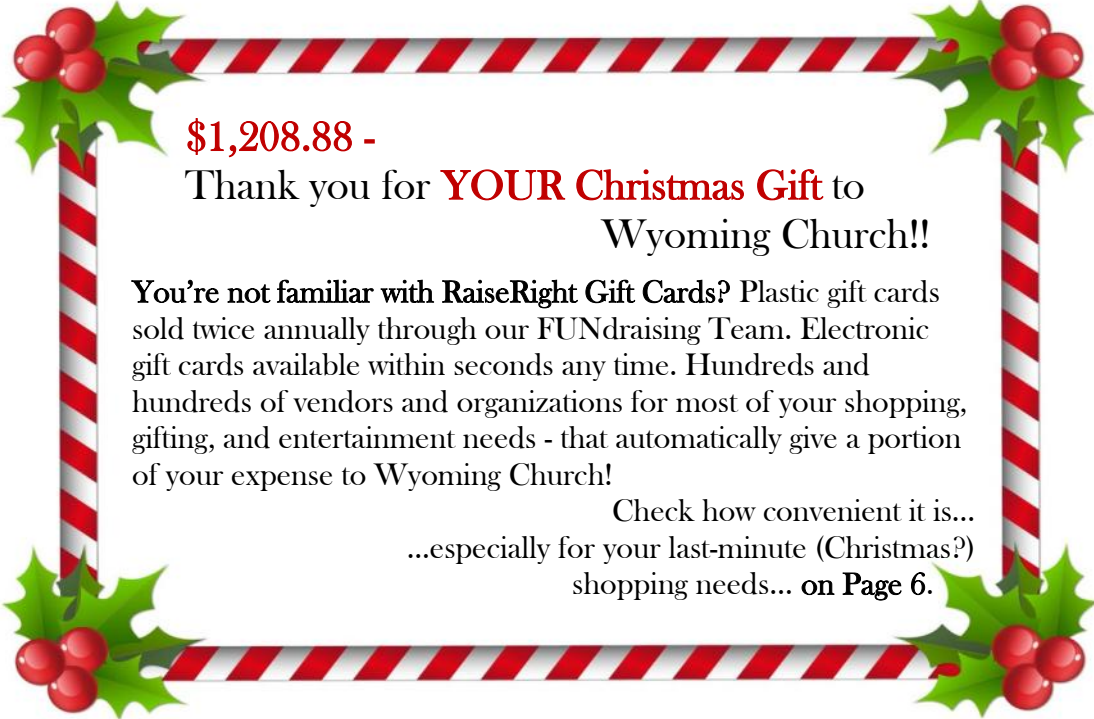


THE WYOMING MESSENGER December 2024



\$1,208.88 -

Thank you for **YOUR Christmas Gift** to
 Wyoming Church!!

You're not familiar with **RaiseRight Gift Cards**? Plastic gift cards sold twice annually through our FUNdraining Team. Electronic gift cards available within seconds any time. Hundreds and hundreds of vendors and organizations for most of your shopping, gifting, and entertainment needs - that automatically give a portion of your expense to Wyoming Church!

Check how convenient it is...
 ...especially for your last-minute (Christmas?)
 shopping needs... on Page 6.

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Join a new-to-you ministry?

The WUMC Visitation Team
 is looking for volunteers!

Could you accompany cheerful
 hymn singers on the piano at
 Dover Place once a quarter?

Visit our shut-ins?

**Giving
 the Gift
 of
 Time!**



Send greeting cards to these dear church family members?

Please contact Donna McCartney at (302) 331-0876.



On Saturday, October 19th, seven church members gathered to pick up litter on the side of Wyoming Mill Road as part of Wyoming Church's participation in Delaware's Adopt-a-Highway program. The group was able to clean-up of two thirds of the road that morning. One of the volunteers was able to come back on Sunday afternoon to complete the job. The group in total filled up 14 trash bags. Thank you to our volunteers Wayne Davis, Lee Sumpter, Jesse and Lucia Spampinato, Kim Reed, and Betsy and Jack Freidel for a job well done.

Different program, very similar garbage - no major change since the 1960's, as you can read in Dave VanKavelaar's humorous column "Taking out the Garbage" on Page 10.

Bulletin Board

Proverbs 3:13-15

"Blessed is the one who finds wisdom, and the one who gets understanding, for the gain from her is better than gain from silver and her profit better than gold. She is more precious than jewels, and nothing you desire can compare with her".

Bring in your unwanted items of silver and gold - broken or not - and help FUNdraising turn them into FREE money towards church projects! Drop off in a Ziploc bag Sunday morning or during office hours. Tax receipts available, too.



CHRISTIAN WOMEN CONNECTION

You are invited to the Dover DE Women's Connection Program and Breakfast Buffet on Tuesday, December 10 from 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM at the Maple Dale Country Club in Dover * \$22 inclusive (cash or check)

Annual Bazaar !! All Proceeds Going to Stonecroft Ministries
Guest Speaker: **Theresa McGowan** "Brokenness to Joy"
Harp Music by: **Sandy Nickerson** Vocals by: **Ruth Shelton**

Reservations and cancellations for breakfast and free child care are strongly encouraged by December 6 - RSVP to Donna ☎ (530) 921-8936 or Diane ☎ (302) 697-6020

Yes, we are still collecting **Redners Receipts**, a percentage of your purchase amount will convert into cash for Wyoming Church - we receive an average of **\$130!** for one months' worth of receipts collected. Big thanks to all who keep contributing!
Drop-off box is on the table by the welcome desk.



