

# *Riverton United Methodist Church*

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

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## **THE BUS THAT ALMOST WAS**

*"Encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing." -- 1 Thessalonians 5:11*

This wasn't the front page article we were ready to print this very morning for this month's newsletter. We had a wonderful article written by Craig Blumenshine on the process the Administrative Council had been in these past few weeks, as discussed during worship, around purchasing a small used school bus with a handicap lift. All was approved, the mechanical check done, and we confirmed with the owner we were ready purchase. Craig was set to drive it back from Kemmerer two days from now.

We found out last night, the seller decided to sell it to someone else. We are disappointed. He felt that our concerns about the workings of the heater after the two weeks we had been in discussion with him was enough to sell it to someone else who could offer a better price than he was selling to us. Now, two weeks for a church to decide on something of this nature was remarkable. I give thanks to all who diligently worked to make this process happen as thoroughly and as quickly as it did. We owe special thanks to Craig, our Administrative Council Chairperson.

And, as in so much of life, we can reflect on this through our eyes of faith.

First, we again saw how your leadership team works well and is able to engage in some hard and respectful conversations.

Second, we found a way to bring this matter to the larger body in a timely way to weigh in on during Sunday worship. {In case you missed it, it was part of our memorable power outage worship in Fellowship Hall}. In addition to strong support, there were good comments raised around considerations before moving forward.

Third, from the beginning, we had core values that this wasn't about a thing -- a "bus", it was about ministry for God's Kingdom and the people who would step up to make it happen. We knew that it was key to talk about what the Lord has placed before us for ministry possibilities. Following from that, was conversation around who would be the servants of Christ in action for this ministry -- the drivers, those to maintain the bus, those to develop the ministry possibilities and the work with the other groups in the church to make it happen.

Fourth, this wasn't just some idea that popped up out of nowhere. It had been part of the ongoing vision and goals of our congregation for several years. The leadership team has been faithful in keeping before them the goals and vision in place for ministry for Jesus Christ in this time, in this place and with the resources present.

Fifth, this was a decision which called forth our responsibility as stewards of the financial resources we have been entrusted with. It was a very good price for what we would have received. We looked carefully at the financial resources available, and believed that using them in this way was part of what God and you, the Body of Christ, would want.

Our faith reflections will continue in the next few weeks. I invite you to encourage and provide appreciation to your Administrative Council members. They will experience natural disappointment on your behalf. I also invite you to pray around what our next steps might be, and I am assured, with God's help, another fine opportunity will appear.

Christ's peace and mercy,  
*Pastor Deb*

### ALL CHURCH "GUESS WHO'S COMING TO DINNER": SIGN-UP BY SEPTEMBER 24

We will be having an adventurous switch from our usual Fellowship Dinner in **October**. Instead of one meal after worship, we have a chance to be a part of **smaller dinners in people's homes sometime during the week of October 8<sup>th</sup> -14<sup>th</sup>**.

We are **recruiting our hosts right now!** The hosts will share with the planning team how many they can accommodate, and what is a good day and time to host. The hosts will be then thinking about what kind of meal they would like to have, including what the others might be able to bring. The planning team will provide the names to the hosts of their dinner guests shortly after the reservation deadline. Please contact Kathy Brown at 856-2533 or Lynne Hawk at 856-5420 if you could serve as a host. We are looking for about 10-12 hosts.

Reservations for those who would like to come will happen through reservation forms in the worship bulletins during September. There are daytime as well as evening options. Folk can also make a reservation by calling or stopping by the church office.

**Reservation deadline is September 24**, because of the coordination around this special happening.

**MINISTRIES WITH OUR CHILDREN AND YOUTH** We have been in conversation with our families and in discernment with our leaders around how the Lord is calling us forward in ministry with our children, youth and their families. Please be in prayer for plans which are developing, and will likely begin the end of September or early October. If you have a willingness to work with our wonderful children or youth on Sunday mornings; or in a mid-week after school program; or to help staff our nursery during worship, please contact Pastor Deb.



### **VOICES LIFTED IN SONG NEEDED**

Do you like to sing? Do you like to have fun? Do you like to share your gifts in the Lord's service? Then you are being called to join our choir! Practice will begin on Thursday, September 7 at 7:00 p.m. We realize people have busy schedules, and know that sometimes practices or Sundays will be missed. That's okay. Please join us for practice on the 7<sup>th</sup> – or anytime in the months ahead [such as after hunting season or to sing during the Christmas season]. Choir director, Janet Nyberg, 851-7188 or music coordinator, Carolyn Hunter, 850-5502 can provide other information.





**ATTENTION TO ALL CURRENT AND POTENTIAL HAND BELL CHOIR RINGERS**  
 Practice will begin Thursday, September 14 at 6:00 p.m. Anyone is welcome to join the hand bell choir. Practice will be weekly on Thursdays at 6:00 p.m.  
 Call Rita Larson at 857-3816 for more information.

