

From the Pastor...

"I'm grateful." As I look back on the past year we have spent together doing ministry in the community of Wyoming and beyond, I'm grateful. I'm grateful for all that our church family has done to impact the community. I'm grateful for people who visit from place to place, who read to children, who quilt for those in need. I'm grateful for those who sleep in an unfamiliar bed, or cook for others, or play games with children so that those who are homeless can have a place to call home for the night.

I'm grateful for all the gifts I've received throughout the year, for a hug in greeting at the back of the sanctuary, for a gift at Christmas for me and my family, for a smile, for a sincere compliment, for a cartoon you cut out and shared with me because it reminded you of me or of our church.

As I look back over the year, I find myself grateful for individuals and for groups of people who serve in various ways to make the world a better place.

Over a dozen of us are knitting scarves for the Lydia Project, donating our time and skills to create hospitality for the 2020 General Conference of the United Methodist Church that will meet in Minneapolis (The last time this decision-making body met in Minneapolis—1956—they voted to allow women to be ordained.)

I'm grateful for the prayers you've prayed for those in need, even when you don't know the person you are praying for.

As I look toward the coming year, I'm excited about the possibilities before us. Who knows what the coming year will bring?

I do know that we will have more opportunities to be kind, to listen to one another with love, to carry one another's burdens and celebrate one another's joys. We will have opportunities to reach out into the community and help others. We will have opportunities to speak the truth in love to one another.

As I write these words, a quote from one of my favorite shows comes to mind. The show is Harvey and the quote is: "Years ago my mother used to say to me, '...In this world, you must be oh so smart or oh so pleasant.' Well, for years I was smart. I recommend pleasant."

The same message, put a slightly different way, comes to us through Paul's words to the Ephesians: "Be kind, compassionate, and forgiving to each other, in the same way God forgave you in Christ." (4:32)

Peace,
Pastor Holly



Bea Z. and Pastor Holly presenting gifts to The Refuge and Lakes Center for Youth and Families.



Fall Dinner Success

Thanks to your generosity at the fall dinner, we were able to donate over \$4500 to these two worthy organizations: The Refuge and Lakes Center for Youth and Families.

Thank You

Thanks to all who rose to the challenge and gave to the Christmas Offering for UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) and Costa Rica. Your generous hearts are blessing those in need!

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 from grateful moms who were picking up the gifts for their kids along with a Christmas meal for the whole family to enjoy. Thanks to all who made this valuable ministry possible. Thanks especially to Bea who coordinated it all and fielded many last minute requests. Well done good and faithful servants!

January Celebrations

Birthdays

1-1	Tom S.	1-15	Ben P.	1-29	Ann S.
1-2	John K.	1-16	Dorothy Be.	1-31	Jane D.
1-3	Lois J.	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.		
1-14	Steve T.				



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



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 16. Our kids and adults all had fun retelling the story of Christ's birth!



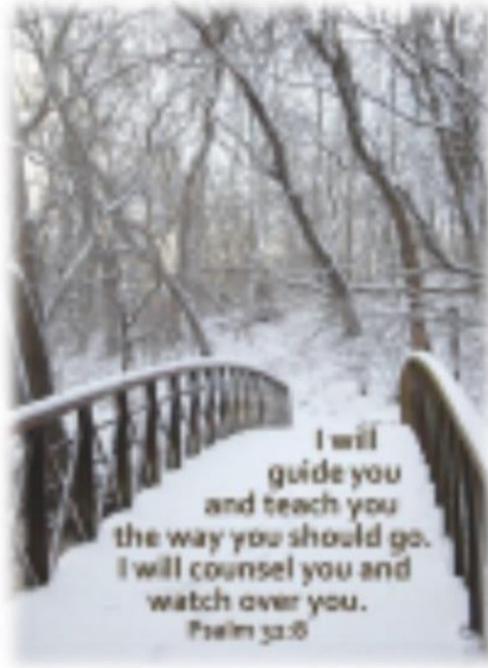
Christmas Tea

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!



Wrapped in Love Project

On December 12, the Stitch 'n' Rip Quilters donated 15 quilts and polar fleece blankets (all handmade!) to the Wyoming police department. Police officers will carry these quilts and blankets in their trunks and have them available to give to children and youth in distress. In the past, police officers have had teddy bears to give out to children, but the funding for that program ended. Now, thanks to our quilters, children will be *wrapped in love* as they receive their own blanket or quilt to keep.



