



GRACE NOTES
January 2021
Grace United Methodist Church
2950 Spruce Drive, Cheyenne, WY
www.cheyennegraceumc.com
Church Office: gumc@outlook.com
(307)634-7472
Pastor Zach Bechtold: gumcpastor@outlook.com

January Calendar

January 16 - UMW 1:00 via Zoom



Weekly Activities

Sundays

No Classes

Sunday worship on Facebook

Monday - Thursday

Office Hours 8:30 am - 12:30 pm

Pastor Zach's Hours

Call to make an appointment.

Email/Call/Text

gumcpastor@outlook.com

1-406-868-8695 cell

Grace's Vision: Grace Sharing Grace Unconditionally

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

Greetings Grace!

A new year is here! FINALLY! I love the New Year season as it signifies new beginnings for us as people. When we turn the page from December to January, we do so with the notion the New Year gives us a clean slate. In many ways, we do get a clean slate but I also know we reflect upon the previous year and all we experienced. 2020 gave us a lot of new experiences, many of which we didn't ask for, but it also gave us the chance to evaluate our lives and what is truly important to us.

As a Church and as individuals, I want us to continue the hard work of evaluating what is important to us, the ministry and vision of the church, and how we can continue to build upon the foundation we have. I have a lot of hope for this year in returning to in-person worship, in finding ways to continue to engage with people digitally, and to reaffirm our commitment to serving our community. I encourage us to resist the temptation as a church to slip back in to "the normal" or "the way things have always been done". With or without the events and experiences of 2020, a new year gives us the opportunity to dream bigger than we did the year before. Dream bigger about what returning to in-person worship means and looks like. Dreaming bigger about how we reach the neighborhood that surrounds us. Dreaming bigger about who and what Grace is called to be.

I love dreaming big, because dreaming pushes us to do something out of the ordinary. Dreaming big gives us permission to enter the unknown, to fail, to succeed, and ultimately to grow in ways we never thought we could. Scripture is full of people who were willing to dream big, prophets, kings, shepherds, disciples, apostles, men, women, and children. We are a faith that encourages us to dream big, to wrestle with God, and to go out into this world with the Good News of love and grace that dares to dream big.

As a church we will start 2021, not with New Years resolutions, but with a new year dreaming big and we will continue through 2021 and into 2022 dreaming these big dreams. Dreams are intended to be achieved overnight, if that is the case, we aren't dreaming big enough! I want to hear your dreams. I want to talk about your dreams. I want to know why you dream for this church, in your dream. I want to talk about how we can work towards these dreams together. I have dreams too, for Grace, for my family, for myself, I want to share my dreams with you. Ultimately, I want us to be dreaming together, because we need each other and each others dreams.

I have attached a picture of a gold fish below. Rather than tell you what I think it means, I want you to dream big, then share with me what you think it means! I cannot wait to hear your dreams for our church, for yourselves, and for our goldfish!



Do Good,
Pastor Zach

Prayer Group - All Are Welcome

Our prayer group continues into next year. We are small but MIGHTY. We welcome everyone and anyone to join us on Tuesdays and Saturdays at 10:00 am both days. And please feel free to invite others who are not members of the church to join us. We have a lady from Oregon who joined us about 3 months ago and she is a joy and a gift given to us to share, to heal, and to pray for each of us and others.

The Zoom link is in the Monday and Wednesday News sent out from the office each week.

It is a safe place to go and it will help keep you sane in these crazy times. Stop by and check us out.



Hopes for a New Year!

Boy, if the world ever needed HOPE, this is the year. And so I hope you all are taking measures to stay safe.

There is good news, and I wanted to share some with you. Family Promise each year puts out an annual report and the numbers made me smile and I hope will bring smiles to you as well:

85% of the families in the program secured an income

74% of the families secured stable housing

92% in the program obtained medical insurance

Our helping Family Promise this year took a different approach as COVID presented many problems. The biggest one being the placement of families in churches and the impact it would have on the safety of the volunteers. So families were placed in motels. We provided monetary support. Thank you for the donations.

