

## *First United Methodist Church*

*2000 W. Lakeway*

*Gillette, WY 82718*

*Return Service Requested*

*To Our Friends:*

### **Join Us at First United Methodist Church!**

#### **Sunday Worship Services**

**8:00 a.m. Contemplative**

**9:15-10:15 a.m. Blended Worship**

**10:30-11:30 a.m. Sunday School**

We love kids at FUMC!

*First United Methodist Church is building a Christian community where followers of Jesus advance God's mission for all creation. We do this by reaching up to God, across to our neighbor, and out to the world.*

#### **Office Hours**

Tuesday–Friday 9:00am-2:00pm  
*and by appointment*

#### **Pastor: Cory Young**

*Administrative Assistant:* Meghan Davies

*Custodian:* Sheila Huckins

*Nursery:* Sheila Huckins/Meghan Davies

First United  
Methodist Church  
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Gillette, WY 82718

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We're on the Web!  
*See us at:*  
www.imaginefaith.com

Friend us on Facebook &  
now follow us on Twitter  
@FUMCGillette



Open Hearts

Open Minds

Open Doors

A Monthly Publication of

*First United  
Methodist  
Church*

2000 W. Lakeway Rd  
Gillette, WY 82718

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## **The Pastor's Door**

## **Reverend Cory Young**

Now that the holidays are all but over, life seems to get back to normal. We go back to school, we have finished traveling to see family and friends, we have to set an alarm so we can get up on time for work, and slowly the Christmas lights in our neighborhoods are turned off and taken down. It seems like in two weeks we will forget that Christmas ever happened. We find ourselves lamenting over the darkness coming so early, and yet something inside of us reminds us that even though there will be cold months ahead of us, spring is just around the corner.



Often this time of year I think about to the celebrations that happened in the first century. We don't know a whole lot about weddings, but what we do know is that the celebration lasts for more than a day. According to many scholars, it was believed that wedding celebrations lasted at least a week, if not more. You would celebrate day in and day out, work would be halted, and a time of celebration was at hand. Even Jesus took part in such a celebration!

In the Gospel of John, the first miracle Jesus performs is changing water into wine. Not because he was thirsty but because he was at a wedding, and it was a social misstep for a host to run out of wine before the party ended. Jesus is asked to help, and he does! He makes the wine, the wedding celebration continues, and the host is saved the embarrassment of not being prepared.

What does all of this have to do with the New Year? Well, maybe instead of putting away the decorations you leave them up for a bit longer. Maybe instead of going right back in the routine we do for eleven months of the year, we do something different. Maybe we stay at the wedding party just a bit longer. Granted there is work that always needs to be done, but maybe we need to celebrate a little bit longer.

So often we get to January 2, and it seems the joy of Christmas is gone as we check our emails for the first time in two weeks. We see the meetings that need to happen at work. We find that our time with family stressed us out. Everything we put off for the last two weeks needs to be taken care of right now. Yet, January is more than the first month of the year. It is a time for us to focus on what we experienced over the Advent and Christmas seasons. The waiting, the joy, the sorrow, the worry, the excitement shouldn't just be boxed up.

Take time this month to see how Christ being a part of your life has changed you. See how God’s Love is present long after the Christmas tree is put back in its box and another layer of tape is added to make sure the box stays closed. Christ is present in our lives every day, not just on Christmas or during Holy Week. He stayed at the wedding and we should too. I invite you to pull up a chair, have another cup of eggnog, and enjoy Christ being in our midst.

Happy New Year!

*Rev Cory*



**Trustees**

Dave Dorson and I replaced the light on the rear entry. The FUMC sign on the Burma has had the batteries replaced and looks to be staying on all night.

**A Note From Finance**

It is with great pleasure to announce our Christmas Eve offering for Gillette Assistance League was \$2,508.00. What a blessing you are to our church and to the Gillette Assistance League.

Your generous giving for designated projects through Christmas Eve totals \$23,521.56 for 2024. This does not include your continued support of the Mary Dickey Memorial Scholarship, P.A.C.E.R. (Pumpkin and Christian Event Resources), or UMW.

The pledges for 2025 total \$142,604.00. this leaves us with a \$60,164.84 faith giving to meet our needs for 2025. The finance committee feels this is very doable and thank you to all who give to cover the workings of the church.

