

From the Pastor...

I'm excited about what is in store for us during this season of Lent. As we enter this season of Lent, this forty-day season (not counting Sundays) of traveling with Jesus in the wilderness, of looking at ways that we can intentionally deepen our faith, we take time to honor the gift of our relationship with Jesus as well as seek to grow in our faith practices. I didn't grow up with the concept of "giving up something for Lent," but I can see the value in making intentional choices about what we do and don't do and getting rid of things that might get in the way of our following Jesus.

When I was growing up, my family would fast during the day on Wednesdays during Lent, and end our fast by eating a simple soup supper in our home. The money we saved on food that day we then donated through the church to the local food shelf.

I like the more recent idea of taking on something for Lent, such as taking on a new devotional practice, or taking on a new prayer practice that brings us closer to God. Every year I change my daily devotions to something new for Lent. I'm looking forward to changing my daily devotions during this Lent and beyond.

One of the practices we're inviting you to this Lent is to be a part of the small group study and the weekly Sunday services focused on The Lord's Prayer. I'm especially looking forward to the multiple voices we are going to be hearing on Sunday mornings. For each of the Sundays of Lent we are having a member of our congregation reading the scripture for the morning as well as having someone share a testimony about their experience of The Lord's Prayer: When did they learn it? Who taught it to them? What is their favorite phrase of the prayer and why is it their favorite? And in what settings, other than Sunday morning prayer, have they used The Lord's Prayer?

I'm excited that we are having more in-person experiences this year. Last year we had all but the last session of our Lenten Study on Zoom and this year it's all in-person. Discussions are much livelier when everyone's in the same room.

I hope that you can attend at least one of our Sunday morning worships in person this Lent. There's nothing like being with the people of God that helps us to remember that we are not alone, that God is with us.

May we all have a blessed Lent.

- Pastor Holly

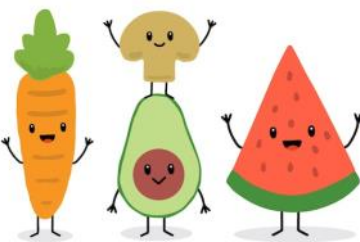
March Celebrations

Birthdays

- 3/2 Laurie D.
Sharron F.
- 3/3 Madelyn J.
Madelynn K.
- 3/7 Valerie V.
- 3/14 Phillip J.
- 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.
- 3/29 Linda R.

Anniversaries

- 3/31 Karl & Jeanne L.



Please Notify the Pastor

Please notify Pastor Holly if you hear of anyone from our congregation being in the hospital or in hospice care. Call or email the office or pastor and let them know of the need. Thank you!

Lenten Study

Thanks to the snow totals during the last week of February which cancelled our planned first session of our study, our Lenten Study will be beginning on Wednesday, March 1 at 7PM in the church library. We will be studying Adam Hamilton's *The Lord's Prayer: The Meaning and Power of the Prayer Jesus Taught*. You are invited to pick up a book in the nook at church for only \$15 and join us in this DVD-based study. Each week we'll watch the 15-minute video with Adam Hamilton and then discuss the DVD as well as the chapter we read the previous week. On March 1 we'll discuss the introduction and chapter 1. We will conclude our study on Wednesday, March 29. Come and be a part of the group!

New Pathways Family Hosting Coming in March by Jane R.

From March 26-April 2, 2023 it is our joy to host, in our church building, families experiencing homelessness. It has been 3 years since we last hosted families in our building. We will have 5 families staying with us for a maximum of 20 people. We will need helpers to set up the rooms on March 26th after Sunday's service, drivers to transport any families without their own vehicle from Cambridge to us two times per day, people to prepare and clean up after supper each day, people to host evenings between supper and 8:00pm, people to sleep at church (8pm to 8am), and people to tear down bedding and load the trailer on Sunday morning (April 2) before church. In 2020 we had a total of 59 helping units (if someone did one task on Sunday and another on Tuesday they were counted as 2 helping units). This is definitely an "ALL HANDS ON DECK" call for assistance.

