

From the Pastor...

Who knew our first ever Family Fun Night would be so fun?!

The Nurture & Discipleship Team planned and prepared magnificently for our first ever Family Fun Night at Goodview Park. The theme was Camping and we had several activities and stories related to camping. We even had a tent kids could climb into.

A few families were already at the playground next to the picnic shelter when we were getting ready to start. Several members of the Team had gotten there early to cook hot dogs, set up tables, set up signage and games, etc.



We prepared for 100, and were prepared to be excited if 15 people showed up. As we set up the people at the playground indicated that they were there to come to the Family Fun Night.

When we got started and invited people to sign in, get a nametag and eat, several families came over to get some food and drink. When the games got started at the tables we had set up around the shelter, many more came to see what was going on.

We had kids put their names on a flame and add it to our 'campfire' which was on a poster board by the sign up table. Our hope is that you pray for those names on the flames, that they may know that God loves them (and that they may feel their hearts 'strangely warmed').



People continued to trickle in, some even as late as 7:15. We were grateful for all of them and when the evening was through, we had over 50 children and adults visiting our first ever Family Fun Night!

Thanks to all who helped set this all up, thanks to all who participated and thanks be to God who blessed and infused it all.



Our next Family Fun Night is Wednesday, July 10 at 6pm at Goodview Park. Hope to see you there!

~Pastor Holly

Emma Norton

Remember to drop your pocket change in the jar in the entryway at church to help the Emma Norton women & children's shelter. Some of us enjoy dropping the change into the jar and watching the numbers change. Some of us even have non-church attenders giving us their pocket change to make a difference in the lives of women and children who are helped by the Emma Norton ministry, which partners with women, children and families who are homeless and experiencing the challenges of mental and/or chemical disabilities. Drop your pocket change in the jar and watch the total increase as we together make a difference in people's lives

Inclusion Team

Our Administrative Council has had several conversations leading up to and following this year's February General Conference in St. Louis, talking about how to best communicate how welcoming Wyoming Church is to LGBTQ people and how we can more clearly communicate that welcome. To that end, we have a newly formed Inclusion Team that has met once and will meet again in July. The team is: Denny H., Deb H., Linda R., Jane R. and Holly A. We will be having congregational meetings in the fall to get feedback and talk further about next steps. Please feel free to talk to any Inclusion Team member about any questions you may have.

Discovery Time

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 some outside time if the weather is nice!

July Celebrations

Birthdays

7/7	Ryan R.	7/15	Deb M.
7/8	Erik A.	7/19	Jim K.
7/9	Cameron J.	7/20	Steve B.
	Jack L.		Alex S.
	Troy S.	7/23	Colleen H.
7/11	Dan I.		Kaye L.
7/13	Alec A.		Austin S.
7/14	Logan K.		

Anniversaries

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

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



Your Annual Conference Reports

by Pastor Holly

This year's Minnesota Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church seemed to hold extra weight as it met just four short months after the General Conference of the United Methodist Church's historic meeting in St. Louis in February.

Held at the St. Cloud Convention Center June 18-20, the gathering began with some of the church's business, including the Laity Session and the Clergy Session. That first evening we held the Celebration of Life service where we remembered those clergy and spouses who had died, honored those who were retiring and celebrated those being ordained or licensed for ministry. Seeing the 5 who were ordained or were having their ordination recognized was particularly poignant for me, as I was their shepherd during the Board of Ordained Ministry retreat in early February. What a joy to see them take this next step!

After spending much of Wednesday in respectful conversation, we voted 481-86 to adopt a vision including a commitment to the full inclusion of LGBTQ people, affirming each clergy's prayerful discernment about whether to officiate at same-gender marriages. We also voted 446-108 to recognize that the Traditional Plan from General Conference "does great harm to the witness of The United Methodist Church."

Guest speaker Dr. Mark Teasdale from Garrett-Evangelical Seminary helped us to understand that we are all evangelists. Some are Convincers who share the gospel and call for a decision to follow Christ. Some are Conversers who talk to people about the gospel over time. Some are Investors who serve people lovingly over time (my usual style). Some are Inviters who welcome people into a situation where they can respond to the gospel (like inviting them to come to worship).

All in all this Annual Conference was inspiring as we move into the future with hope!

by Bea Zaruba

I was privileged once again to attend the Minnesota Annual Conference in St. Cloud as your representative accompanied by my good friend Nancy Hebrink. It was a wonderful, faith-filled conference with tremendous teaching by Rev. Bill Eaves on "Both/And", uplifting sermons preached by Rev. Dr. Mark Teasdale, and our Bishop Bruce Ough.

