

THE CIRCUIT

A Publication of the Evangelical United Methodist Church

345 Broadwater Avenue Billings, Montana

Nov-Dec 2017



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**ACTING
OUR FAITH
FOR 100
YEARS**

**ACT
YOUR
FAITH**

Evangelical United Methodist

Pastor's Corner

For some reason, a Bible verse has been randomly showing up in my recent daily life: Revelation 21:5, "Look! I am making all things new."

I do not yet know what it means for me in this moment, but I know enough to pay attention. God is at work. God is creating something new in my life and in our church. It will be good.

And couldn't we all use some good "news" right now?

Because the old stuff is getting, well, old. Hurricanes, fires, earthquakes and horrific mass murders. Political unrest, enemies testing limits, growing divisions in our country and church. Will it ever end? Or is it the end?

Praise be to God for the gift of faith in a God who knows best and a God who takes our messes and makes things new. Even Jesus, God's own son, did not know when the end would come. "But nobody knows when the day or hour will come, not the heavenly angels and not the Son. Only the Father knows," (Matthew 24:36) but he gave us plenty of work to do in the meantime. "Go and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19).

So what *can* we do? We can stay faithful and keep working. We can remember that our faith is not in our faith, or our ability to pray, or our politicians, or even our church. Our faith is in God. Our faith is in Jesus, who died and rose again to make a "new" covenant, one that changed our eternal destination. Our faith is in the Holy Spirit, who promises to help us, guide us, and bless us as we do the work we've been given to do.

As Pastor Randy Koppen from my home church recently wrote, "It is in these times the church needs to be what we've been called to be even more. We are called to be the calm in the storm. We are called to show love as Christ shows love...By holding fast, not shuddering in fear for what might be next, we ACT OUR FAITH."

As Christians and as a church we are called to live as "new" creations. Our lives and life in our church ought to look different than it does anywhere else. We do not live with fear but with hope. We do not treat others as enemies but as neighbors. We do not worry about the future but we trust God with today. We do not run or hide or blame when things get tough; we talk, pray and worship together instead. We show respect and listen well. We love one another even when we don't agree with one another.

Let us as Christ's followers and as Christ's church continue to live into God's promise that he is making all things "new". Let us live out and share the good "news" of Christ with all the people God has set in our path. Let us be living, breathing examples of a "new" and different way to do things in a world where the old blame and hate routine is getting old. And may God take everything we do and make it a "new" way for us to give him glory!

Handel's "Messiah" at Alberts Bair Theater

Begin your holiday season with a performance of Handel's beloved Messiah! Attend this free concert, now in its 24th year, at the Alberta Bair Theatre Sunday, December 3, at 3:30 p.m. Interested singers may borrow a Messiah score and attend any or all rehearsals the weekend of the performance. For additional information on this event, which supports free housing for out of town cancer patients and their families, call [\(406\) 237-3638](tel:4062373638) or go to svfoundation.org and click on "Our Events" and then on "Messiah Festival".



ANNUAL CHARGE CONFERENCE MEETING

This year, the area Billings UMC's are hosting one annual Charge Conference Meeting on Monday, Nov 20, 6 pm at First UMC (2800 4th Ave N).

There will be a joint time of worship and reflection, then churches will meet as individual groups to do necessary business. You are welcome to attend.

EUMC will have an all-church meeting in January to celebrate the gifts & graces of 2017 and plan for 2018.

SHARING OTHERS' GENEROSITY THROUGH OUR FAITH

Although the calendar says fall, our shoppers are already focusing on winter. We are in need of warm clothing for children sizes 4-16. We have a shortage of winter coats for children, women and men. Our shoppers use the tall plastic garbage bags with the drawstring so any donations will be appreciated. Submitted by Peg Parker



Volunteers' Schedules

Readers

Nov 5 Loreen Tallmadge
12 YOUTH
19 Betty Fridrichson
26 Lorinne Burke
Dec 3 Bryan Ragsdale
8 YOUTH
17 Coral Ragsdale
24 Bev Thorn
29 Brian Thorn

Ushers

Nov 5 Woody Strever, Bob Repac, MaryAnn Campbell, Dixie Schied
12 Two Youth, Sherry Clutts, Barb Powelson
19 Tom & Carol Hoffman, MaryAnn Campbell, Bob Repac
26 Woody Strever, Mike Nagel, Barb Powelson, Jan McCandless
Dec 3 Bob Repac, Tom Hoffman, Dee Replogel, Dixie Schied
10 Two Youth, Carol Hoffman, Mary Ann Campbell
17 Bob Rep, Tom Hoffman, Barb Powelson, Sherry Clutts
24 Bob Repac, Tom & Carol Hoffman, Mary Ann Campbell
31 Woody Strever, Mike Nagel, Barb Powelson, Jan McCandless

