



FAMILY News

Fifth Ave Memorial United Church
476 4 Ave SE
Medicine Hat, AB T1A 0K6
Office: 403 526 2237
www.famitedchurch.ca
office@famitedchurch.ca

Dear Friends,

As we begin a new year I am always reminded of John Wesley. John, along with his brother Charles, are largely credited with founding the “Methodist” movement during their time at Oxford in the mid-1700s. The result is that they are also counted among the founders of Methodism as a denomination. It is a strange thing and we can discuss how this happened at another time but for our purposes here it's important to remember that Wesley was an Anglican.

His Methodism set him apart from a lot of his peers. Rather than cloistered in the pews, Wesley and his followers were out in the prisons and the pubs sharing the gospel teaching literacy and numeracy and teaching the working classes about their rights. Rather than staid Sunday services Wesley could be found “field preaching” to thousands any day of the week. Rather than limiting participation in the sacramental life of the church Wesley argued the sacraments were converting ordinances and that the church should not limit anyone from participating in them. He famously said “the whole world is my parish”, a sentiment that sometimes put him at odds with the Bishops and the leaders of his church.

Wesley remained undaunted because of the relationship with Christ he was devoted and all in, he believed Christ could not only redeem individuals but indeed society itself he was an early proponent of the social gospel at a time when Christianity was seen largely as a way to maintain order rather than promote change and healing. He maintained a strong prayer life and his piety was fueled by study and action.

One of Wesley's most famous prayers is his Covenant Prayer. Those who claim a Methodist Spiritual Heritage often share and say this prayer at the beginning of a new year to remind themselves of Wesley and his strong and inspirational faith and as a way to invite their own deeper faith. In these days like Wesley, our faith is tested, and we yearn for God's direction. Let's share Wesley's words as we seek to build God's commonwealth in the year that is unfolding.

“I am no longer my own, but thine.

Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.

Put me to doing, put me to suffering.

Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee,
exalted for thee or brought low for thee.

Creating Connecting Caring

Let me be full, let me be empty.

Let me have all things, let me have nothing.

I freely and heartily yield all things
to thy pleasure and disposal.

And now, O glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it.

And the covenant which I have made on earth,
let it be ratified in heaven. Amen."

Blessings, Rev. Dave

If you know of someone that needs a visit or a phone call,

please let the office know.



**The next FAM bottle drive is on
January 11th**

Look for the white Ford Truck in front of the Christian Education doors. If you cannot make it on the 11th, feel free to bring your bottles and cans the week before.



**Starting January,
both Men's and Ladies' luncheons
will be on THURSDAYS – see
calendar**

Everyone welcome

**FAM and Salvation Army Christmas Dinner
December 19th - a great success**

Was a wonderful opportunity to serve Christmas dinner to over 150 of the Salvation Army clients, as well as provide numerous go boxes. Thank you to all the people who donated, prepped, cooked, served and cleaned. The folks were so appreciative.

FAM on line Auction will start on January 28th and end at 8 pm on Feb 13th during the FAMily Valentine Dance.

We are looking for new items along with services (sewing) and talents (private music concert) Please send a picture of our item with a description and the value to office@famitedchurch.ca by January 26th. If you don't have a picture, not to worry, the office will supply one.



Valentine FAMily Dance will be held on February 13th in Wesley Hall.

Come dance to the musical stylings of 13 Ave Band.

Please bring an appetizer to share.

Cost: Adults \$10 5-12 \$5 and 4 and under free.

Tickets will be available at the church office starting Jan 5th and after Sunday Services.

All are welcome.



Men's Luncheon on
THURSDAY Jan 8th, 11.30
at Paradise Valley Golf Course
RSVP to Gary at 587-936-1430
All guys welcome

Ladies Luncheon on
THURSDAY Jan 15, 11.30
at I-Hop
RSVP to Launa at 403-502-3419
All ladies welcome

Can you help by donating some much-needed food items

Always needed: peanut butter, Jams, pancake mix, granola bars, juice boxes, ground beef, canned foods and more. Bring your items to the church and place in the wagon in the foyer.



Consider giving FAM your **Canadian Tire dollars** by using the **church phone number (403-526-2237)**



Use the
FAM membership
number 2501 at any
South Country Co-op location



When you buy gift cards through FAM, we receive a commission from each card purchased. Since starting this program FAM has made over \$4,000. Orders will go in the third Wednesday of every month. To see the full list of partners and get an order form visit our webpage or stop by the church office or the office can email you the form.

FAM Library. FAM has a wonderful library just waiting for you to visit. Come to the Memorial Salem Room during office hours or on Sunday after church to browse through the collection. **If you take a book to read, just fill out the sign out book.**



FAM also has a book and puzzle exchange in the church foyer. Feel free to bring your books and puzzles. You don't need to bring a book to take a book or to sign them out. Please help yourself.



