

From the Pastor...

Some of you may have heard the news that at a special session held February 23-26 in St. Louis, the General Conference of the United Methodist Church voted to support The Traditional Plan which seeks to strengthen the current United Methodist position that, among other things says 'we do not condone the practice of homosexuality and consider this practice incompatible with Christian teaching.'

As many people have asked me to reflect on this news in the days following General Conference, I have told them that I grieve the most for those for whom this vote is not a theoretical issue but a personal one, those who feel personally ostracized by this recent action. I grieve for the United Methodist Church which, historically, has been on the forefront of social justice concerns.

But at the same time, I acknowledge that we are a global church, with over a third of our United Methodists living in Africa, where in 35 of its 54 countries it is illegal to be homosexual. I also notice that two thirds of the U.S. delegates at General Conference voted against The Traditional Plan and for the One Church Plan which would have allowed pastors and churches to individually decide how they would minister to people of all sexual orientations and gender identities.

The bottom line is that our congregation, our conference and our global church will continue to be working on our mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. That transformation can't come soon enough for some of us, but we continue to work for that transformation so that one day all people will know that they are people of sacred worth. No exceptions.

We recently changed the homepage of our website to read: "We are the church where everyone's welcome! At our church we welcome all people of all backgrounds and lifestyles. People of all ages, ethnicities, orientations and abilities currently worship in our congregation. In our caring church atmosphere, you'll find ways to grow in your relationship with God, connect with other Christians, and discover opportunities to serve your neighbor."

We will continue to strive daily for greater inclusion for ALL of God's children in our community and in the world. In addition to working on our website, some of our leaders are working to find out more about how to be even clearer about our welcoming stance, to be clearer about how everyone is welcome at Wyoming United Methodist Church.

As we move forward, let us continue to focus on our mission to reach all people with the love of Jesus Christ and give thanks that God is not finished with us yet as we continue to share the love of Jesus Christ for all of God's people.

~Pastor Holly

Unidos en Cristo Success

Thanks to all who helped make the Unidos en Cristo Christian Renewal Weekends in North Branch a success! We are especially glad that Melodie P. and Chris S. were able to attend the women's weekend. Special thanks also go to Jane R., Laurie D. and Holly A. who served on the leadership team for the women's weekend. We appreciate your prayers and support for this Christian renewal experience and encourage you to consider going on a renewal weekend the next time it is offered!

Valentine Treats

Many thanks to the work of the Tuesday morning Spiritual Prayer Group for their coordinating and sending Valentine's cookies and treats to our college students. Lois S., Janet R., Carole A., and Diane D. helped our students remember that God loves them and so do we!

'Pop-Up' Food Pantry

Ruby's Pantry holds a Pop-Up Pantry at Forest Hills UMC on the 3rd Saturday of each month. Doors open at 7:00 a.m. and distribution is from 8:00-9:30 a.m. There are no income or resident requirements.

Please bring \$20 cash donation along with 2 boxes, bins, coolers or laundry baskets.

Forest Hills is located at 1790 11th Street SE in Forest Lake.

Questions? Call 651-674-0009.



Give
THANKS
to the LORD,
for **HE** is GOOD.
His LOVE
ENDURES forever.
PSALM 136:1

March Celebrations

Birthdays

3/2	Laurie D. Sharron F.	3/27	Tommy A. Andy E.
3/3	Madelyn J. Madelynn K.	3/28	Kaylee E. Donna K.
3/17	Jessica S.	3/28	Janet R. Gary S.
3/18	Samantha Jo K.	3/29	Bessie G. Linda R.
3/19	Steve K.	3/30	Mike H.
3/24	Wendy C.		
3/26	Rick C.		

Anniversaries

3/31 Karl & Jeanne L.



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

Lydia Project

We did it! We, as the Minnesota and Dakotas conferences, have pledged 10,000 purple Lydia scarves for General Conference 2020 in Minneapolis. Over 190 congregations across the two conferences have been involved in this enormous effort. The 100 scarves that Wyoming United Methodist Church pledged have already been completed. Thanks to all who contributed to this effort. Right now we are looking for lidded paper boxes (the kind we get reams of paper in from our local office supply stores), 5 of them, to package up the 100 scarves we have made. Thanks again for all your faithful knitting and crocheting of these scarves which will be gifted to those attending General Conference in Minnesota next year.

Behind the Scenes

Remember when you were a kid and the house seemed to maintain itself all on its own? The dishes got washed, the bathrooms cleaned, the floors scrubbed. If you're wondering who is the magic behind the maintenance of this place, you need look no further than Pat R. For years, Pat has lovingly cared for the church building, fed the fish, tidied up here and there as needed, vacuumed, scrubbed, checked paper supplies, etc. Though we have a local cleaning service come in monthly to deep clean, it is Pat who keeps things running smoothly day in and day out. In all kinds of weather, she makes sure the outdoor flag is cared for and properly flying. Like many of our volunteers, she doesn't want special recognition or accolades, she just wants to do her civic duty and keep things running smoothly.

Recently Pat made local news when she received a certificate of appreciation from the Wyoming Fire Department for keeping her fire hydrant clear of snow. When asked how many feet around the fire hydrant she keeps clear, she said, "It's enough to set up a picnic table, build a fire and settle in."