"Knitting to Nurture" says **THANKS** to all the knitters and crocheters who so lovingly produced over 100! children's hats for the school children in our area.

We'll now change the focus to **adult hats (both men's and women's)** for distribution to those in need this winter. Check the display table by the office window for yarn and patterns. (Children's hats still accepted too!)

Questions -
Karen Priestley
(302) 697-1828,
hapkrp@gmail.com.



Have you noticed the beautiful **flowers on the altar** every week? These are sponsored by members of our congregation to honor loved ones and remember special occasions. As we approach the end of 2024, would you think about sponsoring flowers for a special birthday, anniversary or in memory of a loved one? 2025 sign-up sheets have been placed in the Alter Flower book at the welcome desk. Arrangements are \$35 each, billed directly to the sponsor by our florist Jen Mor. For questions, please contact Stacy McDevitt at (302) 724-0205 or stacy.mcdevitt@yahoo.com.



From the Pastors' Desk

I (PR) am a huge fan of Christmas music (Pastor Lindsay is too!) The moment that the local radio station turns to its all-Christmas music format, I have in on in the car. Thanks to Amazon Music and IHeartRadio I have Christmas music of all sorts at my fingertips 24/7. Some days I like the classic sounds of Bing Crosby, Perry Como, and Ray Conniff, others I like the more modern sound of Pentatonix, while on others I listen to Handel's Messiah and other classical pieces. I love it all, and it really does make the season merry and bright.



In our canon of Christmas church music, my favorite song is probably "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing." The song was written in 1739 by Charles Wesley, the brother of the founder of the Methodist movement John Wesley. Charles was himself an ordained minister and was also one of the foremost writers of worship music in his day. "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" is a masterpiece because not only is it easy and fun to sing, but it is one of the most theologically rich songs in our hymnal. Charles moves us beyond the simple celebration of Christ's birth and endeavors to explain the meaning of his birth - "peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!" Through Christ, "the incarnate Deity," we are brought back into relationship with God;



our sins are forgiven, and we have fullness of life. He was "born to give us second birth" - that's the promise of eternal life in heaven. Through it all, the song invites us to join in the heavenly chorus announcing Christ's birth, which is good news for us and good news for all humankind.

We pray God's blessings for your family through the Christmas season and into 2025. May it be a time of grace, wonder, worship, and celebration. *Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!*

The Peninsula-Delaware Disaster Response and Recovery Team **urgently needs your help.**



Since the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, our pool of trained Early Response Team (ERT) members has drastically diminished. These teams, typically composed of six to eight members skilled in various disaster recovery tasks, are crucial for effective disaster response. Currently, only two trained members remain in our Conference, severely limiting our ability to respond to emergencies.

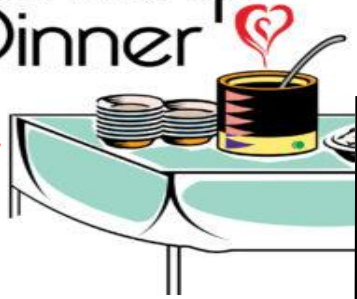
We need more volunteers to step up and get trained. Basic ERT training is just 8 hours, with advanced courses taking 4 hours each. Training can be arranged at your church, and multiple churches can collaborate to host these sessions. Volunteers do not need to be church members but must align with our UMC beliefs.

Click the link below to sign up for training or to get more information. The Disaster Relief Team will reach out to you with all the details you need and answer any questions you might have. Your participation can make a big difference!

<https://pendel-reg.brtapp.com/DisasterRelief>

Next Adult Fellowship Dinner

**Remember...
NO Adult Fellowship Dinner in December.**



The next scheduled Adult Fellowship Covered Dish Dinner will be on **Wednesday, January the 29th, 2025** in the Family Life Center, with doors opening at 5 PM and the dinner beginning at 5:30 PM. The theme will be 'A Celebration Of The New Year!' Look for the display and sign-up sheet after New Year's.

Questions and/or comments see/contact **Carol** at ceabbott123@gmail.com or (302) 943-8706.

Young Adult Christmas Party

There will be a Young Adult Christmas party to be held in the Family Life Center on **Wednesday, December 18 at 6PM.**

Come join this group for an evening of food, fellowship, and games!

It's a Wrap! Santa's helpers getting shoeboxes full of Christmas surprises packed and ready to be shipped to or children far, far away.



I want to thank everyone who helped with *Operation Christmas Child!*

I am overwhelmed at the response of 75 shoeboxes we collected. As usual, Wyoming Church came through in a big way. Also the blessing of monetary donations for postage was most appreciated. I want to give sincere thanks to Dawn and René Valladares who guided me through. They make this their passion and are truly amazing. Thanks to Renate and our Pastors, Rick and Lindsay, who kept this program alive. I also had a group of wrappers that were incredible: Betty Brown, Melissa Nelson, Carolyn OConnor, Samantha Valladares, Mary Yarema, and Eva Dixon. And mostly I want to thank God who put this in my heart to do.

God bless, Nancy Sammons

Editor's addition: In the name of several dozen children and their smiling faces on Christmas Day, we all thank you lots, Nancy!





Holiday Food Drive

Saturday, December 14

from 10 AM to 12 noon.

