

Bozeman United Methodist Church: Our Stories
The Chimes: May 2021

Returning Home

Starting May 2nd, 2021

9:30am Worship at Bozeman UMC in-person or online

10am Worship at Living Waters UMC in-person



METHODISTS IN THE GALLATIN VALLEY

Upcoming Worship Preview for May 2021

In the Old Testament there is a section of books called Kings and Chronicles that details the stories of King Saul, King David, and King Solomon. Their story is one big drama from beginning to end. In the middle is a battle between Saul and David. David, who is to be the rightful King of Israel, hasn't been allowed into Jerusalem because he's been fighting. One of his most faithful leaders was a captain named Jashobeam, which means "the people will return." It wasn't that the people weren't a people, or weren't following God, but it is the idea that even as we fulfill God's mission to the world, we believe we will return to the space where we encounter God: the holy sanctuary space. We have been in a battle of our own, the battle with a virus called COVID-19, and we also will return. On May 2, we will return to in-person worship, Returning Home, to this spiritual place that has cultivated our faith and connected us to God. If you have any questions or concerns about worship and building upgrades, I hope you will reach out and be in dialogue. You can reach me at my email eric@bozemanumc.org or my office line is 551-7211.

What do I need to do to attend worship? No reservations are required. Wear a mask. Practice social distance. Make sure you get here early enough to check-in in case there is an outbreak. If you are not comfortable worshipping in-person, remember the online option will always be available.
Simply connect at our website, bozemanumc.org/live

Rev. Amy Strader
Lead Pastor for Congregation & Community Engagement

Rev. Eric Strader
Lead Pastor for Worship & Administration

May Worship
Worship them is called Becoming Home. And will focused on becoming who God has called us to be.
Join us in-person and online at bozemanumc.org/live
May 2nd - Easter Part 2. We are an Easter People.
May 9th - BUMC Values: The Sacred Welcome. Graduation Pics & Celebration
May 16th - BUMC Values: The Risky Radical.
May 23rd - We are a Pentecost People. Baptism of Darby Brewer.
May 30th - BUMC Values: The Beloved Community. Honoring Memorial Day and Veteran Loss.

We asked church members, why does this church matter to you? See their answers sprinkled throughout this months CHIMES.



Photo Above: Gathering Place CLC Preschool Class spent a day cleaning up trash around the neighborhood.
Photo Left: Our Easter Sunrise Service was very well attended and the weather and view were a perfect setting.

As we "return home" never forget this church home matters.

Money Sense: Giving & Stewardship 2021

A big thanks to all our leaders and the community for generous giving in the first quarter of 2021! The church has a current deficit for \$11k, which is 77% less than last year's deficit. Giving is at 98% of what we expected! Thank you for your commitment! The endowment investments gained 7k in the first quarter, and a big thanks to Jim Webster and Brian Brown who have taken over our investment strategy. Our biggest need is extra-mile giving to support sanctuary upgrades. If you are able to give extra, we appreciate the impact on what we are able to provide to our community. The building fund provided the capital for our upgrades, but now needs reconstituted for further building projects. We appreciate the ways you are able to be generous and prayerful with this community.

www.bozemanumc.org/giving

Join our Adopt a Highway Sunday May 2

We are committed to cleaning up a two-mile stretch of highway along Valley Center Road. The Scouts are leading this year's clean-up for the church on May 2 from 2-4 PM! If you would like to help, or for more information, contact Kelly Kuntz: kellykuntz@gmail.com 406-570-7067 or Janet Bender-Keigley: jbenderkeigley@gmail.com 406-599-1369

New Missions in a New Time

By Vickie Wilkinson

Know the great truth of Missions? No matter the circumstances, Missions adapts and changes. We constantly change to reflect new realities. Otherwise, we are "traditions" instead of "Missions." While our church home has been closed to gatherings this past year, we as "the church" have been continually working just like before. In the coming months we have some exciting new mission activities happening... and some old activities reworked for a new time.

