



Riverton United Methodist Church

"Receiving the Bread of Life to Give the Bread of Life"

Website: www.rivumc.com

1116 W. Park Ave Riverton, WY 82501

e-mail: rivumc@wvoming.com

phone: (307) 856-2544 / fax: (307) 856-7138



March 2016

Volume 11 Issue 3

FROM THE PASTOR

One of my favorite stories is of an event related by retired UM Bishop William Willimon in his book entitled On a Wild and Windy Mountain. In a chapter on Easter Willimon recalls how, while in college, the late Carlyle Marney came to speak at his school during a religious emphasis week. During one of the more informal sessions, one of the students asked Dr. Marney to say a word or two about the resurrection of the dead. This is how Willimon describes the exchange that followed:

"I will not discuss that with people like you," replied Marney.

"Why not?" we asked.

"I don't discuss such matters with anyone under thirty," said Marney.

"Why?" we persisted.

"Look at you," said Marney, "prime of life, potent, never have you known honest to God failure, heartbreak, impotency, solid defeat, brick walls, mortality. So what in God's name can you know of a dark world which only makes sense if Christ is raised?" (p. 90)

As I pen this column, we find the Church once again on its journey through Lent towards Easter, and I must confess that more and more these are becoming my favorite seasons of the Church year, maybe even more than Christmas. The older I become and the more I see and experience, the more these seasons fit and fill a genuine need. Lent, with its call to self-denial and its stark acknowledgement of the reality of evil and suffering, reveals to us again how brutally relevant the gospel is (and the Church ought to be). Lent is like life! The farther you journey into it the more personally you come to know loss, defeat, and heart wrenching pain! But then along comes Easter, and evil, having taken its best shot, slinks away. Death is robbed. Christ is risen!

Easter is just around the corner. It will be, I hope, a glorious time of worship. But I know that some of you will understand Easter in a sense that others can only imagine. For Easter is really for those who have known loss, who have tasted defeat, and who have been touched by heartbreak. It comes to us as God's assurance that he has seen our need, that he has heard our cries, that he has understood our hurt, and that ultimately he has overcome it all!

Easter is coming! And it comes especially for those who have journeyed through Lent and Good Friday!

In Christ,

Pastor Mark Rader

MARCH LOOSE CHANGE **UMCOR Refugee Relief**

Millions of refugees around the globe are fleeing war, persecution, and violence in their homelands, often running with just the clothes on their backs. Other migrants are escaping from untenable situations of hardship and poverty in their home countries. From start to finish, their journey is treacherous. Those who embark on it risk their lives and the lives of their children to try to reach a better place to live. Perhaps you know of someone in your own family who was once a refugee or immigrant.

This month, we will be supporting UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief), which is a global humanitarian aid ministry of the United Methodist Church founded in 1940. UMCOR is working in 80 countries worldwide, including the United States. UMCOR's mission, grounded in the teaching of Jesus, is to alleviate human suffering- whether caused by war, conflict or natural disaster, with open hearts and minds to all people. UMCOR and Global Ministries are addressing the global refugee and migration crisis guided by four principles: **The Right to Stay** and flourish in one's own country; **Safe Passage** for those with no viable alternative but to leave; **Welcoming and Belonging**, a process wherein migrants, refugees and receiving communities work together to meet the needs of the new arrivals; and **Support for the Returned** to help those who are deported to reintegrate with dignity back into their home countries.

UMCOR has launched a \$2.25 million campaign to help support these programs. In addition to sending health and school kits, our Missions Committee has set a goal of \$2,250 for our congregation. We hope to achieve this goal through the March Loose Change offering, as well as through the Lenten loose change jars and a free will offering at the Mission's Committee Easter breakfast.

As an added incentive, it is helpful to know that UMCOR has received the highest rating possible, 4*, from charitynavigator.org, which rates charities based on their accountability and transparency. UMCOR spends 100% of our donations on the programs and services we specify.

Thanks to everyone for helping us to reach our goal!



