


 Trumpet Call
 Aldersgate United Methodist Church
 1621 Thornton Ave.
 Butte, MT 59701
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TRUMPET CALL

September 2024
**ALDRSGATE UNITED
 METHODIST CHURCH**
 1621 Thornton Ave., Butte
 (406) 782-2425 | aldersgatech@outlook.com

All Blood Types *Needed*





**American
Red Cross**

Blood Drive

Aldersgate United Methodist Church

Chapel Overflow
 1621 Thornton Ave
 Butte, MT 59701

Wednesday, October 2, 2024
 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Sign up at: www.redcrossblood.com
 Sponsor Code: Aldersgate



03: Leonard & Luana Mcikelson 25: Dan & Coreen Hash
 12: Ed & Roberta Dobb

02: Tim Lambert
 03: Sharon Miller
 05: Caleb Hash
 05: Jyl Duffy
 07: Jeff Ryan
 08: Bill Ralph
 10: Coreen Hash
 16: Molly Hoffman
 17: Donna Shovlin



Birthday Blessings

19: Jessica Robertson
 20: Dee Anna
 20: Kay Swanson
 21: Greyson Robinson
 24: Beverly Clayton
 26: Argo Graff
 28: Jim Heikes
 29: Barbara O'Brien

ATTACK ON BUTTE HUNGER

September 8th, 2024 LIVE MUSIC
 12:00 - 5:00 PM FREE FOOD
 Gold Hill Lutheran Church FUN & GAMES



Seth's Message

We continue our series of articles about how our church works. Each month we will look at one of the ministry teams, who is on the team, what they do, and how often and when they meet.

Last month our focus was the Committee on Trustees. This month our attention is on the Committee on Finance and Memorials. The goal of this ministry is to ensure that all of our bills are paid at the end of the year. Our discussion focuses on stewardship and specifically the acknowledgment that what we have all comes from God (Psalm 50.10). We believe it is a blessing that we receive a paycheck and a retirement account and have food in our bellies, a warm place to sleep. When we understand that all of this comes from God we feel we have done the work of the Lord who loves us. Our stewardship moments are an acknowledgment of just this.

The committee also looks at the expenses of the church to ensure that we are using your gifts responsibly. Financial reports that include income and expenses or in church speak – gifts and obligations – are commonplace at our gatherings.

It is always our goal that our tithes and our gifts meet the obligation of the budget. However, the committee acknowledges that there are shortfalls. Since it is the obligation to raise the needed funds for the church, members of this committee do focus on fund-raisers.

The work of acknowledging memorial gifts falls under this ministry team. We have a dedicated volunteer who works on acknowledging all gifts to the church.

It is also our policy that all gifts to the Memorials of the church that are undesignated – meaning that no decision has been made to these funds – are forwarded to our Endowment. This only takes place after a six-month grieving process.

Sermon Series

ON THE ROAD AGAIN ... This summer we follow the journey of a fellow pastor by the name of Thomas Hall. If you caught the series last year, Thomas was a United Methodist pastor, who in 2010 was appointed to Plains and Paradise. Almost as soon as he moved to our state he began a bike journey starting in Missoula, proceeding to Billings for Annual Conference, then dropped down to Wyoming where the wind forced him into northwest Nebraska. It was here where he met me and my family. He recommended that we follow his journey on his blog. This summer we have followed him from the panhandle of Nebraska to southwest Kansas and to his destination state of Texas where his goal has always been Del Rio, Texas.

We are not just following a pastor on a recumbent bike. **ON THE ROAD AGAIN** is also looking at the journey of the development of the early church. Each blog entry has a corresponding passage in Acts. It is remarkable how similar the journey of life mirrors what we find in scripture. Join us as **ON THE ROAD AGAIN** is almost complete.



ON THE ROAD AGAIN

September 8th – “Oil Rigger and the Naked Lady”, looking at Acts 26.19-23

September 15th – “Running into Jesus”, looking at Acts 27.33-38

September 29th – “The Rain Came Down and the Floods Came Up”, looking at Acts 28.23-28

Meetings for this ministry team usually take place once-a-month on the last Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm and held in our overflow room
 Members of the Committee on Finance and Memorials are: Dave Duffy (chairperson), Kariann Thaut, Vicki Kestle (Treasurer), Bruce Schuelke (representing the Trustees), Brad Belke, Gerry Allen, Barry Kippen, Bill Rhoads, and Phylis Rice.

