

Darkness or light?

I suppose most us remember a parent-like shepherd, who when our hearts were really clear and when our minds were less foggy, we could recollect and see the demeanor of the Great Shepherd, Jesus. We reminiscence in their call, “You stick together now.” It was usually exactly then, that a sweaty, kid-sized puny hand would stuff itself close to a comrade in the walk down the street. The trip would feel somehow mysteriously secured and blessed by the weight of one hand pressed into another.

We do need to stick with each other because, quite frankly, it’s a slower process to bring light to dark and to sprinkle a zest for the saltiness of life to the worthy faces nearby. Most of us will agree everyone everywhere has some good, but our faith tradition asks us to see and offer light more extensively. Jesus affirms wholeness for all of humanity.

Within the pages of the book Sabbath, Wayne Muller describes abundant blessing in our wilderness pathway. “As children of a good and whole creation, we remain whole and good in spite of all our sorrows, sins and weaknesses...Jesus began his Sermon on the Mount — by saying blessed are. Blessed are the poor. Blessed are those who mourn. Blessed are the meek. He did not say “Blessed will be the poor when they finally achieve a certain level of economic independence.” He did not say “Blessed will be those who mourn after they have endured their period of unspeakable grief and received support from family and clergy” He did not say blessed be the meek after graduation from assertiveness training and when they claim their inner strength.” He said blessed are, not “they will one day be blessed.”

The poor are blessed now, even in their poverty. Those who mourn are blessed now, even in their grief. The meek, the merciful – blessed, blessed, blessed. Not later. Not when their trials are over. Not when life feels fixed. Right here, right now...All of Jesus’ teaching seems to hinge on this single truth concerning the nature of life: it is alright...Over and over again, in parable story and example he insists that regardless how life goes for us, we are cared for, we are safe, we are alright. There is a light of the world, a kingdom of heaven inside us that will bear us up, regardless of our sorrow, fear or loss...You are already blessed. The kingdom is already here. It is within and among you. Like the Creator who steps back and sees what is good, Jesus confidently insists we are already whole.”

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.

Muller writes: “Once we become aware of this teaching of the gospels, we find it everywhere. Whoever has eyes let them see and ears let them hear. Do not wait...”

As a community of faith we are challenged to intently peer closer. Is it possible to muster a light even if it is in one dim, puny hand nestled with another? Is it possible to be salt and light? The earliest followers of the way had some help. We might say they had the strength of one hand folding around another. They had a hand up from the passersby, the friend of friends and people who took the heart seriously. Namely, Jesus, but others too; who found and cast the light and salt of this world to walk another to a home we might name wholeness.

It is true the earliest people of the way were as dedicated to Jesus as could be. What is true as well is that life crumbled and people faltered along their way even with Jesus’ physical presence. We may imagine that sturdy stability is the truest of values to be attained, but change, wobbly faltering and resilience to show up again seem to be immersed in the walk of the way. People change. Simon became Peter, the rock — but alas, Peter was not a rock at all times. Recall how he lost his gaze of Jesus and sunk into the blue, Galilean deepness? Any of us, cornering in on the depths and promises of Easter will never forget Peter’s denials of Jesus. But with the Holy Spirit, Peter is not alone in his wildernesses and he becomes one of the stabilizing influences for the new church. Part of humanity is hand holding. The constants are change, God and a resiliency to open life as if it will become whole.

Can the world trust hand holding now? We might doubt. Have we arrived at some sort of tipping point? The Sacred witnesses, whispers and yells — “blessed now.” There are still those who are sprinkling salt abundantly preserving and adding flavor to lives (it even spices their own) and there are those who grab a hold and do not let go.

