

From the Pastor...

It struck me, at our annual Church Conference on the last Sunday of January, how caring and generous this congregation is. It's not that I didn't have these thoughts before—I've seen you be loving and generous in so many ways over the years—but for some reason it became even more abundantly clear during that meeting.

In 2022 we donated over \$16,000 to worthy causes such as Joy Bells for families in need, Lakes Center for Youth and Families, Strong Missions in Costa Rica, Family Pathways Food Shelf, Feed My Starving Children, and New Pathways Family Shelter (and the list goes on). And all that is above and beyond what we have given to the church through our tithes and offerings.

What joy you have brought to hundreds of people in need!

Though I'm not a big fan of meetings, the annual Church Conference in particular helped us to look back at where we've been and look forward to where we're going and find hope both looking back and looking forward. At the end of our time together we took time to thank specific people and acknowledge special accomplishments of members of our congregation over the last year.

I'm looking forward to spending Lent with you (which begins on Ash Wednesday, February 22) immersed in the Lord's Prayer. As many of you know, I've regularly changed the version of the Lord's Prayer that we pray during Lent, in part, to get us thinking more about its meaning and impact in our lives and in the world. This year in worship during Lent we'll be praying the Lord's Prayer we are most familiar with, but examining it more closely in our sermon time.

I hope we will all find more appreciation for the Lord's Prayer as we take a closer look and as we find expanded uses for it in our prayer life. Adam Hamilton, who wrote the book we will be using for our Lenten Study, says that he prays the Lord's Prayer several times a day and uses it to shape his prayer life.

I'm looking forward to learning more about this tried and true, faithful prayer—the only prayer that Jesus specifically taught his disciples, though Jesus often found times to pray throughout his life.

My prayer for you this season is that you will survive the cold, you will remember and reach out to those you love and you will expand your prayer life as we together learn more about the Lord's Prayer.

~ Pastor Holly

February Celebrations

Birthdays

- 2/4 Taylor B.
Alan K.
- 2/6 Abby J.
Melodie P.
- 2/7 Lisa S.
- 2/8 Chuck S.
- 2/9 Rich R.
- 2/11 Wade R.
- 2/12 David K.
- 2/13 Jim P.
Jeannine Q.
- 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.

Notify the Pastor

Please notify Pastor Holly if you hear of anyone facing illness, major surgery or is lonely and wants a call. Call or email the office or pastor and let them know of the need. Thank you!



*I pray that you,
being rooted and established
in love, may have power,
together with all the Lord's
holy people, to grasp
how wide and long and high
and deep is the love of
Christ, and to know this love
that surpasses knowledge—
that you may be filled
to the measure of all the
fullness of God.*

Ephesians 3:17b-19 (NIV)

Sunday Morning Scripture Readers

We are looking for volunteers to read the morning's scripture during worship this Lent. If you are interested in reading the Sunday morning scripture for the congregation in worship one of the Sundays in Lent (starting with February 28 through all the Sundays in March), please call, email, or talk to Pastor Holly and she'll get you set up.



Communion Steward Needed

During Lent (which begins with Ash Wednesday, February 22) we will be having communion on the first and third Sundays of the month. If you're able to work with Nancy to provide communion during Lent or have any questions about all that goes into preparing for communion please talk to Nancy H.

Near the Poas Volcano

In the mountains just north of San Jose in central Costa Rica, is an active volcano. Only a few miles away is the community of Grecia. Grecia is the home of Strong Missions. Charlie Strong is the founder of this mission effort.

Charlie's primary goal is to help improve this community by giving the families and youth hope. He does this by providing feeding programs, improvements to local churches, orphanages, and homes and activities for youth and families such as karate and sewing classes.

Deb and I, part of a team of 16 from the upper Midwest, helped install doors and trim at Rosa's home, convert an old pig barn into a home for part of Rosa's extended family, improve a dangerously steep trail into a path with cement filled tires for steps (a railing will be added by another team in June), and made an addition to "Grandpa Ramone's" home. Our team also delivered boxes of groceries to 16 families in the area.

The generous donation from Wyoming UMC will be used to support Strong Mission's program going forward by providing food for families, supplies and materials for improvements in the community and support for programs designed to help promote hope and better living for the families and youth of Grecia, Costa Rica.

Thank you for your support!

- Dave and Deb

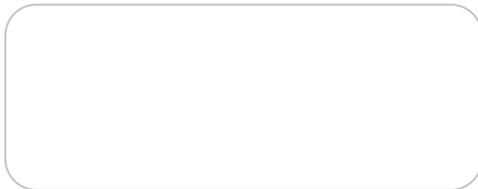




Spirit River Band Sunday, February 12 at 10:00 AM

Spirit River Band served as the music team for Spirit River Community Church in Isanti until it closed last June. The band continues on and once a month goes to a church in the area to lead their worship service. They love to lead worship and we are privileged to host them on Sunday the 12th. Come and enjoy the contemporary worship led by Spirit River Band.

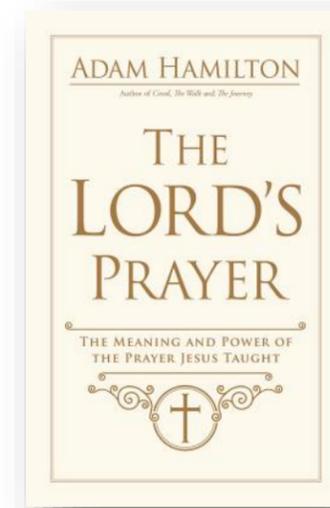
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Wyoming United Methodist Church *Messenger*



February 2023

Lenten Study

You are invited to participate in our Lenten Study this year as we read together through Adam Hamilton's *The Lord's Prayer: The Meaning and Power of the Prayer Jesus Taught*. In this book Hamilton guides us to really know, and really pray the Lord's Prayer. He explores each of its rich lines and their meaning in the Bible, illuminating what we ask of God and what we ask of ourselves through its words. We'll have a sign-up sheet in the nook (to the right as you leave the worship space) or you can sign up by emailing Pastor Holly directly at hollyaastuen@gmail.com. Please sign up by February 12 so that we can order your book. Participant books are \$15 each.

We will have our first gathering (in the church library) from 7-8:30PM on Wednesday, February 22 and will meet every Wednesday evening through Wednesday, March 29. Join us!

Ash Wednesday

You are invited to begin your Lenten journey with a time of prayer in the worship space at Wyoming Church. The church will be open on Wednesday, February 22 from 5-6. You're welcome to stop by any time during that one-hour window and receive from Pastor Holly the mark of the cross in ashes on your forehead or the back of your hand and then spend some time in prayer in the worship space. Prayers and readings will be provided for you to use in that time of prayer and/or to take home with you to read later. Those who are attending our Lenten Study will also be offered ashes as they arrive for the study.

Worship Services in February

This February we'll conclude our series on Safari Wisdom and have a couple of "stand alone" sermons, one about love and one about the transfiguration before we launch into our Lenten series on The Lord's Prayer. You are invited to come to worship in person or tune in online as we look at our faith and life, how to love, how to pray, how to understand the power and majesty of God. Come and see!

February 5

Safari Wisdom:
Stick Together
1 Corinthians 12:12-31

February 12

Love Means Saying
You're Sorry
Matthew 5:21-26

February 19

Bright Cloud of Unknowing
Matthew 17:1-9

February 26

This Then is How You
Should Pray
Romans 8:22-27



Your love, Lord, reaches to the heavens, your faithfulness to the skies. -Ps. 36:5 (NIV)