

Reaching is good news

“We often don’t quite trust that rebirth will follow the deaths of what we thought we knew. We sense that somehow what comes next is up to us, but we’re not sure where to begin. Yet, it’s precisely in these moments when we let our truest, hardest questions rise up in our midst and allow their place among us, that we become able to live into them rather than away and to do so together.” ~ Krista Tippet

As children we tenaciously experience reaching, maybe more than we wish. Whether it’s fingers that stray while grasping the crayon to fashion our imagination’s vision or a stretch to catch and balance on tiptoes, we’ve all reached. Perhaps a ball, surely the cookie jar, a park’s lofty steel bars, a trusted friend, a diploma, more patience or perhaps the best stretch of life is to make a difference? We recognized then, things are changeable and rebirths happen.

Reaching is something we can all connect with from the time we stood in our smaller childhood frame and hoped to be taller to our more astute hopes for a bigger canvass to paint the meaning of our lives. Author Krista Tippet’s words echo a need for enlarging the rebirths of our canvases. You see, Tippet has interviewed people who hold almost all faith traditions from many corners of the world and finds that hope is still a significant reach to rest in. Furthermore, hope emerges from the courageous grasp of goodness in quite contradictory times. That means we might be the carriers of hope now no matter the political, social or personal culture. We may be the ones.

To Jesus, life meant reaching. His testimony and ministry blurred the lines between us and them, and hopes became reachable. Jesus established a place for anyone. History was rewritten, and the words continue to fashion themselves in our history although we might not see hope’s rebirth.

A fresh history appeared because Jesus dared to listen at wells with an unlikely compassion, he sought out to find falsely named lost ones and began to redeem tree climbing, tax collectors, judgmental persecutors and most any of us. Jesus reached for everyone across the breadth of humanity and even for or particularly for, us skeptics. Jesus remembers our souls with us. If you think hope can’t happen now, an example is written into the dark days described upon the pages of Lamentations. Try to put to mind this writer re-

aching his soul and reaching: “Surely my soul remembers. And is bowed down within me. This I recall to my mind. Therefore I have hope. The Lord’s lovingkindnesses indeed never cease, for His compassions never fail. Fresh as the morning, as sure as the sunrise. They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness.” Although we might tip in our capacity to reach, the Sacred will not.

As we close, coax hope around you and keep this courageous child-sized view in mind and soul given to us by Tippet of Dorothy Day: “Some call her a saint, yet, none of the actual people who have been sainted were cartoon cutout characters with perfect lives. I mean, they had rough edges, and they knew the darkness in the world, and in themselves. So Dorothy Day had this really messy life. A beautiful life. I see a defining moment for her, again, coming back to the spiritual origin of questions, where she’s an 8-year-old girl in the San Francisco earthquake of 1906, living in Oakland, and watches people just emerging from devastation. Day watches also all the adults around her start caring for strangers in a way she’s never seen before, and with the clear-sightedness of a child she sees that somehow they knew how to do this all along. And she asks this question, ‘Why can’t we live this way all the time?’

“And I think that Day’s life was one long question — she walked into questions — I think we could ask that kind of question of us. That could be a spiritual discipline in very ordinary moments, in very ordinary weeks which happen all the time that we don’t honor. ‘Why can’t we live this way all the time?’ [This is] when we show the best of ourselves, letting that animate us...Our world is abundant with the quiet, hidden lives of beauty and courage and goodness. There are millions of people at any given moment, young and old, giving themselves over to service, risking hope, and all the while ennobling us all.” ~ Julie 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, ljacot@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.



White Bear Lake
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
NOURISHING THE HUNGERS OF LIFE

9am Worship ~ Communion Sunday, February 4, 2018

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

WORDS FOR MEDITATION

“The news media are, for the most part, the bringers of bad news ... and it’s not entirely the media’s fault; bad news gets higher ratings and sells more papers than good news.”
~ Peter McWilliams

“There’s a local paper rolled up in a rubber band
One more sad story’s one more than I can stand
Just once how I’d like to see the headline say
‘Not much to print today, can’t find nothing bad to say,’ because
Nobody robbed a liquor store on the lower part of town
Nobody OD’ed, nobody burned a single building down
Nobody fired a shot in anger, nobody had to die in vain
We sure could use a little good news today.”
~ Rory Michael Bourke

PRELUDE “Carry You” Amy Grant

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP “Peace Between Nations” Christopher Wiggins

+OPENING WORDS (responsively)
This is the good news: God is faithful, merciful, and full of steadfast love;
God remembers creation and the everlasting covenant of forgiveness;
God has come in Jesus Christ, Beloved Son and Savior of the world.
God calls us to come near, that we might find hope, life, and joy.
Let us celebrate the good news!
Let our lives become good news for the world!

