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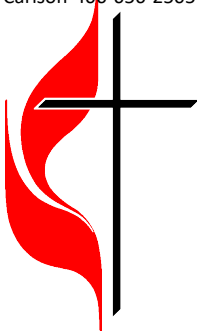
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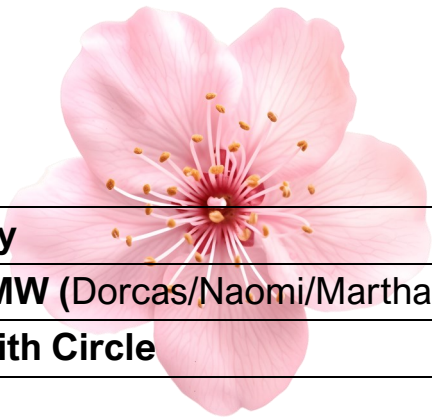
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United Women in Faith

Joy	Meetings resume in September 9th
UMW (Dorcas/Naomi/Martha)	Meetings resume in August 19th
Faith Circle	Meetings resume in September 16th

Joy Circle

Our next meeting will be on Monday, September 9th. We hope to see you then!
 Contact: Kim Lewis at
 kimberlylewis1968@gmail.com
 406-927-2487



Faith Circle

We hope to see you all again Monday, September 16th.
 For more information contact: Rena Bucher at
 rwbucher13@gmail.com or
 406-850-1674



United Methodist Women

Dorcas, Naomi, and Martha Circles have combined and are now known as the **UMW Circle**. We hope to see you all again Monday, August 19th. Call Joyce Brown at 406-259-4666 with any questions.



Join us for Methodist Night at the Mustangs Saturday, August 24th

You're invited to join us for a fun night of food, fellowship, and baseball. On Saturday, August 24th we will gather with United Methodists from Billings and Laurel for dinner at Dehler Park (starting at 5:30 pm). After dinner under the pavilion, we will make our way to our seats for the baseball game. Tickets to this event are \$27 per person and that includes dinner and a ticket to the game. Sign up at your Methodist church today!

The Messenger

August 2024

Go quickly! Tell his disciples, 'He has risen from the dead.'

Matthew 28:7

Blessings, I pray that God is smiling with you as we bake in the warmth of summer and are gently reminded that God is doing new and wonderful things around and with us. May you continue to reflect God's wonderful presence in the world.

Today, as I am writing, I am thinking of the one person Jesus chose to let the world know he was alive. One person who went and told the disciples, and twelve that changed the world. It all began with one. Here, today, we are embracing amazing changes with our church. We are growing, we are addressing the heating and cooling systems of the building, we are serving more people, and we are seeing new people join the congregation. And I am reminded that it all began with one person, just as it is beginning with you.

You have the ability to change the world. God has blessed you with amazing talents and gifts that will change the world you live in and everything you touch. I wonder if you know how amazing you are and all you can do. When you think about the disciples starting church as we know it, can we change Billings? Can we make a difference to end hunger in Yellowstone County? Or house more people? Or lift folks to believe in Jesus as their Savior?

The answer is yes! We can do this and so much more. So, as we wrap up summer, I invite you to dream big dreams. Think of how you want to change the world. Think of how you want to change your church to better serve the community we serve. You can do it. You can change the world. God has given you the message and asked you to deliver it. So, what will your message be? What will you change in the world? Call me and let me know. I would love to help you make a difference for all who come next. Bless you and all the great work you do.

Amen.


Rev. Patrick Lewis



Sandwich Ministry
Tuesdays, August 6, 13

W2E Board Meeting
Thursday, August 8

Out Of the Darkness
Thursday, August 1, 15

Joy Circle
Resumes September 9

UMW
(Dorcas/Naomi/Martha)
Resumes August 19

Faith Circle
Resumes September 16

SPRC Meeting
Thursday, August 15

Finance Team
Thursday, August 15

Church Council Meeting
Thursday, August 15

Stewardship Meeting
Tuesday, August 20

Little Seeds Board Meeting
Tuesday, August 20

Trustees Meeting
Thursday, August 22



INTRODUCING MOUNTAIN SKY CONFERENCE'S NEW BISHOP

Earlier this month, the delegates to the Western Jurisdiction Conference prayed, discussed, and discerned episcopal leadership for our jurisdiction. Two new bishops were elected and consecrated, one of which is the new bishop for the Mountain Sky Conference, replacing Bishop Karen. Bishop Kristin Stoneking has served churches in Kansas and California. In addition, she has been a campus minister at UC Davis, was the Executive Director of the Fellowship for Reconciliation, served as a District Superintendent as well as the Director of Ministry Innovation and Congregational Development in the California-Nevada Annual Conference, and most recently was appointed as the Associate Professor of United Methodist Studies and Leadership at Pacific School of Religion. She holds a PhD from the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley.

