

... the  beat of your church... cover to cover.

THE WYOMING MESSENGER

January 2025



Goodness & Joy
In the house @ Wyoming Church!

'24 in Review
(p. 14+15)

(picture: at the ARC Dance in August)

Almost before you know it --- the beauty of Christmas, the promise of the New Year and the quiet days of January will be upon us. And with those days of January comes the first of 2025's **Monthly Adult Fellowship Covered Dish Dinners on Wednesday, January 29.**

January's entree will be ham prepared by the Sexton Kitchen Team's Chefs as only they can do it! Bring one of your favorite culinary creations to compliment the entree along with your own tableware and place settings. Iced tea, coffee and water will be provided.

You and all of the adult members of your family are invited to attend. If you are new to our Church fellowship please know that you are invited and that you will receive a warm welcome. Doors to the Family Life Center open at 5:00 PM with dinner beginning at 5:30 PM.

We plan to be finished around 7:00 PM with the dinner and a short program entitled "A Celebration Of The New Year". Should you have any questions or comments please see Carol Abbott on Sunday mornings in the Narthex or contact her at ceabbott123@gmail.com.



New Year's Blessings to you

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The Work of Christmasback cover

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
8 to 1



BOOK SALE

All proceeds will go toward special church projects.

Bulletin Board

Beautiful Wurlitzer Console Piano available. Owner would love a \$250 donation for Samaritan's Purse towards **Operation Christmas Child** shoebox shipping in exchange for the piano. Please contact Dawn Valladares @ (302) 480-4758

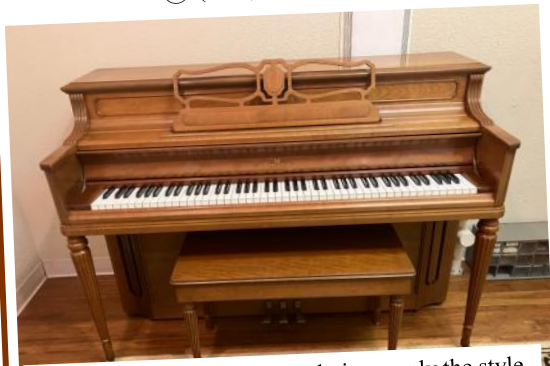


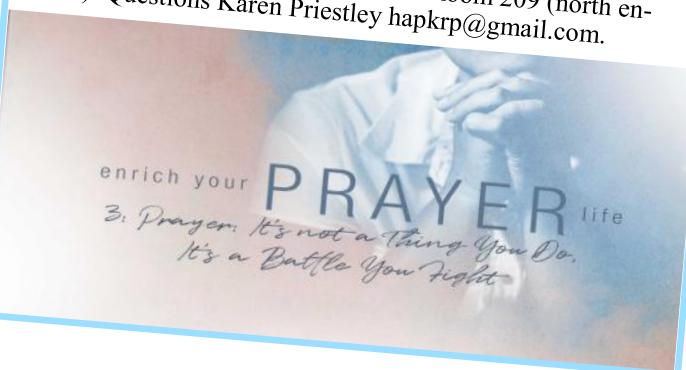
Photo doesn't show the actual piano, only the style.

If all those Christmas Cookies left a few unwanted ounces on your hips... the **Early Birds Exercise Class** can help! We meet Mondays and Thursdays at 8 a.m. for some light, easy and fun exercise and walking (indoors), and we conclude with a brief prayer time. Put on your sweats and join us... you'll feel so much better in no time!



...in the family life center. Contact Joyce: stockslager@gmail.com with questions.

The **Friday Morning Prayer Group**, one of the longest-standing groups at Wyoming Church dating back almost 100 years, is inviting you to **FIGHT!!** despair and disease, heartache and hopelessness... with the most powerful weapon we have as Christians - **PRAYER!** Every Friday morning from 9 to 11 in Room 209 (north entrance). Questions Karen Priestley hapkrp@gmail.com.



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.



