.
Everyone would have a friend,
And right would always win,
And love would never end.

Those are the things I wish I could gain easily. Just by wishing.

They are worthy wishes. They are the kind of things I imagine God wishes for humanity. Didn't Jesus say just about the same thing? Jesus, who came into the darkness of the world to shine light, first as a baby, then as a teacher and healer and leader, then as a man on a cross, and still as the Risen Savior. Jesus, who called twelve disciples way back when and who calls us still today.

Discipleship has never been about just wishing. But doing.

Saint Francis of Assisi knew about discipleship. His wish list aligned with Christ's and he knew that it would take some doing to come true. His doing. So he prayed. "Lord, make *me* an instrument of your peace." I've seen an adaptation of his prayer that goes something like this...

Put me to where there is hatred, so that I may sow love;
Put me to where there is injury, so that I may grant pardon;
Put me to where there is doubt, so that I may grow faith;
Put me to where there is despair, so that I may share hope;
Put me to where there is darkness, so that I may be light;
Put me to where there is sadness, so that I may bring joy.
Makes me remember the old saying, "Be careful what you wish

for."

This Christmas, I guess what I want most is for Christ to come again into our world and into my life, so that I may continue becoming his disciple, one who wishes and does.

-Rev. Trudy



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A Stephen Ministry Church

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Open Minds Open Hearts Open Doors

Milestones:

Happy 12th Anniversary to Gwendolyn and Jeff Rehling on November 15th

Congratulations to Penny McCracken who was administered the Oath of Allegiance on October 13, 2009 and is now a Naturalized Citizen of the United States of America.

New Babies!

Addison Grace Jarosh, born October 22nd

Parents are Rob and Cathy Jarosh

Layla Tai Courtney, born November 5th

Parents are Patrick and Rachel Courtney

Grandparents are Lonna and Shawn Courtney

Great grandparents are Lonnie and Pat Johnston

Marietta Paige Witter, born November 11th

Parents are Amanda and Alex Witter

Grandparents are Rich and Marilyn Moore

Please Lift Up In Prayer:

Jeremy Sanders, Keith Horton, Vi Blair, Betty Walters, Janell Hoffman, Rose Morrison, Sue Benner, Mary Ann Pulse, Cindy Davis, Ben Millard, Helen Norton, Leta Moore, Becky Burns, Ila Scott, Lona Sargent, Mary Kay Hill, Gretchen Lovelett, Marsha Clinkingbeard, Debbie Moberg, Derek Nissen

Prayers of Sympathy:

Cindy Davis in the death of her father, George Balog
Wilma Crowe in the death of husband, Ed Crowe
The family and friends of Virginia Strauser
Stuart Grinnell in the death of his mother, Mary
Berniece Holmes in the death of Floyd Holmes
Brianna and Zak Nelson in the death of their son, Reid

New Members:

Morris and Sharon Jenkins came to Cheyenne from Gering, Nebraska 20 years ago. They have four



kids and seven grandchildren. Morris is retired and enjoys photography. Sharon works for the State of Wyoming and enjoys crafts and craft shows. They love camping and the outdoors. Morris and Sharon are transferring from First

Congregational Church of Cheyenne. 6300 Green Meadow Dr., 82001, 638-7818.

Joseph Morelli is a US Marine. He grew up in Cheyenne, went to East High School. Joe grew up at FUMC and will soon be deployed to Afghanistan. 3510 Laramie St., 82001.



WELCOME!

The combined choirs
and orchestra of the
First United Methodist Church
present the Christmas Cantata



"The King"

Sunday, December 6th

8:30 a.m. and 9:45 a.m.

*Come and experience the telling of
the Christmas Story through
images, story and song.*

Holiday Tienda Open December 6th and 13th

Shop the Guatemala Tienda this Christmas season and watch your gift-giving dollars give again and again! Every time you purchase a gift for your loved ones from Timmo's Tienda, you are also supporting the Guatemala organizations from where the products are purchased (UPAVIM and Mayan Hands) as well as our 2010 Guatemala mission project. Stop by the Tienda in Allison Hall after church on December 6th and 13th to see a festive collection of new items . . . from terra cotta ornaments and nativity scenes to knitting bags, jewelry, and birdhouses. Select from an array of beautifully made products of wood, fabric, glass and beads. Even the kids will find fun, budget-friendly items for mom or grandma. Come on by and take a look at this year's colorful new products!

Ring the Season 2009

Come to the Bells of the Rockies Christmas Concert at FUMC, "Ring the Season 2009" on Tuesday, December 15th at 7:00 p.m.

For more info contact Bells of the Rockies at bellsoftherockies@yahoo.com or check their website at www.bellsoftherockiesonline.org.

Join Us For Some Very Special Christmas Experiences

Worship Schedule - Advent

November 29th - First Sunday of Advent

"Voices from School" - Malachi 3:1 - 4

December 6th - Second Sunday of Advent

Cantata - "The King" - Isaiah 52:7 - 10

December 13th - Third Sunday of Advent

Bishop Elaine preaching

December 20th - Fourth Sunday of Advent

"Voices from the Edge" - Luke 1:39 - 45

Advent Festival

Sunday evening, December 6th at 5:00 p.m.

"A Night in Bethlehem."

Bring your family for a light supper, crafts, caroling and an Impromptu Christmas Pageant.

