



MNTC Recap

On June 21st, Wyoming UMC was pleased to welcome the Minnesota Adult and Teen Challenge Choir, along with founder Pastor Rich Scherber, to lead worship. They not only shared their beautiful music with us, but their testimonies – stories of addiction and loss, and the way in which MNTC and their faith in Christ helped them on the road to recovery

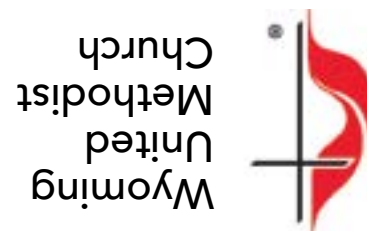
and sobriety. It was a powerful and moving service, with many in the congregation reporting being moved to tears. We are so grateful for their presence and their generous spirits.

Minnesota Adult and Teen Challenge provide crucial services in drug and alcohol rehabilitation, including longer-term residential care options that are crucial for successful recovery from opioid addictions. The money that they raise from community partners, such as ourselves, helps make it so that the vast majority of those who seek their help do not have to pay for their treatment. It was an honor to make them our mission focus for the month of June. Our generous congregation members raised approximately \$3600 for this fine organization. When that is combined with the matching donation from an anonymous member of our church, that comes to \$7200 in raised funds to help men and women from across the state get the help they need. Thank you for this wonderful work.

Wyoming UMC • Church phone: 651-462-5276 • Web address: wyomingunitedmethodist.org
Pastor Jeff's email: jeffspeaks.mn@gmail.com • Church email: office.wyomingumc@gmail.com



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



Minnesota Annual Conference

Pastor Jeff was commissioned as a Provisional Elder in the United Methodist Church as part of the Celebration of Life in Ministry service at this year's Annual Conference meeting in St. Cloud, MN. He was commissioned alongside Rev. Lauren Hauger (Hubbard UMC in Park Rapids), Rev. Amy Van Valkenburg (Alexandria UMC in Alexandria), and Rev. Yunsun Moses Hong (Korean UMC of Minnesota in New Brighton).



Commissioning in the UMC is a public affirmation of your call and your gifts for ministry, and the entering into a provisional relationship before full ordination as an Elder.

At the Annual Conference legislation session, lay and clergy representatives from throughout the state of Minnesota voted with near unanimity to endorse the document “A Moment of Truth: Faith in a Time of Genocide” which has been prepared by the Kairos Palestine Initiative. The document contains information about the “urgent needs of Palestinian Christians and the suffering of Israeli and Palestinian Citizens living amongst war in the West Bank and in Gaza. They are encouraging United Methodists across the Conference to study and discuss this document as we think about the meaning of Christian witness in a time of violent conflict.

In keeping with the vote of the Annual Conference, Pastor Jeff will be holding a study session to read and discuss this document with interested members of Wyoming UMC on Thursday, August 27th at 10:00 AM. See New Adult Education Opportunities for details.

July & August Lectionary Readings

July 12

Isaiah 55:10-13
Psalm 65:9-13
Romans 8:1-11
Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

July 19

Isaiah 44:6-8
Psalm 86:11-17
Romans 8:12-25
Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

July 26

1 Kings 3:5-12
Psalm 119:129-136
Romans 8:26-39
Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

August 2

Isaiah 55:1-5
Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21
Romans 9:1-5
Matthew 14:13-21

August 9

1 Kings 19:9-18
Psalm 85:8-13
Romans 10:5-15
Matthew 14:22-33

August 16

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8
Psalm 67
Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32
Matthew 15:21-28

August 23

Isaiah 51:1-6
Psalm 138
Romans 12:1-8
Matthew 16:13-20

August 30

Jeremiah 15:15-21
Psalm 26:1-8
Romans 12:9-21
Matthew 16:21-28

From the Pastor...

My Friends,

Like so many of you, I was deeply moved on June 21st by the testimony, witness, and music of the Minnesota Adult and Teen Challenge Community Choir. Many of us have had our lives touched in some capacity by addictions – by the harmful grip of alcohol, nicotine, or other drugs, addictions to gambling, or even the new phenomenon of addictions to screens and social media. Within my own family there have been struggles with alcohol abuse across generations, so it is a struggle I know all too well. For people who have seen the harm that addiction can cause, the stories of our guests provide hope by showing success stories, by sharing testimony that recovery is possible. We can get better. We can change.