You can still dedicate **Flowers on the Altar**, honoring loved ones and remembering special occasions. Check the 2025 sign-up sheets in the altar flower book on the welcome desk for a Sunday to sponsor flowers for a special birthday, anniversary or in memory of a loved one. Arrangements are \$35 each, billed directly to the sponsor by our florist Jen Mor.



For questions, please contact Stacy at (302) 724-0205 or stacy.mcdevitt@yahoo.com.

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? Send greeting cards to these dear church family members? Please contact Donna McCartney at (302) 331-0876.



From the Pastors' Desk

The Wessell Family — Pastors Lindsay
& Rich, Hope, Samuel, Elias



Happy 2025! That's the first time that I (PR) have had to type out the date of the new year, and like most years, I'm sure I'll still be typing the date wrong until April. With the passing of the years there is always a great deal of change. The year 2024 was a year of highs and lows; a time of great change and new possibilities. As we turn the page to 2025, only God knows what will come in the year ahead. We join you in prayer for peaceful transitions, the end of war around the world, for greater safety in our schools and communities, and for a refocusing upon God and God's grace and faithfulness.

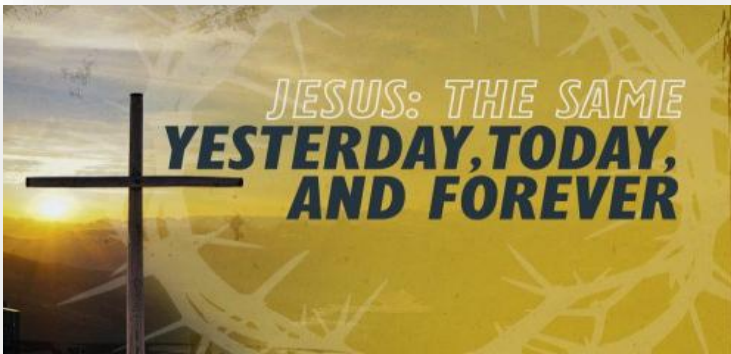
In the midst of what is swirling around us, it is a comfort to know that the Lord is still on the throne, and that God is in control. The writer of Hebrews shares this marvelous truth with us in Hebrews 13:8: *"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever."* I take a great deal of comfort from that statement. The Church has faithfully sought to follow Christ in every age, and the Lord has given us the answers for how to stand firm and to meet the challenges of every generation. Though all around us may change like shifting sand, the Lord our God is the One who was, is, and is to come, and

He will never change (Revelation 1:8). He is our Rock and our Fortress, and when we draw our strength and confidence from Him, we can live our lives

with holy boldness and confidence because, at the end of the day, God is there.

We pray that 2025 is a year of great blessing and hope for you and your family. Take the time to recognize the gift that this new year brings and put this time to the best possible use, to the glory of God. We pray that you will take the time this year to deepen your faith through worship, Bible study, and prayer. We hope you will take the time this year to join in fellowship with friends and fellow believers.

We hope you will prayerfully consider giving of your time, resources, and effort in acts of love and service to our neighbors. **May God's richest blessings be yours in this new year!**



If you'd like to learn or improve on your Sign Language skills...

... there is an **ASL Sign Language Class** for you
@ Wyoming Church:

Beginners' class in-person :

Tuesdays at 6:30PM - Accepting new students through the end of January.

Intermediate I students' classes in-person :

Mondays at 3PM & online : Wednesdays at 4:30PM*

Advanced II students' classes online :

Mondays at 6PM*

*Interested persons can test into these levels to improve their skills.

All classes are \$2 per session, pay as you attend.

All classes are taught by Gail Garner, who also interprets Sunday worship services (I I AM first, third and fourth Sundays, 9AM second Sundays) and special events at Wyoming Church. Contact her with questions or to sign up for a class: ggarner58@hotmail.com.



Calling all Bakers ... for the

During the Annual Book Sale, the Kitchen Team is holding a **Bake Sale** from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm.

