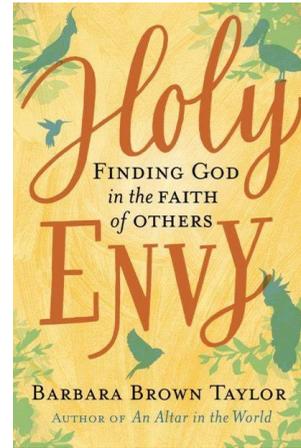


## Lenten Study

You are invited to join our Lenten Study starting Thursday, February 18 at 7pm. Our book this year will be *Holy Envy: Finding God in the Faith of Others* by Barbara Brown Taylor. In this book Taylor recounts her moving discoveries of finding the sacred in unexpected places while teaching the world's religions to undergraduates in rural Georgia, revealing how God delights in confounding our expectations. Please purchase a copy of the book and read the introduction and first two chapters for our discussion on the 18th. We will be meeting on Zoom.



Wyoming United Methodist Church

# Messenger

February 2021



New pew ropes made by the Stitch n' Rip Quilters will help ensure physical distancing

## Worship Services in February

In February we are going to finish up our series on Moving Forward and begin our Lenten journey called *Holy*. As we enter the holy season of Lent, preparing our hearts and minds for the good news of the resurrection takes intention and attention to the holy. As we continue to live in a pandemic, we turn to that which is above all, to the Holy One, the Christ, who is our companion in this season.

### February 7

Moving Forward:  
Into Resurrection  
Mark 1:29-39

### February 14

Moving Forward:  
Lifted Up  
Mark 9:2-9

### February 21

Holy Beginnings  
Mark 1:9-15

### February 28

Holy Honesty  
Mark 8:31-38

Wyoming UMC • 651-462-5276 • Care Crew: 651-462-4890 • [www.wyomingunitedmethodist.org](http://www.wyomingunitedmethodist.org)  
Pastor Holly's email: [hollyaastuen@gmail.com](mailto:hollyaastuen@gmail.com) • Church email: [office.wyomingumc@gmail.com](mailto:office.wyomingumc@gmail.com)

## In-Person Worship

We are planning to offer in-person worship starting Sunday, February 14. Because of the recent installation of Ultra Violet filters in all of our furnaces, we will be able to worship in our sanctuary for the first time since last March! As was true when we worshiped in the Fellowship Hall last fall, we ask that everyone wear a mask and practice physical distancing. We also ask that you refrain from attending if you aren't feeling well and notify the church office if you test positive for COVID after attending worship. We look forward to seeing you and please stay safe!

## UV (Ultra Violet) Furnace Filters Installed

UV lights installed in our heating and air conditioning units are helping purify the air that we breathe. UV radiation alters the molecules of many viruses and germs so that they are no longer infectious. While the COVID-19 virus is new enough for people to not know how effective UV filtration is in making the virus ineffective, we are doing all we can to make our church building as safe as possible. Now, in addition to wearing face masks and physical distancing, we have UV filters working for our greater health!



Wyoming United Methodist Church  
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## From the Pastor . . .

Ash Wednesday comes early this year (February 17) and why not? We have all been sitting in proverbial sackcloth and ashes for nearly a year now. Though we were able to celebrate Ash Wednesday in our church building a year ago, in some ways it feels like we have been living through a year long time of penitence. Not knowing when this time of COVID will end adds uncertainty and anxiety to our wait.

But we are also seeing signs of hope and encouragement. Some of our friends are getting the vaccine and we are mentally waiting in line for the time when we can have our vaccine, too.

