

THE TOWER

APRIL ~ 2021

**First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ**

100 West Works St.

Sheridan, WY 82801 ~ Est. 1891

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CROSS TALK

Debbie and I are sitting in the church office with Queen's "We Will Rock You" and then, "We Are the Champions" blasting in the sanctuary while the crew of plasterers finish their work. As it happens, I like Freddie Mercury (Debbie says she's never heard of them), but Debbie did say "If it keeps them working, that's good!" We laughed, and I heartily agree!

A light shines in the distance. We can see an end to the pandemic, as well as an end to our major construction project. So, what does our future hold? The truth is, I don't know, but it will likely be different than pre-Covid. As for pandemic stuff, we can leave that to the doctors and scientists. As for the church, that's up to us. What I do know is that coming to church and having fellowship is very important to our community. We are inching our way along in that department. What I do know is that our online presence is very important. Recording the service and putting it out to the public is new since Covid. We have anywhere from 65-165 regular viewers from all over the United States. All the research I have done only confirms that it would be a huge error not to see these folks as part of our community. Some are on every week. We need to be better in this area, and we are inching our way along.

As the month's roll on, you will see us trying different things. This doesn't mean anything permanent, just exploring different ideas. For example, Spencer suggested that we try moving the pastor's pulpit back to its original position. What we see in photos is that the lectern was up under the cross. I'm assuming this was good because the balcony was full and folks could see and hear the minister without a microphone. We do have great acoustics! Nothing we do will be "nailed down", just exploring our new space. Also, we will leave the big rolling door open for a time because it has been repaired and it shines magnificent light in from the stained glass windows in the parlor. If everyone starts wearing sun glasses, we know that experiment needs revision. As is our practice, we will allow God to lead The Way, through the teachings of Jesus, while knowing that the Holy Spirit is already moving among us. From the Book of Isaiah: "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

Always, in Christ, Pastor Sheila

April Birthdays

1 Kelsey Arcocha
12 Christine Johnson

6 Kathy Hosford
17 Kelly Brennan

6 Kim Soltis
28 Tab Barker

Coming Soon:

April 18: Annual Meeting, following worship. Please plan to attend! Lunch will be provided.

April 24: Saturday, Earth Day Outdoor cleanup and planting, 11 AM-Noon

OUR PRAYER LIST ~ “WE LIFT THEM UP TO THE LORD”

Please lift up all families, friends and neighbors, all from the Church family who are not feeling well, healing, recovering, burdened, and grieving.

Please remember **all those**, along with their families, **dealing with challenges**: Jim and Dorothy Brennan (recovering at home), Isaac and Maria Myers (recovering), Fred Newcomer (cancer), Thelma Peterson, Liz Gale, Alan Johnson (cancer), Jean Morgen (cancer), Bob Lance.

Please remember our Active Military Personnel and their families, including those we know – Brian Hier (USAF), Fred Luck (USAF), Gary Barker (USAF), Aaron Weisz (USN), Robert Fisher (USA), Kenny Barker (ASF-Med), Nathan Wolanin (USA), Ethan Sinnet (Marines), Chandra Olson (Air Force), those in the National Guard. Please remember **all who have served ~ our Veterans**

CURRENT COUNCIL MEMBERS

MODERATOR	SPENCER MORRIS	scmorris82@gmail.com
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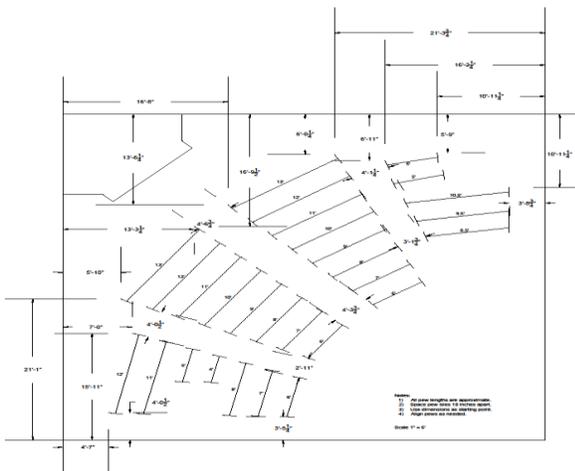
NOMINATIONS FOR 2021-22 COUNCIL

MODERATOR	JULIE BAKER
VICE MODERATOR	ELIZABETH WIGREN
TREASURER	LINDA MORRIS
FINANCIAL SECRETARY	ELVA CARROLL
CLERK	JEAN HARM
BUSINESS AFFAIRS	DOROTHY BRENNAN
FELLOWSHIP	BARBARA FOSEMIRE
WORSHIP	ELVA CARROLL
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	ELIZABETH WIGREN
CHRISTIAN SERVICE	CHRISTINE JOHNSON

Work Continues in the Sanctuary



Pew Diagram by our own Leland Fabel!



Anticipated Schedule

- :
Texturing Walls: April 9-10
- Painting: April 12 (3 weeks)
- Flooring: May 13
- Lastly, when the dust clears, appliances for the bathroom.



Lunch Together Service

At this time we are still serving prepared meals from the HUB. Our next time to serve is May 10-14. Lunch Together Board is discussing the idea of opening and cooking and serving the meals near the end of May. We will keep in touch as we re-open in the near future.



