

## A Way Forward conversation at WBLUMC

Would you like a chance to have conversation about the Way Forward and the decision of the upcoming UM General Conference on issues related to same-sex marriage and LGBTQ clergy? Join us for two Listening Times with the pastors. The first will be on **Sunday, Feb. 17**, at 10:10 am. The second, to be held after the General Conference session (Feb. 23-26 in St. Louis), will be on **Sunday, March 3**, at 10:10 am. Regardless of the outcome, the United Methodist Church will continue to worship, serve, and reach out to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. These times for conversation give us an opportunity to look to the future together.

## Pastoral letter from the bishops

**Bishop David A. Bard, President of the North Central College of Bishops, shares a pastoral letter regarding the special called session of the General Conference in St. Louis on Feb. 23-26.**

Dear Friends in Christ in the North Central Jurisdiction,

We, the bishops of the North Central Jurisdiction, greet you in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit. Together we all stand on the edge of the special called session of General Conference in St. Louis in February. We are grateful that you have been praying with us in the months and days leading up to this significant gathering of the people called United Methodist, and we remain grateful for your continuing prayers.

During the past months we each have written and shared about this General Conference and the work of the Commission on a Way Forward. We have traveled throughout our areas teaching and listening, responding to your questions, sharing information and perspectives, and standing with you in this time of uncertainty.

As we approach this General Conference we invite you to trust that God's Spirit will be at work. The God of Jesus Christ is a God at work "making all things new" (Revelation 21:5), and often in surprising ways. "The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit" (John 3:8). Pray that fresh winds of God's Spirit will be at work and trust that God will answer this prayer.

Know that whatever decisions the General Conference makes, the ministry to which we are called in our churches, making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation

of the world, will continue. The day after General Conference there will still be hungry people needing food, those mired in poverty needing help, addicted people needing freedom, frayed relationships needing mending, broken lives needing healing, lost lives needing saving, injustices needing to be righted, and this work of God in Jesus Christ will still call to each of us and to our churches. If the decisions of General Conference lead to changing structures for engaging this ministry we commit ourselves to working with you to make grace-filled responses.

Finally, know that the entire Council of Bishops takes seriously the demands of presiding at General Conference. Bishops have undergone additional preparation so that we are better equipped to preside with the grace and acumen needed to help the General Conference do its work well.

As we approach General Conference we find ourselves in Epiphany, a season rooted in the story of magi who follow a star to find Jesus and when they do "they were overwhelmed with joy" (Matthew 2:10). May we each continue to see light that draws us closer to Jesus, and fills us with joy, so that we might share this joy with the world.

Grace and Peace,  
**Bishop David Alan Bard**  
*President of the North Central  
Jurisdiction College of Bishops,  
on behalf of the College.*



9am Worship ~ Communion Sunday, February 3, 2019

HEARING ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE; PLEASE SEE USHERS

• PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE

## WORDS FOR REFLECTION

"The practice of paying attention is as simple as looking twice at people and things you might just as easily ignore. To see takes time, like having a friend takes time."

~ Barbara Brown Taylor

"Reverence is a specific attitude toward something that is precious and valuable, toward someone who is superior. It is a salute of the soul, an awareness of value without enjoyment of that value or seeking any personal advantage from it.

There is a unique kind of transparency about things and events. The world is seen through, and no veil can conceal God completely. So the pious man is ever alert to see behind the appearance of things a trace of the divine, and thus his attitude toward life is one of expectant reverence."

~ Abraham Joshua Heschel

PRELUDE

"Here I Am, Lord"

arr. Jack Schrader

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

"We Shall Overcome"

Traditional arr. Tesfa Wondemagegnehu

+OPENING WORDS (responsively)

In reverence, in wonder, in hope, we gather.

**With unsettled questions in our hearts,**

With the mystery of God enshrouding us,

**Acknowledging that we who were lost are now found and loved.**

What brings us joy?

**What slows us down?**

What gives us hope?

**What makes us think?**

What invites us to wonder?

**What makes us change?**

May we discover it as we open our hearts to love.

**In God we live and move and have our being.**



1851 BIRCH STREET, WBL, MN 55110 | 651-429-9026 | WBLUMC.ORG



# Valentine Bake Sale & Summer Camp!

Stop by the tables in the main hallway next **Sunday, Feb. 10**, from 10am-noon and pick up some baked goodies, all to support our Children & Youth fundraiser for summer camp.

In the middle of winter, isn't it nice to dream about Good Earth Village sleep-away camp? We'll return to Spring Valley, Minn., **July 28-Aug. 2** for grades 2-8 (completed). Two-night stay is also available.

