

Minister's Musings: March

I recently had the pleasure of spending a few days in Yellowstone National Park. I was struck by the abundance of game. Bison were everywhere, as were elk. Big horn sheep were well camouflaged on the rock faces. We found fresh wolf tracks on our ski trail and tracks of moose nearby. I am pretty sure both the moose and the wolf were watching us, although the moose likely was far more interested in what was happening with the wolf. We later watched an entire wolf pack make their way down the river valley. Even outside the north gate of the park, bison, elk, mule deer, white tail deer and pronghorn antelope were abundant. On our return drive to the Bozeman airport the contrast was apparent: farm fields with nary any large animals present. There even seemed to be fewer small animal tracks. Later, as we drove back to Chico from the Sacramento Airport, I looked over the valley, imagining what it had been like prior to the '49 gold rush, filled with elk, deer, antelope, wolves and bears. Pastor Bryan