**PASTOR’S PEN**

**The Messenger**

First United Methodist Church

1339 W. 400 N., Marriott-Slaterville UT 84404

*Web: fumcogdenut.org ~ Email:* *ogdenfumc@aol.com*

*“I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. I am the good shepherd” (John 10:10b-11a).*

 For two weeks in July, my mom and I drove around Montana mostly, plus some in North Dakota, Idaho, a tiny bit in Oregon, and some in Washington. My entire trip was over 4000 miles. Our basic goals were to visit relatives and friends, see some old places where we had previously lived, and do some research on the possibility of developing a faith-based senior living community next to First UMC.

 As we successfully went about doing all that, we also saw a lot of beautiful countryside. We saw the little bit of snow remaining on the high mountains of Glacier Park. We saw green and brown fields of waving wheat, vast expanses of yellow canola, and large rectangles of a reddish-pink flowering hay called sainfoin. We saw green potato plants in white bloom and cornfields reaching toward maturity. We saw some deer, some goats, and a fox. We saw brown and black cattle grazing, and even some real cowboys on horses, herding their livestock. We saw stately ponderosa pines, dense Douglas firs, and giant cottonwood trees. We saw creeks and rivers and lakes. We saw the big blue sky and all manner of clouds. Thanks to a friend of my mom’s, I even came back to Ogden with half a gallon of dark purple huckleberries, just picked off those wonderful little bushes so plentiful in the Kootenai National Forest of NW Montana.

 I’m painting this picture for you so you can see with me God’s bounty and abundance. The life God has created for us is so richly beautiful and so amazingly good. That’s true for our material life, and for our spiritual life too. Like a cowboy who knows where the good pasture is, Jesus the good shepherd watches over us, puts us in the safety of the pen when necessary, and leads us to nourishment.

 In John 10, Jesus called himself the good shepherd. Later, in John 21—after the resurrection—Jesus appeared to Peter and told him to tend and feed his sheep. Jesus was turning over the “good shepherd” role to those who would follow him. Ever since then, the church has been about that business of proclaiming and spreading the abundant life Jesus offers. We are sheep, AND we are called to be shepherds.

 In the loveliness and fruitfulness of this summer season, I pray that you are both experiencing abundance in your spirit and sharing it abundantly with others.

 Peace!

 Rev. Kim

**MISSION U**

 On Saturday, **August 10th**, our FUMC will be the host site for Mission U (the annual United Methodist mission school) for all the Utah UM churches. We are expecting a crowd. Our UM Women are providing the morning coffee and snacks. Our UM Men are preparing and serving the lunch. We will also need furniture movers before and after. Thank you to all of you who will volunteer to assist with these tasks!

 We also hope many of our FUMC members will attend the courses. The two studies offered that day are 1) “Women United for Change: 150 Years in Mission,” and 2) “What about Our Money? A Faith Response.” This second course will address personal and societal finances, from the point of view of Christian faith. The registration fee for one class, plus snacks and lunch is $55. The student book needs to be ordered separately (see registration form). Registration forms are available in the back of the Sanctuary. Return form and payment to the FUMC office by August 2nd.

**WOULD YOU MEET WITH CONSULTANT ABOUT**

**SENIOR LIVING COMMUNITY?**

 On Monday, Aug. 12, at 10:00 a.m., at FUMC, David Slack of Frasier Retirement Communities in Boulder, CO, (and AgingRI) will meet with Rev. Kim and anyone else who might be interested in joining in the conversation.  David will give some of his ideas about what would be involved in developing a senior living community next to First UMC.  Any and all are welcome to listen, ask questions, and share your perspective on this possible ministry.

**PRESENTATION ON SENIOR LIVING RESEARCH**

 Following worship on Sunday, August 25, Rev. Kim will give a progress report (slides and talk) on her research regarding the development of a faith-based senior living community next to FUMC. If you are interested, curious, and/or would like to give input into this project, please plan to attend this presentation.

**BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS**

On **Sunday, August 25**, the children and youth are invited to bring their backpacks to worship for a special blessing as they begin the school year.

**AUGUST MISSION EMPHASIS**

 This month’s Mission Emphasis is the Community Garden at First United Methodist Church. It also encompasses a water wise garden initiative called Project S.W.I.F.T.S. This stands for Sustainable Water Initiative: Food to Share. We hope to save water and offer more food to our local homeless shelter, the Lantern House, with this project.

