

From the Pastor...

I had the privilege of traveling to Scotland for 10 days in October. It was a trip of a lifetime, culminating in the three days we spent on the Isle of Iona.

Iona is a small island off the West Coast of Scotland that has been the historic heart of Celtic Christianity. St. Columba and twelve monks from Ireland founded a monastery on the island in 563. Iona is often described as a 'thin place,' where the division between heaven and earth is tissue paper thin.

My experience of the place was not so much of a 'thin place' but as a place to take time out of my busy life and take the time to really see. While on Iona we were given ample free time. Some went hiking, some took a day trip on a boat to the Isle of Staffa, some took time to simply be. The memories I have from that place include: watching the gardeners from the St. Columba Hotel, where we stayed, picking the day's vegetables from the garden; listening to the soft, low brogue of Val, the artist whose art (earrings and pendant) I bought; seeing the vast expanse of stars overhead as we walked, with the light of our flashlights, from the Abbey to our hotel after evening worship.

Some of our group went on a pilgrimage to Columba Bay where they practiced the tradition of taking two stones from the beach, throwing one back into the sea as a symbol of something in their life they would like to leave behind and taking one with them as a sign of a new commitment they have made. One woman used that time to throw into the ocean her guilt over her recent divorce. The emotion in her voice as she told her story showed how valuable that pilgrimage had been for her.

If we were given the chance to 'throw away' something that we would like to leave behind, what would that be? Would it be guilt over some past action? Would it be regret for things left undone? What do we have that we wish we could be rid of?

November is traditionally a time when we focus on gratitude, on the gifts for which we are most grateful in life. But sometimes we need to throw away those things that hound us, those thoughts that take us away from gratitude before we can truly express our thanks.

I invite you to think about what it is that is taking you away from living a life of gratitude, find a way to 'throw it away,' to give it to God, to confess to a trusted friend so that you can more fully give thanks for all the blessings you have.

~Pastor Holly

Giving With Grateful Hearts

We are generous people. We give away the money we make at Stagecoach Days in order to support local mission. We give away the money we earn through our Fall Turkey Dinner to support Youth Service Bureau and The Refuge. In December, through Joy Bells, we provide gifts for families in need.

In November we take time to consider what percentage of our income we choose to give back to God through the ministries of Wyoming United Methodist Church. Soon you will be receiving your 2016 Estimate of Giving Card. When you receive the card, take time to prayerfully consider how you would like to support the ministries of your church with your financial gifts. When we join the church, we promise to support its work through our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service and our witness. As we consider our gifts for the coming year may it be a spiritual experience for us. Giving to the church is different than any other giving because it is our way of saying thanks to the one who gives us life. How do we say thanks for all of that?

I encourage you to consider using this opportunity to show God through our generosity, how deeply grateful we are for God's blessings.

Thank You

Many thanks to you for the gift card to Bachman's for Pastor Appreciation Month. I appreciate YOU and all we do in ministry together. I am so blessed to be your pastor!



~Pastor Holly

November Celebrations

Birthdays

- 11-01 Scott Kramer
- 11-03 Audrey Bowen
- 11-05 Nicholas Janke
- 11-06 Becky Harwell
- 11-07 Ben Aastuen
- 11-08 Karl Lovgren
- 11-09 Emma Anderson
- 11-13 Richard Erickson
- 11-18 Yvonne Broadbent

Anniversaries

- 11-06 Steve & Jenny Whiting



*If you do not see your special date listed, please let Michelle in the office know!

Thanksgiving Day Meals

The Church of Saint Peter, 1250 South Shore Dr. in Forest Lake will host a free meal from 11am-1:00pm on Thanksgiving. Free-will offering accepted with proceeds going to FLAMF/Haven Home.

Linwood Covenant Church will also host a free Thanksgiving Dinner for the community from noon to 1:00pm on Thanksgiving. Please call Linwood Covenant Church for details: 651-462-3780. This dinner will be served at the Linwood Senior Center.



October Missions Recap

Thank you for your support of your church and its outreach/missions activities in October. What a busy month it was!

Our annual Turkey Supper was a huge success with more people served than in recent years and more money raised for our chosen charities. Lakes Area Youth Service Bureau and The Refuge (a domestic abuse shelter for women & children) each received \$2000. It was a wonderful time of working together to welcome our friends, family, and neighbors in for a good meal! Special thanks to the coordination team: Gordy P, Cathy W, & Bernie S. for a job well done.

Look for our picture in the Forest Lake Times and other local news sources. Bea Zaruba and Holly Aastuen, on behalf of our church, are pictured presenting our gift to one of the recipients, the Lakes Area Youth Service Bureau.

Your generosity on World Communion Sunday enabled us to send \$333 to this Special Sunday offering in support of education.

