



# CHENEY

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

® *To Seek, Serve, and Share Jesus Christ*

## NEWSLETTER



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# THE SPIRIT - ISSUE 09 - SEPT 2025

## STARTING SEPT 21

## WHEN GOD GOES TO THE MOVIES

## WORSHIP AT 10 AM



A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF CHENEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## What would Jesus watch?

***“And the Word became flesh and lived among us...” – John 1:14 (NRSV)***

Have you ever wondered what Jesus would be like if he showed up today? Not in ancient robes, but in sneakers and a hoodie. Would he be hanging out on TikTok? Would he shop at Costco? And here’s a real question: Would Jesus watch Netflix (or HBO or HULU...)? It might sound silly at first—but it’s actually deeply theological. Because Christianity is not about a distant God who stays far away from our world. It’s about a God who became human. Who lived, laughed, cried, ate, and walked among people. Jesus met folks where they were—at wells, weddings, dinner tables, on boats, and street corners.

So... if Jesus walked into our world today, maybe he wouldn’t preach from a boat—maybe he’d ask, *“Can we talk after this episode?”*

But what would he watch?

### **1. He’d probably start with *The Chosen***

Just to see how people have interpreted his life. He might chuckle, maybe cringe at a few lines, but he’d be proud that people are still trying to tell the story.

### **2. He’d watch shows like *Heartstopper* or *Sex Education***

Not for scandal, but for compassion. Jesus always had time for those figuring out who they are, especially if they felt judged or excluded. He listened, healed, embraced.

### **3. He’d enjoy *The Good Place***

He might laugh at the point system for getting into heaven and say, “Interesting idea—but I offer grace, not a scoreboard.”

### **4. He’d be drawn to documentaries**

Stories of injustice, racism, poverty, migration. Why? Because those are the places he always went. Where pain is, Jesus shows up.

### **5. And yes—Jesus would laugh**

He might binge an episode of *Ted Lasso* or *Friends*. Why? Because joy matters. Because laughter heals. Because grace is funny. So maybe the better question isn’t, *“Would Jesus watch Netflix?”*

Maybe it’s:

### **Would I watch the world the way Jesus does?**

Would I watch with empathy? With curiosity? With compassion? Would I take the stories I see and turn them into action, healing, listening, and hope?

Because the good news is this: Jesus doesn’t just meet us in the synagogue or the church pew. Jesus meets us on the screen, in our DMs, in our streaming queues, in the mess of our real and everyday lives.

*Continued on Page 2*



**Rev. Damian Carruthers**  
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*Continued from Page 1*

That is one reason, why we are starting this new Fall Sermon Series:

**“When God goes to the movies...”**

You will be able to read more about this sermon series in this newsletter.  
But for now, let us pray:

God of all stories,  
You became human so we could know your love in a way we’d understand.  
Help us to see the world with Jesus’ eyes—even through our screens.  
Teach us to be curious, compassionate, and real.  
And may we always remember: You are still watching... and walking... with us.  
Amen.

Peace be with you! Pastor Damian



## SEPTEMBER Birthdays

- |                          |                            |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>2 Jane Tiedt</b>      | <b>14 Roy Friedman</b>     |
| <b>5 Dale Cockrum</b>    | <b>19 Georgette Rogers</b> |
| <b>10 Don McCandless</b> | <b>Jim Almekinder</b>      |
| <b>11 Grace Kriegh</b>   | <b>23 Lynn Gronlund</b>    |
| <b>Quentin Gainer</b>    |                            |



## SEPTEMBER Anniversaries

- |                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <b>1 Fred &amp; Lynn Gronlund</b>   | <b>7 Dale &amp; JoAnn Cockrum</b>        |
| <b>6 Rande &amp; Margie Lindner</b> | <b>19 Steve &amp; Mary Jane Shervais</b> |

**If your birthday or anniversary is not listed please let the church office know.**

## Church in the Park

What has 160 feet, tall trees, blue skies, and praise music? Worship in the park three times this summer had all of that and more. We combined with the Episcopal and Congregational churches once during each summer month for beautiful and meaningful worship. The weather was perfect and about 80 people gathered for each monthly service. The three pastors each took a turn preaching which allowed us all to experience a little of each other's services and traditions. Fellowship time felt like a big community reunion as friends and neighbors visited with one another. What a great summer tradition. The last service we had the offering was given to the EWU Food Bank \$690 was donated.

