

I wait

Envisioning what might come next is something humanity pursues. While it is purposeful to plan, we envision spring even though it's barely winter, we envision our children grown when they are in the midst of developing and we imagine a life retired because we can't clearly see our contributions. Christmas can coax us into a glossy illusion as we wait for what we individually and collectively see lunging around the calendar corner. The future flops and flips, and life seems like an attempt to mightily push or pull the winter wind.

Advent is a time we wait as well, but for what unique outcome? Is it for one mere day of December 25th; is it for the possibility of peace to finally eek an arrival or, conceivably, for some lofty daydream of a storybook sugar plum? Significantly, *Adventus* simply means something is coming. In this case, it is not the advent of what will come; rather, it is a celebration of what has come or rather who has come to shape brightly covered parcels of an awesome opportunity. What has come is the historically changing "thin place" for hope, peace, joy and love to be opened in our worlds. We can now visualize how the radical ways of Jesus pioneer an expansive, free opening to unwrap whispers of kindness, the touch of tender mercy and ribbons of justice to be woven through the Sacred and us. The Advent of this less secular life is apparent in Joseph's perpetual loyalty, in Mary, who pondered what is sacred in her heart from the birth of the Savior-babe, Jesus, to the looming cross and in the more sacred and less secular lives we live.

The glitch, though, of unwrapping these gifts is that humanity is less acquainted with waiting, even though we recognize time does not belong to us. Sue Monk

Kidd has a wise thought she shares in her book, *When the Heart Waits*: "I had tended to view 'waiting' as mere passivity. When I looked it up in the dictionary however, I found that the words passive and passion come from the same Latin root. Waiting means descending into self, into God, into deeper labyrinths of prayer. It means struggling with the passionate vision of who we really are in God and molding the courage to live that vision." Pierre Teilhard de Chardin writes of a God who we live with and in and have in our being. This philosophy was common in ancient faith traditions. He writes: "We are not human beings having a spiritual experience. We are spiritual beings having a human experience."

To close, humanity will always think, wonder and wait within our life experience. We might know or have someone important who is wandering this Advent, possibly someone as near as you or me. Waiting holds human doubt. For me, there were times when I was as strewn about as the manger straw. Yet, we have a God who wanders with us as far and as deep and as high as we wander — and yet, sees our place of importance regardless of our wavering. Way before we got to our wandering, the Power of deep Compassion swooped, held humanity fast and cradled us. Advent is waiting passionately, "descending into self, into God and into a prayer" coaxing our courage to envision Emmanuel — God in us shaping Brightness. This kind of Brightness begins even today in a life-cuddled manger. Yet, as we have experienced in the living of our own "advents," this Brightness does not stay there, rather it transcends to "a transformation given by the renewing of your mind and soul... ." (*Romans 12:2*). Amen. ~ J. Jacot

Prayer at WBLUMC: One way our church helps 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 from this team, please write it on a prayer request card or contact Julie Jacot at 651-777-3728 or ljjacot@q.com. **The Email Prayer Chain** accepts requests by contacting a pastor or leader Ronda Nelson, rondalauva2@msn.com. **The Phone Prayer Chain** is organized through the UMW. If you would like to request a prayer, call Eva Shipley at 651-429-3570. **Hospital visits:** If you are hospitalized and would like a pastoral visit, please contact the church at 651-429-9026 or email office@wblumc.org. Because of privacy laws, hospitals no longer notify churches when someone is admitted. Our pastors and BeFriends are available to anyone who requests a visit or call.

White Bear Lake

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

NOURISHING THE HUNGERS OF LIFE

9am Worship ~ Third Sunday of Advent, Dec. 16, 2018

HEARING ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE; PLEASE SEE USHERS

♦ PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE



Lessons & Carols

PRELUDE	"Nun Komm, Der Heiden Heiland" (Savior of the Nations Come)	J. S Bach
WELCOME		
†PROCESSIONAL HYMN	"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"	No. 196
CHILDREN'S MESSAGE AND LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE	Shirley and Dave Hegdahl, Nathan and Aaron Mullin	
THE BIDDING 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.

