# Glendive & Wibaux United Methodist Church Newsletter





**May 2025** 



#### Pastor's Letter

Spring is here hallelujah! Rain is falling and flowers are beginning their bloom! It is nature's way of reminding us of its Creator: one who brings life, even after death. One who brings growth from blight, decay, and mistakes!

While down in Houston for my best friend's wedding, Leigh and I got to go to the Johnson Space Center and Museum. Inside and through tram tours, you follow NASA's contribution to space flight all over the world, from the first tanker-car-size rockets all the way to the SpaceEx, Starliner, and Artemis programs that are in service or development for service! This trip, I was particularly struck by a bronze statue depicting the astronauts who survived the Apollo 13 mission.

For those unaware, on April 11, 1970, three astronauts were launched with plans to land on the moon, until there was a complication leading to an explosion of several oxygen tanks. While en route to the moon, miles from Earth's oxygen, NASA and three brave scientists (now enshrined in bronze) patched together an emergency return home. When the statue commemorating their return was made, Jim Lovell, the mission's commander, advised the sculptor not to depict them in their space suits. Instead, Jim suggested Hawaiian shirts and shorts, the outfits they wore when they first reached safe harbor after being retrieved from the South Pacific. In front of the statue is a plaque, where NASA calls the Apollo 13 mission a massive success, despite the obvious catastrophic malfunction.

Why might they call this a success? Because they saved the scientists, yes, but also because they learned so much about how to orchestrate a rescue - in space! Just as the Apollo 1 module fire helped develop safer crew modules, the Apollo 13 mission helped develop hours of guidelines, emergency responses, and technical updates. In other words, since the catastrophe taught so much, NASA values it highly.

This is a meditation on grace, I think. God doesn't look at our failures as the end of the story, nor its defining trait. Rather, to God, what defines us is how we grow in the face of this failure. If NASA had not made the crew module safer after the Apollo 1 fire, it is likely that three more men would have died from the same mistake. While our decisions usually don't involve lives, they do involve a life; ours, as a gift, to do good and seek God. Thus, when we make mistakes and we grow from them, God revels in it, making heavenly plaques in our lives, remembering the catastrophes we avoided by learning from the mistakes of the past.



# Mother's Day!



### Mother's Day

Thank you to all the Mothers and Fathers out there who love, support, nurture, and guide their children. Mothers and Fathers put so much work into parenting and ensuring the best for their children as they grow. Y'all know I love blessings and the practice of blessing each other! In my book of blessings from John O' Donohue, he has two blessings, a blessing for a mother and a blessing for a father. May all the Mothers and Fathers of our congregations, friends, families, and communities be blessed!

#### For the Mother

"Mother, your voice learning to soothe your new child was the home-sound we heard before we could see. Your young eyes gazing on us was the first mirror where we glimpsed what to be seen could mean. Mother, your nearness tilled the air, an umbilical garden for all the seeds of thought that stirred in our infant hearts. You nurtured and fostered this space to root all our quietly gathering intensity that could grow nowhere else. Mother, formed from the depths beneath your heart, you know us from the inside out. No deeds or seas or others could ever erase that."

By John O' Donohue





#### **United Women in Faith**

There will be no meeting in May, but will plan on a June gathering for rolls and coffee.



## June & July Services

Starting June 1st, the Congregational Church will join our church for the five services. The time of the service will be at 11:00 a.m.

In July the United Methodist Church will join the Congregational Church for four services at 120 W. Power St. The time of the services will be at 10:00 a.m.

Our fellowship together is magnificent!

**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 <u>Account #8000</u>.

Thank you for the continued support!





## Coffee Hour

Appreciation goes to all who hosted the coffee hour after Sunday Services in April. 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.

Millie Lance (Sunrise breakfast)

Twylla & Vernone Leslie



# May Happy Birthday's

May 2nd - Doris Kruger May 21st - Skylar Huschka

May 3rd - Lance Phinney May 25th - Colleen Pedersen

May 5th - Ashton Numberg May 26th - Hallee Gentry

-Twylla McPherson May 27th - Marlene Lindquist

May 10th - Kyle Milne May 29th - Millie Robinson

May19th - Dan Engle - Jo Ann Hunt

- Austin Numberg

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