All bakers are welcome to bring their cookies, pies, breads, cakes, and candies

to help us raise funds for things like future scholarships, camperships, and other kitchen projects. It helps if items are packaged ready to sell: cookies in baggies and larger items wrapped with plastic wrap or containers that work for you. Donations can be dropped off on Saturday January 25 at the Bake Table in the Family Life Center between 7:30 am and 9:30 am. Thanks so much for your help!



on Saturday,
January 25th!

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 **January 18, 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.

and... 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.



Saturday, January 11

from 10 AM to 12 noon.

Food Collection

Food and other items will be collected for *Kent Interfaith*, a co-operative effort among churches in the Dover area. **Thanks for your willingness to feed the hungry 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!! The ONLY paper products needed are paper towels and antibacterial wipes.



Mobile Food Drive
outside Wyoming Church
on **Friday, January 24th**
from 9 to 11 AM



Sub Sale!

The WUMC Youth are raising funds again for their mission trip this summer. They are selling made-to-order Turkey and Italian subs!

Look for order forms at the display in the narthex and online at wyomingumc.com soon (starting 1/12).

Please fill in 1 form per sub and place the forms in the basket - by February 2nd.

Subs available for pick up on Saturday, February 8th between 11:30AM and 1:30 PM or after all services Sunday February 9th.

**Monthly FINANCIAL REPORT
November, 2024**

	2024 Offering	2024 Expense
Weekly Offerings	\$ 481,828.25	
Facilities and Other	\$ 29,834.29	
Totals	\$ 511,662.54	\$ 500,966.96
Net Operating	10,695.58	

Your Giving Envelopes for 2025 are at the south end of the narthex. If you don't have a giving number yet, you can sign up for one there, as well. Blessed to work in ministry together with you!

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!

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.



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.

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





It's time to start collecting the needed items for our **New Day Pregnancy Care Center** baby shower!

During January Wyoming Church will help 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 drop off these items in the Pack 'n Play or 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's fill our Pack and Play to overflowing!!!

New Day's January Needs

- *Wipes
- *Size 5 diapers
- Pull Ups- 2T-3T
- Pull Ups-3T-4T
- Baby bottles
- Diaper cream
- Jesus Storybook Bibles

The above are the most needed items, but they will, of course, except any baby donations.

*** extremely low amounts in stock**

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!

The WUMC Nursery is in need of volunteers for our 9:00 service! We are looking for people who want to spend an hour once every few weeks with the youngest members of our congregation. Scan the QR code below to provide your contact information to the Nursery Supervisor, Karissa Mann, to get on the schedule!

Requirements:
 -Must be an ADULT (18+)
 -Must be willing to complete a background check
 -Must be willing to commit to one date in a three month schedule where they stay for the full length of the service



The **WUMC Nursery is in need of volunteers** for our 9AM service! We are looking for people who want to spend an hour once every few weeks with the youngest members of our congregation. Scan the QR code to provide your contact info to the Nursery Supervisor, Karissa Mann. Requirements: must be an adult (18+), willing to complete a background check, commit to one date in a 3-month schedule to stay for the full length of the worship service.

A Word of Thanks from the Editor.

As we step into this new year, full of new opportunities for improving the world around us, let's take a moment and look back on 2024... in *Gratitude!*

For the benefits of *Gratitude*, I'm quoting excerpts of the most recent publication by the John Templeton Foundation - food for thought for one great year - and beyond!

The Roman politician and orator Cicero famously called gratitude "not only the greatest of the virtues but the parent of all the others." ... Throughout history and around the world, religious leaders and philosophers have extolled the virtue of gratitude. Some have even described gratitude as "social glue" that fortifies relationships - between friends, family, and romantic partners - and serves as the backbone of human society.

...
Whether one finds oneself on the giving or the receiving end, there is something undeniably compelling about gratitude. Over the past decade researchers ... and hundreds of others have published studies looking at the nature of gratitude, how we might cultivate it, and what effects that cultivation might have. Gratitude has been shown to be correlated with many other positive physical and psychological outcomes... a handful of studies suggest that more grateful people may be healthier, and others suggest that scientifically designed practices to increase gratitude can also improve health and encourage the adoption of healthier habits. ...