Blue Christmas

Wednesday evening, December 9th at 6:00 p.m.

"A Service of Light for the Darkness."

A communion service for all those experiencing loss and pain this holiday season.

Christmas Eve

3:30 p.m. - Children's service - A fun interactive worship experience for all children.

5:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. - Candlelight service with organ, choir and brass.

9:30 p.m. - Candlelight service featuring music from the Praise Band.

11:00 p.m. - Candlelight service with bells, piano and communion.

Children are always invited to worship with their families. Child care will be provided at our 5:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. services. Come and enjoy a soup supper served from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Christmas Eve Soup Supper

Come one, come all! Christmas Eve Soup Supper will be served from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. December 24th by Vicky Wilson and Janet Weisbrook. The menu includes vegetable soup, chicken noodle soup, chili, veggie tray, bread and cookies. Helpers and donations would be appreciated call Vicky at 635-6264.

**What do candles and roast beef have
in common? ⇒**

Our Financial Health

First United Methodist Church Operating budget

October Income \$76,039.32

October Expenses \$62,412.11

Year to Date. Over/Under (\$40,310.23)

We thank you for your Time, Talent and Gifts

Igniting Disciples

As we prepare for our grand re-opening next year, we are preparing to receive the new people whom God is leading into our church family. Training to learn techniques for welcoming newcomers is underway, and these techniques will also create openings for new friendships among people already attending. So far the following groups have gone through the training: the Ad Council, Sunday Cafe, Care and Prayer, Retiree's Luncheon, Kitchen Committee and Hospitality Team. If your group, committee, Adult class, etc. is not on the list, please contact Rev. Elizabeth to schedule the 45-minute session.

Remember a time when you have been a stranger and what made you feel cared for and accepted? When someone walks through the door of a church, they have already taken a risk to enter into a situation where they may not know a single person (and everyone else seems to know each other). Creating a welcoming and hospitable climate begins at the curb and continues into the heart of the congregation. The ministry of welcoming is not the responsibility of a few people or a committee. It is the responsibility of the entire church family. It's as simple as, "Hi, my name is _____. I don't think we've met. What's your name?" I pray that you will come to know the names of all the people who sit near you at worship. That will be a significant first step in our efforts to create a welcoming environment for everyone - newcomers and members alike.

New Addition Name

Vote on a name for the new addition. There are ballot slips on the building display table.

From the names submitted the Building committee has chosen the following for your consideration: The Connecting Place
The Hospitality Center
The Gathering Center.

Trustee Notes

The Trustees heard an update on the building progress. In other business, the Trustees approved a contract with Architect Randy Byers to design a replacement for the Southwest door of the sanctuary. An update on the design of the handrail for the front of the Church was given. We are hopeful this can be installed in the next few weeks.

Trustees were pleased with the bid for the replacement of the Sanctuary roof. The price was reasonable and will be done with 50 year shingles. Capital Roofing will be contractor.

We have had input that suggests that some areas of the church are not as clean as we would wish. Our custodial staff is willing and does much work in limited hours. It was suggested that we need an avenue to get concerns to them so they can be dealt with. Trustees will design a communication plan to avoid some of the problem areas we have seen in the past.

The FUMC Trustees served a hearty meal of beef stew, rolls, and cake at the COMEA House on November 17th, and it was much appreciated. This has become an annual event for this committee, and we were happy to help in this way.

Several suggestions were made about ways in which the Trustees can help with the current budget deficit. We are looking into potential fundraisers. We are watching our section of the budget carefully, and trying to keep expenditures focused on the true necessities.

If you have any input, questions, or concerns, please do not hesitate to notify the Church office, Trustee Chair Jim Leece or any of the Trustees.

Ushering Is For Everyone

We currently have a need for ushers at all three services. If you would like to be an usher, be assured there are positions available. Youth, men, women, couples, family groups are all encouraged to participate. One service for one Sunday per month is the commitment, plus a promise to be there when it is your turn. If you are interested or have questions please call Dave McCracken, Usher Coordinator at 635-1464.

Capitol Campaign and Building Committee Update The Circuit Rider - Page 5

As always, we'll begin with an update on the Capital Campaign.

Total of 261 pledges now stands at: \$2,084,391

Total paid on pledges: \$1,449,625

Total collected as of November 18th: \$1,491,653

(Represents an increase of about \$31,626 since last month's report and includes non-pledged contributions totaling \$42,028)

Work continues in the basement of the Sanctuary. Drywall is complete in the large gathering space under the Sanctuary and is nearly complete in the old kitchen area under the Parlor. Painting in those areas is currently underway. Because we've experienced some minor areas of moisture in the concrete floor we're addressing a floor overlay to protect the carpet from any dampness that may occur in the future. There is also some minor duct work to finish in the old kitchen area before they can begin hanging the suspended ceiling...which should take place throughout that entire space.

Progress is very evident throughout the new addition. The chapel roof has been weatherized and shingles should be completed by the first week of December. The contractor is working to complete drywall on the Chapel ceiling. All but two of the windows have been installed in the new addition. The two windows just west of new south entrance, facing 18th Street will be installed once the concrete ramp is poured. Concrete work on the north side of the new addition, facing the alley, has also begun. The contractor has installed heat tape in both the north and south ramps to help control ice and snow build-up and heat tape will also be installed in the steps at both entrances.

