

Welcome to Kathy Webb/Pianist Update

Wyoming UMC has hired Kathy Webb as a part-time pianist! She will be providing musical accompaniment on a rotating basis with Nathan Aastuen, who has agreed to stay on through the end of the year. Kathy is an excellent musician with more than sixty years of experience

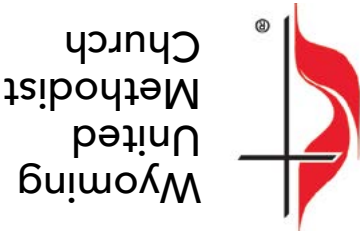


playing in churches! In addition to her church playing, Kathy is the co-founder and long-time music director/pit-orchestra conductor of the Lake Harriet Players theater company, who have staged musicals each spring in Southwest Minneapolis since 2001 – eight of which have featured Pastor Jeff and/or his wife Kelsey. Kathy’s first Sunday at Wyoming UMC was July 13th. Please give her a warm welcome! We are still seeking a full-time accompanist beginning in January or before. If you know anyone who would be interested in the position, please let the church know.

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July/August Lectionary Readings

July 27
Genesis 18:20-32
Psalm 138
Colossians 2:6-15
Luke 11:1-3

August 3
Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14,
2:18-23
Psalm 49:1-12
Colossians 3:1-11
Luke 12:13-21

August 10
Genesis 15:1-5
Psalm 33:12-22
Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16
Luke 12:32-40

August 17
Jeremiah 23:23-29
Psalm 82:1-8
Hebrews 11:29-12:2
Luke 12:49-56

August 24
Isaiah 58:9b-14
Psalm 103:1-8
Hebrews 12:18-29
Luke 13:10-17

August 31
Proverbs 25:6-7
Psalm 112
Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16
Luke 14:1, 7-14

Meet and Greets

The SPRC has been organizing meet-and-greets, which are opportunities for the members of our congregation to get to know Pastor Jeff in a more intimate setting. There are currently meetings scheduled for August 7 (1:00 PM), and August 24 (11:30 AM). If you haven’t already, we encourage you to sign up for one of these sessions. The signup sheet is available in the nook (to your right as you exit the sanctuary).

Adult Education

I will soon begin to plan out a series of adult education classes for the Fall. My background is in theological education, and I love teaching in the church. Prior to coming to this church, I’ve designed courses that explore different ways of conceiving of God or the person and significance of Jesus, as well as a course on the history of Protestant theology and its meaning for us as Christians today. Are there any topics that you would like to see covered in an upcoming adult-ed class? Please email me and let me know. I would love to get the congregation’s input!

Nursery Care

The church is looking for a few volunteers who are willing to help provide care during the service for babies and toddlers in our nursery. While we do not have many babies currently in our church, having nursery care available is a crucial part of making our space welcoming to young families who visit our church. We would like to have three or four volunteers who would be willing to staff the nursery on a rotating basis in case a family with a baby comes to our church (if no one comes you can rejoin the service!).

New Pathways

The first full week of September we are hosting families who are unhoused. We have the privilege of giving families who have fallen on hard times a comfortable and safe place to rest. Our time will begin after worship on Sunday, August 31, where we encourage people to stay after worship and help set up the guests’ rooms (bring in cots, make the beds, stock each room with a nightlight and fan). You can sign up at church or call the office to see what opportunities are still available. We have need for overnight hosts, meals, and evening hosts. We could also use your help in cleaning up and putting away cots, etc. early Sunday morning, September 7.



From the Pastor...

The day finally came! I remember back in March when I first received a call from my Conference Superintendent to let me know that the bishop intended to appoint me to Wyoming United Methodist Church. I was flooded with simultaneous feelings of excitement and nervousness. I had been wrestling with a call to ministry since I was a child and had finally made the decision to accept that this was where God was leading me a couple of years ago. After a period of moving through the bureaucracy of the UMC and untold meetings, I suddenly had an appointment. I was going to be the pastor of a church. This was it, no turning back now!

By the end of the month, I had met the members of the SPRC and the appointment was officially announced. That kicked off a season of waiting and anticipation. I wasn't sure if it was going to be the fastest or the slowest three months of my life.

