

## Could religion be good?

The contrasting morning chill summons our awareness of routines that predictably twirl over and over allowing what once bloomed in a spring to succumb in a sort of bountiful rich harvest. We remember it. Sometimes we're in harvests and other times springs with many in-betweens along our way. We strap on new shoes for the brightness of more knowledge, new books and new faces launch us to bigger broader steps of a larger life and the wholeness of adulthood. We hang on to what we know and build upon each step. Whether it is a blessing of a backpack, a weary soul or baptism, we grab onto what we can count on. If you peek at history, whether it's a family's heritage or this wild and adventurous world, there is predictability. Religion likewise, has predictable precepts.

Stephen Doughty, retells of something he counts on. A long remembered, not even named minister shared with him a concept he entitled "inner church". Inner church never left Stephen. "An "inner church" is a special gathering of folks who nourished you in your own faith...They taught you. They set examples. They showed courage. And now you carry them around in you. They encourage you and some of you even talk with them internally."

God enters into our inner church long before community binding what might be witnessed in and reflected in God. Consider just a few psalms, although more are sewn through scripture and souls mirroring the Creator's character: "You go before me and follow me. You place your hand of blessing on my head." "I will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore." We are kept and created for these

precepts. Some of these words of comfort remind me of the community within the WBLUMC Sightline Prayer Project and beyond. Prayers that followed one another every day given by one another to God's goodness.

There has been a good deal of time and angst about what religion is or isn't, yet an insightful, broader vision helps us grip a wider, panoramic scope of the family of God's expansive reach. The word religion in some circles has been left aside quite lonely to seemingly fuller words such as spirituality. However, historically, religion or 'religare' meant to tie, fasten or bind while earlier texts and theologians in the 4th century stress its meaning is go over again and again. The root word is 'lig', from which we derive our word ligament. We are mindful ligaments are those tenacious cords holding our precious joints and muscles. 'Re' references a practice we do again and again such as times we reassess, remember or repeat.

Finally, what can it be that we, the people of the way of Jesus are tied to, come to and grip? What is the place we return to and repeat much the same as a home that draws us nearer like a haven than brick and mortar? The word religion beckons us to recall, we are not so much bound to this God, but rather it is the force of this compassionate God who fills us and stays. This God and the emerging permeating community of faith has a potential to be a shelter of the Sacred.

People of the way have held firmly we have a Teacher who invites us to begin where there are endings, to allow loving kindness to give witness and that God-love can be possessed in an endless supply. Amen. — J.Jacot

**Prayer at WBLUMC:** One of the ways our church helps to nourish and support the hungers of life is through prayer. If you have a special need or celebration that could use extra care, we invite you to partake in one of these prayer avenues. If your spirit has the need to support others through prayer, we invite you to join in one of the teams. **The Prayer Team:** If you would like to request a prayer of this team, please write it on a prayer request card, or contact Julie Jacot at 651-777-3728, ljjacot@q.com. **The Email Prayer Chain** accepts email requests via a call or email to a pastor or the email prayer chain lead, Ronda Nelson, at rondalauva2@msn.com. **The Phone Prayer Chain** is organized through the UMW. Call Eva Shipley if you would like to request a prayer at 651-429-3570.

### STAFF

**Bill Eaves**, Senior Pastor  
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**Brooke Heerwald Steiner**, Associate Pastor

**John McBride**, Associate Pastor

**Joan Hartman**, Director of Children  
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**Amy McGrew**, Director of Youth Ministries

**Peteria Cochran Routt**, Director of  
Traditional Music

**John Koziol, Jr.** Director of Music

**Matthew Goinz**, Chancel Choir Director

**Patricia Kytola**, Director of Operations

**Lauri Hopple**, Administrative Assistant

**Lori Hughes**, Website & Social Media

**Tom Leiser**, Treasurer

**Harry Jones**, Financial Secretary

**Ron Houde**, Housekeeper



10am Worship Rally Sunday, Sept 10, 2017

HEARING ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE; PLEASE SEE USHERS

• PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE

### WORDS FOR MEDITATION

"Religion can make us more loving, kind, hopeful, and understanding. Or it can make us more judgmental, stubborn, abrasive, and difficult to live with. It all depends on how we apply it." ~ *Huston Smith*

PRELUDES "In the Garden," "After the Rain" by Brian Wicklund, and "Wayfaring Stranger"

WELCOME

ANTHEM

"Bright Morning Stars"

†OPENING WORDS (responsively)

Let us come together and sing a new song to God!

**We praise you with words and music.**

**We recognize you in prayer and silence.**

**You are holy.**

Let us recognize the miracles of creation! What science unveils, what research finds, the great wisdom of creation and its mysterious order: we give thanks to its author!

