

“He made his dwelling among us.”

~ John 1:14

Most of us don’t really notice dirt, and if we do, the coarse, black grains appear to be just plain dirt. But it’s more. We do recognize the difference of how a change of landscape can alter our life experience. Many of us are alerted by the creak and crunch of winter below our boots, and if there was a possibility, we may have booked a flight to warmer, greener pastures. The surroundings we have landed in and made our way grow us in a sense and perhaps even root us. However, dirt is not just dirt. *Terroir* means “taste of the earth.” *Terroir* is sometimes described as that taste of “somewhereness” that you get from a specific geographical place. The climate, nutrients and land change the flavor of everything from a grape to a Honeycrisp apple. For example, if a Honeycrisp — originally developed at the University of Minnesota — is grown — in Washington state, the fruit tastes distinctly different from the same apple grown in Minnesota. It has a “somewhereness” of where the apple was grown.

This gives us pause to consider our own *terroir* or “somewhereness” — our roots and places we plant ourselves. The distinction or contrast from an apple or a grape in our very own *terroir* is that God makes a sacred dwelling no matter where we are planted and has a view of our potential.

Some of us might desire a fresh landscape and some of us hope to never leave the places we’re rooted. That is precisely where we find many “bible sorts.” Jonah did not have any desire to travel to Nineveh, Jacob sought a new land far from family, Naaman did not want to bath in that water even to be healed, Peter sank as he attempted to walk on water, and Moses found himself quite distant from a palace herding and hiding amongst the sheep. These were people on the move, living their life stories and experiencing a “somewhereness.” It may be as Robert Frost wrote in 1916: “The way leads on to the way...I shall be telling this with a sigh somewhere ages and ages hence...I took a road less traveled and it has made all the difference.”

One way Sacred nurturance as well as challenge of “somewhereness” can come is within people or community. We

jostle, are pruned and bloom with others. Sometimes we happen to meet someone who seems interested in more than their self-interested, savvy conversation and we sense freedom. Our souls are fueled. Jan Johnson, spiritual director and author, writes: “I now see community as a school for love ... A welcoming, Christ-based love that aims higher and nudges us to reach out to others instead of focusing on what makes us feel good. When we enter a room, we ask God whom might we love, enjoy and perhaps serve.” This intention erases what Bonhoeffer referred to as “listening with half an ear.” It is a kinder space between us with “God filtering between you and me”, a distance that is patient with our flaws and gifts and we catch a view of what God is like.

Possibly, there is an image of this filter of open, receptive listening as we imagine Jesus and Matthew and see cause for Matthew to recall, “All are welcome in Christ.” It was Matthew, earlier known as Levi the tax collector, who day in and day out sifted coins from others until Jesus invited him to come. Jesus was aiming at what was really within Matthew with a Christ-kind of love. Pastor Evan Garner explains, “We see in these verses that Jesus was keeping company with tax collectors and sinners and that this choice got under the skin of the religious elites.” Jesus is bridging a holy space between human faces regardless of status, relationship or perfection.

From the roots of Genesis and all human storytelling, the ancient Hebrew definition of man (*adamah*) means of the ground. An understanding of an old word can sometimes help us begin to comprehend the original, hopeful “somewhereness” of God dwelling near. We learn the Bible and our lives are not filled with perfect people, but rather imperfect people who are malleable like soil to allow the plateaus and valleys of the land to bring shape to their inward souls. The Sacred is partnering with us to nurture the small flickering humanness we might not see straining to be expressed. Amen.

~ J. Jacot

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. **The Email Prayer Chain** accepts requests by contacting a pastor or leader Ronda Nelson, rondalauva2@msn.com.



White Bear Lake
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH

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

White Bear Lake UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NOURISHING THE HUNGERS OF LIFE

I am Worship ~ Sunday, February 17, 2019

HEARING ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE; PLEASE SEE USHERS

• PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE

WORDS FOR REFLECTION

“We claim that God is a God of life even when we see death and destruction and agony all around us. We say it together. We affirm it in one another. Waiting together, nurturing what has already begun, expecting its fulfillment—that is the meaning of community and the Christian life.”

~ Henri Nouwen

“The hardest spiritual work in the world is to love the neighbor as the self – to encounter another human being not as someone you can use, change, fix, help, save, enroll, convince, or control, but simply as someone who can spring you from the prison of yourself, if you will allow it.”

