



THE BELL TOWER

December 2020



Emily's Chronicles

This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” Luke 2: 12-14 NRSV

Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ of Cody UMC,

Christmas was (and still is) my favorite holiday growing up. I would decorate my room and play Christmas music all the time. I loved baking cookies with my mom and watching all sorts of holiday movies with my dad. We had a strange tradition of throwing sugar cubes on the roof for the reindeer on Christmas Eve. Needless to say, there are a plethora of things to look forward to with Christmas upon us.

One thing that has changed for me is the birth narrative. By that, I mean now I have a much deeper appreciation for the story of Jesus' birth. My mother and I were so fortunate to have the opportunity to go to the Holy Land shortly after Christmas last year. We went all over Palestine and Israel. One of the most significant places was Bethlehem. The rolling green hills, the ancient buildings, streets filled with people- it was amazing. We had a chance to enter the Church of the Nativity. When you enter, you go into a cave like room and there is a star on the ground marking the supposed site of Jesus' birth.

While that was incredible to witness, that is not what changed my heart. After our group all saw the star, we went further into the cave like room and there were a few candles lit. It was quiet in there, even with thousands of people entering the church. We took a moment to read the birth narrative from Luke and afterwards we sang Silent Night. We sang from the heart. We sang together in a harmony that was nothing like I had experienced before. We were all moved to tears. It was in that moment that I was reminded what Jesus' birth meant.

Here was this little precious baby boy, born to a young girl who was not married, in a lowly dark room. This baby that was going to be brought up into a world of chaos, hate, inequality, and fear. He would grow up, live a life just like you and me, and yet would restore peace and justice in the world through his sacrifice and unconditional love. Christmas is more than just Jesus' birth- it is a reminder of what his birth represents. The beginning of hope, joy, peace and love for all people and in all times. May it be that we remember what this season is calling us to be. We are called into not just seasonal peace and joy, but a lifelong commitment.

Peace and Blessings,

Pastor Emily

Pastor Emily L Rettinghouse

Cody United Methodist Church

Church Council Minutes November 10, 2020

Charge Conference – Sunday 15th at 11:30 in the Sanctuary

Goals for our church were discussed and Kris will compile the list to be presented.

Proposed Budget 2021

2021 Proposed Budget

Finance is asking Ad Council to also approve the following guidance as part of the proposed budget.

Overall goal is to cover general fund expenses for Ad Council, SPR, Trustee, and Finance Committees from annual general fund offering.

Guideline budget caps

General fund budget/Spending for Ad Council, SPR, Trustee, and Finance committees is capped at 105% of annual offering target.

General fund budget/spending for other committees is capped at 5% of annual offering target.

2021 offering target \$173,160. This is a 4% increase over 2020 offering target.

2nd Century funds will be used to fund all internet focused efforts within the budget. This falls under the new ministry emphasis of the 2nd Century Fund. This includes, but is not limited to, the following items (Streaming service costs, online offering collection costs, and portion of Church Administrator staff position focused on the website).

2021 Budget as Proposed by Committees

	FY 2020 Total	FY 2021 Total	FY 2021 General Fund	FY 2021 Other Funds
Administrative Council	\$27,650	\$29,434	\$29,434	
Worship Committee	\$7,400	\$7,400	\$2,600	\$4,800
Membership/Nurture Com- mittee	\$850	\$850	\$850	\$0
Mission Committee	\$1,300	\$1,300	\$1,300	\$0
Trustee Committee	\$30,089	\$29,789	\$28,589	\$1,200
Finance Committee	\$1,453	\$1,573	\$985	\$588
SPR Committee	\$124,305	\$123,458	\$120,182	\$3,276
Education Committee	\$3,100	\$5,350	\$2,975	\$2,375
Total	\$196,147	\$199,154	\$186,915	\$12,239

General Notes:

Unless noted otherwise, 2020 budget numbers were rolled over to 2021.

Ad Council

Mission shares were increased to reflect increased offering goal. Mission shares are 10% of general fund offering.

Apportionments are reflected at 2020 levels

Worship Committee

We are investigating the need to have a music copyright license for streaming activities. If needed funding will come from 2nd Century Fund.

