

From the Pastor...

One Monday this last month I had an early morning dental appointment, then spent the rest of the day at home, working on my sermon. Everyone but the dog was at school or work and peace and quiet settled around the house.

Some days I wish peace and quiet could settle around the world, especially peace. We are a world that, in many ways, is not at peace. As different communities in our country are rocked by bombs and shootings, we are reminded that we are a long way from peace.

As I write this the Council of Bishops of our United Methodist Church are meeting to discuss the future of the church—especially whether we can find a way forward in the issues of human sexuality in a way that doesn't split the denomination.

I can't remember a time when our country was so politically polarized. I'm not sure when it happened, but somehow in the world of politics, compromise has come to mean failure.

And it isn't only that. It seems it is getting easier for people in our communities and neighborhoods to be polarized over just about anything. We seem to want to passionately argue about every issue that comes up, and often our passion gets in the way of our ability to listen, to ourselves, to each other, to wisdom.

I looked up the word 'passion' and found these two definitions: 1. Strong and barely controllable emotion; 2. The suffering and death of Jesus. These two definitions are vastly different.

The passion in our world relates to the kind of passion that insists on having its own way no matter the cost. But the passion of Jesus is a love that is stronger than the greatest passions of the world. The suffering and crucifixion of Jesus reflects a love that was willing to pay the price of the damage that some of our passions cause.

As I reflect on the passion of Jesus, it feels wrong to so passionately defend my rights, or insist on my own way, to the point of refusing to listen to anyone who doesn't agree with me. Instead I feel called to ask, where can we find common ground? How can we work together to better our world? How do we protect and care for the most vulnerable among us?

I wish the whole world could begin to try to comprehend the profound love expressed by Jesus' passion. Though I can't passionately force anyone to do that, I can invite the Holy Spirit to examine me as I spend time in prayer and repentance. I can take a step back and reflect on what it means to see this world through the eyes of Christ and love with the heart of Christ. We can do these things, together, with great courage. Because we are a people who know that even in death there is resurrection. That is how strong love is!

Peace,
Holly

Thank You

Thanks to all who have been bringing computer printer cartridges, pop tabs and box tops for education to our church this school year. Wyoming Elementary School is grateful to benefit from our contributions. Please bring any spare cartridges, tabs and box tops in the month of April so that we can bring them to the school before the end of the year. The baskets for your contributions are near the name-tag stand.



A benefit to Support New Pathways

Welcome spring to Minnesota, gear up for fishing and gardening season, and help local families experiencing homelessness, all at the same time! You are invited to our Troutlily Fest on Saturday, April 21, from 5:00-9:00pm at Creekside Farm in Rush City. Enjoy the buffet dinner and music, and participate in other fundraising activities such as a raffle, silent auction, live auction, games and door prizes. It will be a good time together, all benefitting a good cause. For more information, call 763-391-0121 or visit our website at www.newpathwaysmn.com.

Little Free Library

Our own Trevor J. is constructing a Little Free Library to place at Wyoming Elementary School to house all the books you generously donated last year. We are excited to have this available to our Wyoming kids for the summer! We are still looking for a volunteer to make a Little Free Library for our church property. Materials will be paid for by the church. Please talk to Jane R. or Pastor Holly for more details.

April Celebrations

Birthdays

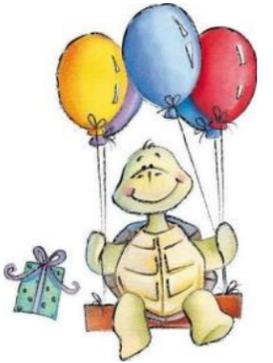
4-01 Mary Jo B.
4-07 Shurene E.
4-08 Nancy H.
4-09 Brian B.
Karen K.
Elizabeth R.
4-10 Lisa I.
4-11 Molly B.

4-15 Pat R.
4-17 John H.
4-19 Bea Z.
4-22 Barb L.
4-24 Cyndi T.
4-25 Craig R.
4-26 Alyssa K.

4-28 Lynne C.
Paul S.
Betsy W.
4-29 Max H.
Makenna H.

Anniversaries

4-17 Eric & Julie R.



Volunteer Opportunity

A Brush with Kindness (ABWK) is looking for a new project manager. The ideal candidate would be retired or semi-retired with construction experience, looking for a way to serve God with your skills. The job description lists these qualifications: heart for helping others, report at Brush with Kindness board meetings, problem solver – 'out of the box thinker', able to balance needed home repair with ABWK resources, leadership skills, teamwork skills. Call Alan Rasmussen at 651-329-3644 with questions or to volunteer.

Last Game Day Until October

We'll have our last Game Day of the season on Thursday, April 5, at 1:00pm. Please join us!



MOBILEPACK

Feed My Starving Children

Once again Wyoming United Methodist Church is partnering with Hosanna Lutheran Church's Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) MobilePack, April 19-21 (Thursday evening through Saturday day) at Hosanna Lutheran Church in Forest Lake. FMSC feeds desperately starving children around the world through their partnerships with churches/schools/organizations that distributes the food directly to the needy. We will try once again to pack as a group. If you cannot make our group packing time, please go when you are able! It's likely our group packing time will be Saturday morning. We will begin collecting money for this event May 1, so if you cannot attend the packing, but would like to contribute, please mark your check or envelope with FMSC. Thank you!

Support the Feed My Starving Children MobilePack by going to the Beverage & Hymns event, Sunday, April 15, 7-9pm at Stella's in Forest Lake. Your \$10 (\$15 at the door) pays for one drink (alcoholic or non-alcoholic) and admission to the event. For more information go to www.hosannaforestlake.net/beer-hymns.