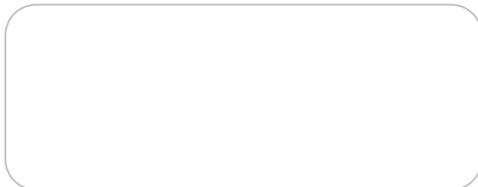
Unidos en Cristo

Unidos en Cristo (UEC) weekends are fast approaching! Start out the year right with a weekend of renewing your Christian faith. Weekends are February 7-10 (Men's) and February 14-17 (Women's) and will be held at Main Street United Methodist Church in North Branch. UEC weekends are a powerful way to renew your faith and be reminded how great God's love is for you.

A number of people from our congregation have experienced UEC or a version of UEC and any one of them would be happy to talk with you about their experience: Aastuens, Doughtys, Freemores, Hebrinks, Muellers, Pietruszewskis, Rylanders, Donna K., Linda R., Lois S., and Jessica S.

We already have two women from our church going to the women's weekend. Please talk to Denny and Nancy, our UEC liaisons, or pick up a brochure in the narthex and get signed up today! The church has pledged to pay for the cost of the weekend, so you'll get the meals and the Christian renewal free! For more information visit unidosencristo.com.

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Wyoming United Methodist Church Messenger



New Pathways Hosting Week

Our next week of homeless family hosting begins January 27 and ends February 3. 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. This month, as several of those who help with this ministry are 'flown south,' we need people to consider helping in additional ways beyond the 'usual.' 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!



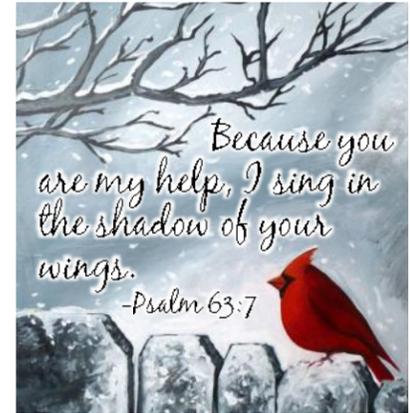
New Members

We welcomed 6 new members on December 9. Be sure and greet and welcome them next time you see them in church! Our new members are:

- Carol S., who is a Registered Nurse living in Forest Lake. She's one of our Reading Buddies who also loves to ski, read, walk and grandparent.
- Glenna Q. lives in Columbus with her daughter, son-in-law and three grandchildren. She's a Registered Nurse/Nurse Practitioner currently doing daycare for her grandkids. She loves to travel, knit and antique.
- Melodie P. is a Mechanical Designer turned Merchandiser, living in Wyoming. She loves to read, walk, play spider solitaire and recycle.
- Karyla P. is happily retired and has been attending Wyoming Church for six years. She loves to quilt and read and is a part of both the Wednesday quilters and the Reading Buddies.
- Laurie D. lives in Lindstrom and works for the Chisago Lakes Chamber. She loves knitting, playing flute, and being with the grandchildren (she and her husband have 11 grandkids).
- Rick C. works as a clerk and lives within walking distance of the church. He and his wife moved to Wyoming because it is halfway between his work in the Twin Cities and the farm near Rush City where he hunts. He loves hunting, fishing and the outdoors.

2018 Annual Church Conference

On Sunday, February 3, we encourage you to attend our annual church conference which will be held in the Fellowship Hall following worship. We'll hear reports on what we've accomplished in 2018 and look forward to what lies ahead in 2019. You are invited!



Worship Services in January

Beginning the first Sunday in January, we will launch a sermon series called A Christian View. We will look at a number of concerns people have about the church in general. People often have questions about the Christian perspective on science, on evil, on homosexuality, on tragedies. In this 6 part series, we'll look at the Bible and Christian tradition, as well as reason and experience to take a fresh look at some of the matters regarding faith and how it is lived out.

January 6

A Christian View:
Words with Friends
Ephesians 4:29-32

January 13

A Christian View:
Science and Politics
Matthew 22:15-22

January 20

A Christian View:
Who is Saved?
1 Peter 3:8-15

January 27

Guest Preacher, Mike Harwell