

From the Pastor...

I'm writing this just a few days before Christmas. It is only just now that I finally got around to decorating my office with the Chris-Moose and other decorations I traditionally put in my office for the Advent/Christmas season. I imagine that I'm not unique in finding that so many other things crowd out our focus on the Christ, that sometimes we forget to pause and take time to give thanks for the gift of Christ's presence.

Being present is a challenge for me. I am often making lists of things I need to do, of tasks yet undone, of people I need to contact for business or other reasons. I am a list maker and when not all the lists are done, I am distracted.

As we begin the new year and take a look back at what we've done this last year, let us give thanks for the one who is present with us all the time, who walks with us and cares for us unconditionally.

I plan to work on being present during the twelve days of Christmas (which end on Epiphany, which is January 6) and throughout the rest of January so I can better see the face of Christ in everyone I meet.

Here's a prayer that I hope will help you, too, be present this season:

Let Me Remember

O gentle and caring God...when I feel frustrated by someone's ingratitude and seemingly impossible expectations, let me remember their neediness or fear of saying 'thanks.'

When I face a person's rage, let me remember the pain he or she has long endured at the hands of many others, so I can give the space to share anger freely and without fear. When someone sees the world and me in extreme negative and positive ways, let me remember that I am neither the devil, nor for that matter, am I God.

When people are very troubled and I begin to feel overwhelmed by it all too, let me remember that simply listening is truly a quiet, great grace in itself.

And when I see a person making the same mistakes over and over again, let me remember that sometimes I am not such a winner myself!

Yes as I sit with others who are sad, in pain, under stress, depressed, anxious and afraid, let me remember your gentle faithfulness so I can be present to others the same way you always are to me. Amen (Robert J. Wicks)

Peace,
Pastor Holly

Ruby's Pantry Food Distribution

There will be a food distribution the 2nd Saturday of each month at Access Church in North Branch (4359 392nd Street). The next food distribution will be on Saturday, January 13th, 2018 from 10:00 am - 11:30 am.

* You will receive an abundance of grocery items

* Everyone who gets hungry qualifies!

* Registration begins at 9:30 am

* \$20 Cash Donation

* Bring 2 large boxes or laundry baskets for food.

If you have any questions, please call 651-260-8505 or email whitepinkdaisy@gmail.com.

Membership Inquiry Class

We will be having a Membership Inquiry Class sometime late January or early February for those who are interested in learning more about membership at Wyoming United Methodist. Please call (651) 462-5276 or email office.wyomingumc@gmail.com to let us know you are interested.

Joy Bells Joy!

Thanks to everyone who helped with the Joy Bells Ministry this year. We collected presents for more kids than we've ever given gifts to before. Those who helped hand out the gifts received many hugs and shed tears with grateful moms who were picking up the gifts for their kids along with a Christmas meal for the whole family to enjoy. One man who had received help from the Joy Bells ministry in years past, stopped by to 'pay it forward' with \$60 cash as a thank you. Thanks to all who made this valuable ministry possible. Well done good and faithful servants!

January Celebrations

Birthdays

1-1	Tom S.	1-14	Steve T.
1-2	John K.	1-15	Ben P.
1-3	Lois J.	1-16	Dorothy Be.
1-5	Katherine O.	1-17	Pat K.
1-9	Kim B.	1-18	Cxie T.
1-11	Kayla B.	1-19	Jessa E.
	Johnny K.	1-26	Dorothy Bi.
	Marcus W.		Evelyn S.

1-29	Ann S.
1-31	Jane D.

Anniversaries

1-1	Taylor & Kim B.
1-3	Gary & Chris S.
1-7	Dave & Holly C.



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

Christmas Tea

Thank you to all who helped make our annual Christmas Tea an afternoon to remember! The freewill offering helped pay for the food baskets for the Joy Bells families. Thank you!



Christmas Pageant

Thanks to all who participated in and facilitated this year's Christmas Pageant! It was a joy to celebrate the coming of the Christ Child with our pageant on Sunday, December 17. Our kids and adults all had fun retelling the story of Christ's birth!



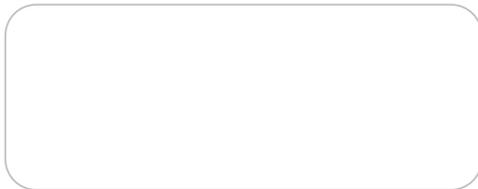
Reminder – New Homeless Shelter Opening Soon

Five years ago Wyoming United Methodist Church, Faith Lutheran Forest Lake and others got together to explore ways to respond to the growing need of housing for families and gauge the interest in establishing a shelter for homeless families in the Forest Lake area. Out of those meetings, a group of interdenominational representatives formed the Forest Lake Area Mission for Families (FLAMF) to bring a shelter to Forest Lake.