Membership/Nurture Committee—NA

Mission Committee—NA

Trustee Committee

New line item for Sunday Service streaming service is covered by 2nd Century Fund.

Special project construction funding from 2020 is not carried forward.

Finance Committee

A new payroll service is planned for 2021. Costs should be similar.

SPR Committee

25% of church administrator salary is covered by 2nd Century Fund for website work and other social media support.

It is anticipated that the Music Director will retire in 2021. Going forward we will continue with two music staff positions. Overall funding will decrease between \$2,000 and \$3,000. Duties and funding are yet to be determined. Funding levels through May 31 are the same as 2020.

Due to a different funding approach in meeting conference funding rules in 2021, a larger amount of Pastor's health insurance premium is included in salary rather than as a direct expense to the church. Total dollar impact to the church is comparable to 2020.

We are no longer funding an Audio/Visual operator for church service. Now being accomplished by volunteers.

Ministry appreciation line item was raised to reflect annual spending.

Education Committee

Budgeted for three \$750 scholarships for graduating youth group seniors. Funding will come from a combination of scholarship fund and donations.

ACTION: Motion to accept 2021 Proposed Budget

Motion seconded and passed

*Safety Team Guidelines

Abide by CDC – mask, social distancing, hand washing

Mask is to remain on when leaving church Pastor Emily is available for counseling as we continue through these stressful times.

*Hanging of the Greens

This year it will be necessary to change the Hanging of the Greens procedures to reflect current safety practices. A limited number of people will be involved. There will be a sign-up sheet available after Worship service on November 22nd.

ACTION: Motion to accept the new procedure for Hanging of the Greens-

Motion seconded and passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Trustees

The Trustees cut down a tree at the Parsonage. They also mounted the TV that is in the Fellowship Hall. They will also be refinishing some of the woodwork in the Narthex soon. Gene received a letter from the conference concerning the Boy Scout issues that are currently being reviewed.

ACTION: It was Agreed to complete the necessary paperwork

Nominations

Ann presented a Nominations report for 2021. Most of the positions are filled and she will be contacting possible candidates to complete our Nominations Report for Charge Conference.

UMW

Karen Birzer will be President and the other officers have been chosen.

Membership/Nurture

Carolyn reported that there will no meetings until May 2021. However, the members will be communicating by e-mail.

There was a concern that we need to update our name tags to make them more permanent. Carolyn will talk to Bryan about the cost.

Missions

Linda reported that the Bake Sale has been cancelled. Anyone can still make donations to Spirit Mountain Hospice if they desire to do so.

The mission project for Advent will be a Food Calendar. The Missions committee has put together a calendar that denotes each day of December and which food product should be added to your Advent Calendar box. Ex: December 1st- box of cereal, December 2nd-peanut butter, December 3rd stuffing mix, and so on. On Christmas Eve you can take your Advent Box to the Cody Cupboard and please tell them that you are representing the Cody UMC. Monetary donations would also be accepted. Thank you in advance for your participation with this project!

Worship

The Worship committee continues to work on Advent plans.

SPR

The committee completed their budget for 2021. The January meeting will include discussion about our music program.

Discipleship

Ann reported that the next Bible Study will be on Psalms. Those who are interested in participating can sign-up in the Church office.

Pastor Emily's Message

*Laity Sunday was very successful.

*Trunk or Treat went well- there were 5 vehicles, lots of kids, and lots of candy given out. People complimented us for wearing masks!

*All Saints Day was well received. There were 26 memorial candles lit.

*On November 8th, Pastor Zack Bechtold, Congregational Resource Ministry was our guest speaker. Zack did a great job.

*Our Good Samaritan Fund is thriving. We are helping many people in many ways.

*Clergy Orders are in process for Ordination for Pastor Emily.

*Pastor Emily and friends have started a Pod Cast called Razel

*Things are going very well.

Next meeting is to be announced later.

Respectfully Submitted, Kandi Parker, Recording Secretary

UMW (United Methodist Women) & Circles

UMW

Our Dec. 9th meeting is canceled. We look forward to resuming our meetings together as soon as it is deemed safe and possible.

