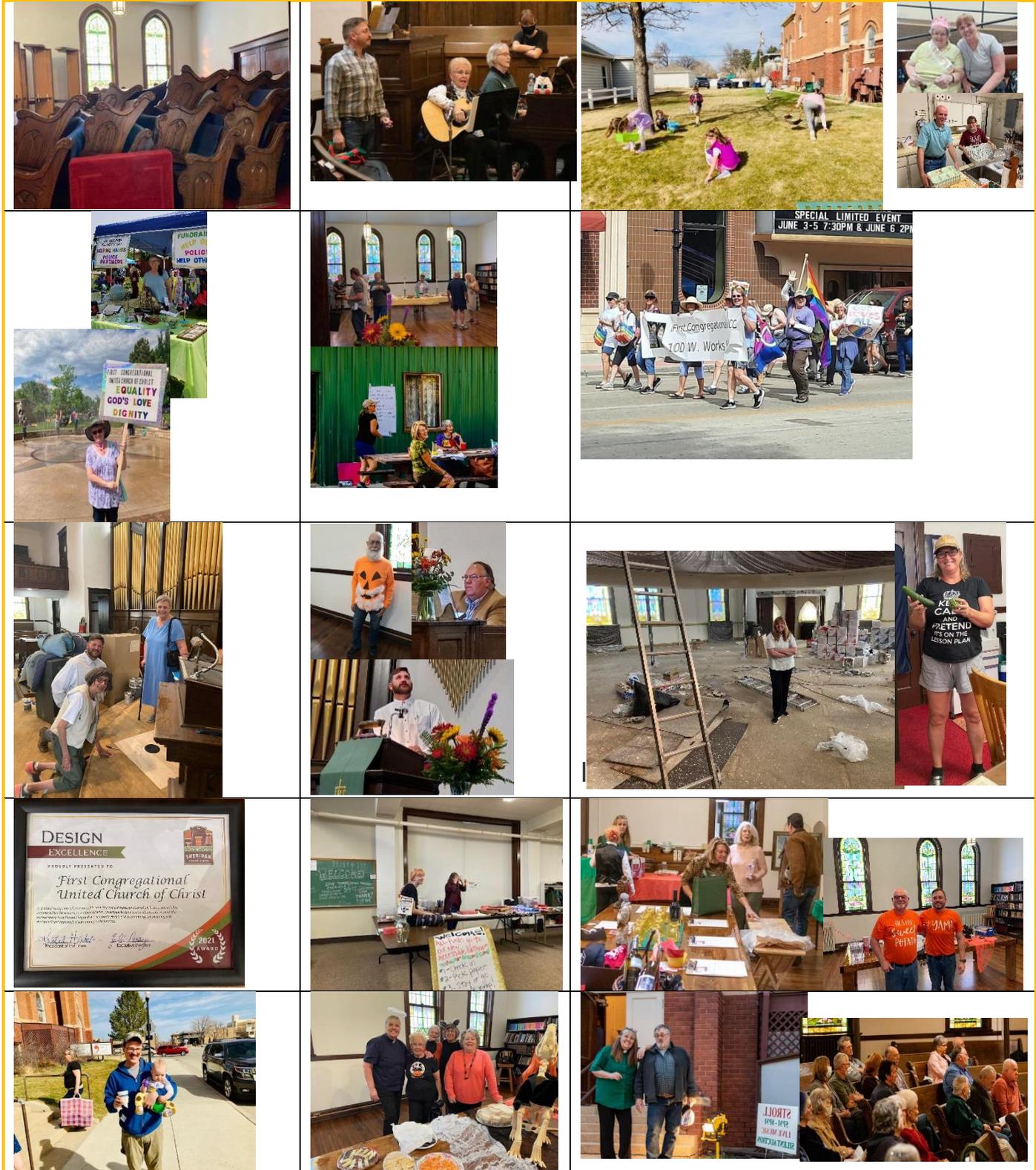


The Tower January, 2022
First Congregational, UCC, 100 W. Works St,
Sheridan, WY 82801 307-672-2668
Rev. Dr. Sheila Naismith, Pastor

2021 in Review – Renovation, New Missions, Prayer, & Resilience!



