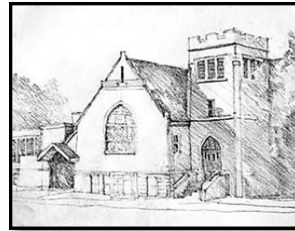


Glendive & Wibaux United Methodist Church Newsletter November 2021



Pastoral Letter

Hello everyone,

Throughout the month of October, our sermon series has been based off reflections from the book, *The Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations*, by Bishop Schnase. Throughout the month of November, we will go back to telling the story through our lectionary calendar as we move into year C of the lectionary. Just as Bishop Schnase's book speaks to us about the church today, the lectionary calendar shares with us the story of Jesus, the early church, the histories of Israel and how Israel formed its reflection in the image of God, and so much more. In his book, *The Story of Christianity*, Justo Gonzalez says this, "The reader will probably be surprised to learn that I regard this book as in large measure autobiographical. It is so, first of all, because as Ortega Y Gasset said, each generation stands on the shoulders of its predecessors like acrobats in a vast human pyramid. Thus, to tell the story of those whose heirs we are is to write a long preface to our own life stories." The lectionary tells our story as Christians as we will use it for my sermon reflections all the way through Easter as it guides us into who we are becoming.

If we are still telling our stories, then who is we in the story? We are, The Beloved Community, which is a phrase used in both the Old and New Testaments. Isaiah, in this point of his story, uses this phrase when he is calling the people of Israel to be thankful for their blessings as they held onto their hope in the midst of their communities being fractured geographically and socially, as they have just returned from exile of Jerusalem. The Beloved Community is sometimes translated from 1 John 4 where we receive the infamous verse, "The person who does not know love does not know God, because God is love" (NRSV). As we tell the old, old story, let us be the mission of the Gospel of Jesus Christ by feeding the hungry, hearing the cries of the oppressed, serving our neighbors, and building the Kingdom of God here on Earth. Amen.



Petitions Summary from Annual Conference

For those who have never attended an Annual Conference before, think of it as the legislative session (like in our own government) except we do it in three days instead of three to four months. Ulysses S. Grant once said, “There are three political parties in America today. The Democratic Party, the newly formed Republican party, and the Methodist church.” We are set up similarly to our federal government for better or for worse. In lieu of saying this, we have delegates who represent us at Annual Conference who vote and review various petitions United Methodists, both lay and clergy, submit ranging from how we are structured, budgets, theological stances, finances, and much more. We vote, debate (sometimes), network, and join in worship and fellowship throughout our three days in session. Millie was our church’s representative from Glendive UMC and as an LLP, Local Licensed Pastor, I was your representative for both Wibaux and Glendive as clergy. If you would like to read the bills in detail, then here is the link to the website. Just scroll down the web page and you will see the petitions numbered in numerical order. <https://www.mtnskyumc.org/rules-petitions-elections>

Most of the bills this year were pretty straight forward with bills about clarifying insurance information, approving budget changes for the new fiscal year, renewing commitments to hospitals and church camps, and a couple bills adopting new policies surrounding disability rights and disability accessibility in our local churches. The most prominent bill for our local church is MSC28, which dealt with new policies on base pay for LLP’s. A pay increase recommended is around a 4% increase with updated policies for sick leave, vacation days, and benefits packages. Although this bill passed, the language in this bill is important, which was strongly emphasized at the passing of this bill. The word used is, “suggested,” which does not legally bind anyone to give LLP’s the base salary suggested in the bill. If you would like to know more details, then please read the petition itself.

The two petitions most people will want to hear about are MSC27 & MSC29 called, The Christmas Covenant & Protocol for Reconciliation and Grace Through Separation. Let’s start with the Christmas Covenant. Just for a refresher in Methodist history, American Methodism (there is a separate Methodist church in England) was formed in 1784 at what was known as the Christmas Conference. Just days after Christmas, American Methodists voted to disaffiliate from the England branch of Methodism due to their sentiments and support for the American Revolution and they were already a separate church in practice regardless. The Christmas Covenant lan-

(continued on next page)



guage is a call back to that original covenant we made in 1784. In this petition, churches who no longer wanted to affiliate with the United Methodist church could leave, but United Methodism as we understand it today in its structure and journeying to embrace a more inclusive theology, will remain largely the same. If you followed the Special Conference of 2019, then think of the One Church Plan, which kept our denomination intact but allowed people to leave who wanted to leave.

