



CHENEY

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

NEWSLETTER



Inside This Issue:

Pastor Damian's Thoughts	2
November Birthdays	3
Community Coat Drive	4
November Worship Schedule	5
Unmasking Christian Nationalism	6&7
Adult Fellowship	8
Advent Book Study	9
New Bible Study Group	10
Charge Conference	11
Volunteer Opportunities	12
Feed Cheney	13

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THE SPIRIT - ISSUE 11 - Nov 2025

When God goes to the Movies



A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF CHENEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



They say money can't buy happiness... but it *can* help keep the coffee brewing at our pot-lucks, pay the power bill for our Sunday morning worship, pay our staff and support meaningful outreach ministries like Bite2Go, Feed Cheney, and our Summer Movie Series (which, by the way, was almost entirely funded by generous donations from within and outside of the church—thank you!). As we journey through Stewardship Month, we're invited to consider an important question: How can we use what we have—our time, our talents, and our treasures—to bless our church, our community, and each other?

A Word from Wesley

John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, had a very practical and challenging view of money. He famously said: **"Gain all you can, save all you can, give all you can."** This wasn't about hoarding wealth; it was about *responsible stewardship*. Wesley believed that money, when used wisely, could do enormous good. But he also warned that wealth was spiritually dangerous if it wasn't paired with generous, humble giving.

Let me tell you two stories from just the past few weeks that reminded me how generosity truly works. **First**, a couple from our community came to me needing urgent help with housing. My heart wanted to say yes immediately—but as you know, this year has been *tight* financially for the church. Life is getting more and more expensive for everybody, and so our overall budget has felt the strain. I told them we might be able to offer just a couple of hundred dollars. I brought the request to our Church Council... and within 2–3 days, we had raised **\$1,500**, just from council members. I was stunned. That kind of generosity isn't just financial, it's *spiritual*. It's a reflection of God's love in action.



Rev. Damian Carruthers
Lead Pastor

Second, I had a moment of wrestling myself. My own month had been expensive, and I was planning a trip with some close friends. Then someone came to me needing help—personally. I felt God nudging me to give more than I was comfortable with. It *hurt* a little. But I gave. And then, just a few days later on **Pastor Appreciation Sunday**, I was surprised again. I received an incredibly generous gift from members of the church. I was humbled and deeply grateful. I realized in that moment: when we give out of love and obedience, God *does* care for us often through the hands and hearts of our own church family.

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Let me be clear: this isn't some version of "prosperity gospel." I'm not saying that if you give to the church, God will pay you back tenfold in cash. That's not how it works, and it's not what Jesus taught. That is a toxic theology – no, a sinful one. But I *am* saying this: if you believe Cheney UMC is doing God's work. if you believe we're making a difference in this community, and in your own spiritual journey, then I invite you to consider giving as you're able.

More Than a Budget—It's a Mission

Filling out your **2026 pledge form** isn't just an administrative task, it's a way of saying, *"I'm in. I want to be part of what God is doing here."* Whether your pledge is large or small, it helps us plan, dream, and grow together.

Stewardship To-Do List:

Grab your pledge form from your folder or from the Welcome Area.

Pray about your giving—what might God be nudging you toward?

Return your form to the church in the offering plate or into Julie Peck's folder (she is the only one who will see those pledge forms)

Know that *every* gift matters because **you** matter.

And know: We are very transparent with our church affairs. If you want to look at our current budget, what we spent the money on, please contact the pastor or our Finance Chair, Roger Bertsch. We are happy to help.

Friends, thank you for your generosity, your faithfulness, and your willingness to be part of this journey. Cheney UMC is what it is because of *you*, your prayers, your service, and your gifts. May we continue to grow in generosity, together.

With gratitude,
Pastor Damian



1 - Becky Reilly

Elena Knouff

3 - Loretta Glaze

Saralynn Kerr

9 Paola Carmoma

14 Flint Simonsen

15 Chuck Kriegh

18 - Coleen Lacy

19 - Caren Lincoln

20 - Josie Kriegh Sackman

23- Joan Harris

26 -Macey Fredenberg

28- Zoeann Osborne

29 Roger Bertsch

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

There are a lot of things going on in our church life. We are planning, praying, and preparing for different events and when they come, they are over and we go on with the next thing. This section in our Newsletter should give us a moment of appreciation and celebration of what we have done and experienced in the last month.