FLAMF sought a partner to help establish a homeless shelter in the area and ended up partnering with St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in Mahtomedi, which established their Community Resource Center in 2011. FLAMF connected with the Church of St. Genevieve in Centerville to explore using their vacated rectory on their St. John the Baptist site in Hugo. After a lengthy process and a

\$170,000 grant to do renovations, the site hopes to be operational by June 2018. The St. Andrew's Family Shelter will have room for up to five families plus a room for volunteers to rest. Thus far 15 churches are committed to help with hosting the families and they are looking for 10-15 more groups to become part of the rotation. If you would like more information about this worthwhile project, please contact Jane R.

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
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Wyoming United Methodist Church Messenger



January 2018

New Pathways Hosting Week

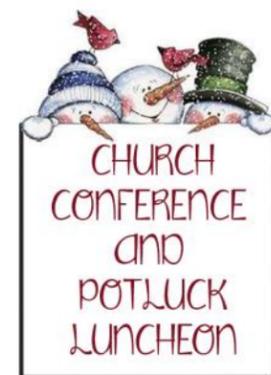
Our next week of homeless family hosting begins January 28 and ends February 4. Our Minnesota winters are an especially critical time for families to find warm, safe shelter. It is our pleasure to open our church for these families to find refuge and compassion especially as we just leave our blessed Christmas celebrations. New Pathways hosting is our chance to continue Christmas by giving of ourselves. This month, please consider giving twice as much of the service to the families you have given in the past! If you hosted one evening last July, consider hosting TWO evenings. If you slept over ONE night, consider sleeping over TWO nights. If you prepared an evening meal, consider preparing TWO meals or teaming up with someone else so two meals are covered. Check in with Linda Richnofsky to see where else you can be of service. Giving of ourselves is a blessing to God, to the families, and to ourselves. We can do this!

Christmas Eve Offering

Thanks to all who rose to the challenge and gave to the Christmas Offering for New Pathways homeless shelter in Cambridge that we have been supporting for many years. The total amount contributed was \$4,982! Once again, it is a profound pleasure to be part of a congregation that expresses their deep faith by giving generously to those in need. –Your Mission/Outreach Team

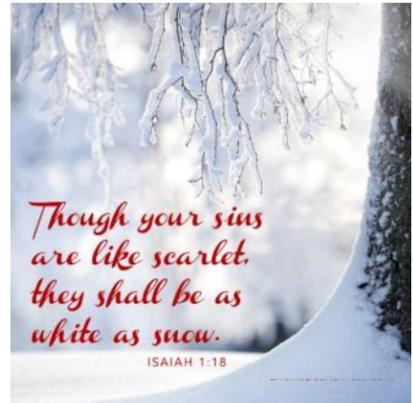
Women's Retreat

We are invited to join Eden Prairie United Methodist Church in their annual women's retreat that Pastor Holly is leading this year. The retreat is at Franciscan Retreats, Prior Lake and begins Friday evening (7 p.m.) January 26 and ends at 11:30 a.m. Sunday, January 28. The theme is "Braving the Wilderness: The Quest for True Belonging and the Courage to Stand Alone" and will include time in large group, small group and time alone. The cost is \$155 for a private room with bathroom shared with one other person. To register online, go to: www.prairiechurch.org/womens-retreat or look for the paper registration available in the nook. Total cost of the retreat is due to Pastor Holly (checks written to EPUMC) by January 15.



Annual Church Conference

On Sunday, January 21 we encourage you to stay for a potluck meal following worship. After the potluck we will have a meeting to pass the budget for 2018, accept the reports of our church ministry teams, and elect new leadership for 2018. We will celebrate how God has been working through the members of Wyoming United Methodist Church in the past year and look forward to all that 2018 promises to hold. You are invited!



Worship Services in January

In January we begin a new sermon series called Claimed, Named and Unrestrained as we enter the season after the Epiphany, where our focus is on fulfilling our mission in the wider community. We'll look at Jesus' early ministry—his baptism and calling of early disciples as we re-examine our own call to be missionaries and our commissioning as disciples through baptism.

January 7
Claimed, Named and Unrestrained: As Missionaries
Mark 1:4-11

January 14
Claimed, Named and Unrestrained: As Christians
John 1:43-51

January 21
Claimed, Named and Unrestrained: As Disciples
Mark 1:14-20

January 28
Guest Preacher, Denny Hebrink