

## Free Shredding Event

Empire Insurance Group (5357 Wyoming Trail) is offering a free shredding event on Saturday, April 17 from 9AM to noon in their parking lot. They'll shred old tax documents and sensitive documents for free as you enjoy free coffee and snacks. Ten dollars (up to \$500) will be donated to Lakes Center for Youth and Families for each bag or box shredded. Call 651-462-3724 for further details (no government shredding, magazines or newspapers please).

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



## Adult & Teen Challenge Gala

Join MN Adult & Teen Challenge's Online Gala on Friday, May 21 at 7PM. Attendance is free, donations gladly accepted. Visit [mntc.org/gala](http://mntc.org/gala) to learn more about this event and preview and bid on online auction items.



## Wyoming United Methodist Church

# Messenger



## 2021 Holy Week Schedule

### Palm/Passion Sunday

Sunday, March 28 at 10:00 a.m.  
Worship service in the sanctuary  
and live-streamed on our YouTube channel.

### Good Friday

Friday, April 2 at 8:00 p.m.  
Worship service ([online only](#))  
on our church's YouTube channel.

### Easter Sunday

Sunday, April 4 at 10:00 a.m.  
Worship service in the sanctuary  
and live-streamed on our YouTube channel.



## Need Prayer?

Please continue to send your prayer requests to Nancy Hebrink at [eldonlee1@q.com](mailto:eldonlee1@q.com). Nancy will circulate the prayer requests to our online prayer chain.

## Thank You

Thanks to all for your generosity for Minnesota FoodShare month in March. Your generosity will benefit many families in need for many months to come!

## Worship Services in April

In the weeks following Easter we will be talking about how love is the way that we make it through our days. Based on a book called *Love is the Way: Holding on to Hope in Troubling Times* by Bishop Michael Curry (the preacher at Meghan Markle and Prince Harry's wedding) we will learn about God's great love and how to lean fully into that love in these difficult times.

**April 4 Easter**  
The Rest of the Story  
Mark 16:1-8

**April 11**  
Guest preacher,  
Bishop David Bard  
John 20:19-29

**April 18**  
What is Love?  
1 Corinthians 13  
(selected verses)

**April 25**  
Can Love Change the World?  
Romans 12:1-2, 9-19

## From the Pastor . . .

I've been looking back over my journals over the past year as we have now passed the one-year mark of our time in COVID. I write a minimum of three gratitudes for each day and have been doing so throughout this pandemic. Another practice I began was writing down what was going on—in me and in society—during this past year. Remember the joy of finding toilet paper on the shelf? Remember figuring out where the face masks section of the grocery store was?

On one page in my most recent journal I wrote, "Pandemics have different stages of grief. The first phase was 'we'll get through this. We'll learn all this new stuff. We'll rally...' Third phase 'it's the "new normal" versus the "unprecedented times" from the first phase'...Fifth phase...(right before Christmas) was anger, frustration and pain, likely from the added pressure of holiday celebrations restricted to immediate family only."

Now we're in the phase of elation at the news of being able to cautiously open up as we didn't have the anticipated Christmas/New Year's holiday surge and we're beginning to have more access to vaccines.

It's been hard, this last year. We've had our joys and sorrows, but as the pandemic wears on, we all have this underlying layer of worry over what might still happen; of grief over lives lost, celebrations missed, family and friends with whom we've lost contact. This underlying layer of grief is wearing.

But we also have an overlying assurance that we are not going through this alone. We are not without some friends and family with whom we still keep in touch. We are not without neighbors who check in on us and make sure we're safe. We are not without a God who is over all and in all and works through all for the good of all.

This Easter we get to celebrate (those of us who feel safe to do so) with our faith community in the sanctuary now that new UV filters have been installed and we have put into place mask wearing and safe distancing. We also get to celebrate safely in our homes with our new live-streaming capabilities.

God is good, all the time and we are grateful that God has seen us through this past year of COVID. We have made it through safe and sound and thanks to God who shepherds us, who cares for us and who loves us beyond imagining as witnessed by the holy and amazing events of Holy Week.

Happy Easter and blessed spring to all!

-Pastor Holly

## Pandemic Connection Survey

Thanks to all who filled out a Pandemic Connection Survey on paper or online. Forty-seven of you responded (22 paper responses; 25 online responses) and gave us some valuable insights.

A majority of you (37) miss seeing the people more than you miss the sermon (17) or the music (12). As a side note, "What do you miss most about...in-person worship" garnered more than 47 votes because some of you said you missed several worship elements.

A majority of those surveyed reported attending Sunday morning worship on YouTube sometimes or always (41) while just a few of you (16) reported tuning in to Wednesday evening devotions.

A little over half of the respondents will wait to attend in-person worship until the rates of infection are low enough or when everyone's had the vaccine (28) and many reported that their best source of information was either the pastor's weekly update (19) or the WUMC email (24).

Thank you to all who took the time to fill out the survey and to those who added their comments to the survey. Every response helps us better understand how we can keep connected during this pandemic.

## Thank You For Your Continued Support

Thanks to all of you who have continued to be faithful with your giving to your church this past year. Because of you we are able to continue our giving to our community partners who help the homeless and needy in this time of COVID. Thanks to you our church continues to build bridges to Christ's love in our community. Please continue to keep current with your giving to Wyoming Church either through mailing your check to Wyoming Church, P.O. Box 247, Wyoming, MN 55092 or by clicking on the "Donate" button on our website: wyomingunitedmethodist.org. Thanks for your continued support!

## Birthdays in April

|      |              |      |            |
|------|--------------|------|------------|
| 4/7  | Shurene E.   | 4/22 | Barb L.    |
| 4/8  | Nancy H.     | 4/24 | Cyndi T.   |
| 4/9  | Karen K.     | 4/25 | Craig R.   |
|      | Elizabeth R. | 4/26 | Alyssa K.  |
| 4/10 | Lisa I.      | 4/28 | Lynne C.   |
| 4/11 | Molly B.     |      | Paul S.    |
| 4/12 | Heather S.   | 4/29 | Max H.     |
| 4/15 | Pat R.       |      | Makenna H. |
| 4/19 | Bea Z.       |      |            |