**Words are not enough to describe you.**

**Even songs can only hint at the grandeur of your presence.**

**You are holy.**

Let us bring an offering of thanksgiving and bless God in acts of compassion and service.

Let us sing a new song to God, a song that goes through our hands and feet, our minds and souls.

**May our songs hint at your glory and our prayers proceed to your heart.**

**You are holy. Amen.**

†OPENING HYMN

"God Is Here"

MINUTE SPEAKER

Lisa Draves, Joyful Noise Children's Choir Director  
Peteria Cochran Routt, Cherub Choir Director

No. 660



White Bear Lake  
UNITED  
METHODIST  
CHURCH

1851 BIRCH STREET, WBL, MN 55110 | 651-429-9026 | WBLUMC.ORG

BLESSING OF TEACHERS & ADMINISTRATORS

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS (in unison)

**God of Wisdom, we give you thanks for students and teachers and for opportunities to explore, learn and play. We thank you for this fresh start; tools for learning and new ideas. We thank you for the gifts of making mistakes and trying again. Help us remember that asking questions is as important as answering them. We give you thanks for children, and we ask you to bless them with curiosity and courage, understanding and respect. May these backpacks be a sign to these learners that they have everything they need to grow this year in school. May they be guided by your love. Amen.**

*Children pre-K through grade 5 are invited to stay for worship or leave for clips of the story of Joseph and His Brothers. Older children stay with their families for a full hour of worship.*

MORNING PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

ANTHEM "In Your Arms" by Brian Wicklund

SCRIPTURE Luke 18:9-14 Reader: Lillian Jenkins

Jesus also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted."

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

*Leader:* For the word of God in Scripture, for the word of God among us, for the word of God within us.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE Good Religion and Bad Religion Pastor Bill Eaves

+HYMN "Down To the River to Pray" No. 3164

CONNECTION CARDS

*Please take time now to fill out your green connection cards. After the prayer of dedication, place them in the offering plates.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

OFFERING "Simple Gifts/What A Friend we Have in Jesus" arr. Barley Jacks

*We're taking a special offering for the United Methodist Committee on Relief for those affected by recent hurricanes. To give, please indicate Hurricane Relief on your envelope or in the memo line of your check.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

+CLOSING HYMN "I'll Fly Away" No. 2282

+BENEDICTION

+POSTLUDE "Ain't No Grave" by Johnny Cash

*Parents: Thank you for promptly picking up your children in the education wing after worship. Then head outside for Rally Day festivities and more live music from The Barley Jacks!*

THIS WEEK'S MUSICIANS  
**The Barley Jacks:** Brian Wicklund, fiddle and mandolin; Mike Cramer, guitar; Jim Chenoweth, bass; and Joel Arpin, percussion  
**Organ:** Peteria Cochran-Routt **Piano:** John Koziol  
**Sound technician:** Kirk Holstin

ALTAR FLOWERS  
This week's flowers are provided by Julie and Terry Perreira in celebration of the 50th wedding anniversary of Julie's parents, Mike and Marcia Faust.



**Next week: New fall worship times!**

Starting next Sunday, Sept. 17, we'll return to two services, but they'll be at new times:

**9-10am traditional/blended worship** with nursery and Sunday School and **10:45-11:30am band-led worship** with nursery

**Fall sermon series: Good religion**

**Sept. 10 through Oct. 15**

Too often, religion is used as a tool of judgment rather than an instrument of grace. In this series, we explore how 21st century Christians can have a faith that is not legalistic or anti-intellectual, but grace-filled and life-giving.

Here's what we'll be considering as a congregation this fall:

**Sept. 10** — Good Religion and Bad Religion

**Sept. 17** — Good Religion Calls for Justice

**Sept. 24** — Good Religion Prioritizes Love

**Oct. 1** — Good Religion Builds Community

**Oct. 8** — Good Religion Says Welcome

**Oct. 15** — Good Religion Practices Forgiveness

## Great news!

Faith in Action is thrilled to announce that WBLUMC has received \$800 for each of two grants we requested from the Conference. One grant will be used to help second-graders at Willow Lane purchase books at their scholastic book fairs. The other grant will help at-risk Century College students with bus tokens or gas cards, if transportation has become a barrier for them getting to class.