The HRDC Housing First Village is underway! You can keep up to date with the progress on their Facebook page (HRDC Housing First Village). Because of our congregation, one Tiny Home for an unsheltered neighbor will be built!

Why support a Tiny Home? Sheltered residents have 1) Better Health 2) More Safety 3) Firm connections in the community 4) Improved mental health outcomes 5) Less cost. This home means a child of God will truly feel the love of God. Our heartfelt thanks to everyone who donated! We still have monies coming in (so there is still time!). We will announce the total very soon! Stay tuned to our email blasts and social media posts for updates on how and when you can continue to support the Tiny Home Build through the summer.

This summer our partnership with Fork and Spoon Café continues! Our pay-what-you-can café partner is exploring new ways of meeting the needs of our neighbors who may be food insecure in the Bozeman area...and BUMC will be a vital support in this! When Covid restrictions allow, the Café will be reopening to inside dining and will need volunteers once again. And the Mighty Spork will be coming to BUMC on select Sundays this summer!! The new Fork and Spoon Food Truck is a new outreach for outlying areas and we are excited to be a part of the Sunday Morning Brunch crowd! In the meantime, be sure to check out the weekly offerings from Fork and Spoon at www.forkandspoonbozeman.org.

Other Missions highlights this month:

May 6-7 Mission Trip to Hays-Lodgepole Schools. Prayers for the group leading a Book Fair and Teacher Appreciation are much coveted!

May 16 Native American Ministries Sunday. Discover the friends we have made at Hays Lodgepole Schools and how they use cultural identity to advance student learning!

May 1-30 Our most wanted item(s) at the Warming Center Day Center for May is TOILET PAPER AND PAPER TOWELS! The Warming Center is open for showers and laundry during daytime hours. Please consider purchasing one of these items when you shop for your family!

Donations can be dropped at the church on Sunday mornings, or during normal business hours.

"This church home matters to me because it gives me tangible ways to serve others."

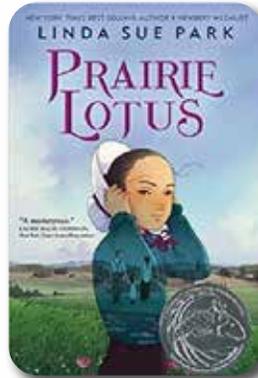
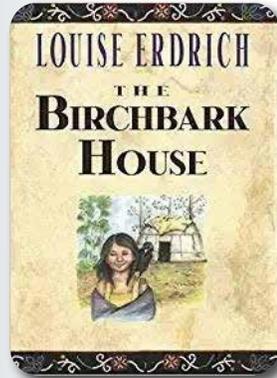
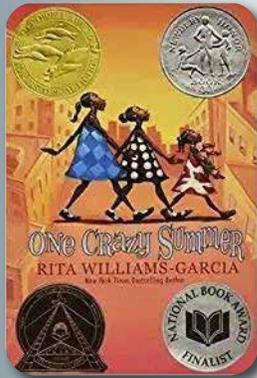
Returning Home



Giving & Service

Summer Book Club: Adults on Race in Children’s Literature

Amanda Hendrix-Komoto will be hosting a book club for adults on race in children's literature beginning this summer. The book club will meet once a month via Zoom. It will eventually move in person. Potential books are *The Birchbark House*, *Prairie Lotus*, and *One Crazy Summer*. The class could include parents, teachers, grandparents, child-free adults - anyone really who is interested. If you would like to participate, fill out the following form below, which will collect your email, availability, etc. <https://forms.gle/qMw1TtoCVXwfTL6a6>



“This church home matters to me because my anti-religion daughter tells her friends that her mom’s church is different.”