+OPENING HYMN “I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me” No. 2153

UNISON PRAYER			+HYMN	“You Satisfy the Hungry Heart ” 1,3,5	No. 629
God of grace and goodness, we come to worship today, hoping for your promises to become a reality in us. In this hour of worship, enlighten us with your Word, inspire us with stirring songs, enfold us with your community, and embrace us with a vision so strong that we will go from here with good news for all people. In the name of Jesus, who came to bring good news. Amen.					
CHILDREN'S MESSAGE					
After the message, children and youth through 8th grade are invited to leave for Sunday school.					
ANTHEM		“Ain’-a That Good News!”		Willaim L. Dawson	
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		1 Corinthians 15:1-11		Reader: Joy Ballou	
Now I should remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain.					
For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to someone untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace towards me has not been in vain.					
On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.					
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		We Are the Ones to Share the Good News Pastor Bill Eaves			

CONNECTION CARDS		
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		“One Voice” Ruth Moody
SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION		
INVITATION		
On a night of both celebration and betrayal, Jesus took the bread from the table, blessed it and broke it; reminding them that it is in the breaking that we become whole, and in losing our lives that we find them. As the scattered grain becomes one in the loaf: when we eat this bread, we become one with one another.		
He also took the cup, remembering with them, the life-giving breath even now pounding a rhythm through our veins, the breath of life from whence we come.		
As the grapes find life in the vine: when we drink this cup, we become at one with the source of life itself.		
Come, holy Spirit, come.		
Bless this bread and bless this fruit of the vine that our eyes might be open, and that we might recognize the risen Christ in our midst and in one another.		
Come, holy Spirit, come.		
GIVING OF THE BREAD AND CUP		
We will receive communion by intinction — dipping the bread into the cup so as to take them together. Individual and gluten-free servings are available at the table. We serve communion at an open table — you are welcome to participate as you choose.		
COMMUNION MUSIC		“Bread of Life” Manibusan/Hart
ANNOUNCEMENTS		
+OPENING HYMN		“Lord You Give the Great Commission” 1,3,5 No. 584
+BENEDICTION		
+POSTLUDE		

Sunday, Feb. 4

9-10am—Worship; Sunday school and nursery
10am—Coffee, tea and treats, Fellowship Hall
Individual prayer, prayer room
10:45-11:30am—Worship; nursery
12pm—ASP team meeting

Monday, Feb. 5

10am—Hang Loose Women’s Al-Anon, room 206
3-5pm—UMW Board meeting, room 200
3:30-5pm—Bell Trio rehearsal, sanctuary

Tuesday, Feb. 6

10:30am-noon—Staff meeting, room 206
6pm—Yoga class, Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, Feb. 7

6-6:30pm—Children’s Choir, room 205
6-7:15pm—Alleluia Ringers, sanctuary
6:30pm—Children & Youth activities
7:30-9pm—Chancel Choir rehearsal

Thursday, Feb. 8

7:10am—Men’s Breakfast Group, library
9am-3pm—The Gathering, room 200
10am—Pages of Wisdom, room 107
1-3pm—Book club (outside group), library

Saturday, Feb. 10

7:30am — Men’s Prayer Group, room 20
10am — WBL Sat. Morning Women’s group, 200

Sunday, Feb. 11

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

STAFF

Bill Eaves, Senior Pastor
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763-355-7825 mobile
Brooke Heerwald Steiner, Associate Pastor
John McBride, Associate Pastor

Joan Hartman, Director of Children
& Family Ministries
Linnea Uhler, Director of Youth Ministries
Peteria Cochran Roult, Director of
Traditional Music
John Koziol, Jr. Director of Music
Matthew Goinz, Chancel Choir Director

Welcome to

WHITE BEAR LAKE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

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

SUNDAY BULLETIN

Have a church-related event you’d like to appear in
the Sunday bulletin? Please email all pertinent
information, including contact information, to
office@wblumc.org no later than 1pm on the Tuesday
before publication. All bulletin information is subject
to staff approval. Thank you!

