

## 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, 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.



9am Worship - Second Sunday of Lent - February 25, 2018

HEARING ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE; PLEASE SEE USHERS

• PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE

### WORDS FOR MEDITATION

"When you give yourself permission to communicate what matters to you in every situation you will have peace despite rejection or disapproval. Putting a voice to your soul helps you to let go of the negative energy of fear and regret."

~ Shannon L. Alder

"Stop looking for permission from other people to do what you know you are meant to do."

~ Adam Kirk Smith

PRELUDE

"Blest are They"

by David Haas

Tenor – Kyle Schwartz

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

"Gather Us In"

by Marty Haugen

†OPENING WORDS (responsively)

We come into this space, as people blessed by the touch of God; as people enriched by cultures born into and discovered; as people wounded by division and hypocrisy; as people yearning for healing; as people working for the coming of God's reign.

**God, be with us.**

We come into this space, with anticipation of the future; with an openness to mystery; with a commitment to working for reconciliation; with a willingness to challenge and be challenged; with anticipation of discovery.

**Christ, come near us.**

We come into this space, to spend time with the Scriptures; to learn about our callings; to become aware of our gifts and the needs of the world; to encourage each other to action.

**Holy Spirit, bless our time together. Amen.**

†OPENING HYMN

"Guide Me, Oh Thou Great Jehovah"

No. 127

UNISON PRAYER

**Holy God, may we be strengthened, emboldened, and encouraged to live out the unique calling you have given to each of us. By drawing closer to you, help us to know ourselves and to understand our own gifts and our irreplaceable role in your creation. May we strive to be fully ourselves as we follow and share your way of compassion, reconciliation, and justice. Amen.**

ANTHEM

“Pavanne”

by Faure/McChesney

Alleluia Ringers

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

Psalms 139:1-6, 13-18

Reader: Ginger Davis

O Lord, you have searched me and known me.

You know when I sit down and when I rise up;  
you discern my thoughts from far away.

You search out my path and my lying down,  
and are acquainted with all my ways.

Even before a word is on my tongue,  
O Lord, you know it completely.

You hem me in, behind and before,  
and lay your hand upon me.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;  
it is so high that I cannot attain it.

For it was you who formed my inward parts;  
you knit me together in my mother's womb.

I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.

My frame was not hidden from you,  
when I was being made in secret,  
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.

In your book were written  
all the days that were formed for me,  
when none of them as yet existed.

How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God!  
How vast is the sum of them!

I try to count them—they are more than the sand;  
I come to the end—I am still with you.

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: Giving Yourself Permission

Pastor Bill Eaves

*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

“Take My Life, and Let It Be”

No. 399

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

“You Are Mine”

by David Haas

ANNOUNCEMENTS

+CLOSING HYMN

“Breathe on Me, Breath of God”

No. 420

+BENEDICTION

+POSTLUDE

“If You But Trust in God to Guide You”

arr. Mark Sedio

### **Sunday, Feb. 25**

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. 26**

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

### **Tuesday, Feb. 27**

2-3:30pm—Lent: Tuesdays at 2, room 200  
 6pm—Yoga class, Fellowship Hall

### **Wednesday, Feb. 28**

9am-2pm—PEO women’s group, room 200  
 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, March 1**

7:10am—Men’s Breakfast Group, library  
 10am—Pages of Wisdom AA, room 107  
 10:30am—Lent: How Is It With Your Soul? room 206  
 7-9pm—Staff-Parish Relations Committee, room 206

### **Friday, March 2: OFFICE CLOSED**

No scheduled activities

### **Saturday, March 3**

7:30am—Men’s Prayer Group, room 200  
 10am—WBL Sat. Morning Women’s Group  
 (outside group), rooms 200/206  
 1-2pm—Baking With A Purpose bread pickup

### **Sunday, March 4**

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

### **OFFICE CLOSING ON FRIDAYS**

After a vote by the Board of Directors, the church office will no longer be open on Fridays on a regular basis, effective immediately. Normal hours will continue Monday through Thursday. This makes deadlines for bulletins and e-blasts even more critical! **See hours and deadlines below.** Thanks for your understanding and help with this change.