Our new bishop has ties to our conference. She credits her childhood friend, who lives in Colorado, as one of the people she looks forward to spending quality time with and anticipates participating in activities she's watched from afar — our conference's passion for a mission-focused, active community. When asked for one thing she appreciates about the Mountain Sky Conference Bishop Stoneking said, "I see and feel your abundance of love." The bishop will begin her duties officially on September 1, 2024.



BELIZE MISSION TRIP

Just 2 Spots are still Available for the Belize Mission Trip!

Pastor Pat and Kim will be leading a mission trip to Corozal, Belize January 31- February 7, 2025, through the United Methodist Volunteers in Mission. Our projects will be construction-oriented, as well as serving the community, sharing children's ministry and teaching valuable life skills. The cost of the trip is approximately \$3,000 per person. This includes airfare, lodging, most meals, project costs, ground transportation and other in-country expenses. We have filled 14 of the 16 spots and have room for 2 more to join us! For more info contact Kim at 406-927-2487 or kimberlylewis1968@gmail.com

Lay Leader Report

by Paige Thompson

The Mountain Sky Annual Conference was held in late June in Casper, Wyoming. I was unable to attend in person but was able to attend online. There were several inspirational presentations and messages; the one I would like to share with you is Bishop Karen Oliveto's closing remarks. She charged all of us in the Mountain Sky District with the following:

Honor the connection (large or small, we are better together)

Respect and enjoy diversity in this conference

Live out our faith joyfully!

Be creative in caring for small churches (UM Churches are a bulwark for democracy)

Continue to deepen Mountain Sky's identity

Keep standing with those on the margins (otherwise not a true community)

Allow yourself to be uncomfortable (keep standing in love)

Make space for the young (young and old are both needed)

Let the Holy Spirit in for growing and changing (change needs to be embraced)

Release energy and talent of laity

Bishop Karen concluded with saying that each church is a light-let your light shine!

Vacation Bible School 2024



(Continued...)

The Free Project is Almost Here!

How Can You Get Involved?

You might be wondering how to be a part of this impactful event and show love to your neighbors. Here are several ways you can participate:

- 1. Donate gently used clean items** (place under the stairs at the 4th Ave entrance) during these hours: T-TH 10am-2pm or on Sunday during worship. We take almost anything: furniture (no refrigerators!), household goods, bikes, outdoor goods, and clothing & shoes in good shape. If you need hauling assistance, contact Dean at 406-545-9316 or Rex 406-860-3809 to arrange for a pickup from your home. Special evening drop offs: Tues 8/6 and Wed 8/7 from 5-7pm
- 2. Volunteer!** We have opportunities for you to use gifts in almost any way! We need volunteers beginning Monday, August 5 and throughout the week. During this time, you can help sort, set up, organize, put together feminine hygiene packs, weave a sleeping mat, or make sandwiches on the morning of Friday, August 9. On the day of the "Sale" we need volunteers to help customers at the sale, carry items out to peoples' cars, monitor the donation jar, give out feminine hygiene kits, give out back-to-school backpacks, give out sack lunches, greet customers, monitor the "hold" area, or help clean up. Sign-up to volunteer here: volunteersignup.org/JQERH or sign-up at church in the next few weeks.
- 3. Pray, Pray, Pray!** Your prayers are vital! Please pray for the event's success and for the individuals we will serve.
- 4. Donate items** for feminine hygiene and back-to-school kits. Items needed: tampons, sanitary pads, new or gently used backpacks, pencils, crayons, spiral notebooks, markers, children's scissors, and glue sticks. Here are links to order directly from Amazon and have the items delivered to church.
 - * **Tampons:** https://www.amazon.com/Amazon-Basics-Absorbency-Unscented-Previously/dp/B09JGTVWVR/ref=sr_1_18crid=36YTYLAXKJ8WJ&keywords=amazon%2Bbrand%2Bfeminine%2Bhygiene%2Bproducts&qid=1679761590&srefix=amazon%2Bbrand%2Bfeminine%2Bhygiene%2Bproducts%2Caps%2C176&sr=8-18&th=1
 - * **Pads:** https://www.amazon.com/Always-Ultra-Super-Wings-Unscented/dp/B011Z5FDN/ref=sr_1_33crid=32GI686FLCRX1&keywords=feminine+hygiene+products&qid=1679762263&srefix=feminine+hygiene+products%2Caps%2C187&sr=8-33
 - ◆ **Pantliners:** https://www.amazon.com/Carefree-Acti-Fresh-Liners-Regular-Unscented/dp/B00NJJ6O6/ref=sr_1_59crid=36YTYLAXKJ8WJ&keywords=amazon+brand+feminine+hygiene+products&qid=1679761590&srefix=amazon+brand+feminine+hygiene+products%2Caps%2C176&sr=8-59
- 5. For the actual shopping experience**, here are other needed items: small pieces of luggage, rolling bags/duffle bags/recyclable bags, and large tubs. If you have anything that that you would like to donate, please drop by church between 11am-2pm Tuesday-Thursday or Sunday morning.
- 6. Bring cookies**, applesauce packets and chips. Help us sweeten the sack lunches by donating cookies, either homemade or store-bought. We will also include individual servings of applesauce and chips. Drop off by Thurs 8/8.

