

THE BELL TOWER

May 2023
Emily's Chronicles



“For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.” –Romans 12: 4-5 NRSV

Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ of Cody UMC,

Spring has sprung, and new life is all around us. Our Savior has conquered the grave, and our spirits are renewed in new hope and light. What an amazing gift! How could we possibly act like nothing has changed? How can we possibly revert back to our old ways? We are in a new season that has opened our eyes and hearts to ways that are truly life giving!

There is much happening in our world. Sometimes it can be too much. It can weigh on our hearts, and we feel as though we can't make sense of everything. In the UMC, there is much happening. In the church universal, there are many things taking place. It's as though there is an identity crisis of who the church *really is*. I believe our church family is one that is deeply rooted in Scripture, Tradition, Reason, and Experience. These are the elements that John Wesley believed to be crucial when engaging with the Divine.

We do not all have to have the same experience. All of our faith journeys are so unique. Our reasoning can change, as time goes on. Traditions can be created, and Scripture can always enlighten us in new ways. Every church is different. As they should be! God expresses God's self in so many ways! There is no one way to be *church- those sent out!* God wants our hearts. God wants us to serve, love, create, and care. *How* we do that is up to us! So what does it look like for CUMC to love our neighbor? To care for creation? To ensure God's people thrive? That we resist evil, injustice, and oppression?

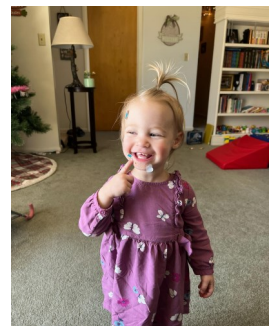
God works *with us and through us!* There are no limits to God's power. We have the same function and purpose- To follow God, to know God, and love God so we can serve, know, and love others! My hope and prayer is that we all take a moment to sit with ourselves and listen to God. Listen *for God*. How is God speaking life giving words to you? How can we see all of the body of Christ working together in their own unique ways? Are we willing to be bold in our faith, and take steps in directions that lead to life and light? Let's see what God has in store!

Peace and Blessings,

Emily Rettinghouse

Pastor Emily L Rettinghouse

***Thea's Thought:
Hallelujah, Spring has
Sprung!***



MAY 7TH Q & A SESSION REGARDING DISAFFILIATION

For our time together, we are reminding everyone about how to have caring, warm, and intentional conversation. We will be following the Rule of Christ and keeping Christian Conversation guidelines at the forefront of our time together.

We understand that not everyone can attend in person, and so Zoom will be utilized for those who wish to participate online. The zoom information is found at the end of this page.

Because this is a Q & A session, this is not a time for individuals to use this as a personal soapbox or agenda push, nor is this a time to rebuttal on Scripture and interpretation. This is an educational time focused on disaffiliation. Below are some points that Ad Council has determined to be important for the Q & A:

We have two facilitators who will be responsible for monitoring the session and helping with microphones and handing out any materials needed.

There may be many questions that need to be addressed, so please wait for a microphone to be brought to you.

Please do not talk over others. If you have spoken a lot, please allow others who have not spoken to do so.

PLEASE stay on the topic of disaffiliation. We are not rehashing topics such as Bishop Karen, human sexuality and the Bible, etc.

We will have question cards available. These are for people to write down their questions to keep them concise, as well as for those who wish to raise a question, but do not feel comfortable speaking in public.

We will be having a vote following all questions. This vote is to decide if we WISH TO PURSUE DISAFFILIATION OR NOT. THIS WOULD NOT BE THE FINAL VOTE. This vote will be a written ballot vote and will be anonymous.

As a reminder, professing members of CUMC are allowed to vote. If you are not present either in person or using the zoom link, you cannot vote. If you have ANY questions that cannot wait until May 7th, please contact Ad Council Chair Ann Armel or Pastor Emily.



Administrative Council Meeting Minutes – April 11, 2023

In Attendance- Gene Parker, Larry Snook, Kris Coleman, Byron Coleman, Bryan Armel, Jenny Zink, Carolyn Bentzen, Susanne Palmer, Ann Armel, Pastor Emily, Kandi Parker
Ad Council Chair, Ann Armel welcomed everyone and Pastor Emily gave the opening Prayer. It was moved and seconded that the minutes of our March Meeting be approved MOTION PASSED

Old Business:

There was a discussion about the May 7th Listening Session. Facilitators for the Session are Lauren Newton, Ann Armel, Pastor Emily, Cameron Newton and Bryan Armel. Kris asked about the voting part of the session. Pastor explained that there will be a vote taken on May 7th during the Session. There was also a discussion about ways to get information out to our congregation concerning the Listening Session. Information will be forthcoming in the Newsletter, Worship Bulletin, from the Pulpit, Pastor Emily and Ann Armel and the Facilitating Team. Everyone is encouraged to attend the Session in person or online.

New Business:

4th of July Picnic - it was decided that we will have the picnic again this year. The Colemans and the Parkers will organize the picnic and Kris will be Chairperson for this project.