Next month we will look at the ministry team known as Barnabas.

Seth

WE HAVE A NEW BISHOP

On July 12th of this year, the Western Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church met in Spokane, Washington. At that meeting of delegates from Annual Conferences in the Western part of the United States Bishop Kristin Stoneking was elected Bishop. Soon after, she was assigned to the Mountain Sky Annual Conference which covers Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, Montana, and a tiny sliver of Idaho. On September 1st, Bishop Stoneking officially became our Bishop. On September 8th at 3:00 pm, she will be officially installed as our Bishop at a ceremony that will take place at the Bozeman United Methodist Church. We are all invited for this unique opportunity to welcome Bishop Stoneking to our Conference and to our state

HISTORY EVENT COMING TO OUR TOWN

The quadrennial (every four years) United Methodist Historical Convocation will be held in Bozeman, Montana from September 10-13, 2024 and hosted by the Western Jurisdiction and the Mountain Sky Commission on Archives and History. On Wednesday, September 11th, this group of about 60 individuals from various locations in our nation will descend on Butte as part of this Historical Convocation. They will be led around to several spots here in Butte that have historical significance to Methodism - the Italian Mission at the Berkeley Pit, the Scandinavian Methodist Church, Trinity and Mount Bethel (both listed on the National Historic Registry), Mountain View and its parsonage, Saint Paul's, and Shaffer's Chapel AME Church. These locations are also listed on the National Historic Registry. A lunch of pasties will be provided at our church for our guests. A short program led by our pastor will follow before our participants return to Bozeman. The theme of the convocation is ethnic heritage. Butte America is perfect for this presentation.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:30 Service @ Clark's Park	2	3	4 8:00 Women's 4th Day 9:30 Sandwich Ministry 10:00 Midweek Liprenders 6:30 Men's 4th Day	5	6 7:00 Men's Breakfast	7
8 9:00 Adult SS 10:30 Worship 11:30 Coffee & Conversation 12:00 Attack on Hunger @ Goldhill 3:00 Bishop Installation	9 11:00 Barnabos	10 7:00 Trustees	11 8:00 Women's 4th Day 10:00 Midweek Liprenders 10:00 History Event 6:30 Men's 4th day	12 4:00 Girl Scouts	13 7:00 Men's Breakfast	14
15 9:00 Adult SS 10:30 Worship 11:30 Coffee & Conversation	16	17	18 8:00 Women's 4th Day 10:00 Midweek Liprenders 6:30 Men's 4th day	19	20 7:00 Men's Breakfast	21
22 9:00 Adult SS 10:30 Worship 11:30 Coffee & Conversation	23	24 7:00 Finance	25 8:00 Women's 4th Day 10:00 Midweek Liprenders 6:30 Men's 4th day 7:00 Ad. Council	26 4:00 Girl Scouts	27 7:00 Men's Breakfast	28
29 9:00 Adult SS 10:30 Worship 11:30 Coffee & Conversation	30					



The Word of God is a lot of Work.

If you have been reading the Lay Leader's column in the Trumpet Call very long you know that I have been trying to expand my reading and understanding of the Gospel teachings by looking at the message from how I understand Jews study the scripture. Which is by holding the scripture up like it's a gem and then examining all the different facets of the gem so they can decipher all the different meanings of the scripture. To be frank, I honestly don't know if this is how Jewish people study the scripture, but it's what I was told, and since I have been doing it seems like the words have far more meaning than when I simply accepted them at face value. So, let's look at a scripture from Mark, chapter 7,

"...Jesus [went] into the region of the Decapolis. There some people brought to him a man who was deaf and could hardly talk, and they begged Jesus to place his hand on him.

After he took him aside, away from the crowd, Jesus put his fingers into the man's ears. Then he spit and touched the man's tongue. He looked up to heaven and with a deep sigh said to him, "Ephphatha!" (which means "Be opened!"). At this, the man's ears were opened, his tongue was loosened, and he began to speak plainly."

