

## ***Riverton United Methodist Church***

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

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**MAY 2017**

Volume 12, Issue 5

### **PASTOR'S CORNER**

#### **Our Congregation's Spiritual Style Profile**

I was blessed to visit with so many of you at our "Meet the Pastor" coffees held recently in various members' homes. At most of these coffees, when we had time, we talked about the four varieties of personal spirituality styles. Much like the basic styles of personality people have [think Myer-Briggs for those of you familiar with that], there are basic ways we each "click" with God and a group of God's people. Corinne Ware pioneered this work in the mid-1990s.

Spiritual style isn't about theology, doctrine or beliefs about Christianity. It is about how you feel supported, nourished and able to grow in your relationship with God. You feel more "at home" and want to support a faith community which feeds your spiritual style or personality.

Some congregations tend to focus on just one or two of the spiritual types. United Methodist congregations, trying diligently to be the all-encompassing ones, often seek to do all of these well. That is just not possible in most small and midsized congregations, and, so, as a new pastor, I wanted to get a feel for what is the spiritual personality make-up of our congregation by asking those who attended our coffees.

Here is a brief description of the four spiritual style or personality types:

**Head** -- Knowing God through study and orderly worship is important. The intellect is valued. Bible studies, book studies, and a message with some intellectual "meat" is sought. A more classical, liturgical approach to worship is appreciated.

**Heart** -- Knowing God through relationships with others and a personal relationship with God is important. Ministry activities flowing from Godly encounters and conversations is important. Worship is valued which has an energetic and emotional connection.

**Mystic** -- Dwelling in the Lord's presence is at the heart of this style. They do not need many people around, and appreciate a more quiet, contemplative style of community and worship.

**Social Justice** -- Being the hands and feet of God drives the connection choices for this spiritual style. Pursuing the realization of God's Kingdom on earth, and a worship style which incorporates outreach and mission draws these folk closer to God.

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In our coffee groups, each person wrote down their primary and secondary spiritual style after looking at characteristics of each. While they weren't given much time to contemplate their responses, and this is only a sampling of our congregation, currently, this seems to be "who we are":

Primary style:

Head 27%    Heart 44%    Mystic 23%    Social Justice 6%

Secondary style:

Head 28%    Heart 20%    Mystic 17%    Social Justice 35%

Composite of the above:

Head 28%    Heart 32%    Mystic 20%    Social Justice 20%

The spiritual personality materials used at the coffees are available at the back of the sanctuary. If you didn't have a chance to participate, I invite you to pick a packet up, and discern your primary and secondary spiritual types. I would be pleased to know what you discover, and I would add to the congregation's profile.

Remember, we are each uniquely created by our Lord. Just as there is no "good" or "bad" personality type, there is no "good" or "bad" spiritual personality type. It is who we are as we seek to grow deeper in spirituality and discipleship. Understanding who we are in this community helps us be more understanding and supportive of those we worship, serve, learn and fellowship with.

In Christ's grace,

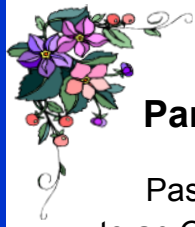
Pastor Deb

## IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS

"HERO CENTRAL" VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL [VBS]: Get prepared for the mornings of **June 12- 15**, when we will hold our action-packed superhero Vacation Bible School where kids discover their strength in God. **Hero Central** prepares kids to *Do good! Seek peace and go after it!* [Psalm 31:14]. Kids will learn God's heroes have Heart (Samuel anoints David), Courage (Abigail), Wisdom (Jesus goes to the Temple), Hope (Beatitudes), and Power (Pentecost). Grab your cape and get ready to fly with epic music, spectacular science, crafty crafts, heroic recreation, and fantastic Bible stories! Our VBS will be led again this year by a great team of youth and adults coming from Central Baptist Church of Newnan, Georgia joining alongside our own volunteers.

IMPORTANT VBS ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING: Pastor Deb invites all parents and volunteers willing to assist with VBS this year to join her Tuesday, May 9, at 6 p.m. We will bring in pizza and salad for supper and will Skype online with Pastor Katie Faisson of Georgia who is our VBS director. We will find out what is needed on our end to prepare for and support all the Georgia team is doing to bring us another wonderful VBS.





## Parsonage Open House

Pastor Deb Olenyik invites all to an Open House at the parsonage on Sunday, May 7, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

“I am looking forward to having congregation members stop by to look over their parsonage and enjoy a bit of fellowship together”, said Pastor Deb.

The parsonage is located behind the education wing of the church.