January Birthdays

3 Barbara Fosmire 9 Fran Ford 12 Chase Walden
22 Gene Gligorea 24 Kim Huestis 24 Sally Gligorea

January Anniversary

14 Kim and Larry Huestis

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.

Condolences: Family of Liz Gale

Please remember **all those**, along with their families, **dealing with challenges**: Ryan (Diane's Friend), Fran Ford, Isaac and Maria Myers, Fred Newcomer (cancer), Thelma Peterson, John 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**.

Calendar of Events

January 17: Council Meeting 6:30 PM ZOOM
January 24: Bible Study (See below) 6:00 PM
January 28: Last Friday at First 5:30 – 6:30 PM

We will have Bible Study at the church on Monday, January 24 at 6pm downstairs. Pat Luck will discuss "Put On the New Man".

While the study will be in-person, Debbie is willing to Skype in folks at home. Please let Debbie know if you plan on joining this way so she can add you to the Skype call. godworks100@gmail.com



Lunch Together

We served the week of December 20-23. We fed a total of 122 people. For the first half of 2022, our dates to serve are February 14-17, April 11-14, June 6-9. Even with the holiday and people not feeling well and others away with family. We had a good time. If you can help with any of the dates, please let us know. We would be happy to see you.
(Pastor Sheila cooks too!)

Our Christmas Families Mission Came at Just the Right Time in Sheridan!



The Joy of Giving

Many thanks to all of you who supported our annual Christmas Families project. Kim Huestis, who heads up this effort along with your Christian Service Board, reports some extraordinary JOY in giving gifts this year!

Among the Sheridan families who we supported were: a family of three, a single mom with two sons, family of four (with two young children), and a single parent mom with three young children. **Kim received lots of hugs with messages to the church of thanks and blessings.** Kim reports the gift giving was a delight and a privilege to deliver.

But, that's not all... a couple of years ago, your Christian Service Board, led by Christine Johnson, decided that we should distribute Christmas Stockings to some of our church members and attenders. This effort was not based on financial circumstance, but rather on spreading the JOY to some of our older folks who were likely to wake up alone at Christmas. Others have had medical challenges, and a bit of unexpected JOY is a balm during trying times. Pastor Sheila personally delivered the fifteen stockings during Christmas week.



Supporting Afghan Refugees in Wyoming

As you may remember, your Church Council voted unanimously to work with the Wyoming Episcopal Diocese, other denominations, and the Wyoming Migration Ministry, to move forward the support of Afghanistan refugee resettlement in Wyoming. While Laramie has been selected as the first city where refugee resettlement will take place, Sheridan has also been selected for future refugee resettlement. As Wyoming is the only state never to accept refugees, this is a big task.

These refugees have a whole lot of support from U.S. veterans, former soldiers and Marines, as these Afghans fought side by side with Americans who depended on them in Afghanistan. Their Christmas wish is the gift of kindness when they get here. We will keep you up to date on their progress. What you can do in the meantime, is pray that Wyoming will find "room at the inn" for them.



Pastor Sheila wishes to thank the church for the generous gift at Christmas. Debbie is also thankful for the generous gift. It is a pleasure to serve with you.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

We were privileged to attend Christmas Eve candlelight service. Pastor Sheila read scripture and told the Christmas Story with carols intertwined. It was a beautiful and meaningful service. Gary played many Christmas Carols on the organ. Elizabeth was able to record the service on YouTube. Since our Sunday School was not available, we had the Sunday School Alumni of Spencer Morris, Linda Morris, Jean Harm and Kailey Mortenson join Debbie in singing "Away In a Manger". Thank you everyone!

