

Hidden and new

“Now we see things imperfectly, like puzzling reflections in a mirror, but then we will see everything with perfect clarity. All that I know now is partial and incomplete. But then I will know everything completely, just as God now knows me completely. Three things will last forever — faith, hope, and love — and the greatest of these is love.”

Many of us may have glanced at that 1 Corinthians passage, we see in a “mirror” dimly or foggily at one time or another. It’s a standard of living love, paired with leaning toward God and uncertainty. The passage begins with stuff that passes away like if I had the ability to fathom all mysteries and knowledge; but the scripture truly resonates with the thing that will last which is love or charity (caring/*caritas* \*).

Matthew Henry writes in his Bible commentary: “It is as if we are presently more like children and when we come to heaven all things dim or dark now will be become seen easily bright and clear. ... Such is the difference between earth and heaven — what narrow views, what confused notions of things, have children when they are compared with grown men [women].” He ends his quick commentary with “God is love and that is where God is to be seen.”

We have a bit of experience with imperfect seeing if we lived through any December. The unknown human experience is illustrated if we imagine gazing into the manger for the very first time, scanning its parts and people and then in our very human vision attempt to predict the full color, eternal Jesus. Alas, many of us were not ordained to be prophets. While we have puzzling unknowns, what we do possess is scripture, centuries of history, experience and never last or least, Spirit carefully nested with and in us.

We have brought in a new year and whether it’s 2019 or any other ordinary day, it’s synonymous to surrendering to the premise that what will be is an uncompleted puzzle. We lug around our unfinished pieces each morning and there’s a hidden uncertainty in the frames of our futures. We can only guess as we strain to see the attributes and accomplishments we do not see yet within the outsides of people all around us. Hidden uncertainty is present in the newborn, in the job that may become the worst or the best that we ever landed and more sensitively, in the healings we yearn for.

I occasionally recall the unknowns of the Sacred as I enter our sanctuary. It’s here in this space that folks enter to sooth and immerse their souls in what is holy and worship their Maker. It is here that we might bid a good bye to the souls that will always remain in our heart. It’s here, that we trustingly pledge our covenants of marriage, confirmation and baptism to the God who holds each of us. A church is more

than a building; its walls echo the sacred touchpoints of our life.

Nevertheless, the unknown mystery of our Creator is reflected in our sanctuary as our eyes strain toward the stained glass. There are three vibrant windows pulling our eyes upward to glimpse the spiraling steeple that adorns our cupula. However, there is another attribute of this sanctuary that we can’t miss. They are the massive, strong beams that not only support the sanctuary; they seem to block our vision from seeing the cupula’s full view. You see as sanctuary construction was completed this aspect was unexpected, however in the end, the beams presence is like the Holy. There is a mystery to seeing God fully and our pursuit of faith is a meandering journey sustained by grace. The way of Jesus supports, sustains and grids this world and us in our knowing and not knowing. Those massive beams might remind us as surely as the glass images and steeple.

So what do we do with unknowns? I suppose that answer is as uniquely individual as we are. Theologian Richard Rohr fits together the transformative parts of our hidden and new year:

“Jesus clearly believed in change ... In fact, the first public word out of his mouth was later translated into the Greek imperative verb *metanoieite*, which literally means “change your mind” or “go beyond your mind” (see Matthew 4:17, 6:4 18 and Mark 1:15). Unfortunately, in the fourth century, St. Jerome translated the word into Latin as *paenitentia* (“repent” or “do penance”), initiating a host of moralistic connotations that have colored Christians’ understanding of the Gospels ever since. The word *metanoieite* referred to a primal change of mind, worldview, or way of processing and perceiving...Jesus invariably emphasized inner motivation and intention.

“Many of us seem to think God really is “back there,” in the good ol’ days of old-time religion when God was really God, and everybody was happy and pure. This leaves the present moment empty and hopeless — not to speak of the future.”

God keeps creating things from the inside out, so they are forever yearning, developing, growing, and changing for the good. This is the generative force implanted in all living things, which grow both from within — because they are programmed for it — and from without — by taking in sun, food, and water. Picture YHWH breathing into the soil that became Adam (Genesis 2:7). That is the eternal pattern. God is still breathing ... which leaves the full field of the future in God’s hands and agrees to humbly hold the present with what it only tentatively knows for sure.” Amen. ~ J. Jacot



9am Worship ~ Sunday, January 13, 2019

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

WORDS FOR REFLECTION

Last Sunday, the congregation had the opportunity to respond to the question, “What will you say yes to in the new year?” Here are just a few of the answers that were given:

Being a better friend ... Building deeper relationships ... Improving work culture ... Helping others ...  
Spiritual conversation with a group of seekers ... Grad school ... Deeper spiritual life ...  
Conquering my fear of public speaking ... Expressing more hope and encouragement ... Triathlon ...  
Volunteering more ... Spending quiet time with God ...Traveling ... Taking my kids fishing when they ask.

