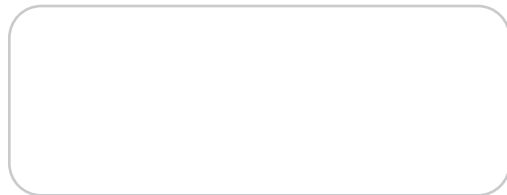




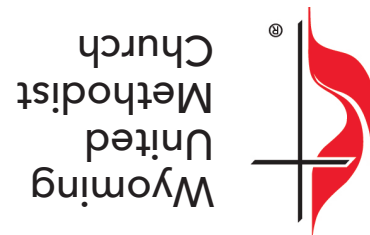
Our Christmas Tea is back again this year, after a pause for the last several years. On Thursday, December 5 at 1:30 women are invited to a lovely Christmas Tea with a festive program and goodies and time to socialize with friends old and new. We'll also have a drawing for gift baskets, goodies, and beautiful creations from our Stitch 'n' Rip Quilters! Those who wish, will have the opportunity to donate to our Joy Bells program which provides Christmas gifts and a full Christmas dinner for children, youth, and their families who are going through a time of struggle. If you're planning to come, please sign up in the nook. Come and bring a friend!

"And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth." - Lk 1:14

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Wyoming United Methodist Church Messenger



Worship Services in December

Life hands us difficult experiences that weigh us down: despair, anxiety, regret, and fear. In the midst of all this, God holds out precious and life-giving gifts – hope, peace, joy, and love. This Advent season, as we prepare for gift exchanges with friends and family, we will reflect on the gifts given to us by the greatest giver of all and how can we receive and embrace those gifts even in the most difficult of times.

December 1

Gift Exchange: Despair for Hope
 Psalm 121

December 8

Gift Exchange: Anxiety for Peace
 John 14:1-4, 25-27

December 15

Gift Exchange: Sorrow for Joy
 Psalm 30

December 22

Gift Exchange: Fear for Love
 1 John 4:7-19

December 29

Ask the Pastor and Christmas
 Carols by Request
 Luke 2:22-40

Christmas Pageant: An Invitation from Jane R.

On Sunday, December 15, we will have our annual “no-rehearsal” Christmas Pageant for children who would like to participate. We ask those who are participating to come between 9:15-9:30AM that day to choose a costume to become Mary or Joseph, an angel, a shepherd, or a wise one. If anyone knows of a baby to play Jesus that would be spectacular! All participants will gather around the manger as our readers share the Christmas story and the congregation sings some traditional songs of Christmas. We then will adjourn to the fellowship hall for Jesus’ birthday party. All kids, grandkids, and youth are invited!

Christmas Eve Worship Service

We are having our Christmas Eve service at 5PM this year on Tuesday, December 24. Our Christmas Eve service will be a traditional service of Lessons and Carols as together we welcome the Christ Child into our hearts. We will also have special music by soloist, Tyra Ramsey. This is a perfect time to invite friends and family to join you online and access our worship service on our YouTube channel or come with you in person. Come, sing the well-known songs of Christmas and celebrate the one who brought light into the darkness.



From the Pastor...

Blessed Advent and Christmas to you!

The Christmas trees are up in the sanctuary and Fellowship Hall, we're hanging wreaths and putting up the manger scene as we get ready for the coming of the Christ Child.

This Advent season I'm preaching a series called Gift Exchange, where we're talking about getting rid of the "gifts" our society gives us, gifts that can sometimes lead to despair, anxiety, sorrow, and fear and taking on, instead, the gifts of the Christ Child, gifts of hope, peace, joy and love.

I know that many of us sometimes feel pressure in this season to have the best Christmas celebration ever, with just the right gifts and just the right foods to make everyone's day merry and bright.

Pastors sometimes feel this pressure, too. I remember going to a fantastic Christmas program several years ago, held at a megachurch near my home in the Twin Cities. The experience was breath-taking, with flying cast members, real animals, fantastic lighting, and a full orchestra and choir. I remember being jealous of that church's ability to tell in such an awe-inspiring way, the story of the Christ Child come to earth.