Gratitude may also benefit people with various medical and psychological challenges. For example, one study found that more grateful cardiac patients reported better sleep, less fatigue, and lower levels of cellular inflammation, while another found that heart

failure patients who kept a gratitude journal for eight weeks were more grateful and had reduced signs of inflammation afterwards. Several studies have found that more grateful people experience less depression and are more resilient following traumatic events. ...

Multiple studies have also found that people with higher levels of dispositional gratitude have signs of better psychological health, including higher levels of perceived social support and lower levels of stress, depression, and anxiety. ...

Since evidence links gratitude to a host of psychological benefits, it stands to reason that activities encouraging people to feel more grateful might produce similar benefits. ... In one study, people who wrote about their blessings weekly for 10 weeks reported feeling more optimistic about the following week; they also felt better about their overall lives than did participants who wrote about daily hassles or ordinary events in their lives. In another study, people who wrote down three things that went well, and identified the causes of those good things, reported increased happiness six months after the week-long intervention. ...

In recent years, studies have found that more grateful adolescents are more interested and satisfied with their school lives, are more kind and helpful, and are more socially integrated.

... A handful of studies suggest that gratitude may help employees perform their jobs more effectively, feel more satisfied at work, and act more helpfully and respectfully toward their coworkers.

You may read the entire publication at <https://www.templeton.org>. Regardless if you do or not, I wish you a blessed year filled with good health, success, fun and - Gratitude!



The elves have finished their work! Thank you to our countless members who contributed to the 2024 Christmas Gift drive! You helped 29 families which included 67 children have a very merry Christmas! 17 special needs adults were given gifts as well! You performed a Christmas blessing for our community in Christ's name!



Library *news*

January

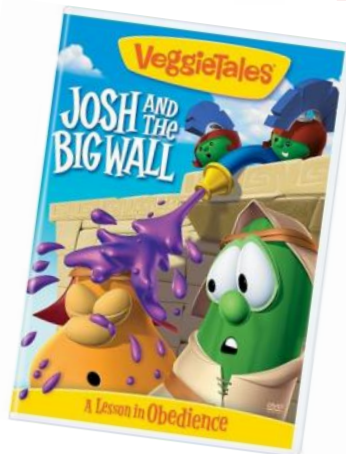
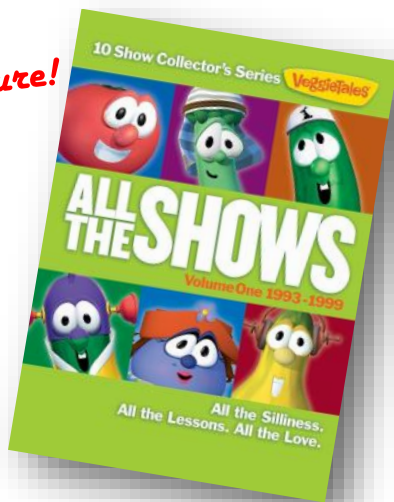


At the Fanny Marvel Church Library, check out a book, audio book or DVD and return it when you're done. Take home (and keep!) a puzzle and/or some magazines and/or any item on display outside the library door!



Veggie Tales!
For the young and young at heart - all your favorite Bible stories presented in a most fun and entertaining way!

Eat your veggies...
Watch Veggie Tales!



Avid readers... check out the **WUMC Book Discussion Club!**

We meet **every fourth Wednesday at 7PM - next time on January 22!**

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?



Book Discussion Group's 2025 Reading List & Meeting Dates

- January 22 - The Same Bright Stars by Ethan Joella
- February 26 - The Rose Arbor by Rhys Bowen
- March 26 - Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell by Robert Dugoni
- April 23 - The Island of Sea Woman by Lisa See
- May 28 - Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby VanPelt
- June 25 - The Kitchen Front by Jennifer Ryan
- July 23 - The God of the Woods by Liz Moore
- August 27 - Brave by Mesu Andrews
- September 24 - It Ends with Us by Colleen Hoover
- October 22 - The Women by Kristin Hannah
- November 19 - Christmas in Bethel by Richard Paul