Get more information at two meetings — 6:30pm **Wednesday, Feb. 13**, at 6pm, and **Sunday, Feb. 24**, at 10:15am — or on the Children's page at [wblumc.org](http://wblumc.org). You can also email [joan.hartman@wblumc.org](mailto:joan.hartman@wblumc.org).

## Sunday, Feb. 3

9-10am—Worship; Sunday School & nursery  
10am—Seekers meeting, room 206  
10-10:45am—Coffee, tea, and treats in Fellowship Hall; prayer room is open  
10:45-11:30am—Worship; Children's Church & nursery

## Monday, Feb. 4

10-11am—Hang Loose Women's Al-Anon, room 206  
3:30-5pm—UMW Board meeting, room 200

## Tuesday, Feb. 5

10:30am-noon—Staff meeting, room 206  
5:30-7pm—Finance Committee meeting, room 200  
6pm—YogaDevotion, Fellowship Hall

## Wednesday, Feb. 6

6-7:15pm—Alleluia Ringers, sanctuary  
6:30pm—Children's Activities & Youth Mentor night  
6:30pm—BreadX Talks: Both Sides Now, Fellowship Hall  
7:30-9pm—Chancel Choir rehearsal, music room

## Thursday, Feb. 7

7:10am—Men's Breakfast Group, library  
10am—Pages of Wisdom AA, room 107  
11:30am-1pm—Up All Night social justice group, room 206

## Friday, Feb. 8: church office closed

No scheduled activities.

## Saturday, Feb. 9

7:30am—Men's Prayer Group, room 206  
10am—WBL Sat. Morning Women's Group, 107/206

## Sunday, Feb. 10

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

## 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](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

**Bill Eaves**, Senior Pastor  
[bill.eaves@wblumc.org](mailto:bill.eaves@wblumc.org),  
763-355-7825 mobile  
**John McBride**, Associate Pastor  
**Missie Aberle**, Next Generation Minister  
**Lori McBride**, Missions & Faith Development Minister  
**Joan Hartman**, Director of Children & Family Ministries  
**Peteria Cochran Routt**, Director of Traditional Music

**John Koziol, Jr.**, Director of Music  
**Gerald Gurss**, Chancel Choir Director  
**Patricia Kytola**, Director of Operations  
**Lauri Hopple**, Administrative Assistant  
**Lori Hughes**, Website & Social Media  
**Carol Houghtby**, Treasurer  
**Carolyn Keith**, Financial Secretary  
**Ron Houde**, Housekeeper

# A Vocabulary of Faith

**Words are the building blocks of our thoughts. In our spiritual lives, there are some special words that help us to build a faith, talk about it, and live it. This series will explore the words that make up the Vocabulary of Faith.**



**Today** — A Vocabulary of Faith: Reverence  
*Jazz Sunday with Reeves Carey and Connor Carroll*  
**February 10** — A Vocabulary of Faith: Incarnation  
**February 17** — A Vocabulary of Faith: Community  
**February 24** — A Vocabulary of Faith: Vocation  
**March 3** — A Vocabulary of Faith: Benediction  
*Fat Sunday with a Dixieland band at both services*

## Ash Wednesday Service | March 6

**5:30pm** pizza & salad dinner  
**6:30pm** worship service

### Do What You Have the Power to Do

We'll explore six gospel stories about women who did what they had the power to do, remembering and respecting their stories and what these women might say to us today.  
**When:** 10:30am Thursdays on March 14, 21, 28, April 4, 11, 18  
**Co-Leaders:** Tammey Busch & Rev. Jan Morey, retired pastor

*Look for sign-up sheets in the church narthex. Contact Lori McBride, minister of missions and faith development, with questions at [lori.mcbride@wblumc.org](mailto:lori.mcbride@wblumc.org)*

### Adult Faith classes

#### From Bethany to the Sea of Tiberias

Follow the final week of Jesus' life, his death, and his resurrection, according to the Gospel of John. The only book required is a Bible. Study materials will be provided.  
**When:** 6:30-8pm Mondays  
March 11, 18, 25, April 8, 15  
**Leader:** Pastor John McBride

#### "Yearnings" discussion group

An ongoing group for people who are yearning for a deeper understanding of faith for the time in which we live.  
**When:** 6:30-8pm, second and fourth Mondays starting March 11.  
**Leader:** Rev. Jim Roe, retired pastor



# Adult Faith events

## Both Sides Now

WBLUMC's Director of Music, John Koziol, speak on **Wednesday, Feb. 6**, about what he's learned from playing music and his service in different denominations, including his own spiritual and musical journey, the value of building bridges and other golden nuggets. John will speak at 6:30pm in Fellowship Hall, and a light supper will follow. Invite a guest to this free event!