In spite of the changes in our lives, brought on by the pandemic, may each of us experience an especially meaningful awareness of the great Love of God for each one of us – His Precious Children. As we celebrate the birth and gift of Our Savior, Jesus the Christ, may our hearts and homes be warmed by His Presence in new and wonderful ways.

Please keep in touch with each other – phone calls, emails, note, cards and most especially with your prayers. See you at church – via streaming!

*If anyone either has not completed their 2020 pledged donation to UMW, or if any members of our congregation would like to make a year end donation to help us meet our upcoming mission goals, that would be greatly appreciated. Our work continues even though we were not able to have any traditional fund raisers this year. A check made out to **Cody UMW** & mailed to Judie McGary, Treasurer, would sure help. Thank You!*

REJOICE, GIVE THANKS, and BE WELL

Naomi Circle—Monday, **December 14, 6:30 p.m.** via **ZOOM**.

Rebekah Circle—Tuesday, **December 15, 1 p.m.**—Meeting TBD (to be determined)



Order your Christmas Poinsettias by calling the church office. Pat will fill out the form for you. Please send your check to Cody UMC, PO Box 1416, Cody, WY 82414

Poinsettias will be displayed in the sanctuary Dec. 12-25

Take your plant home at Christmas Eve Service **IF** we are open, or the week of Dec. 28.



Cody UMC Missions Committee

ADVENT CALENDAR FOOD DRIVE

Each day add an item to a box and drop it at Cody Cupboard weekly
(if possible) **with a note that it's from Cody UMC.**

or

**If you prefer, write a check to UMC with a note on the memo line
that it is for Cody Cupboard.**

December 1	Box of Cereal	\$3.77
December 2	Can of Soup	\$1.68
December 3	Box of Saltine Crackers	\$2.56
December 4	Box of Macaroni & Cheese	\$0.90
December 5	Box of Hamburger Helper	\$1.24
December 6	Can of Meat (Tuna, Chicken, etc.)	\$0.98
December 7	Can of Vegetables	\$0.76
December 8	Can of Fruit	\$1.76
December 9	Can Beans (Pork & Beans, Black, etc.)	\$1.98
December 10	Box of Rice A Roni	\$1.00
December 11	Box or Bag of Pasta	\$1.28
December 12	Spaghetti	\$1.28
December 13	Jar of Spaghetti Sauce	\$1.75
December 14	Can of Ravioli, Chili, or Beef Stew	\$1.78
December 15	Jar of Peanut Butter	\$5.64
December 16	Jar of Jelly	\$2.58
December 17	Box of Instant Potatoes	\$6.01
December 18	Can of Yams or Sweet Potatoes	\$1.62
December 19	Can of Tomatoes	\$1.66
December 20	Box of Pancake Mix	\$4.28
December 21	Bottle of Syrup	\$2.82
December 22	Box of Jell-O or Pudding Mix	\$1.33
December 23	Jar of Condiments (Ketchup, Pickles, etc.)	\$3.28
December 24	Paper Products (Toilet Paper, etc.)	<u>\$12.48</u>
Total		\$64.42

Greetings from the Worship Committee!

We hope everyone is safe and healthy and looking forward to our Advent season. The committee has been busy working on how to keep Advent as normal as is possible during the pandemic.

Our first Advent activity, the Hanging of the Greens, had to be scaled down in order to stay within the guidelines of distancing, masks, and sanitizing. This year the Cook Family (Rick, Laura, Trevor, Julia, Tom and Nancy) will be Hanging the Greens and decorating the Church. A big THANK YOU to the Cooks for taking on this project and to Ron Daniels & Dave Shaw for pulling all of the decorations out and hanging the wreaths!

Our next Advent activity is Lighting the Advent Wreath. Pastor Emily will be asking families in the Church to light the Advent Candles during December. Watch online.

We will be celebrating Communion on December 6th. Even though we will still be in lockdown on the 6th everyone will be able to participate in Communion. Pastor has consecrated our Communion cups (the ones we have been using for Communion) and they will be available to the congregation starting November 30th—December 3rd in the Narthex of the Church.