We end here at a cross road of faith. We can take a hand or not. Might we recall Brené Brown’s insight capsulizing light and life from her books, “Spirituality is recognizing that we are inextricably connected to each other by a power greater than all of us, and that our connection to that power and to one another is grounded in love and compassion.” Finally and most powerfully of all, might we hold tightly to what we know of Jesus claiming light — claiming us — as containers and vessels of this spiritual light. A spiritual light which was and is greatly blessed with the ability to just hold a few more hands. Amen. ~ Julie Jacot

9am Worship ~ Fourth Sunday of Lent ~ March 11, 2018

HEARING ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE; PLEASE SEE USHERS • PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE

WORDS FOR MEDITATION

“Spirituality is recognizing that we are all inextricably connected to each other by a power greater than all of us, and that our connection to that power and to one another is grounded in love and compassion.”

~ Brené Brown

PRELUDE

“In the Light of the Lord”

arr. by Ed Bolduc

Sherrri Lohmann

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

“Ubi caritas et amor”

Text: Latin, 9th century

Music: Plainsong mode IV

Ubi caritas et amor, Where true charity and love abide

Deus ibi est. God is dwelling there.

+OPENING WORDS (responsively)

Here in this place, there are no foreigners, for all are welcome in God’s house.

Here in this worship, there is only acceptance,

for love is the language of faith.

Here in our lives, there are no divisions, for God dwells in each of us.

Let this be a place where all are welcome.

+OPENING HYMN

“All Are Welcome”

(see last page of worship)

1,3,4 & 5

UNISON PRAYER

Holy God, your power fills the universe with light and love.

Your tender hand caresses those who are suffering and wounded.

You welcome strangers and care for the lonely.

We are awed by the amazing extent of your compassion.

Meet us where we are.

Speak to us in ways that we understand.

Come to us, O God, in our time of worship.

Still our hearts and minds.

Renew our spirits and fill us with new life. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE
After the children’s message, children and youth through 8th grade are invited to leave for Sunday school.

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.

SCRIPTURE
Galatians 3:23-29
Reader: Tom Brink
Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s offspring, heirs according to the promise.

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
Braving the Wilderness: The Quest for Belonging
Pastor John McBride
After the message, high school students are invited to leave for first pick of refreshments and meet in the High School Program Room to unpack today’s sermon.

+HYMN
“Blest Are They”
No. 2155

CONNECTION CARDS
“The Angelus”
Gordon Young
Please take time now to fill out your green connection cards. After the prayer of dedication, you can place them in the offering plates as they are passed to you.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

OFFERING
“Draw Us to You”
Michael Burkhardt

ANNOUNCEMENTS
+CLOSING HYMN
“We Are the Church”
1,2 & 4
No. 558

+BENEDICTION
+POSTLUDE
“Toccata in C”
Pachelbel

All Are Welcome

641



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly
2 Let us build a house where proph-ets speak, and words are strong and
3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter, wine and
4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the wood and
5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and vi - sions

live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell how
true, where all God’s chil - dren dare to seek to
wheat: a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground where
stone to heal and strength - en, serve and teach, and
heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed as

hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
dream God’s reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through
live the Word they’ve known. Here the out - cast and the
words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and

vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of
wit - ness and as sym - bol of God’s grace; here as one we
Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we share in
strang - er bear the im - age of God’s face; let us bring an
laugh - ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace, let this house pro -

Refrain

Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
claim the faith of Je - sus:
Christ the feast that frees us: All are wel - come,
end to fear and dan - ger:
claim from floor to raf - ter:

all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

Sunday, March 11

9-10am—Worship; Sunday school and nursery
10am—Coffee, tea and treats, Fellowship Hall
Individual prayer, prayer room
10:10am—Cherub Choir rehearsal, room 205
10:45-11:30am—Worship; nursery

Monday, March 12

10am—Hang Loose Women’s Al-Anon, room 206
1-3pm—UMW Sarah Circle, room 200
3:30-5pm—Bell Trio rehearsal, sanctuary
7-8:15pm—Lent study: What is the Bible? room 200

Tuesday, March 13

6pm—Yoga class, Fellowship Hall
6:30pm—Trustees meeting, room 107 or office
7-8:30pm—Finance Committee, room 200
7-9pm—Staff-Parish Relations Committee, room 206

Wednesday, March 14

No children’s or youth activities this week.
9:45-11:45am—UMW Dorcas Circle, room 200
6-7:15pm—Alleluia Ringers, sanctuary
7:30-9pm—Chancel Choir rehearsal

Thursday, March 15

7:10am—Men’s Breakfast Group, library
10am—Pages of Wisdom AA, room 107
10:30am—Lent: How Is It With Your Soul? library

Friday, March 16: OFFICE CLOSED ON FRIDAYS

No scheduled activities.