### **STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM COMING IN OCTOBER**

Congregations that approach financial stewardship from a biblical perspective do not view the money Christians give to their church merely as a way to pay its bills. Rather, such congregations see financial contributions as a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes.

This year's stewardship program will be held October 8 – 23. There will be a mailing and information going out the week of October 8. There will be bulletin inserts, laity moments and messages on Sundays around the theme "More Than Enough" based on 2 Corinthians 9:6-9. We are planning a Celebration Sunday for our worship services and a luncheon following second service on Sunday, October 23.

We see this as an opportunity to teach the biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving. The biblical philosophy is around the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development rather than on the need of the church to receive. Instead of treating people like members of a social club who should pay dues, we will treat people like followers of Jesus Christ who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship. We will do no home solicitations or phone calling campaign. Every church attendee and member who completes an Estimate of Giving Card for the coming year does so voluntarily. Thanks in advance for your enthusiastic participation in the upcoming "More Than Enough" stewardship program.

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### **PASTOR'S CORNER**

#### **That's the One to Save**

*"Be very careful, then, how you live – not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity."  
 - Ephesians 5:15-16 [NIV]*

When we come to the end of the day and wonder why things went wrong, we usually don't have to look very far to discover the answer. Somehow, we lost our sense of direction and couldn't seem to get back on track. To ensure this doesn't happen again, or at least not as often, we can take some guidance from how professional photographers do their best work.

1. If there's a problem that has you stymied, try looking at it from different points of view. Pray for "the eyes of your understanding to be enlightened." {see *Ephesians 1:18*}
2. Another important factor is focus. With a turn of the lens, that which is in the foreground can become sharper.
3. Or, sometimes we are so focused on the up-close shot, or one aspect of a problem, that we lose sight of the big picture, such as other circumstances influencing the situation or how what we are dealing with affects others.
4. Don't be afraid of experimenting with new ideas and methods. Ask God to show you things you haven't known before. Try something new, like a photographer often does.

If we've found the right perspective, stayed focused on what's truly important, and been willing to try something different, we too can look back at the end of our day and say, like the photographer, "That's the one to save."

In Christ's grace,  
 Pastor Deb

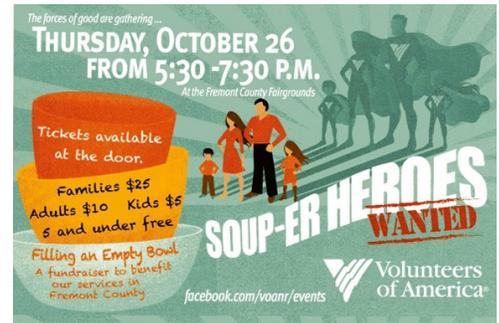
**SEPTEMBER LOOSE CHANGE**  
**FILLING AN EMPTY BOWL**

The Center of Hope is a local facility dedicated to helping our citizens who are dealing with alcohol and drug addiction issues. The Center offers three days of close observation, 14 days of social detox and up to three months of transitional living. Clients are encouraged and helped to obtain treatment options. In the past three years, over 180 clients have been connected with treatment services.

The Center is operated by Volunteers of America, a Christian-based non-profit, in cooperation with the City of Riverton, Fremont County and the State of Wyoming.

The Center of Hope is holding its third annual fund raising event, Filling an Empty Bowl, Thursday, October 26th, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. at the fairground's Fremont Center. The evening will help raise awareness for the Center as well as raising much needed funds.

September's loose change offering will go toward a church sponsorship for the event. All money raised will go directly to the Center to help in their important work of changing lives in Fremont County.



**WELCOME  
BACK**

**PRESCHOOLERS, CUB SCOUTS & BOY SCOUTS**

After their summer break, we are happy to welcome back our Boy Scout Troop 4044, which meets on Monday nights; our Cub Scout Pack 4044, which meets on Thursday nights; and the Methodist Co-Op Pre-School which meets Monday – Friday mornings. If you know of any boy or preschooler who might want to be a part of these great programs, please contact the church office and we will get you the person to touch base with. Our Boy Scout Troop will be starting their 35<sup>th</sup> year, and the Methodist Co-Op Preschool is starting its 25<sup>th</sup> year with us. Let's keep all of the kids, families, leaders and teachers in our prayers throughout the coming year. [And they probably could use a few volunteers as well –hint, hint.]

**FALL WELCOMING BARBECUE**  
**AT CWC**

Once again this year we are celebrating the new academic year at Central Wyoming College by throwing a "Welcome to CWC and Our Community" barbecue for students. The date this year is Sunday, September 10, at 6 pm. The place is the picnic grounds at the college.