So let's celebrate and be thankful!

Community Coat Drive

Another successful community coat drive is in the books. A total of 324 coats were collected and 212 were given out at two distributions. The remainder went to the community clothing exchange. Many thanks to all who generously donated, to the local Kiwanis group for their assistance, and to our church members who helped distribute coats. It is truly a community effort.

Thank you from Camp CoMia

Thank you to all who so generously donated to our Camp CoMia mission in the last couple of months. We currently have 11 people living here who very likely would be homeless without our housing.

Blessings to each of you!
Rande and Margie



Pastor Damian will be out of the office from **Wednesday, Nov. 12, through Saturday, Nov. 15**, as he attends a Youth and Young Adult Ministry conference in Austin, Texas. During this time, he'll be available by email only. He'll be back in the pulpit on **Sunday, November 16**.

November Worship Schedule**Sunday, Nov. 02 – “Lord of the Rings Part 1” - 10 a.m.**

Communion Sunday

Pastor Damian Carruthers is preaching on Matthew 6:19-23 and Mark 8:31-33

Sunday, Nov. 09 – “Lord of the Rings Part 2”– 10 a.m.

Pastor Damian Carruthers is preaching on 1. Corinthians 1:18.21-28

Sunday, Nov. 16 – “Lord of the Rings Part 3 “– 10 a.m.

Pastor Damian Carruthers is preaching on Isaiah 35:3-10

Sunday, Nov. 23- “Stewardship Sunday “– 10 a.m.

Lay preacher Patti Sooy is preaching

Sunday, Nov. 30 – “1st of Advent “– 10 a.m.

Pastor Damian Carruthers is preaching on Mark 1:1-8

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 Wednesdays 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 November we will be meeting at the Congregational Church

Sassy Senior Society meets on November 19 from 2 pm to 3:30 pm

Bible Studies:

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

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

Tuesdays from 6:30—8:00 led by Pastor Damian Carruthers (at the church)

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

Contact the office for the addresses, please.

Unmasking Christian Nationalism: Final Event in the Series

Thursday, November 6 | 6:00 PM | EWU Pence Union Building, Room 317 & 319

Over the past month, we've gathered at Eastern Washington University for important conversations about the intersection of faith, politics, and public life. This series, Unmasking Christian Nationalism, has drawn students, church members, and community leaders into deep, challenging, and ultimately hopeful dialogue about what it means to follow Jesus in a divided world.

And now, we're excited to welcome our final speaker for the series:

Malynda Hale – “Faith in Action”

Thursday, November 6 at 6:00 PM

PUB Room 317 & 319, Eastern Washington University

Malynda Hale is the Executive Director of The New Evangelicals, a justice-centered faith movement working to reclaim Christianity from extremism and chart a more compassionate path forward. Her work brings together faith, storytelling, and social justice in powerful ways that inspire bold, values-rooted action.

An award-winning actress, filmmaker, and activist, Malynda uses creative storytelling to spark conversations around justice, mental health, and human rights. She's also the founder of JMV Entertainment and was recently named one of Wired's Top Influencers Shaping the 2024 Election. She brings a compelling voice and a timely message for anyone seeking to live out their faith with integrity and courage.

Whether you've attended the earlier events or this will be your first, you are welcome. Bring your questions, your curiosity, and your heart. This is a space for honest reflection, shared learning, and deep hope.

Together, let's continue unmasking the distortions of faith and discover again the radical good news of Jesus: a gospel of love, liberation, and justice for all.

Pastor Damian



Unmasking Christian Nationalism



Thursday, Oct. 09 at 6PM - PUB 317
Shane Claiborne - Jesus for President?

