

I wish ...

Most of us may say, “I wish I had” done something that is unique to our now. Wishes can be like a blown dandelion or, in this season, a blur of snowflakes going every which way. Perhaps we wish we had lived or traveled somewhere, studied longer, had more spontaneity, played an instrument or even spoken more meekly or boldly. Just give your expectation a chance to wander and fit your dreamy imagined hope here. This writing is about possibility and an ample expectation of the world, the church, and maybe us. It seems there is a gloomy view out there similar to the overused, stale adage by the 18th century poet Alexander Pope. Pope wrote, “Blessed is he who expects nothing, for he shall never be disappointed.” But, the Creator the one that claims us heirs, children, friends and mine, claims us as blessed nonetheless, let’s examine the potential for possibility.

There was a highly unusual jazz album released in 2015 that defies all “wishing we would-haves.” *I Should have Learned (To Play the Piano)* was surprisingly received; however most of us would search for any common-sense reason why. This album features professional musicians Scott Kreitzer on sax, David Finck on bass, Johnathon Peretz on drums and, lastly, novice H. Jon Benjamin as the pianist. When you imagine Jon, the novice, resist conjuring an impression of some new, undiscovered, emergent talent who is an obvious protégé. Instead, imagine an accomplished voice actor who was never musically trained. It seems Jon, who literally ‘never did play the piano,’ hired unsuspecting professionals, a gifted musical mentor, Odean Pope, and then simply rented a recording studio. Jon, the novice, trusted his lack of knowledge, experience and hope with people who knew how to orchestrate their artful talent more than he could. Frankly, the album would be a disaster without the sum of blending his inexperience with the master’s experience to set tempos, chords and notes . It’s wild to imagine a grown man sitting awkwardly down at a piano with a combination of trepidation and faith to change his patterns and accomplish something he has never practiced. While no masterpiece, the album is a fun listen, and is musically covered by the master musicians. It’s an example of purpose, mission and leaning into what is new rather than regret. Incidentally, Jon is now taking lessons.

Ancient people could and folks in 2019 still can build masterpieces and missions. The Master Jesus supported a countercultural change by trusting new disciples who followed His patterns. We are reminded of the classic writing of Paul to the Ephesians. “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works” and we have the opportunity to lean with “God who is able to do immeasurably more than anything we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us...” H. Jon Benjamin allowed himself to be open to learn more by placing himself with the masters regardless of his experience. The established group of musicians were flexible enough to receive a newcomer.

In our humble, human lives and within the change in our churches, we may wonder how God can foster potential. Spiritual director Helen Cepero shares a view of God, the Dreamer for humanity, as she retells an experience of a child’s orchestra concert. Cepero speaks from the sightline of a parent mesmerized as she studies the face of her daughter trying to count each measure, notice when to play and note when to rest: “At home this same child can seem irritatingly careless about living life’s details. But, now I see a glimpse of the poised, knowing woman she may become, and I am mesmerized. I have fallen in love again with my own child. Next to her, another parent’s attention is focused on just one student. As the band finally finishes this first number, her excitement spills over and she turns with tears in her eyes, ‘That’s my Darrin in the back playing the drum, isn’t he just great?’ I see, she too, has fallen in love with her child.” They pass tears and mutual recognition with one another, “eagerly awaiting the next number.”

In the compassionate view of Jesus, will we see our soul life with a God who sees us as finished or as the Shelter Parent, who loves us and yearns to hear our “unique song, the depths of our silent pause, the surge of our feelings and our tentative insights?” I believe Cepero speaks of the heroic effort, the possibility and the intention of the beginner’s band drenched in blessed hope. “What if, instead, God is like the parents who sit in the audience and listen with rapt attention fixed on their own son or daughter?” What if God is patiently blessing us in a benediction of what may become goodness? What if communities of faith may be filled with the Spirit so our world may have a vision of what it is to care as Christ? ~ 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](mailto:ljjacot@q.com). **The Email Prayer Chain** accepts requests by contacting a pastor or leader Ronda Nelson, [rondalauva2@msn.com](mailto:rondalauva2@msn.com).



White Bear Lake  
UNITED  
METHODIST  
CHURCH

1851 BIRCH STREET, WBL, MN 55110 | 651-429-9026 | [WBLUMC.ORG](http://WBLUMC.ORG)

White Bear Lake  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
NOURISHING THE HUNGERS OF LIFE

9am Worship ~ Sunday, February 24, 2019

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

WORDS FOR REFLECTION

“The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet.”  
~ Frederick Buechner

“I am no expert, but it seems to me that what many people are missing is a sense of purpose in their work. Some think it is money they are missing, or recognition, or congenial coworkers — and some of them are right. I know people who work so hard for so little that going to work simply reinforces their sense of not being worth much.”  
~ Barbara Brown Taylor

“Before I can tell my life what I want to do with it, I must listen to my life telling me who I am.”  
~ Parker J. Palmer