A FESTIVEAL OF SIX LESSONS & CAROLS

FIRST LESSON	Genesis 22:15-18	Reader: Devon Sinclair
CONGREGATIONAL HYMN:	“Angels from the Realms of Glory” (vs. 1,2, & 4)	No. 220
SECOND LESSON	Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7	Reader: Amy McNabb
CHANCEL CHOIR ANTHEM	“Sound The Trumpet”	Purcell/arr. Hopson
THIRD LESSON	Luke 1:26-38	Reader: Dan Huntwork
CHANCEL CHOIR ANTHEM	“Mary, Did You Know”	arr. by Bruce Greer
FOURTH LESSON	“Matthew 1:18-23	Reader: Carrie Sinclair
CHANCEL CHOIR ANTHEM	“In the Bleak Midwinter”	Holst
	Solo: Paul Gutmann “Maria Wieganelied”	by Max Reger

<u>English</u>	<u>German</u>
Mary sits by the rose bower and rocks her little Jesus, Softly through the leaves the warm wind of summer blows. A brightly colored bird sings at her feet: Go to sleep, sweet child, It's time to go to sleep. Your smile is lovely, your happy sleep lovelier still, Lay your tired little head against your mother’s breast! Go to sleep, sweet child, it’s time to go to sleep.	Maria sitzt im Rosenhag und wiegt ihr Jesuskind, Durch die Blatter leise weht der warme Sommerwind Zu ihren FuBen singt ein buntes Vogelein: Schlaf, Kindlein, suBe, Schlaf nun ein! Hold ist dein Lacheln, Holder deines Schlummers Lust, Leg dein mudes Kopfchen fest an deiner Mutter Brust! Schlaf, Kindlein, suBe, Schlaf nun ein!

FIFTH LESSON	Luke 2:8-16	Reader: Conrad Leighton
CONGREGATONAL HYMN	“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”	No. 240
CHANCEL CHOIR ANTHEM	“Little Lamb”	David Cherwien
SIXTH LESSON	John 1:1-14	Reader: Joy Ballou
CHANCEL CHOIR ANTHEM	“Cornerstone”	by Shawn Kirchner
CONGREGATIONAL HYMN	“O Come, All Ye Faithful” (vs. 1, 3 & 6)	No. 234

CONNECTION CARDS

Please take time now to fill out your green connection cards to help us track attendance. After the prayer of dedication, you may place them in the offering plates as they are passed to you.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

OFFERING “In the Bleak Midwinter” Joseph M. Martin

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage;
hold fast that which is good; render to no one evil for evil;
strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak;
help the afflicted; honor everyone;
love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.
And the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

+POSTLUDE “The Holly and the Ivy” arr. Joseph M. Martin

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The single flower on the altar is in celebration of the birth of Gregor Michael Rausch who was born on December 12, 2018 to Alicia and Michael Rausch. His grandparents are Nancy and Al Rausch.



Christmas Eve worship

**Please join us Monday, Dec. 24, 2018,
at any of our three services**

- 3pm:** A shorter family service with carols and the Christmas story told through the ABCs, with the Children’s and Cherub choirs.
- 5pm:** A contemporary service of carols led by the music team.
- 10pm:** A traditional service of carols and candle-lighting featuring the Chancel Choir and handbells.

2018 Children’s Advent and Christmas programs

Songs and sparkles Dec. 16: In the Kids’ Theater downstairs, we’ll sing a Christmas song, watch a short nativity video, then go to classrooms for a seasonal story and ornament craft at 9 and 1045am.

“God’s Greatest Gift” magic show Dec. 23: Celebrate the last day of Sunday School for 2018 with a seasonal show by Christian magician Brian Richards at both education hours in the theater downstairs.