Saturday, March 17: OFFICE CLOSED

7:30am—Men’s Prayer Group, room 107
10am—WBL Sat. Morning Women’s Group
(outside group), rooms 107/206
10am-noon—Music rehearsal, sanctuary

Sunday, March 18

9-10am—Worship; Sunday school and nursery
10am—Coffee, tea and treats, Fellowship Hall
Individual prayer, prayer room
10:10am—Cherub Choir rehearsal, room 205
10:45-11:30am—Worship; nursery

This week’s altar flowers

This week’s arrangement is provided by Liz and Dave Kaufenberg, in celebration of their daughter Nora Kaufenberg’s first birthday.

Welcome to

WHITE BEAR LAKE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ
for the transformation of the world.
Our vision is to provide nourishment
for the hungers of life.

REGULAR CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Sunday:	9am to 12pm
Monday-Thursday	9am to 3pm
Friday-Saturday	CLOSED

SUNDAY BULLETIN/WEEKLY E-BLAST

Have a church-related event you’d like to appear in the Sunday bulletin or the weekly e-blast? Please email all pertinent information, including contact information, to office@wblumc.org no later than **1pm Tuesday** for the bulletin and **1pm Wednesday** for the e-blast. All information is subject to staff approval. Thank you!

To receive the weekly email update — sent every Thursday — call the office at 651-429-9026 or email your request to office@wblumc.org.

Visit **wblumc.org** for sermon podcasts, PDFs of the 9am bulletins, the church calendar and programming info.

STAFF

Bill Eaves , Senior Pastor bill.eaves@wblumc.org , 763-355-7825 mobile	John Koziol, Jr. Director of Music
Brooke Heerwald Steiner , Associate Pastor	Matthew Goinz , Chancel Choir Director
John McBride , Associate Pastor	Patricia Kytola , Director of Operations
Joan Hartman , Director of Children & Family Ministries	Lauri Hopple , Administrative Assistant
Linnea Uhler , Director of Youth Ministries	Lori Hughes , Website & Social Media
Peteria Cochran Routt , Director of Traditional Music	Carol Houghtby , Treasurer
	Harry Jones , Financial Secretary
	Ron Houde , Housekeeper



March 25: 9am Palm Sunday worship;
10:45am worship with music from “Jesus Christ Superstar” & “Godspell”
March 29: Maundy Thursday, 6:30pm *with a supper of soup and breadsticks at 5:30pm*
March 30: Good Friday worship, 6:30pm
Easter Sunday, April 1: Traditional worship at 8:30am and 9:45am,
contemporary worship at 11am.
Nursery available for all three services! Ages 0-3 years.



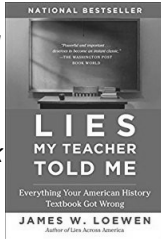
Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast

8:15-11am Sunday, March 25, in Fellowship Hall

Hosted by United Methodist Women, join us for pancakes with syrup, sausages, fruit, coffee and juice. Freewill donations are appreciated, with all proceeds going to UMW-supported mission projects that serve women, youth and children, including Emma Norton Services, WBL Area Food Shelf, Solid Ground, Simpson Shelter, and more.

