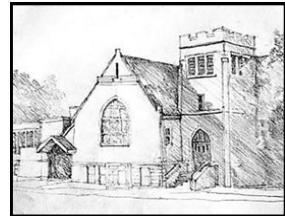


# Glendive & Wibaux United Methodist Church Newsletter

## January 2026



### Pastor letter



This past November, I experienced one of the loneliest seasons of my life—the passing of my father. There were days when grief felt heavy and overwhelming, and I wasn't sure how I would make it through. But in the midst of that pain, God showed up in ways I will never forget. He showed up through the people in my church, who surrounded me with love, prayers, encouragement, and care. Their support lifted me when I couldn't lift myself, and it reminded me that even in the darkest moments, God is present. It was in that time of sorrow that I truly felt God's nearness. There were quiet moments of prayer where His peace came over me, and simple acts of love—from a hug, a meal, a call, or a kind word—that reminded me I was not alone. God used my church family to show me His love in tangible ways, and I am forever grateful for the way they carried me through.

This experience reminded me of something I've always known: we are called to love one another, not just in words, but in action. And here in Glendive and Wibaux, that love is alive every day. When someone struggles, we reach out. When someone celebrates, we celebrate with them. Our towns are filled with people who care for each other, who lift each other up, and who reflect God's love in everything they do. God doesn't only live in churches or in the pages of scripture. He lives in our homes, in our workplaces, and in the ways we treat each other. Every shared smile, every helping hand, every prayer lifted for a friend or neighbor—these are ways God moves in and through us. These acts of love ripple through our community and remind us that no one has to face life alone.

In Glendive and Wibaux, I've witnessed a spirit of support that is rare. People look out for one another here. They encourage one another, celebrate victories, and provide comfort in times of sorrow. This is the heart of God's love in action. It's what makes our towns more than just places to live—they are communities filled with life, faith, and care for each other.

Let us continue to nurture this spirit. Let us reach out, lift each other up, and show God's presence in everything we do. Together, we can make Glendive and Wibaux shining examples of a community living in love, hope, and faith.

May God bless each of you and our towns richly. Let's keep loving one another, supporting one another, and walking in His light every day.

With love and gratitude,

**Pastor Philip Spicer**



## Lay speaker report:

Over the past year and a half I have been studying and taking courses to earn the Lay Speaker Certification. I am thankful to the church for the support they have given me and the encouragement to continue.

Some of the classes I have taken include, Called to preach, Living our United Methodist beliefs, Life together in the Methodist connection, Leading worship, Leading public prayer, and For the common good: discovering and using your spiritual gifts.

Getting this certification is fulfilling God's call for me to preach. It's taken nearly fifty years to finally answer His call, but it feels so good to be faithful to His call.

Thank you,

Larry Meidinger

## **Are you a member of our church Prayer Chain?**

The church maintains an email prayer chain list for which many of you are already signed up. In addition to prayer requests, the email list is used for occasional church announcements. There also is a telephone prayer chain for those who do not use email. A phone chain (we used to call that a phone tree) works like this: one person calls the second person on the list, who calls the third person, etc. Andrine Haas usually manages the email prayer chain/announcement list and Glenda LaBree starts the phone chain.

If you would like to be added to the e-mail or phone prayer chain list, please call Andrine at 406-989-1479. If you think you are on the list, but have missed receiving emails, let Andrine know so she can check your email address in her files. Many people have commented on how much they appreciate knowing fellow church members are praying for them!



## Making a financial pledge to the Glendive United Methodist Church

**Happy New Year!** It's a new year; a new church budget; so it's also time for a pledge letter. To avoid the expense of an additional mailing, we are sending this church pledge request in the newsletter.

2025 saw some exciting new things for our church – new ceilings and lights in the Fireside Room, the offices, and the nursery; new carpet in the nursery; and a new pastor in July! And we did all that (plus paying our monthly expenses) thanks to:

- Successful fundraisers like our spring rummage sale and the fall Harvest Auction
- The generous giving of our members and friends
- Payment from the Wibaux church

**When we joined the church, we made a promise to support the church with our presence, our prayers, our gifts, and our service.** Our church needs our support, both spiritual and financial, in order to flourish. We donate to our church – for our building which houses our worship and activities and for salaries for our pastor, lay speakers, secretary, musician and custodian who make things happen and run smoothly. *But our church costs don't stop there.* Just like the other budgets in our lives, we have additional costs for things like utilities, maintenance, insurance, and supplies. Wibaux has notified us that they will very likely not be able to give us financial support in 2026 and we expect to see increases in the cost of things like insurance and utilities.

A pledge slip for 2026 giving is below. Although there is no requirement to fill out and return the pledge slip, it is helpful to the Finance Committee to have an idea of pledged income to expect. Even if you don't return the pledge slip, we ask that you make a conscious plan for giving for the year.

Remember that you can always make *designated gifts* toward specific things such as the Air Conditioning Fund or other specified projects. With such *designated giving*, 100% of the donation stays at the local church. Undesignated giving (to the General Fund) has a portion of the donation go to the Conference. Be sure to mark your giving if you wish it to be designated.

**Please detach and complete the pledge slip below and send to the church or drop it in the offering plate or at the church office.** If you have questions or suggestions about the church financial situation, you can talk to Vernone Spencer, Finance Committee Chair or Twylla McPherson, Administrative Board Chair.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration. - Andrine Haas, outgoing Finance Committee Chair

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### MY 2026 COMMITMENT TO MY CHURCH

**In recognition that my time, treasure and ability come from God, I gladly join in the support of Christ's church. My contribution will support local ministries including worship, education, pastoral service, church building care and upkeep, and local & world missions.**

**Per week \$** \_\_\_\_\_ **Per month \$** \_\_\_\_\_ **Per Year \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

Remember, you can always make *designated gifts* toward specific things such as the Air Conditioning Fund or other specified projects. Please clearly mark such donations.



