



# THE BELL TOWER

## September 2025



Ephesians 2:8 (ESV) *“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.”*

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In the last couple of months, it has been such a privilege to get to know you and the Cody community. I look forward to continuing to meet you, hear your stories, and serve as your pastor.

In August, the theme of our Sunday services was faith. We explored what faith means, how to live it out, the impact it has on our lives, how faith transforms, and what it means to be rooted in our faith. Focusing on faith is essential because it serves as the baseline for everything we do and believe as Christians.

In the scripture from Ephesians listed above, Paul speaks powerfully about the Gospel message. Paul reminds us that God’s grace saves. Grace is a free gift from God, which we receive through our faith. As the Holy Spirit guides us in our faith journey, transformation begins to occur. It is by leaning into our faith that we become closer to the God who loves us more than anything.

Faith is a gift that connects us to God’s grace. God will continue to speak into your life as a result of your faith. This month, I invite you to reflect on your faith and notice how your faith impacts and transforms your everyday life in Christ.

As the seasons change this September, let us remember the transformative power of faith and live into that truth every day.

Grace and peace,

*Alex Hunnes*

Rev. Alex Hunnes



# September 2025



| Sunday                                                                         | Monday                                                                                                                                    | Tuesday                                | Wednesday                                                       | Thursday                                                                                          | Friday                          | Saturday  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------|
| 10am Worship Service and Holy Communion                                        | <b>1</b><br><b>Office Closed</b><br><b>LABOR DAY</b><br> | <b>2</b><br>Trivia 6pm                 | <b>3</b><br>JSR 5:45pm                                          | <b>4</b>                                                                                          | <b>5</b>                        | <b>6</b>  |
| <b>7</b><br>10am Worship Service and Holy Communion<br><br>Youth Group 5:30pm  | <b>8</b><br>PEO 12-3pm<br>AMS 4pm<br>12 Step 6pm                                                                                          | <b>9</b><br>Trivia 6pm                 | <b>10</b><br>UWF Mission 11am<br>UWF Meeting 12pm<br>JSR 5:45pm | <b>11</b><br> | <b>12</b>                       | <b>13</b> |
| <b>14</b><br>10am Worship service and Holy Communion<br><br>Trustees 11:15am   | <b>15</b><br>AMS 4pm<br>Naomi 6:00pm<br>12 Step 6pm                                                                                       | <b>16</b><br>Rebekah 1pm<br>Trivia 6pm | <b>17</b><br>JSR 5:45pm                                         | <b>18</b>                                                                                         | <b>19</b><br>Worship 1pm Parlor | <b>20</b> |
| <b>21</b><br>10am Worship Service and Holy Communion<br><br>Youth Group 5:30pm | <b>22</b><br>AMS 4pm<br>SPR 5pm<br>12 Step 6pm                                                                                            | <b>23</b><br>Trivia 6pm                | <b>24</b><br>JSR 5:45pm                                         | <b>25</b>                                                                                         | <b>26</b>                       | <b>27</b> |
| <b>28</b><br>10am Worship Service and Holy Communion                           | <b>29</b><br>AMS 4pm<br>12 Step 6pm                                                                                                       | <b>30</b><br>Trivia 6pm                |                                                                 |                                                                                                   |                                 |           |

CUMC Ad Council  
Meeting Minutes  
August 13, 2025

**MEMBERS ATTENDING**

Pastor Alex Hunnes, Bryan Armel, Ann Armel, Gene Parker, Kandi Parker, Carolyn Bentzen, Byron Coleman, Kris Coleman, and Karen Birzer

**WELCOME** Welcome was given by Ann Armel

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was moved, seconded, and passed that the Minutes of May 14, 2025 be approved.

**WHOLE CHURCH BUSINESS**

A mission group from the Evansville, Indiana United Methodist Church stayed in the Church this summer. Their mission was to help wherever possible which included a lot of work at the parsonage and during the Fourth of July Celebration. They were in attendance in church on Sunday.

**SUMMER ACTIVITIES**

The Fourth of July Celebration went well. About 160 people were served. Generous donations were received. A big thank you to everyone who helped  
There have been 6 funerals since May. The Ad Council thanks the funeral committee and others who helped with the receptions.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**FINANCE**

Budget is going well. A general fund quarterly offering progress report is available in the Fellowship Hall and in the office.