Thanks, Pat, for caring for our building and our community!

More Facebook accolades:

"Wait, 83???? You look like you're in your 60's!!!! Awesome!"

"That's a good looking 83, good job."

"Love Pat R.! Thanks Pat for all you've done in Wyoming all these years!"

"A shoveled Hydrant is the "Fountain of Youth", just ask Pat :)"

Thank You!

Our last New Pathways hosting week, January 27 - February 3, we had 31 volunteers contributing 204 volunteer hours. This church has a heart for families who are going through a difficult time in their lives and find themselves homeless. Thanks to all these volunteers for making a difference and for making real the love of God in these people's lives.



Wyoming Fire Dept. Facebook Post: "Friends, Say Hi to Pat. Pat does such a great job of cleaning out around the Fire Hydrant in her yard that we presented her with a certificate for the best maintained Hydrant. Pat is 83yrs old and gets out and cleans her hydrant. When I thanked her for doing this, She stated that it was her Civic Duty. Be like Pat. She can do it, so can you."



Save the Date!

April 25-27, Hosanna Lutheran Church in Forest Lake is again sponsoring a Feed My Starving Children Mobile-Pack. Feed My Starving Children is an organization that literally saves children's lives every day. It runs largely through the help of generous donations and volunteer hours to

make a difference in the lives of God's hungry children throughout the world. In partnership with Hosanna Lutheran and other local churches we are planning to pack 250,000 meals over that April weekend. Each meal's ingredients costs \$.22 so your Mission Team will be collecting donations from you in April to help defray the cost of the food. More info coming in April!

But He said, "The things that are impossible with people are possible with God." – Luke 18:27

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Pastor Holly's email: hollyaastuen@gmail.com • Church email: office.wyomingumc@gmail.com



Daylight Saving Time begins at 2 AM on Sunday, March 10. Set your clocks ahead one hour before going to bed Saturday night.



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

Wyoming United Methodist Church Messenger

March 2019

Ash Wednesday
"Ashes to Go"
7:30-9:30 AM
at the Nesting Grounds
Ash Wednesday Service
7:00 PM at Wyoming UMC

Ash Wednesday

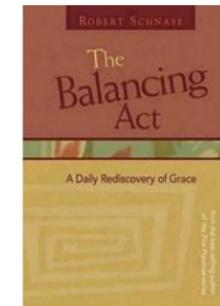
Ash Wednesday is Wednesday, March 6. We have two opportunities to share in remembrance of this day. In the morning, Pastor Holly will be offering "Ashes to Go" at The Nesting Grounds Coffee House from 7:30-9:30. The Nesting Grounds is located at 26395 Forest Boulevard in Wyoming.

At 7:00 p.m., we will have a brief, but meaningful service of worship with communion and the imposition of ashes on the forehead or hand.

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, which is the 40 days before Easter, not counting Sundays, and is a season of preparation for Easter, when we celebrate Jesus' resurrection. As we prepare for the season of Lent, you are invited to gather with your fellow travelers at the evening service of worship, or stop by the coffee shop Wednesday morning at "Ashes to Go" (buying coffee is optional) as we remember our mortality and anticipate our eventual reunion with God as we enter eternal life.

Lenten Study

You are invited to participate in weekly study sessions based on the book *The Balancing Act* by Robert Schnase. Schnase, author of *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations* and Bishop of the Missouri Conference of The United Methodist Church, offers in this book a collection of thirty short and insightful devotional readings that sharpen our understanding of God's activity in our everyday lives. Beginning on Thursday, March 7, and meeting every Thursday from 7-8:30 p.m. until April 11, Pastor Holly will lead us through this book and its discussion questions designed to inspire conversation and rediscovery of what it means to be faithful Christians in such a time as this. You will find yourself encouraged, inspired and reminded to notice God's grace in unexpected places. Books are available in the nook and are \$10 each. Please read the introduction and first section ("Looking Within") before our first class.



Worship Services in March

All of us are looking for balance—in our living, in our eating, in our working—we seek balance in all that we do. Beginning with the second Sunday of March and leading up to Easter on April 21, we will be talking about balance and how we can become better at centering ourselves and our lives on what matters most. Finding balance is what this Lenten series is all about.

March 3

Wow!
Luke 9:28-36

March 10

Finding Balance:
Internal Riches
Luke 4:1-13

March 17

Finding Balance:
In God's Goodness
Luke 13:31-35

March 24

Finding Balance:
Good Courage
Luke 13:1-9

March 31

Finding Balance: In Change
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

March is MN FoodShare Month

Since 1982, March has been selected as the month to FILL THE FOOD SHELF SHELVES. Donations are typically down during March so this is an opportunity for us to step up and help alleviate hunger. Over half of the public school students in America are from low-income families. Three out of four public school teachers report they see students regularly come to school hungry. Wyoming UMC has partnered with Wyoming Elementary School to provide funds and packing volunteers for weekend food to go home with students in need. If we collect funds during March for this program, a percentage of the funds we raise will be doubled! To donate, please mark your check (written to WUMC) or envelope with the word "Food". Your money will go a long way as the food shelf can buy 7-10 times more food than we can. Thank you for your generosity.