## April Loose Change Offering

April 2017 Loose Change Offering Project was **Mission Related Hosting Needs**. The total offering received to date in support of this mission is **\$266.19**. Thanks to everyone who so generously contributed to this month's project.

## MARCH 2017 FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Budget income to date :	\$48,985.50
Actual income to date:	\$41,315.29
Budgeted expenses to date:	\$37,907.53
Actual expenses to date:	\$50,073.54

## TRUSTEES' REPORT

### April 2017

- **Lawn and Landscaping** – Bud Nitz from Eagles Hope Transitions will be mowing. Bud plans on planting the area on the East side of the church with wild flowers as well as the courtyard flower beds. The trustees are working on landscaping in front of the church where the shrubs were removed last year.
- **Sewer Project** - Underway with the earliest completion date of May 15. The contractor chosen for this work is BDH Construction out of Riverton.
- **Shower Project** - is ongoing with lead contractor Modern Plumbing and The James Brother's working on the project.
- **Farmers Market** – Will be held every Tuesday on the West side parking lot throughout summer and early fall. This is a shared arrangement with the Fremont County Library of Riverton.
- **Nursery:** Hallelujah! The nursery is being utilized again on Sunday mornings so a speaker will be added to allow those babysitting to listen to the Sunday morning worship service.
- **Spring Clean Up:** The annual Spring Clean-up is scheduled for May 20<sup>th</sup> depending on the Sewer Project completion. Otherwise it will be rescheduled for June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

## **MAY 2017 LOOSE CHANGE OFFERING**

### **Fremont County Relay for Life UMC Team Fundraising**

Our loose change for May is going towards the June 3 Fremont County Relay for Life fundraising event through our own Riverton United Methodist team. Relay For Life is the signature fundraiser for the American Cancer Society. Relay is staffed and coordinated by volunteers in more than 5,200 communities and 27 countries.

Relay is a team event where team members take turns walking around a track or designated path. We have over 20 people who have joined our church team this year, led by captain Carol Cooper. Others are encouraged to be a part of the event, even if they are not part of the walking team.

The Fremont County Relay For Life will be Saturday, June 3, 2017 from 4:00 p.m. to midnight at the Riverton High School track. Each team is asked to have a member on the track at all times to signify that cancer never sleeps.

Thank you for your generosity through the Loose Change offering, as well as the other ways you will be supporting our team's fundraising efforts.

There will be survivor sign-up sheets, \$5 luminaria bags and \$1 cards available at the church in the coming weeks, as well as team members receiving individual pledges for their walking.

This cause helps cancer patient programs, such as travel and housing, groundbreaking research, prevention information and education, and detection and treatment programs.

#### **June 3 Fremont County Relay for Life Schedule**

**for Walkers, Survivors, Caregivers and the General Public** [Riverton High School track]

#### **3 – 5 p.m.**

Check-in for walkers and survivors

Opening Ceremony.

Survivor and Caregiver Lap *[with cheering crowd]*

#### **4 p.m - Midnight**

Team Member Laps

Activities at Team "Campsites"

Games, activities, entertainment & presentations open to all

#### **9:30 p.m.**

Lighting of the Luminarias

*[Darkness is symbolic of the fear that a patient feels when diagnosed. After sunset Luminarias are lit to remember those we have lost, to celebrate cancer survivors, and to show those affected by cancer that they are not alone.]*

#### **11:45 p.m.**

Closing Ceremonies & Volunteer Recognition

#### **We celebrate --**

*\*the birth of Peter Steele Bowsby to Amethyst [Tiger Lily] Bowsby on April 13*

*\*the baptism of Henry William Warren on April 9. Henry was born on December 30, 2016 and his parents are Veronica Wilmot and Carl Warren.*

#### **We honor the life of --**

*\*Gladys Sajwaj, 95, who passed from this life to life eternal on April 22. A memorial service will be Friday, May 12, at the Davis Funeral Home.*

**QUICK REMINDERS OF EVERYONE**

- ◆ Equal Exchange products will be sold Sunday, April 30th. This is your opportunity to stock up on coffee, teas, cocoa, chocolates, hot chocolate, organic raisins, and olive oil.
- ◆ Christian Food Storehouse -- Remember the first Sunday in the month, May 7, is bring-a-food donation Sunday.
- ◆ May-June Upper Room Publications are available in the narthex. Please feel welcome to take one with you.
- ◆ UMC continues to have Rada cutlery for sale . Due to sewer replacement the cutlery is at Noreen Parkhurst's home . If interested, please call Noreen at 856-5365.

