



THE BELL TOWER

December 2022

Emily's Chronicles



This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” - Luke 2: 12-14 NRSV

Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ of Cody UMC,

Picture it: you are sitting in your favorite chair, a mug of hot cocoa in your hand, and on the TV you hear the words “light’s please”- A Charlie Brown Christmas is playing! I absolutely love that movie. I absolutely love the characters and the story that this movie is telling.

We all work so hard to make Christmas special. We get wonderful gifts to give to others. We put up beautiful decorations. We do all sorts of holiday baking and cooking. Maybe you even volunteer or donate to organizations during the holiday season. It is truly a wonderful time of year, and yet Charlie Brown is having a hard time with this season.

We have all been there. I know I have, wondering what the season is really about. Is it too commercialized? Is it another way for corporations and businesses to make money from all sorts of sales? Is it materialism taking over and consuming us? Maybe at times we have found ourselves like Scrooge, where we say “Bahumbug!”

Luckily, Charlie Brown’s friend Linus is there to point us in the right direction. He stands on stage, and quite eloquently recites the birth narrative from the King James Version. He simply states the facts and says “That’s what Christmas is all about Charlie Brown.”

Sometimes we need that friendly reminder. Sometimes we need to remember that little babe was born of a young woman and was going to change the world as we know it. We know of the story, but we need a reminder of what that story brings: hope, peace, joy, love. This whole season is built around those very ideas. Not around cookies, Santa, presents, or decorations. But those wonderful things that cannot be placed in packages, boxes, or bags (as the Grinch so wonderfully learned).

May we continue to remember the reason for the season, and all seasons in this life! May we truly have a Merry Christmas, a Happy Holiday, and enjoy this wonderful time of year!

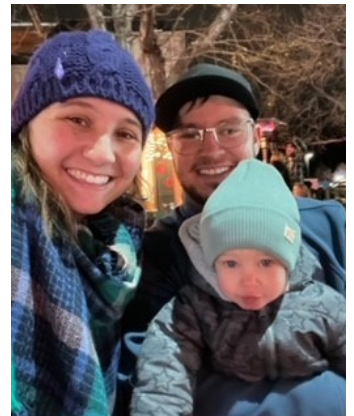
Peace and Blessings,

Pastor Emily

Reverend Emily L. Rettinghouse

Thea's Thought

Have a Holly Jolly
Christmas and a
Happy New Year!



ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES, NOVEMBER 8th,2022

Those in Attendance- Pastor Emily, Suzanne Palmer, Byron Coleman, Bryan Armel, Ann Armel, Robert Mitchell, Karen Birzer, Gene Parker, Carolyn Bentzen, Jenny Zink, Carrie Sheffield, Linda Bell, Kandi Parker

October 11, 2022 Minutes Approved as corrected.

Old Business

Trunk n' Treat - Suzanne and Pastor Emily reported that everyone had a good time as they enjoyed the food, the decorations, and our generosity. We served 260 hotdogs! The Ad Council agreed that Trunk n' Treat is a good tradition and that we should continue it next year.

Budget - The budget was presented for approval with one correction. The correction has to do with the Good Samaritan Fund proposal. Gene moved that the Budget be approved with the correction, Suzanne seconded the motion and the Motion passed.

New Business

Pastor Emily and Bryan presented a proposal for Pat Salyer to continue with the Good Samaritan Fund duties (remotely) through the end of the year. Starting in January, we are looking to use a Service Contract to provide Good Samaritan Fund Operations. The Good Samaritan team and Bryan will continue to work on the details for this proposal.

Committee Reports

Safety - Byron reported that committee members are continuing to sanitize the church each Saturday. He also reminded us that there will be Certification classes, held in January, for those who need to be certified in CPR and First Aid.

Finance - Bryan reported that our church finances are in good shape. The Budget will be presented at Charge Conference on Sunday December 11, 2022 after Worship.

Worship - Jenny reported that the celebration for Pat and Howard went very well and there were lots of people in attendance. Also Pat and Howard appreciated the picture and the other cards and gifts.

Christmas plans are going well. On November 20th, a group of parishioners will put up the decorations in the Sanctuary, the Koelmel Hall, and the Narthex.

A Blue Christmas service will be held on December 21st at 5:00pm. The time for Christmas Eve Service is 8:00pm and Christmas Day Service is 10:00am.

UWF - Karen reported that they will be meeting November 9th. The program will be presented by Brandie Gann from the CASA program.