WEEKLY E-BLAST

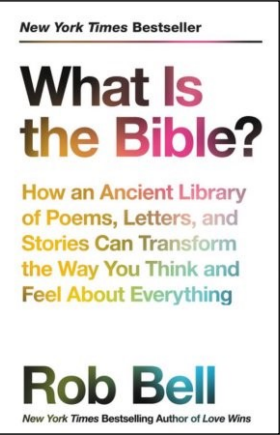
To receive our weekly email update, which is sent
every Thursday, call the office at 651-429-9026 or
email your request to office@wblumc.org.

To have your information included in the weekly email
update, please submit church-related events or an-
nouncements by 3pm Wednesdays. All e-blast infor-
mation is subject to staff approval.

2018 Lenten studies

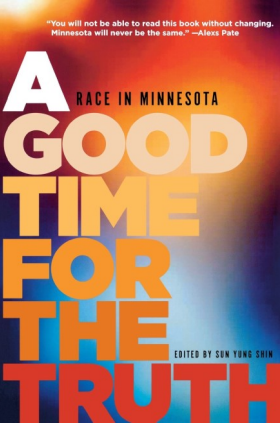
Mondays 7-8:15pm in room 200

Have you ever wondered about the Bible? Why did people think these stories were important enough to write down? Why have these stories endured for so long? What are we to do with this ancient book in a modern context? Rob Bell reveals the Bible as a book that tells us what it means to be human in his book *What is the Bible?* Come, join a group of fellow explorers to examine how reading the Bible in a different way, can transform your understanding of it. Inquisitive minds and hungry spirits welcome! Led by Pastor Bill Eaves.
Meet in room 200 on Mondays Feb. 19-March 19; please sign up in the narthex and indicate if you’d like us to order you a book for \$16 by Feb. 11.



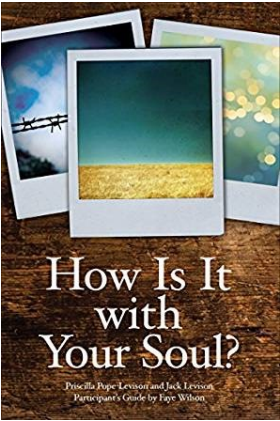
Tuesdays at Two: 2-3:30pm in room 200

What is it like to live as a person of color in Minnesota? Sixteen of Minnesota’s best writers answer this question in *A Good Time for the Truth: Race in Minnesota*, edited by Sun Yung Shin and published by the Minnesota Historical Society. This book has created a lot of discussion around our community. Please join us for any or all of the sessions! Led by Pastor Brooke Heerwald Steiner.
Meet in room 200 on Feb. 13 & 27 and March 6; please sign up online at wblumc.org/events.



Thursdays 10:30-11:45am in room 206

Help bring into balance the inner and outer dimensions of Christian life with the book *How Is It With Your Soul?* by Priscilla Pope-Levison, Jack Levison and Faye Wilson. Organized around four verbs: pray, learn, mentor and transform, the book will challenge you to become a more vibrant disciple of Christ. Led by Lori McBride and Tammey Busch.
Meets in room 206 on Thursdays Feb. 15-March 22; please sign up in the narthex.



The book is available for you to purchase on Amazon for Kindle and in paperback. Since it was published by United Methodist Women in 2014, it can also be purchased as an e-book from www.umwmissionresources.org



Sponsoring a refugee family

We are excited to be starting the process to sponsor a refugee family through the church. Families are still arriving in Minnesota, although at a much slower rate. If you have any furniture, household items, hygiene items or seasonally appropriate clothing that you are thinking of giving away, we would appreciate it if you could save it for our future family. For questions or other ways to help, please contact Barb Hinz at 651-777-0465 or barbhinz@juno.com.

