



# THE GLAD TIDER

Stevensville United Methodist Church

January 2020

## Beatitudes: Blessed with a New Identity

Into the New Year we bound with new resolutions, new toys, new hopes, new possibilities to make this year, this decade in fact, unique...new! Now don't get me wrong, when the seasons change, I pull out the clothes from the bag in the basement or the back of the kids' closet with great delight. Whoa! I haven't seen you; I can't wait to wear this shirt or dress again. It's like a new wardrobe without the price tags.

So it's in this in-between reality of new and new-again that I invite you into the Beatitudes. For worship in January, we will explore the beginning of Matthew 5 with care and intention to find God in order to reorient ourselves to that spot, way, identity. These opening lines from the Sermon on the Mount might be like a favorite winter sweater that finally emerges when the snow flies. And this time around, I pray, that they also become like a new cardigan, as rich and unexpected as can be so that they transform you.

I'm talking about taking on a new identity. Not on your 2020 to do list or goal sheet? The beatitudes are a blessing and reorientation. Lest we miss it all together, they are the road map to follow The Way. They are a way of being, infused with identity and values. For followers of Jesus, this might not be new information, but a reminder and encouragement that you're on the right track when you commune with those that God embraces in solidarity- the poor, marginalized, and heavy-burdened. For all of us, though, myself included, I suspect the beatitudes will continue to wake us up to the identity of the fully loving, humble, and healing God come to be with and like us- suffering, hurting, enduring, struggling and hoping as we are- in the person of Jesus. When we grasp that identity of God, we can know where to find and experience God and how that transforms our identity to be ones of restoration and healing just as Jesus was. In Christ, we are ever beloved and thus can be blessed and be a blessing in a renewed Way of life, for the new year and always.

Journeying together in faith,

Pastor Sarah

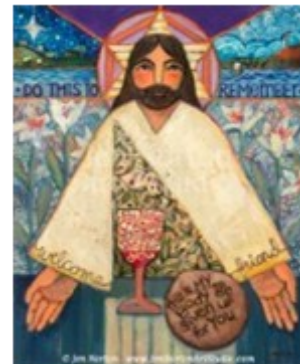
Jan. 5: Communion Sunday and Epiphany: The Gift of "Ah ha!" Moments

Jan. 12: Blessed: The Poor in Spirit & Mourners

Jan. 19: Blessed: The Meek & Hungry for the Common Good

Jan. 26: Blessed: The Compassionate & Open-Hearted

Feb. 2: Blessed: The Peacemakers & Misjudged





## Wesley House: A Home Cultivating Transformational Potential

By Amber Dobb Maclay-Schulte

It is difficult for me to succinctly say what Wesley has and does mean to me. I have tried many times over the years to describe it. My experience and relationships founded there have impacted my entire adult life. There is no doubt in my mind that my life would have been radically different without this ministry.

I ironically lived across the street from Wesley House when I was freshman, my first-floor window offered a view of the Wesley building and yard. However, I didn't become involved until November of the fall semester. I didn't even know campus ministry existed. In hindsight, this is a huge failing of our church community; church-raised young adults aren't even aware what is available for their age group. I was introduced to Wesley in November 2000.

I was attending First United Methodist Church in downtown Missoula for a typical Sunday service. I was in the phase of life where I was deciding what my faith meant to me, aside from my parents' faith and the church I had grown up in. I was in a conversation of trust with God- to see how my faith could guide me without the ritualistic trappings of church. [After meeting students and pastor who invited me to Wesley, several times,] I ended up attending a Thursday evening worship gathering there in the next couple of weeks. I was unable to go home for Thanksgiving, and the pastor invited me to have Thanksgiving at the parsonage with his family and another student. That dinner forged a relationship with the ministry.

When I think of the next four and a half years of my experiences with Wesley, thousands of anecdotes flood my mind in a rapid succession of pictures. It is always accompanied by a feeling of happiness. To explain how important that ministry and people there are to me, I feel like I want to explain every moment to you, some of them life-changing. Every laugh, every frustrating learning experience, every bible study conversation, every spring break road trip, the tears, the support, the friendships. But I can't possibly explain the enormity of it all to you here. I think other Wesley students can relate.