But then I realized that the real Christmas story is fantastic just as it is. To think that the creator of the universe would decide to come to earth as a small, defenseless child in order to show to the world the depth and breadth and height of God's love for us, is simply fantastic.

I hope that all of us can exchange any anxiety and oppressive societal expectations with the gifts of the Christ Child, the great gift of God's love.

As we take those unrealistic expectations off our shoulders, may we be freed up to look around and see if there are people around us who could use some Christmas cheer, who could use a kind word or a warm hug when they're feeling down or lonely. Through simple acts of kindness, we may be manifestations of God's love for those who need a word of hope in a dark time.

May this Advent and Christmas season be one filled with hope where we celebrate Jesus' birth as the fantastic gift that it is!

Wishing you all a blessed and joyous Advent/Christmas season filled with God's love.

- Pastor Holly

Dec. Celebrations

Birthdays

12-2	Carly K.
12-9	Derik I.
12-12	Nathan M.
12-13	Everyn S.
12-15	Michael O.
12-22	Lucas P.
12-23	Savannah F.
12-27	Buck B. Chevelle F.
12-28	Jane R. April L.
12-31	Dave F. Al J.



Thank You from Michelle

Thank you for the wonderful 11-year anniversary celebration you had for me on November 10. It was fun to see everyone and meet people who I had only known by name. Thank you for all the kind words that were said on my behalf, the sweet cards, and also for all of the monetary gifts that totaled almost \$700! This congregation is SO generous! Please know that I am very grateful for your appreciation and friendship.

Christmas Offering 2024

The Christmas offering will be designated to go to the New Pathways family shelter in Cambridge which supports families in our area who are experiencing homelessness. We have been supporting their shelter for more than ten years with financial donations as well as by hosting their families in our building twice a year for one week at a time. We have been proud to provide the families with a ride to our church, good food, and good fellowship during their stays with us. We know their struggle when they pack their bags and leave our church only to be sent to another church for the following week. Thankfully, New Pathways continues with plans for their own facility in Cambridge so the families will not move every Sunday! This facility will be staffed 24 hours per day, 7 days per week plus offer counseling and other assistance to families as needed. New Pathways has reduced the vision for the new building to save on the cost. Once a new facility opens, the chance to interact with the families will still exist as meals and fellowship would still be needed – just in a brand new building! We will have a new plan for the shelter to review in December which will be posted at church when it arrives. Hopes are to begin construction in the summer of 2025. Land has been donated and some construction costs are being donated but buildings are expensive! Last year our Christmas offering came to over \$2400. Please be generous with your Christmas offering again this year! Mark your check or envelope with "CHRISTMAS" and place it in the offering plate or the mail anytime between now and New Year's. New Pathways appreciates our continued support so very much! THANK YOU!

Thank You for Turning in Your Estimate of Giving Cards

To those who turned in Estimate of Giving Cards for 2024, thank you! Your giving to God through the church will help fulfill our mission of Building Bridges to Christ's Love in our church, in our community and in our world. If you haven't turned in an estimate of giving card yet, you can email the church office (office.wyomingumc@gmail.com) with your commitment for the coming year, send your card to the church in the mail (PO Box 247, Wyoming, MN 55092) or bring it to church and put it in the offering plate.

Once again, thank you for your commitment to the ministry of God through this church!

Joy Bells

Thanks to all who have been sending or bringing in your donations for Joy Bells by the December 1 deadline. You are helping make Christmas merry and bright for so many families in need. Thank you!

New Members

We are hoping to have a New Member Sunday in December. If you are interested in joining Wyoming United Methodist Church as a member, please talk to Pastor Holly.

Do You Read This Newsletter?

Please call or email the church office and let us know that you read this message in the newsletter (we're trying to get a feel for how many people actually read the newsletter).