YOUR HELP IS NEEDED

This coming Sunday, Jan 4, we are looking for people to help take down the Christmas Decorations right after Sunday Service.

Emmanuel needs someone with a truck and people, to help move a friend on Jan 16th. If you can help, please let the office know. There are no heavy appliances.

Pg 4

Important message from the Property Steward

Many of you may remember the building conservation efforts undertaken in the past, including the Capital Project Planning Report prepared by PH McNally in 2018, following the Luxton Conservation Plan from 2016. With your help, several of the recommended projects were completed, including LED light substitution, some ventilation work, repair of the boulevard, and removal of vegetation on the north side of the building. Yet the major projects of drainage rehabilitation, foundation protections, storm window installation, tower masonry repairs, and efficient attic ventilation have not yet been pursued, likely because the roof work had just been completed and the boiler was the next major requirement.

In February of this year, I began looking into what could be done about the damage in the NE tower, as it was the most visible problem. With the help of valued tradespeople, I have arrived at the conclusion that the drainage rehabilitation, in coordination with the attic ventilation repairs, are the next item that require our focus and investment.

As we enter this season of budget preparations, the Board will be considering all possibilities, and as the Property Steward, I hope to keep you informed of the current needs of our beloved building. As we are a designated Municipal Heritage Resource, we are able to access matching grants of up to 50% from the provincial government. The grant application is due at the end of January, and in the meantime, we have hired PH McNally to design the systems and coordinate the contractors that will be needed to implement connection to the underground drain system, installation of a larger drainage system on the roof, and making the changes needed to keep the attic cold. This does not mean we are fully committed to the project yet, but the decision will be a major factor in our budget and priorities.

We must give consideration to the consequences of not completing this project. They are, but are not limited to, things we can already see happening: water creep up the walls from the ground, leading to minerals pushing through an interior wall, collapsing plaster in walls and ceilings, and heat loss, as well as damage to the masonry, clogged drain spouts, and ice damming leading to roof damage. There are other things that may be happening out of sight, such as black mold, undermining of the foundation and surrounding land, and condensation in the attic.

I encourage you to reach out to me at propertysteward@famitedchurch.ca to let me know your thoughts, or to receive the Project Brief. Thank you to those who have already reached out with donations; your contributions inspire me to work hard to keep our beautiful building operational for decades to come.

Stephanie Lindstedt
FAM Property Steward



Minister's Office Hours

Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays

9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Wednesday afternoons if not visiting folks out in the community

Available to chat on evenings and weekends - call the office to make an appointment.

FAM Office hours

Monday to Thursday 11am to 1pm

Or by appointment (call **403 526 2237**)

Reminder that we need to keep our contact list current, please make sure the office has your current address, phone and email details.

Check out the FAM webpage for updated information about happenings going on at FAM and the Community. The calendar is updated daily. If you have a community event happening, send a pdf or jpeg poster or just the information to the office and Piehl will add it to www.famitedchurch.ca Also, make sure to like our Facebook page, Fifth Avenue Memorial United Church, and please share our events.

Our Sacred Service team model, where everyone in the congregation is invited to partake in Sunday morning responsibilities, has been very successful since its inception in May 2024. A big thank you to all those who lead and volunteer.



Pg 6

FAMILY Calendar

2026	HAPPY NEW YEAR		
January 4	Church School starts		
January 5	FAM office reopens	11am – 1pm	Mon - Thurs
January 8	Men's luncheon Paradise Valley Golf Course	11.30	RSVP Gary 587 936 1430
January 11	Bottle Drive	10am	FAM
January 15	Ladies luncheon – I HOP	11.30	RSVP Launa 403 502 3419
January 28	On-line Auction begins		
Feb 1	Annual General Meeting		<i>To be confirmed</i>
Feb 13	Valentines dance & final auction		

Regular FAM Activities – Sundays 10am Service and Church School

Mondays Starts Jan 12	Morning Coffee 10am	FAM Memorial Salem Room
Wednesdays Starts Jan 7	Bible Study 10am	Chinook Village
Wednesdays Starts Jan 14	Prayer Shawl Crafters 1-3pm	FAM Memorial Salem Room
Wednesdays Starts Jan 14	Hand Bell Ringers 1.15pm	Wesley Hall
2 nd THURSDAY of each month starting January	Men's Luncheon 11.30	Gary 587 936 1430
3 rd Wednesday	Funscript orders submitted	Order at FAM office
3 rd THURSDAY of each month starting January	Ladies Luncheon 11.30	Launa 403 502 3419