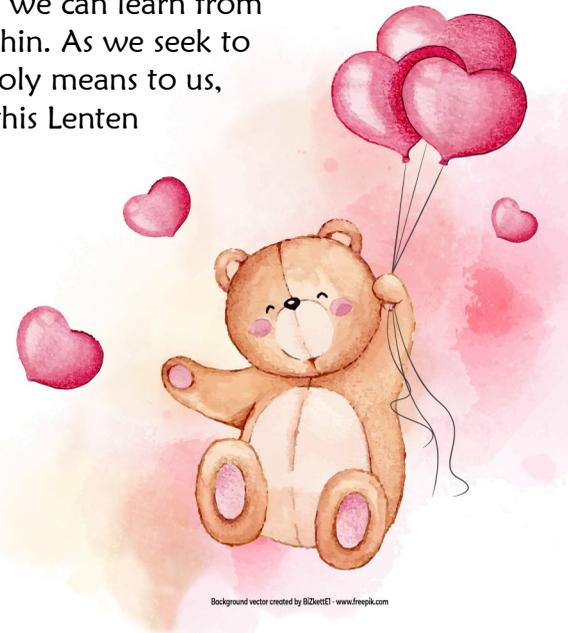
I'm excited about our Lenten Study of Barbara Brown Taylor's book *Holy Envy*. She ranks up there with C. S. Lewis for me when it comes to clearly articulating the faith. In this book she tackles the questions, worries, and concerns that arise when we encounter "difference" and "others." The description of the book makes it clear that this is not a review of all the religions of the world and what they believe, but an exploration on what is revealed and opened when we accept the invitation to investigate all the wonder before us. In this book I hope to discover and deepen the faith I now have through discovering the spiritual riches God can teach us from the faith of others.

I am ready, in this time of COVID, to go deeper into my faith. I am grateful in this time of viruses and inclement weather to have the tool called Zoom to enable us to gather safely from our homes and meet and discuss and learn. I hope you will join us on the journey.

On Sundays we will be exploring the holy and what we can learn from taking time to pause and listen to the God-voice within. As we seek to follow Christ more nearly, let us explore what the holy means to us, to our family and community as we travel through this Lenten season.

Please know that you are in my thoughts and in my prayers. I am praying that all of us will get through this time of testing and remain healthy—spiritually, physically and emotionally. We are all in this together and we are all doing very hard things to make it through. Well done, good and faithful servants!

Blessings,  
Pastor Holly



Background vector created by B2ZnetE1 - www.freepik.com

## Celebrations

### Birthdays

- 2/4 Taylor B.  
Alan K.
- 2/6 Abby J.  
Melodie P.
- 2/7 Lisa S.
- 2/8 Candi H.  
Chuck S.
- 2/9 Rich R.
- 2/11 Wade R.
- 2/12 David K.
- 2/14 Rick K.
- 2/20 Mike K.
- 2/24 Deb H.  
Donna L.
- 2/25 Nancy K.  
LeAnne P.
- 2/27 Jasper B.
- 2/28 Katie A.  
Trevor J.
- 2/29 Tristan S.

### Anniversaries

- 2/15 Buck & Yvonne B.
- 2/27 Norb & Deb H.



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

## Calendar:

### In-Person Worship

Sundays, February 14, 21, and 28 at 10 a.m.

### Ash Wednesday Service on YouTube Live

Wednesday, February 17 at 8 p.m.

### Lenten Study via Zoom

Thursdays, February 18 and 25 at 7 p.m.



## Prayer Beads

On Sunday, February 14 we will be offering those who come to in-person worship, some prayer beads for use during Lent. These prayer beads are a tool for you to have something to hold onto as you pray. We'll include instructions for one way to use the prayer beads, but you can use them in any way that you find meaningful. Prayer beads will be available in the office for pick up for those who are unable to come to worship on the 14th.

## Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, February 17 is Ash Wednesday and we will offer a half hour meditative worship on YouTube Live at 8pm. Please tune in to our YouTube channel on Wednesday, February 17 for Ash Wednesday worship.

## Thank You For Your Generosity

All the donations are in and we want to thank you for your generosity to the Christmas Offering. We collected \$2285 to go to the ministries of New Pathways Shelter in Cambridge and the St. Andrews Hugo Family Shelter. Your generous gifts will go to help those in need.