## WEEKLY CALENDAR

### **Sunday, Sept. 10: Rally Day!**

10am—Worship/nursery

11am—Individual prayer, prayer room

11am-1pm—Activities, live music and food outside

### **Monday, Sept. 11**

10am—Hang Loose Women's AI-Anon, room 206

7pm—UMW Fall Program, Fellowship Hall

### **Tuesday, Sept. 12**

10:30am-noon—Staff meeting, room 206

6pm—YogaDevotion, Fellowship Hall

6:30pm—Trustees meeting, room 107

7pm—Finance Committee, room 200

7pm—Worship Committee, library

7pm—Staff Parish Relations Committee, room 206

### **Wednesday, Sept. 13**

6:15pm—Alleluia Ringers, sanctuary

### **Thursday, Sept. 14**

7:10am—Men's Breakfast Group, library

9am-3pm—The Gathering, room 200

10am—Pages of Wisdom, room 107

1pm—Outside book club, library

### **Friday, Sept. 15**

9am-noon—Office open; no scheduled activities

### **Saturday, Sept. 16**

7:30am—Men's Prayer Group, room 107

10am—Women's Breakfast group, room 200

### **Sunday, Sept. 17: New worship times begin!**

9-10am—Worship/Sunday school and nursery

10am—Fair Trade coffee, tea, & treats  
in Fellowship Hall

10am—Individual prayer, prayer room

10am—Confirmation orientation, room 200

10:45-11:30am—Worship/nursery

Welcome to

## WHITE BEAR LAKE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Visit [wblumc.org](http://wblumc.org) for weekly sermon podcasts, the church calendar and programming details.

### **CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**

<b>Sunday:</b>	9am to 12pm
<b>Monday:</b>	9am to 3pm
<b>Tuesday:</b>	9am to 3pm
<b>Wednesday:</b>	9am to 3pm
<b>Thursday:</b>	9am to 3pm
<b>Friday:</b>	9am to 12pm
<b>Saturday:</b>	CLOSED

## SUNDAY BULLETIN

Please email information to [office@wblumc.org](mailto:office@wblumc.org) by **noon on Tuesdays**. Most events require a two-week lead time, but the earlier you get us the information, the more time we have to get the word out.

## WEEKLY E-BLAST

To receive our weekly email update, call 651-429-9026 or email [office@wblumc.org](mailto:office@wblumc.org). Please submit church-related events or announcements by **3pm Wednesdays**. All e-blast and bulletin information is subject to staff approval.

## LIFESOURCE

If you're part of a group or ministry that plans to hold a church event this December 2017 through March 2018, we want to help you spread the word. Photos from repeating events would be great! Please email info and photos to Lauri at [office@wblumc.org](mailto:office@wblumc.org).  
**NEXT DEADLINE: Tuesday, Nov. 21.**

# Today is Rally Day!

After worship, kids can have fun with bounce houses, a bubble machine, the gaga pit and cotton candy.

All ages are invited to enjoy pulled pork sandwiches with fresh buns from our brick ovens.

Special music during worship and afterward from guest band **The Barley Jacks!**



## Sign up for fall programs!

Register your children and grandchildren online **TODAY** for youth and children's ministry programs that start **Sunday, Sept. 17**, and **Wednesday, Sept. 27**. Register at [wblumc.org](http://wblumc.org) on the youth ministry page for grades 6-12 and on the children's ministry page for younger kids. Contact Joan or Amy with questions.

## Be a hero:

### Teach Sunday school

Help support our church, brush up on your bible knowledge (or learn it for the first time!), and make your child or grandchild proud. It's only 8 Sundays a year, with ready-to-go lesson plans and all supplies. To find out more, contact [joan.hartman@wblumc.org](mailto:joan.hartman@wblumc.org).

## Love Thy Neighbor, Texas edition

The Bread Oven Team will help raise funds to help victims of Hurricane Harvey and its aftermath by baking 250 loaves of delicious bread in our wood-fired ovens on Sept. 16. For a minimum donation of \$10 you will be able to pick up one of these loaves on **Sunday, Sept. 17, 10am-6pm**, and the donations will go to the United Methodist Committee on Relief to victims of recent hurricanes. You can sign up in the narthex or order *and donate online* at [wblumc.org/events/event\\_registration](http://wblumc.org/events/event_registration). Please spread the word about this chance to help! *We still need volunteers for this event; contact Glenn Oliphant.*



USA Today photo



**WE NEED YOU:** The Search Team is interviewing potential candidates but is moving slowly to do this well based on your feedback. Using the card from the ushers or on the Welcome Desk, please submit names and contact information for anyone you know who might be a strong candidate or who might know a strong candidate. The Search Team will follow up.

**STUDENTS NEED YOU:** The Congregational Survey revealed your desire for multi-generational interaction. To make this happen, every child and teen needs a relationship with 5+ adults from church for their faith to stick past confirmation and graduation. Use the card to let us know your interest and availability and/or someone you would recommend. Direct questions to Amy at amy.mcgregw@wblumc.org or in person on Sundays.

### Sightlines Prayer Project

Hello Sightline Friends, you're invited to a Sightlines Celebration!