LENTEN LOOSE CHANGE JARS

Have you given something up for Lent this year? If so, have you considered how much money you might be saving by making this sacrifice? The Missions Committee would like to encourage everyone to pick up a jar in the back of the sanctuary to put loose change or savings in during the month of March. This money will go towards our goal of \$2,250 for the UMCOR Refugee Relief fund. The jars are covered with canvas to remind us of the tents that refugees often have to live in. Jars will be collected on Easter Sunday, March 27.

FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE GLOBAL REFUGEE CRISIS

WYOMING PBS LIVE BROADCAST ON THE GLOBAL REFUGEE CRISIS

Thursday, March 24 at 7:00 PM.

The program titled, **“One in Fifty: Wyoming and the Global Refugee Crisis”** will be moderated by our very own Craig Blumenshine. The thrust of the conversation will center on the human experience of being a refugee, the legal process that manages refugees, and refugees in Wyoming’s historical past. Panelists include Susan Pritchett, assistant professor and director of the International Human Rights Clinic, University of Wyoming College of Law and Bertine Bahige, a refugee from Africa who now teaches math and coaches soccer at Campbell County High School. This is a great opportunity for us to learn more about the refugee resettlement process. If you like, you may view the broadcast at CWC where they will follow the program with a group discussion.

LOOKING FOR A GOOD MOVIE TO WATCH?

As part of our effort to become more informed about the refugee experience, the Missions Committee would like to recommend watching **The Good Lie**, starring Reese Witherspoon. It tells the inspirational true story of a group of Sudanese refugees given the chance to resettle in America. When they arrive in Kansas City, Missouri, their encounter with an employment agency counselor forever changes all of their lives. This movie is available for free checkout at the Riverton Library.





EASTER BREAKFAST

Once again, the Missions Committee will be offering a free breakfast to anyone in our church and community between services on Easter Sunday, March 27. We will be serving pancakes, sausage, and egg casseroles from 9:00-10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Please invite your family and friends to join us on this special day!

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

As we prepare to journey with Jesus through the events of Holy Week, from the Triumphal Entry on Palm Sunday to the cross on Good Friday, there will be a number of additional opportunities to worship this year. At 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 24th, we'll be offering a more traditional Maundy Thursday Service with communion in place of the Living Last Supper that we put on last year. Again at 7 p.m. on Friday, March 25th, we'll be offering a Good Friday service based upon the "Stations of the Cross". This will be a reprise of the "Shadow" presentation that we offered in 2014. On Sunday, March 27th, we'll be offering nearly identical Easter celebrations at our 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. services, and we hope you'll be with us. Join us as we travel through Holy Week!



JANUARY FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Budget income to date :	\$16,871.50
Actual income to date:	\$17,381.50
Budgeted expenses to date:	\$16,974.44
Actual expenses to date:	\$12,967.05

February Loose Change Offering

The February 2016 Loose Change Offering Project was the Middle School Food for Break. The total offering received in February in support of this mission to date, February 26, is **\$334.65**. Thanks to everyone who has so generously contributed to this month's project.

BIG SEAMSTRESS THANK YOU!

Whether they joined us at the church on Thursday mornings, or just did their own thing, the ladies of the congregation completed over 100 School/Health Kit Bags for the Mission Committee Lenten Project. We had fun, cleaned out our fabric "stashes" and did a very good thing. Thank You!



Jean Concillio with the many bags for the kits

OLD SMART PHONE NEEDED FOR CHURCH OFFICE



Do you have an old Smart Phone you do not use any more that you would be willing to donate to the church? The church will be installing a new front doorbell with audio and visual capabilities that will connect to any Smart Phone. If you do, please contact the church office at 856-2544.

CHANCEL REMODEL PROJECT COMPLETED

The Chancel Remodel Project has reach completion, and the results of all the contributions and efforts on everyone's part is amazing, and our worship experience is much enriched due to the remodel.

Since the project is completed, the Chancel Remodel Project account has been closed. We ask that you please select another designation for your contributions, such as a Missions project, a Memorial, or any other new projects that might begin in the future.