Altar flower sign-ups

The 2018 altar flower calendar is posted on the bulletin board outside the office with lots of dates available. Sign your name on the Sunday you'd like, **and please remember to fill out a yellow form!** This will give Mary Ellen and the office information on types of flowers, price and dedication for the bulletin. Leave the completed form and payment with the office. Thank you!

Fat Sunday returns!



9am and 10:45am
Sunday, Feb. 11, 2018

Join us to again celebrate "Fat Sunday" — the last Sunday of thankfulness and celebration before Lent brings a season of contemplation and meditation. By popular demand, the Jerry O'Hagan Dixieland Band will return. Their joyous Dixieland music will add a sense of Mardi Gras music and spirit to both services — don't miss!

SAVE THE DATES FOR KIDS & YOUTH

Harlem Globetrotters event for all families: Join us at **2pm March 31** at the Target Center for a Harlem Globetrotters game! Lower level ticket prices reflect two discounts: \$22 for adults and \$17 for students. Youth may carpool from church OR meet us at the game with their family. Forms available online or on the welcome desk. **Register by March 5.** Contact Joan.Hartman@wblumc.org

Good Earth Village Camp

Sleep-away camp July 15-20 for grades 2-5 (completed): We loved it last year, so we're going back to Good Earth Village in Spring Valley! Second grade stays for two nights, all others may stay five nights. For more information, email Joan.Hartman@wblumc.org.



Summer Fest 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! Meet terrific people from all over the Upper Midwest. For more information, email Linnea.Uhler@wblumc.org.

We need PowerPoint presenters!

We are desperately short on volunteers to run the projection for Sunday morning worship services. We need several people willing to volunteer at least once a month. Volunteers will receive enough training to make them feel comfortable with the program. Contact Peteria at peteria.cochranroutt@wblumc.org if you're willing to help out. Thank you!

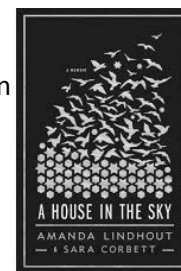
February book club

Get started now on next month's book club selection, *Fiction on a Stick: New Stories by Minnesota Writers*, edited by Daniel Slager. With writings by and about an extraordinarily wide range of voices and characters, including powerful work by Sarah Stonich and Éireann Lersung, *Fiction on a Stick* is an essential collection for fans of the North Star State, regional fiction, and serious literature. The next book club meeting will be **Monday, Feb. 26**. Contact Rick Flynn with questions.



Another reading opportunity

Dorcas Circle is reading *A House in the Sky* by Amanda Lindhout and Sara Corbett, a memoir of a young Canadian woman's experience with her ex-boyfriend as a hostage for 460 days in Somalia. The author provides insight into life in Somalia, the role of women in that country, the Muslim religion, and what motivates first-world citizens to travel to the world's most dangerous places. This is a book that's hard to put down! All are welcome to join our discussion; meet in room 200 on **Wednesday, Feb. 14**, at 9:45am. (There is one copy in our church library and six in the Ramsey County Library System.) Questions? Contact: Barb Hinz at 651-777-0465 or barbhinz@juno.com



Bread Oven events

February Baking With A Purpose

Freshly baked loaves of multi-grain and cranberry walnut bread will be available first-come, first-served **Sunday, Feb. 4**, after each service. All February donations will go to Solid Ground to support families.

The next Baking With a Purpose will be Saturday, March 3, and Sunday, March 4. Stay tuned for information on bread selections and donations recipient!

Ash Wednesday pizza dinner

All families are invited! Come for fresh-baked pizza from our brick oven before the Ash Wednesday service. Pizza will be served 5:30-6:15pm and worship at 6:30pm on **Wednesday, Feb. 14**. Thank you to all who have signed up to help make this event happen.

Thank you from the Knutsons

A sincere thank-you for all the thoughtful support at the time of my mother's passing. The kind words, prayers, cards and gifts are most appreciated. We are thankful for the many kind offerings shown to us. Additionally, we feel blessed to be a part of a caring and compassionate congregation. The many kindnesses will be remembered and certainly helped to make a difference during our time of great loss. Again, many thanks.

~ Kelly and Bob Knutson