[Following the news that two planes had hit the Twin Towers], there was no doubt where I was headed; as I entered Wesley's doors there were already 4-5 students crowded around the TV in the living room (pre-smart phone days) watching the news. As many classes were cancelled that day there was a shifting group all day watching. Just being together, wanting to talk.



1327 Arthur Ave.  
(on the corner of Arthur and Keith  
across from Miller Hall)

The friendships I have made are harder to define, but these statements may attest to the power of relationships founded in authenticity and faith found in campus ministry.

Perhaps one my favorite aspects of being involved with Wesley were the many the traveling opportunities. [These] showed me areas of the world I never knew about, and how God was present everywhere right down to the In-And-Out fry wrappers with Bible verses printed on them. Ultimately, how to go into a big world not afraid to live your faith when we were all young adults practicing it together.

Campus ministry's place in the concept of "church" is vital. Students looking for a college experience that offers something that doesn't involve the stereotypical campus culture of drinking, partying, and self-serving indulgence, or simply are looking for a faith-based community, need to have someplace as an option. In a cultural climate that looks to "do church" outside of a church building - Wesley is waiting. Churches inherently cannot operate on a campus schedule - their demographic, and often their location, doesn't warrant it. Campuses are their own communities- vibrant and full of potential.

Leaders are developed at this critical age when young adults are independently discovering who they are, there is no other ministry that addresses this age group with the unique needs of a campus population. I can name three students that continued on to become pastors from just my years there. It offers an opportunity for students to learn and/or explore leadership roles in a supportive environment while also not having to commit to duration beyond a semester. The value of campus ministry is impossible to quantify because human relationships, faith, and love are not quantifiable. In a world that demands accountability through data, including the dollar, we trade people for spreadsheets and "results". It is hard for intangible programs to produce under this pressure. The potential is continually planted and cultivated, but the rewards are unknown. Qualitative data can be difficult to track down. The relatively rapid change of a student body requires continual flexibility and demands an acute presence of mind by leaders that can't operate on the status quo. Colloquial wisdom says that it takes three years to establish a new idea, business, concept, place - and most people stop at two. Wesley has been plagued by staffing issues the past few years. It is not insurmountable, and it is premature to say the program is not buildable.

It is my sincerest, deepest hope that others can have and find a fraction of the meaning, the love, and the fun at Wesley. For that to happen, the ministry must continue. It cannot be replicated in a church. It most certainly cannot happen if we let discouragement rule the day. Notably, I know that I am only one person in generations that have stories to tell. I hope they are sharing them. I know my experience is not an anomaly.

A Christmas thank you letter to the church and UMW arrived, outlining the current partnership with Emmaus Campus Ministry in order to serve the students in cross-faith experience and house the leaders of this collaborative effort. The Mountain Sky Conference will be cutting its funding to Wesley House, so church partners are vital. The Thank Offering raised \$410 for Wesley.

You can read the whole letter on the bulletin board, outside the church office.





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## Town Hall Jan. 2020: Mission and Values

Sunday, Jan. 19, after service

Take part in the congregational conversation about the mission and values we hold. The Ad Board will present a collective statement (mission), methods & character (values), and next steps (goals) from the conversations held on Oct 11-12 with Eric Strader. The whole congregation can then discuss, amend, adopt, and begin living into these words in the life of the church. This is not just big picture thinking or theoretical. The leadership and pastor will use these statements to guide decision making, ways of interacting, trust building and accountability, and direction for the future of the facility and financial stability. We will capture the whole of our conversation and distribute the initial and final expressions of mission, values and goals before and after Jan. 19, 2020 so everyone is aware so everyone is aware of the ways we'll go forward together. Your voice and commitment matter so thank you for your participation.



Hey, This is the Meal Train for Dave and Amber:

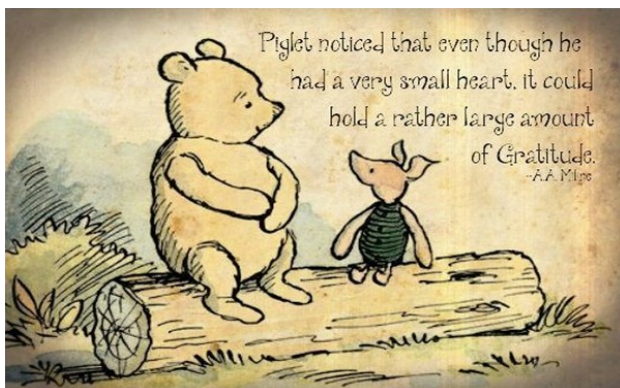
OH BABY!