Greeters

Nov 3 Loreen Tallmadge, Jan McCandless
12 Steve Clutts, Anna Brewer
17 Carol Hoffman, Anna Brewer
26 Arlean Atwood, Lupe Watson
Dec 3 Carol Hoffman, Anna Brewer
8 Lela McGarvey, Steve Clutts
17 Lupe Watson, Jan McCandless
24 Loreen, Tallmadge, Arlean Atwood
29 Lela McGarvey, Anna Brewer

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 5 pm

For unto us
a child is
born,
a son
is given.



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 5 pm, Dec 24

There will **NOT** be a Sunday morning service that day. Please bring your loved ones to the special evening service; it's the perfect way to experience the meaning of Christmas!

Commission on a Way Forward is a group of United Methodist clergy and laity from all over the world working together to discern the church's biblical interpretation and theological traditions on human sexuality. They are charged with presenting work that will inform deliberation on the subject at a special General Conference scheduled for 2019. This November, the Commission will be presenting their initial work to the Council of Bishops. For more information, you can go to: <http://www.umc.org/who-we-are/commission-on-a-way-forward-about-us> or find them on Facebook at UMC Commission on a Way Forward.

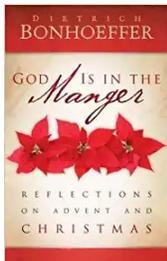
Who Do You Follow?

In November, we'll continue our journey through the gospels, praying that God might bring us new insight and understanding about the Savior we follow. We'll take a break over Advent and then finish our study in January by reading the Gospel of John.

November's daily reading list:

- | | | |
|-----------------|------------------|----------------------|
| Nov 1 - Luke 1 | Nov 11 - Luke 10 | Nov 21 - Luke 18 |
| Nov 2 - Luke 2 | Nov 12 - Worship | Nov 22 - Luke 19 |
| Nov 3 - Luke 3 | Nov 13 - Luke 11 | Nov 23 - Give Thanks |
| Nov 4 - Luke 4 | Nov 14 - Luke 12 | Nov 24 - Luke 20 |
| Nov 5 - Worship | Nov 15 - Luke 13 | Nov 25 - Luke 21 |
| Nov 6 - Luke 5 | Nov 16 - Luke 14 | Nov 26 - Worship |
| Nov 7 - Luke 6 | Nov 17 - Luke 15 | Nov 27 - Luke 22 |
| Nov 8 - Luke 7 | Nov 18 - Luke 16 | Nov 28 - Luke 23 |
| Nov 9 - Luke 8 | Nov 19 - Worship | Nov 29 - Luke 24 |
| Nov 10 - Luke 9 | Nov 20 - Luke 17 | Nov 30 - |

Advent Study & Reflection:



Join Pastor Wendy on Wednesday Evenings in December from 6:30—8 pm for a time of worship, reflection and prayer. Using Dietrich Bonhoeffer's devotional book, God is in the Manger, you will have an opportunity to carve out time during an extra busy season to nurture your relationship with the coming Christ child.

Please notify the office or sign up in the Gathering Area by Nov 15th so books can be ordered. Cost is \$10 for book (scholarships available).

Financial Footnotes - What Happens to Our Mission Shares?

As part of the United Methodist denomination, we along with all the other UM Churches, send a tithe to the conference every month. Our offering is combined with those of other UMCs and then used to do God's work all over the world. This is what United Methodists like to call our "connectional system."

Though each local church is the center where the mission of "making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world" most profoundly takes place, UMs believe that we are more effective together than apart. When we pool our resources and work together, we are able to share the love of Jesus Christ in remarkable ways!

For example, UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) is a highly respected and well organized group of UM staff and volunteers who are some of the first to respond to situations of trauma and disaster. Hurricanes, tornados, earthquakes, outbreaks of disease - UMCOR is there to help. Because our connectional system supports the administrative expenses of UMCOR, 100% of donations to the group go directly to help those in need. That means that anytime you put a dollar in the offering plate, you are helping minister to people in crisis all over the world!

Some of the funds supported by our Mission Shares include:

World Service Fund - supports missionaries and our evangelism efforts all over the world.
Ministerial Education Fund - provides scholarships and seminary funding for future pastors.
Africa University Fund - provides quality education to Africans from 21 different countries.

For more information on Mission Shares and the Connectional System, visit:

<http://www.umc.org/how-we-serve/apportioned-funds>

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/understanding-the-united-methodist-church#church>



I Have a Question, Who Do I Ask?

