

From the Pastor...

For me, one of the many highlights of going to Annual Conference (this year held May 30-June 1 in St. Cloud) are the daily worship services and hearing my colleagues preach.

Usually I get to hear only one of our conference members preach, but this year I was privileged to hear three of them.

Rev. Tyler Sit, pastor of the new church plant in Minneapolis called New City Church was the conference preacher (one pastor from Minnesota gets selected every year to preach in front of conference the following year, so we preachers get to hear one of our fellow preachers preach).

But this year, in addition, we got to hear TED-style talks from Rev. Rachel McIver Morey, pastor at Northfield UMC and Rev. Carol Zaagsma, pastor at Portland Avenue UMC in Bloomington. Rachel talked about how our stories matter and how it is often our stories that are our greatest tools for evangelism.

She talked about how we can argue until we're blue in the face, about what we believe and what right thinking looks like, but it is only when we tell our own story that we can be truly heard and understood at a deeper level.

Carol preached about the importance of deep listening and how listening more loudly than we talk helps all of us to live in harmony.

It seems these days that we are all very good at speaking what we believe to be the truth. But many of us aren't as good at listening, especially with those with whom we disagree. We think that if we talk more loudly or speak more frequently of what we believe to be the truth, that others will eventually see things our way and believe what we believe.

But more important than speaking is listening, is seeing others as Christ sees them and hearing their stories.

We would do well to listen well to the personal stories that are told us by our friends and colleagues, and we would do well to tell the personal stories we have that make us who we are today. What we speak and what we listen to may well change entire lives.

"Thank God," Rev. Morey concluded, "that their stories were what the women told when they ran away from the empty tomb. And thank God that the apostles believed them. Our stories from where we stand are our arguments for or against faith. They're the only ones we have. Thank God, they're the only ones we need."

~Pastor Holly



Thank You!

Received in the Prayer Box outside our front door: "Thank you for the gift of your garden of weedin' and other gardens they are a blessing." Thanks to all who help keep all of our gardens and grounds looking good all summer long: Lon N. for mowing, Bernie S. and Pat R. for planting flowers and keeping after the weeds, Ed K. for the new pond and fish care, and Jane R. for gardening. If we missed anybody, please let us know. We'd like to thank you, too!

Stitch 'n' Rip Quilters

The Quilters will not meet Wednesday, July 4th due to Independence Day or on Wednesday, August 1 as we are hosting New Pathways families that week.

Family Pathways 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.

Perhaps you know a neighbor or friend whose child benefits from free or reduced lunches during the school year who might want to take part in this gift to the community.

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

July Celebrations

Birthdays

7-5 Kelly K.
7-7 Ryan R.
7-8 Erik A.
Kody R.
7-9 Cameron J.
Jack L.
Troy S.
7-11 Dan I.

7-13 Alec A.
7-14 Logan K.
7-15 Deb M.
7-19 Jim K.
7-20 Steve B.
Alex S.
7-23 Colleen H.
Kaye L.
7-23 Austin S.

Anniversaries

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

Don't see your special date? Please let Michelle in the office know.



Annual Conference News

At the end of Annual Conference, nearly \$70,000 had been given to the 2018 Love Offering. This year's Love Offering will go to Puerto Rico Hurricane Recovery Trips (65%), Park Avenue UMC Children's Defense Fund Freedom Schools Program, which helps Minneapolis students to keep learning during a 6 week summer program designed to combat the "summer slide" in achievement (20%) and NUMAS Haus, a New Ulm emergency shelter with support services for homeless single women and their children (15%).

2018 Annual Conference Notes by Bea Zaruba

Nancy Hebrink and I along with Pastor Holly had a wonderful three days as your delegates to MN Annual Conference held in St. Cloud May 30 to June 1. The theme this year was "Discover Joy, Live Deeply!" based on John 15:1-17, the "vine and the branches" Scripture. Each table had a vine, branches, grapes and olives to remind us of the Scripture verses. Some thoughts we heard in sermons, stories, teaching, small groups were "Love God," "Reach New People!" "Go out into the world," Love one Another!" "Listen! Share your story, but also listen to the stories of others!" and we were reminded of the Wesleyan Creed: "Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, and in all the ways you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can!" The music was tremendous, the teaching by Pastor Olu Brown, Bishop Ough's messages, "Why Jesus" testimonies, and the ordination service which included several new and young pastors along with former member Judy Cochran's son Josh being ordained. We also had a chance to visit with former Pastors Neil and Debby Westby, Lynn Borgeson, Lori and Chip Nielsen, along with other delegates. It was a wonderful, faith-filled, challenging session and we were thankful to be a part of the gathering, touched again by God's spirit.