Food and other items will be collected for *Kent Interfaith*, a cooperative effort among churches in the Dover area. **Thank you for your willingness to feed the food deprived in our area!**

Bring your donations to the FRONT PORTICO of Wyoming Church where we will take it directly from your vehicle. **Monetary donations to purchase meats and other perishable items will be gladly accepted. Please make all checks payable to WUMC with Food Bank on the memo line and your giving number please if you have one!**

Most Needed:

staples, Holiday meal fixin's, Mesa flour, 1 or 2 pound bags of rice. **The ONLY paper products needed are paper towels and antibacterial wipes.**



Help serve...



Once a month, Wyoming Church volunteers work with folks at Wesley UMC downtown Dover to serve a **FREE Lunch** to the local community.

On **December 21, from 10AM to 2PM**, 5 people from Wyoming Church will work with 2 people from Wesley Church to set up, serve and tear down a lunch meal at Wesley UMC downtown Dover. The actual meal is served between 12 noon and 1 p.m.

You can serve in one capacity or two or all three! And if you're not able to volunteer on site, you can still help by providing a dessert (store-bought or homemade) and/or a case of bottled water. We prepare for serving 50 guests.

Sign up in the narthex.



If you ever helped out with the monthly Community Lunch at Wesley Church... maybe you would like to help out in the Wyoming Church Kitchen, occasionally, too?

The WUMC Kitchen Sexton Team has lots of opportunities for you! We help with many events throughout the year including organizing the Adult Fellowship and Family Fellowship meals, raising money for various projects with various Pie Fundraisers, Kitchen Sales and Bake Table events during our Craft Fairs and Book Sales, and helping do the weekly Social Hour every Sunday among other things on the Church calendar. We have room for helpers in many ways. Some folks help out with donations for specific events. Some join in a few times a year to make pies or help with another activity. Some folks wish to join the team and attend our meetings to organize events throughout the year.

Let us know if you are interested and how you would like to be involved. Many hands make light work and we welcome your help!

See Carol Abbott Sunday mornings.

**Monthly FINANCIAL REPORT
October, 2024**

	2024 Offering	2024 Expense
Weekly Offerings	\$ 442,885.28	
Facilities and Other	\$ 28,495.78	
Totals	\$ 471,381.06	\$ 461,041.79
Net Operating	\$ 10,339.27	

May you and yours be blessed with a Merry Christmas and happy New Year 2025!

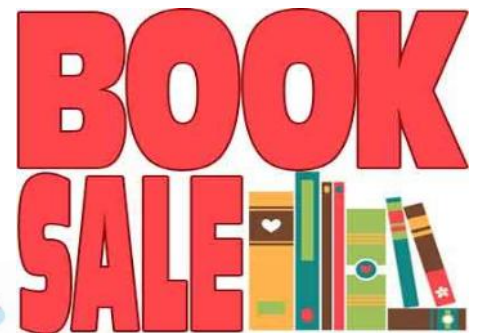
Ken Banaszak & the Finance Team

To all those who have submitted a pledge to our Stewardship Campaign **"Many Hearts Beating as One,"** Thank You once again! Your generosity and dedication to the ministries of Wyoming United Methodist Church is greatly appreciated and will help sustain our mission here at Wyoming.

If you are still thinking and praying about making a pledge, there is still time to do so and we hope and pray that you will join us in this effort. Your church needs all of you as there is always strength in numbers! Won't you join us today? **Pledge Cards** are available on the welcome desk, in the church office, or online at wyomingumc.com—Newsletters

raising FUNdraising FUNdraising FUN!

FUNdraising Team will hold the Annual Wyoming Church **Book & Bake Sale** on **January 25th** from 8 am till 1 pm. Thousands of books to choose from! Hardback books \$1.00, Paperbacks 2 for \$1.00, Children's books 4 for \$1.00, CDs & DVDs 4 for \$1.00. ***Gently used books can be dropped off in the narthex box or on the right side of the FLC stage. Any ?? contact Betsy at bfreidell@yahoo.com, or call / text 302-535-3983.*



January 25



All proceeds will go toward special church projects.

raising FUNdraising FUNdraising FUN!

a win-win for your church!

Join our RaiseRight program so you can buy gift cards to use as payment for everyday expenses and shop online through RaiseRight. Every gift card purchase and online purchase earns up to 20% back - and it adds up fast! Plus, with a mobile app (<https://www.raiseright.com/mobile-app/>) available and instant access to your eGift card and reload purchases, you can buy gift cards and shop online through RaiseRight anytime, anywhere.

Go to <https://www.raiseright.com/> to learn more. **Our church code is 352B786L59911.**

If you don't like eGift cards our FUNdraising Team offers the **opportunity to purchase plastic cards** a couple times per year. The next ordering opportunity will be in April.

In our most recent Holiday Gift Card Sale in November, we sold 635 cards and made a rebate profit of \$1,208.88 (!!).

Thanks to all who support this program!

Please email linda.lyon@aol.com with any questions.



'Tis the Season of Selflessness.

Opportunities abound @ Wyoming Church!

Presents under the Christmas Tree for special needs adults, a shoebox filled with surprise goodies in the hands of a little one somewhere in a third-world country, a hand-knitted colorful hat for the patient in the cancer ward of Kent General Hospital, Christmas Dinner ingredients for the family 'shopping' at the Dover Food Bank, a home cooked free lunch at Wesley Church downtown Dover and - moneys to keep the roof over the heads of a single-parent family just outside of Wyoming...

Better known as The Giving Tree, Operation Christmas Child, Knitting to Nurture, Monthly Drive-thru Food Drive, Serving Community Lunch @ Wesley UMC, Family Emergency Relief - all projects supported by Wyoming Church groups and - YOU!

May the true Spirit of Christmas be in your hearts and all around you this beautiful Season.