Additional concrete work, sidewalks and steps will be completed later. The stone which is to be used at the entrances has been cut, is on pallets and ready to be moved to our site. The install should begin in late November with brick work to follow soon thereafter. Primary coats of stucco on areas above the windows are in place. An oatmeal color for the finish coat was selected with work to continue soon, weather permitting.

The new round translucent window has been installed on the upper east wall of the new chapel area and there has been some discussion about covering that window with some type of colored film to create a stained glass look. Those areas where you see the temporary square boxes located on the chapel roof is where the contractor will be installing solar tubes or light tubes allowing much more light into that area.

Concrete removal on the sandstone face of the Chapel wall is complete. That wall still needs to be power washed to finish removing some remaining debris.

The membrane has been completed on the roof of the new addition and installation of gravel ballast has taken place. Some flashing still needs to be completed but the primary part of the work is complete. Completion of the roof will now allow the contractor to finish installation of the permanent gas line that will fuel the Sanctuary. Although we know that the new addition will not be completely finished before the holidays, we've been assured that the contractor will have enough of the area finished to provide a space for our choirs.

Work in the Education Building is also moving quickly. Nearly all of the new windows have been installed. Once Marlyn moves out of her temporary office in Allison Hall that window facing the play area will be replaced. A new window is also being added in the office area that will provide light into the old workroom. Drywall and finish work in the offices will be taking place in late November and we hope to have the staff all back in place by mid December.

The new electrical transformer and gas meter are scheduled to be in place by the end of November. The roof has been waterproofed above the elevator shaft, the elevator has been installed and is currently functioning under temporary power. Once the transformer is completed permanent power will be provided. The new open space created in the Elevator lobby on the second level of the Education Building seems to be an ideal future location of our Church library.

As always, please don't hesitate to contact members of the Building Committee or the B.R.I.D.G.E. Team if you have any questions.

Bob Gross

Co-Chair B.R.I.D.G.E. Team

What do candles and roast beef have in common? ⇨

Seekers and Joiners

Newcomers to FUMC are invited to attend the Seekers and Joiners meeting for an orientation to the church's ministries and the beliefs of the United Methodist Church. This is also a wonderful time to get to know you better. The next Seekers and Joiners meeting will be Sunday, December 20th at 6:15 p.m. in the church parlor. Please let Rev. Elizabeth know if you would like more information or wish to attend.

Senior Luncheon

December 3rd is our date to enjoy another great meal from our Vicky Wilson and Company. Wasn't our November meal delicious!! Vicky is planning to serve us ham with all the fixings. Cost will be \$7.00. Rev. Elizabeth is planning a sing-along of Christmas songs, so again come in good voice! Call Kay Gragg at 632-0744 if not on the calling lists and Grant Farris at 632-2825 if you need a ride.

Young @ Heart

The Young@Heart will not have their normal potluck and meeting in December but will help with the Advent Festival on December 6th. We look forward to seeing you in January and wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

January Deadline-December 23rd

The Deadline for the January issue of The Circuit Rider is December 23rd at noon. Yes, this is a Wednesday, but with Christmas Eve on Thursday, and Friday is Christmas day, the church office will be closed early on the 24th and closed all day on the 25th. Please observe the deadline, even though this is a very busy time for all. Articles can be left in the office, or emailed to ruan61@msn.com. If you have any questions, please call Becky Burns at 640-1496.

Altar Flower Chart

The Worship Committee would like to thank everyone who purchased flowers this year for the altar in honor or memory of loved ones. The beautiful bouquets added so much to our worship services. The new flower chart for 2010 is now up in the West entrance of the sanctuary if you would like to sign up. Thank you!

50 Years

Together they have found a friendship, raised a family, and built a beautiful marriage. You are most warmly invited by the children of Richard and Jane Gilbert to participate in the joyous celebration of their parents' 50th Wedding Anniversary.

A Reception will be held on Saturday, December 12th, from 2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, 108 East 18th Street.

R.S.V.P by December 1st by calling (307) 634-6719 or emailing wdryden@myxmail.net.

*No Gifts - please send/bring a favorite memory/picture. If you are unable to attend, please mail to: Wendy Dryden or Lynn Kern
2060 Geyser Rd. P.O. Box 2938
Cheyenne, WY 82009 Kirtland, NM 87417*

2010 Guatemala Mission Team

If you are interested in going to Guatemala with the 2010 mission team, you are invited to attend an interest meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 5 at 7 p.m. in Allison Hall. Pastor Juan's community needs help finishing the final floor and roof of their medical clinic, and your help is needed. Consider how you can be a part of this ongoing relationship between our two churches as we both build to meet the needs of our communities. Mission trip dates will be determined soon (May or June are possibilities). Watch Sunday bulletins for details. Questions? Call Sheila Russell at 307-640-0486.

CIHN Happenings

Our next week to host families in CIHN is December 13th through the 20th. This should be the last time we have to host at St. Paul's Lutheran Church. After that, we should be hosting in our own church again. Once the construction is completed, we will be able to provide showers and a laundry facility to the families to whom we provide services.

We have a new support congregation to provide help when we host. These are members of the Jewish community from Mt. Sinai Congregation. They have begun providing meals for the families and serving as dinner hosts.

