Joy Bells



Joy Bells is an opportunity to help those in need this Christmas. We provide a full Christmas Dinner and funds for gifts for the children of families in need. Karyla P. and Jeannine Q. have agreed to coordinate this drive, now in its 30th year!

We ask that you either donate cash to the Joy Bells program (write a check to Wyoming United Methodist Church and put "Joy Bells" in the memo) or purchase $25-$50 gift cards at Target or Walmart and bring them to the church-- whichever is easiest for you. Please include the gift card receipts.

We will see that the families receive the gift cards and a coupon from Bruce's Foods for a Christmas Dinner for their family. We're hoping and praying that you will be generous as always, so we, Wyoming United Methodist Church, can do our part to bring a blessed Christmas to the children and their families. If you have any questions, please call Karyla at 605-680-3208. Deadline for turning in gift cards and donations will be Tuesday, December 1.

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Wyoming United Methodist Church Messenger



November Lectionary Readings

November 1
(All Saints Day)
- Revelation 7:9-17
- Psalm 34:1-10, 22
- 1 John 3:1-3
- Matthew 5:1-12

November 8
- Amos 5:18-24
- Psalm 70
- 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
- Matthew 25:1-13

November 15
- Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18
- Psalm 90:1-12
- 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
- Matthew 25:14-30

November 22
(Christ the King Sunday)
- Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24
- Psalm 95:1-7a
- Ephesians 1:15-23
- Matthew 25:31-46

November 29
(First Sunday of Advent)
- Isaiah 64:1-9
- Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
- 1 Corinthians 1:3-9
- Mark 13:24-37

All-Saints Day

On Sunday November 1st, we celebrated All-Saints Day, a day in which we remember that we are surrounded by a great "cloud of witnesses" as we sojourn through this life. (Heb. 12:1) It is a day to acknowledge the great saints and martyrs of the church, and the ordinary believers who have gone on to glory. This beautiful service was attended by the families of many members of our church who died in the past year, who honored them by lighting candles in their memory.

Pledge Drive information

Now that fall's chilly embrace is upon us, it is pledge season. Pledge cards were sent out last week form our church. Filling out a pledge card that estimates how much you are able to give is a helpful tool for our church so that we can forecast our income and plan our budgets for the next year accordingly. Please take the time to prayerfully consider how much you are able to give to the church in the coming year. Your generosity is crucial to making all we do here at the church, both within and without these walls, possible. Please return your Estimate of Giving Card either by coming to worship on Sunday, November 22nd or by stamping the enclosed envelope with your card inside and sending it through the mail.



November Mission Focus

Focusing our hearts on the Rosebud Indian Reservation throughout November, our church family has a unique opportunity to bless this vital ministry. Following Reuben F. and missionary partner Karen Paul's recent trip to South Dakota, they have successfully delivered loads of supplies and spent meaningful time listening to the needs of the Sicangu Sioux community.

While the ministry faithfully accepts tangible goods year-round to store for future trips, the upcoming winter months limit travel. To ensure continuous care, our primary focus for November will be financial support. Monetary gifts allow the ministry to buy food and essential resources locally or ship them directly via commercial carriers during the winter.

If you would like to financially bless the mission this month, please make checks payable to Wyoming UMC with "Rosebud Mission" written on the memo line. Thank you for your continued prayers and sacrificial generosity as we step in to support this important work!

From the Pastor…

My Friends,

We are now in the thick of fall and its chilly embrace. Temperatures are dropping, the leaves have turned and are beginning to fall, and days are getting shorter. I adore this time of year. November is also a time to remember our mortality – as the bounty and green of summer slowly fades into the deathly cold of winter, we remember our own bodies on their inevitable march towards death. *Memento Mori* – remember to die. This is a phrase found in ancient stoicism and was quite common in medieval Christianity. Artistic depictions of death, skulls, or even the *Danse macabre* were used to remind people of their mortality and the fragile nature of our bodily existence. In the words of the genius American songwriter Hank Williams: "No matter how I struggle and strive, I'll never get out of this world alive."