PRELUDE “Variations on a Dakota Tune” Lac qui Parle  
(Many and Great, O God, Are Your Works) arr. by Thomas Keesecker

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP “We Shall Overcome” Protest song arr. Tesfa Wondemagegnehu  
Chancel Choir

+OPENING WORDS  
Come with your questions, come with your awe!  
**For the God who broods over the chaos meets us in this place.**  
Come with your energy, come with your weariness!  
**For the God who breathes new life into the dust meets us in this place.**  
Come with your sadness, come with your joy!  
**For the God who dared to become human meets us in this place.**

+OPENING HYMN	“Gather Us In”	No. 2236	MESSAGE	About Life: The Hidden Life	Pastor John McBride
UNISON PRAYER	“Everything Is Holy Now”			Peter Mayer	
Gracious and all loving God, You call to us across deep waters and dark places. Yours is the light which guides us and the voice which we follow. We pray that you would reveal yourself to us as we worship you. May those without hope be encouraged; those who are sad, cheered; and those who are seeking, find you. In the name of your beloved Son we pray . Amen.			Doug Mulder, vocal solo; Randy Gildersleeve , guitar; John Koziol, piano		
CHILDREN'S MESSAGE	CONNECTION CARDS				
After this message, children and youth through 9th grade will leave worship for Sunday School.			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.		
MORNING PRAYER	PRAYER OF DEDICATION				
THE LORD'S PRAYER			OFFERING	“Arise, My Soul, Arise”	by Dan Forrest
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.			Chancel Choir		
SCRIPTURE	Romans 12:1-2 from <i>The Message</i>	Reader: Dan Richter	ANNOUNCEMENTS		
So here’s what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life — your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life — and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don’t become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You’ll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.			+CLOSING HYMN	“Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God”	No. 405
RESPONSE TO THE WORD			+BENEDICTION		
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.			+POSTLUDE	“Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus”	Richard Hillert
			WELCOME		
			Please welcome our new Choral Scholars: Meagan Seubert, soprano; Alma Neuhaus, mezzo; Tyler Berg, tenor		
			ALTAR FLOWERS		
			Today’s altar arrangement is provided by Carrie and Devon Sinclair in celebration of the 90th birthday of their Mother and Grandmother, Jean Werner.		
			If you’d like to provide altar flowers for worship, please sign up on the 2019 calendar outside the church office. Please also complete a form to indicate your dedication, preferred arrangement type and payment amount. Leave the form and payment in the church office. Thank you!		

WEEKLY CALENDAR

**Sunday, Jan. 13**  
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, Jan. 14**  
10-11am—Hang Loose Women’s Al-Anon, room 206  
1-3pm—Sarah Circle meeting, room 200  
6:30-8pm—Yearning for Wholeness, room 200

**Tuesday, Jan. 15**  
12:30-1:45pm—Faith in Action, library  
6pm—YogaDevotion, Fellowship Hall  
7-8:30pm—Finance Committee meeting, room 200

**Wednesday, Jan. 16**  
1-2:30pm—Prayer Team meeting, prayer room  
6-7:15pm—Alleluia Ringers, sanctuary  
6:30pm—Children’s & Youth Activities  
7:30-9pm—Chancel Choir rehearsal, music room

**Thursday, Jan. 17**  
7:10am—Men’s Breakfast Group, library  
10am—Pages of Wisdom AA, room 107  
6:30-8pm—“God Unbound” class, room 200

**Friday, Jan. 18: OFFICE CLOSED**  
No activities scheduled

**Saturday, Jan. 19**  
7:30am—Men’s Prayer Group, room 206  
10am—WBL Sat. Morning Women’s Group, 107/206

**Sunday, Jan. 20**  
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

**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](mailto:ljjacot@q.com). **The Email Prayer Chain** accepts requests by contacting a pastor or leader Ronda Nelson, [rondalauva2@msn.com](mailto:rondalauva2@msn.com).

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**

<b>Sunday:</b>	9am to 12pm
<b>Monday-Thursday</b>	9am to 3pm
<b>Friday and Saturday</b>	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](mailto: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](mailto:office@wblumc.org) or indicate it on a connection card.

Visit **[wblumc.org](http://wblumc.org)** for sermon podcasts, PDFs of the 9am bulletins, the church calendar and programming info.

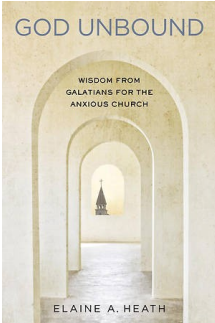
WBLUMC STAFF

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

Adult Faith Formation

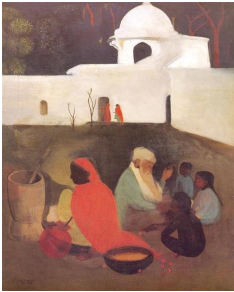
In January and February, join us for these faith formation classes. Sign up in the narthex or email [lori.mcbride@wblumc.org](mailto:lori.mcbride@wblumc.org).