Poinsettia Remembrances

The Worship Committee will be displaying silk poinsettias in the sanctuary during Advent and offering "remembrances" in honor or memory of a loved one for \$10.00 each. To purchase a "remembrance", just call the church office at 632-1410 by December 16th to let us know how you would like your "remembrance" to appear in the bulletin and The Circuit Rider. The funds collected will be donated to the general church budget to help defray the deficit. Thank you!



Homebound Ministry

Many thanks to the following people for volunteering for the Homebound Ministry: Tom and Judy Christensen, Elaine Cone, Corinna Crandall, Michelle Emery, Joyce Hanks, Carol Hopkins, Ruth O'Neill, Madeline Rowbotham and our fearless leader, Kathy Cromley! The Homebound visitors contacted 27 households and will be bringing communion to our homebound members after Thanksgiving. The next meeting will be Thursday, January 21st at 1:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room.

From the Care and Prayer Team

If you have to go to the hospital, be sure to indicate at admissions that you are Methodist. Then your name will appear on the Methodist list which the FUMC hospital visitors use to determine who to visit. Please let us know when surgery or a medical procedure is scheduled by calling the church office. A pastor would love to pray with you before the surgery if you wish, and upon your permission, the Care and Prayer team will be notified so that they can hold you in their prayers.

New Picture Directory

A new directory is coming in 2010. We've agreed to a contract with LifeTouch. We are looking for a coordinator for this project, and individuals to help with publicity, contacting the families, signups for appointments, greeting families during photography shoot times, and help designing the layout of the directory. There is a form in the attendance pads in the pews of the sanctuary for your information or call the office at 632-1410 to sign up to help with this project. First day of taking pictures will be February 2nd.

"What do candles and roast have in common?"

Candles and Roast Beef

Join the Missions Committee on Thursday evening, December 10th, and you'll learn that candles and roast beef both smell wonderful. You will also help to raise funds for First United Methodist Church. The Missions committee has arranged two fund raisers for the evening of December 10th.

First, stop by Madeline's Scents at 321 West Lincolnway, from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Please note that these are extended store hours just for this FUMC event. Present your Madeline's flier, and 10% of net proceeds collected during this time frame will be donated to the church.



How many people on your holiday gift list would enjoy a beautifully scented candle from Madeline's Scents? This is a great way to shorten your "to do" list AND benefit FUMC.

Next, head to Arby's on Lincolnway to fill your tummy with yummy roast beef! Purchase a meal between 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m., present your Arby's flier at the time of your purchase, and Arby's will donate 20% of "flier accompanied" purchases to FUMC. You need to eat anyway, why not let somebody else do the cooking - and help your church at the same time!



For those of you who do not like to shop on an empty stomach, you can eat at Arby's first, and then visit Madeline's. Either way, a portion of each dollar that you spend will come back to FUMC.

Madeline's and Arby's fliers will be available at FUMC services on November 29th and December 6th, at the Advent Festival on December 6th, and at Madeline's and Arby's during the December 10th fund raising events.

The members of the Missions Committee hope to see you there!

Sunday Morning Schedule At First United Methodist Church

8:30 Traditional Worship Service With Sign Language Interpreter Available. Contact the Church Office for schedule.

