

## From the Pastor...

"Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer that calls me from a world of care and bids me at my Father's throne make all my wants and wishes known. In seasons of distress and grief, my soul has often found relief, and oft escaped the tempters snare by thy return sweet hour of prayer." (United Methodist Hymnal 496)

In recent weeks, I've been not only doing a lot of praying, but talking with others about it, too.

It first came up in Women's Bible Study when we read Romans 8 where it says in verse 26, "We do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit intercedes for us, with sighs too deep for words."

We talked about how our prayer lives are often cyclical—more intense when we are in trouble or someone we love is in need, less intense and, often, less frequent when life settles down, or even when life gets busy.

That same week we talked about prayer in confirmation class. The youth talked about different forms of prayer and different postures to take when praying. We talked about confession and supplication and thanksgiving and a whole host of other ways to pray to God in good times and bad.

When we find ourselves struggling after such things as the national elections we have just endured, or our concern over society as a whole, prayer is a way to remind ourselves that our God is a big God, who has seen it all, will see us through tough times and will always be our God.

I have personally been in prayer for our elected leaders that we put our differences aside and come together to work for the common good of all. As I sought council in how to pray, I found these words of our Bishop Ough, who wrote an open letter to President-elect Trump, in preparation for presenting Trump a Bible, which Methodist Bishops have been doing after each new election since the day when Methodist Bishop Francis Asbury presented a Bible to President George Washington. Bishop Ough wrote this prayer: "Holy God, creator of us all, send your spirit of peace, justice and freedom upon us; break down the walls of political partisanship and economic disparity and make us one. Give us wisdom to walk in your ways. Remind us that your ways are not our ways; that your power and might transcend the plans of every nation. Teach us again to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with God. Amen."

~Pastor Holly

## Thank You

Thank you to all of you who turned in your Estimate of Giving cards in November. Thanks to you we are able to continue to plan for ministry into 2017 and know we can count on you to keep us building bridges to Christ's love. We are so grateful for your gifts and faithfulness!



Many thanks for the acts of grace given us by the Wyoming UMC Family. The prayers and good will of this community of faith have brought me this far from surgery, back into worship. Our wish for each of you is a joyous season of Advent.

-Kathy & Archie Lessard

## Share the Joy!

Unexpected Company will have two Christmas concerts in December. An evening concert will be on December 9th at Forest Hills United Methodist Church in Forest Lake. An afternoon concert will be held on December 11th at the Performing Art Center of Chisago Lakes High School. Our theme this year is "Share the Joy". Additional details are posted on the church bulletin board. Put the date on your calendar now!



## December Celebrations

### Birthdays

12-02	Carly K.	12-22	Lucas P.
	Merland S.	12-25	Lily A.
12-03	Archie L.	12-27	Buck B.
			Chevelle F.
12-07	Brooke B.	12-28	Jane R.
12-08	Dolly A.		April W.
12-09	Derik I.	12-31	Dave F.
12-12	Hans B.		Al J.
	Nathan M.		
12-20	Brett H.		

### Anniversaries

12-17 Mike H. & Jane D.  
12-26 Neil & Dolly A.



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

## Special Offering

Thank you to all who contributed to the United Methodist Student Day Offering which provides scholarships for students who might not have any other way of being able to attend college. We collected a total of \$102 to send to United Methodist Students in need.

## Volunteer Reading Buddies

We will soon be recruiting Volunteer Reading Buddies to partner with Wyoming Elementary School. As of this writing, Pastor Holly and Principal Curtis Slater are working out the details. See bulletins for further details. If you are interested in more information about what it takes to become a Reading Buddy for an elementary school child, please email or call Pastor Holly and she will provide you with more information when it becomes available.



A home devastated by Hurricane Matthew.

## Christmas Offering

Our 2016 Christmas offering will go to the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) which is often the first relief agency in and the last one out whenever disaster happens around the globe. One hundred percent of the donations go to the places most in need. The most pressing need at this time is helping the people of Haiti after the devastation of Hurricane Matthew. More than 500 people were killed. Homes were destroyed, belongings lost. UMCOR was able to respond quickly and provide for the immediate needs of clean water, food and shelter.