## Tirzah and Andrew Tied the Knot!



We may not have known each other for very long, but Andrew and I knew we were ready to take the next step in our relationship. It's kind of silly, but we met walking down the aisle, and we finally got to do it for real ourselves! It was quite the full circle moment for us. Andrew and I were married by Pastor Damian on May 3rd, in the early afternoon, in a private ceremony! We were lucky enough with Julie Peck's help to find a location perfect for us. We were married in someone's backyard along Clear Lake, and it was absolutely incredible! It may have sprinkled a little bit that afternoon, but it didn't spoil our day or ruin any of our fun. It's been said that a knot that is wet is much harder to unravel than a dry one.

Andrew and I initially didn't tell many about getting married because we wanted to enjoy some time with no unsolicited advice or judgments. We finally shared with our families and started planning our celebration for August 9th! The celebration was incredible and again was also out on Clear Lake, a special location for us. So many of our family and friends were able to make it, and we got to see people we hadn't seen in a long time. There were tears, laughter, and so many smiles shared between everyone in attendance. The food was incredible that day but the company we had was greater. We couldn't have asked for better families to join and we're so glad that we now can begin our own. We thought our celebrations were over with our party, but when we came to church the next day we were celebrated even more. We couldn't have asked for a better church family and we know that we are so loved. We are so incredibly thankful for the support and we hope we can repay back all of the kindness shown to us on our special days!





## A Joyful Leap of Faith – Outdoor Service & New Members



On Sunday, August 24, 2025, we gathered for a very special Outdoor Service at Patti and Jim Sooy's pool, just outside of Cheney. The weather was beautiful—maybe even a little too warm—but that didn't stop around 45 people from showing up to worship, celebrate, and welcome new members into our church family. It was an amazing day!

Rev. Dale Cockrum helped set up the sound system (thank you, Dale!), and then Jon led us in heartfelt worship. Pastor Damian shared a creative and encouraging sermon about how faith can be like a trampoline—we're all invited to take a leap, trusting that the fabric of God's grace will hold us. We don't have to jump alone; we can jump together.

After the sermon, Pastor Damian presented three candidates for baptism and profession of faith: Shirley Bloom, Candace Dress, and Mason Dress. We also welcomed two new members who transferred in—one from another United Methodist Church and one from a Lutheran church. And we celebrated five others who professed their faith that morning: Montana Dobbs, Joan Harris, Tina Thorson, and Kathy Whiteside.



What a powerful, joyful moment it was—truly a Spirit-filled morning we won't forget. Because not everyone could make it to the outdoor service, we'll introduce and welcome our new members again on **Sunday, September 7 at 10:00 AM** during worship at Cheney UMC. We hope you'll be there to help us celebrate once more!

As your pastor, I (Pastor Damian) want to remind us all of the promises we made as a church that day:

*With God's help we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ. We will surround these persons with a community of love and forgiveness, that they may grow in their trust of God and be found faithful in their service to others. We will pray for them, that they may be true disciples who walk in the way that leads to life.*

May we continue growing together in following Jesus, loving one another deeply, and transforming the world around us.

Pastor Damian

## Cheney United Methodist Church Schedule

**Church Office Hours - Tuesday - Thursday 4:30 - 7:00 p.m.**

**Meals on Wheels every Tuesday and Thursday from 11 am to 1 pm at our Church.**

**Choir Rehearsal starts on Wednesday, September 10 from 7:00 -8:30 p.m. .**

**Bible Study with Congregational Church - we are meeting weekly on Thursdays from 1:15 to 2:15 pm. For the month of September we will be meeting at the Congregational Church.**

**Sassy Senior Society meets on September 17 from 2 pm to 3:30 pm**

### **House Bible Studies:**

**Mondays from 2:00—3:00 led by Margie Lindner**

**Mondays from 7:30—8:30 led by Carol Kriegh**

**Wednesdays from 7:00—8:00 led by Saralynn Kerr**

*Contact the office for the addresses, please.*

## September Worship Schedule

**Sunday, September 07 – “13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost” – 10 am**

Pastor Damian Carruthers is preaching on Psalm 139.

**Sunday, September 14 – “14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost” – 10 am**

Lay preacher Caren Lincoln is preaching on Psalm 51:10-12

# “When God goes to the Movies”

Sunday, Sept. 21 10 am - Star Wars - Episode I

Sunday, Sept. 28 10 am - Star Wars - Episode II

Sunday, Oct 05 10 am - Star Wars - Episode III

Sunday, Oct. 12 10 am - Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone

Sunday, Oct. 19 10 am - Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets

Sunday, Oct. 26 10 am - Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban

Sunday, Nov. 02 10 am - Lord of the Rings & The Fellowship

Sunday, Nov. 09 10 am - Lord of the Rings & The Two Towers

Sunday, Nov. 16 10 am - Lord of the Rings & Return of the King

Every Tuesday, Trivia at the Mason Jar at 6 PM

Starting September 16

Movie Watch Parties on Thursdays

Starting September 18 at 6:30 PM





## When God Goes to the Movies...

### *Fall Sermon Series 2025*

Ever wanted to experience VBS for adults (and kids)? That is what we are trying to accomplish with our new Sermon and Event Series **"When God Goes to the Movies..."** We are kicking off our new sermon series with a fun twist – a community Trivia Night for nerds and wannabe fans