~ Barbara Brown Taylor

PRELUDE

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

“We Are One in Christ Jesus”

Anonymous

+OPENING WORDS (responsively)

Faithful God, we come into your presence with thanksgiving, deeply grateful for the unfailing love and faithfulness you have shown toward us, your people.

When we call out to you, you are there. When we are exhausted, you give us the strength to go on. When we find ourselves in trouble, you are there, standing beside us.

And so we come before you with gratitude and praise, offering you the awe of our hearts and lives.
Open our eyes to see and know you here among us; open our ears to recognize your voice.

+OPENING HYMN

“Gather Us In”

No. 2236

UNISON PRAYER
Creator God, in the beginning you made all things good and invited us to live in that goodness. We are blessed, as bearers of your image to participate in proclaiming your grace and truth. You bless us by calling us into community, giving us stewardship of your world, and inviting us into the adventure of collaboration. You give us the ability to dream, transform and to improve our world, and the lives of those who share it. Inspire us by your Holy Spirit that we may use all our gifts to love you and our neighbor. Amen.

ANTHEM “A Place at the Table”

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE
After this message, children and youth through 12th 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 Colossians 4:7-18 Reader: Eva Shipley
Tychicus will tell you all the news about me; he is a beloved brother, a faithful minister, and a fellow servant in the Lord. I have sent him to you for this very purpose, so that you may know how we are and that he may encourage your hearts; he is coming with Onesimus, the faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They will tell you about everything here. Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you, as does Mark the cousin of Barnabas, concerning whom you have received instructions—if he comes to you, welcome him. And Jesus who is called Justus greets you. These are the only ones of the circumcision among my co-workers for the kingdom of God, and they have been a comfort to me. Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ Jesus, greets you. He is always wrestling in his prayers on your behalf, so that you may stand mature and fully assured in everything that God wills. For I testify for him that he has worked hard for you and for those in Laodicea and in Hierapolis. Luke, the beloved physician, and Demas greet you. Give my greetings to the brothers and sisters in Laodicea, and to Nympha and the church in her house. And when this letter has been read among you, have it read also in the church of the Laodiceans; and see that you read also the letter from Laodicea. And say to Archippus, “See that you complete the task that you have received in the Lord.” I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. Remember my chains. Grace be 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 A Vocabulary of Faith: Community Pastor Bill Eaves
+HYMN “Together We Serve” No. 2175

CONNECTION CARDS
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.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

OFFERING

ANNOUNCEMENTS
+CLOSING HYMN “We Are Called” No. 2172

+BENEDICTION

+POSTLUDE

ALTAR FLOWERS
The altar arrangement is provided this week by Deanna and Gary Norman, in celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary and their grandchildren.

IN MEMORIAM
Please remember in your prayers the family of Debra Benskin Macks, daughter of WBLUMC charter members Wayne and Gladys Hanson. Her funeral was Feb. 9 at Rockpoint Church in Lake Elmo. Memorials preferred to Prison Fellowship.

Children's ministry: Summer camp meetings

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. There's one more informational meeting next **Sunday, Feb. 24**, at 10:15am — or check it out online on the Children's page at wblumc.org. You can also email joan.hartman@wblumc.org.

Sunday, Feb. 17

9-10am—Worship; Sunday School & nursery
10-10:45am—Coffee, tea, and treats in Fellowship Hall; prayer room is open
10:10am—Way Forward listening session, room 200
10:45-11:30am—Worship; Children's Church & nursery

Monday, Feb. 18: Office closed for President's Day

10-11am—Hang Loose Women's Al-Anon, room 206
7-8:30pm—Hearts & Hands knitting group, library

Tuesday, Feb. 19

10:30am-noon—Staff meeting, room 206
12:30-1:45pm—Faith in Action meeting, library
6pm—YogaDevotion, Fellowship Hall
6-8pm—Board of Directors meeting, room 200

Wednesday, Feb. 20

1-2:30pm—Prayer Team meeting, prayer room
6-7:15pm—Alleluia Ringers, sanctuary
6:30pm—Children's Activities & Youth Mentor night
7:30-9pm—Chancel Choir rehearsal, music room

Thursday, Feb. 21

7:10am—Men's Breakfast Group, library
10am—Pages of Wisdom AA, room 107

Saturday, Feb. 23

7:30am—Men's Prayer Group, room 107
9am-2pm—Music rehearsal, sanctuary
10am—WBL Sat. Morning Women's Group, 200/206

Sunday, Feb. 24

9-10am—Worship; Sunday School & nursery
10-10:45am—Coffee, tea, and treats in Fellowship Hall; prayer room is open
10:15am—Camp information meeting, room 200
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 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 or indicate it on a connection card.