**GOOD SAMARITAN - Going well.**

Pastor was added to the 1st Bank account as a signer. There have been a few requests for assistance. Susan Schmidtberger is a new member of the group.

**MEMBERSHIP**

Continuing to send cards to members and continuing to give welcome packets to visitors. We welcomed 1 new member, Lynette Link. Welcome to our church family Lynette.

**SAFETY** The AED that has been beeping is now fixed. A reminder that we have an AED in the Fellowship Hall and several first aid kits around the church. First aid training will be held and Suzanne Palmer will teach the classes.

**SPR** Pastor came on board and is settling in well! He has officiated 3 funerals starting day 1. On boarding sessions begin tomorrow involving staff in the morning and laity leaders in the evening. These will be conducted by Calley Welborn.

The visitation list has been updated for pastoral care. The staff is good. We will be reaching out to the congregation, Cody and Powell newspapers, Northwest College Music Department, and possibly social media to hire an assistant Music Director starting in the fall through May, as Kennedy will be in school in Laramie

#### TRUSTEES

We have a few things to complete. These include removal of tree stumps at the parsonage, regrade the grassy area on the west side of the church to prevent leakage from the sprinklers, and replace gutters on the north side of the church.

UWF            Carry-in in the park was successful.  
Next meeting is in September.

WORSHIP    Discussed all the functions of the Worship Committee. Delineated who is responsible for all those duties. Pastor Alex will keep the service and content as they are for now. Blessing of the animals possibly in September Pastor Alex will be out of town November 2nd. He will work with SPR to fill the pulpit that Sunday. All Saints Day will be moved to a different day so that Pastor Alex can officiate that service which recognizes those who have passed away in our congregation this year. The new candles in the sanctuary seem to be working well so there is no reason to purchase others. Laity Sunday will be the third Sunday in October. Plans are being made for that service. The committee hopes to include as many lay members as possible. Ad Council will be meeting monthly starting in September.

#### PASTORS REPORT

Pastor Alex has been here for 6 weeks. Things are going well. Listening groups were successful. Between 3 and 13 parishioners attended and another session is being planned for sometime this fall. On-boarding sessions went well. Pastor Alex's current focus is visitations including phone calls and future focus is congregational care. The current worship subject for 4 weeks is faith. An open house at the parsonage is being planned. No date has been set. Pastor's office hours are 9-1, Monday through Thursday. Youth Group with Christ Episcopal and Trinity Lutheran Churches will start in September. Dates that Pastor will be gone include Sept 24-26 for Clergy Orders, Oct 17-19 for District Gathering, Oct 31-Nov 3 for a wedding in Texas.  
Closing Prayer – Pastor Alex

Next Meeting Sept 10, 2025, 5:30 CUMC Parlor

Respectfully Submitted,

Kandi Parker, Secretary

# Worship Committee News

## Here are the Readers for September

September 7th Gene Parker  
September 14th Linda Bell  
September 21st Francie Audier  
September 28th Diane Ballard



The Worship Committee met to discuss the month of September and will sponsor the Blessing of the Animals on Sunday September 21st. We will meet on the lawn outside the back door right after the service and several of the group will have a Blessing to pass on to the pet you bring. If it is a large animal, (horses or pets larger that you want to bring) photos are acceptable. Please plan to attend as we will be set up to handle many animals. We will advertise this in the Cody Enterprise so it is open to the public. Thank You for supporting this program.

Looking ahead, in October we will celebrate Laity Sunday. If you are interested in taking a part in the service please let Jenny Zink know. We will include as many Lay as possible. We are always looking for Ushers on Sunday morning for taking offertory and communion stewards. Have you enjoyed seeing the fresh flowers each Sunday morning?? As we approach Fall and Winter seasons, Jann Smith will not have fresh flowers from her garden. You can sign up on the Flower Chart if you would like to bring or arrange for fresh flowers on a Sunday morning, They can be in honor of someone - a birthday, anniversary, special occasion or in memory of a loved one. Please consider this as we go through the next several weeks.