Social Justice Action Team Spring Wrap-up & Summer Plans

By Allie Zanieri-Hale & Gloria Zimmer

Since January, the Social Justice Action Team has been immersed in the Montana Legislation process. We provided weekly updates to our congregations about proposed bills that aligned with or conflicted with our values as Methodists in the Gallatin Valley. The legislative session wrapped up at the end of April, and we give huge thanks to our SJAT members Gloria Edwards, Zach Nell, Zak Wangler and Alison Skillman for helping select bills to highlight and for enhancing written word with graphics and videos to get our message out. Zach Nell created a beautiful website and posted updates as we tracked legislation.

With the legislative session ending just as BUMC returns home from the COVID journey, SJAT activities will be completely different. As we move forward, a summer project will focus on food insecurity. Stay tuned for more updates! We also have started a blog on our website. Different members of our team will be posting pieces discussing topics they’re passionate about on a bi-weekly basis, and we’re very excited to see our members’ passions shine!

We are beginning a “Topic of the Month” Club, where we will take the time to educate ourselves through books, movies, podcasts, videos or whatever speaks to the topic. We encourage you to explore with us. Our website will list suggested resources to inspire your journey, but don’t feel confined to these recommendations; there are lots of wonderful resources out there for our topics. At the end of each month, we hope to host a conversation where we’ll invite you to sit down with like-minded people and discuss the “Topic of the Month”.

For example, May is Mental Health Awareness month. We will be shedding some light on the realities of mental illness and the everyday struggles that come with it. One in ten Montanans report struggling with frequent mental distress, and Montana has ranked in the top five highest suicide rates by state for the past thirty years. Nationwide, as of June 2020, about 40% of US adults reported struggling with some sort of mental illness, while one in six youth ages 6-17 experience a mental health disorder yearly. An estimated 40 million US adults deal with some sort of anxiety disorder. That’s 18% of our nation’s population! Mental health is something we as Methodists take very seriously. We will be sending out more info about May’s Mental Health conversation in the coming weeks but starting May 1st our selected resources will be on our website for you to browse.

As winter (hopefully) is ending, we’re looking forward to hosting our events outside, socially distanced, in the warm spring and summer weather. It is important to us that everyone feels safe with COVID still being a concern we take very seriously. While we miss being in person with all of our friends and community, we will continue to accommodate what makes people feel comfortable. We will use Zoom as necessary and meet in person when we can.

Check out our website www.gallatinvalleymethodists.com if you haven’t yet! Appreciate its beauty and plumb its depths of information about the Social Justice Action Team—the basis for Advocacy, How to Help, and Who We Are.

“This church home matters to me because they worked overtime when it would have been easy to give up.”

New Adventures, New Inventions at Youth Group

By Ann Dickensheets

Twenty-twenty was a year of new invention at youth group. Cancelled meetings in the spring became online zoom meetings. A summer mission trip to Calgary was replaced by youth week, a week of service work in local agencies, ice cream and water fun, and a campout in the mountains south of Butte. In the fall we moved our meeting place from the cramped church basement to our campus ministry building, the Christus Collegium. There we held our meetings outside on the large, grassy lawn, and when cooler temps drove us inside, we took advantage of the spacious Wesley Hall for our meetings, with its good ventilation and room for social distancing.

As we move forward, we anticipate returning to life as we know it, pre-pandemic, but we'll keep a lot of what we invented. We'll have a summer mission to Denver, like we've done in the past, but this summer we'll also have Youth Week. What a blessing it is for our young people see what services are available to the vulnerable population in our own city and to have the opportunity to volunteer. And we've found a new home at the Christus Collegium. The space inside is perfect for big games and small group discussions, and the lawn, right outside our door, is made for an evening of hide-n-seek and capture the flag. Even zoom meetings may have a place in our new normal! How about Sunday School in our PJ's?

This year we've learned that there are a lot of ways we can do youth group. In everything we've done, we've focused on creating opportunities for our youth to be in community with one another, time and space for self-reflection, and discussions that deepen their faith and connection to God.