Sunday Morning @ WUMC

One of the highlights of our service is held at the beginning of worship during Children's Time. Pastor Rick has a unique way of capturing the attention of all of our youngest parishioners in a gathering at the front of the sanctuary. Each Sunday, the message or story is unique, and is usually related to the theme of the sermon of the day. He starts the activity by asking the children if they have experienced anything good during the preceding week. Their heartfelt responses are priceless. Pastor Rick never misses a beat with his comeback responses, obvious love of the kids and positive demeanor with the entire group. The children then go on to listen, question and comment during the brief teaching moment, comfortable with their pastor in their church. The youth are the future of Wyoming Methodist. Aren't we lucky to have this special time to watch them grow in God's love?

Pastor Rick pictured on crazy Christmas Sunday with his Children's Time group.

Submitted by Kathi Thomas



One of Wyoming Church's most trusted Trustees, **Warren Field**, has retired from the Board. Through his tenure, Warren has worn many hats most faithfully, the best-known one to our congregation probably his management of the **lawncare** around our beautiful church.

Warren, Your service on the Board of Trustees has been much appreciated and highly valued. Go with God's rich blessings into well-deserved 'retirement' from those duties.

You can see Warren, **lead usher** at the I AM worship service longer than anyone cares to remember, handing you a bulletin with a smile at the church door most every Sunday morning and on special occasions, too.

If you worship at I AM and wouldn't mind coming in a half hour before the service, ask him how you can serve on his team of ushers.



Warren & Judy Field



Well-deserved ice cream @ Chincoteague, Virginia!

THANK YOU, Chris Cattie

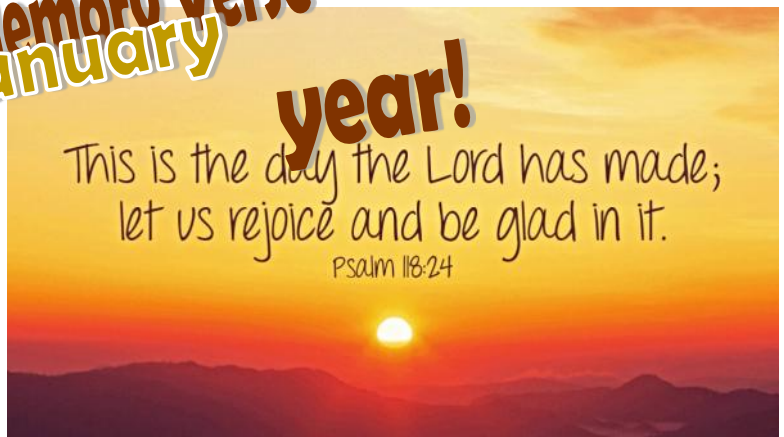
(pictured with his son Christopher at a scouts field trip to the NASA facility at Wallops Island) and to all the scouts of our chartered Troop 24, as Monday after Monday after Monday, after their meetings they've been setting up tables & chairs for events in the family life center that week. We appreciate you!

Memory Verse
January

year!

This is the day the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Psalm 118:24



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. In November the team received two updated proposals with a third proposal promised by shortly after Thanksgiving. We also received bad news concerning a roof mounted solar array. The structural engineer who looked at our blueprints of the roof felt the roof did not have the reserve capacity for solar panels without reinforcement. An architect who was also involved with the assessment of the roof said that such reinforcement would have significant cost.

The task force team met on December 11th along with Trustees to discuss the updated proposals and report from the structural engineer and architect. The Solar Power task Force team voted to recommend a ground mount proposal from Paradise Energy Solutions. The Trustees then voted to recommend adoption of the proposal to Executive Team.

On Sunday, December 15th, after a presentation of the proposal, the Executive Team voted to move the proposal forward to the entire church for a vote on acceptance or not. The church vote is scheduled for Monday, January 13, at 6:30 PM.

Now some facts and figures. The total cost for the project is \$278,300. This represents about 2/3 of our total free cost, which we would pay in total by the end of the installation of the

project. However, we would receive an incentive from Delmarva Power of \$35,000 within a few months of completion of the project. We also will receive a credit from the federal government for \$83,400 although we will not receive that until sometime in 2026.

