

From the Pastor...

As we launch into a new year, we can be grateful to God for enabling us to do all that we were able to do last year, from continuing with ministries like Joy Bells and Christmas Offering, to returning to ministries like the Fall Dinner. This past year also had us slowly growing in attendance from about 50 percent of us still online on Sunday mornings, to about 75 percent of our congregation returning to worship in person by the end of the year. We also finally had our vote on our Inclusion Statement in May, which passed with 90% of us voting in favor of the statement that all are welcome. It's been quite the year.

As we look forward to all that 2023 will bring, including once again welcoming families experiencing homelessness to our building for two weeks (one week each in March and September), we ask God to guide us through all that we are called to do for our community this year.

I'm looking forward to January's sermon series called Safari Wisdom. Many people have asked to hear more about what Dave and I experienced on safari, and while our travels in Tanzania and Kenya will not be the focus of the sermon series, they will inform how we will look at elements of our walk with God, including to remember to count on God as our guide, remembering to (with God's help) take a few risks, and also giving ourselves time to rest in the assurance of God's love. And, yes, there will be a few pictures from our safari adventures included in each of the sermons.

I want to close with the prayer that John Wesley (the founder of the Methodist Movement) called the Covenant Prayer, a prayer that is helpful as we reset our sights on following God in the coming year.

A Covenant Prayer in the Wesleyan Tradition

I am no longer my own, but yours.
 Put me to what you will, place me with whom you will.
 Put me to doing, put me to suffering.
 Let me be put to work for you or set aside for you,
 Praised for you or criticized for you.
 Let me be full, let me be empty.
 Let me have all things, let me have nothing.
 I freely and fully surrender all things to your glory and service.
 And now, O wonderful and holy God,
 Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer,
 you are mine, and I am yours.
 So be it.
 And the covenant which I have made on earth,
 Let it also be made in heaven. Amen.

SERVANT SCHEDULE


January 1:
Usher: Gary Gustafson
Greeter: Marti Gustafson
Live Stream: Elizabeth Rodacker
Soundboard: Karyla Parrish
Coffee Service: Deb Hulbert and Linda Richnofsky

January 8:
Ushers: Don & Joyce Metcalf
Greeter: Carol Sorensen
Live Stream: Ryan Rodacker
Soundboard: Lisa Rodacker
Coffee Service: Chris Sycks and Donna Keacher

January 15:
Ushers: Pat Rylander and Tom Sausen
Greeter: Bernie Sausen
Live Stream: Alec Aastuen
Soundboard: David Aastuen
Coffee Service: Connie Warneke and Sandy Boyer

January 22:
Ushers: Ed & Karen Kramer
Greeter: Donna Keacher
Live Stream: Karyla Parrish
Soundboard: Lisa Rodacker
Coffee Service: Linda Richnofsky and Glenna Quist

January 29:
Ushers: Chris Sycks and Craig Rylander
Greeter: Lois Shannon
Live Stream: David Aastuen
Soundboard: Alec Aastuen
Coffee Service: Karen Kramer

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:30am Fellowship Time 10am Worship w/ Communion	2	3 7am Men's Prayer Breakfast 8am Sunrise Study Group	4 9am-3pm Stitch n' Rip Quilters 7-8:30pm NA meeting	5	6	7
8 9:30am Fellowship Time 10am Worship	9	10 7am Men's Prayer Breakfast 8am Sunrise Study Group 9:30am Spiritual Prayer Group	11 9am-3pm Stitch n' Rip Quilters 3pm Guitar Guys/Gals Jam Session 7-8:30pm NA meeting	12	13	14
15 9:30am Fellowship Time 10am Worship 11am Confirmation 11am Choir practice	16	17 7am Men's Prayer Breakfast 8am Sunrise Study Group 9:30am Spiritual Prayer Group	18 9am-3pm Stitch n' Rip Quilters 7-8:30pm NA meeting	19 7pm Ad Council meeting	20	21
22 9:30am Fellowship Time 10am Worship 11am Confirmation 11am Choir practice	23 11am Worship at The Meadows	24 7am Men's Prayer Breakfast 8am Sunrise Study Group 9:30am Spiritual Prayer Group	25 9am-3pm Stitch n' Rip Quilters 3pm Guitar Guys/Gals Jam Session 7-8:30pm NA meeting	26	28	
29 9:30am Fellowship Time 10am Worship 11am Potluck and Church Conference	30	31 7am Men's Prayer Breakfast 8am Sunrise Study Group 9:30am Spiritual Prayer Group				

Happy New Year

from Wyoming UMC

2023

The Lord bless you and keep you; The Lord make His face shine upon you, And be gracious to you; The Lord lift up His countenance upon you, And give you peace.
Numbers 6:24-26 (NKJV)

January Celebrations

Birthdays

- 1-1 Tom S.
- 1-2 John K.
- 1-3 Lois J.
- 1-5 Matthew B.
- 1-9 Kim B.
- 1-11 Johnny K.
- 1-14 Steve T.
- 1-15 Ben P.
- 1-17 Pat K.
- Virginia M.
- 1-18 Axie T.
- 1-19 Jessa E.
- 1-26 Dorothy B.

Anniversaries

- 1-1 Taylor & Kim B.
- 1-7 Dave & Holly A.

Wyoming United Methodist Church

Messenger

January 2023

Joy Bells Joy!

Thanks to all for your overwhelming support of families in need this Christmas. You stepped up this year to help 16 local families with 31 children. 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 an additional \$50 gift card to each family. You are overwhelmingly and amazingly generous, Wyoming United Methodist Church! Thanks to all who put everything together 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 Strong Missions in Costa Rica. 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 a 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 this worthwhile ministry.

From Pastor Holly

Thanks to all who sent my family and me Christmas gifts and cards and goodies. I am so grateful for your kindness. I really appreciate them and I really appreciate you!

Potluck and 2022 Annual Church Conference

On Sunday, January 29 we will gather in the Fellowship Hall following worship for our potluck and annual church conference. Please bring a main dish, side dish, or dessert to share with others at the potluck and remain after the meal to hear reports on what we've accomplished in 2022 and look forward to what lies ahead for 2023.



Worship Services in January

Sometimes we feel like we are in the wilderness—in the wilderness of grief, of loss, of illness, of loneliness. Sometimes we feel like we're all alone in our pain and that we've lost our direction. Beginning January 15, we'll look at the wisdom scripture has for us when we feel like we are lost and alone. Pastor Holly will share some of the wisdom she gained on her recent travels to Tanzania and Kenya and see how together we can re-focus on Christ who gives us guidance through all of life, especially those times we feel like we are in the wilderness.

January 1

Ask the Pastor
Matthew 2:13-23

January 8

Denny Hebrink,
guest preacher

January 15

Safari Wisdom:
Have a Guide
Psalm 23

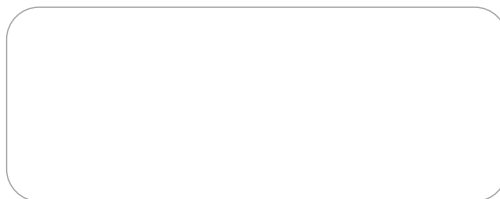
January 22

Safari Wisdom:
Take Chances
Matthew 14:22-33

January 29

Safari Wisdom: Rest
Matthew 11:25-30

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