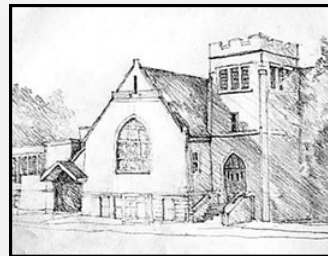


# Glendive & Wibaux United Methodist Church Newsletter

November 2020



## Pastor's Corner

Hello everyone,

As we approach the holidays, I am reminded of one of my favorite church events growing up. My home church in Surgoinsville, Tennessee had a Christmas Party called the Jimmy Luster Party about two weeks before Christmas. Jimmy Luster was a long-time member of the church who had passed before my family and I began attending, but he was loved and deeply missed by many members in the church and the community. Jimmy Luster always had a heart for helping children in need and families who needed help. In his honor, the church held a party for low income families to receive Christmas gifts from members in the church. It was similar to Angel Tree, but it is locally led and locally organized for families in the community.

It was always such a blessing to see the smiles on folks' faces as their Christmas was made by new gifts and fellowship with the meal we shared at the dinner. They would also have a small rummage sale at the Christmas party too, and it never failed that someone in the congregation would pull my sisters and I aside, give us ten dollars, and allow us to buy my mother something special for Christmas. It was a time that we were reminded of the love the holiday season brings.

We are still a several weeks before Christmas but let us not lose sight of the values that bind us together. Community is at the forefront of all we do here in Glendive and Wibaux, so let us give back to our communities to spread our love. Caring for one another and keeping in touch is how so many of you have fostered and developed wonderful, live-giving friendships over the years, so please, stay in touch with one another and lean on each other in these difficult times. Grace is at the heart of all we do as United Methodists, so let us not forget to give one another an extra bit of grace as we approach an uneasy season following a polarizing election and stressful holiday season in the midst of a global pandemic.

I am reminded of the Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi. May it bring you peace and comfort in the days to follow.

*“Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace; Where there is hatred, let me sow love; Where there is injury, pardon; Where there is doubt, faith; Where there is despair, hope; Where there is darkness, light; And where there is sadness, joy. O Divine Master, Grant that I may not so much seek To be consoled as to console; To be understood, as to understand; To be loved, as to love; For it is in giving that we receive, It is in pardoning that we are pardoned, And it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life. Amen.”*



*Thank  
you*

## Thank You's

Glenda LaBree

I would not have been able to complete all the forms needed for Charge Conference without the wonderful records of Glenda's weekly church attendance. It is such a simple, yet meaningful task that Glenda completes each and every week. Thank you, Glenda!

Anne Freistone

Anne and I first met over the phone as she called to welcome me as the new pastor and offer help for Communion Sundays as she had done in the past. Anne always shows up extra early on Communion Sundays to help administer the sacraments. Communion certainly looks different these days, but Anne is always there to offer a helping hand! Thank you, Anne!

## Our Rummage Sale room is full!

Because we were unable to hold our annual rummage sale in the spring, our storage space is filled with the items we collected last year. **Please - do not bring additional rummage sale items at this time.** We hope to be able to hold a sale sometime next year. If you can store items at your home for a future sale, that would be great! If not, I'm sure the Attic, Zion's furniture room, or other area agencies will make good use of them!

## Be a Friend!



Every time you shop at Reynold's Warehouse grocery, tell the check-out clerk you would like your purchases credited to the church's **Account #8000** .

**Thank you for the continued support!**





## Pledge Information

Please fill out the pledge cards and send them back to the church with your projected giving. Please remember to only give what you are able to give. As we are reminded with the Greatest Commandment from Jesus, we must learn to take care of ourselves before we take care of others.

### Missing our church activities - a personal note

I have been enjoying our church services – in-person or from the comfort of my own home if I can't come on a Sunday. I've also watched most of the Wednesday presentations and I find them a relaxing few minutes away from the world of coronavirus and politics, fires and hurricanes, worry and stress.