Let's celebrate Baby #3's arrival with Dave and Amber by sharing a warm meal and a pack of diapers. Baby arrived late on December 31st happy and healthy.

<https://mealtrain.com/m10no6>

What is a meal train?

There are times in our lives when friends and family ask, "What can I do to help out?" The answer is usually to help them with a meal. When many friends give a meal, this is a Meal Train. mealtrain.com is a free meal calendar tool that makes planning meals among a wide group easy and less stressful.



Generosity Abounds! The Thank Offering raises over 3800 for missions.

We truly give thanks for all that was offered. This year, as we prepared to live into the meaning of Thanksgiving with a service of gratitude and hope for the future, we collected a special thank offering in order to support ministries near and far. The mission team invited the entire congregation to consider how they would like to gift I selection of 14 different groups. This year \$3,802 will go to support local, national and worldwide missions. Praise God and many thanks for your generous spirits.



# January 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	30	31	<b>1</b> 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Wednesday morning Bible study Church Office Closed	<b>2</b> Church office Closed 6pm Cub Scouts	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> Communion Sunday 10:15 AM Praise singing 10:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 11:45 AM - 12:45 PM Chime choir practice 11:45 AM Fellowship	<b>6</b> 6:30pm Adult Cub Scouts	<b>7</b> 7 PM Choir	<b>8</b> 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM WIC 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Wednesday morning Bible study 12:30 PM Stewardship-Finance 6 pm Cub Scouts	<b>9</b> 6pm Fun, Faith, & Family 6:30 PM Den Meeting	<b>10</b> Confirmation Retreat @ Chico Hot Springs	<b>11</b> 7:30 AM - 9:30 AM United Methodist Men
<b>12</b> 10:15 AM Praise singing 10:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 11:45 AM - 12:45 PM Chime choir practice 11:45 AM Fellowship 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Book club for Jan: "Inspired" by Rachel Held Evans	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM Cub Scouts 7 pm Choir	<b>15</b> 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM WIC 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Wednesday morning Bible study	<b>16</b> 6:00 PM Shepherding 7:00 PM Administrative Council	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 10:00 AM UMW meeting
<b>19</b> 10:15 AM Praise singing 10:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 11:45 AM - 12:45 PM Chime choir practice 11:45 AM Fellowship Town Hall Meeting after church	<b>20</b> 7:00 PM Trustees	<b>21</b> 7pm Choir	<b>22</b> 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM WIC 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Wednesday morning Bible study	<b>23</b> 6:30 PM Den Meeting	<b>24</b> 8:30am Bitterroot Education	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 10:15 AM Praise singing 10:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 11:45 AM - 12:45 PM Chime choir practice 11:45 AM Fellowship	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM Cub Scouts 7 pm Choir	<b>29</b> 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM WIC 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Wednesday morning No Bible Study	<b>30</b> 6:30 pm Cub Scout Pack meeting	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b>



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## Note from the Lay Leader

I am humbled, honored, and excited to be your new lay leader! I look forward to representing the laypeople in our congregation (that's you!) in working with Pastor Sarah to fulfill the mission and vision of the congregation. Many of you may know me already, but just in case I thought it might be fun to tell you a little bit about me.

Who am I?

Born and raised in Plevna, Montana. Mom was a registered nurse (now retired after 30 years), Dad runs the ranch. I am the oldest of 4 children.