Photo Above: Our Easter Breakfast Cooks!
Photo Right: Easter Egg Dying with Kaitlyn & Sellers

Making Campus Ministry a Home Away From Home

By Ann Dickensheets

We're in the home stretch at TNT, BUMC's campus ministry. We met in-person all year at the Christus Collegium, our United Methodist building, located just across the street from the university at 8th and College. Masked and socially distanced, we sailed through the year with nary a Covid scare. We've learned a few things this year:

- Movies under the stars, with fresh popcorn and candy are magical.
- Fall retreats, held outdoors in the beautiful Gallatin Range, are not only possible, they're magnificent.
- A homemade meal, shared with friends, makes the stress of college bearable, even when you are so spread out, you have to shout to each other across the room.
- Cancelled mission trips are disappointing, but there are always new opportunities, just around the bend. (We're headed to Belize in August!)
- Even during a pandemic, we can reach out to our homeless community by making sack dinners for the Warming Center once a month.
- A one-day Rummage Sale (set up, receive items, sell items, clean up) is the only way to go! (Start saving your gently use items! Drop off and sale is August 21.)

We're looking forward to gathering back together again in the fall. Whatever the new school year brings, we'll find a way to be a loving and supportive community of God.



"This church home matters because my old church would not have supported me as I support my son's coming out."



Celebrating our “Home” & Summer Kick Off

By Abbie Thompson

We are SO excited to finally be coming home. We have seen each other’s smiling faces over zoom and sent many texts and emails, pieced together programs one person at a time, and unpacked our surprise bags at home all year. While the effects of Covid are still felt and we are still practicing safe gatherings, it is nice to feel a little bit more “normal” again. We have a great summer planned for our families and little humans! We are so excited to be able to have in-person Vacation Bible School this year July 26-30th. Get registered today to save your spot on Adventure Island!

2021 VBS Registration Open:

VBS will be a little different this year! We’re offering in-person options (morning or afternoon times), or a remote option for those not yet comfortable in person!

Save the dates July 26-30th.

Get registered today so we can save your spot on Adventure Island! Multi-Child discount available until May 2nd. www.bozemanumc.org/vacation-bible-school-2021

Graduation (of all kinds) Party:

May 23rd, 11am at Living Waters

Whether you’re graduating high school, college, or 2nd grade—come celebrate at Living Waters! Fun outdoor activities and food to celebrate your achievements!

Zoom Sunday School at Noon

May 9th & May 23rd

on Zoom. Contact Abbie for the link!

Service Saturday: 9-11:30am, at BUMC and Mission Sites

Sign up to do a service project with your family! Spend time together by serving at the Food bank, doing garbage cleanup, and many others! Meet for breakfast and head to your service sites! Sign-ups will open in May.

5th Grade Fly-Up: Sunday, May 16th, 6pm at the Christus Collegium

5th Graders! Come hang out with the youth group and get a taste of the fun you will get to have next year at youth group with all your friends!

Stephen Ministry: “Riddle me this, Batman...”

By Betty Merta

Now that I’ve got your attention, here is your riddle... How is a former marketing slogan for the U.S. Marines – “The marines are looking for a few good men” – like Stephen Ministry? Give up? Because we are looking for a few good women and men to augment the leadership of Stephen Ministry.

Stephen Ministers at Bozeman UMC and Living Waters are lay congregation members trained to provide confidential one-to-one care to those experiencing a difficult time in life, such as grief, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness, or relocation. They come from all walks of life, and share a passion for bringing Christ’s love and care – that sense of “home” – to people during a time of need. Stephen Ministers listen non-judgmentally and with compassion. They love deeply, and serve as a physical reminder to their care receivers of God’s abounding grace, love and healing presence.

What are your special skills or talents? What do you or have you experienced that might be of use to our Stephen Ministers? Would you be willing to share your strength, faith, and hope during one of our Continuing Education sessions? Maybe you have been helped by a Stephen Minister or just believe in the importance of the ministry and would like to offer your spiritual gift of leadership to assist in the important work carried out by Stephen Ministers?