Yet the stories that were shared with us go deeper than just the problem with substance abuse and other forms of addiction. Even if we are fortunate enough to have not been affected by substance abuse – whether our own or that of people in our lives – we all know the devastating effects of sin: the rupture in our relationship with God that has devastating consequences on all our other relationships, including with ourselves. The experience of substance abuse shows us a clear analogy to our own relationship with sin, by showing us how people can choose and continue to choose actions that are self-destructive and that alienate us from everyone around us. We know it’s bad, we see the effects, yet we keep on choosing it.

Just as the testimony of past abuse helps us understand our own relationship with sin, the stories of recovery provide us with a reminder of the incredible power of grace to transform us and make us whole again. Even in the midst of our own voluntary slavery to sin’s power, God is not done with us. God is working for us and within us to bring us back into light from the darkness. Even in our lowest moments, in our rock-bottom moments, God meets us with love. God greets us like the father of the prodigal son, embracing us with open arms, and crying out “my [child] was dead and is alive again; [they were] lost, and [are] found.” (Luke 15:24) The people of Minnesota Teen and Adult Challenge are not only there to show that their treatment plans for substance abuse work, but to testify to the power of God to transform people and bring them from death back to life. After all, we worship a God who loves a good resurrection story.

I’m proud to financially support the work that Minnesota Adult and Teen Challenge does, and I’m thrilled at the generosity that this congregation displayed in raising funds for them. You always rise to the occasion when it comes to the mission of the church, putting your values of Christian hospitality and generosity into meaningful action. It is an inspiration.

Grace and Peace,
- Pastor Jeff



July & August Celebrations

Birthdays

7-7	Ryan R.
7-9	Cameron J. Troy S.
7-11	Dan I.
7-14	Logan K.
7-15	Deb M.
7-19	Jim K.
7-20	Clare J. Alex S.
7-23	Aurelia S. Austin S.
7-24	Sandra S.
7-28	Michelle J.
7-31	Betty M.
8-1	Shirley F.
8-2	Shelley B.
8-5	Kaylin A.
8-9	Alex I. Carol S.
8-13	Karyla P.
8-17	Chris S.
8-19	Pam T.
8-27	Rita P.
8-30	Augustus L.

Anniversaries

7-29	Ed & Karen K.
8-12	Jim & Donna K.
8-14	Paul & Lisa S.
8-25	Dennis & Lisa R.
8-28	Ben & LeAnne P.

* If we don't have your special date listed, please contact the church office!

New Adult Education Opportunities!

Discussion Group: “A Moment of Truth”

Date: Thursday, August 27, 10:00 AM

At the 2026 meeting of the Minnesota Annual Conference, the clergy and lay representatives voted almost unanimously to endorse the document “A Moment of Truth: Faith in a Time of Genocide” and to encourage United Methodists across the state to study and discuss this document. “A Moment of Truth” is a follow-up to the 2009 document Kairos Palestine Christians (which was previously endorsed by the General Conference of the UMC), produced by Palestinian Christians living in the midst of the region’s conflict and attempts to respond to the dramatic changes that have occurred in our world and the escalation of the conflict. In endorsing the document, the Annual Conference hopes that laity and clergy throughout the state will study and discuss “A Moment of Truth” in order to be better informed in regards to the struggles of Palestinian peoples.

In keeping with the Annual Conference’s decision, Pastor Jeff will lead a discussion group on this document. Interested members of the congregation will receive a copy of the document in advance to be read on their own. We will then have an open,

loving, and grace-filled conversation about the conflict and our response as Christians. A sign-up sheet will be placed in the lobby.

“Set Our Hearts on Fire: The Holy Spirit and Christian Life”

Dates: Thursdays at 10:00 AM, 9/17 – 9/24, 10/8 – 10/29, 11/12 – 11/19

As Christians, we worship God as a Holy Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. While the Father and the Son are familiar to us, the Spirit remains far more elusive – little-understood, under- appreciated, and far more confusing. In this class we will attempt to understand this neglected member of the Godhead. What does the Bible teach us about the Holy Spirit? How has the Church understood the Spirit, historically? What is this whole ‘Trinity’ thing anyways? (No seriously, can someone explain it to me?) Most crucially, what role does the Holy Spirit play in our lives as Christians today, in our walk of faith, in our worship and prayer, and in our salvation? This class will help to provide some insight into these questions for spiritually and intellectually curious Christians who want to deepen their faith. If you are interested in participating, there is a sign-up sheet in the lobby.



New Pathways

Linda R., Renee S., and Jane R. recently toured the beautiful new New Pathways facility in Cambridge. Having supported families experiencing homelessness for many years, it is an incredible blessing to see this stable, fully staffed home open its doors. Future families will no longer face the instability of moving to a different church every single week.

We can be deeply grateful for this wonderful new space. Let’s prepare to support New Pathways and their vital programs in whatever ways they need us next!