**“God Unbound”**  
**Wisdom from Galatians for the Anxious Church**  
by Elaine A. Heath



“Christians today are wringing their hands over the church’s declining influence even as they become stuck in defending and protecting its traditions. Is there a way through this dilemma?”  
**When:** 6:30-8pm Thursdays, Jan. 10, 17 & 24  
**Leader:** Bill Eaves

**Everyone has a Story**  
Your story has the power to encourage and inspire others. If you’ve ever wanted to help others learn from your experiences, please join us for this Spiritual Storytelling workshop.  
**When:** 9am-noon Saturday, Feb. 2  
**Leader:** Faith Ralston  
**Cost:** \$40 donation to WBLUMC



*Image: “Ancient Story Teller,” Amrita Sher-Gil, 1940. Source: Wikiart*

**Common Hope call for photos**

Common Hope Student Sponsors, we’d love to post your student on the bulletin board outside the doors to Fellowship Hall. Please send a photo of your student with his or her background information to Lori McBride, Minster of Missions and Faith Development, at [lori.mcbride@wblumc.org](mailto:lori.mcbride@wblumc.org). We want to be sure that anyone who sponsors a student is included. Thank you!

“About Life” sermon series

**A new series for a new year, exploring hopes, risks, opportunities, and choices.**

**Today — The Hidden Life**  
*with the Soul Food ensemble at 10:45am worship*

**NEXT WEEK!**

**SPECIAL MUSIC EVENT**



**Living Out Loud:**  
**Remembering MLK, Jr.**

**with special guest artist**  
**Maurice Jacox**

**January 20 @ 9 & 10:45**

This is a free community event,  
please invite a guest!



It's good news! Of our 2019 budget of \$880,000, so far \$760,000 has been committed by members of the congregation. If you have not yet made your giving commitment, it's still welcome and needed.

Achieving our 2019 goal will let us do a number of important things, including offering modest salary increases to our pastors and paid staff, keeping our church building in good repair, continuing our tradition of excellent worship at both services, and pursuing our church-wide goals. THANK YOU to everyone who has made a giving commitment, especially those who were able to increase their giving over 2018 and those giving for the first time. Also, a warm thank-you to Liz Kaufenberg and the Stewardship Committee, who have done a terrific job planning and executing this year's campaign.

~ Karen Flynn, nominating committee chair

UMW's Sarah Circle will start a two-month study using the book *Created for Happiness: Understanding Your Life in God*. Anyone who is interested is welcome to join us. No reading is required this month, join us at 1pm **Monday, Jan. 14**, in room 200 for a general overview of the first half of the book.

Please send your prayers to the families who recently lost these dear ones: **Judith Haugerud**, mother of WBLUMC member Sarah Vipond, died on Jan. 5, 2019. **Beth Christy Webber**, daughter of Alice and Warren Christy. Beth died Dec. 30, 2018, at Baylor Medical Center in Ft. Worth, Texas.

Would you like information on resources for senior housing, Medicare, home care, housekeeping help, long-term care, health-problem support groups, or caregiver support? The WBLUMC Congregational Care Team has prepared a packet on the many resources available in our state and local communities. Pick up a copy at the church office in the CCT mailbox

