

## From the Pastor . . .

As we turn the corner to 2021, we hope and pray that this year will be better than the last one. As I was looking at what I wrote in the newsletter for January 2020, none of us realized what was in store for us in the coming months. I'm hoping the same will be true of 2021, but instead of being surprised by a pandemic that kept us needing to be safely distant, I'm hoping and praying that 2021 will bring us safely back together and will bring us so much good news that we will hardly be able to bear it!

As we move forward in uncertain times, we do well to remember that no matter where we go no matter what life brings us, God is always with us and God will always help us—through good times and bad.

It strikes me that when Jesus was born, the people were living in uncertain times. Jesus came to the world through an unwed teenage mother, living under an oppressive government. In his young age he and his family fled to Egypt to escape the death squads of a fearful dictator. Jesus, God-made-flesh, came and endured all the disadvantages that someone born to a poor oppressed family had to endure.

And yet Jesus (God in the flesh) came to lead us into hope and give us courage for the coming days.

As I write this, the initial roll out of the vaccine is happening and I'm seeing Facebook posts showing people I know getting the vaccine for COVID-19. One of the people I know getting the vaccine is a nurse and the other, my cousin's daughter, is a pharmacist. Seeing these people get the vaccine brings me hope.

As we move into 2021, may we be filled with hope, not only for a vaccine that will give us better life and more freedom in the coming year but also for a God who came to us as a vulnerable child, grew into an adult and gives us hope for all eternity!

~ Pastor Holly

# Happy New Year!

## January Sermons

This January's sermon series is on Moving Forward and how we move forward with hope in the coming days as we live into the promise the birth of the Christ Child brings. We hear news of a vaccine, but most of us aren't "essential" enough to be among the first to receive it. As we wait our turn, we look to the promises that the people of Jesus' time lived in and worked through as they lived their ordinary lives in an extraordinary time.

### January 3

Step by Step, Grace Upon Grace

Jeremiah 31:7-14; John 1:1-17

Guest preacher, Bishop David Bard

### January 10

Moving Forward: Wonder and Wisdom

Luke 2:22-40

### January 17

Moving Forward: Bringing our Gifts

Matthew 2:1-12

### January 24

Moving Forward: With Grace

John 1:43-51

### January 31

Moving Forward: To Be Healed

Mark 1:21-28

## Celebrations

### Birthdays

- 1-1 Tom S.
- 1-2 John K.
- 1-3 Lois J.
- 1-9 Kim B.
- 1-11 Kayla B.  
Johnny K.
- 1-14 Steve T.
- 1-15 Ben P.
- 1-17 Pat K.
- 1-17 Virginia M.
- 1-18 Axie T.
- 1-19 Jessa E.
- 1-26 Dorothy B.

### Anniversaries

- 1-1 Taylor & Kim B.
- 1-3 Gary & Chris S.
- 1-7 Dave & Holly A.

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



### Joy Bells Joy!

Thanks to all for your overwhelming support of families in need this Christmas. You stepped up this year to help 19 families with 53 children and your contributions even exceeded our wildest dreams. We were not only able to provide \$50 for each child and youth in the family and provide the family a full Christmas Dinner, we were also able to provide them with \$75 of a gift certificate to Bruce's to buy groceries for the following week. You are overwhelmingly and amazingly generous, Wyoming United Methodist Church, but this time you outdid yourself! Thanks to all who put everything together in the midst of a pandemic and especially to Bea who coordinated all of the gift giving! Well done good and faithful servants!

### Christmas Offering

Thanks to all who rose to the challenge and gave to the Christmas Offering for New Pathways Shelter in Cambridge and the St. Andrews Hugo Family Shelter. Thanks especially to those who donated an amount equal to what you spent on Christmas presents for your friends and family this year! Your generous hearts are blessing those in need! For those who have yet to donate, it's not too late. Please get your donations in during the early part of January for these worthwhile ministries.

### From Pastor Holly

Many thanks to all who sent cards and gave me gifts at Christmas time. You were so generous and thoughtful. I enjoyed the gift certificates and handmade items immensely.

### 2020 Annual Church Conference

On Sunday, January 31 we will gather immediately following worship for our annual church conference to hear reports on what we've accomplished in 2020 (surprisingly a lot of good work was done even in the midst of the pandemic) and look forward to what lies ahead for 2021. The Administrative Council will decide at their January 12th meeting how we will conduct the meeting (on Zoom or in person). We'll give you further updates as they become available.