The Protocol for Reconciliation and Grace Through Separation is a different type of separation bill. Think of the Special Conference plan, The Way Forward, which wanted United Methodism to embrace a different structure and organization along with embracing a new, inclusive theology. Essentially, people who would support this type of disaffiliation would most likely believe the United Methodist church in its current state has been inefficient and incongruent with the inclusive values they believe. They want an entirely new way of structuring ourselves and organizing our mission to carry out the gospel.

Sadly, we had two churches disaffiliate as well, and one of those churches was near and dear to my heart, Cheyenne Wells United Methodist Church. I recognized and remembered some of the names in support for that petition from my three months in Eastern Colorado as an itinerant pastor. I was not assigned this duty, but I was living in Eastern Colorado with a friend trying to make sense of my father's recent passing and me leaving Iliff School of Theology. I preached at Kit Carson and Haswell UMC during Christmas Eve and throughout the Advent and Epiphany seasons. I sang music for Cheyenne Wells during both their Sunday worship and a couple funerals in town. They were good people who were committed to their communities, and it is sad to see them leave. Cheyenne Wells UMC and Bowen Community UMC have both been approved for disaffiliation.

In short, both of these petitions make it clear United Methodism is anything but united outside of our local congregations. We will continue to pray for our denomination and the people who share our Methodist stories, songs, and rituals. We will continue praying for our conference as churches decide what is best for their local congregations. We will continue to pray for our Montana East district and all the people and churches that make up our beloved region. We will continue to pray for each other in our local churches and communities as well, as we remind ourselves the real work of the gospel must come from our local communities as we build the Kingdom of God, here and now.



The Journey is Our Home

The theme for Mountain Sky Annual Conference 2021 was “The Journey is Our Home”. The keynote speaker was Rev Grace Imathiu, self-described as “As an African who is married to a European and is raising an American son, ...committed to advocating for the inclusion of all people.” She has been a world-wide activist and speaker for inclusion. She told us that the Great Commission from Jesus to put faith into action is our Journey, and that our home, our place, is in that journey. She suggested that Mtn Sky Conference consider what we need to keep and take with us for this journey and what we need to discard or leave behind, and why. As we considered these ideas, she reminded us that our church is not a place made by hands; it is a connection made by God. She described Mountain Sky Conference as big as the mountain sky and as diverse. We are to love the Journey, not fight it; God has given us what we need for the Journey.

Laity listened to Dr Ann Michel, author of a new book called [*Synergy: A Leadership Guide for Church Staff and Volunteers*](#) (Abingdon Press, 2017)

Mission reports were viewed, among them a report from the new Creation Justice group which encourages local church Green Teams to take simple first steps to help care for the environment; from the Blackfeet Parish—which UMW also support; plans for a Mountain Sky Conference Youth Mission trip in 2022.

Several Resolutions were reviewed and voted upon, mostly dealing with Conference housekeeping and Pastor Kevin will give information elsewhere about the two Resolutions dealing with inclusion and how Mountain Sky views the way forward for United Methodist Church. Another which will directly affect our local church has to do with insurance options. It would create a 4th tier of coverage and make an audit of local property replacement cost easier for small congregations to accomplish. The Resolution was referred to a task force to further study and address concerns by April, 2022.

This was my first Conference as a local representative. It was extremely well organized for Zoom and worked very seamlessly. The technology involved blew me away! While we missed the chance to get acquainted with other attendees personally, there was some brief small group interaction. Many interesting videos—from mission projects, from each District—including Pastor Kevin with his guitar, stained glass windows in the Wibaux church, views of Makoshika. There were definite “perks” to Zoom conference—being able to go get coffee anytime, sitting in a comfortable chair, dressing extremely casually. As at any United Methodist function, the music was inspirational, with piano, acoustic guitar, and one of the largest organs I’ve seen. Overall, I have a much better sense of connection to all of our Mountain Sky Conference, which for me was lacking since our conferences joined, and I think video-conferencing really enables that much more easily.