October 11 it was our great pleasure to welcome Tammy Metcalf Filzen to speak about the women's shelter Whispers of Hope. It was inspiring to hear how God has paved the way for their vision of helping women at a retreat location in rural MN. As they pray, God responds in amazing ways. We were pleased to collect an offering for Whispers of Hope for \$738. Our Stitch n' Rip Quilters also donated a beautiful quilt to the shelter. For more information, visit whispersofhopemn.org.

Last, but surely not least, we hosted our New Pathways families. There were 6 families of 23 people so the church was buzzing with activity. We truly hope our families found our church to be welcoming, warm, filling, and safe once again. Thank you to all who served!



Giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. ~Ephesians 5:20

Joy Bells Ministry

For years our church has given gifts and a food basket for families in need at Christmas.

We receive the names of families from the Wyoming and Linwood Elementary schools. People or groups from the church then "adopt" a family and buy Christmas gifts for the children. The church provides a basket of food with everything needed for Christmas dinner.

Joy Bells will be available on Sunday, November 22nd for those who wish to adopt a family.

If you would like to contribute to this ministry, we're accepting cash donations to purchase food for the Christmas dinner.

Please bring your gifts to the church no later than Friday, December 4th. Families will pick up their gifts and food on December 9 & 10.

Thank you for shining the light of Christmas love in the lives of these families!



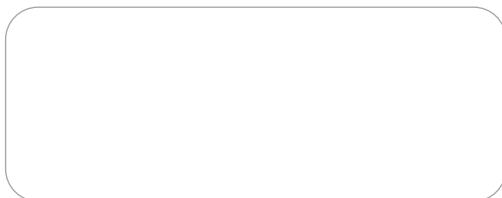
Christmas Poinsettias

If you would like to purchase a poinsettia for our sanctuary, there is a sign-up sheet in the entryway with more information.

Coming in December...

- The BeFriendHers will host their Annual Christmas Tea Thursday, December 3rd.
- Nurture and Discipleship Team will host their third Santa's Helper evening Friday, December 11th.
- On Sunday, December 20th, we will have a no-rehearsal Christmas Pageant for participants of all ages.
- And on Christmas Eve, we will have our annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Service!

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All Saints' Sunday

Sunday, November 1, during worship we will be remembering those we have lost to death in the past year. As we participate in this time of remembrance we will invite any who wish to come forward, tell the congregation for whom they are lighting a candle, and then that person will light a candle. Please invite to this service any you know who might appreciate being a part of this time of remembrance.

Prayer Requests

Beginning on the first Sunday in November and continuing into the foreseeable future, we are doing something new with our prayer requests. We ask that people put their prayer requests on the sheet on the podium in the entryway. Pastor Holly can then share everyone's requests and we can pray together for the needs. We're doing this in an effort to make the worship service more visitor friendly. If you forget to write your prayer request on the sheet before worship, prayer cards are available in the pews for you to fill out and place it in the offering basket. Prayers on the prayer cards will be shared with our church's prayer chain. We appreciate your support as we try this new way of handling prayer requests.

Our joys will continue to be shared with one another, using the microphones during worship at the very beginning of the worship service.

School Supply Collection

Your missions team has decided to collect school supplies! Starting immediately we'll be collecting supplies for Jane Rylander's neighbor's class. She teaches first grade at an inner city school filled with immigrant children who have nothing. Needed: pencils, markers, scissors, paper of all kinds, glue, and BOOKS. Please put your donations in the school supply box in the entryway. Thank you!



Confirmation Classes Continue

A couple of times a month after worship we have confirmation classes where kids gather to explore their faith and learn for themselves what it means to be a Christian. Usually confirmation kids participate in this two year program in 7th and 8th grades, but any youth in 6th grade and above is welcome to join. November's confirmation classes will be held on November 8 and 22. Please talk to Pastor Holly if you have any questions or want to sign up your child or grandchild.

Worship Services in November

We begin November by continuing our series called Free! which explores how we can spend our time and money on what matters most. Many of us find that the money that comes into our home disappears more quickly than we had imagined. We never seem to have enough to go around, at least never enough to get the things we really want. In this sermon series we'll explore how this happens and how to control our money so it is going to the things we really value.

By the end of November we switch gears as we launch into a series that helps us get ready for the coming Christ Child, our King and our Savior.

Sunday, November 1:
All Saints' Sunday
Free: Living with Abundance
2 Corinthians 9:6-11

Sunday, November 8:
Free: True Contentment
Philippians 4:1-13

Sunday, November 15:
Consecration Sunday
Free: The Secret of Happiness
Mark 12:41-44

Sunday, November 22:
Thanksgiving Sunday
Getting Ready for the King
John 18:33-37

Sunday, November 29:
First Sunday of Advent
The Advent Conspiracy: A Conspiracy of Hope
Jeremiah 33:10-11, 15

I will praise the name of God with song. And shall magnify Him with thanksgiving. -Psalm 69:30