### **Trivia Nights @ The Mason Jar**

Doors open 6 PM | Trivia starts at 6:30 PM

- **Star Wars (just movies):** Sept. 16, 23, 30
- **Harry Potter (books + movies):** Oct. 7, 14, 21
- **Lord of the Rings (books and movies):** Oct. 28, Nov. 4, 11

### **Thursday Movie Nights**

Watch the movie that Pastor Damian will preach on that Sunday.

***All movie showings will be at the church—starting at 6:30 PM.***

- **Sept. 18** – *Star Wars Episode 1*
- **Sept. 25** – *Star Wars Episode 2*
- **Oct. 2** – *Star Wars Episode 3*
- **Oct. 10** – *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*
- **Oct. 16** – *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*
- **Oct. 23** – *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*
- **Oct. 30** – *The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring*
- **Nov. 07** – *The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers*
- **Nov. 13** – *The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King*

### **The Worship Series starts on Sunday, September 21.**

Watch out for the extra

Worship Schedule for this series here in the Newsletter.

So grab your lightsaber, wand, or ring of power (metaphorically, of course), and join us this fall as we discover how God can still speak through the stories that stir our imagination and touch our hearts.

Let the movie magic (and faith reflections) begin!





## New Bible Study Coming Soon!

### A Fresh Way to Connect and Grow in Faith

As we get ready for our upcoming **movie series**, we're excited about the chance to welcome new people into our church community—folks who may be curious about faith, looking for connection, or just exploring what it means to follow Jesus.

That's why I am planning a **new Bible Study**, designed especially for people who have difficulties reading and understanding the Bible (so we will do some reflection on "What is the Bible? How to read the Bible...") and for people who haven't been part of a study group before. Whether you come because of the movie series or have just been waiting for the right time—**this is for you**.

One of our church volunteers, who's been with us for about 1.5 years, recently asked if we could offer an **evening Bible Study**, since not everyone can make it to the Thursday daytime group. So—we're making it happen!

This study will focus on the **basics of our Christian faith**—a great starting point whether you're brand new or just want a refresher. We'll begin in **Genesis**, then jump into the **Gospel of Mark**, and finish in **Romans**. It'll be engaging, thoughtful, and a chance to ask real questions in a welcoming space.

We plan to begin after the movie series wraps up with the Advent Book Study and then jump into Genesis in January, and we want your input! If you're interested, please **sign up at the "Door of Opportunity"** or contact me directly. Let me know what **day and time** works best for you, and if you'd prefer to meet **weekly or every other week**. Come grow with us—you belong here.

## Coat Drive

Yes, the temperatures are still high but it's time to contribute to this year's community coat drive. Look for a collection box in the fellowship hall early in September. All sizes of new coats only are welcome. Distribution will be at Salnave Elementary on October 23 from 4:30 - 6:00 p.m. and at Feed Cheney on October 27 from 5:30-6:30 at the Wren Pierson Community Center. Please donate generously to keep our community families warm this winter.

**Second Sunday Adult Fellowship Is Back!****Starting September 14, 2025 at 6 PM at the Craft Cupboard**

The Summer break is over—and we're kicking things off in a brand-new, hands-on way! Join us for **Adult Fellowship Time on Sunday, September 14 at 6 PM**, not at the church, but at **Macey's Craft Cupboard**, located in Brewster Hall (404 2nd St, Cheney).

Macey, one of our newest members (and a creative genius if there ever was one), is opening her crafting space for us to get imaginative. She'll guide us through a relaxed, joy-filled evening of making creative pieces for ourselves and our upcoming **Fall Movie Series!**

Ever dreamed of crafting your own Hogwarts letter?

Or how about making a decorative lightsaber?

This is your moment to let your inner artist shine—with a glue stick in one hand and maybe a cookie in the other.

We'll still kick things off with our classic potluck, so bring something to share—homemade or store-bought, it all finds a happy home on the table.

No crafting skills required—just a willingness to try something new, laugh a lot, and enjoy good company. Let's make something beautiful—together.