9:45 Spirited Traditional Worship Service

9:45 Sunday School available for all ages, from pre-school to adult

11:15 The Source A contemporary service with the Praise Band and Singers

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>With all of the celebrations this month, the Sunday Evening schedule will have changes each week. Please watch the bulletin each Sunday or call the church office for each group's plans!</p> <p>Merry Christmas!</p>		<p>1 8:00 Hospitality Committee 9:00 Disciple 1 9:00 Historians 9:30 Worship Planning 11:00 Source Planning 5:30 Family Ministry Team 6:30 Disciple 1 6:30 Disciple 3 7:00 Grand Opening Com.</p>	<p>2 9:00 UMW Executive Council 1:00 Staff Meeting 5:30 Bells Of Glory 6:30 Sounds of Joy 6:30 Disciple 2 7:00 Dress rehearsal for Cantata</p>	<p>3 9:30 Prayer Shawl Ministry 10:00 Construction Meeting 10:00 Pointe Frontier 11:00 Care and Prayer Ministry 12:00 Senior Luncheon 5:30 Praise Team 6:30 Missions 7:00 Worship</p>	<p>4 9:00 Kid's Day Out</p>	<p>5 2:00 Women's Ministry Tea</p>
<p>6 Second Sunday in Advent Greeting Card Sales Timmo's Tienda 7:15 Men's Breakfast 8:30 Cantata, Sign Language 9:45 Cantata 1:00 Motions of Grace 5:00 Advent Festival</p>	<p>7 9:00 Disciple 4 5:30 Capital City Brass 7:00 Building Committee 7:00 Aldersgate Choir</p>	<p>8 8:00 Hospitality Committee 9:00 Disciple 1 9:00 Historians 9:30 Worship Planning 11:00 Source Planning 5:30 Family Ministry Team 6:30 Disciple 1 6:30 Disciple 3</p>	<p>9 9:30 A Stitch in Time 1:00 Staff Meeting 5:30 Bells Of Glory 6:00 Blue Christmas Service 6:30 Sounds of Joy 6:30 Disciple 2 6:30 Youth Mission parent mtg. 7:00 Chancel Choir</p>	<p>10 9:30 Prayer Shawl Ministry 10:00 Pointe Frontier 11:00 Care and Prayer Ministry 5:30 Praise Team 6:00 Adult Ministry Council 7:00 Family Ministry Council 7:00 Trustee "What do candles and roast beef have in common?" See page 7</p>	<p>11 1:00 UMW Bible</p>	<p>12 9:00 UMW Morning Glories 9:00 Set up Bible Bucks Store 2:00 Richard & Jane Gilbert Celebration</p>
<p>13 Third Sunday in Advent Timmo's Tienda 9:45 Bible Bucks Store 10:30 Potato Bar 5:30 UMYF Christmas Party 6:15 Sprouts Christmas Party</p>	<p>14 9:00 Disciple 4 5:30 Capital City Brass 7:00 Aldersgate Choir</p>	<p>15 8:00 Hospitality Committee 9:00 Disciple 1 9:00 Historians 9:30 Worship Planning 11:00 Source Planning 5:30 Family Ministry Team 6:30 Disciple 1 6:30 Disciple 3 7:00 Bells of the Rockies</p>	<p>16 1:00 Staff Meeting 5:30 Bells of Glory 6:30 Sounds of Joy 6:30 Disciple 2 7:00 Chancel Choir</p>	<p>17 4:00 Children of Grace</p>	<p>18 9:00 Kid's Day Out 11:30 UMW Unit Meeting</p>	<p>19</p>
<p>Christian Interfaith Hospitality Network Host Week for First United Methodist Church members: Families will be staying at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 218 East 19th Street, one block east of FUMC on 19th Street</p>						
<p>20 Fourth Sunday in Advent Greeting Cards Sales 8:30 Sign Language 9:45 Bible Bucks Store 6:15 Seekers and Joiners</p>	<p>21 9:00 Disciple 4 5:30 Capital City Brass 7:00 Aldersgate Choir</p>	<p>22 8:00 Hospitality Committee 9:00 Historians 9:30 Worship Planning 11:00 Source Planning 5:30 Family Ministry Team</p>	<p>23 12:00 Newsletter Deadline 1:00 Staff Meeting 5:30 Bells of Glory 6:30 Sounds of Joy 7:00 Chancel Choir</p>	<p>24 Christmas Eve 3:30 Family 4:30 Soup Supper 5:30 Traditional 7:30 Traditional with Sign Language 9:30 Contemporary 11:00 Contemplative with Communion</p>	<p>25 Christmas Day Office Closed</p>	<p>26</p>
<p>CIHN Families</p>	<p>Christmas Break - School is out - Remember the reason for the Season!</p>					
<p>27</p>	<p>28 9:00 Disciple 4 5:30 Capital City Brass 7:00 Aldersgate Choir</p>	<p>29 8:00 Hospitality Committee 9:00 Historians 9:30 Worship Planning 11:00 Source Planning 5:30 Family Ministry Team</p>	<p>30 1:00 Staff Meeting 5:30 Bells of Glory 6:30 Sounds of Joy 7:00 Chancel Choir</p>	<p>31 New Year's Eve 9:30 Prayer Shawl Ministry 10:00 Pointe Frontier 11:00 Care and Prayer Ministry 5:30 Praise Team</p>	<p>December Happenings at First United Methodist Church</p>	
	<p>Christmas Break - School is out - Remember the reason for the Season!</p>					

Sunday Evening Schedule At First United Methodist Church

3:30 Ring Tones
4:00 Children of Grace
4:00 Noah's Commotions
4:30 Celebration Jr.
4:30 Celebration Sr.
4:30 Men's Group
5:00 Motions of Grace
5:00 Chimes 3
5:30 Dinner
6:00 Chimes 2
6:00 UMYF
6:00 Sprouts
6:00 Adult Bible Study

There is something for everyone!

Join us this Sunday!

Children's Ministries



Advent Festival - A night in Bethlehem Sunday December 6, 2009 5:00-7:30 PM

Everyone is invited to come explore the ancient city of Bethlehem and to visit the shops in the marketplace. You will get to experience a Bethlehem bakery, a carpentry shop, and a wreath shop. You will also get to visit with a family in a Bethlehem stable who have just given birth to a very special baby! After the marketplace and dinner, children will present an impromptu Christmas pageant.

- 5:00 p.m. Families may begin to visit shops in Allison Hall
- 5:30 p.m. Soup Dinner served
- 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Continue to visit shops
- 6:30 p.m. - 6:45 p.m. Christmas caroling
- 6:45 p.m. Children of all ages select a costume
(donkeys, sheep, wise men, shepherds, angels, and more!)
- 7:00 p.m. Impromptu Pageant.

Join us for the telling of the Christmas story, as the children act out the story and sing carols.

We will be collecting new, unwrapped gifts for Toys for Tots

Suggested Donation per Family to cover cost of supplies: \$10.00

3rd Grade Bible Presentation

Congratulations to those who received their Bibles on November 15th.

- Baille Brandt Stephanie Burns
- Morgan Dickerson Nicole Sargent
- Paige Rehling CJ Rehling
- Julian Brooks Jefferson Danso
- Jacob Haughton Alexis Baca
- Megan Murray

Hat and Mitten Tree



Family Ministry Committee will be sponsoring the Hat and Mitten tree. Please donate hats and mittens for children and adults by hanging them on the hat and mitten tree in Allison Hall.

