

## From the Pastor...

As I began my last sermon series at the beginning of June, I told many of you that I was trying to look for something light and entertaining to have as a sermon series in the summer. Knowing that summer is a time for vacations and reunions and fishing and fun, I thought having a sermon series that would be fun, would be the perfect fit. You may have noticed I didn't succeed in finding something 'light' for my first sermon series of the summer.

But the series "Good Grief: Facing Death with Hope" that ends on Sunday, July 2, has been a deep and meaningful series, very well received and something that has caused me to stretch and grow in the process. Though delivering the sermons has sometimes been an emotional experience for me and has evoked emotions (tears) in others, every single Sunday one or two of you has told me a story of how the sermon has struck you or has shared your own personal story as it relates to the sermon.

Some have told me about their Near Death Experiences as I shared a few Near Death Experiences that I have been told about in my sermon about what happens after death. I've also had people tell me that even though they have had their hearts stop, they have not had any of the experiences that I described and they wondered what I thought about that.

It's likely that each of us has our own unique experiences because we are each unique individuals created by God. It's the spectacular experiences that get told while the mundane ones are rarely shared. Part of what my research of the Bible has taught me is that, whether we've had spectacular Near Death Experiences or not, all of us who seek a relationship with God will be welcomed with open arms into eternal life following our deaths.

My next sermon series will be on prayer. I have abandoned the notion that summer sermons have to be 'light and fluffy,' indeed, can anything that takes Jesus' life seriously be light and fluffy? We know that Jesus is the light and we embrace that light, but we do not take it lightly.

As we continue through the summer let us learn and grow together.

~ Pastor Holly



## An Invitation

You are invited to celebrate the 50th wedding anniversary of Ed & Karen Kramer. Their open house celebration will be at their house on Saturday, July 29th from 4-7 p.m.

## Mobile Food Truck

Every third Saturday of the month from 8-11am, Forest Hills UMC hosts the Family Pathways Mobile Food Truck in their parking lot. Everyone is welcome to participate in the program, though they ask each family to give a \$20 donation to cover the cost of food and services.

They also have a dry food pantry at the church that is open to the public when the church is open.

Forest Hills UMC is located at 1790 11th Street S.E., Forest Lake, MN. Their phone number is 651-464-5249.

## Discovery Time

Don't forget to bring your children to Discovery Time this summer. Children stay in worship until right after Teaching Time and then are dismissed to Discovery Time where the kids and a teacher join together in crafts, fellowship, games and even some outside time if the weather is nice!

## A Thank You

"Thank you for the beautiful quilt you made me...It's so very beautiful and I really appreciate all the different blocks—everywhere you look there's something different. I really appreciate all the hard work that went into making this quilt just for me. As you already know, my cancer is not curable so I will give a lot of thought to giving this quilt to someone I know will treasure it because it was mine. So thank each one of you who worked on this quilt." —Joy

## July Celebrations

### Birthdays

7-05	Kelly K.	7-14	Logan K.
7-07	Ryan R.	7-15	Deb M.
7-08	Erik A.	7-19	Jim K.
	Kody R.	7-20	Steve B.
7-09	Cameron J.		Alex S.
	Jack L.	7-23	Colleen H.
	Troy S.		Kaye L.
7-11	Dan I.	7-28	Michelle J.
7-13	Alec A.		

### Anniversaries

7-14	Ron & Barb L.
7-17	John & Holly K.
7-25	Dave & Jan F.
7-29	Ed & Karen K.

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



### 2017 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION:

Encounter  
the Spirit  
LIVE  
Expectantly!

## Be an Acts 2 Church!

It was my privilege to represent our Church at the United Methodist Annual Conference in St. Cloud last week and Donna Keacher was kind enough to go with me. (Pastor Holly was also there.)

It was a wonderful, Spirit-filled event: uplifting music, inspiring messages, faith sharing, leadership and visional, Spirit-filled sermons by our own Bishop Ough.

A few notes: Be intentional, be personal, be innovative, take our faith public, into the neighborhood, the marketplace, your job, your community. Share your faith, your story and "see all the people" (not just the numbers, but the person!).

Be blessed to be a blessing to others, filled with the Holy Spirit. Amen!

-Bea Zaruba

P.S.- (We were over-dressed— more jeans than dresses!)

## Did You Know?

At the Minnesota Annual Conference, Rev. Junius Dotson, general secretary of Discipleship Ministries, said, "I believe God deserves our best at all times. Churches that are good at discipleship...have a core process that leads people to Christ, equips people with the skills they need for ministry and empowers people to share their faith with others...They have not lost sight of their 'why.'" Churches need to focus on their key mission (their 'why') which is making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

## Wanted: Children's Books

We are in the process of building a Little Free Library for Wyoming Elementary School and are looking for your donations of new or gently used children's books to put in the library. Perhaps you have a favorite book you read to your kids or grandkids that you think a Wyoming child would like. Please bring your donations to church and place in the box in the narthex. The Little Free Library at Wyoming Elementary will be a place for children to take a book or leave a book for others to enjoy. When thinking of what to donate, please remember this Library will be used by kids all the way up to 6th grade. Children's books for all ages are welcome!

