

## From the Pastor...

I'm excited about how our congregation is finding new ways to connect with the community. Wyoming United Methodist Church is already strongly connected to the community through several community events (Fall Supper, etc.) and through individual ministries, like bringing grandchildren to church, reading to and praying with a woman who is blind, and doing handiwork for those who need a little extra help. And now we are pursuing additional avenues that make a difference in our community.

One of the new community outreaches we've had this year is the Reading Buddy program. Six people from our congregation have made a difference in the lives of our community's first and second graders by listening to these young readers read. It has been a joy and privilege for those of us who have had this opportunity. Many of us are looking forward to continuing this ministry and invite you to consider joining in with us in the fall.

Other avenues for community outreach that our Mission Team is pursuing include a prayer mailbox and a Little Free Library. The prayer mailbox would be designed so that people could write a prayer request on a card (provided) and put it in a secured mailbox that would be checked regularly so that prayers could be distributed to various prayer groups in our congregation. We look forward to starting this community ministry this summer.

Also under consideration is a Little Free Library. We would keep the Little Free Library stocked with a variety of books for kids and adults. People would be invited to take a book or leave a book as they wished.

Summer is a great time to try out new ideas and a great time to get out into the community and connect with our neighbors. What are some of the ways you are connecting with your neighbors? Do you have block parties or chat with the neighbor over the fence? Do you find you're seeing your neighbors more often now that the weather is nice?

I hope that we can continue to be a good neighbor in the community and a friendly presence in the midst of the town of Wyoming as we seek to reach out to others with the love of God.

~ Pastor Holly



## Many Thanks!

Thanks to all who helped with this year's Spring Clean-Up Day on Saturday, April 29. We put new posts on the outside sign that had fallen down, cleaned up weeds and dandelions in the lawn and gardens, cleaned windows, replaced mulch and generally cleaned up the church so that it was well cared for. Thanks to all who came to help!

## Forty Bibles Donated

Our generous congregation donated forty-four Bibles to a new church start called North Summit Church, housed within Blaine United Methodist Church and reaching out to millennials. Since the New International Version Bibles were not eligible for return (no one was sure where they came from), were in perfect condition, and had very tiny print (8 point font), several of our church leaders decided a donation to a young church was a perfect idea. Thanks, church!

## Happy Birthday

On May 7th during the morning Fellowship time, we celebrated Ersileen's 95th birthday! Congratulations to Ersileen on being 95 years young. You are a blessing and an inspiration to us.



## June Celebrations

### Birthdays

6-1	Ron L.	6-14	Gracie A.
6-3	Lisa R.		Jan F.
6-6	Henry S.	6-19	Barb B.
6-10	Kathy L.	6-21	Dave A.
6-11	Kristin I.	6-25	Pastor Holly
6-13	Diane D.	6-28	June D.
	Russ J.	6-29	Corrie A.
	David W.	6-30	Marti G.

### Anniversaries

6-9	Dick & June D.
6-10	Bud & Shirley J. Gordy & Rita P.
6-21	Denny & Nancy H. Tom & Bernie S.
6-25	Myron & Bea Z.
6-29	Gary & Marti G.



## Reading Buddies

The Wyoming Elementary School Reading Buddies program has been a resounding success! Holly A., Jane D., Donna K., Joyce M., Karyla P., and Lois S. have been working with their first and second grade classrooms, visiting the school weekly and helping children improve their reading skills. Some of them worked one-on-one with individual students to help improve their skills, some worked with different small groups and listened to them read, and some worked with the entire class, listening to individual students reading until they had heard reading from the entire class! Each of our Reading Buddies committed an hour to an hour and a half each week, giving our hard-working teachers a little bit of extra help. Here is some of what our Reading Buddies had to say about the experience:

"Those kids made my day! I grew rather fond of them and proud of the hard work they were doing to get their reading up to grade level." "I am so glad I decided to do this." "Many of the kids don't get any support at home, so we are their lifeline to help them be able to read and enjoy books throughout their lives. The teacher I work with said that a lot of the funding will be cut next year, and she hopes we continue the program as it will be needed even more." "After my first time with them I had a smile on my face for a week. I cherish every minute spent with them and consider the sessions a gift from God." "I will definitely come back and do this again next fall!"



## Attention Woodworkers

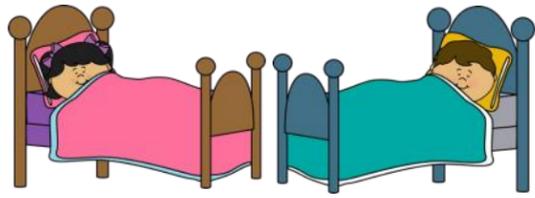
Your Mission/Outreach Team plus our Librarian Deb M. would LOVE to reach out to our community by building and stocking a "Little Free Library" on our church property. A Little Free Library is a "take a book, return a book" free book exchange. The libraries come in many shapes and sizes, but the most common version is a small wooden box of books for children and adults.

