

Modern wilderness

It’s interesting to google biblical walking trips. There are simply, hundreds. While some are called journeys and others, leadings, humanity surely has picked up what little they had while leaning on Divinity. Scripture reminds us of passages where God joins us. The Psalms comfort us: “You gave a wide place for my steps under me, and my feet did not slip.”

Wildernesses were softened by leading lamps or a light onto our unsure paths, a pillar-shaped cloud and the stony pillow reassuring Jacob the “Lord was in this place.” More specifically, we are given a more enlightened new vision of Christ after the road to Emmaus. Remember, Jesus prayed often in wildernesses as a foundation of his life on earth.

Human wilderness in 2018 is not unlike earlier journeys, because seeking life and God can be hazy or as bold as a burning bush. We tromp to wildernesses to clear our heads as if this very gesture would divide the dusty places in our mind. We stoop in our roomiest overalls to pick up pebbles, to peer at the horizon’s exchanges of shade and sun and some bits of soul-filled sacred space. Snow, green and fragments of thought become tossed and scrutinized with an earnest eye resembling the wisest of farmers examining bits of dirt as if the eye and stamina of heart might extract and sprout the smallest green shoot. It is said that “opportunity is missed by most people because it’s dressed in overalls and looks like work.” Traversing wildernesses of head or heart are, by and large, work.

Henri Nouwen once asked, “Why is it so important that you are with God on [these] mountain tops?” Henri himself — who charged, meandered and sometimes sought silent, sacred spaces through his very own internal wildernesses — followed this question as if he was speaking to himself and to us: “It’s important because it’s the place you can listen to

the one voice who calls you ‘my beloved daughter,’ ‘my beloved son,’ ‘my beloved child.’ To pray is to let that inner voices speak to the center of your being, into your guts and to let that voice resound in your whole being.”

We don’t usually speak of guts at church. That makes us feel uneasy and uncivilized and yet, realistically, there are some prayers that yank deeply.

It is of interest that wildernesses, like some incomplete dot to dot can have a few very contrasting faces. Consider the wilderness that is a haven where we are given refuge and others are more a place we seek as an escape to some less challenging landscape. Lastly, wildernesses can feel like being tossed into a perilous experience. Biblically, to name a few: Joshua, Moses, Hagar, Mary and the Israelites wildernesses all the way to what would be that same nurtured place where they too, like Jacob, “surely knew the Lord was in this place all the time.” Perhaps the hope of some form of promised land is an analogy for what God does best. Rest as you walk. Divinity is a constant that carries us along, and together we traverse to our own promised land.

If God is like a lamp unto our feet, then what might we expect from our wilderness prayers? The unending answer is in God. We can expect the attributes of who we know to be God — shelter, comfort, covenant, faithfulness and love.

Pastor Jenny Phillips wisely defines wilderness this way: “The wilderness of the Bible is a liminal space — an in-between place where ordinary life is suspended, identity shifts, and new possibilities emerge. Through the experiences...we learn that while the Biblical wilderness is a place of danger, temptation and chaos, it is also a place for solitude, nourishment and revelation from God.” It is a place we are beloved. Amen.

~ 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, 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](mailto:prayer.chain.lead@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 1851 BIRCH STREET, WBL, MN 55110 | 651-429-9026 | WBLUMC.ORG



9am Worship ~ First Sunday of Lent ~ February 18, 2018

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

WORDS FOR MEDITATION

“The wilderness is still one of the most reality-based, spirit-filled, life-changing places a person can be.”
~ Barbara Brown Taylor

“The Wilderness holds answers to more questions than we have yet learned to ask.”
~ Nancy Wynne Newhall

“Wilderness to the people of America is a spiritual necessity, an antidote to the high pressure of modern life, a means of regaining serenity and equilibrium.”
~ Sigurd F. Olson

PRELUDE “What Does the Lord Require” arr. by Michael Burkhardt

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP “When Jesus Wept” William Billings
Chancel Choir

+OPENING WORDS (responsively)
Jesus began his ministry to the world, led by the Spirit into the wilderness.
As we begin our Lenten journey, let us be led by the Spirit, even into the uncomfortable places.