The Committee is also completing plans for the Cookie Stroll on December 11th after worship. The Committee decided to rotate their leadership for this year by having past Presidents take turns leading their meetings. It was also reported that Annette Stone is in the process of completing the Program Book.

Membership/Nurture - Carolyn reported that fourteen-First letters have been sent with six recipients not responding and eight recipients being removed. The Committee also sent out nine-Second letters with zero recipients responding.

This will be discussed at Charge Conference on December 11th after Worship. Carolyn has asked that if someone wishes to attend another church to please let the church know so our records can be kept up to date.

Education - Suzanne reported that the youth have started a new curriculum. There are 15 kids that have been attending Youth Group. The book they are studying is 'Imaginary Jesus'. Also the group is presently meeting at Trinity Lutheran Church and will be meeting at Cody UMC starting in January 2023.

SPR - Kandi reported that evaluations have gone well and the last 3 will be completed on November 29th. The Committee also approved their budget.

Trustees- Gene reported that the Carpet Program went very well. We even received a donation from one of the carpet installers. There was a group of members that took two trailer loads and three pickup loads to the auction site on Monday. The installation of the windows in the parsonage will be postponed until Spring due to illness of the installer. We are praying for his recovery. There was a bit of water in the basement of the parsonage recently. It has been temporarily taken care of and will be worked on next Spring. Also, the Trustees send a big welcome to new Trustees Cameron Newton and Bryan Armel.

Missions - Linda reported that the Missions Committee will be serving at Ann Ayres' 90th Birthday Celebration on November 13th after Worship. There will be a Bake sale on Sunday, November 20th. Volunteers need to bring their goods to the kitchen and the committee will take care of the placement of the baked goods. The funds will go to Spirit Mt Hospice.

Pastor's Remarks- Pastor reported that all is going well with her, Alex, and Thea. Recently Pastor was a part of Clergy Zoom meeting where it was announced that we will still have six Districts in our Conference with no merging and Mark Calhoun will remain as the District Superintendent. Three new Bishops were announced. And it was also announced that Bishop Karen Oliveto will be resigning in 2024. Pastor reported that Class is going well and an 'Historical Jesus' class will be offered in January or February. Also a 'Revelation' class will be offered around March. Pastor Emily encouraged all of our members to attend Charge Conference if they can, as there are important issues to discuss and vote on.

Schedule:

December 2nd at 4:30, Small Bells at Hospice

December 4th, 4:00 LDS Nativity Scene Exhibition

Respectfully Submitted,
Kandi Parker, Recording Secretary



From Missions Committee:

Thank you everyone who supported our November Bake Sale. It was a great success which benefitted Spirit Mt. Hospice.

Thank you, Linda Bell, Missions Committee Chairperson



UWF (United Methodist Women) & Circle News

UMW/UWF—Unit Meeting **December 14, Noon** carry in luncheon, Koelmel Hall. The program will be Skylah Bree, Livingston Elementary School Honor Choir. The Mission Team meets in the parlor at 11:00.

UMW will have a Cookie Stroll Fundraiser on **Sunday, Dec. 11** after the Worship Service. Fill your box and make your free will donations. There is a sign-up sheet for cookie bakers in Koelmel Hall. Cookies may be dropped off at church on Saturday from 2:00 to 4:00 or bring them on Sunday Morning.
Thank You

Naomi Circle—**December 12, 6:00 p.m.** at the church in Koelmel Hall. Christmas gathering carry in.

Rebekah Circle—**December 20, 1 p.m.** at Diane Martins. Pot Luck Christmas Party



Worship Committee News:

See you in Church - The Worship Committee

ADVENT IS UPON ON US - BLESSED GREETINGS FROM THE WORSHIP COMMITTEE.

Come prepared each Sunday for the Message of the True Meaning of Christmas....

Communion Sunday December 4th

Communion Stewards Kris Coleman and Kandi Parker

Readers for December

4th Francie Audier

11th Linda Bell

18th Jenny Zink

25th Pastor Emily

We celebrate the first Sunday of Advent with a beautiful display of Christmas decorations in our Sanctuary, Narthex and Koelmel Hall. Many thanks to our decorating team/crew for all the time and effort spent after church on November 20 along with the tables and banners in our social hall. What a lovely display we have ! Especially grateful to the Cook family who lead this each year and of course the amazing decorations they donated to the church. Annie and Carolyn who returned to finish Koelmel Hall.

The Advent Candle is lit each week by a different family and a message of Hope rings out through the service.