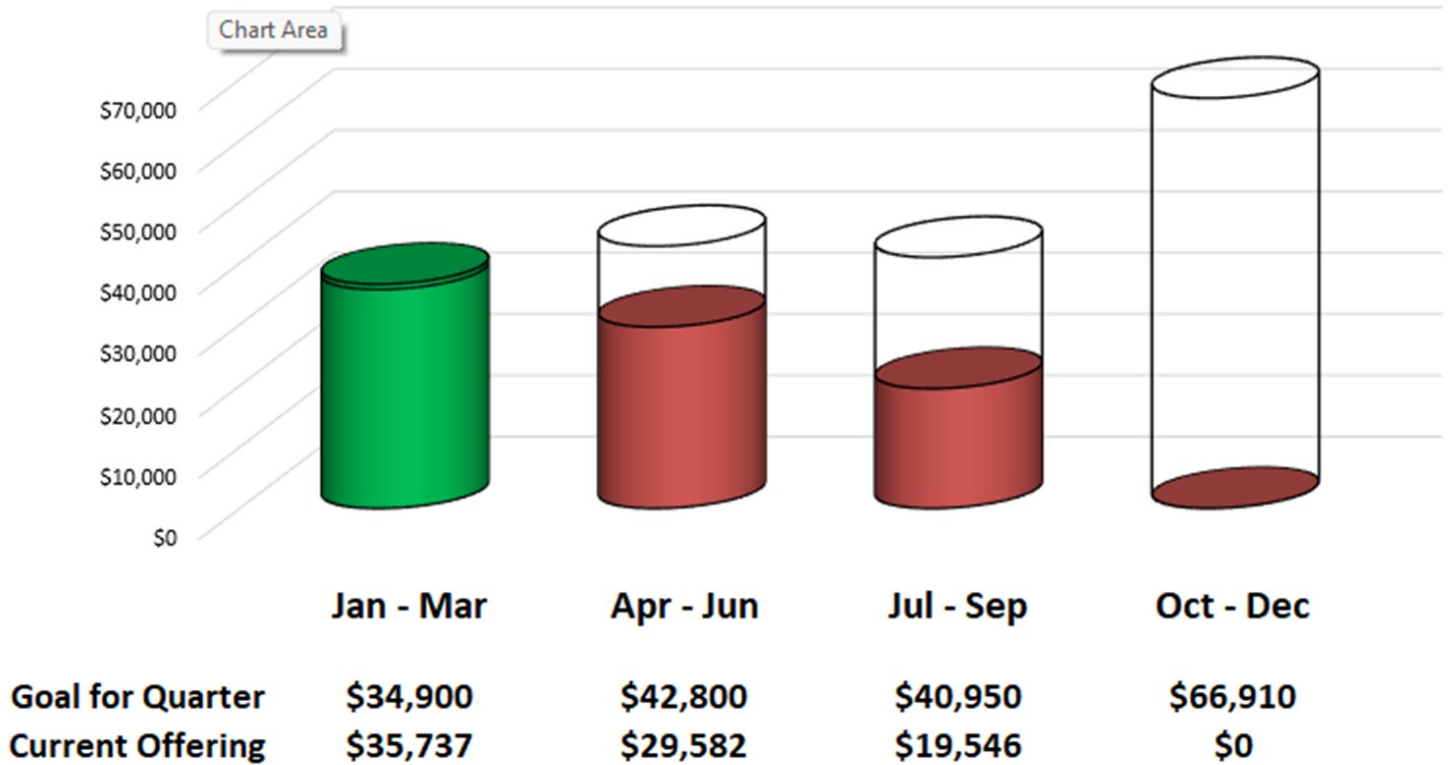
Blessings on all of you who have volunteered and helped in the summer with services.  
Happy Fall.

The Worship Committee.



## General Fund Quarterly Offering Progress

8/13/2025



Notes: Quarterly Goals are based upon 6 years of historical giving patterns.  
2025 Annual Goal is \$185,560

## Youth Group News

Starting September 7th youth meetings will start at Cody UMC the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month. They will meet 5:30 to 6:30.