These two incentives will bring the net cost of installation for us down to \$159,810. Then there is the savings that will we will save on our electric use. Our year one electric savings is estimated at \$11,050. If the average annual electric rate of inflation is 1%, by year 30 we will have saved \$355,149. If the rate of inflation is 3%, our savings will be \$481,949. When

compared to our net installation cost, the church will be saving somewhere from \$170,000 to \$320,000 over 30 years.

Finally, this solar power project helps us contribute in at least a small way to helping fight climate change. By doing this project, we will offset 98.2 tons of CO₂ a year. We are also sending a message to our community and United Methodist Conference that we care about this world The Lord has given us and the people in it.

Once again, the task force would like you to know it is pleased to have this opportunity to do our part in helping to take care this beautiful world The Lord has given us while saving the church a great deal of money.



New Year - Next Bench!! Recycle Plastic for our 4th Trex Bench.

In the course of two years, we have collected over 3,000 lbs (three thousand pounds) of plastic, in other words:

we have **three** Trex benches now!

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!

- 1/1 Kim Bryan, Adam Hanna, Viviane Salib Gourgy
- 1/4 Sue Rigby
- 1/7 Chris Cattie
- 1/8 Taylor Bradley, Deedee Duncan
- 1/10 David Fontanez, Dawn Melson-Williams
- 1/12 Diane Metsch
- 1/13 Scott Kannon
- 1/14 R.B. Downing, Tim Stant
- 1/16 Ian Fox, **Brayden Whitenight**
- 1/17 Christopher Saxton
- 1/20 Karen deBloois, Jamie Ahl Ditty, Vonnie Williams
- 1/21 Tina Klecan, Greg Williams
- 1/22 Kirsten Higgins
- 1/24 James Miller
- 1/25 Nikole Moore
- 1/26 Marilyn Massey, Jenn Volk
- 1/28 Dotty Baker, Marie Henriques, Kyle Hodges
- 1/29 **Brad Whitenight**
- 1/31 Becky Minor

- 2/1 Amy Schmidt, Rick Sharpe
- 2/2 Chuck Muldrow
- 2/3 Doug Ditty, Amy Higgins
- 2/4 Aiden Flaherty, Lucas Quiroz
- 2/6 Judy Field
- 2/7 Norma Bennett

~ Our People ~

~ Birth ~

Christel Valladares was born to Samantha Valladares on November 5, 2024. Congratulations also to proud grandparents, Rene & Dawn Valladares!



I Dear WUMC Family and Friends, My family and I cannot thank all of you enough for your overwhelming prayers, cards, and support as I miraculously recovered from a scary November 24th. I am extremely grateful and give God all of the glory for pulling me through and getting me back in the arms of my family with zero deficits in a record 2 days. Having all of you checking in, offering hugs, being willing to help wherever needed, continued to speed my recovery and get me back to all of you the following Sunday morning. So blessed! May this Christmas bring you many moments of joy! I know I'll be singing an extra number of "Hallelujahs!!" Merry Christmas and Thank You!! Love to all, Robyn, Aaron, Austyn, and Wyatt Lefort



~ New Member ~

Susan Russell joined Wyoming Church on December 8, 2024.



... to our church family!!

~ Death ~

Kate Krieger the daughter of Ed Krieger passed away on November 28, 2024

Memorial Services will be at Wyoming Church on Saturday, January 18th at 11 AM.



The New Pictorial Directory is in the works ... and will be for a while yet. In the meantime, if you would like an updated directory (addresses only), please let the office know to have one printed.

Noteworthy Grounds Plantings.

As the years roll by at our Wyoming United Methodist Church's current site we sometimes tend to take for granted some of the subtle changes that occur in the plantings that help to make our location the attraction that it is.

For example, the landscaped bed to the right of the South Entrance is themed with varieties of Burning Bush and a Fig shrub --- both meant to evoke links to the Holy Land. Please note that the Fig is about to undergo a long-promised trim and/or a transplant to a more favorable site on the grounds.