 We have been surface irrigating our garden for the last nine years from the canal on our property using water shares owned by the church. It takes 4-5 hours each time to soak the entire garden. And the plants must survive on this until the next week as we do not receive any measurable precipitation in Utah in the summer. It is a very labor intensive way to garden and is taking a toll on our volunteers. If we had an efficient system of watering, we could offer garden plots for rent to people in our community, thus attracting others to our church. We have seen at least 12-15 people who have been active in our church because they were inspired by our garden and beekeeping ministries. We are unique in offering these opportunities.
 Steve and Kristen Bell attended United Methodist Earthkeepers training in November 2018. The project they proposed as a result is Sustainable Water Initiative: Food to Share or Project S.W.I.F.T.S.  for short. This project proposes our church go to a drip irrigation system to water our garden. At the same time, we can change over the irrigation being used to water the small green space around our building from culinary water to secondary water, a money saving opportunity. Also, we can provide more food to our local homeless shelter. Drip irrigation is a water wise method of growing. Water is delivered only to the root zone of the plants on a timed daily schedule. This increases yield by 300% and decreases water use by 75%. As weeds grow only where water is delivered, our weeding chores will be reduced along with our watering times, making our garden more sustainable.
 Currently we are working with Marriott- Slaterville City to extend their pressurized secondary water to our property. The city has conducted their own engineering study for this part of the infrastructure. They will need to get grant monies to fund this extension of one-half mile of piping. The best guess on the city having the system extended to us is by 2021. In the meantime, we can get our infrastructure in place on our property during 2020 and use our culinary water to test it out and perfect the system.
 The grant money we are applying for would be used for infrastructure on our property. We would need to connect the city line to our current irrigation around the building and to the garden. The cost estimate is $3,500 - $9,500. This includes piping, valve boxes, controls, excavation, grading, control power, final filtration and drip irrigation equipment. Monies collected during August for this mission emphasis will be used as matching funds for one of the grants we have applied for from the Mountain Sky Foundation. Thank you for your support!

**REV. KIM GONE TO NASHVILLE**

Rev. Kim will be away from FUMC August 5-11 for another week of learning. This time, she will be attending a course at UM Discipleship Ministries in Nashville. After reading several required books, attending the classes, and doing a future project and writing a paper, Rev. Kim will earn an Executive Certificate in Religious Fundraising. You can guess why this might be important for her vision of developing a faith-based senior living community. She will return just in time for the August 12, 10:00 a.m. meeting with David Slack—to which you are all invited. (See other article.)

While Rev. Kim is away, Rev. Olga Hard (719-892-0295) will be on call and leading worship.

**NEW MEMBERS CLASS**

Rev. Kim would like to offer a New Member Class this summer. You don’t have to be committed in advance. You can take the 2-part (2 hours x 2 days) class and check out what it means to be a member of our church, and then decide if membership is right for you. A New Members class will give you the basics about our local church history, mission, and organization; plus Wesleyan theology and the basics about the United Methodist denomination. If this sounds helpful to you, please send Rev. Kim an email at kimaljames@gmail.com .

**BOOK TALK**

 The Book Talk book for the month of August is *Educated* by Tara Westover. Join us on **Monday, August 12** at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Cheryl Thompson for our discussion. We will be having a potluck so please bring a side dish to share. Contact Cheryl at 801-389-9864 to let her know what you plan to bring or for more information.

**FUMC YOUTH NEWS**

****August 4th – Zoo

August 11th – Game Day

August 18th – Movie

August 25th – Geocaching

**BEEKEEPING MINISTRY NEWS**

**** The First UMC Beekeepers are offering a t-shirt fundraiser to interested folks in our church. Caitlin Bell designed the shirts and we have 2 designs to choose from featuring honey bees of course! Also there is an option for short or long sleeves. We are accepting orders online at the following website: [endzo.com](http://endzo.com) and the password needed is: beeshirt. Here you can make your selection from the options available. Deadline to order is August 15, 2019. Shirts will be ready for delivery around the beginning of September. All monies support our ministry. Thank you for your support!

**UNITED METHODIST WOMEN NEWS**

 No regular meeting will be held in August. However, we will have two events in August. All women of the church are invited to attend UMW activities.

**Saturday, August 10** - UMW will assist with the Mission U event at FUMC. We will provide breakfast and will need volunteers to assist in preparation and serving. Be sure to register with the church office by July 28 if you plan to attend. Registration forms are available in the back of the sanctuary. Registration fee is $55.00, plus your study guide. Please note you are responsible for ordering your study guide.

**Tuesday, August 27** at 1:00 – “Cookie Mix” Craft making Day. Linda Gates will have signup sheet for items needed (i.e. sugar, flour, etc.)