Thursday, Oct. 30 at 6PM - PUB 317
Jer Swigart- Mending the Divides



Thursday, Nov. 06 at 6PM - PUB 317
Malynda Hale - Faith in Action

Adult Fellowship Time – Get together!

Let's gather with hearts full of gratitude and plates full of Thanksgiving favorites! Our **November Adult Fellowship** will take place **right after worship on Sunday, November 23**, and you won't want to miss it. We're planning a full-on **Thanksgiving feast**—turkey, dressing, potatoes, pies, and all the delicious fixings! Come hungry and ready for food, fun, and fellowship. Be sure to **sign up on the "Door of Opportunity"** so we can set a place for you at the table.

Looking ahead, mark your calendars for our **final Adult Fellowship Time of 2025 on Sunday, December 21 at 6 PM**, right here at Cheney UMC. The Theme is White Elephant Party. So bring a wrapped gift from your closet, basement, attic or from our Holiday Bazaar which you would like to get rid off.

Also, we're taking some time to **rethink what Adult Fellowship looks like in 2026**—from the name, to how often we meet, to who it's for, and what kinds of gatherings we might offer. Got ideas? Passionate about building community? We'd love your input!

If you're interested in helping shape the future of this ministry, please reach out to **Pastor Damian** at

✉ rev.damian.carruthers@gmail.com



Advent Book Study: “Awaiting the Already”



Can you believe it? Advent is almost here and with it comes twinkling lights, Christmas tunes on every radio station, the smell of cider, and the annual wrestling match with wrapping paper and tape. Something about this season just feels *different* and that's no accident. It's a sign that God is up to something new, bold, and holy.

One of our favorite traditions at Cheney UMC is taking time during Advent to go deeper, asking why we celebrate, what this season really means, and how we prepare our hearts for Christ's coming. This year, we're reading ***Awaiting the Already*** by Magrey deVega.

It's also the theme for our Advent sermon series!

This short and accessible book takes us through each Gospel's unique take on the Christmas story—or in some cases, the lack thereof (looking at you, Mark!). Each chapter has questions for reflection, a short prayer, and a weekly spiritual practice to try out. It's not just about reading, it's about transformation.

Want to join in? We'd love that! Books will be available for **\$12** (or **\$15 for large print**) and if cost is an issue, don't worry. We've got you covered. There's also an **eBook version** on Cokesbury: <https://www.cokesbury.com/Awaiting-the-Already-2>

All study groups begin the week of November 24, just before Advent kicks off. If you've been thinking about joining a Bible Study, now's the perfect time to jump in.

- **Mondays: 2 pm – 3 pm led by Margie Lindner & 7:30 – 8:30 led by Carol Kriegh**
- **Tuesdays: 6:30 – 8 pm (including dinner) led by Pastor Damian**
- **Wednesdays: 7 pm – 8 pm led by Saralynn Kerr**
- **Thursdays: 1.15 pm – 2.15 pm led by Pastor Damian and Pastor Matt Goodale (not on Thanksgiving though)**

Any Questions? Contact our Pastor: rev.damian.carruthers@gmail.com

New Bible Study Group: Big Questions, Good Food, Honest

Let's be honest, sometimes the Bible is inspiring and comforting... and sometimes it's just *confusing*. Or weird. Or even a little scary. (Looking at you, Old Testament). That's exactly why we're launching a new Bible Study group and we're kicking things off with a little food, some real questions, and a whole lot of grace.

Our very first meeting is **Monday, November 24 at 6:30 PM** (yes, Monday—just this once because of the Thanksgiving week schedule). We'll start with dinner, because faith grows better on a full stomach, and dive into our Advent study, *Awaiting the Already*.

But this group isn't just about Advent. It's about learning how to read the Bible in deeper, more thoughtful ways. We'll be asking the hard stuff:

- Is the Bible anti-science or is there room for both faith and facts?
- Did God *really* kill all the Egyptian babies in Exodus?
- Why is there so much violence in the Bible—and what do we do with it?
- What about contradictions?
- What about Satan and all those demons that only show up in the New Testament?
- How do we read Scripture when it doesn't make sense?