Sam B. Goode

David Van Kavelaar

A cold blast of winter had settled in and it was really adding to the Christmas atmosphere. Sam clutched at his coat at the neck and, with eyes down, entered the warm confines of the Dollar Tree down by Walmart. Folks were putting wrapping paper, name tags, and ribbons in their cart as soon as they walked in the door and then proceeded to begin their shopping. The scent of peppermint was inescapable; almost inducing a natural high as a Christmas carol washed over all the customers on this Tuesday before Christmas day. As Sam began his trip through the store, he thought back to his Christmas days as a boy and realized, yes, their family was poor but he didn't know it at the time. Sam was grateful for the socks, sweater, and underwear and the two or three toys left by Santa that were so beautifully wrapped beneath their decorated Scotch pine evergreen.

Sam was on a happy mission that day. His home front and family were now in pretty good shape. His wife and kids were all taken care of and he couldn't escape the notion that he and his wife and kids were in a much better financial condition than his parents ever were. Sam was just as happy now as he was as a kid. As he walked down the toy aisle, a Latino lady with two young girls (one in her cart) was holding up a box of artist's pencils and crayons. The girl walking

next to mom seemed disappointed when mom put the box back down. "Buenos días, Señora!" said Sam. She replied in perfect English "Good morning!" Sam pulled a \$50 bill from his pocket and lied to her that he found it blowing around in the parking lot and he didn't need it. "You can have it if you want.", Sam said. "Oh thank you very much!" she replied. "De nada. Have a good day and Feliz Navidad!!"

The next stop on Sam's agenda was the Dollar Tree out by Salisbury Road and Route 8. Sam enjoyed the giving of a small cash gift as long as it was spent for the right reason. As he strolled by the scented candle section, Sam crossed paths with a young mother, again with child in tow, who was comparing prices of items. "Good morning!", said Sam. Mommy (according to the boy at her side) cordially returned the greeting. Sam said he won some money at the casino (a lie) and she'd be welcome to have the \$50 bill he held in his hand. She gratefully accepted the offer and they happily wished each other a Merry Christmas and parted ways.

All in all, Sam visited four businesses that day and hopefully eased some financial concerns of shoppers. It was the season of giving and sharing and Sam was happy to contribute to four families unknown to him and was glad to help. Remember, there are others who aren't as fortunate, lucky, or blessed as we. It's Christmas, share with those in need; make Jesus happy!

[It bears repeating - from The Wyoming Messenger, 11/2024]

Day after day, week after week, month after month, YOU, as you contribute funds to our **Family Emergency Relief** account within the WUMC Outreach Team have been assisting families and individuals as they saw themselves stuck in life's hardship with seemingly no way out. Wyoming Church would pay a portion of their rent to keep them from being evicted, security deposit to move them from the streets into permanent housing, utilities to keep life connected, and sometimes temporary motel stays to keep them off the street for one more night, giving them gift cards to local grocery stores as needed, consulting with local helping agencies and other churches bound in the Kent Interfaith Alliance, and applying as much financial and moral discernment as 22 years of experience in the field make heavenly possible.

Through recent months, Wyoming Church has been able to assist an average of five cases each month, much as our hearts might break for many more families that call us for assistance and we have to tell them that we're "out of funding".

The FER buckets are welcoming your contributions at the church doors on the last Sunday of every month, and you can certainly also designate a portion of your weekly/monthly/annual giving to 'FER'.

Thanking you for being quite literally a life-saver for so many of God's children in our local community, here is one example:

*"Dear Ms. Renate,
I would like to thank you for your contribution to my rent.
I am very grateful for your churches help.
God bless you all.*

Sincerely,

Charmaine 

[single mom with 2 toddlers]

The WUMC 2024



The **WUMC Giving Tree** has become a time-honored Christmas tradition, and it is up and decorated in the Narthex and filled with many wish tags from those who are less fortunate during this Holiday Season. Please help make their Christmas be a memorable one by taking a moment to look at the tags. Take one or two - there are plenty to choose from!

The tags are labeled for a boy or a girl, along with their age and size. You will also see a code sign on the tag; the first number there is the 'family number', so if you are looking for a particular family, look for the same first number. We tried to hang all tags for one family close to each other.

If you see a tag labeled "**ARC ADULT**", this is a gift for one of our special needs persons. All but two are adults, so please carefully check the age and size specified.

You can place your gifts (**unwrapped**) under the tree anytime before December 8, 2024. **All gifts must be returned by Sunday, December 8, 2024.**

- ◆ Please purchase **ONLY** what is on the tag or something that is closely related. If it is one item, please get one item only, because there are other siblings in the family, and we want to keep gifts equal for everyone. Please use your judgement for the smaller

gifts like crayons and coloring books.

- ◆ Please **do not wrap the gift**. The elves need to see the gifts in order to put them with the correct family. If you include a box or gift bag, the elves will be greatly appreciate it!
- ◆ Please **attach the tag to the gift** so that the elves know what family to put it with. Without the tag, it is very hard to figure which gift goes where.
- ◆ You can place your gift under the tree anytime before December 8 - the earlier the better, for the elves have a lot to do after receiving the gifts.

Christmas is a joyful and wonderful time to reach out and help others. Those who receive these gifts are so very grateful every year! It may not seem much to us, but it means everything to them.

So please take a tag (or two or three...) and let someone in our community know that we care!

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to Alicia ☎ (302) 222-4363 or Betty ☎ (302) 697-6617.