Do you ever wonder who to talk to when you have questions about the water fountain that doesn't work or want to know where to get information about where your offering goes? Our church is blessed with great leaders who are happy to help! Here is who to contact when you have questions or concerns:

Finances: Coral Ragsdale or Anna Brewer

Building: Dustin Dozhier or Carol Vegge

Relationships with Staff, Pastor, Church Members or Concerns about the Church: Lorinne Burke-White, Skip Venard, Jan Skovgaard or Carol Hansen

Youth & Children's Activities: Lisa Thompson, Bryan Ragsdale, Anna Brewer or Rachel Tremis

Ministry Opportunities: Coral & Bryan Ragsdale, Bev Thorn, Loreen Tallmadge, Carol Hansen, Rachel Tremis or Kate Kilzer



MEMBER HIGHLIGHT Suzie Biggins

Suzie and husband, Jeff, have been a part of EUM for six years. Jeff is the church's sound man, and Suzie attends the Discovery Bible Study and puts in many hours during the week working at the Free Store.



Suzie was born in a small community of 75 people in Gordon, Nebraska where her dad ranched. They moved to Canada for five years, then back to Nebraska where she graduated from high school. Suzie is the middle child of two sisters and a brother. Following high school graduation, Suzie moved to Lewistown, Montana where she worked for a year as an aide and caregiver to a woman and the woman's mother who was bedridden. During that time, Suzie's Mom and Dad bought a motel in Lewistown. She then went to work for them at the motel.

From 1979-80 Suzie attended Montana Institute of the Bible in Lewistown. Following Bible school, Suzie moved to Great Falls to attend Commercial College focusing on being a computer programmer. Starting in March, her education was cut short when the College closed due to bankruptcy.

In 1981, Suzie married a man who was in the Air Force. After 25 years, the marriage ended. Suzie has one son from that marriage. Suzie moved to Texas to be closer to family in 2007 living there for one and a half years. Suzie's mom passed away in 2009.

It was in 2009 that an adventure began with Suzie moving to Billings. Near the end of the year, Suzie met Jeff at "Date, HookUp.com". In checking Jeff's profile, she discovered that he was shorter than she is. Upon seeing that statistic, she decided to not consider him, however, Jeff was interested in Suzie! (The reason that Suzie didn't pursue Jeff because of his height is that in Texas, men tend to have issues with taller women.) Jeff continued to contact Suzie by phone and computer. He persisted, and Jeff and Suzie had a blind date at the former JB's on Grand Avenue. They dated, and were married on 1-1-11 at 1:11PM at Suzie's sister's house. Suzie says that because of the numbers, Jeff has no reason to ever forget the date!

Suzie enjoys reading, getting together with friends, music, and gardening, and also collected Garfield stuffed animals for 20 years. Presently, she collects watches, and at home, "collects dust"!!! A year ago, Suzie acquired a seven week old miniature dachshund who is a rarity due to her coloring. Saydee is white and black with dapples and spots. Her head is black and tan. Saydee is an emotional support for Suzie.

Suzie is a valued member of the EUM family. Her commitment to the Lord and the church is evident in all that she does.

— Submitted by Carol Vegge

Looking for a Place to Go on Thanksgiving?

Our church is hosting a Thanksgiving meal at 1 pm on Thanksgiving day for those who would like to share a good meal with good people. There will be a sign-up sheet at church in November to keep track of who is coming and what they plan to bring. All are welcome! For more information, you may contact Linda Lang at 651-9457.

Youth Group is in full swing! 15 High School & Middle School students are meeting on a regular basis to worship, share meals, play games, serve others, and learn about living life with Jesus. This year, they are also engaging in a monthly mission project. The youth group cleaned and organized the Free Store in October. They will be serving Thanksgiving meals with MRM in November and singing carols for our homebound members in December. Please keep the youth & their leaders in your prayers, asking God to help them grow in faith and spiritual maturity in the year ahead.

November

02 Savina McKeen
02 Margaret Cocheu
05 Sydney Norwood
07 Vivianne Scott
10 Gary Sem
15 Sindy Domek
15 Lela McGarvey
16 Dale Martin
17 Dave Coppock
22 Brenda Rogers
22 Roger Weitz
23 Norma Petersen
23 Robert Schmaing
24 Larry Shriver



December

01 Candi Dozhier
06 Jeffery Biggins
16 Sherree Cruse
20 Steve Domek
22 Jenna Zahn
25 Jamie Opp-Nagel
25 Austin Ragsdale
27 Renee Coppock
27 Geraldine Hauck
28 Mary Venard
30 Herbert Mangis

Some “NEW” Things to Know....