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**THANK YOU'S**

- A Special Thank You to everyone who help in any way to make Holy Week a special, sacred week.
- Thank you to the wonderful cooks for this third year of providing weekly CWC student dinners "The Table" on Sunday evenings in our Fellowship Hall. We averaged around 11 students a Sunday. Thanks to Cory Daly and Carol Cooper for their leadership, support, and communication--as well as to Pastor Aaron Justice and our two pastors.
- Thank you to Jan Erhart, Nancy Stone, and Noreen Parkhurst who kindly volunteered to assist with the assembling of the April newsletter.

**UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

FELLOWSHIP HALL, KITCHEN AND ROOMS AT EAST END OF BUILDING UNAVAILABLE THROUGH MID-MAY Due to the sewer repair work, the East end of our building is unavailable through mid-May. This impacts Fellowship Hall, the kitchen, the main bathrooms and several classrooms. The parlor area with round tables and a mini-kitchen at the back of the sanctuary, the comfortable seating in the Memorial Room and several other classrooms are still available. Thank you for your understanding and support during this time.

FELLOWSHIP CARRY-IN MEAL IS THE THIRD SUNDAY THIS MONTH [MAY 21]. Join us for our monthly carry-in meal to be held in May on the third Sunday at 11:30 a.m., instead of the usual second Sunday due to Mother's Day. Our Administrative Council serves as the host. We are planning that Fellowship Hall and the kitchen will be back in service by then.

YELLOWSTONE ANNUAL CONFERENCE Session June 8-10 IN BILLINGS. This year the Yellowstone Annual Conference Session returns to Billings on June 8-10. Sessions are open to anyone. Our voting lay member will be Bob Schlichting. Pastor Deb, as a Rocky Mtn. Conference Elder, will be attending without voting privileges. Information is available on the Yellowstone Conference website.

HAND TOWELS, WASHCLOTHS AND BARS OF SOAP FOR ANNUAL CONFERENCE will be collected May 14 – June 4 to be added to the other items Yellowstone churches are bringing to Annual Conference session for UMCOR Health Kits. Hand towels are to be from 15x25 inches to 17x27 inches. No kitchen towels. No used towels or washcloths. Bars of soap should be 3 ounces or larger, and no Ivory or Jergens [due to moisture content]. Soap needs to be in original packaging. A collection bucket will be available to receive these items.

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UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (continued from page 5)RING LAKE RANCH ECUMENICAL ADULT RETREAT CENTER SUMMER OFFERINGS [Dubois]

People come from around the country to attend sessions in our own backyard led by top religious leaders at Ring Lake Ranch near Dubois. Information on this summer's sessions are available on their website or in their newsletter provided on our information table in the narthex.

EAGLES HOPE TRANSITIONAL HOUSING NEEDS: Ongoing needs for residents of Eagles Hope are paper towels, toilet paper, hand soap, shampoo, deodorant, hand lotion, feminine hygiene supplies, PineSol, laundry detergent, dish soap, coffee (ground), sugar, and cereal. A collection box is in the narthex.

**DENOMINATION'S "WAY FORWARD" GROUP PONDERES STRUCTURAL CHANGES**

Reprint of article by Heather Hahn, United Methodist News Service, 4-10-17

The 32 members of the Commission on a Way Forward are getting down to the business of doing what their name says helping a denomination deeply divided over homosexuality move toward some sort of future together. That future could end up looking very different than how The United Methodist Church operates at present.

"After meetings of building relationships and team building, the commission is now delving deeper into its intended task finding a way forward for the church," said Mazvita Machinga, commission member and a dean at United Methodist Africa University in Mutare, Zimbabwe. "There is high optimism that a way forward will unwind itself as the team works together," she added.

The multinational commission held its third meeting April 6-8 at the United Methodist Building in Washington. Just as was true with its first two meetings, the commission's third gathering was closed to reporters. The commission, authorized by General Conference 2016, is looking at new ways to be a global church where many United Methodists view the practice of homosexuality as a sin while many others view restrictions on LGBTQ individuals as sinful.

The Rev. Thomas Lambrecht likens the work to putting together a puzzle. The group has laid out pieces on the table and is trying to figure out how the pieces might fit together. The challenge is the group has no set picture or diagram to go by. "We're acknowledging that there are deep-seated differences in the church, and there are parts of the church that are not able to live together in a closed connection," Lambrecht said. "So we are looking at ways to loosen the connection. What form that might take, we don't know yet."

Matt Berryman agreed with Lambrecht's assessment. "What we're contemplating is loosening the connection in the face of conflict over whether there needs to be uniformity of practice and belief around LGBTQ people," Berryman said.

Scott Johnson of Upper New York cautioned not to get too carried away with the idea of "loosening the connection." "I think there is no question we still see a connected United Methodist church," he said. "We're working toward unity."