In this giving time of the Year, luckily, we can give to others during our annual **New Day Pregnancy Care Center** baby shower. During January, Wyoming Church is going to get the opportunity to host a baby shower. The remarkable thing about this shower is that we will not just be helping one baby and their family but many babies and their families.

We can make this happen by partnering with a beautiful organization called **New Day Pregnancy Care Center**.

New Day is a free faith-based non-profit offering expecting mothers and fathers counseling and medical services, including prenatal care referrals and educational classes.

By taking part in the classes, mothers and fathers can earn **New Day** Dollars to redeem for essential baby items such as diapers, wipes, clothing and much more! This is where Wyoming Church comes in. During January there will be a Pack 'n Play in the Narthex to collect the items most needed. Below is a list of those items. There will also be a list of needed things near the Pack 'n Play. You can also drop off these items during the month January's Food Drive. Just be sure to mark the bag clearly. We will deliver all the collected items to **New Day** at the beginning of February. These items will then **be placed** in **New Day's** Boutique, where parents can shop for needed items with their **New Day** Dollars. So, let us all get that warm and fuzzy feeling that we all get when shopping for a newborn and help support many families!

Many thanks to everyone who donated coats during the Outreach School Coat Drive! Thanks also to all the folks who made hand-knitted and hand-crocheted hats that will be donated along with the coats. Your generous donations will make many children in the Capital, Caesar Rodney, and Lake Forest School Districts feel much warmer this year.



Library news

December



At the Fanny Marvel Church Library, check out a book, audio book or DVD and return it when you're done. Take home (and keep!) a puzzle and/or some magazines and/or any item on display outside the library door!



Check out this DVD and watch it again with your family... and see what other Christmas movies, adult and children's books around everyone's favorite Season are available in the WUMC library!



Avid readers... check out the **WUMC Book Discussion Club!** We meet **every fourth Wednesday at 7PM - next time** (we do not meet in December) **on January 22, 2025!** Read "The Same Bright Stars" by Ethan Joella (see below), the book chosen for January and join us on **January 22** for the discussion.

Call **Kim Reed** ☎ (302) 670-1832 with questions.

Set in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware...

Three generations of Schmidts have run their family's beachfront restaurant, and Jack has been at the helm since his father's death. He puts the demands of the restaurant above all else, with a string of failed relationships, no hobbies, and no days off as proof of his commitment to the place. He can't remember the last time he sat on the beach or enjoyed a moment to himself.

Meanwhile, the DelDine group has been snapping up beloved eateries along this stretch of coast, and it is pursuing Jack with a very generous offer to take Schmidt's off his hands. Jack craves companionship and maybe even a family. He wonders whether closing the door on the restaurant might open a window for him - but who would he be without Schmidt's, and can he trust DelDine's claims that it will continue to employ his staff and honor his family's legacy?



You can meet the author, Ethan Joella!

Grab a copy of the book and get it signed, too!
Tuesday, December 3rd from 6:45 to 7:30 PM
@ The Ice House Wellness & Community
Click here for more details:
<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/19utaTaULh/>

The *Sunday School classes* enjoyed a *Fall Festival* on October 27th. They had fun playing games and decorating pumpkins. Special thanks to Fifer Orchards for the donating the pumpkins.



Thank you, Fifer's, also for the lovely fall decor at the church's front doors!



Taking Out the Garbage

David Van Kavelaar

Somehow, the term “garbage” found its way into the national lexicon recently and brought back memories of days (actually decades) gone by. Ah yes, it was...



Four-thirty in the morning, my wake-up time, so nineteen-year-old me could prepare for work. The green work shirt and trousers bought at Sears was the uniform of the day and, with bologna sandwiches in hand, I stumbled out the door and got into the '63 Bel Air and drove to Wilson Road where Jack and Joan lived. Upon arrival, Jack and I climbed into the powder blue garbage truck, named Little Barbie after his daughter, and off we'd go for the day's collection sites. Now, you must understand, this old Mack was a garbage truck, not a trash truck. Garbage cans were a rotted-out aluminum affair those days with some pulsating, glowing liquid at the bottom referred to as mung in the trade, the nastiest smelling concoction ever! That nasty liquid elevated the smell of buzzard puke to the essence of Chanel No. 5 in comparison to mung. It was late 1966 and plastic “trash” bags weren't in vogue nor were plastic trash cans; you were lucky if customers put their slop in Acme bags before dumping the kitchen waste or pampers in the outside can.

Now, Jack was a good guy, was always smiling, and was a hard worker. He scrounged up customers and was no competition to the three garbage hauling giants in Wilmington: Aubria Hope, Walter Bandurski, and Stanley J. Twardus. These guys had fleets of trucks to service their vast clientele list; Jack had only the one beat up truck. Jack was well known in the development where his wife Joan lived before they married. I overheard Joan's mom telling neighboring wives, chatting “over the fence” while putting laundry out to dry don't you know, that her son-in-law was “quite the man” and her daughter was just ecstatic about it. They oohed and tee-heed and clucked over Jack's manliness; whatever!

Our easiest location for garbage pick-up was Alban Park in south Wilmington.

Row houses were a snap as a row of thirty homes could be serviced in less than twenty minutes. I had the garbage barrel rolling operation down pat and, as long as the alleys weren't broken up chunks of concrete, collection was rapid. I did OK, but there was this little black guy named Francis who was the talk of the trash trade. I never met him, but he was the A-Rod of garbage men, a gun for hire. This guy could move trash faster than anyone in the city; he was an unstoppable force as neither dogs, fences, nor garbage weight phased him. Pay him well and he would hump trash with lightning speed that put the rest of us to shame.

