

From the Pastor...

Last month I had the privilege of taking a week of continuing education at Chautauqua Institution, a not-for-profit, 750 acre campus nestled beside Chautauqua Lake in southwestern New York State. Originally founded as a summer school for Sunday school teachers by Lewis Miller and Rev. John Heyl Vincent, both members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, Chautauqua Institution has grown into a nine week program run each summer, where people come for a week or more of learning and growth in each of the four focus areas: Religion, Education, Arts and Recreation.

David and I enjoyed the morning worship services, the mid-morning educational lectures and the afternoon Interfaith series of lectures moderated by Bill Moyers. Each evening we had a different artistic treat—from opera to symphony orchestra to handbell choirs to Sheryl Crow.

Many of the speakers we heard during the week talked about what Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks termed Cultural Climate Change, where our society as a whole is becoming less community oriented and more individualistic. He spoke of how more than half of our culture is not connected to any people in significant face-to-face encounters beyond the people they connect with at work and at home. Another speaker talked about how those who are not associated with any faith community generally are not joiners of any kind of group and are less apt to sacrifice their individual needs for the sake of the greater good.

On one hand, this is a good sign that we as a society are not in crisis, for it is often in crisis that people seek reassurance in religious communities. On the other hand, people are both more connected (via social media) and less connected (face-to-face) than they have ever been in recorded history.

One of the challenges I heard out of the week was to find more ways to connect with people in our neighborhoods and communities, especially with those who are less apt to be connected to others. We are created to be in communion with one another and unless one is connected to a faith community or other community who cares for them as a beloved child of God, it is difficult to find that communion and community with others.

The bottom line is that we need each other. We each need others who will come to our aid when we are in distress, who will celebrate with us in our joys and who will help pick us up when we fall. Not only do we need to find these sorts of companions for ourselves, we need to be sure and be these companions for others.

“Love one another as I have loved you. By this will all know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 15:34-35)

~Pastor Holly

Food Distribution

Every 3rd Saturday of the month from 8-11am, Forest Hills UMC hosts a Ruby's Pantry Food Distribution. Everyone is welcome to participate in the program, though they ask each family to give a \$20 donation to cover the cost of food/services. Please bring a large box or basket to put your groceries in.

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.

Little Free Library

Thanks for all the children's books you have brought for our new Little Free Library for Wyoming Elementary School. We are so grateful for your generosity! If you still have books you want to donate, you are welcome to bring them anytime, but are encouraged to bring them before the end of the summer so we can start off with a full library this fall!

Thank You!

Thank you one and all for your help with this most recent New Pathways families hosting (July 30-August 6). We couldn't have done it without everyone's help and especially the coordination by Linda R. of all our efforts. Thank you for helping these families as they are on the path to finding permanent homes for their families.

Music Director Needed

Wyoming United Methodist Church is looking for a part-time music director as Jeremy has given us notice that he is ready to move on. We need a music director to lead our contemporary worship service at 10am Sunday mornings. If you know of anyone who is interested, please have them contact the office at office.wyomingumc@gmail.com.

August Celebrations

Birthdays

8-01	Shirley F.	8-14	John S.
8-02	Shelley B.	8-17	Chris S.
8-04	Hazel N.	8-19	Pam T.
8-05	Kaylin F.	8-21	Jenny W.
8-06	Devantay K.	8-23	Dick D.
	Monique K.	8-27	Rita P.
8-09	Alex I.	8-30	Augustus L.
8-13	Jim L.		Lee P.
	Karyla P.		

Anniversaries

8-04	Erik & Katie N.
8-10	Steve & Mary Jo B.
8-12	Jim & Donna K.
8-14	Paul & Lisa S.
8-25	Dennis & Lisa R.
8-28	Ben & LeAnne P.



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



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.

If you are unable to help with ABWK's work, but would like to make a donation, we will be accepting donations throughout August. Mark your offering envelope or check memo 'ABWK.' We also ask for your prayers for the workers and for the families being served.

If you are a first time volunteer with ABWK or want to help with meals, please go to their website at ecmabwk.org (East Central Minnesota A Brush With Kindness) or call ABWK at 651-361-0229. Someone will contact you and help answer any questions you may have.



STORM Camp Recap

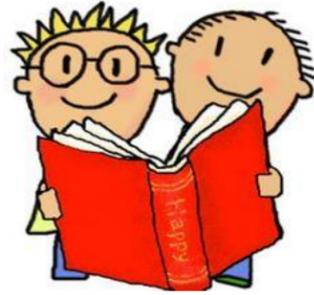
Both our youth missionaries had a great time of serving God's beloved children the week of July 9-16 as they spent that time at mission camp. Allie B. and Gracie A. served at STORM Camp (Service to Others in Relational Ministry) in Stewartville, Minnesota. Thanks to Jane R. who drove them to and from their week of camp. Many thanks to all of you for your support for our youth missionaries! As soon as we can, we will schedule a time for the two of them to report to the church about their week of mission work.