Committees:

Education:

Suzanne reported that the Easter Egg Hunt went very well on Sunday.
Acknowledging Graduates- we are very proud that we have a College Graduate to celebrate this year, Julia Cook! We will be acknowledging Julia in May.
The Membership/Nurture Committee will also be celebrating our Graduate.
Youth Group will be wrapping up on April 23rd. Camps will be up and running for this summer. Suzanne is going to do some checking about Vacation Bible School for this summer.

Finance:

Bryan reported that our giving is going well and the finances are also in good shape.

Good Samaritan:

Pastor Emily reported that the Ham Dinner Fundraiser did very well. We made \$4,000 on the dinner and the auction! Pastor also reminded us that there will be another fundraiser in the fall, a Carnival!
Recently the committee decided that we will be assisting with just the basics, rent, utilities, and food for now.

**Membership:**

Carolyn reported that the committee decided to change their meeting schedule to the first Monday of the month at 10:30 am in the Parlor. Carolyn also informed us that the committee will be hosting the Annual Pancake Breakfast on August 13th. The Harris' will be cooking breakfast for us. The breakfast is to welcome our new members.

Safety:

Byron thanked Suzanne for organizing the recent certification class. The class went well. Byron also reported that we are continuing our present safety protocols of front door watch, rovers to make sure the doors are locked, and other safety personnel to be sure that sanctuary is covered.

SPR:

Larry reported that the committee is working on finding substitutes to fill in during Worship while Pastor Emily is gone during certain times this summer and fall. Anyone who wishes to sign up can contact Larry, Pastor Emily or any of the SPR members. Pastor Emily will be glad to assist anyone who is interested subbing for her. The Committee is also working on Pastor Emily's evaluation.

Trustees: Gene reported that the Trustees are working on a solution of how to keep the church grounds clean and sanitary.

UWF:

It was reported that UWF monthly meeting will be on April 12th with discussions about Mother's Day as well as the Summer Gathering in August.

Worship:

Jenny reported that Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Stations of the Cross, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday all went very well. Thanks to everyone who helped to make those events special. Thank you to all who purchased Lilies to decorate our sanctuary. They looked lovely. Easter Sunday's attendance was around 122 in person and 11 online. Our Easter Brunch served 76 people.

The Worship Committee will be meeting on April 13th to discuss activities for Mother's Day and Father's Day.

The committee also decided to use non disposables for fellowship hour and special events.

**Pastor's Report:**

Pastor Emily said Holy Week was spectacular! She reiterated that everything went very well. She will be taking this next week off. Pastor also reported that she had many positive comments about using the Lord of the Rings for our worship services during Lent and Easter.

Pastor Emily will be attending Chaplain training June 12-14 and Annual Conference June 22 - 26 in Colorado Springs. She will be taking time off on June 1st to participate in the Renaissance Festival in Red Lodge with her family.

Pastor Emily announced that we will be starting an Adult Sunday School which will meet on Mondays from 4:00-5:00 pm in the Parlor. This will start on May 22nd continue all year long. Everyone is welcome. There will also be a class on Revelation beginning on May 22nd at 5:30-6:30 in the Parlor. This class will be 10 weeks long. Anyone interested can sign up in the office.

Another note, it is time to sign up for camp! We already have 3 middle school students and 2 Elementary students that have signed up.

Next Ad Council Meeting will be on May 9th at 7:00pm in the Parlor.

***Respectfully Submitted,
Kandi Parker, Recording Secretary***





UWF & Circle News

UWF Tea Party, Wednesday May 10, Luncheon at Noon. No Mission Team meeting.

All ladies of the church invited to attend and bring a friend. Let's celebrate Spring together...wear your lovely spring hats and spring party clothes!
Hostesses: Pastor Emily and her mother Linda.

Naomi Circle ~ Monday, May 15, 6:30 pm at the Church, hosted by Norleen and Lynn. In Koelmel Hall.

Rebekah Circle ~ Tuesday, May 16, 1:00 pm. Norma and Marcia Co-Hostess in the parlor.

Rebekah will clean the kitchen May 22nd.



We look forward to our annual **UWF Picnic at Mentock Park**, scheduled for **Wednesday, August 9, NOON**. Mark your calendars, **save the date**, join us please. More details to come in the June Newsletter.

Blessings, Karen Birzer, Uwf President

Message **Alert** form Membership/Nurture Committee

Mark your calendar for the Welcome New Members Pancake Brunch on August 13, 2023 following worship service. More later.





Adult Sunday School

Some of you may have heard that we are starting an adult study program. Our first topic will be the Gospel of Thomas. Classes will be on Mondays at 4 pm in the Church Parlor. Our start date is May 22. I will be leading this first class. Other topics will follow based on group interest. If you have questions, please let me or Pastor Emily know. If you want to sign up, please do so in the church office with Susan.

We hope to continue this into the future, with topics starting and stopping based on group interest. Dates may shift based on holidays and weather...so, come, bring a beverage and join us as we discuss, learn, grow and practice fellowship as followers of Jesus.