We are a "small" church but we have shown we don't have "small" hearts and this is one of the best ways we can share God's love with people in our community who truly need us! We will ask all helpers who have direct contact with the families to authorize the church to do a background check on them prior to our hosting week. You will find signup sheets in the entryway at church very soon! Thank you for your spirit of generous support for this program. You are appreciated very much!

Before our hosting week we need people to wash sheets and blankets since it has been three years since our last hosting. If you have any questions about helping with any of this, please talk to Linda R.

Mission Statement: New Pathways exists to empower and provide support to families with children experiencing homelessness in Central MN. Families are given access to case management, advocacy and referrals, plus the opportunity to build skills that encourage stability and sustainability. They have social workers on staff who provide counseling, job leads, housing leads, and help with credit issues.

UMCOR

Many of us have been praying for the victims of the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria and in April or May your mission team is planning to take up a collection for UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) which is already doing the good work of helping those in need in those devastated areas. Stay tuned for further details.

March is FOODSHARE month!



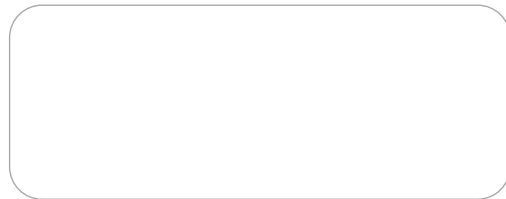


Holy Week

Holy Week is the first full week of April, beginning with our Palm Sunday celebration on Sunday, April 2. On Good Friday, April 7 at our 7PM service, we will share in communion as we remember Christ's Last Supper with his disciples and his crucifixion. On Easter morning, April 9 we will celebrate Christ's resurrection from the dead!

"Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live.'" -John 11:25

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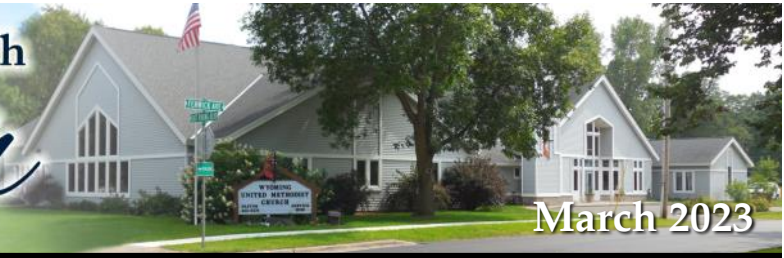


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Wyoming United Methodist Church
5459 E Viking Blvd., PO Box 247
Wyoming, MN 55092



Wyoming United Methodist Church Messenger



March Missions Focus

Wyoming United Methodist Church will once again collect funds during March to support our local Family Pathways Food Shelf. The food shelf receives matching funds for some of the money we send them in March so it's a GREAT time to support them! We always strive to donate money to them to help pay for the Friday backpack food they bring us so we can pack and deliver weekend food to Wyoming Elementary School each week. They can buy so much more food from their sources than we can by buying at a grocery store.

In 2022 the food shelf served 24% MORE people than in the previous year. People coming in once per week for bread and produce is up by 32%. They saw a 51% increase in NEW families. Extra money from the COVID Relief program has ended and extra SNAP benefits ended Feb. 28. Higher gas and food prices are affecting many people, as well as the food shelf itself, as they travel to local grocery stores to gather food donations. Please continue to be generous in your support of the Family Pathways Food Shelf by writing FOOD on your check or envelope and placing it in the offering plate. Thank you!

STRETCH Your Donation!

What YOU can buy with \$10



What WE can buy with \$10



Worship Services in March

Our Lenten sermon series is based on The Lord's Prayer. As we take time to look at smaller sections of the prayer and examine what they are really saying, the hope is that we not only learn more about this prayer that we know by heart, but that we also incorporate this prayer into our personal prayer life in a way that is meaningful to us. Come on along as we learn more about the only prayer that Jesus taught.

March 5

Whose Will Be Done
Matthew 6:9-10;
Luke 22:41-42

March 12

Our Daily Bread
Matthew 6:9-11;
John 6:30-31, 35

March 19

Forgive...As We Forgive
Matthew 6:9-12, 14-15;
Luke 23:32-34

March 26

Lead Us Not into Temptation
Matthew 4:1-11

"We love because he first loved us."

- 1 John 4:19