The Worship Committee

Remember to Stay Positive and Test Negative!

HAPPY CHRISTMAS



Youth Group News!

Youth are planning on meeting off-site until further notice which means the youth will most likely not have a part in the Advent program in December. We are still looking for folks willing to provide a meal or contribute to one.

We will be selling fire starters when we can get back into the church to make them and have them ready for sale. Anyone who would like to purchase these may preorder by contacting Kathy Teten.

A huge Thank You to all who donated towards the purchase of Bibles for our youth. Each youth who regularly attends Youth Group now has their own Bible and we will be using them in our lesson portion of our meetings going forward.

December

2020



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
In person worship services canceled until further notice. Watch for updates.		1	2 UMYF 6:30 pm Meeting off-site	3	4	5
6 ONLINE ONLY 10 am Sunday Worship Communion	7	8	9 UMW Meeting canceled	10	11	12
13 ONLINE ONLY 10 am Sunday Worship	14 Naomi 6:30 pm by Zoom	15 Rebekah Circle To Be Determined, watch for email from Diane.	16 UMYF 6:30 pm Meeting off-site	17	18	19
20 ONLINE 10 am Sunday Worship Bells Play	21	22	23 Church Office closed	24 Christmas Eve Church Office closed	25 Happy Jesus Birthday!	26
27 ONLINE 10 am Sunday Worship	28	29	30 	31	Jan. 1 New Year's Day 2021	

A Story of Christian Love for the Holidays

My sister, Claudette Pilati and I, Francie Audier inherited our family tomb in Aix-en Provence, France when our father died in 1969. The tomb holds the remains of our great grandparents and grandparents, our aunt and uncle, our father and brother. It is made of beautiful white stone and is located in the Aix cemetery near the family tomb of Paul Cezanne, the famous French painter. On Sundays, as young children, we often went to the cemetery with our extended family to bring flowers to the tomb and to pray.

Over the years, the tomb had fallen on hard times. It was soiled, unkept and finally the cross at the back of the tomb broke off in a storm, leaving a jagged ugly stump. My nephew, Michel Desplanches, a Catholic Priest in Aix contacted a stonemason. In late 2019 he requested a plan and cost estimate for restoring the cross. He and the stonemason became friends while working on the plan. In April of 2020 the Covid 19 virus spread to southern France. The stonemason became infected and fell ill. The Priest ministered to him as he declined and eventually he was hospitalized and put on a ventilator. He prayed to God before going on the ventilator that if spared, as an act of faith and thanks, he would repair the tomb of the Priest's family for no cost. His time on the ventilator was long and his family fully expected him to perish. By some miracle he was spared but faced a difficult recovery. When he was able to return to work, he fulfilled his promise to God to fully restore the cross on the tomb. The Priest had the tomb cleaned and it is beautiful once more.

My sister and I wanted to thank the stonemason with a meaningful gift. What could we give him from this side of the ocean that would touch his heart as he had touched ours? We decided that one of Duane Whitmer's lovely freestanding crosses, hewn from Russian Olive wood, would be a perfect gift. What better gift than a hand crafted cross from a Wyoming Methodist artisan to a Provençal Catholic stonemason who had restored our cross. May the stonemason be blessed with a long and healthy life.

Francie Audier

December 2020



Cody Cupboard Update

1st Quarter Total	454 Pounds
2nd Quarter Total	301 Pounds
3rd Quarter Total	250 Pounds
October	49 Pounds + \$20
November	50 Pounds

GRAND TOTAL 1,104 Pounds + \$20

Please drop off donations the 1st Sunday of each month when the church is open to the public. Otherwise, call the Church Office to make arrangements to drop off your food gifts. **Thank YOU!**

www.codyumc.com - church website

“Be quick to give a meal to the hungry, a bed to the homeless— cheerfully. Be generous with the different things God gave you, passing them around so all get in on it.”

**1 Peter 4:9-10,
*The Message***



PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Cody United Methodist Church
PO Box 1416
Cody WY 82414