Sunday, Dec. 16

9-10am—Worship; Sunday School & nursery
10-10:45am—Coffee, tea, and treats, Fellowship Hall;
prayer room is open
10:45-11:30am—Worship; Children’s Church & nursery

Monday, Dec. 17

10am—Hang Loose Women’s Al-Anon, room 206
7-8:15pm—Church book club, library

Tuesday, Dec. 18

10am-noon—Staff meeting, room 206
12:30-1:45pm—Faith in Action, library
6pm—YogaDevotion class, Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, Dec. 19: No children’s or youth activities

1-2:30pm—Prayer Team meeting, prayer room
5:30-7:30pm—Emma’s Place part, Fellowship Hall
6-7:15pm—Alleluia Ringers, sanctuary
7-7:30pm—Handbells holiday party, library
7:30-9pm—Chancel Choir rehearsal, music room

Thursday, Dec. 20

7:10am—Men’s Breakfast Group, library
10am—Pages of Wisdom AA, room 107

Friday, Dec. 21

OFFICE CLOSED; no activities scheduled

Saturday, Dec. 22

7:30am—Men’s Prayer Group, room 200
10am—WBL Sat. Morning Women’s Group, 200/206

Sunday, Dec. 23

9-10am—Worship; Sunday School & nursery
10-10:45am—Coffee, tea, and treats, Fellowship Hall;
prayer room is open
10:45-11:30am—Worship; Children’s Church & nursery

Christmas Eve, Monday, Dec. 24: OFFICE CLOSED

3pm—Family worship
5pm—Contemporary music worship
10pm—Candle-lighting worship

Tuesday-Wednesday, Dec. 25-26: OFFICE CLOSED

Welcome

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 and 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 **10am 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, email your request to office@wblumc.org or indicate it on a connection card.

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

WBLUMC STAFF

Bill Eaves , Senior Pastor bill.eaves@wblumc.org , 763-355-7825 mobile	John Koziol, Jr. Director of Music
John McBride , Associate Pastor	Gerald Gurs , Chancel Choir Director
Missie Aberle , Next Generation Minister	Patricia Kytola , Director of Operations
Lori McBride , Missions & Faith Development Minister	Lauri Hopple , Administrative Assistant
Joan Hartman , Director of Children & Family Ministries	Lori Hughes , Website & Social Media
Peteria Cochran Routt , Director of Traditional Music	Carol Houghtby , Treasurer
	Carolyn Keith , Financial Secretary
	Ron Houde , Housekeeper

Christmas flowers

Thanks to all who purchased flowers to decorate our church.

- Gloria Anderson**

Karl and Jill Anderson

Sheila and Dave Bennett, in loving memory of our parents

Ruth and Dick Brink, in honor of our families

Bev Campbell, in memory of family members

Judy and Roger Cheatham, in celebration of our children and grandchildren

Sandy and Don Craighead, our son Jim

Mary Cripe, in celebration of our grandson, Charlie

Paul and Connie Dickson

Dorene Fischer, in celebration of Sam and Emily

Dan and Holly Huntwork, in memory of Rev. Daniel and Mrs. Gladys Huntwork and Mr. Cleve and Mrs. Mila Sorensen.

Dale and Jan Johnson, to our family

Liz, Dave and Eleanor Kaufenberg

John and Sue Kenyon, to our children — Dave, Susie, Jeanna, Denise and Peter (in honor of)

Denise and Larry Kerr

David and Dawn Kittleson, in memory of Marilyn Kittleson, Barb Klein and David Perbix

Dean, Derek and Jared Klein, in memory of Barbara Klein

Randy LaFoy

Emma Melin, in memory of my parents, Ernest and Johanna

Glenn and Merrilee Oliphant, our loving family

Pete and Judy Pedersen, in loving memory of Jill



- Steve Peterson**, to honor the joy of WBLUMC’s music program!

Karen Quaday, in honor of Phyllis Stratis

Ray and Tracy Rockholt, in honor of Marilyn Rockholt

Bob and Barb Sawyer, Robert Thomas Sawyer

Phyllis Stratis

Susan Torgerson, to the love of my life, Don

Luke and Emily Wendlandt, for all God’s people who are fighting a battle against chemical dependency

Mike and Rita Wiersma, for Alvin and Margaret Wiersma, Goldie Rudlong and Geneva Bossart

Nancy Willson

Ruth Zieper, in remembrance of loved ones

You may take home your plants after the 10pm service on Christmas Eve. Any plants not picked up by Dec. 30 will be donated.

Adopt-a-Pot gratitude

For whom the bell tolls: We've become accustomed to common expressions that are bigger than jingle bells, such as "For whom the bell tolls" and "Let freedom ring." The south urns, given by **Don and Verna Sonsalla**, hold bursts of evergreen to represent the mission carried by service members, along with bursts of red and clusters of blue juniper berries and glass bells to ring out liberty and peace. "Let freedom ring" is derived from the American song *My Country 'Tis of Thee* and its writer, Samuel Francis Smith, hoped the faithful ideals of liberty and life might be allowed to ring across the earth. All countries are of Thee.