Now the waiting is over. I've been serving as your pastor for three weeks now. I could not be more thrilled! I've been so touched and grateful every day by the warmth and hospitality of this congregation. It's a scary thing to walk into a community like this as a newcomer, but you have consistently made me and my family feel welcome and at home. Beyond that, I'm impressed by the care and commitment that you demonstrate towards each other. When things need to be done and when times are tough, you show up for each other.

There have certainly been challenges – I didn't expect to perform my first funeral two weeks into beginning this appointment – but together we have risen to the occasion. I am so grateful to God for all of you, for this community. I cannot wait for us to grow together.



- Pastor Jeff

August Celebrations

Birthdays

- 08-01 Shirley F.
- 08-02 Shelley B.
- 08-05 Kaylin F.
- 08-06 Devantay K.
Monique K.
- 08-09 Alex I.
Carol S.
- 08-13 Karyla P.
- 08-17 Chris S.
- 08-19 Pam T.
- 08-27 Rita P.
- 08-30 Augustus L.

Anniversaries

- 08-12 Jim & Donna K.
- 08-14 Paul & Lisa S.
- 08-25 Dennis & Lisa R.
- 08-28 Ben & LeAnne P.



You teach me the way of life. In your presence is total celebration. Beautiful things are always in your right hand.

- Psalm 16:11 (CEB)



Worshiping with the Revised Common Lectionary

When designing worship services and selecting biblical passages on which to preach, a pastor has many different choices at their disposal. Some like to pick a book of the Bible (say, 1 Corinthians) and for a period they will go through that entire book verse by verse, a little bit each Sunday, until they have covered the entire text. Others like to pick a theme (something like "Wrestling with Doubt"), and they will pick passages of scripture that deal with that theme. Another option is to use a prescribed schedule of readings, or a lectionary, and use that as the basis for scripture readings and preachings in our worship service. There is something to be said for all these approaches – they each have their strengths and weaknesses.

My own approach is that of lectionary preaching. I let the scriptural passages we read each week be determined by a pre-set order and base my sermon on those texts. Specifically, I use the Revised Common Lectionary. It is used by many denominations throughout the world, including many United Methodists. The lectionary follows a three-year cycle of readings, each centering around a particular Gospel. We are currently smack-dab in the middle of Year C, which follows the Gospel of Luke. When Advent comes along, we will cycle back to year A and switch our focus to the Gospel of Matthew.

As I said above, no system for selecting readings is perfect, but I wanted to share with you a few reasons why I choose to preach with the RCL, especially as it is different from what you have been used to.

1. The lectionary connects us to the global church. While not used universally, the RCL is used by countless churches of many denominations across the globe. There is something powerful about the idea that tens of thousands of churches are all reckoning with the same text at the same time. It helps us think of ourselves not as a church, located in a building on E. Viking Blvd., but as a part of the Church.
2. The lectionary reinforces the church calendar. Christians live not by the calendar of the world, but by the liturgical calendar. This calendar begins in the darkness and waiting of Advent, through the light of Christmas time, through Lent and Easter, to Pentecost and Ordinary Time. The lectionary helps us feel this sense of church-time in a deeper way by letting the liturgical calendar aid the scripture.
3. The lectionary takes the choice out of my hands. I take seriously the notion that the sermon is meant to be heard as the Word of God: a fallible, human word, which by the grace of the Holy Spirit may become a divine address to us. It is a task of great seriousness and responsibility. When seen in that light, placing the decision as to what I will preach on purely in my own hands feels...off. I could only preach the passages of the Bible that I especially like or that I'm comfortable with. I could avoid large sections of the Bible altogether. I could get stuck in ruts and habits and struggle to pull myself out. The RCL takes that choice out of my hands. It forces me to say that this week's text, whatever it may be, is the word of God for the people of God this week.

One practice to consider is to take these lectionary readings and make them part of your own Bible study. Every week on Monday, look at this newsletter and see what the upcoming scriptures for next Sunday's sermon are and make it a point to read them over the week. It's not a tremendous amount of reading each week, but over a three year cycle you'll have read widely from all the different parts of the Bible.