In those forty days, and in that place, Jesus was faced with hunger, doubt and temptation.
As we seek to follow Jesus, we would be led, even into the uncomfortable choices.

Jesus left the wilderness, faithful and obedient to God, rejoicing in the One in whom he trusted.
As we continue on our path to faithfulness, we will be led by our Christ, rejoicing in the Lord our God.

+OPENING HYMN

“Great is Thy Faithfulness”

No. 140

UNISON PRAYER
**God, you loved the world so much
that you embraced it in all its suffering
in your beloved Son Jesus Christ.
We thank you for these weeks of Lent,
which offer space to become more receptive
to the incredible promise of new life:
to challenge all that is deathly in our world,
to challenge all that is dull in our hearts.
Help us to use this time well,
listening for your voice in all we do,
as you challenge the habits that restrict us
and the assumptions that close our minds.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
our deliverance and our hope. Amen.**

ANTHEM

“Zacchaeus Was A Wee Little Man”
“We Are the Church”
Cherub Choir

Traditional
Port Jervis

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE
After the 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

Matthew 4:1-11

Reader: Arlo Halsey

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days
and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son
of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” But he answered, “It is written, ‘One does not
live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, “If
you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning
you,’ and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’” Jesus
said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their
splendor; and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” Jesus said to
him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’” Then the
devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

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: Entering the Wilderness
Pastor Bill Eaves

+HYMN

“Be Still My Soul”

No. 534

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

“Give Me Jesus”

arr. by L.L Fleming

ANNOUNCEMENTS

+CLOSING HYMN

“Let My People Seek Their Freedom”
1-3

No. 586

+BENEDICTION

+POSTLUDE

IN MEMORIAM

One white rose on the altar is in memory of **Morten LeRoy Olson**, a charter member of the church
who passed on Friday, Feb. 9, 2018. Mort’s funeral service was at the church on Friday, Feb. 16.
His wife Marilyn and their family appreciate the prayers and support of the congregation.
Memorials are preferred to WBL United Methodist Church and Presbyterian Homes Foundation-Waverly Gardens.

The second white rose is in memory of **Alice Olson**, one of our newer WBLUMC members
who died suddenly over the past weekend. Information about a future memorial service
will be available in upcoming bulletins and e-blasts. Please remember Alice and her family in your prayers.

Sunday, Feb. 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

Monday, Feb. 19: OFFICE CLOSED FOR HOLIDAY
10am—Hang Loose Women’s Al-Anon, room 206
3:30-5pm—Bell Trio rehearsal, sanctuary
7-8:30pm—Hearts & Hands knitting group, library
7-8:15pm—Lent study: What is the Bible? room 200

Tuesday, Feb. 20
10:30am-12pm—Staff meeting, room 206
12:30-1:45pm—Faith in Action, library
5pm—Worship Committee, library
6pm—Yoga class, Fellowship Hall
6-8pm—Board of Directors, room 200

Wednesday, Feb. 21
1-2:30pm—Prayer Team meeting, prayer room
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. 22
7:10am—Men’s Breakfast Group, library
9am-3pm—The Gathering, room 200
10am—Pages of Wisdom AA, room 107
10-11:30am—Memory loss support group, library
10:30am—How Is It With Your Soul? room 200
7-8:30pm—BeFriendsers meeting, room 200

Friday, Feb. 24: OFFICE CLOSED
No scheduled activities

Saturday, Feb. 24
7:30am — Men’s Prayer Group, room 200
9am-3pm—UMW Sewing for Mission, room 200
10am — WBL Sat. Morning Women’s Group
(outside group), rooms 107/206

Sunday, Feb. 25
9-10am—Worship; Sunday school and nursery
10am—Coffee, tea and treats, Fellowship Hall
Individual prayer, prayer room

Order your Easter flowers!
Please pick up your order forms from the easel in the narthex to purchase flowers to decorate the sanctuary for Easter Sunday worship on April 1. Details are on the form. **Deadline is March 4 for orders and payment.** Contact Mary Ellen Calderwood with questions at medecalderwood@aol.com

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:	9am to 12pm
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 3pm 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

2018 Lenten worship: Braving the Wilderness

Please join us for Sunday Lenten worship at 9am or 10:45am, when we’ll explore the theme “Braving the Wilderness,” based on the book by Brene Brown. Brown redefines what it means to truly belong during a time of increased polarization. In an era where we’re plagued by a spiritual crisis of disconnection, she offers us a way to find true belonging.