The worst place for garbage pick-up was Conestoga Farms up Route 202 just inside Pennsylvania. These homes were on acre lots and there was a good distance between home garbage can locations. One advantage of PA was that there was a dump one mile down the road from Conestoga Farms where Little Barbie's contents could be deposited in the landfill where Jack would pay the dump master fifteen bucks for the privilege of contributing to the PA landfill. The problem was that it was illegal for a Delaware hauler to empty his truck contents over the state line as it deprived Delaware of their landfill trash, and the fifteen dollars dump fee at the site. Now there was a PA county employee who'd sneak around in his government truck and look for illegal dumping; I kid you not. It made sense to Jack to try and get away with the criminal act of illegal garbage dumping because to drive back down Route 202, go through Wilmington, head south on Route 13 past the Wilmington airport near New Castle to deposit the truck's contents at the Black Cat Dump took two hours out of the work day. We got nailed one day at the PA dump and had to pay a \$75 or \$100 fine; a pretty steep price to pay. The whole thing reminded me of Alice's Restaurant; you know, the Arlo Guthrie album. It helps if you can remember the '60's.

It seemed Little Barbie would require maintenance every two weeks or so and, at 5 AM, we'd take the truck to Wadkins Motors in the seedy portion of Chester (PA) along Route 13 before I-95 was completed. It seemed to me that any stray dog in the tri-state area would wind up along the corridor from Wilmington to Philly right smack in the heart of Chester. Jack's rig was a cash cow for the mechanics there. We'd drop off the truck and walk a quarter mile or so to some greasy spoon all-night diner where we'd tank up on java and chat with the waitresses. Wadkins Motors would call the diner when their work was

completed. Mavis, a heavy-set gal who'd worked the midnight shift for ten years, would bellow: “Jack, she's done!” Paying the bill of twenty cents for two coffees and leaving a twenty-cent tip, off we'd go back to the mechanic's shop with those ever present eerie and darting dog shadows flitting between cars and alleys beneath dim and dingy street lamps. Darn dogs, I hoped they weren't conspiring to... well, never mind.

The disadvantages of the job were the gross smell to your clothing from the garbage barrel's mung drippings. Dogs were to be reckoned with also, especially the little sneaky ankle biters. Sometimes I had to stand inside the barrel until the owner would get the little crappy poodle back in the house. I wanted so much to put a steel tipped boot into Frenchy's rib cage and stomp the little undisciplined mutt into submission but those actions were not conducive to good clientele relations. There was no pepper spray available to my knowledge, and firing a .45 round into the canine's cranium did seem a little excessive. Another drawback of the job, once your “occupation” was known, was the way some would look at you (or maybe they just could smell you 25 yards away as you approached.)

Regardless of the clientele, women were unanimous in their desire to rid the kitchen of garbage. Having forgotten to get the trash out the night before, moms and housewives would rush to the door in their night shirts holding a bag of trash for me to deposit in the truck hopper. I kind of liked that aspect of the job. The households were still able to get by with one pay check then so the women hadn't been fully integrated into the work force yet. The moms and wives were awake before the others in the house busying themselves in the kitchen and preparing breakfasts and school lunches.

So, I was in the garbage hauling business from the fall of '66 to the spring of '67 earning \$2.75 per hour, not a bad wage then. It was hard work, especially in April and May when the garbage was wet from spring showers. Now when the trash men come to either of our homes today, I proudly state that I hauled garbage almost fifty years ago upstate and appreciated their work. To me, there is no stigma attached to their job. A couple plastic bottles of ice water is always offered to them should they so desire a cold drink on a steamy July and August day. I was talking with one trash guy in Fenwick Island about my past experiences. He said that my working on a garbage truck didn't affect my ability to rent a

place by the ocean. I said we own the home, we're not renting. He looked at me, then our beach home (The Ocean Gypsy), and back at me again. Without saying a word, he nodded, hopped on the back of the trash truck, leaned over and waved so to be seen in the driver's side mirror and, as they proceeded north along the Ocean Highway, he flashed a big grin and gave me a thumbs up. You too, my friend!



Solar Power Task Force Update

The Solar Power Task Force continues to make progress towards the goal of having a solar power array here at Wyoming Church. The team plans to have two proposals to put forward to Church Council by January. One would be a roof mount, and the other would be a ground mount. An architect is currently looking over the blueprints of the Trusses and roof to be sure they can support a roof mount. The companies who previously submitted proposals are being asked to update the pricing for their proposals.

The task force team will be meeting in December to review the updated proposals and recommend one roof mount proposal and one ground mount proposal. These proposals will then be reviewed at a Trustees meeting in December for their approval. Providing a go ahead is given by the Trustees, it will be on to the Church Council.

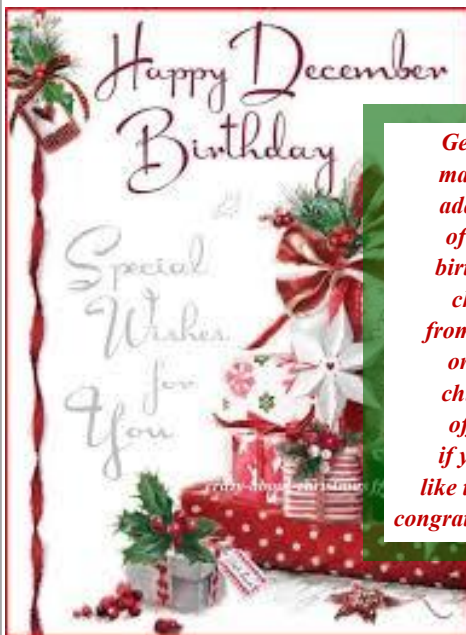
The task force is pleased to have this opportunity to do our part in helping to take care this beautiful world The Lord has given us.



