

From the Pastor...

I'm grateful.

I'm told that I challenged the congregation a few years back to respond to the standard "How are you?" greeting with the response, "I'm grateful," and use the common back-and-forth that we say every day unthinkingly, into a more significant conversation about how we really are. I know that I did something like this in a sermon, not because my memory is so good, but because one of you started adopting that practice and greeted me regularly with "I'm grateful," when I tossed off my unthinking "How are you?" greetings. The one who adopted this practice said that she got many a good conversation out of that response.

November is the month we set up as our gratitude month, our thanksgiving month. When the majority of the people in the United States were farmers, harvest time was a natural time for giving thanks for the bountiful harvest. A bountiful harvest ensured that the family would make it through another long winter.

Those of us who still farm and still harvest crops from their garden know what this kind of gratitude feels like, but the majority of us who get all of our produce from the local store need to be reminded of the goodness of the harvest and the many blessings we have had in our lives.

Being grateful requires some intentionality, because all too often it is easy for us to take for granted all that we have, especially when we haven't wanted for anything, and especially when we haven't had to wonder where our next meal is coming from or whether or not we can pay for a roof over our head.

The season of Thanksgiving doesn't need to be restricted to one long weekend of the year, the weekend where we give thanks for all that we have been given one day and the next day fight the crowds clambering to buy the next 'must have' item in the stores.

The month of November can be a time when we talk about our values and our priorities in life. What do you value most? What gives you the greatest joy? How do you want to be known by your friends and acquaintances?

How we spend our time, money and attention shows us what we value, and we are called to be good stewards of all that we have been given. How do we take good care of all that God has entrusted to us? How do we show we value the relationships, the trust, the responsibilities we have been given?

How do we give thanks for all we have been blessed with?

You will receive in the mail in the first half of November, a letter that we hope you'll read and a pledge card that we hope you'll prayerfully consider filling out and bringing to church with you on Sunday, November 18. As you consider all you've been blessed with this year, we hope this pledge is a joyful response to the blessings you've been given, a grateful response to God's overwhelming love.

This congregation is generous time and time again with people of the community through Stagecoach Days, Fall Dinner, Joy Bells, Christmas Tea, New Pathways Hosting, Hugo Shelter Hosting, and the like.

Our pledges ensure that we continue to get spiritually fed so that we can continue to feed and give generously to the community,

Thank you for all the ways you give; thanks for being church.

~Pastor Holly

Thank You

Many thanks for the gift card to La Grande Beauty Spa that you gave me for Pastor Appreciation Month. I appreciate YOU and your faithful ministry through Wyoming Church and beyond. I am blessed beyond measure to be your pastor!

—Pastor Holly

God Unbound Study

Thanks to all of you who participated in our all-church book study of *God Unbound* by Elaine Heath. Many of you chose to be a part of a small group that studied the book together and I have heard many stories of how good the conversations have been in the groups. Thanks to all who chose to buy more than one book to share with a friend and discuss with them. You are an inspiration.

St. Andrew's Family Shelter

Many, many thanks to those of our church who helped with our first ever hosting week at the new St. Andrew's Family Shelter in Hugo!

It was a wonderful week of interacting with four families totaling six adults and six children ages 1 to 17. The hosts from our church included some who had never helped with hosting before as well as some who hadn't helped for many years - special thanks to them for stepping up - the families served were all so grateful for our help. The shelter staff is thorough and professional in what they do, leaving no questions unanswered for us or gaps in their organizational skills - and the shelter is beautiful, warm, and safe!

Please consider helping at this shelter for families experiencing homelessness the next time our church hosts.



Fall Dinner Mission Success

Thanks to all of you for your donations and work toward making this annual event even more successful each year. This year we welcomed over 500 people into our Fellowship Hall and over \$4500 to date has been collected to be divided between the Lakes Center for Youth and Families (formerly Lakes Area Youth Service Bureau) and The Refuge (a shelter for domestic assault victims and their children).

United Methodist Student Day

November 25 is United Methodist Student Day, one of six church-wide Special Sundays of The United Methodist Church. Funds collected for United Methodist Student Day provide scholarships for United Methodist applicants who might not have any other way of being able to attend a college. When you give to United Methodist Student Day, you support qualified students as they prepare for a life that unites faith with knowledge.



Thank You Quilters

You may have noticed a new quilt in the nursery. The fish quilt that has hung in the nursery for several years needed to be retired and a bright new quilt, filled with pictures of animals, has replaced it. Thanks to the quilters for their generous gift!

Birthdays

11-1 Scott K.
11-3 Audrey B.
11-5 Nicholas J.
11-6 Becky H.
11-7 Ben A.
11-8 Karl L.
11-9 Emma A.
11-10 Glenna Q.
11-18 Yvonne B.

Anniversaries

11-6 Steve & Jenny W.