## United Woman in Faith

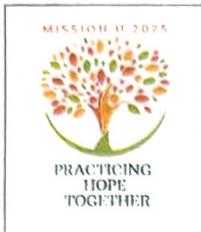
United Woman in Faith held a very successful annual Christmas Bazaar

Dec. 5. We made around \$1000 — no total yet because we still have some money coming in. Thanks to all those who donated many items and lots of homemade goodies, and those that worked.



A lovely meal and time together were enjoyed by attendees to the Christmas Dinner hosted by United Women in Faith on Dec. 11.. The delicious dinner was served by Cindy Cudmore, with dessert made by Leslie Hunter. Sadly, we missed all those who did not attend due to icy weather that night. Cards were signed to be sent to those who have moved away or were otherwise not able to come.

Mountain Sky Conference United Women in Faith will host a virtual Mission U study group in February and early March. Look for more information here in the Newsletter or on the Fireside Room bulletin board. If there is interest we can purchase a few copies of the book to be used or you may order your own. Register on your own or let Mimmie Robinson know if you are interested. We could possibly attend as a small group here at the church.



## Winter Mission u--A Virtual Study Via Zoom Practicing Hope Together February 1, 8, 22 and March 1, 2026 AND IT'S FREE!

Sponsored by Mountain Sky United Women in Faith  
and the Mountain Sky Mission Team  
An ecumenical gathering for all adults, youth, clergy  
and lay persons.

**Dates:** Sunday afternoons, February 1, 8, 22 and March 1, 2-4:30 p.m.

**Study Leaders:** Rev. J.R. Atkins, Sandy Barton, Pastor Araceli Berdugo

**Study Book:** Practicing Hope Together

**Online registration** begins December 1, 2025

The study book can be purchased on the Mission u website for \$14.99 plus shipping at:

<https://uwfaithresources.org/prodDetail.cfm?productID=11781&catid=2175>

**REGISTER ONLINE:** <https://mtnsky-reg.brtapp.com/2026Missionupracticinghope>

**Study Description:** Practicing Hope Together is a timely study reflective of the spiritual and political moment we are experiencing. It is a time when many of our churches are discerning where Christ is calling us to be morally courageous when our world leaders fail us and our communities work to "come back" together after being on the brink of collapse. This curriculum will explore how we can hope differently. We will study scripture, look at some timely podcasts and practice how we can take care of ourselves.

Many of our virtual Mountain Sky United Women in Faith Mission u studies are available on the Mountain Sky United Women in Faith [YouTube channel](#).

*An offering will be taken and will be split between Mountain Sky UwFaith and the Mission Team.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Request CE certificate, sent upon completion of course.

Street Address, City, State, ZIP Code:

Best phone number:

Email:

**District:**  Big Horn  Mile High Metro  
 Utah/Western Colorado  Western Mountains

Northern Colorado  Southern Colorado  
 Wyoming+1  Other \_\_\_\_\_

First-time Attendee to Mission u?  Yes  No

Home church and city or town:

Check all that apply:  Clergy  Lay Member  UWFaith  Male  Female  Non-binary



### This summer Mission u went live!

During summer 2025, Mountain Sky Mission u held four in-person studies. Host sites included Smoky Hill UMC (Denver, Colorado); St. Paul UMC (Helena, Montana); and Delta (Delta, Colorado). The study was also presented in Spanish the same time as the English version at Smoky Hill UMC. In all, about 125 attendees took part in the live studies. The 2026 study is called Experiencing Emmanuel. If you would be interested in being a study leader or are interested in collaborating to host a live study in 2026, contact Kathryn Witte, [kathrynwitte75@yahoo.com](mailto:kathrynwitte75@yahoo.com).



## Children's Program



## The Christmas Eve Candle Light Service



## Happy New Year Party





## January

Sparkling winter sunshine,  
Faces all aglow  
Making resolutions,  
And angels in the snow-  
Steaming cups of cocoa,  
A year that's fresh and new ...  
All of this magic-  
Unfolding just for you.

## THANK YOU!

**December Coffee Hour Hosts:**  
**Leslie, Andrine, Sunday School**  
**Galen, Lynn Ann, Larry,**  
**Potluck**



1

## Happy Birthdays

Jan. 2 David Skerritt  
Jan. 9 Kayrene Vashus  
Dawn Kingstad  
Jan. 10 Jace Gentry  
Jan. 11 Jan Kruger  
Jan. 15 Janine Huschka  
Jan. 26 Tsai-Ying Li  
Jan. 29 Melissa Skerritt



# January 2026

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

				1 	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 <i>Noisy Buckets</i>	19	20	21 <i>UM in Faith</i> <i>2:30pm</i>	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31



# January Newsletter



**Glendive & Wibaux**

**United Methodist Church**

206 West Towne, PO Box 200

Glendive, Montana 59330

406-377-5678

Webpage – [glendiveunitedmethodistchurch.com](http://glendiveunitedmethodistchurch.com)

E-mail address – [umcglenive@gmail.com](mailto:umcglenive@gmail.com)

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



Glendive  
United Methodist Church  
PO Box 200  
Glendive, MT 59330