New Year - Next Bench!! Recycle Plastic for our 3rd Trex Bench.

Over recent months, we collected over 1,000 lbs of plastic, in other words: we have two Trex benches! With undiminished efforts we move on to the next one. Keep those plastic bags, envelopes, and bubble wrap coming! Remember, **NO bottles or hard plastic.** Thank you for keeping all that plastic out of the landfills, too!





Get the mailing address of any birthday child from CCB or the church office if you'd like to send congratulations!

~ Our People ~
~ New Member ~

Jon McDowell joined Wyoming Church on November 17, 2024. Welcome to our church family!



I had shoulder replacement surgery October 9. Frank and I are much appreciative to our church family for the many cards and notes sent and numerous calls and offers of assistance. Your prayers and warm wishes have helped in the healing process. God has showered his blessings in the healing. It's a process that He has been with us all the way through. The day will come when full strength and mobility are realized. Thank you, everyone.

With affection and gratitude, Nancy Roberts

- 12/01 Pat Brown, Theresa McGee, Bill Rhodes, Sandy Rhodes, Noelle Robinson
- 12/03 Kathy Delong, Betsy Freidel, Darlene Seip
- 12/04 Jack Freidel, Stephanie Nichols
- 12/06 Dakota deBernard, Bill McMahan
- 12/07 Danielle Malone
- 12/08 Carole Pearce
- 12/09 Nancy Rubino
- 12/10 Warren Field, Linda Holderbaum, Dave Watson
- 12/11 Scott Bittner, Alan Schmidt
- 12/12 Pastor Eric Fontanez, Taylor Klecan
- 12/13 Jennifer Forbes, John Stuart
- 12/14 Vera Kundler
- 12/15 Gary Pippin, Kyle Young
- 12/17 Lyndsey Collision, Frank Roberts
- 12/18 Bill Parkhill, Sue Willson
- 12/21 Marlene Loomis
- 12/23 Madelyn Flaherty, Kenny Harris, Barb Shepperson
- 12/25 Lynn Ditty, Sue Hajec
- 12/26 Hannah Nelson
- 12/27 Brock Nelson, Lily Wagner
- 12/28 Christopher Jones, Ed Krieger, Wanda Spiering
- 12/30 Dave Kleinot, John Aaron Kling, Morgan Rigby
- 12/31 Dawn Miller

- 1/1 Kim Bryan, Adam Hanna, Viviane Salib Gourgy
- 1/4 Sue Rigby
- 1/7 Chris Cattie



Congrats, Kasper Milton!!
Kasper was recently inducted into National Honor Society for Science, Math and regular NHS.

~ Deaths ~

June White
the mother of Valerie Riggins passed away on October 26, 2024



Thank you to all for your love, support and expressions of sympathy during my mother's extended illness and passing.
Valerie Riggins & Family



Gloria Ramstedt
beloved Sunday School & VBS teacher and former lay leader at Wyoming Church, passed away on November 1, 2024

Memorial Garden Continues To Receive Memorial Bricks!

Our Wyoming United Methodist Church's Memorial Garden continues to grow with several more memorial bricks in the process of placement, including another cremains dedication. The Memorial Garden is located on the East side of the Church just off the Eastern edge of the South Parking Lot near the Pavilion.

The Memorial Grove of trees continue to do well despite the challenges of the past season. Their increased height and breath is effective in adding an additional factor to the solitude of the area.

The decision to select a Memorial Brick for the Garden continues to be a most fitting way to honor a person or persons who have had a positive impact on your life.

Grounds & Turf Are Ready For "A Long Winter's Sleep"!

Our Wyoming Church's grounds and turf have, once again, benefited from the excellent care of Jerry Wallace's Professional Landscape Company during the months of April through October of 2024. Jerry has been very accommodating relative to our busy Church schedule as well as the additional demands brought on by Church projects.

Jerry's attention to detail is such that, after consultation with this writer and in some cases with this writer, engages in such additional activities as tree shaping and limb removal that are not part of the contract and for which he receives no additional remuneration. I am quite pleased with Jerry's quality of service to Wyoming Church and trust that he will be the candidate of choice for 2025.

Safe Secure Sanctuary (S3) Program Needs Your Help!

I am deep within the intense process of recruiting folks to volunteer to serve ONCE A MONTH ON the SUNDAY OF THEIR CHOICE at the SERVICE OF THEIR CHOOSING from January through June of 2025 as either a Greeter, Monitor or Steward at either the 9:00 AM or 11:00 AM Sunday Services. These efforts are complimented by Mike and Dawn Williams at the 9:00 AM Service and Warren and Judi Field at the 11:00 AM Service to provide Ushers for this same period of time.

My plan is to have the schedule ready for distribution no later than Sunday, December 22, 2024. What I would ask of you is to give some serious, prayerful consideration of my sincere request for participation in the S3 Program.

I will be delighted TO TALK WITH YOU AT YOUR CONVENIENCE ABOUT YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE.

I can be contacted at Church on Sunday mornings or by phone and email - info at the bottom of this page.

THANK YOU AND BLESSINGS!



JANUARY!

Prayer Breakfast

No Prayer Breakfast in December!

All Your Prayers ---

Prayer Breakfast!