Parmly June Birthday Party

Some of us have annually served cake with strawberries & whip cream to the Parmly Nursing Home residents and we honor the June Birthday folk with a gift package of goodies they can use. We do a small program, sing a couple songs and "Happy Birthday" to them.



I chatted with four United Methodist folk in their 90's (the gentleman almost 100!) All sharp as could be! A fun afternoon! -Bea Z





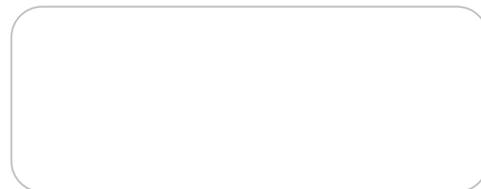
St. Andrew's Family Shelter Update

An open house and blessing of the new homeless family shelter in Hugo was held on June 24. Half a dozen of us attended the well-organized, faith-filled event along with over 250 other helpers, community members, host churches, and tradespeople. The shelter's federal government grant writers, architects for the renovation, lawyers for the (no charge ten year) lease, city government officials, construction managers, the congregations of St. John's/St. Genevieve, and all the workers were thanked. In particular, Forest Lake Area Mission for Families

was thanked for pursuing an answer for the homeless in our area throughout recent years without fail. The event opened with the singing of the hymn "All are Welcome Here" which brought tears of the reminder of why all these helpers from every denomination (or no denomination) have come together! We all have the unselfish, giving hearts to help and welcome the families who need our help so badly. The Biblical ties to shelter and home brought forth by the pastor of St. Andrew's Lutheran and Father Glen from St. John's/St. Gen's drove the emphasis toward God's leading us to provide this help. St. Andrew's tells us that they have turned away 18 families in the past month seeking shelter in Washington County as there was no place for them. The new shelter is BEAUTIFUL. The transport van purchased with funds from the Forest Lake Area Mission for Families is phenomenal. We at Wyoming United Methodist Church can be particularly proud of our financial and volunteer support of the shelter. As we look to the future, please keep in mind our commitment to be a hosting congregation for this shelter. Our first week to host families comes in early October.

The name of the Lord is a fortified tower; the righteous run to it and are safe. -Prv. 18:10

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Messenger



July 2018

STORM Camp 2018

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 Maddie J. will be going to STORM camp in Elk River, MN from July 22 to the 28. They will be blessing our neighbors needing help with home repairs, painting or yard work. Unlike previous years, the camp staff is not encouraging note writing to our youth, so we'll need to support them through our prayers for safe travel and a meaningful mission experience for all who will be participating in STORM Camp that week.



New Pathways Hosting

We are hosting New Pathways families this July 29 to August 5. 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.

Discovery Time for Kids

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

Emma Norton Services

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 \$24.17 so far, so we have a long way to go to meet our goal 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.



Worship Services in July

Throughout July we'll be talking about Life's Essential Lessons, exploring such issues as: Where is God when we struggle? How can I forgive? Is there room in my faith for doubt? These questions will help us to understand more about our faith, our life and our God.

June 1
Life's Essential Lessons:
Lord, Give Me Strength!
1 Kings 19:1-12

July 8
Life's Essential Lessons:
Forgive
Genesis 45:1-15

July 15
Life's Essential Lessons:
Some Things are Just Wrong
Mark 6:14-29

July 22
Life's Essential Lessons:
Actions Speak More Loudly
Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

July 29
Life's Essential Lessons:
Leave Room for Doubt
Exodus 3:1-15

I keep my eyes always on the Lord. With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken. -Ps. 16:8