See you then, Ann Armel

aharmel2010@gmail.com

Kitchen update - Please date any foods that are put in the freezer and refrigerator, it would be a great help to the members for clean out time.



Just a note, don't forget to sign up to host fellowship time following worship. Also, sign up for flowers on a Sunday. Both sign up sheets are on the bulletin board by the kitchen.





Trustees Fund Raising Auction

After the success of last year's consignment auction to help raise funds for the new carpet, Trustees have decided to hold another auction this summer to help fund this year's Trustee projects. We will work with Swenson's Auctions in Powell to put items in one of their periodic consignment auctions.

We plan to collect items towards the end of the summer. If you have some garage sale items or just want to clear out some clutter this is an opportunity to help with this year's Trustee project. To avoid some of the issues we had with the timing of Swenson's auction, we will be using a storage unit to collect the items. Hopefully this will be more convenient with people's schedules and avoid cluttering our church building.

We will let you know in June when we plan to begin collecting items. As before, Trustees will be available to help you with transporting larger items.

This year's Trustee projects include refurbishing the shed behind the Church, installing outdoor lighting along the sidewalk on the west side of the church, drainage work and new egress windows at the parsonage.

Swenson's accepts most anything except, NO:

Gym Equipment	Furniture (bargain box quality)
Bowling balls	Tupperware
TVs	Clothes
Dishware	

The following exceptions to the above are OK:

- Levi jeans and coats
- Antique furniture and dishware
- Free weights

If you have questions, contact one of the Trustees.



Greetings from the Worship Committee

Looking back in April, A Big Thank You to all who helped. What an amazing Holy Week we had at Cody United Methodist Church. We began with Palm Sunday waving palms and showing the procession with our children from the nursery walking down the aisle waving palms while we sang - it was good to see the little ones participating. Moving into Holy Week with a traditional Maundy Thursday - 39 of our members joining together and eating the meal prepared by the Worship Committee. After the meal we moved into the Sanctuary for Communion, a message and foot washing from Pastor Emily. Continuing the week, our team also changed up the 14 stations of the Cross. The display was enjoyed and viewed both before and after Good Friday services. Koelmel Hall and Sanctuary was prepared for a much awaited Easter Sunday with music from the Morning Glories, Choir and Bells and at communion. After the Easter Egg Hunt, another 57 folks participated in the Brunch.. We (the Worship Committee) are so pleased with the turnout we have had for our dinners and brunches. The fellowship time has been a Blessing for many.

Now we are moving on to May with introduction of visitors as they begin to occupy our pews - whether it be family and friends or tourists coming in from Yellowstone Park and enjoying our beautiful scenery. Cody is surely one of the best areas to visit for many and in the past we have had time to enjoy our visitors from so many different areas of the Country, both near and far from Cody.

Mother's Day (May 14) will be celebrated with our women of faith in the congregation.

Readers for May:

May 7 Diane Ballard - Communion Stewards - Kris & Byron Coleman.

May 14 Gene Parker

May 21 Denise Arthur

May 28 Francie Audier

Please be sure to let Carolyn Bentzen know if you can serve as an Usher on Sunday morning. WE appreciate all of you who willingly assist.

MAY 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Membership/ Nurture 10:30 am	2 Good Samaritan 9:30 am	3	4 Last Bells Practice 6 pm	5	6
7 10 am Sunday Worship	8 12 Step 6 pm	9 Ad Council 7:00 pm	10 Mother's Day Tea at Noon All Ladies Welcome!	11	12	13
14 10 am Sunday Worship Mother's Day	15 12 Step 6 pm Naomi Circle in Koemel Hall 6:30 pm	16 Rebekah Circle at 1 pm in Parlor	17	18 Worship Committee 10:00 am	19	20
21 10 am Sunday Worship Trustees 11:15 am	22 Adult Sunday School 4 pm Revelation Class 5:30 pm 12 Step 6 pm	23 SPR 5:30 pm	24	25	26	27
28 10 am Sunday Worship	29 Memorial Day office closed 	30	1 June	2	3	4



Fern Bath	May	2	Karen McRae	17
Larry Snook		6	Trina Whelan	17
Ann Armel		8	Alex Rettinghouse	19
Parker Sheffield		9	Angela Henrich	21
Pat Salyer		10	Karen Birzer	22
Carolyn Ross		10	Marion Pierce	24
Marge Chaffee		12	Linda Bell	25
Norma Schlaf		15	Larry Zink	29
			Denise Arthur	30



Happy Anniversary

John & Vicky Leroux	May	1
John & Lorri Long		6
Barney & Gretchen Henrich		11
Mark & Kim Garrison		28

CODY CUPBOARD UPDATE 2023

January 118 pounds
February 68.5 pounds
March 61 pounds
1st Quarter subtotal 249.5 pounds

2nd Quarter 2023
April 46 pounds

Summer months are coming and kids are out of school at the end of May. Without regular school meals, the need is even bigger to donate to local food programs.

...you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this, You shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these."

Mark 12:30-31 (NRSV)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFULNESS!



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

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Cody United Methodist Church
PO Box 1416
Cody WY 82414