Following the RENEWED REVIVAL of the Wyoming United Methodist Church's Prayer Breakfast at the November 23rd event, we will continue returning to our 'roots' by concentrating on those prayers that are brought before us. We will pray with sincerity for the presence of the Holy Spirit and the all encompassing healing power of prayer.

Our **January 2025 Prayer Breakfast** will be **on the 25th beginning at 7:30 AM** in the Community Room at Tre Sorelle Dolce in the town of Wyoming. We will 'menu order out' our breakfast from Mike and Mel's Restaurant --- just across the street --- where our selections will be prepared and subsequently returned ready for our enjoyment!

The combined strength of our prayers, our Breakfast nourishment and our table fellowship will be designed to prepare us for the challenges that each new year brings. Please note that our Prayer Breakfasts are open to all folks and that your only expense will be your Breakfast.

Remember that we meet **each month on the FOURTH SATURDAY** with plans to finish as close to 8:45 AM as possible! As always, we do appreciate the continued, complimentary hospitality for the exclusive use of the Tre Sorelle Dolce Community Room by our hosts Mike and Becky Marasco.

Shared leadership for the Prayer Breakfasts in 2025 will be by Jack Freidel and Terry Higgins.

Fall craft show

Proceeds from about
60 vendor rentals:

Many thanks to everyone who helped make the **Bake Sale and Chef's Kitchen Sales** at the Craft Show a rousing success! The Bake Table brought in \$1,025 and the Chef's Kitchen netted \$1,716 on Saturday. We also sold another \$170 worth of chili, chicken salad, and egg salad on Sunday.



Two Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty Dollars!!



Vendors & Patrons & the Wyoming Church FUNdrising Team are pleased indeed with the phenomenal sales at the Fall Craft Show on November 9th. Thank you, all volunteers on site and behind the scenes, thank you, patrons, thank you, congregation, for spreading the word, and thank you, Kim Reed and her various right hands (Linda, Betsy, Lee, and Kathi) - the **Craft Show Team**, who orchestrated it all masterfully again!

Applications for the Spring Craft Show on May 10, 2025 will be out soon!

If you enjoyed the day, why not drop Kim and the Team a note?
WyomingCraftShowChurchChair@gmail.com



This favorite
'gaming event'
is definitely
worth a trip to
Odessa

(St. Paul's
United Methodist
Church)...



DINGO & DESSERT



Sunday, December 15th

3:00 pm — 5:00 pm

St. Paul's United Methodist Church—Odessa

Bring a dessert or snack to share*

Learn to play a favorite card game in the Deaf Community

No competition, no charge, lots of fun and friends.

DINGO is a great family game
for players **aged 8 and older.**

Sponsored by the SPUMC Deaf Ministry

*please bring individually wrapped portions, and be aware of
the No Nut Products policy at SPUMC

... not least
of all
to check out
the beautiful
Colonial
Christmas
decorations
while you're
in town!





A UNITED METHODIST CONGREGATION

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E-mail: office@wyomingumc.com



www.WyomingUMC.com

Church Office Hours :
Monday-Thursday 9AM - 1PM

call & text for appointments:
☎ (302) 399-3898 Renate Purdy

*The office will be closed in my
absence from December 25
through January 10.*



To: You!

**Our Pastors are available
by appointment.**

Call or text

☎ (302) 423-3911
Pastor Lindsay

☎ (302) 423-4237
Pastor Rick

Deadline for The Wyoming Messenger is the 17th of the previous month, for the January 2025 issue that will be Tuesday, December 17th. The 12 most recent issues of The Wyoming Messenger are available on www.wyomingumc.com - NEWSLETTERS.



*Are you looking to add a little more CHRIST into this Christmas season? Well, then come on out to Wyoming Church's annual **Advent Dinner in the FLC on the first Sunday of Advent, December 1st.** There will be a potluck dinner beginning **at 5:30** followed by a performance of by the Puppets of Praise Team. This year's show is *Christmas Through the Years*, a comedy and musical wrapped into one with the message of the coming of Jesus at its heart.*



Advent & Christmas Schedule

Saturday, December 7 - Puppets in the Camden Wyoming Christmas Parade (stepping off at 6 PM)

Sunday, December 8 - wear your crazy Christmas gear

Sunday, December 15 - 11AM worship service with Chancel Choir Christmas Cantata

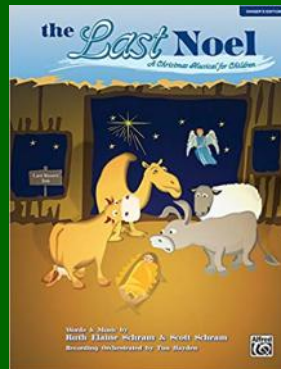
Sunday, December 22 - 10 AM combined worship & Christmas Musical

Christmas Eve - December 24

4:00 PM Contemporary Worship
6:00 PM Handbell Concert & Prelude
6:30 PM Traditional Worship

...and after Christmas:

Sunday, December 29 -
10 AM combined worship (no Sunday School)



This year's musical is "**The Last Noel**," a delightful story of Jesus' birth told from the animals' point of view, "providing refreshing and thought-provoking insight into aspects of the Christmas story. Animals, like children, can sometimes see things in a unique and innocent way that is both charming and instructive." Our story takes place on the LAST place on earth you'd expect the baby Jesus to be born, behind the LAST stable door at the LAST Resort Inn!

Dress rehearsal will be on Saturday, December 7 at 10:30 AM in the Sanctuary.