

From the Pastor...

Dan Wilson, a friend from high school, recently posted a video of himself singing a song he wrote called All Will Be Well. Before he sang the song, he talked a bit about his pessimism about the world and wondered out loud if the world is better or worse off than it was ten years ago.

It's easy to think that the world is getting worse because in some ways it is. People can point to climate change, the rise of ISIS and the increasing boldness of hate groups as evidence that things are getting worse.

But the world is getting better as well. The percentage of people in the world living in poverty has declined, infant mortality has declined, global literacy has increased and because of work through organizations like Imagine No Malaria, people are living longer, healthier lives.

How do we know if things are getting better or worse? It's all a matter of perspective, I imagine, a little like that question of is the glass half empty or half full. If you're a pessimist, you think the glass is half empty. If you're an optimist, you think the glass is half full. If you're an engineer, you think that the glass is twice as big as it needs to be.

As we turn to the increased hustle and bustle of September and greater numbers of activities here in the church as well as in the community, it makes sense to take a moment and ponder if the world is getting better or worse and what we are doing, with the help of God, to make the world a better place.

I invite you to take a look at all this newsletter contains, from news about the beginning of Sunday School, to the coming hospitality events of Stagecoach Days and Fall Dinner, to invitations to join in activities you may not have had the time to join before.

I look forward to seeing many of you at Kick-Off Sunday, Sunday, September 10th. During worship we'll have a Blessing of the Backpacks, Briefcases and Bags (anything you take with you to help you manage at school, at work, at home).

I look forward to seeing you on other Sundays as well as out in the community as we Build Bridges to Christ's Love and remember that all will be well.

May you be encouraged about the state of the world, as well as seek to do your part to make the world a better place.

"Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide; strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see; all I have needed thy hand hath provided—great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!"

~Pastor Holly



All Voices Welcome

You are invited to join the choir!

Starting Wednesday, September 6 at 7pm we will start a new year of choir practice. We meet for an hour, sing in four part harmony, and generally enjoy one another's company. It's an hour you won't want to miss! Come and join the choir and see what you've been missing.

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.

STORM Camp Recap

Two of our youth, Gracie and Allie, had a rich and rewarding experience this year at STORM Camp (Service to Others in Relational Ministry). Their week of mission camp in Stewartville, Minnesota gave them a sense of what it means to serve others and to make the world a better place. Be sure and come on Sunday, September 17 to hear their stories and how God used them to reach out to others.

Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who helped with A Brush With Kindness (ABWK) week this August. The home in Stacy that Dave F. coordinated still needs some painting, so please contact him if you're able to paint some siding for a few hours. ABWK is an offshoot of Habitat for Humanity and does wonderful work making a difference in the lives of our Chisago County neighbors. Thank you for your support!

September Celebrations

Birthdays

9-01	Joshua S.	9-17	Steve W.
9-02	Mary S.	9-26	Jeanne L.
	Keegan S.	9-27	Norma S.
9-03	Denny H.	9-28	Chad W.
9-07	Sharon M.	9-29	Annie H.
9-12	Cyndy J.	9-30	Mike H.
9-14	Bernie S.		
	Lois S.		
	Myron Z.		

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

Anniversaries

9-10	Rich & Linda R.
	Dave & Cathy W.
9-17	Don & Joyce M.
9-19	Archie & Kathy L.
9-23	Rick & Kelly K.



Sharing Our HOPE

On Saturday, August 19, 1,500 people gathered in Goodview Park in Wyoming to Stomp Out Suicide. Our congregation brought a table to the event and offered people hope, in the form of a bookmark and gave people the opportunity to leave a prayer in our Prayer Request box. One of the events at the gathering was the moment when the people released helium balloons which bore the names of those who had experienced death by suicide. It was a meaningful and holy and hope-filled event!

Jolly Promenaders

Jolly Promenaders Square Dance Club is hosting an Introduction to Square Dancing on Sunday evenings from 6:00-7:30 p.m. beginning Sunday, September 17th in our church's Fellowship Hall. Square dancing is a great American tradition. It is perfect for anyone who enjoys low-impact recreation and socializing. Someone once called Square dancing 'Friendship set to music.' Come and see!

Our teacher/caller is Bob Maiden and he is happy to help you start out at any ability level. If you have any questions or concerns, please talk to Denny or Nancy Hebrink or call 651-279-4041.