Anyone may take a book or bring a book to share. Little Free Library book exchanges have a unique, personal touch so the Missions/Outreach Team thinks it would be wonderful to have ours resemble the shed in back of our church. We need a BUILDER! Whether it looks like the church shed or not, it needs to be built according to requirements/suggestions so it is weatherproof and yet breathes so condensation doesn't accumulate and ruin the books. The library we envision will be relatively small, on a post, big enough for adult and children's selections. If you are interested in being the builder, please contact anyone on your Missions/Outreach team TODAY!

Speaking of Little Free Libraries: As an offshoot of our "Reading Buddies" program at Wyoming Elementary School, we have also decided to be a blessing to our school by setting up a Little Free Library there! We'll have a well-stocked shelf ready for the students by the opening of school in the fall. We'll take donated children's books to use in the library beginning NOW. Since Wyoming historically started as a stagecoach stop, wouldn't it be wonderful to offer some books based on pioneer days like "American Girl-Kirsten," or "Little House on the Prairie" or "Anne of Green Gables?" We'll have a stagecoach artwork plaque on the shelf, too. Any lovely children's books you would like to donate (not just historically based ones) for ages preschool to grade 6 will be greatly appreciated! We'll have a collection box in the entryway at church shortly.



*God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. -Psalm 46:1 (NLT)*



## New Pathways Hosting

Our next opportunity for hosting New Pathways families is July 30-August 6. Please mark this week on your calendar and start thinking about how you can be a part of loving your neighbor this summer.

*Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers—for in doing so, some have entertained angels without knowing it.*

~Hebrews 13:2



## Stitch 'n Rip Quilters

The Stitch 'n Rip Quilters are having a great time and have started a new tradition of sharing a potluck meal every third Wednesday. People bring different dishes; so far we've never all just brought one thing (though there were a lot of yummy desserts at the May potluck!). This picture is from April when we had 18 people for the noon meal. We'd love to see you at our next potluck, or even before then!

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# Wyoming United Methodist Church Messenger

June 2017



## Honoring Our Graduates

Senior Recognition Sunday is Sunday, June 11. We will be recognizing our graduating seniors during the worship service. If you are a graduating senior or know someone who is graduating that has been a part of our congregation, let them know we want to honor them on June 11.

## Peace With Justice Sunday

Peace with Justice Sunday is June 11. Gifts on Peace with Justice Sunday fund programs that advocate for peace and justice in the United States and around the world. These programs empower United Methodists to speak out for removing structures and systems that harm God's children globally.

## Minnesota Annual Conference

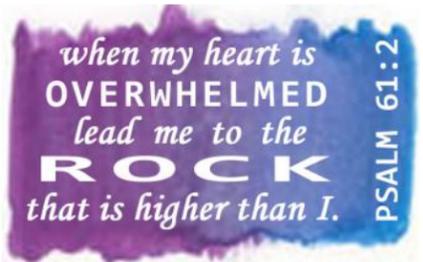
Annual Conference is June 20-22 this year. Annual Conference is the annual meeting of all the United Methodist Church pastors of Minnesota plus one representative from each of the United Methodist Churches in Minnesota. This year, Pastor Holly, Bea Z., and Donna K. will be representing our congregation at this gathering at the St. Cloud Convention Center. Please pray for fruitful discussions and a blessed time of worship, praise, workshops, discussions, legislation and strengthening the connection between all Minnesota United Methodists.

## "Change" People's Lives

Remember to drop your pocket change in the jar in the entryway at church to help the Emma Norton women and children's shelter. We've collected \$11.92 so far, so we have a long way to go to meet last year's collection of \$200. Together we can make a difference in people's lives.

## Discovery Time is Back

Now that summer is here, we want you to know that we will still be having kids' programming on Sunday mornings. The popular "Discovery Time" that we had last summer is back again this summer, so every Sunday (except for the Holiday Sundays--Memorial Day, Labor Day, Fourth of July) we will have a supervised time of discovery where the Sunday School teacher will lead our children in a time of fellowship, games and crafts. Children will stay with us in worship through Teaching Time and then be invited to go to Discovery Time in the Sunday School classroom. During Holiday Sundays, we will have a craft table available for the kids.



## Worship Services in June

On June 11, we begin a four week series on Death and Grief. Though death is often a subject we like to avoid, it is an inevitable part of everyone's future. All of us have been touched in some way with grief as we have lost someone we love. We will talk about the afterlife, dying well, the Christian perspective on suicide and how we can reach out to those who are going through grief. Be sure to join us in June and consider bringing a friend who is experiencing grief who might welcome this chance to hear some words of hope.

### June 4

Guest Preacher: Mike Harwell  
"If You Tell The Truth You Never Have To Remember What You Said"  
Exodus 20:16; Deut. 32:4 and John 8:44

### June 11

"Good Grief: What Happens After Death?"  
Revelation 21:2-5

### June 18

"Good Grief: Christianity and Suicide"  
Psalm 13:1-6

### June 25

"Good Grief: Comforting Those Who Mourn"  
John 14:25-29