



GRACE NOTES

December 2018

Grace United Methodist Church

2950 Spruce Drive, Cheyenne, WY

www.cheyennegraceumc.com

Church Office: gumc@outlook.com

(307)634-7472

Rev. Laura Rainwater: gumcpastor@outlook.com

December Calendar

- December 1 - Circuit Conference 9:00 am Frontier FMC
- December 2 - UMM breakfast 8:00 am Grace Hall
 - Discipleship Team after worship
- December 8 - UMW Cookie Exchange 11:00 am Grace Hall
- December 9 - AMEND Eat N Heat 12:00 noon Grace Hall
- December 14 - Christ's Coffee Shop 6:00 pm Grace Hall
- December 17 - Grace Notes Due!!!!
- December 18 - Christine Circle 9:30 am Grace Hall
- December 20 - Longest Night Service 6:30 pm
- December 24 - Christmas Eve Service 5:00 pm
- December 25 - Christmas Day
- December 29 - Facilities Clean Up Day 9:00 am
- December 30 - 5th Sunday Worship & Pot Luck 10:15 Grace Hall
- December 31 - New Year's Eve

Weekly Activities

Sundays

Adult Sunday School 9 am

Open Connections 9 am

Youth Sunday School 9 am

Worship 10:15 am

Monday - Thursday

Office Hours 8:30 am - 12:30 pm

Wednesday

Handbells 5:15 pm

Reverend Laura's Hours

Office Hours: Mon. & Tues.

8:30 - 12:00 pm

Wed. 8:30 - 10:30 City Brew Coffee (3110 Dell Range)

Email/Call/Text

gumcpastor@outlook.com

1-307-287-7417 cell

Office Closed December 25 through January 1.



Grace's Vision: Grace Sharing Grace Unconditionally

Grace's Mission: Grace Strives to be a Church that Gathers, Responds, Acepts, Cares, and Engages.

From the Pastor....

It's the most wonderful time of the year! Some of us have been waiting MONTHS for December to begin!! However, some of us are no longer excited. Another Christmas? Another round of Christmas gift purchasing and wrapping? Maybe another Christmas of being alone, or not feeling very holly or jolly.

In the Church's great wisdom, Advent is a special gift, a season of preparation. It's not about preparing our homes and Christmas trees. Instead, Advent is an intentional time to acknowledge the darkness in our world, in our lives, and maybe in our spirits. A time to prepare our hearts and spirits for what is to come. We need a light. God's light. The light of God's Son, Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, God with us.

We will have ample opportunity to sing the Christmas carols that bring light and joy to our hearts.

We will also have a chance to acknowledge the darkness, not trying to overcome it but letting God speak to us in a special dark and quiet worship service, The Longest Night Service on December 20. We have lost friends and loved ones this year. We will have a chance to remember them during this special time. If anyone would like to attend but needs a ride, please contact the church office by December 17.

I look forward to another holy Advent season and Christmas season with you, the wonderful folks of Grace United Methodist Church.

Grace & peace,

Rev. Laura



Worship Series – "Singing is Believing"

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|--------------------------|---|
| December 2: | Come, Jesus: Zechariah Sings |
| December 9: | Mom & Dad: Mary Sings |
| December 16: | Angels & Shepherds: Angels Sing |
| December 20 (6:30 pm): | The Longest Night: When We Are Silent |
| December 23: | Baby Pictures: Baby Sings |
| Christmas Eve (5:00 pm): | Rejoice!: We Sing |
| December 30: | We Continue to Sing (lay-led service in Grace Hall)
followed by 5th Sunday Potluck |

Dr. Michelle Aldrich

The Advent season has arrived and with that the smell of pine, cinnamon, and wonderful smells of holiday treats. Christmas music fills the air and people seem a little happier and kinder. Calendars are filled with family gatherings, travel and parties. The church and homes are decorated with lights, ornaments that are only displayed once a year and beautiful poinsettias.

As we approach the end of this calendar year and the changes in church leadership that will bring, I want to thank you for the opportunity to lead the Church Council this last year. I know Brian Martin, who is the new incoming Church Council chairperson, will do an amazing job at moving our community of faith forward. Thank you to all of you who have agreed to serve our small but mighty church family. We are truly blessed! For those of you who serve behind the scenes, please know you are appreciated and your contributions don't go unnoticed.

Merry Christmas and may God continue to use this community of faith to bless everyone---no exceptions!



Rev. Laura's Office Hours

Rev. Laura will be in the church office each Monday and Tuesday, 8:30 am – 12:00 pm. She will be in and out at different times on other days. If you need to contact her at another time, feel free to email her (gumcpastor@outlook.com) or call her cell phone (307-287-7417). Kathy in the church office will know if she is out of town or not.

Rev. Laura's Office Hours on Wednesdays will be 8:30 am – 10:30 am at City Brew Coffee (3110 Dell Range Blvd.). Drop by and say hello!





United Methodist Women

Pam Pallak

The organized unit of United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship, and to expand concepts of missions through participation in the global ministries of the church.