I find myself thinking about death quite frequently in this line of work. As a pastor I pray with people as they are approaching death and with grieving families. I plan and perform funeral and memorial services. As a preacher and teacher, I try to speak to the realities of our finite existence in a way that never hides from or denies the reality of death. A Christianity that tries to do so will always function merely as escapism, rather than representing the eternal truth of God.

On November 1st , we celebrated All-Saints Day. In our service, we remembered the saints of the church who have gone before us and who remain as a presence with us, lighting candles in their memory. It was a remarkable and moving thing to witness. All-Saints Day provides a space to acknowledge our grief and demonstrate our ongoing love for the people who continue to dwell within our hearts.

One of the key aspects of the Christian gospel is the assurance that even in our death and our mortality, we continue to belong to God. Death no longer represents a final separation from our creator. We continue to be with God who raised Christ to glory, even as we face the end of our earthly existence. We belong eternally to God's glory. As a result, death loses its power to determine our lives and our existence. As St. Paul wrote: "For I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Rom. 8:38-39)

In this transition to winter's darkness, remember your mortality. Honor those whose loss you grieve. Yet stay grounded in that hope to which Paul points us – even in our death, we are God's children, held in eternal divine love.



Grace and Peace,
- Pastor Jeff Speaks

November Celebrations

Birthdays

11-01	Scott K.
	Renee S.
11-02	Dick S.
11-05	Nicholas J.
11-08	Karl L.
11-09	Emma A.
11-10	Glenna Q.
11-11	Rondy Q.
11-17	Aiden V.
11-18	Yvonne B.

* If we don't have your special date listed, please contact the church office!



A New Lectionary Year

With the beginning of the season of Advent, the liturgical calendar of the church begins anew. This also will mark the beginning of a new cycle of scripture readings from the Revised Common Lectionary. The RCL is divided up into a three-year cycle of readings, each of which focuses on one of the three synoptic gospels: Matthew, Mark, and Luke (John does not get its own year, but it is frequently read during holy days of the church and it gets a little extra time during Mark's year). On Sunday November 29th, the first Sunday of Advent, we will turn our attention to Mark, the Gospel for year B.

The Gospel According to Mark is believed by most scholars to be the first of the four gospels written, dated to approximately 70 CE. Mark is also believed to have been a source used for the writings of both Luke and Matthew, who expanded on Mark's narrative with additional sources. The gospel has traditionally been attributed to Mark the Evangelist, who served as an interpreter and companion for St. Peter. As always, I encourage you to read along with the lectionary texts each week as a guide to your private Bible study. If reading all four texts is too much, then the gospel reading is a great place to start!

Adult Education Corner

The fall Adult Education series, *Set Our Hearts on Fire: The Holy Spirit and Christian Life*, will not be meeting on Thursday, November 5th. The final session of this class will be held on Thursday, November 12th, at 10:00 AM.

Wyoming Gospel Singers Schedule

The next Wyoming Gospel Singers Sunday will be held on November 29th. Rehearsals will be held after church on November 15th and November 22nd. It is not too late to join in the fun! Reach out to Pastor Jeff to get added to the email list regarding music and rehearsal updates, or just show up to rehearsal!

Thank You

This year's fall dinner was a great success! So many people volunteered to cook and serve and the people from the community showed up in droves. $3,704 was raised for Lakes Center for Youth & Families!

Thank you so much to everyone who took part in this event and a special thank you to Val Verdoorn for her leadership in organizing it!



Christmas Tea

Women are invited to a lovely Christmas Tea on Wednesday, December 9 at 1:30 PM, featuring a festive program, delicious goodies, and time to socialize with friends old and new. We'll also have drawings for gift baskets, treats, and beautiful creations from our Stitch 'n' Rip Quilters!

Those who wish may contribute to our Joy Bells program, which provides Christmas gifts and a full holiday dinner for children, youth, and families experiencing a time of struggle.

If you're planning to attend, please watch for an RSVP signup sheet coming soon in the nook.

If you're able to help with planning, setup, or serving, please sign up now on the Helpers sheet or talk with Deb M.

Come and bring a friend!