The group brings together clergy and laity from nine countries and of diverse perspectives. At least three members, including Berryman, are openly gay. Still others, like Lambrecht, have long advocated for maintaining the bans on same-gender unions and "self-avowed practicing" gay clergy.

"We are trying to think about and model the new behaviors that will help leaders who deeply care about the church to see new forms and structures that will allow for differing expressions of the global church," Florida Area Bishop Ken Carter, told UMNS. He is one of three bishops who is moderating the commission's work.

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The group is not only looking at a way through the impasse around homosexuality but also how to increase vitality of local churches and strengthen the church’s mission. According to a press release about the meeting, the commission members indicated they are leaning toward a simpler structure “with clearer processes for decision-making and accountability.

The Rev. Tom Berlin, lead pastor of Floris United Methodist Church in Herndon, Virginia, said the commission still doesn’t know what “simpler” would look like. “We just have a sense that it’s a lot more complicated than it needs to be,” he said. “That’s why you are hearing people say, ‘simpler’ and ‘looser.’” Berlin added that in his experience, The United Methodist Church is “a denomination that likes the tension of different perspectives.”

Commission members also discussed what connects them together. They heard from Houston Area Bishop Scott Jones, chair of the denomination’s Committee on Faith and Order, who specifically highlighted what United Methodists share in common. His committee has put together the document “Wonder, Love and Praise,” which explores how United Methodists understand what it means to be the Church.

The commission met less than a month before the Judicial Council, the denomination’s top court, will hold a hearing related to last summer’s election of Mountain Sky Area Bishop Karen Oliveto, the denomination’s first openly gay bishop. Commission members stressed that whatever the Judicial Council rules, their work continues. The commission moderators plan to release a separate statement on the church court hearing.

David Field, a commission member from Switzerland, noted that the Judicial Council’s decision would use the denomination’s present Book of Discipline. In contrast, the commission is looking at the Discipline with an eye toward possible revisions. “I remain hopeful that we will find a positive way forward that will release the church to focus the time and energy we have spent fighting each other on mission,” he said.

The commission’s next meeting will be July 17-21 in Chicago. For any of its proposals to become reality, the commission needs the assent of General Conference delegates. Bishops are considering calling a special General Conference in 2019.

**CHURCH SHUTTLE PICK UP** on Sundays for anyone needing a ride  
-- Owl Creek and 10:00 a.m. and at the Homestead at 10:15 a.m.



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 1116 W Park Ave  
 Riverton, WY 82501

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**EVERY WEEK HAPPENINGS**

**MONDAY**  
 BOY SCOUTS, 6:30 P.M. (Meeting off site)  
**TUESDAY**  
 FARMERS' MARKET, 4:00-6:00 P.M.  
 West Parking Lot  
 SURVIVORS OF SUICIDE LOSS SUPPORT  
 (SOSL), 6:30-8:00 P.M.  
**WEDNESDAY**  
 JAMES BROS. MEET FOR BREAKFAST,  
 6:30 A.M. AT THE TRAILHEAD RESTAURANT  
 PRAYER GROUP, 1:00 P.M., Memorial Room

**THURSDAY**  
 A. A. 6:45-7:45 A.M.  
 BELL CHOIR, 6:00 P.M.  
 CUB SCOUTS, 6:30 P.M. (Meeting off site)  
 CHOIR PRACTICE, 7:00 P.M.  
**FRIDAY**  
 A.A., 12:00-1:00 P.M.  
**SUNDAY**  
 WORSHIP SERVICES, 8:00 AND 10:30 A.M.  
 ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL, 9:15 A.M.

**MAY EVENTS**

MAY 2, TUESDAY: MISSIONS COMMITTEE, 7:00 P.M.  
 MAY 3, WEDNESDAY: RUMCOR, 9:30 A.M.  
 MAY 4, THURSDAY: UMW, 1:30 P.M.  
 MAY 7, SUNDAY: PARSONAGE OPEN HOUSE, 2:00-4:00 P.M.  
 MAY 15, MONDAY: JOANNA CIRCLE, 7:00 P.M.  
 MAY 16, TUESDAY: TRUSTEES MEETING, 7:00 P.M.  
 MAY 18, THURSDAY: FINANCE COMMITTEE, 7:00 P.M.  
 MAY 20, SATURDAY: CHURCH SPRING CLEAN-UP DAY, 9:00 A.M.-12:00 P.M. May be rescheduled  
 for Saturday, June 3, depending on Sewer Project completion  
 MAY 21, SUNDAY: FELLOWSHIP CARRY-IN, 11:30 A.M.  
 MAY 29, MONDAY: MEMORIAL DAY, Church office closed.