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



More pictures available on our website!
wyomingunitedmethodist.org



Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible Study will begin Thursday, November 15, at 7pm and will meet on Thursday nights at 7pm from mid-November to mid-December before taking a break for Christmas. We will not meet Thanksgiving Day evening. As of the printing of the newsletter, the Bible Study topic hadn't been determined, but we will let you know soon.

Celebrating 40 Years!

Family Pathways is hosting an Anniversary Party/Fundraiser on Thursday, December 6, from 6:30-8:30 pm at Splitrocks Entertainment Center in Wyoming. Come for a short program, live music, cash games and a 40' dessert table! Tickets are \$25 each/\$40 per couple. Purchase tickets online at FamilyPathways.org or call (651) 674-8040.

Joy Bells Ministry

Joy Bells Ministry enables families in the Linwood and Wyoming communities to have a little more joy in their Christmas celebrations. We receive the names of families from the Wyoming and Linwood Elementary schools, then people or groups from the church “adopt” a family and buy Christmas gifts for the children. The church provides a basket of food with everything needed for Christmas dinner.

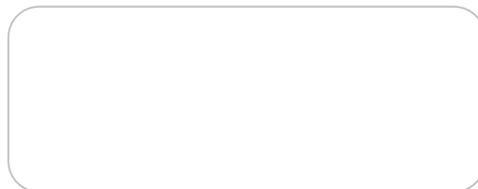
Joy Bells will be available on Sunday, November 25, for those who wish to adopt a family. We also encourage people to make cash donations to purchase food for the dinners. Please bring your gifts to church no later than Friday, December 7. Thanks for your part in bringing Christmas Joy to these families!

Save the Date!

The Annual Christmas Tea is scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 6 at 1:30 p.m.

I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart. – Psalm 138:1a (ESV)

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Unidos en Cristo

Unidos en Cristo (UEC) is a structured, three day weekend designed to strengthen and renew the faith of Christian people and bring them to a new and more active awareness of living in God's grace. UEC is coming to Main Street United Methodist Church in North Branch this coming February (February 7-10 is the men's weekend, February 14-17 is the women's weekend). For more information you can go to www.unidosencristo.com or talk to Denny or Nancy Hebrink or Pastor Holly. Brochures are available on the welcome table.



Wyoming United Methodist Church
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Wyoming United Methodist Church

Messenger

November 2018



All Saints' Sunday

Sunday, November 4, is All Saints' Sunday, when we remember all those we have lost to death in the past year. As we remember these 'saints,' these faithful servants of God who we have lost from our church or from our families, all who wish can come forward at that time during the service, share the

name and relationship of the saint for whom you are lighting a candle and light one of the candles in the front of our worship space. Please invite to this service any you know who might appreciate being a part of this time of remembrance.

Give Thanks With a Grateful Heart

What a blessing it is to all of us to be a part of such a generous congregation! With the money we raise and then give away to worthy causes through such venues as Stagecoach Days, the Fall Dinner and Joy Bells we are constantly and consistently making a difference in our local community.

In November we also take time to consider what percentage of our income we choose to give back to God through the ministries of Wyoming United Methodist Church. Soon you will be receiving your 2019 Estimate of Giving Card. When you receive the card, take time to prayerfully consider how you would like to support the ministries of your church with your financial gifts. Those who have formally joined this church have promised to support its work through our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service and our witness. Those who are friends and regular attenders of this church also pledge their prayer and financial support to God's work through this church. Please prayerfully consider what God is calling you to give as a way of saying thanks to the one who gives us life. We are so greatly and generously blessed by God. Let us prepare our hearts to give thanks!

Electronic Giving Still Available

Two years ago, we set up a convenient new way to make your regular or special offerings by placing a 'Donate' button on our website. With the donate button you can easily set up a recurring giving schedule or make one-time contributions. Some of the benefits of electronic giving include: fewer checks for you to write, ease of keeping up with your financial pledge when you are out of town, and consistent income for the church. The Donate button is now on our website and if you click it, you will be directed to a secure site where you can create your profile, give a one-time donation, or set up recurring contributions. Go to our website today and give it a try: www.wyomingunitedmethodist.org.

If you would like to set up automatic payments to the church, please talk to Cathy West, or put a check mark in that box on your pledge card (which will be mailed to you the first week of November).

Worship Services in November

For the month of November we will be looking at giving and giving thanks for all that we have received. Our faith tells us that what we have been given—our faith, our hope, our very lives—is not for us alone, but a gift that is meant to be shared. Come with us as we celebrate the bounty of God's grace and how grace received gives us the joy of giving.

November 4:

Giving: For We've Been Given Much
Job 42:10-17

November 11:

Giving: Handle with Prayer
Luke 12:13-21

November 18:

Giving: For Others
Mark 12:28-34

November 25:

Giving: Thanks
Matthew 25:31-46