## Como Conservatory outing



Take in the beauty of the flowers and plants and go behind the scenes to see how garden staff keep Marjorie McNeely Conservatory lush and green all year long. Join us 12:30pm on **Sunday, Feb. 17**; cost is \$15 per person. Sign up in the church narthex. For more information email Lori McBride, [lori.mcbride@wblumc.org](mailto:lori.mcbride@wblumc.org).

## Invitation from Dorcas Circle

Have you wondered which women have had significant roles in our Christian faith? Throughout history, countless women have left their mark on those around them and the wider church. Dorcas Circle will learn about them on **Wednesday, Feb. 13**. Join us at 9:45am for learning and fellowship. Please bring a donation for the White Bear Lake Food Shelf to support our mission project of the month. Contact Barb Hinz, 651-777-0465.

## Lydia Project purple scarves

If you're making a scarf for the United Methodist General Conference, please turn it in by **Sunday, March 31**. There is a box in the storage closet by the office labeled Lydia Project where scarves can be placed. Please include your name. Contact Julie Rindelaub with questions at 651-343-4725.

## WBLUMC joins Chamber of Commerce

WBLUMC is now an official member of the White Bear Area Chamber of Commerce, and Next Generation Minister Missie Aberle will be our representative. Being a Chamber of Commerce member will allow Missie — the new kid on the block and new to this area — to network and connect on a local level with various businesses, churches and nonprofits. Membership will also increase our visibility in the White Bear community, helping to promote WBLUMC beyond our walls. Plus, congregation members will also receive discounts offered by numerous businesses for services or merchandise! Contact Missie at [missie.aberle@wblumc.org](mailto:missie.aberle@wblumc.org) for more information.

## Resources for senior citizens

Would you like information on resources for senior housing, Medicare, home care, house-keeping 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.

## March Baking With a Purpose

The next Baking With a Purpose will be **Sunday, March 3**. Selections will be Pain Rustique and Oatmeal Craisin Walnut. March donations will go to Common Hope.

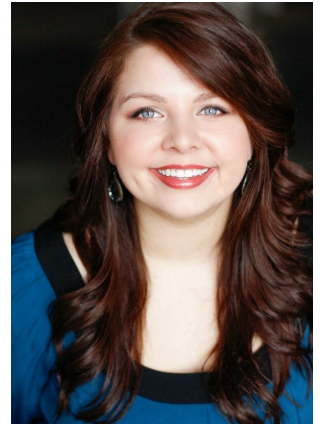
# Choral Scholars Spotlight

## Meet Meagan Lynn Seubert, soprano

Meagan Lynn Seubert is originally from Wisconsin. She first fell in love with singing at age 6 when she was cast in her first-ever musical, *Pirates of Penzance*. She participated in her local community theater throughout high school and college, playing such roles as Tracy Turnblad (*Hairspray*), Serena Katz (*Fame*) and Frenchy (*Grease*).

Meagan earned her Bachelor's degree in Vocal Performance from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire in 2012, then a graduate degree in Opera Performance from Oklahoma City University, playing the roles of Blanche de la Force in Francis Poulenc's *Dialogues of the Carmelites* and Emily Webb in Ned Rorem's *Our Town* while there.

After completing her education, Meagan continued to gain experience by participating in Oklahoma City's chapter of Opera On Tap, which included the premiere of *Baby No Eat* by local OKC composer David Broyles during the 10 Minute Opera Festival in 2018. An ideal artist, Meagan is a frequent recitalist and has earned a number of awards, including the Encouragement Award at the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions-Wisconsin District in 2011 and Second Place in the Texoma Region Edward Baird Singer of the Year competition in 2014. She continues to pursue her passion throughout the Twin Cities area, which includes singing in the WBLUMC Cancel Choir.



## Organ notes

For a year now, worship at WBLUMC has been supported by our new digital electronic organ, a Rodgers Infinity 361. We chose to install it as soon as possible, with the goal of adding actual organ pipes to the electronic organ when possible. In response to the generous giving of our congregation, we were able to purchase and install the new organ, with some funds left to apply to the second phase, installation of two or more ranks of pipes.

Clearly, we would love to add the pipes, but our organ committee feels we have a fine organ and that the considerable additional funds needed to complete phase two are too much to ask our congregation to raise. We've decided not to pursue phase two and to release the unused funds for other priorities.

We feel that unused funds entrusted to us as gifts to the organ fund would appropriately be used to support the traditional worship and its music program. Our proposal is to use these funds to support the choral scholars program of the cancel choir. Again, we are humbled and grateful for the generous donations from our congregation. Anyone who has questions or concerns should feel free to contact the committee chair, Curt Keller, at [cdkeller@usfamily.net](mailto:cdkeller@usfamily.net).