Pastor Holly is challenging us to consider giving to UMCOR an amount equal to the amount we spend on all our Christmas gift giving this year. Write your checks to Wyoming Church with UMCOR in the memo. God bless you for your generosity!

**Santa's Helpers are coming soon!**

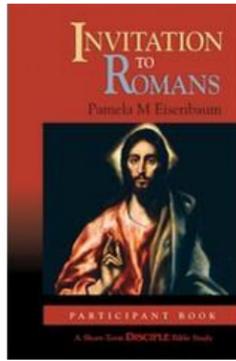
**When?** Friday, December 2nd from 5:30-8:30 p.m.

**Why?** To provide child care for parents (of 3 to 10 year olds) who want an evening for Christmas shopping—or whatever! No charge! We just ask that you bring a food shelf donation. Supper will be served.

**How?** Call the church office at 651-462-5276 to register your children or email [office.wyomingumc@gmail.com](mailto:office.wyomingumc@gmail.com).

**Hurry! Space is limited!**

*Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. Luke 2:10-11*



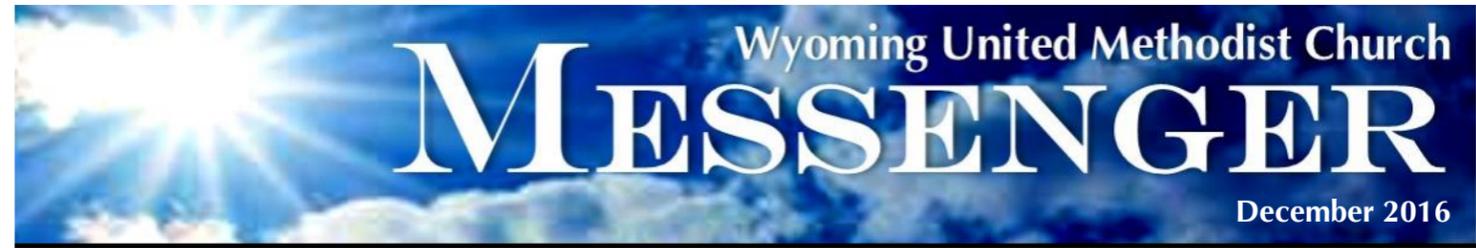
## New Men's Bible Study

Men's Bible Study begins in January, when David Aastuen will be teaching a class on the book of Romans. If you are interested in being a part of this 8 week study, please sign up in the nook, starting Sunday, December 4. We'll need to order the books before Christmas to get them in time for the study. Also on the sign-up sheet will be a chance to write down which meeting times work best for you.



## LAYSB

Thanks to the generosity of our church and our community, we were able to donate \$2104 to the Lakes Area Youth Service Bureau (LAYSB) this year. Pictured is Matt Howard, the LAYSB Community Justice Program Manager, along with Pastor Holly Aastuen and Bea Zaruba representing our church.



## Joy Bells

Our Joy Bells Ministry continues this year as we give gifts and a food basket to families in need at Christmas. We have received the names of families from the Wyoming and Linwood Elementary Schools and we want people or groups from the church to "adopt" a family and buy Christmas gifts for the children. The church provides a basket of food with everything needed for Christmas dinner. If you'd like to make a cash donation, please designate it to 'Joy Bells' and we will use it to help purchase the food.

Joy Bells will be ready to pick up Sunday, December 4th. Gifts must be brought back to the church no later than Monday, December 12th. Families will pick up their gifts and food on December 14th and 15th.

