

Books for Wyoming Elementary

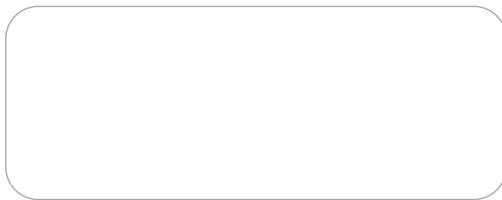
We have once again blessed Wyoming Elementary School with a whole lot of books! You may remember that in 2019 we were able to bless Wyoming Elementary School with \$500 worth of chapter books from Scholastic Book Company, thanks to a Church/School partnership grant we got from the Minnesota Conference. This year, at the end of 2020, we again applied for and this time got a \$600 grant from the Minnesota Conference. In partnership with third grade teacher, Stephanie Olson,



Children's books donated to Wyoming Elementary.

we purchased 55 books that address social and emotional learning topics to help elementary aged kids talk about some of the stress they are undergoing in this pandemic.

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Wyoming United Methodist Church

Messenger

March 2021

Minnesota Food Share Month

March is Minnesota Food Share month. Once again, this year we will focus our hearts on helping our local food shelf (Family Pathways). We send them money in March which is very important to our food shelf as they receive some matching funds for money raised. They can buy 7 times as much food with our money as we can buy at our local grocery store, so we send them money and let them do the shopping.

Our local food shelf has moved to curbside pick-up and is giving out more food to each person, trying to help them stay safe. They have also begun Door Step Delivery for those over 60 who may not be able to or do not want risk curbside pick-up. Fifty percent of the people they serve are either under 17 (30%) or over 65 (20%). People are still out of jobs and struggling.

The head of Family Pathways writes, "Thank you to the congregation at Wyoming United Methodist Church. They are loyal supporters every year for the March Food Drive and also during the year for our other programs. We love you all and cannot thank you enough!

Please be generous as you help our neighbors right here in our own community who are experiencing food insecurity. If you mark you check or envelope FOOD, 100% of what you give will go to Family Pathways.

Thank you,
Jane Rylander
Missions Team Chair



Worship Services in March

This month we are talking about opening our eyes to the Holy, to the one who is beyond all comprehension, "the brightness that they see at the center of everything that exceeds their ability to possess it," as Barbara Brown Taylor writes in her book *Holy Envy* (p.78). As we continue our march towards Easter, we seek the holy in big and small ways, always keeping our eyes open for the brightness of God.

March 7

Holy Disturbance
Luke 4:14-21

March 14

Holy Life
John 14:1-14

March 21

Holy Birth
John 3:1-17

March 28

Holy Diversity
Genesis 11:1-9; Mark 11:8-11; Mark 15:6-15

From the Pastor . . .

As I write this, my son is playing “It is Well with My Soul” on the piano. I can’t tell you how many times I’ve needed to hear this hymn, how many times I’ve sung it in my head, how much I needed to hear the tune at just this moment.

So many things are well with our soul and with our lives. The vaccine is getting into the arms of millions of people, including some you. I’ve started keeping a list of those I know who’ve gotten a vaccine and the list keeps growing each day. A friend who got her vaccine said to me, “I can’t tell you how huge a weight fell off my shoulders when I got that first needle prick. It was like all the worries and carefulness that I have been living with the last 11 months found its proper place, sitting beside me and reminding me to be careful, rather than on top of me and suppressing my soul.”

We hope that everyone is getting the vaccine when they can and continuing to keep safe even after the vaccine. Our school teacher son is getting his vaccine soon as are many of his colleagues. The vaccine is safe and effective even against some of the variants that we are seeing. I wholeheartedly and enthusiastically encourage you to get your vaccine when it is your turn!

But even as some things are well in our corner of the world, other things are not. We’ve reached over a half a million deaths in this country and each of those lives was the life of someone with family and friends who mourn their loss.

We’re not in the clear enough yet to worship in large numbers or gather indoors without masks. We still need to keep ourselves safe and others safe against this virulent disease.

But what continues even through the pandemic to be well with our souls is the assurance that God loves us no matter what, no matter where we find ourselves physically or emotionally or spiritually. God is crazy in love with us and there’s nothing we can do to stop it.

Let us continue to march towards Easter with our eyes on God and our hearts filled with trust in the faithfulness of God’s love.

“Through it all, through it all, I’ve learned to trust in Jesus, I’ve learned to trust in God...I’ve learned to depend upon God’s word.”

-Pastor Holly



Calendar:

Lenten Study via Zoom
Thursdays at 7 p.m.

March Celebrations

Birthdays

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

Anniversaries

- 3/31 Karl & Jeanne L.

Easter Flowers

Easter is coming and we’re hoping you’ll help with this year’s Easter flowers. Choices of flowers include azaleas, hydrangeas, tulips, daffodils and other spring plants depending on availability. The flowers will decorate our worship space on Easter morning, after which you are welcome to take them home (or request they be delivered to you). Watch your weekly emails or mail for updates on costs and how to sign up.

2021 Pandemic Connection Survey

Thanks to all who have filled out the Pandemic Connection Survey on how you currently connect and how you will likely connect with your church for the near future. Your answers are very helpful to us as we strive to better meet the spiritual needs of our congregation. If you haven’t had a chance to fill out the survey yet please do so by March 7. Thanks!

Thank You from Reach, Renew, Rejoice

We got a thank you from the Minnesota Conference of the United Methodist Church saying, “Your wonderful generosity makes it possible for...more congregations to grow in love of God and neighbor, reach new people, and heal a broken world. The following Reach Renew Rejoice funded church plants became locally sustainable within the last 2 years—Crossroads, Elko NM; Uptown; and Centennial Saint Anthony Park. Reach Renew Rejoice dollars are now extending to new church starts in Inver Grove Heights, Cottage Grove, and St. Michael along with several other start up projects including Hispanic, Haitian, and Vietnamese church plants.”

Thank You

Dear Wyoming United Methodist Church, Thank you for your gift to the Community Resource Center. This ministry is blessed to have you as a donor and to know that you care about helping families as much as we do! Signed, St. Andrew’s Community Resource Center staff (which runs the Hugo homeless shelter).