

BECON

1/9/2026

Happy New Year – Today was the first breakfast in a couple of weeks, and it looks as though our members are still used to sleeping in on Fridays.

Guests today Marlene and Linda from the Free Store, were our guest speakers.

Announcements:

1. Shawnee received several cards over the holidays. Salvation Army sent a thank you for Dress A Child, Dog Tag Buddies sent us a holiday card and Shawnee is now experiencing one of the benefits of becoming president of BEC. Somehow, non-profits get your address and send you holiday messages.
2. Tanya wanted to let all of our new members know that you have name tags. Come to breakfast and check yourself out!
3. We have Fusion Fights this weekend and Bruce is the big dog! Nate Bargatze is Sunday January 18th and is expected to be a big event so we need some more volunteers.
4. The board is meeting this coming Tuesday. If you have anything that needs attention, or if you are a committee chair and need to report to Shawnee, please get in touch with her so it can get put on the agenda.
5. NO Guests next week for breakfast as it is a business meeting.
6. We have had several recent birthdays. Jerry Voto turned a spry 80, Wiley Taylor looks like he is 80, and Mary Anne McGuire has celebrated recently as well! Happy Belated Birthday, young uns!
7. Shawnee is looking for a guest speaker for the last Friday in February.

Marlene and Linda started off by letting us know this morning that the Free Store has been in existence for 15 years and they are all volunteer labor.

Anyone can shop for clothing and household items at no charge. They do not require anything for eligibility. All are welcome to shop, donate, and volunteer. The store is open on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month from 10 am to 12:30 pm. You might think that they don't do much volume because of their hours, but last year they served over 17,000 individuals & families. During their open hours, they also set up for 110 lunches a day. They often run out well before their 2 hours and 30 minutes are complete.

Even though they are only open for 5 hours a month to the public, their volunteers work three days a week to process all donations, make sure they are working and are clean. If the items they receive don't work and they can't fix it quickly, they pass it on to other entities that might be able to use it.

As you know, Tim is their courtesy vehicle and not only collects bottles, but does a lot of other things for the Free Store. If your family has small Gatorade bottles, or ensure bottles or any other type of bottles that are small but have some solidity, they would love to have them to fill with laundry detergents, dish soaps, shampoos, and body washes. Attached is their donation list.

Bruce won the big money today and donated the money to the Free Store.

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

Fusion Fight 1-10
@4:30

Nate Bargatze 1-18 @ 5:30

HOW CAN YOU HELP THE FREE STORE?

DONATE FINANCIALLY

Checks may be made out to:
Yellowstone Conference Free Store

VOLUNTEER

Prepare for the shoppers by
volunteering on Wednesday,
Friday or Saturday mornings.

SPREAD THE WORD

Let friends, family, business
contacts know how they could donate.
Let those in need know they are
welcome to shop with us on store days.

DONATE GOODS

Goods donations accepted at the Free Store at Evangelical United Methodist Church, 345 Broadwater Avenue, from 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. on
Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays. Go to the alley door (north side of church) and knock. PLEASE do not leave outside church at other times.

CLOTHING - Adult, Children, Baby

Shirts	Shoes
T-shirts	Boots
Blouses	Slippers
Sweatshirts	Underwear
Pants	Bras
Sweatpants	Socks
Shorts	Baseball Caps
Sleepwear	Stocking Hats
Jackets (all seasons)	Gloves/Mittens

KITCHEN AND HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

All clean, workable kitchen items
except very large appliances.

Decorative Pillows	Clocks
Pictures	Décor Items

HYGIENE and CLEANING PRODUCTS

Deodorant (M and W)	Body Lotion
Shampoo/Conditioner	Razors (M and W)
Bar Soap	Shaving Cream
Body Wash	Baby Diapers
Toothbrush (Adult & Child)	Baby Wipes Adult
Toothpaste	Diapers
Tampons	Menstrual Pads
Adult Incontinence	Adult Body Wipes
Toilet Paper	Paper Towels
Laundry Soap	Dish Soap

MISCELLANEOUS

Back Packs	Toys
Book Bags	Games/Puzzles
Rolling Suitcases	Belts
Sleeping Bags	Purses
Baby Accessories	Books

LINENS

Bath Towels	Bedspreads
Hand Towels	Rugs
Wash Rags	Curtains
Bed Sheets	Kitchen Towels
Pillows	Kitchen Dish Rags
Blankets	Potholders

ITEMS WE CANNOT ACCEPT

Medications	Furniture
Lawn Furniture	Lawn Decorations
Aerosol Sprays	Outdated Electronics
Child Car Seats	Men's Dress Clothing

The Free Store is a 501-C-3 nonprofit
organization and, on request, will
provide a charitable contribution
form for your donations.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