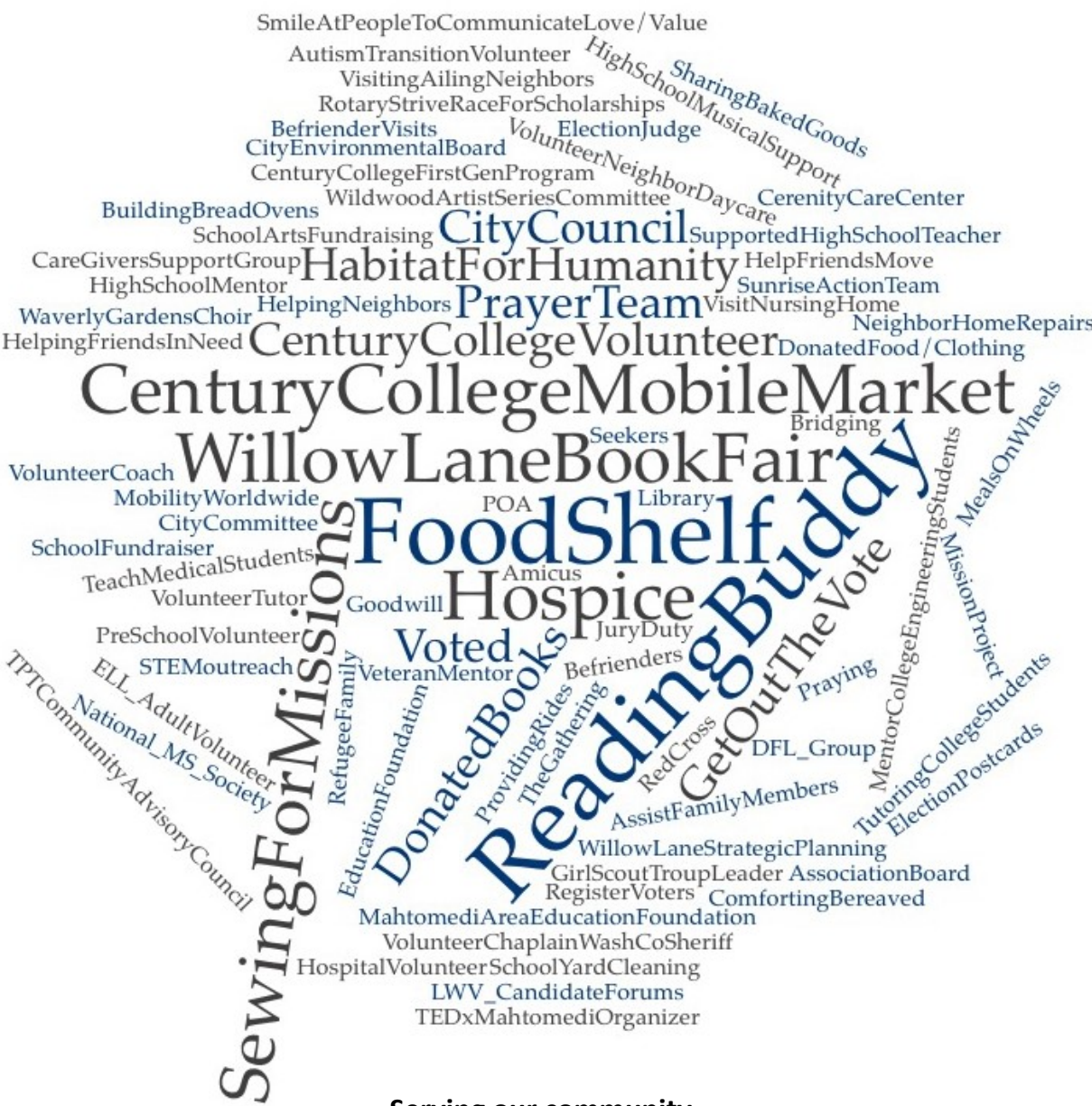
All church members are requested to attend a charge conference to set the annual budget at 10:10am on **Sunday, Jan. 27**, in room 200.

The featured speaker at this year's Wild Game Dinner will be our own Kurt Johnson, who will talk about his adventures hunting big game around the world on **Monday, Jan. 21**. Everyone is invited to join us for delicious and interesting dishes prepared by members of WBLUMC, starting at 6pm with appetizers followed by main dishes and Kurt's presentation. Sign up in Fellowship Hall; cost is \$20 per person, \$15 each for youth/seniors 65+ or \$10 for children 10 and younger. Contact Paul Dickson, Al Rausch or Jeff Olson with questions. Join us!

January's reading is a double selection! The first book is *Never Caught: The Washingtons' Relentless Pursuit of Their Runaway Slave, Ona Judge* by Erica Armstrong Dunbar. The second book is *Homegoing* by Yaa Gyasi. Book club will meet at 7-8:15pm on **Monday, Jan. 28**, in the church library. All are welcome, even if you haven't attended before.

The next Baking with a Purpose will be **Sunday, Feb. 3**, with bread pick-up after each service. February's selections will be Country White and sourdough Craisin Walnut. All donations will go to Common Hope. Email [golipha@gmail.com](mailto:golipha@gmail.com) to volunteer to prep, bake or distribute. Thanks!

WBLUMC youth will make pizzas with the bread team on **Wednesday, Jan. 23**, 6-7:30pm. To volunteer with the bread team, email Glenn at [golipha@gmail.com](mailto:golipha@gmail.com) or for questions about youth involvement email Missie at [missie.aberle@wblumc.org](mailto:missie.aberle@wblumc.org).



As individuals, members of WBLUMC serve others in our community in many ways. This image reflects the 116 responses to the question posed on the November Connection Card: "How have you served your community in the past month?"

In addition to 33 volunteers for elementary-college education, 24 people served at various nonprofits, libraries, and hospitals. Many help the food shelf! From assisting neighbors to exercising civic service, the list is long. May it inspire us all to continue reaching out to help others, whenever we can, however we can.

~ Sheila Bennett, Board of Directors