New Hugo Shelter Opening SOON!

The Saint Andrews homeless shelter in Hugo is scheduled to open in JULY! Your missions/outreach team anticipates that we can take two weeks of hosting in Hugo as well as continue doing two weeks of hosting for the New Pathways organization in Cambridge. The Hugo hosting will involve simply showing up. As few as four people per day are needed. Daily hosting could even be done by two people if they are willing to be the evening hosts and overnight hosts. Weekend days may require another pair of hosts. Hosts will have their own bedroom with real beds! The renovation down to the studs, with new electrical, plumbing and HVAC is now being completed. Volunteer painters may be needed soon. What a privilege to be a part of alleviating homelessness for 5 families at a time—perhaps some from our own Forest Lake School District. Please plan to help out when it is our turn to host!

STORM Camp News

STORM (Service to Others in Relational Ministry) Camp: Maddie Janke and Allie Boettcher will be attending STORM Camp this year in mid-July in Elk River. Cost of camp is \$250 per camper, so we'll be raising funds to support their camp experience. Stay tuned for a fundraiser in the near future. Alternatively, you're welcome to contribute now by writing STORM on your check or envelope.

The Walk to Emmaus

While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and walked with them. Luke 24:15

Walk to Emmaus is an experience of Christian spiritual renewal and formation that begins with a three-day short course in Christianity. It is an opportunity to meet Jesus Christ in a new way as God's grace and love is revealed to you through other Christians. You will enjoy three days of singing, learning, laughing, worshiping, reflecting, praying and participating in small groups. Discussions center around fifteen talks given by laity and clergy. These talks present the theme of God's grace, how that grace comes alive in Christian community and how it is expressed to the world. You'll also discover how grace is real in your life, how you live a life of grace, and how you bring that grace to others.

If you are interested in learning more or have any questions, please talk to Denny or Nancy H., David or Holly A., or David or Jan F. Jan F. is the Music Director for the upcoming women's weekend, April 26-29. The men's weekend is April 19-22. Both will be held at Camp Koronis near Paynesville, MN.

Coming in May

On May 12th, Dave and Jan Freemore will be serving breakfast at 8:00 am to anyone who would like to meet Charlie Strong of Strong Missions, Costa Rica. Charlie will share about the mission opportunities in Costa Rica, hopefully work alongside some folks during our Spring Clean-up Day, and be in conversation with them, answering questions, etc. (Dave and Jan F. will be leading a trip to Costa Rica January 7-21, 2019 if all plans are finalized). So... come for Missions breakfast and stay for Spring Cleanup Day. We'll still have refreshments at break time for cleanup helpers!

Wyoming United Methodist Church

Messenger

April 2018

Easter is April 1!

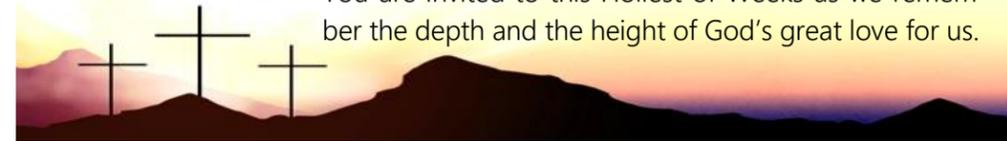
Easter Morning we will have a joyous Easter celebration at our church! Here's our Easter morning schedule:

8:00-9:30 Easter breakfast, served by our Saturday Men's Ministry group. You are invited to start your Easter celebrations with a delicious breakfast.

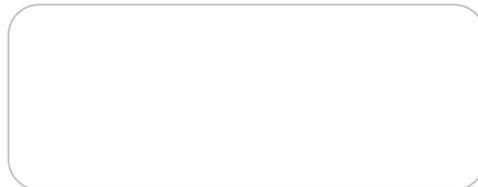
9:15 Easter Egg Hunt (outdoors, weather permitting!)

10:00 Easter Worship with the Flowering of the Cross and Communion

You are invited to this Holiest of Weeks as we remember the depth and the height of God's great love for us.



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



THE LORD IS RISEN, INDEED!
Alleluia

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



Holy Humor Sunday

April 8 is Holy Humor Sunday! It's the Sunday that we celebrate the Resurrection Laugh and remember God's triumph over evil, God's ability to draw the greatest good out of the greatest evil. As we set free the joy-filled power of life lived in God's grace, we laugh in the face of all that threatens to undo us, to believe that with God all things are possible. Please come wearing something that will make someone smile. We had a great time last year dressing in baseball gear and Hawaiian shirts and floppy hats and all sorts of entertaining outfits to make one another smile.

Come with a heart open to have some fun. The Easter laugh is a foretaste of the heavenly banquet, so let the party begin. Our God reigns, the power of evil has been broken and of all people, Christians have the most reasons to laugh and live the Easter joy that Christ came to bring.

To see some of last year's hilarious get-ups, check out the Media>Photo Gallery page of our website: wyomingunitedmethodist.org.

Worship Services in April

We begin the month of April with Easter Joy and Celebration of the Resurrection Laugh. In the middle of April we'll begin a series called Believe, Belong, Become as we talk about what it means to be true followers of the resurrected Jesus. How does our belief in the resurrection and our belonging to the family of God encourage us to become what we were created to be—a unique and beloved child of God?

April 1

Easter
Death's Funeral
John 20:1-18

April 8

Holy Humor Sunday
Who's Laughing Now?
John 20:19-31

April 15

Believe, Belong, Become:
Wilderness
Mark 1:9-13

April 22

Believe, Belong, Become:
Healthy Boundaries
Psalm 16:5-9

April 29

Guest Preacher



He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. -Matt. 28:6