We have a combination choir and bell choir musical arrangement on December 18th. Blue Christmas service on December 21st at 5.00pm and 1 Christmas Eve Service December 24 at 8:00pm - Full of the Christmas Message and Music - The Choir will Sing Christmas Eve. Christmas Day Sunday the 25th Christmas Pajama Party and Hymn Sing.

Poinsettias have been ordered for you to remember with a memorial or honoring message. Poinsettias will be labelled so you will be able to take yours home after the service on December 25th. The worship committee has ordered extras for this season so no need to worry that you will not have one. The insert in the bulletin will begin on December 11th. Please deposit your order form in the collection plate. Instructions are on the form but checks are made payable to Cody UMC \$12.00 each. The poinsettias will be displayed beginning December 18.

The Worship Committee wish you all a Blessed and Merry Christmas and a Joyous New Year. Kandi, Carolyn, Lynn, Sandy, Nancy, Jeanne B, Ann , Pastor Emily and Jenny.



From the Membership/Nurture Committee

Report on MITTEN TREE

Thank you to all for your contributions to the mitten tree. This year we contributed the following to the Cody Schools (included are Wapiti and Valley Schools):

46 sets of hats and gloves
3 jackets
2 scarves
2 earmuffs



YOUTH GROUP NEWS



UMYF Meetings 2nd & 4th Sunday of the Month

Upcoming Events:

December 11th 5:30 pm at Christ Episcopal Church we are having a Christmas Party with the LDS church as well as St Anthony's Catholic Church!!

We will share in a meal, games, conversation and Christmas Caroling! Wear something festive and fun and bring a friend!

Any questions, contact Pastor Emily

As a reminder, youth group will be starting again on January 8th at Cody UMC for the spring, ending with our Star Wars Party on May 14th :)

December

2022



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Choir Practice Every Sunday after church at 11:15 am				1 Bells 5:30 pm 12 Step 6 pm	2	3
4 10 am Sunday Worship - Holy Communion	5 4 pm - Social Principles Class	6	7	8 Bells 5:30 pm 12 Step 6 pm	9	10
11 10 am Sunday Worship Cookie Stroll Charge Conference UMYF Party 5 pm	12 Naomi 6:30 pm Koelmel	13	14 12pm UWF Christmas party	15 <i>Worship 10:30</i> 5:30 pm Bells <i>12 Step 6 pm</i>	16	17
18 10 am Sunday Worship Caroling	19	20 Rebekah 1 pm Diane Martin's	21 Blue Christmas 5 pm	22 Bells 5:30 12 Step 6 pm	23	24 Christmas Eve Service 8pm
25 Christmas Day 10 am Worship	26	27	28	29 Bells 5:30 12 Step 6 pm	30	31



Happy Birthday to You!

Click Hunter	Dec	5	Rose Whelan	17
Tim Sheffield		5	Gabe Bree	18
Howard Salyer		6	Norleen Robirds	18
Doug Williams		7	Sharon Ball	19
Paige Ballard		7	Suzanne Palmer	19
Judi Westerhold		8	Betty Simonton	21
Stan Wolcott		9	Howard Thompson	23
Susan Schmidtberger		9	Roland Reachard	29
Kathy McDonald		15	Jim Landers	30



Happy Anniversary

Howard & Pat Salyer	Dec. 9
Scott & Cindy Aune	21
George & Betty Simonton	22
Duane & Lynn Whitmer	28
Larry & Jenny Zink	31

Cody Cupboard Update

1st Quarter 2022

January	32	Pounds
February	56	Pounds
March	61	Pounds
1 st Quarter Subtotal	149	Pounds

2nd Quarter 2022

April 17	57	Pounds
April 25/May	30	Pounds
June 16	40	Pounds
2 nd Quarter Subtotal	127	Pounds

3rd Quarter 2022

July 8	91	Pounds
August 11	47	Pounds
September 16	30	Pounds
3 rd Quarter Subtotal	168	Pounds

4th Quarter 2022

October 31	82	Pounds
November 22	91	Pounds

Please drop off donations on the 1st Sunday of each month!!

School is in Session = **HUNGRY KIDS + INFLATION**

Cody Cupboard Update

Hours:

Monday to Friday, 1 pm to 4 pm

Phone:

307-586-3732 or 307-899-7687 to schedule
a same day appointment for food.

E-mail:

info@codycupboard.com

Please drop off donations on the 1st Sunday of each month!

SCHOOL IS BACK IN SESSION = HUNGRY KIDS!

THANK YOU CUMC!

YOUR MISSIONS TEAM

**“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***

www.codyumc.com - church website

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

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Cody United Methodist Church
PO Box 1416
Cody WY 82414