**When:** Sept. 24 in room 200 after late worship

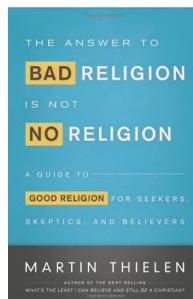
**When:** Snacks! Your stories! Our stories! Meet the person you prayed for this summer! Receive our thanks! *RSVP by Sept. 18 to ljjacot@q.com or 651-777-3728*

### Yoga class

The 7-week fall yoga session by YogaDevotion will run on **Tuesdays, Sept. 12-Oct. 24**, 6-7pm in Fellowship Hall. Cost: \$56. To join or get more information, contact Carolyn Sayles at tersay@msn.com or 651-779-0311.

### Adult Faith Formation: "Good Religion" class

A growing number of Americans identify Christianity with religious fundamentalism and see it as a negative influence in the world. What are the negative aspects, and what would a good religion look like? Martin Thielen addresses these



questions in *The Answer to Bad Religion is Not No Religion: A Guide to Religion for Seekers, Skeptics, and Believers*. A Monday evening study will complement a Sunday morning sermon series this fall. Join us to examine and discuss what good religion looks like. Sign up on the sheet in the narthex. Led by Bill Eaves. Meet in Room 200, **7-8:30pm Mondays, Sept. 18 & 25, Oct. 2 & 9**. Books available in the office for \$13.

### A Journey to the True Self

Interested in expanding your faith experience through a daily devotional practice? Retired? Have some time on a weekday morning? We are offering a 6-week study of *Open the Door: A Journey to the True Self* by Joyce Rupp, with daily devotions and weekly gathering **Thursdays Sept. 28-Nov. 2**, 10:30-11:30am in the church library. Questions? Contact Tammy Busch, 651-472-1522, or Jan Morey, 651-464-0027. Sign up in the narthex. All welcome — that means you, too, gentlemen!

### Dementia talk + potluck

Retired pastor Jim Roe will present "A Journey to Wholeness: The Spiritual Experience of Dementia Caregiving" 5-7pm **Sunday, Sept. 24, 5** with a potluck dinner in Fellowship Hall. Jim was primary caregiver for 10 years for his wife, and he'll share what he has learned.

### UMW fall program:

#### Personal Choices, Environmental Justice and the Gospel

What are the obstacles to building a world based on environmental justice? Can we start to convert our lives and join others on the paths that lead to peace on earth and peace with the earth?

All are welcome to join WBLUMC's United Methodist Women for their fall program at 7pm in Fellowship Hall on **Monday, Sept. 11**, featuring Rev. Sarah Lawton of Northeast United Methodist Church in Minneapolis.



### Two more UMW opportunities this fall

**District meeting:** UMW needs help accommodating out-of-town guests attending the Big Waters District UMW meeting Sept. 22-23. Friday night lodging/Saturday breakfast would be all you'd need to provide!

**Harvest Market co-chair:** Are you looking for a fun, short-term, project-based opportunity to serve the church? Co-chair the 2017 Harvest Market! The co-chair helps to publicize the event, coordinate the volunteers, and make sure the event runs smoothly on Saturday, Oct. 21.

Interested in either? Email Cheryl Larsen at colarsen@comcast.net .

### Tuesdays at 2: Talking about race

**Tuesdays, Sept. 26-Oct. 31, 2-3:30pm**

Using two books as our resources and guide, we will talk about race in our community and world and how it intersects with our faith. Race is a loaded subject that is dominating our culture. We'll gain greater understanding of each other's views and perspectives and gain some tools on how to productively move forward as a community.

*Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson tells the story of a lawyer who founded the Equal Justice Initiative, a practice dedicated to defending the poor and wrongly condemned in the criminal justice system.  *Holding Up Your Corner* by F. Willis Johnson is a guide for churches to address the topic of race in their own contexts. Both books are available for purchase (total \$28). Contact Pastor Brooke with questions. Sign up online or on the connection cards!

### Fall book club coming!

Do you love books and reading? If so, you are warmly invited to join us for this year's Book Club. All church members and friends are welcome! Our first meeting will be **Monday, Sept. 25**, 7-8:15pm in the church library. We meet the fourth Monday monthly (December and May will be on the third Monday). You don't have to commit to the whole year; feel free to join us for any of the discussions. But once you come, you may find that all this year's selections sound good! We have a great mix of classic fiction, modern novels and non-fiction. Hope to see you!

### September's selection:

*Danzig: A Novel of Political Intrigue* by William Walker. 2015. 508p.

**Oct. 23:** *The Girl in the Tangerine Scarf* by Mohja Kahf. 2005. 448p.

**Nov. 27:** *Hidden Figures* by Margot Lee Shetterly. 2015. 368p.

**Dec. 18:** *The Other Einstein: A Novel* by Marie Benedict. 2016. 304p.

More information and reviews will be published in the weekly e-blast and in the upcoming LifeSource. Contact Rick Flynn with questions.