Family Promise now houses 2 families in a rented unit and is working on getting another rental house. This will save thousands of dollars, not using motels. And with that in mind, I would like to start providing dinners, 3 days a week to the families in the house. If you would like to volunteer for this, please let me know. Our next rotation is the end of January. Monetary donations will still be collected and much appreciated.

Grace, through our 2020 coins mission has given help to:

\$59.14 to Outreach and assistance

\$187.79 to UMCOR

\$259.00 to Cheyenne Day of Giving

\$695.00 to AMEND Heating Project

\$403.79 to Safe House

\$200.00 to COMEA

amount to be determined for Nov. & Dec. for Meals on Wheels

A huge thank you to UMW for providing gloves for the Christmas Stockings.

Here's to a healthier, saner New Year and Hope for us to be getting together in 2021.

Glenda Haley



UMW News

UMW held a Zoom Meeting on December 19, at 1 p.m. We voted on the 2021 Budget as well as the UMW officers for 2021. Our study was The Gift of Mentoring. Our next meeting will be held on January 16 at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom. Michelle Aldrich will lead the study from the UMW Program Book - *Knitted Together for God's Good Work*. The study is The Dignity of Work and the scripture reading is 1 Samuel 28:3-25.

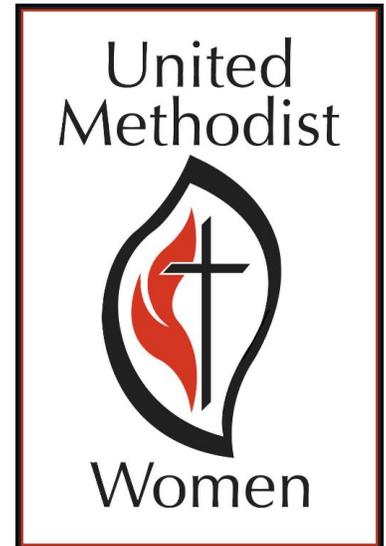
We provided women's, men's, youth and children's gloves for the Family Promise's Stockings. Thank you Glenda Haley for "stuffing" the stockings. Also, at Thanksgiving time, we made Thanksgiving goodie bags for the shut-ins from our congregation. Kathy Orr and Michelle Aldrich made this project happen along with the officers providing the goodies. We had fun and the all those who received the Thanksgiving bags seemed very appreciative.

Our mission for last year was Unaccompanied Youth and UMW treasurer. Mary Aughe is sending a check before the end of the year. We will decide at either the January or February meeting who will be our mission recipient for 2021.

Membership to UMW shall be open to anyone who indicates her desire to belong and to participate in global mission of the church through UMW. Our purpose is an organized unit of UMW shall be 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.

Everyone is invited to join United Methodist Women – please consider joining this wonderful fellowship.

Martie Curl, GUMC UMW President - 2021



Thank You for your Support of Amend

A couple of folks have said, "Why didn't I get one of your cards for Christmas"well I gotta tell you that my card sales for AMEND were so brisk that I was afraid that I wouldn't have enough left for my cards to send out. So you got the unused cards that have been given to me for sales (and yes I paid for them.)

We sold so many cards, close to 700 as far as I can figure, that I had to order envelopes which I buy in lots of 1,000.

Donations were wonderful as well. On December 3rd, I sent a check to the Pine Ridge Retreat Center that manages the Utility Assistance Fund a check for \$5,000. Hope to send them another \$2,000 by the first of February.

Once again I thank you for your support and encouragement over the past 10 years.

Pam Pallak



Birthdays

January 5 - Marilyn Everitt
January 11 - Kathy Hoover
January 12 - Zach Shelton
January 20 - Orville Cussins
January 21 - Kathy McKee
January 30 - Karen Esquibel

Anniversaries

None



Thank You For Your Cards!!

Thank you for the birthday card shower for Barb. It meant a lot to her. It has been a tough year here with the death of our older sister from the virus, Barb's cancer and mastectomy and being locked down for the both of us. Once more our family at Grace has come through.