As a final note, the last hymn at the closing of Annual Conference 2021 was our own Brother Van’s favorite “Harvest Time”!

Millie Robinson



Our Annual Roast Beef Dinner!

Yes! We **are** having the All-Church Roast Beef Dinner. This TAKE-OUT dinner will be on Wednesday, November 17, with pick-up scheduled for anytime between 5:00 and 7:00 pm. The dinner will include our famous roast beef and gravy, potatoes, coleslaw, a dinner roll, and a limited choice of pies/desserts.

In order to make this take-out version of the dinner work, we need as many PREPAID orders as possible! Order forms will be available for the weeks leading up to the dinner. Please fill out an order form for yourself/your family and attach payment. Take some blank order forms to give to your friends and neighbors. You might consider giving a prepaid dinner to a friend or family member as a gift.

We will still need volunteers: pie bakers, cooks, take-out servers/distributors, clean-up and dishwashers! Sign up-sheets are on the Fireside Room bulletin board. Since we will be making coleslaw instead of having volunteers bring salads, you might make a donation of what it would cost to make a salad and that will help pay for the coleslaw ingredients. Please mark such any donation clearly so we know how it's designated. We will have higher costs than usual because of the cost of take-out containers.

We know this won't be quite as much fun as our traditional sit-down meal, but we can still enjoy working together, show a church presence in the community, and raise extra money for our church!

Questions? - Ask Andrine Haas (406-989-1479) or Leslie Hunter (406-939-8055).

**Glendive United Methodist Church
TAKE-OUT Roast Beef Dinner ~ Wednesday, November 17 ~ 5 -7 pm
Order Form**

Roast beef, potatoes & gravy, coleslaw, dinner roll, and pie/dessert

NAME & PHONE # _____

of dinners: ADULT - \$13 ea _____ **CHILD (12 & under) - \$6 ea** _____

*****PREPAID ORDERS PLEASE!***** Make check payable to **Glendive UMC**

Mark your top 3 choices for pie/dessert and we will try to provide that choice (depending on availability):

_____ Pumpkin Pie _____ Lemon Meringue Pie _____ Pecan Pie _____ Carrot Cake

_____ Apple Pie _____ Sour Cream Raisin Pie _____ Custard Pie _____ Cheesecake

Pick up orders at the church (206 W. Towne St.) from 5 – 7 pm

Give us your approx. pick-up time, if possible: _____

Return order forms with payment to a church member or to the church -

Glendive United Methodist Church, PO Box 200, Glendive MT 59330

Please tear off this section to keep as your reminder!!

Glendive United Methodist Church - 206 W. Towne St.

TAKE-OUT Roast Beef Dinner ~ Wed., November 17 ~ Pick up 5 -7 pm

If you need someone to deliver your order to your car, call 406-377-5678 when you are parked.

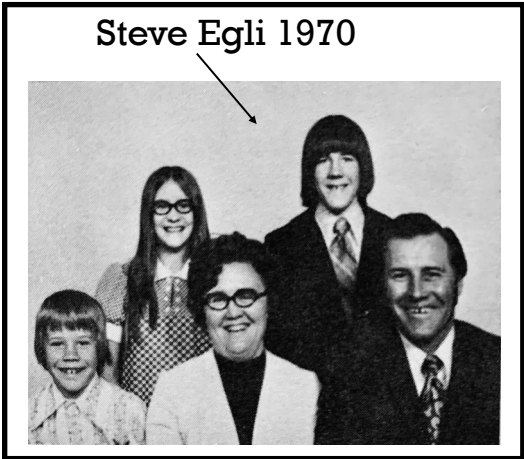
For your record ~ Name: _____

of dinners ordered: Adult (\$13) _____ **Child (\$6)** _____ **Amount prepaid:** _____

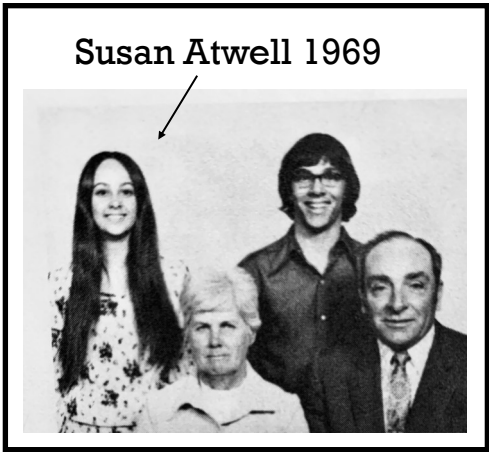
Questions? Leave a message at the church (377-4793) & we will return your call.