Led by Pastor Damian, this group is designed for *everyone*, whether you're brand new to the Bible or have been reading it since flannelgraph was a thing.

After the Advent study, we'll dig into the Book of Genesis and continue working our way through the Bible, all the way to Revelation.

Here are our first five dates (Tuesdays at 6:30 PM, with dinner, unless otherwise noted):

Monday, November 24 (Advent kickoff)

Tuesday, December 2

Tuesday, December 9

Tuesday, December 16

Tuesday, January 6

Any questions?

Contact Pastor Damian.



It's Charge Conference Time!

Dear Cheney UMC Members,

Fall brings many things: pumpkin spice, colorful leaves, and yes, our Annual Charge Conference! This yearly gathering, led by the District Superintendent, is a bit like our church's "big annual meeting." It's a time for us to reflect on the church's mission, review key updates, and discuss our goals for the coming year.

If you're wondering what a Charge Conference is, here's a quick rundown:

The Charge Conference is Cheney UMC's highest decision-making body, bringing together the Church Council, our pastor, and retired clergy to review reports on our church's health, mission, and ministry. Church Council members, such as Roger Bertsch, Ronda Codrill, Carol Kriegh, Caren Lincoln, Kathy Sawtells, Patti Sooy, and Music Director Mary Jane Shervais, all play a role in representing the congregation in these discussions.

A few of the essential reports we review include the Financial Audit, Building Accessibility, Safe Sanctuary, and Membership Roll. All of this ties back to the guiding principles of The United Methodist Church and our shared goals here at Cheney UMC. This year, we will vote on adding a new, young member to the Church Council and Charge Conference!

The good news? This meeting is open to everyone! You're invited to come and listen, learn more about our church's work, and even ask questions. You don't have to be a Church Council member to attend—just bring your curiosity and interest in Cheney UMC's future. This year, Pastor Allissa Amestoy, appointed by our District Superintendent Daniel Miranda, will be presiding over the meeting.

Join us **on Tuesday, November 25, at 6 PM**, as we look back, look forward, and explore how we can continue to Seek, Serve, and Share Jesus Christ in the year ahead. We'd love to see you there!

If you have questions or would like more details, please don't hesitate to ask!

In Christ,

Pastor Damian

WIC Christmas Tree

As soon as the last bazaar item is taken down a Christmas tree for WIC donations will go up. Mittens, Jammies, clothing, baby supplies etc. are all welcome on our giving tree for the Women, Infants and Children's program housed at our church. There will be an open house for WIC families to access the donations and for our church family to be present on December 4th downstairs in the WIC area.

Thank you for giving generously.

Carol Kriegh



Conference Snacks

Once again we will support the teachers at our Bite2go school, Salnave Elementary, during their conference days. On Nov 24 we will provide grab and go snacks. If you'd like to contribute toward that mission please see Carol Kriegh.

"Step In, Step Up, or Step Back – Volunteer Opportunities for 2026!"

Are you ready to be part of our worship services in 2026?

A fresh sign-up list is now available at the door, offering volunteer opportunities for ushering, communion helpers, liturgy readers, and the tech table. Whether you're a seasoned volunteer or someone new looking to get involved, we encourage everyone to consider signing up—even if you've been on the volunteer list for the past three years.

This is a wonderful chance to try something new or take a well-deserved break if needed. For anyone interested in starting their journey as a volunteer, this is your moment! Once you sign up, you'll receive a crash course in what each role involves, ensuring you're ready and confident in your new position. Let's come together to support our community and enhance our worship experience!

Pastor Damian



**FREE HOT MEAL
FLU & COVID VACCINES WITH CHAS**

WHEN

**5:30 PM MONDAY,
NOVEMBER 24, 2025**

**FOR ACCOMMODATION CONTACT CHENEY PARKS AND
RECREATION AT 509-498-9250 BY NOVEMBER 21.**

WHERE

**Wren Pierson Building
615 4TH STREET, CHENEY**

FOR MORE INFORMATION

509.498.9250 WWW.FEEDCHENEY.COM



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