A new feature was called "respectful conversations" with new friends (sharing your inner thoughts on tough questions was at times difficult, but very enlightening.)

We shared time and meals with Pastor Holly and visited with former Pastors Lynn Borgstrom, Neil Westby, Lori Neilsen, and John McBride.

Some key points I jotted down:

- Share the goodness of God.
- Share your Story.
- Love Boldly.
- Others need to see God through us!
- Listen! So you understand, not assume!
- Love your neighbor—even when it is difficult remembering that all are God's children!

He who is thankful for little things enjoys much.

- author unknown

A New Facelift!

Our church building is getting a facelift as damage from last year's hailstorm created the need to replace the siding on both the east and west sides of the building. As is true of many home-improvement sorts of projects, one thing leads to another and we've found that some of the trim needs replacing as well as some of the wood that was rotting under the siding. We're grateful for the Trustees who helped get bids for the work, the insurance company that pays for the work and the company that is doing the work. Soon all will be done and our building will be returned to its former glory.



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Family Fun Night!

Join us for 2 more Family Fun Nights this summer! Each night has a different theme and will include a light supper, games, crafts, songs & story. This is a **FREE** event hosted by Wyoming UMC.



'Stars & Sparkles'

Wednesday, July 10th
6:00-8:00 p.m.

Goodview Park, Wyoming



'Splish-Splash'

Wednesday, August 14th
6:00-8:00 p.m.

Wyoming UMC, Wyoming



* All children must be accompanied by an adult. *

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Wyoming United Methodist Church

Messenger

July 2019

New Pathways Hosting Week

Our hosting of New Pathways families is June 30-July 7. Thanks to all who are helping and will help with this valuable ministry for families experiencing homelessness.

Worship Survey Results

Thanks to all who participated in our Worship Survey the first three Sundays in May. The Worship Team wanted to hear from the congregation about their worship experience and you gave many thoughtful and helpful responses. Thanks to the 71 people who took the time to fill out a survey.

The survey began with responses to statements: "I am satisfied with our congregation's current worship service." Sixty-nine out of 70 agreed or were neutral. "I often receive a sense of God's presence during worship." Sixty-six out of 70 agreed or were neutral. "I attend worship out of duty." Fifty-three out of 66 disagreed or were neutral. "The worship music is the main component of how I express my spiritual joy." Sixty-one out of 68 agreed or were neutral.

When asked what worship style you most prefer, 15 chose traditional, 4 chose contemporary and 52 chose blended.

Question 3 was "Rank order from 1 to 4 how important each of these factors are in choosing to come to worship (1 is most important, 4 is least important)."

In order of importance you chose: the sermon (most important), type of music, seeing friends/family, when I participate in worship (least important).

"What is it about worship at WUMC that keeps you coming back?"

The largest number of comments (50) mentioned the community, including comments like: "All the good people," "Friendly small church," "The open door feeling that you are welcome," and "The joy that fills these walls!"

The next largest number of comments (29) mentioned the sermons, including comments like: "Inspirational sermons," "The sermons draw me closer to the Word of God and help me to apply this in my life," "[The sermons] are well reasoned and use both bible and other sources."

Others mentioned worship elements, connections to the holy and to missions as important elements that keep them coming back.

The final question: "What would you like to add to worship that would better point you to God?" got fewer responses. The largest number of responses (11) referred to adding something traditional: "Using responsive readings that root us in our faith" and "old time gospel music." Seven people wrote about music: "Contemporary music/leader" and "Musical variety that is done well." Nine more spoke of worship elements like "Time for meditation/silent prayer" and "Teaching only the truth from the Bible."

If you'd like a copy of all the responses we got from our survey, you're welcome to have a copy of the 6 page summary. Just ask Pastor Holly.



Worship in July

Throughout July we'll be talking about Option B – what we need to do when Option A is no longer going to work. A lot of our lives consist of making do with the reality we've been given and making the best of a bad situation. We'll be looking at the ways we can learn from hardship and how the Bible helps us cope with new realities.

July 7

Option B: Facing Adversity
Jonah 3:10-4:11

July 14

Option B: True Friendship
Luke 10:1-12

July 21

Option B: Self-Compassion
Philippians 4:1-13

July 28

Option B: Bouncing Forward
Guest Preacher:
Denny Hebrink