Thank you for your support.

Sprouts Schedule

- December 6th - No Sprouts.
Please join us at the Advent Festival
- December 13th - Sprouts will be making the Sunday evening dinner and then will have a Christmas party.
- December 20th - No Sprouts
- December 27th - No Sprouts
- January 3rd - Sprouts resumes

Bible Bucks

Bible Bucks is a motivational program for Sunday School children. They earn Bible Bucks for bringing a friend to church, having a parent help with Sunday School, help with part of the church service, attending worship, and other special accomplishments. Several times throughout the year, we will have a Bible Bucks store where children can spend the Bucks on small gifts for family and friends. Please donate items such as notebooks, toys, markers, mugs, costume jewelry, Christmas decorations, or other items. Items may be brought to Sunday School or left at the church office. We appreciate your help!

Bible Bucks Store will be open December 13th and 20th during Sunday School upstairs in the music room.

Childcare Ministries

Christmas Greetings!

Can you believe we're already in December? Pretty soon we'll be wrapping gifts (if we haven't already done so) and singing Christmas Carols!

December is going to be a fantastic month. We will start the month on Friday, December 4th with Kids Day Out. We are going to discuss what Advent means and why we recognize it.

We will continue our month on Friday, December 18th with another Kids Day Out. We will have our Christmas party on this day.

Please be aware that there will be no Kids Night Out this month as we would like for parents to be able to spend the evening after Christmas with their families.

I would like to welcome some volunteers into our Child Care family, Demi Jagoditsh, Katrina Sanford, and Bri Sargent. We are excited to have you with us!

December is a special month for us as we have the unique opportunity to offer child care during the 5:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. services on Christmas Eve. The nursery will open at 5:15 p.m. and will close down after the 7:30 p.m. worship service.

Enjoy your month as the end of the year is quickly approaching and soon we will enter 2010!!

Blessings,

Veronica Johnson, Director of Child Care Ministries

Friday, December 4th
Kids Day Out: 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Friday, December 18th
Kids Day Out: 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Christmas Eve Worship
5:30 p.m. service
7:30 p.m. service
Remember NO KIDS NIGHT OUT

Kid's Day Out is a program for newborn through kindergarten age children. Kid's Night Out is open to children newborn through 12 years old. Children need to bring a sack lunch. Please do not send a lunch with peanuts or peanut butter because we have children with nut allergies that endanger their lives. Pre-registration is required. Register at the nursery or with Veronica Johnson, 632-1410. A donation is requested.

Som 23 (Psalm)

By the Sunday School Classes, Grades 1st - Youth

Even though I walk through a very dark place with scary echoes and animals and people,

I will not be afraid because my God and my parents and Sunday School teachers are with me,

To comfort me and keep my soul safe.

He leads me to a pretty lake and provides comfy couches to sit on, and He will be there too.

He prepares a table for me with pizza and cookies and shares with me.

He shows me that He is there and gives many blessings of candy and love,

And He will follow me all the days of my life till I'm big and will be with God forever, amen.



United Methodist Youth Fellowship



Schedule

Dinner: 5:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
 Meetings: 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
 December 6: Advent Festival 6:00pm - 7:30pm
 December 13: Christmas Party 6:00pm - 7:30pm
 No Meetings on December 20 or December 27
 Enjoy your Christmas Holiday

2010 Mission Trip Meeting

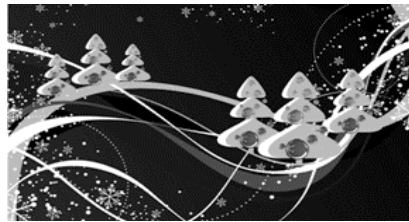
December 9th at 6:30 p.m. we will have a meeting for Parents and Youth to gather information about the Mission Trip in the summer of 2010.

Junior High will go to Center, Co and Senior High will go to Thunder Bay, Canada.

JOIN US!

Happy Birthdays! December

Dec. 4 - Michael Kerr
 Dec. 8 - Demi Jagoditsh



Advent Festival December 6, 2008

Come join the Advent Festival. We will be assisting with games and costumes for the Impromptu pageant. It will be a great time to have fun and fellowship with everyone.

**MARK YOUR
 CALENDAR!!
 CHRISTMAS
 PARTY
 DECEMBER 13TH**

Volunteers still wanted!

UMYF is looking for loving, faith-filled adults with a passion for teenagers and serving God. Share your talents behind the scenes, on Sunday evenings or during events.

The rewards are priceless. Come be a part of our team!

If you would like to explore the many options for volunteer leadership in our youth ministry, please contact Jodie Mack at 640-4611 bratgirljm@yahoo.com.



United Methodist Women

Executive Committee - December 2nd, 9:00 a.m. in the Fireside Room

Unit Meeting - December 18th, 11:30 a.m. in Allison Hall

Interest Groups

A Stitch in Time - December 9th, 9:30 a.m. in the Fireside Room.