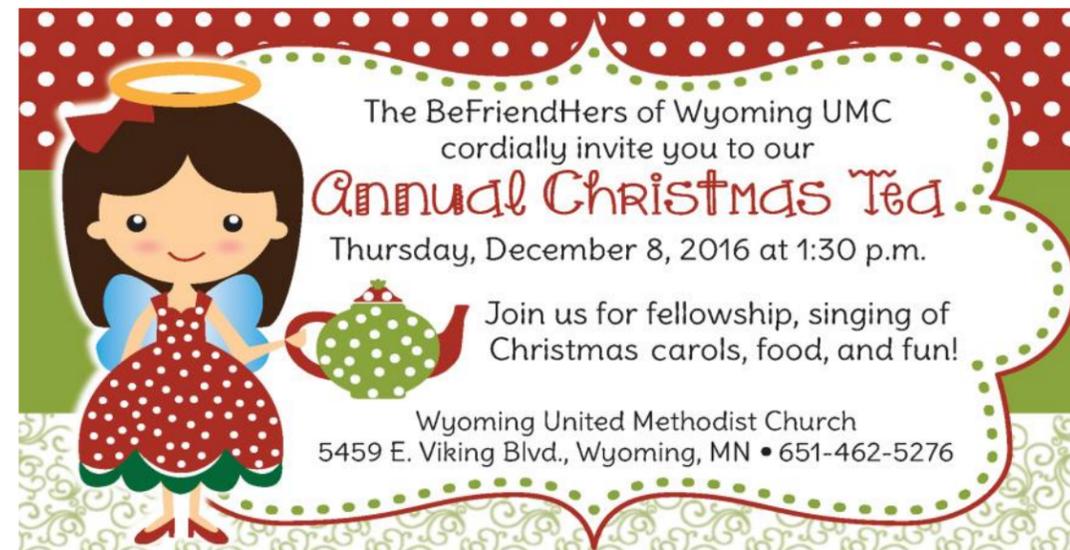
Thank you for shining the light of Christmas love in the lives of these families!

## Christmas Pageant

On Sunday, December 18th, we will have a no-rehearsal Christmas Pageant for children and youth and maybe even an adult or two! We ask those who are participating to come at 9:30 on that Sunday and find a costume to become an angel, a shepherd or a wise one. As the service progresses, Mary and Joseph, shepherds, angels, and wise ones will come forward and gather around the manger as we sing songs of Christmas. Bring your kids and grandkids for this fun time. After the pageant portion of the service, the kids will be dismissed to get out of their costumes and celebrate a birthday party for Jesus! Invite the grandparents, invite your neighbors to see what fun this will be!

## Christmas Eve Worship Service

Our Christmas Eve 5pm worship service will be a traditional service of Lessons and Carols as together we welcome the Christ Child into our hearts. This is a perfect time to invite friends and family to come with you, to sing the well-known songs of Christmas and light individual candles as we celebrate the one who brought light into the darkness.

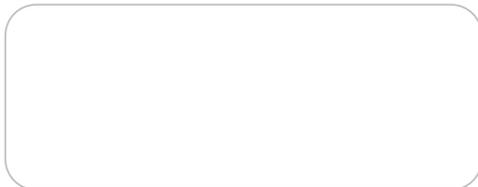


*And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased." Luke 2:13-14*

## Christmas Carol Sing-Along

A few of the Guitar Guys plus Pastor Holly will be representing our church at a Christmas Carol Sing-Along at Haven Homes Senior Housing Community on December 14 at 3:30pm. Acting on the premise that most people like to sing Christmas Carols (regardless of singing ability) and that not everyone who likes to sing Christmas Carols gets a chance to attend a Christmas Eve service, we decided to bring Christmas into our community for our First Annual Christmas Carol Sing-Along. We're looking forward to sharing Christ's Love in our community!

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## Worship Services in December

In this season of Advent, we will explore the Songs of the Season, looking at the story behind some of our most popular Christmas Carols and discovering how the stories of the characters that populated that first Christmas find echoes in our stories today.

### **Sunday, December 4th:**

Songs of the Season:  
What Child is This?  
Luke 1:26-28, 39-42

### **Sunday, December 11th:**

Songs of the Season: My Soul Gives Glory To My God  
Luke 1:46-55

### **Sunday, December 18th:**

Songs of the Season:  
Silent Night  
Luke 1:67-79

### **Saturday, December 24th:**

Christmas Eve Worship  
5:00 p.m.

### **Sunday, December 25th:**

Songs of the Season:  
Joy to the World!  
Luke 2:8-20