

Glendive & Wibaux United Methodist Church Newsletter

April 2025



Pastor's Letter

Hey gang! As I write to all of you now, I'm sitting surrounded by blankets, medicine, Gatorade, and water. I'm nursing my umpteenth sinus infection, spurred on by the weather changes. I've never been so thankful for the ability to breathe out of my nose, I swear. I won't take it for granted when that ability comes back!

It's left me mulling and meditating on healing. Especially in this series on miracles, God makes it clear that God wants healing. In fact, Jesus refers to sin as a "sickness" just as often as he refers to sin as a "debt." We can think of sin having two aspects (or two sharp edges): what I do and what is done to me. Both edges cause pain, but from very different sources.

First, there is the pain we cause. This is most likely what we think of when we think of sin: the bad stuff we do. It's what makes people bow their heads in shame at a church service with an angry pastor. It's what we do that we don't want to repeat. We can think of this like an illness because it's what keeps us stuck, waylaid, passed out. It's what pulls our awareness away from others and love, and instead focuses it on our guilt and the harm we cause. It's like finding out you gave someone the flu; you feel terrible about it, and you realize that in some ways, it is out of your control. Other times, sin can feel like taking the wrong medicine to heal yourself of your sickness. Either metaphor works, but in both, sin is both in us and outside of us. It has effects on us and effects on others. Like a virus, it begins inside us, but with material from the outside. Jesus offers us healing in the way he offered healing to the man who couldn't walk: we are brought to the Healer, who gives us the medicine/healing we need, and asked to go bring other sick folks to the Healer.

But sin is bigger than just what we do; there is also the things that are done to us. This includes the things others do to hurt you, the ways society hurts us, the ways society hurts others that aren't us. This is what sin we pray for when we pray for peace instead of war, food instead of famine, forgiveness instead of revenge, and recovery instead of squalor. It's where human actions and societal systems of action combine to cause more pain. This is where the image of Jesus on the cross is so helpful: the sickness he's trying to heal, that is the sin of the world, is bigger than a shot of medicine. This sickness is what leads to so much death; so Jesus lives a life, dies, and reclaims that life as victory over the most severe consequence of sin-sickness: death.

As we go through our days and weeks, may we experience healing so that we go out and bring others to the Healer. May we work with Christ to experience and share the fruits of Jesus' victory over death—fruits of joy, compassion, forgiveness, community, and healing. Be healed this month, and choose to be part of God's mission of healing for the world.



United
Women
in Faith

United Women in Faith will meet Wed. April 16th at 5:30 pm.

Coffee, tea & treat will be provided. We hope you will join us for fellowship & worship!

The Lenten Services, which will be held at the Zion Church. Soup at 6:00 pm and worship at 6:45 pm. The UCC is the Host church this year, but will be at Zion Church.

The schedule will be: April 2 - UMC (UWF provides the soup)

April 9 - UCC, Host church

A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial 2025: Empowering Women Worldwide



United Women in Faith is committed to empowering women and girls in Africa, Asia, and Latin America to gain competence and skills through leadership development, economic empowerment, and skills building. Our goal is to have young women make up 50 percent of the participation in these programs. In 2023, we awarded 16 economic development grants totaling \$188,100.

For more than 150 years, United Women in Faith members have taken action to turn faith, hope, and love into work on behalf of women, children, and youth in every corner of the world. As an annual part of our action, United Women in Faith invites women from all over to gather locally and participate in:

A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial.

The Call to Prayer and Self-Denial offering supports economic development and microenterprise projects, vocational training, life skills, and livelihood training internationally. Specifically, funds will support the work of United Methodist conference women's teams that design and lead projects that make a direct impact on improving the lives of their families and community members. Funds raised will also support the work of the conference women's coordinators and Regional Missionaries who partner in this work.

One hundred percent of the offering goes to the focus projects for that year.

In 2025 Methodist Women's Federation of Peru and United Women in Faith for Economic Development will join forces and work together to empower Peruvian women through the Transformative Development Project, an initiative that aims to provide Peruvian Methodist women with tools that allow them to transform their own lives and the lives of those in their communities. The project is a response to contemporary challenges and a testimony of faith and hope. The Transformative Development Project is aimed at the more than 500 women who are part of the 29 women's societies (units) of local Methodist churches throughout the country. The participants will then replicate the training in their districts. Subsequently, a virtual training program will be carried out on topics such as the development of ventures and projects, finance, accounting, and others.

Please join us at our United Women in Faith meeting on April 16 at 5:30 pm as we observe the Call to Prayer and Self-Denial with fellowship and worship. If you wish to donate you may do so then or, if you cannot attend and wish to donate you may do so online or see Millie Robinson.

UMF Retreat in Laurel on April 26th

If interested in going, please talk to Millie Robinson by April 20th.

Coffee



Hour

Appreciation goes to all who hosted the coffee hour after Sunday Services in March. This is a special time for members to have time to socialize with each other. The treats, punch, and coffee provide an atmosphere of welcoming that is pleasing to all.

Jo Ann, Phyllis

Galen & Lynn Ann, Larry

Sue, Betty, Phyllis

Leslie

Methodist Men

Happy
Easter!



Happy
Birthday

April - 1-Stacey Stanfill

April - 23 Diana Notis

April - 4 Patty Steer

Ivan Pai

April - 5 Hailey Stanfill

April - 25 Jean Mitchell

April - 6 Sari Hunter

April - 7 Wei Pai

April - 13 Keith Clingingsmith

April - 17 Emma Doty

Be a Friend! If you have not already done so, please consider stopping at the Courtesy Counter at Reynolds and have your telephone number registered to our **Account #8000** .

Thank you for the continued support!



Webpage – glendiveunitedmethodistchurch.com

Our: E-mail address – umcglendive@gmail.com

Facebook– [GlendiveUnitedMethodistChurchMontana](https://www.facebook.com/GlendiveUnitedMethodistChurchMontana)



April 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 <i>Lent</i> <i>UMC Soup</i> <i>At Zion 6pm</i>	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 <i>Lent</i> <i>UCC Soup</i> <i>At Zion 6pm</i>	10	11	12
13  <i>Noisy Buckets</i>	14	15	16 <i>UMF 5:30pm</i>	17	18 <i>Good Friday</i>	19
20  <i>Sunrise:7am</i> <i>Breakfast:8am</i>	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28 <i>Ad Board meeting @ 7:00pm</i>	29	30			