## Drive Thru Prayer Box

Wyoming United Methodist Church believes in the POWER OF PRAYER! Soon there will be a prayer box in front of the church, in the Garden of Weedin' at the U-shaped driveway by the front door. We'll provide prayer cards for people to fill out and put in the locked prayer box. Anyone can leave a prayer request in that box and the request will be prayed for. The Tuesday morning prayer group will monitor the box and distribute the requests. We want everyone in the Wyoming and surrounding community to know that we are here to help them lift their requests to God.

## Stitch 'n Rip Quilters

The Stitch 'n Rip Quilters will not meet Wednesday, August 2 as we are hosting New Pathways families that week.



## Coming Soon: A Brush With Kindness

A Brush With Kindness is coming up soon. Every summer the people of the Lindstrom, Stacy, Wyoming, Chisago area do a week long work project to help the people in our community. You are invited to consider volunteering for an hour, a day or a whole week. One project that is of particular interest is putting new siding on a house in Stacy. This will take place the week of August 12-19, with no work taking place on Sunday the 13th. Dave F. will be the project leader for this siding project and he would like to have you as a part of his team. No experience necessary. We are hoping for up to 6 people to volunteer to be a part of each 2-3 person team. Talk to Dave F. or for more information on all of the projects, call Boni S. at 612-229-9369.

## “Change” People’s Lives

Remember to drop your pocket change in the jar in the entryway at church to help the Emma Norton women & children’s shelter. We’ve collected \$47.90 so far, so we have a long way to go to meet last year’s collection of \$200. Some of us enjoy dropping the change into the jar and watching the numbers change. Some of us even have non-church attendees giving us their pocket change to make a difference in the lives of women and children who are helped by the Emma Norton ministry. Drop your pocket change in the jar and watch the total increase as we together make a difference in people’s lives.

# Wyoming United Methodist Church Messenger



## STORM Camp 2017

STORM (Service to Others in Relational Ministry) Camp is an annual set of weeks put on by the Minnesota United Methodist Church where STORM campers come to a church and stay the week while serving needy families in the surrounding area. This year Allie B. and Gracie A. will be going to STORM camp in Stewartville, MN from July 9 to the 15th. They will be blessing our neighbors needing help with home repairs, painting or yard work. We don’t yet have an address to send cards and letters to our campers, so if you want to write something for the campers to receive during their week of camp, please hand your note or letter to Jane R. on Sunday morning, July 9. Please pray for safe travel and a meaningful mission experience for all who will be participating in STORM Camp that week.

## New Pathways Hosting Week

We are hosting New Pathways families this July 30 to August 6. We need people to host a meal for the people, for people to stay for the evening and do crafts and games with the kids and talk with the adults, for people to volunteer to stay overnight and sleep at the church (on a provided bed in a private room). Please look for the signup sheet and sign your name in one of the volunteer spots or call the church office and see what opportunities are still available. Summer is a wonderful time to ‘get away from it all’ but let’s not forget our commitment to hosting our neighbors who have no safe, cool, welcoming place to call home. We need you to be the hands and feet and heart of Jesus Christ to these beloved children of God who have fallen on hard times. Please be generous with your time during our hosting week.

## Bluegrass Festival

It’s time for the Forest Lake Bluegrass Festival, held at the Forest Lake Lakeside Park on Saturday, July 29 from 3 to 8pm. We are 1 of 8 area churches hosting this annual festival. Not only will there be great music offered on stage, but throughout the park will be food, silent auction items, and activities for the kids. The food offered includes pie by the slice, pulled pork sandwiches, ribs, burgers and hot dogs. Please stop by the Wyoming United Methodist Church booth where there will be an activity for the kids and information about our church. One hundred percent of the Silent Auction and food sale proceeds are divided equally between Feed My Starving Children, Our Lady of the Mountains Elementary School and the Hugo homeless shelter. So come and browse and EAT! If you would like to donate a pie or two, please contact Forest Hills UMC.



## Worship Services in July

On July 2, we’ll finish up our four week series called Good Grief: Facing Death with Hope. July 9 and 16 we will have guest preachers Mike Harwell and Denny Hebrink respectively, then we begin a series on prayer, how to do it, when to do it, what is expected of us when we pray? We’ll learn together how simple prayer can be and how the main expectation of prayer is that it builds the relationship between us and God.

**July 2**  
“Good Grief: Creative Conversations About Death”  
John 11:38-44

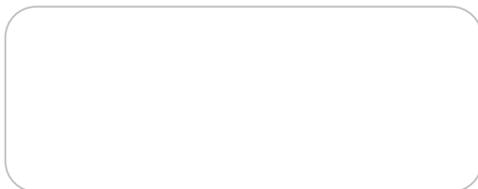
**July 9**  
Guest Preacher: Mike Harwell  
“The Search for our Better Angels”  
Psalm 91:9-13; Psalm 78:49

**July 16**  
Guest Preacher: Denny Hebrink  
“**T**o **B**e **D**etermined”  
Hebrews 9:27; 1 Thess. 5:1-2

**July 23**  
“Look Who’s Talking: How Are We Supposed to Pray?”  
Matthew 6:5-13

**July 30**  
“Look Who’s Talking: Keep it Simple”  
Philippians 4:4-7

Wyoming UMC • 651-462-5276 • Care Crew North: 651-462-4890 • www.wyomingunitedmethodist.org  
Pastor Holly’s email: hollyaastuen@gmail.com • Church email: office.wyomingumc@gmail.com



Wyoming United Methodist Church  
5459 E Viking Blvd., PO Box 247  
Wyoming, MN 55092