**Tuesday, September 3** – Lunch with the 1st Presbyterian Ladies at Union Grill, 315 E. 24th St, Ogden. Time is TBD.

**Friday and Saturday, September 20-21** – Utah/Western Colorado District Annual Celebration at Mountain Vista UMC in Salt Lake City. We seldom have an event like this close to home. The theme is celebrating UMW, “Back to Our Roots: 150 Years!” Registration deadline is September 1st. See Julie Coley or Linda Gates for registration forms. We will carpool to SLC.

**Tuesday, September 24** at 12:00 – “Christmas Sleigh” Craft making Day with a soup buffet.

**NEED FOR BACKPACKS**

 Catholic Community Services has asked for help in spreading the word about GIVING and/or GETTING help with school backpacks.  Their goal is to help 2,400 kids this year.  We have posted flyers on the front doors of the church.  There is information for both giving and receiving backpacks and/or supplies. School starts next month and the need has never been greater.

**UNITED METHODIST MEN NEWS**

 Thanks for your generous support at the spaghetti dinner for the UMM Scholarship Fund!  Over $700 was donated to the fund that aids our students in paying for college expenses. And thanks to the many men who pitched in to make the dinner possible.

**DATE CHANGE!! TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALLGAME!**

 The Sunday, August 11th game is already sold out. The UMM are trying to find an alternate date. Stay tuned for upcoming information. A clipboard will be passed to sign up and the $8 for tickets can be paid to Tim Stenner, Paul Kriekard, or Mitch Boren by Sunday, August 4th.

**UPCOMING CRAFT BAZAAR**

 Just a reminder that our annual craft bazaar is coming up on **Friday & Saturday, October 25 and 26**. As usual, there will be a craft area as well as an auction room. It’s not too early to start donating items. Please contact Colleen Blair for more information.

**Thank You**

**Thanks for Your Loyalty!**

 During the second quarter of 2019, twenty households contributed to FUMC’s ministries through having linked their Smith’s loyalty cards to our church. Those twenty households created a quarterly donation of $71.54. If you contributed to that amount, “Thank you!”

 Every dollar donated to our church helps preach and teach the good news of Jesus. Every dollar assists in pastoral care, congregational support, and faith development. Every dollar increases our ability to provide ministry for children, youth, and adults. Every dollar allows us to maintain our building and property in an attractive way, and advertise our ministries to our community.

 If you haven’t yet linked your Smith’s card to FUMC, please do so today. You can do this online or at the customer service counter.

Dear Congregation,

 I want to thank you for your support of our programs in Guatamala. I want to especially thank you for your recent donation to our potable water program (2018 Birthday Box donation). With your help, we will continue to make a difference in the lives of children in rural Guatamala.

 Best regards,

 Mark Ely, Executive Director

 Pura Vida Ministries

Greetings Church Family!

 Thanks so much for your many get-well cards, phone calls and emails.  It was sure not easy trying to rebound from my fall at church, during VBS.  Most of June was a painful mess for me.  And, I am still under a doctor's care for a nagging right shoulder injury from that fall.

 Wow! You are all awesome! Thanks again and God bless you!

 Yours Serving Christ, community and the world...

 Chris Hicks

Dear Friends at FUMC,

 Many thanks to all of you for your prayers, well wishes and cards for Freddie and me. We truly appreciate them.

 Freddie is well on his way to a full recovery. For myself, I will be undergoing another session of chemo with full remission still my goal.

 Again, many thanks,

 Donna & Freddie Quiroga

**PROJECT S.W.I.F.T.S**

**Sustainable Water Initiative--Food to Share**

 Project S.W.I.F.T.S. is making progress. A fundraising dinner is planned for Saturday, **September 28th** and the local community will be invited for a Octoberfest menu and a presentation on water wise gardening. This will be held at Marriott-Slaterville Community Center. We can use your help with this endeavor. Our first grant application has been submitted to the United Methodist Foundation. We hope the city will have a cost estimate for the project by August. Stay tuned!

 There will be no meeting in July for Project S.W.I.F.T.S.

Questions? Steve & Kristen Bell: bellf4m@comcast.net.

**COMMUNITY GARDEN HAPPENINGS**

 The Community Garden is off to a good start. Take a walk out and have a look.

 We are using email to communicate watering times to the water team. Weeding is welcome at all times! If you want to weed with others, come Tuesdays 8:00 am to 9:30 am. Harvesting will commence soon. Part of the harvest will be donated to the Lantern House. You can help on Wednesdays at 2:00 pm in the Lantern House kitchen doing food prep. Wear closed toe shoes. Come support our local homeless shelter.

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