Keep me as the apple of your eye; hide me in the shadow of thy wings: These words are actually a Biblical proverb telling us we are precious and beloved. The east urns, given by **Phil and Kathy Siegle**, hold a large glass apple. As you might suppose, an apple is not a common Middle Eastern fruit; however, this proverb included an apple when the Bible was translated from Germanic into Old English. It was believed the apple of the eye, or pupil, allowed for light and reflection. Christmas is a reflective time when we celebrate the beloved birth of Love and God's keeping.

Holiday Cheer Volunteers Needed

On Wednesday, December 19, we are hosting the Emma's Place Family Holiday dinner and the staff is putting it on for the formerly homeless families at Emma's Place and in their new Scattered Site Housing Program. The Emma Norton staff is asking for some assistance from us, about three people to help with set up and serving from 5:00-6:30pm, and about three more to help with clean-up from 6:30-8pm or so. If you would be willing to help with this joyful event with one of our local United Methodist mission partners, please let me know asap and contact Cheryl Larsen at colarsen@comcast.net or leave a message at 651-276-1225.

December book club

Book club will meet at 7pm on **Monday, Dec. 17**, in the church library to discuss *Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen. All welcome, even if you haven't attended before.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

.Thanks to all who bought poinsettias to decorate the church for Advent and Christmas. The list of donors and dedications is in the bulletin and will be in Dec. 23 bulletin as well. You may pick up your plant after the 10pm worship on Christmas Eve.

THANK YOU

The United Methodist Women warmly thank Lisa Draves and the Joyful Noise Children's Choir for the beautiful music they provided at the Winter Program last week. Such sweet voices at a holy time! A special thank you goes to the attendees who donated 97 pairs of socks and 37 pairs of underwear, which will go directly to the Giving Rack (formerly God's Closet). It was a blessed and heart-warming program!

Stewardship update

As of last Monday, we have received 156 giving plan cards totaling \$610,258, which puts us just over two-thirds of the way to our \$880,000 goal for the 2019 budget year.

The total number of giving plans we received last year was a little more than 200, so we believe our goal is well within reach if we match the same number as last year. Over the next few weeks we will reach out to those who pledged last year, but who have not yet returned a giving plan card for 2019. If you haven't submitted yours yet, we encourage you to do so ASAP so the 2019 budget can be finalized.

Thanks to everyone who has returned a giving plan card and to all for past and future gifts. We are incredibly blessed to have such a generous congregation. We will continue to keep you apprised of our progress as we work toward our 2019 goal, so watch for future updates here in the bulletin and in the weekly e-blast.

Eagle Scout project completed

James Williams, son of Sally and John Williams, recently presented his completed Boy Scout Eagle project to the church. He designed and built a cupboard for the ushers, now situated at the back of the sanctuary near the doors. James also designed and built a donation box that will replace the old white food shelf cart. It's situated under the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall, paired with information on our partner, the White Bear Area Emergency Food Shelf — but the box can be moved and used to collect donations of larger items wherever it's needed in the church. Take a moment to check out the craftsmanship and thank James for his work the next time you see him.



Christmas offering: Sending love and bringing hope to wildfire survivors

This Christmas we will receive a special offering for United Methodist Committee on Relief and the California-Nevada Annual Conference Disaster Response Recovery Fund. The UMC has boots on the ground to help those struggling to recover from the devastating wildfires that have ravaged lives and property across California.

UMCOR is the humanitarian

relief and development arm of the UMC, helping survivors with hands-on services as well as monetary support. One hundred percent of what UMCOR receives goes to the field to help individuals and churches affected by tragic events. The Cal-Nevada Conference is home to a number of UMC congregations severely affected by the fires — some facing church

property damage as well as the loss of homes and businesses of congregation members.

Watch for more details about what is happening through the United Methodist Church in California. And remember, God has richly blessed each of us, and we are called to give back. We hope you'll plan to give generously this Christmas Eve.