At the East end of the South Parking Lot are three flourishing plantings of which two are Oaks that are native to the Delmarva Peninsula. However, the third planting is 'far from home!' This third planting is a Deodar Cedar which is native to the Himalayas and is genetically related to the famed Cedars of Lebanon. Finally, whenever you exit left from the South Parking Lot heading towards Wyoming, a QUICK glance to your left near our south property boundary will reveal a young Loblolly Pine that has been designated a Sentinel Pine for the Church.

These plantings, in combination with the other professionally placed shrubs and trees that surround our Wyoming Church, provide an inviting sense of welcome to all.

Safe Secure Sanctuary --- Ready For January Through June '25!

Thanks to all the many 'veteran' and several 'new' members that have volunteered to serve as Monitors, Ushers, Greeters and Stewards in the forthcoming January through the end of June schedule, we will have a record number of good folks serving in our church wide Safe Secure Sanctuary (S3) Program.

To a very large degree much of the success of the S3 Program is due to Mike and Dawn Williams's 9:00 AM Sunday

Service ushering and to the efforts of Warren and Judy Field and their fellow volunteer Ushers at the 11:00 AM Sunday Morning Service.

Based on past experience, I am certain that there will be some additional opportunities to serve as Greeters that arise during the next six months. If you feel led to learn more about the service provided by Monitors, Ushers, Greeters and/or Stewards please see Terry on Sunday mornings.

The Memorial Garden Is Open To All!

Our Wyoming Church's Memorial Garden, located just off the East Side of the South Parking Lot, is invitingly open to all for contemplation, prayers and reflections every day of the year. In fact, the preparation of a Memorial Garden Brick is a very simple process that begins by selecting an Application Paper from the Memorial Garden Model that is to be found in the Narthex, complete the application process and return the completed form to Terry Higgins.

The placing of a Memorial Garden Brick is a very nice way to honor the memory of a loved one or of a person who has played an important role in your life. Memorial Garden Bricks receive perpetual care every day of the year.



Prayers For Healing, Thanksgiving, Peace And More At January's Prayer Breakfast!

You are welcome to attend **January's Prayer Breakfast** on **Saturday the 25th** --- we meet the fourth Saturday of every month through November --- to experience the opportunity of transforming prayer. Bring all of your prayer requests be they for the individual, the Church, nation or world.

We will begin by **gathering at 7:30 AM** in the Community Room at Tre Sorelle Dolce on Railroad Avenue in Wyoming. Upon arrival and greeting you will fill out your Breakfast order from whence it will be sent 'across the tracks' to Mike And Mel's Restaurant where it will be duly prepared and returned to us at the peak of perfection.

We will plan to spend a good hour in collective and individual prayer as we consider all of the prayer requests that are brought before us. Believing in the healing and transformative power of prayer will be the basis for our prayer efforts. The last half hour of our time together will be well spent enjoying our food and table fellowship. We will complete our time together with a closing corporate prayer.

Terry Higgins will serve as the prayer leader for January with Jack Freidel as the prayer leader for February.

OMG – Oh My Goodness...

we laughed with the puppets



we camped @ Pecometh
thy word and a light unto my path



we baptized new members

we built a pavilion



we worked @ Niagara



we received awards



we enjoyed sweet treats



we knitted hats & things



we fed the hungry



we painted pumpkins



we revamped the youth room



...and how much of it through 2024!



we cleaned up the road



we found treasures at two Craft Shows



we enjoyed sweet treats



we danced with the ARC



we celebrated a 100th birthday



we confirmed in faith



we studied with young adults



we cleaned house



A UNITED METHODIST CONGREGATION

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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 February issue that will be Friday, January 17th. The 12 most recent issues of *The Wyoming Messenger* are available on www.wyomingumc.com - NEWSLETTERS.

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,



begins:

Speaking of
'Christmas Work'... we'll take
down Christmas decorations
on Friday, January 17th,
starting at 9AM.
Please consider helping!

**What are We
waiting for?**

To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among others,
To make music in the heart.

Howard Thurman