March book club

Join us on **March 26** at 7pm to talk about *Lies My Teacher Told Me: Everything Your American History Textbook Got Wrong* by James



Loewen. Explore how historical myths continue to be perpetuated and read an eye-opening new chapter on the lies surrounding 9/11 and the Iraq War. From the truth about Columbus's historic voyages to an honest evaluation of our national leaders, Loewen revives our history, restoring its vitality and relevance. Contact: Rick Flynn at rmflynn1@comcast.net

Save the dates for kids & youth

Good Earth Village sleep-away camp

July 15-20 in Spring Valley

NEW EARLYBIRD DISCOUNT DEADLINE: MARCH 25! This discount can be combined with sibling discount. **First 10 campers to register** from WBLUMC are eligible for a \$100 camp scholarship. Camp is a two- or five-night stay for 2nd-5th grade students (completed). Email Joan.Hartman@wblumc.org.



For youth: Summer Festival 2018

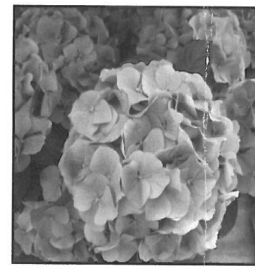
July 15-18: Students who have completed grades 7-9 are invited to Gustavus Adolphus College for a unique camp experience for teens: Fun and faith — we're passionate about both during this mid-summer faith boost! Contact Linnea.Uhler@wblumc.org.

Next step in sponsoring a refugee family

The committee to settle a refugee family is looking for some storage space for several pieces of furniture. Several congregation members have been kind enough to donate furniture, but now we need a place to store a few pieces until the family arrives. Currently we don't know when this will happen! If you have some extra space, please contact Barb Hinz at 651-777-0465.

Cinco de Mayo Run/Walk for NPH

Eight years ago, the Kittleson family participated in a medical mission trip to NPH Honduras. It marked the beginning of their continued commitment to Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos ("Our Little Brothers and Sisters"), a non-profit that cares for abandoned, orphaned and disadvantaged children in Latin America and the Caribbean. Daughter Andrea is now living and volunteering at NPH Mexico, which cares for more than 400 children. This year's Cinco de Mayo 5k Run/Walk on **Saturday, May 5**, will raise funds for medical supplies for NPH Mexico. Please help the Kittlesons support this cause by registering for the 5k at nphusa.org/runwalk or by donating to Dawn's fundraising page at app.mobilecause.com/vf/5krunwalk/DawnKittleson. You can also stop to talk with Dawn in the narthex on **Sunday, March 18**, after both services for more information. The Kittlesons thank you for your generosity!



Easter flowers

STILL TIME TO ORDER!

Please pick up your bright pink order form from the easel in the narthex to order flowers to decorate the sanctuary for Easter Sunday worship on April 1. **Deadline to the office is March 4 for orders and payment, with "Easter flowers" in your check's memo line.** You may take your flowers home after the 11am Easter service. Thank you!

MISSION DAY 2018

Saturday, April 28

The UMW-sponsored all-church mission day will be Saturday, April 28. This year, all projects will be at the church in the morning. More information will appear in April publications after Easter. Before then, we'll need funds and donated items as we have in past years. For now, start collecting small hotel bar soaps to be used for one of the projects. Thank you!



Write your story

Sarah Circle members and guests will be Writing Your UMW Story (Legacy) at 1pm **Monday, March 12**, in room 200. Guidelines will be provided, led by Judy Burns and Eva Shipley. Contact Judy at 612-770-1499.

Cut, iron, sew

Looking for a way to make a difference? Can you cut, iron or sew? Come to Dorcas Circle on **Wednesday, March 14**, at 9:45am to help us make pillow case dresses for girls in Sierra Leone and confidence kits for girls in Haiti, without which girls would not be able to attend school. Meet in room 200. For more information, contact Barb Hinz, 651-777-0465.



**THE LEGACY FUND
ENDOWMENT CAMPAIGN**

Honoring UMW on its birthday

Join United Methodist Women across the world for the Day of Giving on **Friday, March 23**. Celebrate the dedication and foresight of our foremothers in mission as we lead up to our 150th anniversary in 2019. March 23 is a day set aside to raise money for the Legacy Fund, an endowment that will ensure that the United Methodist Women can continue its work long into the future. For more information and details on how to give, go online to unitedmethodistwomen.org/150