**Next dates:**

- October 12 – Halloween Party at 6 PM
- November 23 – Thanksgiving lunch right after church –  
keep an eye out for the sign-up sheet
- December 14 – White Elephant Party at 6 PM



# Adult Fellowship Time

*Bring some Food to share  
And be ready to become  
creative!*

**September 14 - 6PM**  
**Where: Craft Cupboard Brewster**  
**Hall, 404 2nd St, Cheney,**



Ronda Cordill and Cecille Corsilles-Sy from Beacon Hill UMC teamed up on a 10-day mission to work with Missionary Joy Prim and the Domestic Migrant Workers in Hong Kong. The workers are often considered modern-day slaves working 24 hours a day for at least 6 days per week. They cook, clean, care for children or elderly parents and do any other chores required of them by their employers. They are very stressed leaving their families (mainly from the Philippines), working to support them from Hong Kong. Their access to any physical or mental health care is limited. The Methodist International Church in Hong Kong Pastor, Rev Israel Bangsil who serves in Hong Kong from the Philippines reports that more than 20 women from his congregations have committed suicide over the past 4 years. Stress leading to anxiety and depression seems to be a very common cause of these deaths.



Cecille and I worked on two pilot programs in a variety of settings to identify illnesses and ways to get services or help so they do not feel they need to such drastic measures are suicide. Cecille presented workshops on the Community Resiliency Model (CRM) which teaches wellness skills, focusing on the well-being in mind, body, and spirit. We are working with the community to teach and train others in these mental health skills.



Ronda presented several workshops on chronic health conditions such as diabetes and hypertension and when to go to the doctor.

June is a very hot month and most of the workshops were done on the street in 90 degree/100% humidity but the weather did not diminish the numbers who attended. The plan is to continue to train the migrants to teach others

with the CRM skills and Ronda is working to find local partners to help provide more health awareness and resources to help the migrants get healthcare.

Joy Prim, who Cheney UMC support, has been very busy working on issues of migrant slavery worldwide. She traveled to Rome for the World Council of Churches meeting on Migrants and then to the Philippines to be part of UMC discussions on Migrants. I will share more information in this newsletter about her work in the future.



Another Mission is being planned for early 2026. If you would like to be part of the mission let Ronda Cordill know. Thank you for all of your support of this mission. Blessings,  
Ronda



# *Cheney Helping Cheney* **COAT DRIVE**

**Please donate  
NEW COATS ONLY - ALL SIZES**

**Now through October 23**

**at Copy Junction, Wren Pierson,  
Owl Pharmacy, and other local  
churches and businesses.**

*Distribution will be at Salnave Elementary  
School Saturday, October 23 from 4:30 p.m.  
until 6:00 p.m. and at Feed Cheney,  
Monday October 27 from 5.30-6:30 p.m. at the  
Wren Pierson Center.*



## **CHENEY OUTREACH CENTER YOUR LOCAL MINISTRY**

*These are the ways we assisted our  
Cheney neighbors in JULY 2025*

83 households came into Cheney Outreach Center this month

45 day-bus passes were given to assist clients to get to  
medical appointments and/or work; 9 clients requested gas vouchers  
for the same purposes

8 households requested and/or received diapers or hygiene products

11 households requested rent assistance

22 households requested utility bill payment assistance

**\*\*\*Thank you for your generous donations!\*\*\***

Its Back to School supply drive, if you need me to come and pick up your donations  
please text or call. We are collecting for the entire month of August  
Thank you for supporting our Cheney Children.

**David L. Smith, Executive Director, Cheney Outreach Center**

CHENEY OUTREACH CENTER MISSION STATEMENT:  
WE, AS A PEOPLE OF GOD, BELIEVING WE ARE CALLED IN CHRISTIAN SERVICE TO BE GOD'S HANDS AND HEART TO ALL PEOPLE, HAVE COME TOGETHER TO PROVIDE AN INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE CENTER IN CHENEY. YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF. MATTHEW 22:39b

**Bite2Go**

Once again our church has the opportunity to support 37 Salnave Elementary students in the Bite2Go program. Created by Second Harvest Food Bank, Bite2Go provides a bag of non perishable food for the weekend for students whose families deal with food insecurity. You can sponsor a student for \$15 a month or \$180 a year. This is a 12 month commitment that renews each school year. See the door of opportunity to sign up and help make a difference for a student.



## **FREE HOT MEAL**

### **WHEN**

**5:30 PM MONDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 29, 2025**

**FOR ACCOMMODATION CONTACT CHENEY PARKS AND  
RECREATION AT 509-498-9250 BY SEPTEMBER 26.**

### **WHERE**

**Wren Pierson Building  
615 4th Street, Cheney**

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

**509.498.9250 [WWW.FEEDCHENEY.COM](http://WWW.FEEDCHENEY.COM)**



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