Reading Buddies

You are invited to join our Reading Buddies! Reading Buddies is a program we started in January, where individuals from our church go into Wyoming Elementary School and help first and second graders one-on-one with their reading. Usually consisting of an hour a week commitment, our Reading Buddies really enjoyed listening to the students read to them. If you have any questions or want to hear more about their experience, be sure and talk to one of our current Reading Buddies: Karyla P., Donna K., Joyce M., Holly A., Jane D., or Lois S. They would love to talk with you! Reading Buddies is slated to start the first week of October.

Principal Slater's Visit

Wyoming Elementary School Principal Curtis Slater will be speaking on Sunday, September 17 during worship to thank us for our Reading Buddy program, share the most recent news of the school and talk about other ways we can be involved. We are excited about this partnership we have with our local school!

Listen to advice and accept instruction, that you may gain wisdom in the future.

- Prov 19:20

St. Andrew's Family Shelter Update

Work is progressing on the St. Andrew's Family Shelter in Hugo. Lead has been removed and now they are removing all asbestos, which will be completed by September 21. Following that date, they will be installing new windows.

Please continue to pray for this promising facility, for the support for its ministry to continue to increase, and for the families who will one day be able to stay in this shelter until they get back on their feet.

"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD. Plans to prosper you, and not to harm you. Plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11

Box City Homeless Challenge

You are invited to this year's Box City Homeless Challenge Saturday, October 7th to Sunday, October 8th held on the Isanti County Fairgrounds. Hosted by New Pathways, this annual event is their biggest fundraiser of the year. To learn more, please talk with Jane R.

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Pastor Holly's email: hollyaastuen@gmail.com • Church email: office.wyomingumc@gmail.com



Our Annual Fall Turkey Dinner will be Saturday, October 14 from 4-7pm. Be sure and invite your friends and neighbors to save the date!

Wyoming United Methodist Church Messenger

September 2017

Stagecoach Days

Wyoming Stagecoach Days is an annual community event in Wyoming, MN, celebrating Wyoming's history as the first stop on the stagecoach route from Rice Street in St. Paul to Duluth. This year's Stagecoach Days are September 15-17. Our church is once again offering coffee and pie and booya to the community. The donations we receive will all go to missions, but our main purpose is to offer hospitality to the community. We need your pie donations, your booya ingredient donations and your cooking help to make this a success. Please sign up in the nook in the church narthex or talk to Jane R. (about pies) or Gordy P. (about booya).

We'll serve food starting at 10am Saturday, September 16. Pie serving will end at noon, but the booya will be available until it's gone.

Sunday School

Kick-Off Sunday this year is Sunday, September 10. It's the first day of Sunday School for our children pre-school through 6th grade. Following Teaching Time in worship, they leave worship with their teacher and begin class. Before Teaching Time we will have a blessing of the Backpacks/Briefcases/Bags (including diaper bags). Bring your backpacks etc. to worship on September 10 and we will ask God to bless the backpacks or whatever you take with you to help you manage your work (schoolwork, housework, office work, etc.). We will also ask God to bless those who use those backpacks etc.

Following worship on Kick-Off Sunday we will have ice cream and root beer and orange floats along with coffee and juice to celebrate the first Sunday of the new Sunday School year.

Our Sunday School theme for this year is At the Zoo! We are going to see all the animals at the zoo as we begin this fall talking about monkeys, elephants, lions and more! As we talk about the animals and their strengths (curiosity, strength, courage), we will learn about how God encourages us to use our strengths as well.



Confirmation Classes Begin

Starting Sunday, September 17, we will begin confirmation classes with any kids who are ready 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. We meet twice a month immediately following worship. Please talk to Pastor Holly if you have any questions or want to sign up your child or grandchild.

Worship Services in September

In September we begin a series called Daring to Dream. We will be uncovering some of our long-held assumptions about church and the way things have always been, and looking at how we need to change and grow into a new understanding of who and what we are as church in a post-Christian society.

September 3

"Unfair!"
Matthew 20:1-16

September 10

"Daring to Dream: Lewis & Clark"
Genesis 15:1-18

September 17

"Daring to Dream: When Everything Falls Apart"
Exodus 16:2-15

We'll also hear from our STORM Campers about their mission trip this summer!

September 24

"Daring to Dream: Change the World"
John 16:25-33



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FOR THE LORD
gives wisdom
from his mouth come
knowledge
AND
understanding

PROVERBS 2:6