*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**

<b>Sunday:</b>	9am to 12pm
<b>Monday-Thursday</b>	9am to 3pm
<b>Friday-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 **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](mailto:office@wblumc.org).

Visit [wblumc.org](http://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](mailto:bill.eaves@wblumc.org),  
 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 Routt**, Director of Traditional Music

**John Koziol, Jr.** Director of Music  
**Matthew Goinz**, Chancel Choir Director

**Patricia Kytola**, Director of Operations

**Lauri Hopple**, Administrative Assistant

**Lori Hughes**, Website & Social Media

**Carol Houghtby**, Treasurer

**Harry Jones**, Financial Secretary

**Ron Houde**, Housekeeper

# 2018 Lenten worship: Braving the Wilderness

Please join us for Sunday Lenten worship to 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. 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

**9am and 10:45am worship!**



## Special Lenten-Easter season worship & events

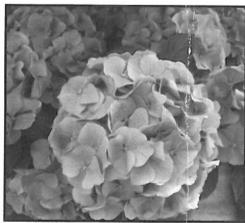
**March 25:** 9am Palm Sunday worship; 10:45am worship will feature music from “Jesus Christ Superstar” & “Godspell”

*Look for more info soon on 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 at 8:30am, 9:45am and 11am



# Easter flowers

## Order yours soon!

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 is March 4 for orders and payment, with "Easter flowers" in the memo line of your check.** Please drop them off at the office. Thank you!

# 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 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.**



## 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. **Meet in room 206 Feb. 15-March 22.**



## February book club

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

Join us to discuss *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, *Fiction on a Stick* is an essential collection for fans of the North Star State, regional fiction, and serious literature.



**March 26 selection:** *Lies My Teacher Told Me: Everything Your American History Textbook Got Wrong* by James Loewen. Explore 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.

# 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, an organization that provides quality furniture and household goods for people transitioning out of homelessness and poverty. "Together we can create a bridge between those in need and those with excess."

## Volunteers needed

**We'd appreciate your help with these events:** March 3 BWAP and March 29 Maundy Thursday dinner. *Sign up in the narthex. Thank you for your continued support!*

# Save the dates for kids & youth

## ASP deadline is *this Thursday*

**Last chance: Appalachian Service Project deadline is March 1.** Interested students who've finished 9th grade through college, email linnea.uhler@wblumc.org ASAP. We need at least 8 students and 4 adults to make this July mission trip to Kentucky happen.

## Families: Harlem Globetrotters deadline *next Monday*

Join us at Target Center **on Saturday, March 31**, for a Harlem Globetrotters game! Lower-level ticket prices are \$22 for adults and \$17 for students. Carpool from church OR meet us at the game. Get forms online or at the welcome table. **Register by March 5!** Questions? Contact Joan.Hartman@wblumc.org



## For kids: Get a campership!

**\$100 camp scholarship for the first 10 WBLUMC students who sign up!** For grades 2-5 completed, July 15-20 at Good Earth Village in Spring Valley. Second-graders stay for two nights, all others may stay five nights. Contact 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! For more information, email Linnea.Uhler@wblumc.org.

## Calling all kids! Come sing on Palm Sunday!

The Cherub Choir, Joyful Noise Children's Choir and Chancel Choir will sing "The First Song of Isaiah" together at 9am worship on **Palm Sunday, March 25**. All children and youth are invited to sing *and* participate in the processional. **Special rehearsals are scheduled on these dates:** Grades 1-6: 6-6:30pm Wednesdays Feb. 28, March 7 and March 21; grades 7-12: 10-10:30am Sundays March 4 and March 18. Please contact Lisa Draves at lisa.draves@wblumc.org for more information.