MANY THANKS

Many Thanks to Bob Schlichting and Terry Stone for all their work in building a new shelf and frame and backlighting the stained glass window from the old church that is on the wall in the parlor.

**DON'T FORGET! SET YOUR
CLOCKS FORWARD.**

Remember: **Daylight savings time** begins Sunday, March 13.

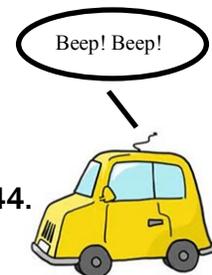


THANKS SO MUCH to all the ladies who so kindly volunteer to assist with assembling the monthly newsletter. The February newsletter was assembled by Rita Larson, Nancy Stone, and Beverley Higgs,



SHUTTLE SERVICE

The Missions Committee Shuttle Service continues to provide transportation to & from Sunday Worship. If you are in need of a ride or wish to help by serving as a volunteer driver, please call 307-349-3344.



MARCH EVENTS

MAR. 1, TUESDAY: MISSIONS COMMITTEE, 7:00 P.M.
 MAR. 2, WEDNESDAY: RUMCOR, 9:30 A.M.
 MAR. 2, WEDNESDAY: WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE, 5:30 P.M.
 MAR. 3, THURSDAY: UMW, 1:30 P.M.
 MAR. 6, SUNDAY: CWC "THE TABLE" STUDENT DINNER, 6:00 P.M.
 MAR. 9, WEDNESDAY: WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE, 5:30 P.M.
 MAR. 13, SUNDAY: CWC "THE TABLE" STUDENT DINNER, 6:00 P.M.
 MAR. 15, TUESDAY: BLOOD DRIVE, 12:00 - 6:00 P.M.
 MAR. 15, TUESDAY: TRUSTEES MEETING, 7:00 P.M.
 MAR. 16, WEDNESDAY: WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE, 5:30 P.M.
 MAR. 17, THURSDAY: MARTHARUTH CIRCLE, 1:30 P.M.
 MAR. 17, THURSDAY: FINANCE COMMITTEE, 7:00 P.M.
 MAR. 20, SUNDAY: AD COUNCIL MEETING, 11:30 A.M.
 MAR. 20, SUNDAY: CWC "THE TABLE" STUDENT DINNER, 6:00 P.M.
 MAR. 21, MONDAY: JOANNA CIRCLE, 6:00 P.M.
 MAR. 23, WEDNESDAY: WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE, 5:30 P.M.
 MAR. 24, THURSDAY: MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICES, 7:00 P.M.
 MAR. 25, FRIDAY: GOOD FRIDAY "STATIONS OF THE CROSS" SERVICE, 7:00 P.M.
 MAR. 27, SUNDAY: EASTER SUNDAY: 8:00 and 10:30 A.M. Services
 EASTER BREAKFAST 9:00-10:00 A.M.



RECURRING EVENTS

SUNDAYS AT 8:00 AND 10:30 A.M. - WORSHIP SERVICE
 SUNDAYS AT 9:15 A.M. - ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL & BOOK STUDY GROUP
 SUNDAYS AT 6:00 P.M. - CWC "THE TABLE" DINNER (when CWC classes are in session)
 TUESDAYS AT 10:00 A.M. - PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY - EVERYONE WELCOME!
 WEDNESDAYS AT 6:30 A.M. - JAMES BROTHERS BREAKFAST AT TRAILHEAD RESTAURANT
 WEDNESDAYS AT 4:00 P.M. - BIBLE STUDY AT HOMESTEAD ASSISTED LIVING
 WEDNESDAYS AT 5:30 P.M. - WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE !
 THURSDAYS AT 7:00 P.M. - CHOIR PRACTICE



Riverton United Methodist Church
1116 W Park Ave
Riverton, WY 82501

U.S. Postage
Paid
Riverton, WY
82501
Permit No. 5
NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION

**RIVERTON UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH
1116 W. Park Ave.
Riverton, WY 82501**

**OPEN HEARTS,
OPEN MINDS,
OPEN DOORS!**