Thank you, church family! Together, we are truly Blessed to be a Blessing. Let's make the Free Project a wonderful experience for all!



Help Create Plarn Sleeping Mats for the Homeless!



We invite you to join us in a rewarding project that combines creativity, compassion, and community service: making plarn (plastic yarn) sleeping mats for the homeless!

Sleeping mats for the unhoused will be made on Sundays at FUMC for distribution at the Free Project! Thanks to a partnership with Just Serve, Billings First UMC members will be able to help create sleeping mats for our homeless friends.

What is Plarn? Plarn is made from recycled plastic bags, transforming waste into a valuable resource. These mats provide comfort and insulation for individuals experiencing homelessness, offering them a much-needed place to rest.

Why Plarn Sleeping Mats?

1. Sustainability: By recycling plastic bags, we reduce waste and protect our environment.
2. Comfort: Plarn mats provide a soft, waterproof surface that helps shield against the elements.
3. Community Impact: Every mat made represents our commitment to caring for our neighbors in need.

Fun fact: it takes 600-700 recycled plastic bags to make a 6' x 2 ½' mat with two-inch straps and carry handle. We want to make as many as possible to giveaway during the Free Project August 10!

How You Can Help

Now until the Free Project, every Sunday you are invited to help us from 9:15-10:30am or 11:30-12pm.

We're looking for volunteers of all ages to join us in this impactful initiative. This is a super-easy way to support the Free Project and help our homeless neighbors! Here's how you can get involved:

- Flatten and cut bags
- Loop bags to create plarn
- Weave

PLEASE BRING IN YOUR PLASTIC GROCERY STORE BAGS!



FUMC Hosts Family Promise September 8-15, 2024

Sign ups for meals, hosts, and other helpers will be at the Connection Corner after worship on August 11, 18, and 25. You can also contact Paige Thompson at 509-679-7001 or paigegthompson@outlook.com if you would like to volunteer for this fruitful event.

FREE PROJECT
2800 4th Ave N
Billings First United Methodist Church

BILLINGS FREE PROJECT

WORKING TOGETHER TO BLESS OUR COMMUNITY

**Sat, August 10
8 AM - 2 PM**

The poster includes three photographs: the top one shows the exterior of the church building; the middle one shows a large indoor event space with many people and tables; the bottom one shows a truck being loaded with supplies.

FREE Sale	Family Promise Diaper Bank	FREE Supplies
Donations Needed (clean new or used items) <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Housewares✓ Linen✓ Toys/Baby Items✓ Books✓ Kids Clothes✓ Furniture	Drop Off Location/Times FUMC 2800 4th Ave N Mon-Thur 10-2 4th Ave Entrance Under the Stairs	FREE Supplies <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Feminine Hygiene Kits✓ Dog Food✓ Toiletries✓ Garden Harvest Foods✓ Sack Lunches
To Volunteer > Sign Up at volunteersignup.org/JQERH or scan  For More Information > Contact Beth Ayers > 406-860-4473 > ayers517@msn.com		

The Free Project is Almost Here!

We are well into our planning for the big day. Mark your calendars for the Free Sale in Brother Van Hall on August 10! This is an amazing opportunity to serve the most needy and vulnerable in our community. We anticipate hundreds of people from our community coming through our doors and receiving the blessings of our love and generosity.

The Free Project is where people can share goods, meals, supplies, and more without any money trading hands. Everything is free! For several years Billings First UMC has offered a dignified “shopping” and sharing experience where community members find opportunities to rebuild, reconnect, and find hope.

(Continued...)