St. Andrew's Family Shelter, Hugo

Work on the St. Andrew's Family Shelter in Hugo is continuing as planned. So far they have successfully gotten rid of the bats and the evidence of bats that had accumulated during the years that the former St. Genevieve Rectory was vacated. Now they are working on removing all lead from the premises followed by asbestos abatement. The lead and asbestos are being removed by qualified licensed contractors. Once all the abatement has been completed (which we hope will be finished by the beginning of August), the planned demolition can begin in preparation for remodeling the interior to make it useable for families. Funds collected at the Bluegrass Festival in Forest Lake (Saturday, July 29 from 3-8pm) will be used to help all of these projects! Thank you for your continued prayers and support.

This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. -John 15:12



Reading Buddies

You are invited to consider becoming a Reading Buddy at the Wyoming Elementary School this fall! All those who have participated (Holly A., Jane D., Donna K., Joyce M., Karyla P., and Lois S.) would love to talk with you about their experience and answer any questions you might have. Being a Reading Buddy is a commitment to visit the

school weekly (most weeks during the school year) for an hour to an hour and a half and listen to young children read to you, while you help them with some of the bigger words. You will gain so much more than you give. Hear some of the testimonies from our current Reading Buddies: "I have been blessed by my time with the kids and am looking forward to next year!" "Many of the kids don't get any support at home so we are their life line to help them be able to read and enjoy books throughout their lives." "I love doing this...The children I work with give me such a lift." "After my first time with them I had a smile on my face for a week." "I am so glad I decided to do this."

If you are interested in learning more, please contact Pastor Holly.

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

Parking Lot Improvements

The Trustees have hired a company to repair and improve our parking lot this August. Both Thursday, August 17 and Friday, August 18 our parking lot will be blocked off so that it can be re-surfaced and painted.

Stitch 'n Rip Quilters

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

Wyoming United Methodist Church Messenger



Special Music Continues With Several Treats

Our special music gets into full swing this August. In June and July we've had the privilege of hearing from a few talented musicians for our special music, among them Mike B., Jan F. (along with her sister), Shirley F. and others. But in August we have a special musical treat scheduled for each Sunday.

The first Sunday in August, August 6, we'll hear from Allie B. singing along with members of her family. On August 13, Pastor Holly's family will be singing a song. The third Sunday in August is Guitar Guys Sunday which is always a treat and August 27th we'll be hearing from a Barbershop Quartet called Summer Time. Be sure and check out some of Summer Time's videos on their Facebook page (Summer Time Quartet) and come every Sunday in August to hear our musical treats!

Drive Thru Prayer Requests

We now have our Drive Thru Prayer Request Box up and running (after a quick trip to the Bluegrass Festival in Forest Lake on Saturday, July 29). Our faithful prayer groups are ready, willing and able to start praying for the prayer requests left in our box just outside our front door (in the Garden of Weedin'). We strongly believe in the power of prayer and pray that people will begin to see that box as they walk or drive by and that people will take the time to stop by to fill out a prayer request and put it in the box. This is a brand new ministry for us at church and we are looking forward to lifting up strangers, friends and neighbors in prayer. God is good!

Discovery Time Continues

Don't forget to bring your children to Discovery Time in August. Children stay in worship until right after Teaching Time (a children's sermon about 10 minutes into the service) and then are dismissed to go experience Discovery Time where the kids and a teacher join together in crafts, fellowship, games and even some outside time if the weather is nice! Bring your children and grandchildren!

Your Change "Changes" 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 \$82.89 so far, so we are on our way toward meeting or exceeding last year's collection of \$200. Some of us enjoy dropping the change into the jar and watching the numbers change. Some of us bring change from friends and family who want to make a difference in the lives of women and children who are helped by the Emma Norton ministry which offers housing along with chemical dependency and mental illness counseling. Drop your pocket change in the jar and watch the total increase as we together make a difference in people's lives.

Worship Services in August

In August we conclude our series on prayer with "Look Who's Talking: Pray Continually." The rest of August we'll talk about faithing, namely believing, and acting on that belief. Faithing is more than just having faith, it is about activating our faith in ways that apply to our daily lives. Faithing is putting beliefs into action.

August 6

"Look Who's Talking: Pray Continually"
1 Thessalonians 5:16-21

August 13

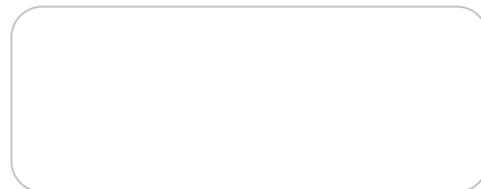
"Faithing: Get Out of Your Comfort Zone"
Matthew 14:22-33

August 20

"Faithing: Declare Your Faith"
Matthew 16:13-16

August 27

"Faithing: Listen to God's Voice"
Matthew 15:21-28



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