Bible - December 11th, 11:30 a.m. at Country Buffet for lunch

Morning Glories - Dec. 12th, 9:00 a.m. at Jean Dove's home

Monday Group - no meeting

Nightingales - no meeting

Prayer - no meeting

Reading - no meeting



Mixed Voices & Spoken Word

A Christmas Program

The miraculous gift of the Christ Child will be celebrated in song and verse at the December 18th UMW Unit Meeting. The McCormick Junior High Vocal Jazz Group will present a delightful Christmas music program, under the direction of Wendy Dryden. The spoken word of the Christmas story will be given by Jean Dove.

A delicious lunch is being planned by the ladies of the prayer circle. Cost for the meal will be \$4.00. Reservations may be made with Jean Denham, 638-1589. Please plan to come and join us for a wonderful day.

The 2010 UMW officers will be installed and the outgoing officers will be honored. Your presence on December 18th would please and honor us greatly. Please have your reservation in by December 16th. Come and bring a guest!

Greeting Cards

United Methodist Women express their thanks to all for support of UMW's sales of greeting cards throughout the year. Because of your support, we are able to continue our contributions for mission to women, children and youth worldwide and locally. This month is the last call for Christmas cards and napkins ~ December 6th and 20th. The UMW wishes everyone a very merry and blessed Christmas time with their families and loved ones. And may we all remember the Reason for the Season is our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Christmas Tea

You are invited to "A Cup of Christmas Tea"! The Women's Ministry committee is hosting their annual High Tea on December 5th from 1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. at Pointe Frontier.

Tickets, which are being sold in Allison Hall between services on Sundays, are \$10.00 for adults, \$5.00 for children 5 - 12 yrs, free for children under 5. Profits from this tea are going to be donated to the general fund at FUMC.

We think the Christmas cookies, music, and fellowship will be a great way to start the Christmas season. Please plan to come and bring a friend!

Matthew Class

The Matthew Class is still plumbing the depths of Karen Armstrong's "The History of God". We were fortunate to have the Rev (emeritus) Evans lead the class discussion on the Trinity, as he shared a wealth of experience on the subject. We also benefited from Dr. Mohammed Salih's presence in our group as we studied the emergence of Islam as the third great monotheistic faith. His insights contributed greatly to the class's understanding of Islam: We learned that the basic cornerstone of this faith is the Unity of God, which is incorporated into the first of the five pillars of Islam: The declaration that the only god is God (Allah), and that Mohammed is his messenger. We continue to find that among people of faith and goodwill, our similarities overwhelm and negate our differences.

This year's Christmas potluck and white elephant gift exchange is on December 12th at 6:00 p.m., hosted by Mohammed and Fatima Salih. Please call 778-7113 to RSVP and let them know what you will be bringing. There will be no class December 27th or January 3rd. On January 10th, class will resume with a guest speaker, Mr. John King, who will discuss meditation as part of a spiritual discipline. On January 17th, the Rev (emeritus) Gilbert will begin a study of the Lord's Supper, a subject often misunderstood among Christians.

If you have any questions about the class, please call Sharon Russell at 632-6589 or Alice Johnson at 214-2365.

The Tablecloth

Things Happen For A Reason - By Pastor Rob Reid

The brand new pastor and his wife, newly assigned to their first ministry, to reopen a church in suburban Brooklyn, arrived in early October excited about their opportunities. When they saw their church, it was very run down and needed much work. They set a goal to have everything done in time to have their first service on Christmas Eve.

They worked hard, repairing pews, plastering walls, painting, etc, and on December 18 were ahead of schedule and just about finished. On December 19th a terrible tempest - a driving rainstorm hit the area and lasted for two days. On the 21st, the pastor went over to the church. His heart sank when he saw that the roof had leaked, causing a large area of plaster about 20 feet by 8 feet to fall off the front wall of the sanctuary just behind the pulpit, beginning about head high. The pastor cleaned up the mess on the floor, and not knowing what else to do but postpone the Christmas Eve service, headed home.

On the way he noticed that a local business was having a flea market type sale for charity, so he stopped in. One of the items was a beautiful, handmade, ivory colored, crocheted tablecloth with exquisite work, fine colors and a Cross embroidered right in the center. It was just the right size to cover the hole in the front wall. He bought it and headed back to the church. By this time it had started to snow. An older woman running from the opposite direction was trying to catch the bus. She missed it. The pastor invited her to wait in the warm church for the next bus 45 minutes later. She sat in a pew and paid no attention to the pastor while he got a ladder, hangers, etc, to put up the tablecloth as a wall tapestry. The pastor could hardly believe how beautiful it looked and it covered up the entire problem area.

Then he noticed the woman walking down the center aisle. Her face was like a sheet. "Pastor," she asked, "where did you get that tablecloth?" The pastor explained. The woman asked him to check the lower right corner to see if the initials, EBG were crocheted into it there. They were. These were the initials of the woman, and she had made this tablecloth 35 years before, in Austria. The woman could hardly believe it as the pastor told how he had just gotten "The Tablecloth".

The woman explained that before the war she and her husband were well-to-do people in Austria. When the Nazis came, she was forced to leave. Her husband was going to follow her the next week. He was captured, sent to prison and never saw her husband or her home again. The pastor wanted to give her the tablecloth; but she made the pastor keep it for the church. The pastor insisted on driving her home. That was the least he could do. She lived on the other side of Staten Island and was only in Brooklyn for the day for a housecleaning job.