Thanks to everyone who signed-up to contribute food and/or help with set-up and serving. Come meet and eat with our new Riverton residents. It's a great opportunity to showcase our church and invite students to attend.

**A THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO SUPPLIED FOOD FOR**  
**THE HORSE THERAPY PROGRAM LUNCHESES**

Thank you to the nineteen folk who supplied food in July, and the twenty folk who supplied food in August for the lunches for the Northern Arapahoe Horse Therapy Program. We provided a total of 200 lunches. What a blessing you are!

### **DISCUSSION TIMES FOR THE BOOK “UNAFRAID & UNASHAMED”**

There will be two nights of back-to-back discussion for those who are taking part in reading the book “Unafraid & Unashamed”. On Tuesday, September 12, we will have dessert & discussion in the church parlor at 7:00 p.m. The following evening, September 13, will be a potluck & discussion at the home of Roger & Barbara Gose at 6:00 p.m. If you would still like to receive a copy of the book for this opportunity, please contact Pastor Deb.

### **OUR CHURCH MOVING FORWARD QUESTIONNAIRES**

Over the past few months, three different questionnaires have happened in worship around “Our Church Moving Forward”. Each one was provided for two consecutive Sundays. For the first questionnaire, people were asked to share names of who they saw as leaders in various ministry areas. The names lifted up provide valuable input for when the Nominations Committee begins their work in late September for the leadership and committee membership names to bring to Church Conference in November.

The second questionnaire was around what small groups and fellowship events people found appealing. Folk were asked to give their names. Having the names helps us know who to touch base with when different kinds of things might be offered. We also have some idea of what just a few people might be interested in, and this is just as valuable as knowing what more people are interested in, as it can be the basis for small scale ministry honoring the variety of spiritual styles we have in our congregation [see May 2017 newsletter].

Of course, it is good to know that the monthly luncheons, the UMW Bazaar, the Nifty Fifties dance, and the Easter breakfast were especially appreciated and should be continued! Adding some outings had a strong showing. Same was true for short term Bible studies [at various times of the day].

The third questionnaire asked for input around our worship services. At least 8.5 out of every 10 responses supported all items listed, except one. Having motion in the worship slides was listed as being enjoyed by 6.8 out of 10 persons, slightly higher than two thirds. In recent weeks, you might have noticed that we have removed the motion in the slides where reading is asked for, and will continue to be sensitive around how motion is incorporated into our worship slides.

We also received some lovely comments and suggestions written in. We thank Jay, Al, Carolyn, Joyce, Rita and Pastor Deb as they continue working together be the best worship leadership team possible for the purpose of honoring our Lord and providing an inspirational worship setting.

There will be a fourth questionnaire coming in September. It will be a Time & Talent questionnaire as we enter the season of considering how we each are willing to serve in a variety of ways in ministry.

### **AUGUST Loose Change Offering**

August 2017 Loose Change Offering Project was **School Related Supplies**. The total offering received to date in support of this mission is **\$256.75** Thanks to everyone who so generously contributed to this month's project.

**UPCOMING LAY SERVANT MINISTRY CLASSES:**

**THERMOPOLIS, COMMUNITY FEDERATED, SEPT 15-16** The Basic class only. For information and registration contact Pastor Chuck Cooper at [307-921-9863](tel:307-921-9863).

**SUNDANCE UMC SEPT 30**. The Basic Class and, for the Advanced Class “Transforming Evangelism”. For information and registration contact Pastor Kathy Makus, [kdmakus@gmail.com](mailto:kdmakus@gmail.com), 307-283-1978.

**CHEYENNE IN OCTOBER**. The Basic Class and, for the Advanced Class, “Mission U” [formerly School of Christian Mission & has been approved as an Advanced Class for the Mtn. Sky Area]. For information on dates and registration contact Pastor Leah Coleman, [pastorleahcoleman@gmail.com](mailto:pastorleahcoleman@gmail.com), 307-214-0871.

**TRUSTEES REPORT -- AUGUST 2017**

- Yorgie’s Window Washing washed the outside windows of the church building. Custodian Audrey will be cleaning the inside.
- A bid from Cedar Mtn. Tree & Lawn Care was approved to provide fertilization and weed control on the church and parsonage lawn areas four times a year.
- The rock work around the church is almost complete. \$860 in donations towards the work has been received to supplement the amount coming from the church budget.
- A new, wider, access gate to the courtyard is being installed to allow for our riding lawnmower and other repair vehicles to access that area.
- Quotes are being received for tree trimming in the courtyard and for some trees at the parsonage.
- Quotes are being received for parking lot sweeping.
- Jack will be obtaining volunteers, possibly from CWC, for the yearly oiling of the courtyard fence.