MONTH / YEAR	# of SWAPS/ DAYS OPEN	NEW FAMILIES	FAMILIES	CHILDREN	ADULTS	TOTAL SERVED
January-24	3 / 6	30	165	245	222	467
February-24	3 / 7	40	232	373	308	681
March-24	3 / 5	23	204	309	250	559
April-24	3 / 6	28	220	324	290	614
May-24	3 / 6	25	239	360	306	666
June-24	3 / 5	40	264	418	348	766
July-24	2 / 6	34	214	319	290	609
August-24	3 / 7	46	251	474	294	768
September-24	3 / 5	40	176	264	209	473
October-24	3 / 7	51	291	451	364	815
Total						6418

**From Me to You** continues to collect and distribute clothing and miscellaneous items to any person that comes to us. The average number of individuals served this year is 642 per month. We are seeing more homelessness, though. More people living in their cars. Warm socks and underwear (Small, medium and large) are needed. Walmart has been good keeping us supplied with the plus sizes.

After having security cameras up for about a year, the sync module disappeared. It has been replaced, but the booster we purchased to extend the Wi-Fi signal "won't go through a brick wall. You'll have to run a cable from the church building into your building, for around \$1,000.00." as told to Craig. We are considering other options. **Someone with IT and security cameras experience would be a blessing.**

Aside from donations being left outside and the shed and bags being ripped open and gone through inside the shed, all is good at the swap.



Sunday Worship Schedule

8am Contemplative Service  
9:15-10:15 am Blended Worship  
Sunday School 10:30am all ages



Just a friendly reminder, if you are in rooms or using the church please check that ALL lights are off when leaving and doors are locked. We want to maintain the safety of the church. Thank you!!!

On behalf of UMW I would just like to thank all the women who helped and participate in all our events this past year. Thank you for bringing me on as your president of UMW and thanks to Kathrine Ross for leading it the past several years. I'm looking forward to this up coming year. We welcome all women to join us!! Thank you, see you all in 2025!!  
Rochelle



Those traveling, Uncle Lane, families of those killed in plane crash, Jessica, Jeff, job transitions, Esmee, Kary Zahn, Patrick, loss of friends



January 5 Koryn  
January 12 Zelda  
January 19 Ira  
January 26 Emma



Join us January 16th at 6:30pm.



Friendship Circle

Thursday, January 9th at 10am. We will share books you have enjoyed. If you have any, bring books to exchange or get rid of.

OATH

Tuesday, January 21st at noon.



Renaming of the Newsletter. We are looking at changing the name from "Grace Notes" to something else. We need suggestions!! Let Rev. Cory or Meghan know if you have any suggestions on what you would like to see the Newsletter renamed.

**Home Visits**  
If you would like a home visit please contact Rev. Cory

Reminder to watch us live on Facebook Sunday morning for worship!!!  
<https://www.facebook.com/FirstUnitedMethodistofGillette>



Date	Preaching	Worship Leaders	Ushers
January 5	Rev. Cory Young	Alice Speirs	Gray's
January 12	Rev. Cory Young	Shone Gray	Bosecker
January 19	Rev. Cory Young	Thayne Gray	Fox's
January 26	Rev. Cory Young	Sharon Schreurs	Birr's

# JANUARY



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b> 	2	3	4 Soup Kitchen @ 10am
5 Scholarship Committee @ 10:30am 	6	7 Scouts @ 6pm	8 GAL @ 11:30am	9 Friendship Circle @ 10am Finance @ 5:30pm Prayer Shawl @ 6:30pm	10 Meghan out of the office	11
12 Ad Council @ 10:30am	13	14 Jesus and Jack 6pm @Grinners Scouts @ 6pm	15	16	17	18
19	20	21 OATH @ 12pm Scouts @ 6pm	22	23	24	25
26	27	28 Scouts @ 6pm	29	30	31	

Ruth Olson	January 01
Barb Anthes	January 03
Jeff Wasserburger	January 08
Gerald King	January 09
Penny Kremer	January 09
Charla Carlson	January 17
Maurica Hanson	January 18
Zelda Lay	January 18
Patrick Murphy	January 19
Meghan Hanson	January 23
Janet Bosecker	January 25
Kim Lindeman	January 27



Tim and Pat Lear	January 22
Kevin and Marcia Knutson	January 24