If you might be interested in a unique opportunity to serve in this incredible ministry, call Pastor Amy at 406-551-7206 or Betty Merta at 406-600-9595 and talk about it!

United Methodist Women Reach out with a Welcome

By Patricia Cornelious

Some years ago, while we were still living in California, Fred and I had the opportunity to spend some time in Washington, DC. Planning to be in the DC area for about a month, we rented a small apartment right in the heart of the city. We were there as temporary residents to see the monuments, museums, performing arts, and the many things the area has to offer. We walked to many of the sights we wanted to visit or used public transportation. On our walk to and from our apartment each day we would always pass the Church of the Pilgrims on P Street. At the time, we were members of a Presbyterian church in California and recognized the Presbyterian (PCUSA) emblem on the church. We looked at the posted service times and thought we should attend on Sunday. The following Sunday, we walked down to the Church to attend the service. We were greeted in a friendly way by more than just one person. They even invited us to stay for the soup luncheon that was held once a month.

We felt welcomed, and the pastor also extended the invitation from the pulpit for any visitors to stay for lunch. I can't remember what the sermon was about or anything particularly outstanding about the service. But what I do remember is what happened after the service was over. The usual greeting and talking was taking place, and we were again personally invited to stay for lunch. As people began to make their way downstairs, we were encouraged to join them. We didn't have any pressing plans for the afternoon, but still, we just quietly slipped out the front door and began the walk back to the apartment.

While we were still within view of the church, we both just stopped and wondered "What are we doing?" We are accustomed to being in church settings, we are in church leadership positions, and we know how to "speak Christian". We did an about face and headed back into the church and joined these other Christians for lunch and conversation. And of course, we were glad we did.

So, what's my point? We were welcomed in a very sincere way by many at the church that morning. Yet we still felt unsure about staying. So, imagine what it must be like for a person or family that ventures into a church and might not be accustomed to attending church or finds our church different than what they have experienced in the past.

Beyond making someone feel welcome, what can we do to make them feel that they belong, that they are not an outsider, that they are one of us, part of God's family?

Our situation was such that we wouldn't be joining that church, as we were only temporary visitors. But how do we reach those who are seeking a church home? As I continue to reflect on this experience, I realize we have to go beyond just saying "Good morning, welcome, join us for coffee".

As we move toward meeting in person again, both in church and in our UMW groups, let us be aware of how we invite people in, how we reach someone to make them want to become a part of the family, how to be inclusionary. As Rev. Eric mentioned a few Sundays ago, we also need to be cognizant of persons who may not have participated online this past year, and may feel uncomfortable returning or may not even be ready to return. A feeling of separation may be very real for some. I don't have the answers, but what can help is a consciousness of our experiences and an intentional awareness of what those who enter our church may be feeling. Each of us has the capability to reach out to someone in a meaningful way and make them feel included. Can we each think of at least one person we can invite in this year? Let's not let that opportunity pass us by in 2021.

Therefore, welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. (Romans 15:7)



United
Methodist
Women

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

"This church home matters to me because it is a place that values women in leadership."

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"This church home matters to me because I immediately felt at home."

Meet the Sunday Worship Team

ONLINE OR IN-PERSON AT 9:30AM AT BUMC & 10AM AT LIVING WATERS



Abbie
Worship Team



Pastor Alison,
Living Waters UMC



Rev. Amy
Bozeman UMC



Ann
Worship Team



Rev. Eric
Bozeman UMC



Janna
Production/
Social Media



Kaya
Production/
Digital Worship



Lynn
Accompaniment
BUMC



Maura
Production/
Digital Media



Michael
Production/
Sound



Sarah
Production/
Presentation

David
Accompaniment
LWUMC

Returning Home



METHODISTS IN THE GALLATIN VALLEY