**JULY 2017 FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

Budget income to date :	\$114,299.50
Actual income to date:	\$102,574.93
Budgeted expenses to date:	\$116,838.26
Actual expenses to date:	\$98,425.70

**FINANCIAL REPORTS & COMMITTEE MINUTES ARE POSTED** across from the church office for current financial reports and committee minutes. They are posted each month.

**REMINDERS FOR EVERYONE**

- ◆ Christian Food Storehouse -- Remember the first Sunday in the month, September 3, is bring-a-food donation Sunday.
- ◆ Equal Exchange products will be sold Sunday, September 24, this will be your opportunity to stock up on coffee, cocoa, chocolates, teas, hot chocolate, organic raisins, and olive oil.
- ◆ September - October Upper Room Publications are available in the narthex. Please feel welcome to take one with you.

**HOW IS OUR CHURCH'S "MISSIONS SHARE" ANNUAL AMOUNT DETERMINED?**

*[THE PORTION WHICH GOES TO MINISTRIES THROUGH THE YELLOWSTONE CONFERENCE & NATIONAL/GLOBAL CHURCH]*

The annual conference budget for the coming year, including the national and global church allotted portion, is voted on each year by the laity and clergy attending Annual Conference session in June. The membership average for past three years for each of the Yellowstone churches is added up, as reported in each church's year-end report to the denomination.

Each church gets a decimal portion of the total based on their figure.

The operating expense for the past two years for each of the Yellowstone churches is added up, as reported in each church's year-end report to the denomination. *[Giving to mission and some other local church expense categories are not included].*

Each church gets a decimal portion of the total based on their figure.

The Mission Share amount is then based on these decimal portions for each church, and applied to the budget passed at the Annual Conference session for the coming year.

The list of the Mission Share amount assigned for each church is released during September for the coming year.

Worth noting, if the conference budget stays about the same, while membership goes down throughout the conference and churches close, a larger portion would then be transferred to the churches, even if their individual church budget or membership stays fairly even, because they are a now a larger portion of the total.

**UNITED METHODISTS BELIEVE . . .**

**We believe in the church as the community called to be instruments of God's presence and coming reign in Jesus Christ;**

Where people worship God joyfully, proclaim God's Word faithfully and share the sacraments of baptism and Holy Communion.

Where all people are welcomed and nurtured as God's sons and daughters.

Where people are initiated into Christ's body and nurtured toward Christian maturity through worship, prayer, study, fellowship and service.

Where the light of God's love, justice and peace exposes and overrules evil, injustice and sin.

Where we participate in God's mission of inviting, preparing and enlisting disciples of Jesus Christ to transform the world and to follow the risen Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit, into the hurting places of the world and among the outcasts and the forgotten.

*[Excerpt from The United Methodist Church Handbook, "Therefore GO", 2017 edition, page 5. Free copies of the handbook available in the church narthex.]*

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**EVERY WEEK HAPPENINGS**

<p><b>WEDNESDAY</b>          JAMES BROS., 6:30 A.M. Meet for breakfast          (Trailhead Restaurant)          PRAYER GROUP, 1:00 P.M. (Memorial Room)  <b>THURSDAY</b>          BELL CHOIR, 6:00 P.M.          CUB SCOUTS, 6:30 P.M.          CHOIR PRACTICE, 7:00 P.M.</p>	<p><b>MONDAY</b>          DISCIPLE BIBLE STUDY, 7:00 P.M.          BOY SCOUTS, 6:30 P.M.  <b>TUESDAY</b>          DISCIPLE BIBLE STUDY, 10:00 A.M.          FARMERS' MARKET, 4:00-6:00 P.M.          (West Parking Lot)          SURVIVORS OF SUICIDE LOSS SUPPORT,          6:30-8:00 P.M.</p>
<p>WORSHIP SERVICES, 8:00 AND 10:30 A.M.          ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL, 9:15 A.M.</p>	

**SEPTEMBER EVENTS**

SEPT. 5, TUESDAY: MISSIONS COMMITTEE, 7:00 P.M.  
 SEPT. 6, WEDNESDAY: RUMCOR, 9:30 A.M.  
 SEPT. 6, WEDNESDAY: AD COUNCIL, 7:00 P.M.  
 SEPT. 7, THURSDAY: UMW, 1:30 P.M.  
 SEPT. 10, SUNDAY: FELLOWSHIP CARRY-IN, 11:30 A.M.  
 SEPT. 12, TUESDAY: BLOOD DRIVE, 12:00-6:00 P.M.  
 SEPT. 18, MONDAY: JOANNA CIRCLE, 7:00 P.M.  
 SEPT. 19, TUESDAY: TRUSTEES MEETING, 7:00 P.M.  
 SEPT. 21, THURSDAY: FINANCE COMMITTEE, 7:00 P.M.