- Feb. 18:** Entering the Wilderness
- Feb. 25:** Giving Yourself Permission
- March 4:** Moving in Closer
- March 11:** The Quest for Belonging
- March 18:** Keeping it Real
- March 24:** Holding Hands with Strangers



Special Lenten-Easter season worship & events

- March 25:** Palm Sunday, 9am and 10:45am
with a special pancake breakfast hosted by UMW
- March 29:** Maundy Thursday, 6:30pm
with a supper of homemade soup and breadsticks from the brick oven at 5:30pm
- March 30:** Good Friday worship, 6:30pm
- April 1:** Easter Sunday worship, 8:30am, 9:45am and 11am

Bread Oven

Baking for blankets

The next Baking With A Purpose will be **Saturday March 3**, with first-come, first-served pickup from 1-2pm, or after each service on **Sunday, March 4**. Selections will be sourdough rye and German farmer. March donations will go toward buying blankets for the group Bridging, which provides quality furniture and household goods for people transitioning out of homelessness and poverty.

Bread class for kids

2-5:30pm Sunday, March 4

This class with master bakers Ross Safford and Bryce Johnson is aimed especially at kids ages 8 and up! We'll teach families how to bake oatmeal bread and challa rolls. Take two loaves home — one for your family and one to give away! Kids can send us something about who they gave their loaf to and why. Cost: \$40 for a family of three. *We have room for 8 families, so sign up early in the narthex!*

Volunteers needed

We'd appreciate your help with these events: March 3 BWAP, March 4 bread class & March 29 Maundy Thursday dinner. *Sign up sheets for each are in the narthex!*

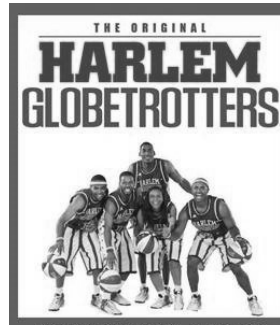
Save the dates for kids & youth

ASP deadline extended!

Appalachian Service Project deadline has been extended to March 1. If you are an interested student who has finished 9th grade through college, follow up with Linnea at linnea.uhler@wblumc.org. A total of at least 8 students and 4 adults are needed in order to make this July trip to Kentucky happen. It is a wonderful experience!

Harlem Globetrotters game

An event for all families: Join us at **2pm on Saturday, March 31**, at 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 are available online or on the welcome desk. **Register by March 5!** Questions? Contact Joan.Hartman@wblumc.org



Sign up for camp soon!
\$100 camp scholarship for the first 10 WBLUMC students who sign up!
For grades 2-5 completed, this year's sleep-away camp will be July 15-20 at Good Earth Village in Spring Valley. Second graders stay for two nights, all others may stay five nights. For information, contact Joan.Hartman@wblumc.org.

For youth: 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.

2018 Lenten studies

Starts Monday! 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.**



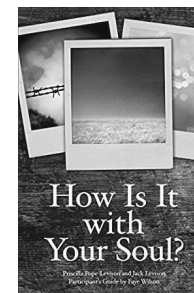
Tuesdays at Two: 2-3:30pm in room 200

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; no meeting Feb. 20.**



Starts Thursday! 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. **Meet in room 206 on Thursdays Feb. 15-March 22.**



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

February book club

**Monday, Feb. 26,
at 7pm in the library**

Join us for this 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 Lorusung, *Fiction on a Stick* is an essential collection for fans of the North Star State, regional fiction, and serious literature. Contact Rick Flynn with questions.

March selection: *Lies My Teacher Told Me: Everything Your American History Textbook Got Wrong* by James Loewen. In this revised edition, Loewen explores how historical myths continue to be perpetuated in today's climate and adds an eye-opening 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. **Meeting will be at 7pm Monday, March 26.**