## United Women in Faith

Our first meeting is September 10th. All are invited for lunch and a program about trauma dogs presented by Lynn Whitmer.

Had a wonderful day for our UWF picnic at Mentock park.



## Circles will meet:

**Naomi** - Monday, September 15th, 6:00 pm in Koelmel Hall

**Rebekah** - Tuesday, September ,16th 1:00 pm in Koelmel Hall

We are looking forward to being together again and warmly welcome all of our members, plus any ladies new to our church community. Come join us for food and fellowship!

UWF President



## Membership/Nurture Committee News

The membership/nurture committee thanks you for joining us for the ice cream social on August 10th. The 2nd Sunday in August each year is when we welcome new members for the past year. Our new member, Lynette Link who joined the church on August 10 was unable to attend the ice cream social, but is in church every Sunday. So please welcome her when you see her on Sundays.

Also, don't forget to wear your nametag!

Fellowship time is a much needed time for getting together, so if you as members could help out with refreshments. The sign up sheet is just out side the kitchen

Carolyn, Judie, Lynn, Lu, Joan, Marilyn and Dave



## Visitations

Pastor Alex, Karen Birzer, Kandi Parker and Kris Coleman had a wonderful visit with Ann Ayers.



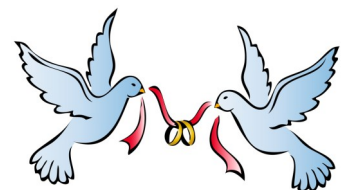




|                   |    |                |    |
|-------------------|----|----------------|----|
| Pat Yeager        | 2  | Paula Curry    | 24 |
| Jennifer McDonald | 6  | Jack Wagner    | 24 |
| Howard Donley     | 10 | Susan Boutelle | 27 |
| Hugh Hohe         | 12 | Paul Sheffield | 28 |
| Donald Robirds    | 12 | Thomas Boyd    | 28 |
| Mark Westerhold   | 15 | Char Olson     | 28 |
| Cameron Newton    | 18 | Baillie Murray | 29 |
| Jake Murray       | 20 |                |    |
| Luke Murray       | 20 |                |    |



|                     |    |
|---------------------|----|
| Jack & Diane Martin | 6  |
| Roger & Joy Lyons   | 7  |
| Dave & Bev Shaw     | 15 |
| Ken & Annette Stone | 22 |



## CODY CUPBOARD UPDATE



### 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2025

|                   |            |        |
|-------------------|------------|--------|
| January           | 27         | Pounds |
| February          | 66         | Pounds |
| March             | <u>178</u> | Pounds |
| 1st Quarter Total | <b>271</b> | Pounds |

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2025

|                   |            |        |
|-------------------|------------|--------|
| April             | 67         | Pounds |
| May               | 100        | Pounds |
| June              | 67         | Pounds |
| 2nd Quarter Total | <b>234</b> | Pounds |

### 3rd Quarter 2025

|        |    |        |
|--------|----|--------|
| July   | 43 | Pounds |
| August | 65 | Pounds |

**SCHOOL IS OUT FOR THE SUMMER!**

(Many Children Depend on School Food Programs)

**HUNGRY KIDS + INFLATION = NEEDS**

Please drop off donations the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month!!

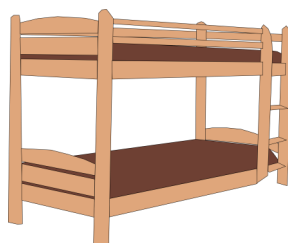
## Build a Bed

Saturday, September 13th in the Trinity Lutheran Church  
parking lot

3401 Sheridan Ave., Cody

Begins at 9 am and finishes by 1 pm

Dave Buck 317-358-6891 or Kim Dils 317-506-0774 for  
questions



## Cody Cupboard Update:

The real story is amazing! The Lord has worked miracles through your generous support! A report will be given this Fall during a Sunday Service.



**"Be quick to give a meal to the hungry, a bed to the homeless—cheerfully. Be generous with the different things God gave you, passing them around so all get in on it."**

**1 Peter 4:9-10,  
The Message**

church website: <https://www.codyumc.com>

***Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." John 21:15***



PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

Cody United Methodist Church  
PO Box 1416  
Cody WY 82414