Marlene and Vern Lindquist
1971

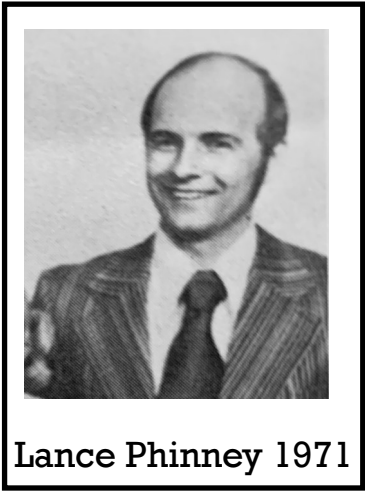


Steve Egli 1970



Susan Atwell 1969

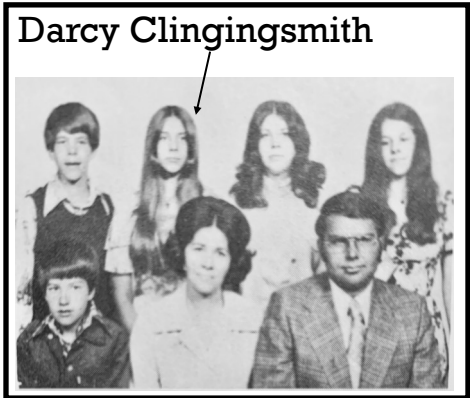
Congratulations!
New
50 Year Members
In our Glendive
United Methodist
Church



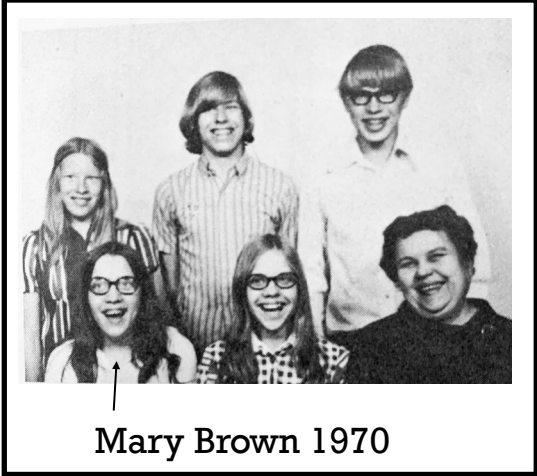
Lance Phinney 1971



Sari Hunter 1971



Darcy Clingingsmith



Mary Brown 1970



Pastor Appreciation Day



Cake Honoring
50 Year Members and
Pastor Kevin



50 Year Members



Happy Birthday

Nov. 3rd – Betty Carpenter

Betty Shearer

19th – Kaitlan Neard

Happy Anniversary

Nov. 15th – Dick & Doris Kruger

Nov. 22nd – Wei Pai & Tsai-Ying Li



November 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 *Betty Carpenter *Betty Shearer Bible Study 7:00pm	4	5	6
7 Daylight Savings Time ends Set clocks back	8	9	10 "With These Hands"- 1:30pm Fireside Room UMW- 5pm Bible Study 7:00pm	11	12	13
14	15 Ad. Board Meeting- 7pm #Dick & Doris Kruger	16	17 Roast Beef Take-out dinner	18	19 *Kaitlan Neard	20
21	22 #Wei Pai & Tsai-Ying Li	23	24	25 Thanksgiving 	26	27
28 1st Sunday of Advent	29	30				

* - birthday
- anniversary



Newsletter



Glendive & Wibaux

United Methodist Church

November 2021

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