- This is the last regular bi-monthly newsletter. Beginning in January, a NEW, shorter newsletter will be handed out during worship on the first Sunday of every month. This may also be emailed to you (please let the office know if you would like to receive it this way) and will be available on our Facebook page (Billings Evangelical United Methodist Church) and website (actyourfaith.org). For those wanting a hard copy via snail mail, two newsletters will be sent to you e/o month. Send your preference to office@actyourfaith.org or (406) 259-1897.
- The NEW newsletter will contain pertinent information about the activities and missions of the church. Articles, reflections, member highlights will be available through a blog, which will be posted on the church’s Facebook page and website. (To contribute, send articles, etc to pastorwendyochs@gmail.com).
- We will continue to do our NEW Church Night on the first Wednesday of every month! From 6:30 - 8:30 pm, everyone is invited for a time of relational worship, dinner, and Bible Study activities for all age groups.

Thank you to all who said YES during our Just Say Yes! Campaign. The Mission & Evangelism Team will be working on volunteer schedules, worship schedules, and volunteer training opportunities. You will be hearing from them soon! We are grateful for your faithfulness in Acting Your Faith and sharing Christ's love through the ministries of our church.

□

NEXT 100 CHURCH HISTORY
Submitted by Carol Vegge

2000 - Pastor Derf Bergman Rev. Bob Dunn was recognized for his years of service and ministry at EUM and throughout the Conference. He was given the title of Pastor Emeritus and was presented a plaque by District Superintendent, Tim Hathaway.

The ladies of EUM and Holy Rosary met during the year to share ideas and fellowship together.

2001 - Pastor Derf Bergman

The Sunday School department initiated a new Bible reading program. Each week a Bible bookmark was distributed to each student. The bookmark had daily Bible readings with two questions. The focus was to develop the discipline of reading God's Word daily.

New praise books were purchased to replace the old torn spiral books.

Rev. Earl and Dorothy Kainz presented a painting that Earl did of the church's cross tower. Rev. Bob Dunn had the United Methodist flame and cross on the front of the church put on the church in memory of Luella Dunn.

2002 - Pastor Derf Bergman
Interim Pastor Ira Robison
Pastor Ron Kapalka

EUM participated with the Sacred Heart of Renewal program the "House of Worship Tours."

New oak tables and coffee serving counter were built by John Aalgaard.

2003 - Pastor Ron Kapalka

EUM participated in the Rick Bonfim Spiritual Renewal ministries.

Mata Wagner and sisters presented a gift of love to EUM by having a new stained glass window put in the upper narthex area. John Aalgaard made the Memorial cabinet in memory of Vi Dabner.

2004 - Pastor Ron Kapalka

EUM and Valley Christian Church were involved in the CNN Satellite Program that presented a variety of opportunities of various seminars.

In October, EUM had a neighborhood Open House inviting the community to tour the church and enjoy a hot dog BBQ in the parking lot.

2005 - Pastor Ron Kapalka

EUM worked to improve the church building. New landscaping was done in front of the church with red rock and new sod being put down. Energy efficient window thermal pane inserts were installed. Programmable thermostats were installed.

2006 - Pastor Ron Kapalka A Women's Retreat was held with Betty McKinney, Bess Barrett's daughter-in-law. District Superintendent Dick Storment presented a workshop focusing on the dynamics of church health and growth.

Tillie Friesz, Mary Lou Spencer, and Nellie Vegge were honored for their many years of service to the church and for the Lord.

Evangelical United Methodist Church
345 Broadwater Avenue
Billings, MT 59101
406-259-1897

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Pastor Wendy Ochs
Email: office@actyourfaith.org
Website: www.actyourfaith.org

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Psalm 23 for an Airplane Pilot

The Lord is my Pilot in Command, I shall not stall.
He makes me to be aware of the jet stream,
He leads me on the beam. He manages my control inputs.
He helps me determine my CAVU for my passenger's sake.
Yea, though my touchdown seems so distant,
I will fear no deadstick, for Thou art with me.
Thy drag and thy thrust, they keep me from skidding.
Thou art in the midst of my trim,
You know my plane's capabilities.
You strengthen my directional stability, You reduce my crosswinds,
You are my center of gravity.
Surely fog and sudden downdrafts will be few and far between,
and I shall come to a full stop, with little need for ditching or
Maydays throughout my flying career.
And I will slide into the hangar safely, knowing my Pilot goes
before me and has my Eternal Flight Book safely in His Hands forever.

Amen

written for Lindsey Gray who flies for A.I.M.

by Bev Thorn