- Graduated from Rocky Mountain College with a degree in Music Education. In college, I served on the Montana-Northern Wyoming Youth Ministry board for the United Church of Christ, the Outdoor Ministries Committee Montana-N. Wyoming UCC, directed the children's choir at First Congregational UCC in Billings, MT, and spent many years as camper, counselor, and eventually program leader at Camp Mimanagish, which is the summer camp affiliated with the UCC in Montana.
- After college, there were no teaching jobs available in the area so I went to work at a Ford dealership in the accounting office until I could find a teaching job. I loved it so much that I went back to school to get an associate degree in accounting and I've been working in the dealership accounting world, training and leading teams all over the State of Montana, for 18 years now.
- I met Jeremy at a Music Educator's Summer Workshop in Billings; we've now been married 15 years. Jeremy teaches 5-12 band at Stevensville Schools. We have 2 children: Hazen (age 9), and Cameron (age 5). Because the closest UCC church was in Missoula, we decided to give Stevensville UMC a try. We immediately felt at home (it was reminiscent of the churches we attended while growing up), the congregation was very warm and inviting, and we loved the traditions and the music. We have now been a part of this congregation for 12 years.
- My favorite color is red, my favorite food is pasta, and my favorite past times are camping and hiking. What to expect from me as your Lay Leader:
- You will see me at various committee meetings. Mostly to learn more about each group and to touch base with each one, but also to serve as a representative of what I'm hearing from the congregation through individual conversations and through our monthly town hall meetings.
- My goal is to help us foster intentional growth through healthy conversation and building trust as we work together toward finding an answer to the facility question that's been looming over our heads for awhile now.
- I plan to assist in advising the church council and working with Pastor Sarah for the mission and vision of the congregation.

I am looking forward to learning more about my new role and having conversations with each of you as we work together through the mission and ministry of our congregation. I'm ready! Are you?





- Thank you to everyone helped with our Christmas Pageant in December! It was fun to see teachers and parents come together and have fun while working with our kids; and to watch the kids excitement and joy as they rehearsed together, put their costumes on (we had lots of laughs and tons of smiles going on - I wish you could have seen it!), and then after as they enjoyed each others company in the classroom while making ornaments, reading stories, and coloring. God is good!

Our lessons in January:

1/5 - Chosen as God's Children - John 1:1-18

1/12 - A Light to the Nations - Isaiah 42:1-9

1/19 - The Lamb of God - John 1:29-42

1/26 - United in Christ - 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

**Thank you for supporting the next generation of our church!**

## Adult Study– Sundays 9-10am

Gather for a weekly study & exploration of Biblical texts and faith topic in the multi-purpose classroom. The group will utilize Disciplines, a yearly Devotional book on a regular basis with opportunity to explore specific seasonal studies as the year rolls along. All are welcome to participate as you're able. Books available through the office.

- Christian Ed meeting on January 12th following worship.
- Children's Sunday is coming on February 9th! Kids will lead our entire worship service.
- Vacation Bible School 2020. We have chosen a curriculum which is entitled "Renew" which focuses on one story, Jesus' Parable of the Sower. This is an environmentally-focused program that inspires kids and adults to grow in faith, have fun, and change the world as they practice the stewardship of creation. Kids will learn how to put their faith into action through activities that focus on service within our church and our community, and the world. Dates and times will be announced in early Spring. Stay tuned for more info and to learn how YOU can get involved to help make VBS a success!

## Fun, Faith, Fellowship Group

"Come join the Empty Nesters Plus 'Fun, Faith and Fellowship' group at our SUMC community!

We are planning to do a variety of monthly activities during the year, beginning with our first get together, which will be game night at the church on Thursday, January 9, at 6 pm. Please bring a snack/appetizer of your choice and beverages will be provided.

Our February activity will be the Valentines dinner as long as the men continue this tradition!



# Nursery Attendant Needed

Duties are to provide age-appropriate care for children age 5 and under, weekly from 10 am to noon ON SUNDAY MORNINGS and occasional evenings.

- \* Applicants must be at least 18 years of age
- \* Applicants must be able to pass a background check
- \* Safe Sanctuary training will be provided
- \* Current CPR and First Aid are desired

Please send resume to [steviumc@gmail.com](mailto:steviumc@gmail.com),



## Meet our Stevensville UMC Administration Assistant

Sheryl Sund comes to us from Kirkland, WA. She is married with 8 Children. Sheryl and her husband did foster care and adopted 5 of their children from Foster Care. Sheryl has a history of working in the Finance Field for the last 20+ years as a Operation Manager of over 800 employees and teaching classes for the State of Washington for their Foster Adopt programs. She moved with her husband Steve to Stevensville in the last year to be near her son Chad and 4 of her grandchildren. Chad is the Assistant Fire Chief of Three Mile Fire Dept. in Stevensville. Please welcome her by stopping by the Church office and saying hello.

~ CHANGES OF ADDRESS ~  
Bulk-rate mail is not forwarded.  
If your address changes, if we have it wrong,  
or if you no longer want to receive this newsletter,  
please let us know.

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Stevensville MT 59870  
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The Glad Tider

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