Simple enough, a guy was deaf, some people brought him to Jesus, he was healed, and he was no longer deaf and dumb. Good story, good miracle, but... If I am looking at this as if it were a gem, a gem with 58 facets or more, what else is taking place here? What haven't we searched for? What haven't we found?

Terri and I have been watching the mini-series the Gospel over the last couple of months and there is this sequence where two followers, Barnaby who is crippled asks that his friend Shula, who is blind, be healed, which Jesus does, restoring Shula's sight after 10 years of blindness. Good story, good miracle, end of story but.... Then Shula asks that Jesus heal Barnaby, who declines, no don't worry about me, maybe later, but not today, you've already done so much. And the TV Jesus says, okay some other time then, and the two followers walk away rejoicing over the woman's healing. But then it gets better. One of the disciples starts to ask a question and Jesus holds up a hand and then says, "there it is", and then the second follower Barnaby suddenly realizes as he is walking away with Shula, that he has also been healed. He throws his crutch away, lifts Jesus in the air, starts dancing, and now we have a great story.

The same week I am thinking about this scripture and the story from the Chosen, God sticks another facet from this scripture in front of me. The topic in the Guide to Prayer for the week is "Do you want to Get Well?" let me quote the article therein from Pastor Rueben Job,

"Do you want to get well? Is a shocking question. Of course I want to be well! But then on closer reflection I am forced to ask, Do I really want to get well? At times I am so attached to my illness (today we could also say addiction) that I prefer illness to health. Possibly my illness (addiction) keeps me from facing the real problem or my real self. My illness could be the crutch I have used to hide or circumvent deeper spiritual problems."

Whoa, well that is uncomfortable. That is three different thoughts on one scripture, one simple, one with a happy ending and then a third with a question that requires some serious thought. All this thinking could tire a person out and then, I'm looking at the scripture in Mark in light of what Pastor Job had to say when Pastor Weber throws this message into the mix.

The scripture says that "**There some people brought to him a man...**" Some people, what people? Who are these some people, friends, family, neighbors, and are they asking Jesus to heal his problem, or their problem? Are they just tired of taking care of him? Because "*just to be clear: the text doesn't say one word about what the deaf guy wanted.*" So, Pastor Weber asks the hard question, were these people avoiding looking at their own issues by helping someone else. "*Hey Jesus – we, the people who are just fine, brought you the "broken" guy so you can fix him*". Pastor Weber went on to say that "*We tend to let the obviously broken people carry all the brokenness for us. It's quite the convenient system really. Like when someone is obviously an active alcoholic, we are thrilled not to have to look at our own drinking.*"

"This system we have where we all agree on who the real drunk is and who the real liar is and who the real emotionally needy person is works really well for us. I bet right now you could turn to the person next to you and give them the first names of who of the designated drunks and liars and needy people in your unit are. And like any dysfunctional system, it works. You know, until Jesus shows up and ruins it." Because as Pastor Weber says, "*I can't help feeling like it would have been more realistic if all of the THEYS who brought the deaf man to Jesus would have also sought healing for themselves.*"

Good question. And then Weber goes a step further to support her idea. She notes that Jesus then removed the deaf man from the supposedly well people, touched him, looked to heaven, sighed, and said, "BE OPENED." No casting out demons or sickness, no attempt to identify what's wrong and curing it, Jesus just says be opened. So, she asks if perhaps spiritual healing has more to do with being opened than it does with being cured. "*But Jesus says to us, be opened. Be opened to knowing that your own brokenness doesn't need to be hidden behind someone else's. Be opened to the idea that you are stronger than you think. Be opened to the idea that you aren't as strong as you think*" "*Be opened to this whole Gospel of Jesus Christ thing actually, actually, actually being real. And actually, being FOR YOU. Because maybe that's what healing really is. Because the radical reign of God that Jesus ushers in destroys the systems of designated sick people and designated well people so that all that is left is a single category of people – children of God.*"

Four facets of one verse, four gospel messages to be considered. All obviously having the possibility of merit and truth, all worthy of consideration, all calling on us to be better than we have been. And that is only four out of 58 (or more) possible facets. Maybe there is a reason the Jews are the chosen people.

Brad