What a wonderful service they had on Christmas Eve. The church was almost full. The music and the spirit were great. At the end of the service, the pastor and his wife greeted everyone at the door and many said that they would return. One older man, whom the pastor recognized from the neighborhood continued to sit in one of the pews and stare, and the pastor wondered why he wasn't leaving. The man asked him where he got the tablecloth on the front wall because it was identical to one that his wife had made years ago when they lived in Austria before the war and how could there be two tablecloths so much alike.

He told the pastor how the Nazis came, how he forced his wife to flee for her safety and he was supposed to follow her, but he was arrested and put in a prison. He never saw his wife or his home again all the 35 years between. The pastor asked him if he would allow him to take him for a little ride. They drove to Staten Island and to the same house where the pastor had taken the woman three days earlier. He helped the man climb the three flights of stairs to the woman's apartment, knocked on the door and he saw the greatest Christmas reunion he could ever imagine.

God does work in mysterious ways. May the Lord bless you today, guide you and protect you as you go along your way. His love is always with you. His promises are true, and when we give Him all our cares, we know He will see us through. So when the road you're traveling seems difficult at best, just remember that people are praying and God will do the rest. When there is nothing left but God, that is when you find out that God is all you need.

Thank You!

Missions Committee thanks the Trustees Committee for serving the November meal at the Comea shelter. Jim Leece and his helpers served up a hearty meal of stew, salad, roll, carrot cake, soda and milk to approx. 60 hungry residents. We appreciate your help with this ongoing ministry. Thanks so very much!

Karen Lee
Missions Committee

Prayer Shawl Ladies,

Thanks so much for our visit, and the beautiful shawl. I am 88 years old and I am still here. I thank all those who have come to see me and have prayed for me.

Ever grateful,
Martha Arnold
3348 Van Velzor Avenue,
Cheyenne, WY 82001

A big THANK YOU to employees and workers of First UMC for their successful efforts in reducing the expenditures on this year's budget. We want to thank all church members for their contributions this year and for the many pledges that you have submitted for next year. To those of you that have recognized our deficit and come forward with your giving, we thank you. If you have not made your pledge for 2010 please pray for guidance in your giving. We are struggling to balance the 2010 Budget and do not wish to reduce Ministries or Programs in the coming year.

Thank you,
Your Finance Committee

The Circuit Rider - Page 15

The Stitch in Time circle would like to thank all the participants in the Craft Fair. We had a good response and raised about \$700 for missions of the UMW. Women who do not belong to this circle but contributed items, we thank you.

The Missions Committee extends a big blizzard THANK YOU to all the generous people who made a donation to the Meals on Wheels Blizzard Box fund. A total of \$390.86 was collected to help this important community service. The funds will be used to provide nonperishable food items to the Meals on Wheels clients. When meals cannot be delivered due to Wyoming's unpredictable winter weather, meal recipients will still be able to enjoy a nutritious dinner. Thank you for your help with this mission.

My compliments to your church, we thank you for the trip. We are well in Guatemala. Good luck with the pumpkins! Greetings to Rev. Trudy and all who accompanied us. God bless you. ~Pastor Juan and Candelaria Ixtan

Thank you for your donation to Meals on Wheels. We are sincerely grateful for all contributions which help us to serve the elderly, disabled and homebound people of our community.

Thanks,
Jeanette
Meals on Wheels

Thank You!

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Becky Burns, Editor: ruan61@msn.com

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Join Us For Some Special Worship This Season!

8:30 a.m. - Traditional Worship Service

9:45 a.m. - Spirited-Traditional Worship Service

11:15 a.m. - The Source - An Informal Praise Service

9:45 a.m. - Sunday School for all ages

9:30 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. - Sunday Café Fellowship

Sermon Series: "The Voices of Christmas"

November 29th - "Voices from School" Rev. Trudy preaching, Malachi 3: 1 - 4 at 8:30 p.m. and 9:45 p.m. The Senior High Youth offering a message at 11:15 "Messiness"

December 6th - Christmas Cantata (see below)

December 13th - "Voice from the Connection" Bishop Elaine Stanovsky preaching. Join us for her special message.

December 20th - "Voices from the Edge," Rev. C.S. preaching, Luke 1: 39 - 45

December 24th - "The Voice of God," Rev. Trudy preaching 5:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m., 9:30 p.m., Luke 2: 1 - 20. Times and descriptions for Christmas Eve Services are listed below.

December 27th - "The Voice of Believers," Rev. C.S. preaching.

January 3rd - "The Voice of the Nations," Rev. Trudy preaching, Matthew 2: 1 - 12

Blue Christmas

Wednesday evening, December 9th at 6:00 p.m.

A service for those experiencing loss and pain this holiday season. Rev. Elizabeth preaching.

Christmas Cantata

The Music Department will be presenting "King of Kings" at the 8:30 p.m. and 9:45 p.m. worship services on December 6th. The Praise Band will offer their own contemporary Cantata at 11:15 with Christmas music and scripture.

Christmas Eve Services

3:30 p.m. - Children's Service...Join us for a fun interactive worship experience for all children.

5:30 p.m. - Candlelight Service with Organ, Choir and Brass.

7:30 p.m. - Candlelight Service with Organ, Choir and Brass.

9:30 p.m. - Candlelight Service featuring music from *The Source* Praise Band.

11:00 p.m. - Lessons and Carols, Candlelight and Communion Service with Bells and Piano.