Thank you card from Dorothy and Jim Brennan:
“Dear Members and Friends of FCCUCC,
Thank you very much for all of the thoughts, prayers, cards, and calls while Jim and I were in the hospital. I am so blessed to be part of such a caring congregation. God bless you, Dorothy and Jim Brennan”

In case you haven't heard: Our congregation chose the green carpet for the sanctuary.

Green is the color of life, renewal, nature, and energy. It is associated with meanings of growth, harmony and the environment.

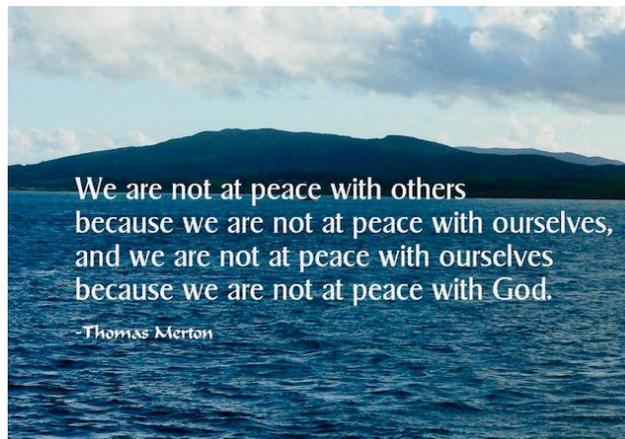
And that is what we are all about!



Christian Education is announcing a UCC Earth Day garden cleaning and planter planting for children and adults.

Earth day is Thursday, April 22nd and we would like to host a Saturday, April 24th, 2021 lawn and garden clean up and planting of various planters for the stairs from 11:00 to noon (or later).

We will also be offering all church attendees plants to take home on Sunday, April 25th (these Ruby and I are already growing).

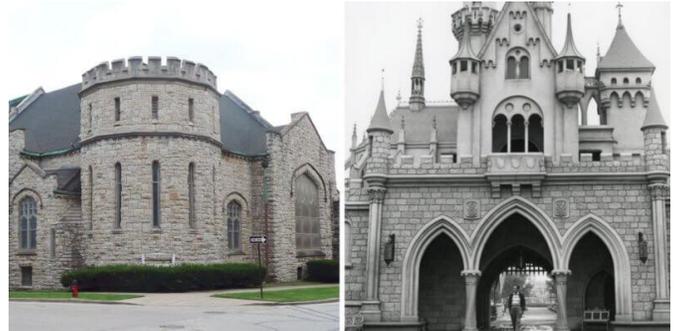




Walt Disney – Congregationalist

You may already know that the first Congregationalists were Independents, Puritans who believed each church should be a gathering of believers joined together under a covenant agreement, and with the power to choose their own minister. This is still true today, but what about famous Congregationalist's in more recent history?

Walt Disney was a Congregationalist to his very core. His family church, Westminster Congregational Church, was located in Kansas City. Pictured on the left, Walt would stand on the street corner gazing at the church and think how much it looked like a castle. That church would later inspire him to build Sleeping Beauty Castle (pictured at the right) in Disneyland.



Unfortunately, the trusses of his beloved family church, over 100 years old, gave way recently and the roof collapsed. Couldn't help but think how fortunate we are to have our own trusses monitored and braced this year. The Disney family were very sad to see their home church destroyed.



Lastly, there's another Walt Disney connection with a congregationalist in the photo on the left. You will see a little girl on the right who doesn't seem to appreciate the importance of the moment at hand...looking everywhere but at the camera. That's Pastor Sheila!

The Congregationalists joined with the United Church of Christ in 1957, but we still retain our belief that the people of the church should govern their own church and work

together to explore the world of ideas in an ongoing effort to make the world a better place.

We received a report from our mission work with the Sheridan Police Department. Really good to know we have helped so many people with our Helping Hands giving!



Sheridan Police Department



45 W 12TH STREET
SHERIDAN, WY 82801

2020 Sheridan Police Department Helping Hands Distribution Annual Summary

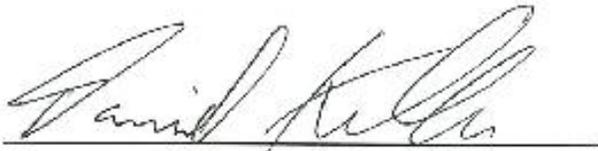
Funds distributed by the Sheridan Police Department in 2020 were a great assistance when individuals were in immediate need and without access to other resources.

Homeless individuals, travelers with broken down cars, and people getting released from the hospital or jail, were the most common recipients.

Most individuals came directly to the police department seeking assistance. Several were referred by clergy from participating Helping Hands churches. Funds were distributed for the following uses:

Number of incidents:	18
Total funds distributed:	\$600
Funds for food:	\$75
Funds for fuel:	\$175
Funds for lodging:	\$350

The Sheridan Police Department greatly appreciates the funding provided by our citizens through their local churches. These are the type of partnerships that make our community a great place to serve as a police officer. Thank you for your graciousness in helping us serve the community. We look forward to continuing to partner with you in the future.



Sgt. Daniel Keller / Sheridan Police Department

A very successful Easter Egg Hunt was put on by our Christian Education Board under the leadership of Elizabeth Wigren. Elizabeth and Ruby stuffed close to 300 eggs! Many thanks to Helen Wilson and Debbie Clemens for entertaining the children (and adults). Also a big thank you to Kim Huestis and Christine Johnson for Easter Bunny support; Pastor Sheila for refreshments; and lots of you for donating egg funds! The kids had a GREAT time! THANK YOU!