Visit 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,
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 Gurs, 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. Come explore the words that make up the Vocabulary of Faith.



Today — A Vocabulary of Faith: Community
February 24 — A Vocabulary of Faith: Vocation
March 3 — A Vocabulary of Faith: Benediction
*Fat/Jazz Sunday with Laurel Kaeferlein
and the Jerry O'Hagan
Dixieland Combo at both services*

Ash Wednesday Service | March 6

5:30pm light supper
6:30pm worship

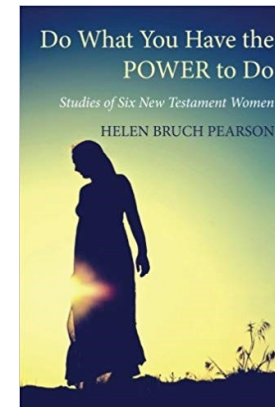
Adult Faith classes

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 and Rev. Jan Morey, retired pastor



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

Sign up in the church narthex. Contact Lori McBride, minister of missions and faith development, with questions at lori.mcbride@wblumc.org

Youth Ministry



Conference confirmation retreat

John Wesley believed in four principal factors at the core of the Christian faith: Scripture, Tradition, Reason, and Experience. Confirmands will enjoy a tour through these four elements, building a foundation for their faith development. Worship, games, and group sessions will help students understand how the four sides of the Wesleyan Quadrilateral work together, and how they can engage daily with it.

The event will be after supper on **Friday, March 1**, through lunch on **Saturday, March 2**, at Koronis Ministries, 15752 County Rd 181 in Paynesville. Cost is \$60. If you're interested, please contact Missie Aberle, Next Generation Minister, at 651-429-9026 ext. 107 or missie.aberle@wblumc.org

Call for PowerPoint volunteers

PowerPoint presenters are needed for the 10:45am worship. Training provided! If you're interested and/or able to help, please contact Peteria at peteria.cohcranroutt@wblumc.org

Girl Scout cookies

Girl Scouts will be selling cookies in Fellowship Hall on **Sunday, Feb. 24**. Cookies may also be bought and donated to the White Bear Area Emergency Food Shelf. Contact Marlena DeBauche with questions.

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

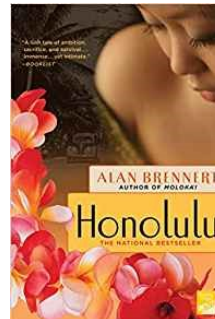
Paul Gutmann, baritone

Paul Gutmann earned his Bachelor of Music Degree in Vocal Performance from the Lawrence University Conservatory of Music in 2016. Since graduating, he has worked with the MN Opera chorus in its 2017 production of *Le Nozze di Figaro* and 2018 production of *Silent Night*, as well as with the Gilbert and Sullivan Very Light Opera Company in the chorus of its 2018 production of *Princess Ida*. He intends to begin a Master of Music degree program in the fall of 2020.



February book club

This month's book is *Honolulu* by Allen Brennert, the story of a young "picture bride" who journeys to Hawai'i in 1914 in search of a better life. Instead of the affluent young husband and chance at an education she'd been promised, she's married off to a poor, embittered laborer who takes his frustrations out on his new wife. Renaming herself Jin, she makes her own way in a strange land, finding both opportunity and prejudice. With the help of three of her fellow picture brides, Jin prospers along with her adopted city, now growing from a small territorial capital into a great multicultural city. But paradise has its dark side, whether it's the daily struggle for survival in Honolulu's tenements, or a crime that will become the most infamous in the islands' history. The next meeting will be **Monday, Feb. 25**, 7-8:15pm in the church library.



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 **today** at 10:10am in room 200. The second, to be held after the General Conference session (Feb. 23-26 in St. Louis), will be on **Sunday, March 3**, at 10:10am. 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 Confer-

ence 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