Christine Circle: Next meeting is December 18 at 9:30 am in Grace Hall.

Martha Circle: Martha Circle met on October 27 to make eatable treats for the AMEND Craft Sale in November. Thanks to Michelle and her students at Triumph High for assembling these treats. Their next meeting is December 8 at 10:00 am in Grace Hall for the Christmas Cookie Exchange. It was decided to merge Martha with Christine Circle beginning in January.

Scrappy Crafters: It was decided to change the name to Scrappy Crafters. We will be having our first meeting of the new year, January 19, at 12:00 noon in Grace Hall with lunch being provided and of course.....chocolate. Bring your craft, whatever that may be and join in the fun and fellowship.

Lay Ministry

We with the grace of God are coming up on the Advent season and the closing out of 2018. Our laity have accomplished a lot this year. We added 2 new lay servants to our group to serve God at Grace UMC. We also have five of our members answering God's call to do more and starting the process to become Certified Lay Ministers (CLM). We are taking the next step on Saturday, December 1, having the vote be taken for us to move forward at the Circuit Conference. We will have more lay servant classes next year. If you are interested in learning more about lay servants, please let me know.

May we all see the light of God.

Wanda

Lay Leader

Missions

Glenda Haley

"The effect of one good-hearted person is incalculable." Oscar Arias

As a teacher I taught cause and effect all the time. This then that, if only, and so... were all good leads to a discussion to better understand how one thing could really effect another.

This I know...We collect nonperishable food items for Needs so **that** people who need help with daily survival can see a smiling face and get some help.

If only people can give a small something to the monthly Basket Ministry then we have helped 8 organizations to do their jobs.

And so... With the holidays coming up, we are asked to give to so many places that it can leave one feeling...well...overwhelmed and sad all at one time. I guess the word is melancholy.

The quote is singular, not a plural effect. So with that in mind, I am going to fill you in on the Holiday giving planned for Mission of Grace so you can plan ahead and pick the one or two that speaks to you the most.

~ We will be filling the stockings for the Family Promise Christmas Party. So you can start by picking up small candies and toys, hairbrushes and ties, card games etc. This will be the Basket Ministry for Nov. and Dec.

~We will be Santa for some of the extended families that are still under Family Promise Support System.

~Items for adopting Unaccompanied Students Initiative.

Knowing what's coming ahead of time can help you plan, and please know that even if you give just one thing, you~ as a good hearted person has made an incalculable difference.

God Bless You!



United Methodist Men

Brian Martin

The United Methodist Men decided at our November breakfast to skip the Valentine's Dinner in 2019 in favor of a St. Patrick's Day dinner, which will be a fundraiser for the parking lot project. It will be held either Friday, March 15, or Saturday, March 16. We'll have details for everyone on exact date and cost in January, if not sooner.

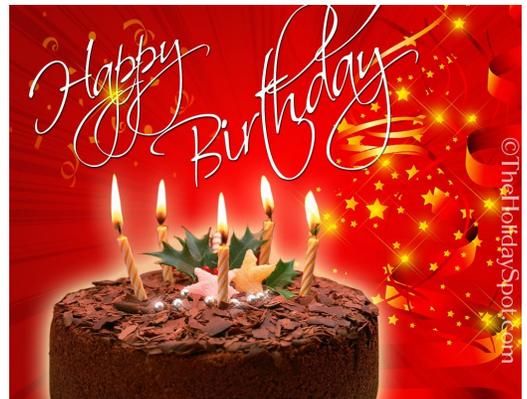
The men are also thinking about joining together with men from Frontier, First and Faith UMCs on a community project of some sort. I have visited with First's UMM president, Doug Arnold, and he has expressed interest in such a joint venture. Frontier Pastor Steve Earnshaw told me, "We don't have a men's group, but we do have men, and I'll bet they'd be interested." I have yet to make contact with someone from Faith, but that's in the works. Once we settle on a project, we'll let everyone know what we're up to.

In the meantime, the next few breakfast meetings will be held at 8 a.m. December 2, January 6, February 3 and March 3 in Grace Hall. All men of the church and their guests are invited to attend. Suggested donation for breakfast is \$5 per person.

If you have any thoughts, ideas or suggestions, please feel free to contact me at 630-8957 or brianmartin1970@gmail.com.

Birthdays

- December 2 - Verlyn Pollock—90 years!!!
- December 3 - Grace Owen
- December 8 - Betty Bean
- December 12 - Linda Bogart
- December 13 - Wanda Denton
- December 15 - Juliana Nash
- December 19 - LuAnne Cook-Ludwick
- December 20 - Barbara Dobie
 - Darlene Evans
- December 22 - Kay Horst



Anniversaries

- December 5 - Jeremy & Brandi Nash - 20 years!!
- December 19 - Dale & Janice Fisher - 9 years!!
- December 20 - Bob & Nancy Wade - 61 years!!
- December 26 - Roger & Melanie Mork - 17 years!!