**But ... I am really missing our church activities!** I came home from Arizona in early March and attended just one Sunday service before we closed down. I faithfully watched on-line, but I missed the Lenten soup suppers, Easter Sunrise Service and breakfast, and our coffee fellowship time after church. I have also missed our fundraising events:

- We still have a room full of rummage sale items waiting for a sale date. Although the rummage sale is a lot of work, it's also fun to get together with other church members while we mark items, set-up, sell, and cleanup. And I always find a few treasures to buy.
- This must be the first year for decades that we did not sell cotton candy at the Fair. I'm not sure any of us really LIKE getting sticky from head-to-toe in the summer heat, but it was time spent together for United Methodist Women.
- How about our Harvest Auction in the fall? We didn't get to listen to Ronnie Granmoe's corny jokes and I didn't get to stock up on pumpkins and squash, some homemade salami or jam, and maybe a quilted or embroidered item. Plus, we all missed out on the pie!
- And now we're coming up to Church Dinner and Bazaar time – those projects that have really drawn us together. The dinner has often been called the All-Church Dinner because it took ALL the members of the church to make it happen ... and we had fun while doing it ... and more pie at both the dinner and Bazaar!

The other thing we've “lost” during this pandemic time is the income these church activities brought in. I've thought about that a lot lately. So I have decided to make a personal commitment to estimate the amount of money the events have cost me in the past. How much did I spend at the rummage sale, the auction, and the Bazaar? How many Dinner and Bazaar lunch tickets did I buy? How much did I spend on donations of cotton candy sugar, pies or salads for events, coffee hour treats, or auction items we donated (John hasn't made near as many caramel rolls in the past nine months!)?

When I joined the church, I made a promise to support the church with my presence, my prayers, my gifts, and my service. I've decided that I will do my best to “make up for” the missing events by making a financial donation – in addition to my regular giving – to the church. I know we don't all have the means to make an additional donation at this time, but I hope you will think about joining me if you can. It won't make up for the shared fun and fellowship, but it will provide support for our church that is so much a part of our lives.

- Andrine Haas



**FINANCIAL UPDATE**

The 2021 proposed budget was presented to the leadership committee at their October meeting. It will now go to the charge/church annual conference on November 5<sup>th</sup> for final approval.

While putting figures together for the budget process, I felt it would be a good time to give our membership an update on our finances for the current year. 2020 was indeed an unusual year for Glendive United Methodist Church. Beginning with the vandalism on Christmas Eve 2019 and then the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, we were unable to be in our church for almost seven months. Thankfully we were able to worship through the use of live streaming.

As a result of all these changes, our financial situation has seen some changes too. I am only going to list the figures for the **General Fund** as that is the majority of our income and expenses.

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
EXPENSES -	\$87,111	\$85,315 (November & December estimated)
INCOME -	\$88,964	\$74,814 (November & December estimated)

As these figures show, the expenses have stayed pretty stable. However, the income for 2020 has dropped considerably. Our general giving has decreased by approximately \$6,000 and the lack of any fundraising events (rummage sale, harvest auction and roast beef dinner) accounts for the other \$8000.

Please consider this information as you make your contributions for the final 2 months of this year and as you make your pledges for the upcoming year. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 377-3925 or 939-1933.

Vernone Spencer, Treasurer

**Happy Birthday**

**November**

Nov. 3rd - Betty Shearer

Betty Carpenter

Nov. 19th - Kaitlan Neard

Nov. 26th - Pat Jones

**Happy Anniversary**

**November**

Nov. 15th - Dick & Doris Kruger

Nov. 23rd - Wei Pai Tsai-Ying Li



## Local Food Bank giving

Many of us contribute to the Dawson County Food Bank by donating food, paper and personal care products. But financial giving to the Food Bank is welcome, too! And your money can go an extra mile by giving to the local food bank during the coming month.

Through the end of November, The Town Pump Charitable Foundation has committed to giving matching funds to food banks in Montana communities, including Glendive. So your donation would be matched with these Foundation funds!

According to their website, "The Town Pump Charitable Foundation has a commitment to meeting the basic needs of our Montana neighbors. Assisting our local food banks, soup kitchens and rescue missions with providing needed food is the highest priority of the Charitable Foundation. ...The Town Pump Charitable Foundation has committed over \$750,000 in matching funds to 93 food banks in 78 Montana communities. These funds are needed to continue to meet the demand increases our food bank partners are experiencing."





# Newsletter

**Glendive & Wibaux**

**United Methodist Church**

**November 2020**

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