PRELUDE “Redeemed, How I Love to Proclaim it” arr. by Mark Hayes

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP “When I Rise Up” J. David  
Cherub Choir

✦OPENING WORDS (responsively)  
All good gifts around us are sent from God.  
**We give thanks for joy in living,**  
for the beauty of this world,  
**for the changing of the seasons,**  
for the regularity of night and day,  
**for sunshine and rain.**

And we welcome God’s call to serve in this world,  
**to work with creation and its resources,**  
to provide for one another,  
**to use our gifts and abilities productively.**  
Let us come to worship our Triune God.  
**We come to be renewed in grace and strength.**

✚OPENING HYMN

“O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

No. 57

1-4

UNISON PRAYER

**Living God, draw us closer to you. Stir us, strengthen us, teach and inspire us to live your love with generosity and joy, imagination and courage. Prepare us to care and serve for the sake of your world. Make us heralds of good news, in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

ANTHEM

“Praise Him, Hallelujah”

Traditional arr. Page & Shafferman

Cherub Choir

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

Jeremiah 1:1-10

Reader: Barbara Richter

The words of Jeremiah son of Hilkiah, of the priests who were in Anathoth in the land of Benjamin, to whom the word of the Lord came in the days of King Josiah son of Amon of Judah, in the thirteenth year of his reign. It came also in the days of King Jehoiakim son of Josiah of Judah, and until the end of the eleventh year of King Zedekiah son of Josiah of Judah, until the captivity of Jerusalem in the fifth month.

Now the word of the Lord came to me saying, “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”

Then I said, “Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.” But the Lord said to me, “Do not say, ‘I am only a boy’; for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the Lord.”

Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the Lord said to me, “Now I have put my words in your mouth. See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant.”

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: Vocation

Pastor Bill Eaves

✚HYMN

“Take My Life and Let it Be”

No. 399

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

“Let the Heaven Light Shine on Me”

Traditional Spiritual

Chancel Choir

ANNOUNCEMENTS

✚CLOSING HYMN

“Let All Things Now Living”

No. 2008

✚BENEDICTION

“O God Beyond All Praising”

Setting Jeffery Honoré

# Seven Deadly Fears

## Lenten Sermon Series

Fear is the prison of the heart. Many people live their lives paralyzed by fear. This upcoming sermon series draws back the curtain on some of the frightful things we deal with: Conflict, intimacy, change, the unknown, failure, losing control, and death. Some may be terrifying, others merely intimidating. Our spiritual lives offer us resources to face them and to discover the great truth that perfect love casts out fear.

March 10 UMW Sunday | Conflict

March 17 | Intimacy

March 24 | Change

March 31 | The Unknown

April 7 | Failure

April 14 Palm Sunday | Losing Control

April 21 Easter | The Fear of Death and the Invitation to Life

**Sunday, Feb. 24**  
9-10am—Worship; Sunday School & nursery  
10-10:45am—Coffee, tea, and treats in Fellowship Hall; prayer room is open  
10:10am—Outreach Initiative meeting, room 107  
10:15am—Camp information meeting, room 200  
10:45-11:30am—Worship; Children’s Church & nursery  
11:30am—Outreach Initiative meeting, room 200

**Monday, Feb. 25**  
10-11am—Hang Loose Women’s Al-Anon, room 206  
7-8:15pm—Book Club, library

**Tuesday, Feb. 26**  
6pm—YogaDevotion, Fellowship Hall

**Wednesday, Feb. 27**  
9am-1pm—PEO women’s group, room 200  
6-7:15pm—Alleluia Ringers, sanctuary  
6:30pm—Children’s Activities & Youth Mentor night  
7:30-9pm—Chancel Choir rehearsal, music room

**Thursday, Feb. 28**  
7:10am—Men’s Breakfast Group, library  
9am-3pm—The Gathering, room 200/Fellowship Hall  
10am—Pages of Wisdom AA, room 107  
10-11:30am—Memory Loss Support Group, library  
7-9pm—BeFrienders, room 200

**Friday, March 1: Confirmation retreat offsite**  
9am-5pm—Bread baking prep, kitchen/Fellowship Hall

**Saturday, March 2: Confirmation retreat offsite**  
8am-5pm—Bread baking, kitchen/Fellowship Hall  
7:30am—Men’s Prayer Group, room 107  
10am—WBL Sat. Morning Women’s Group, 200/206

**Sunday, March 3: Bread pickup after each service**  
9-10am—Worship; Sunday School & nursery  
10-10:45am—Coffee, tea, and treats in Fellowship Hall; prayer room is open

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 and 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 **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*** for sermon podcasts, PDFs of the 9am bulletins, the church calendar and programming info.

WBLUMC STAFF

<b>Bill Eaves</b> , Senior Pastor <a href="mailto:bill.eaves@wblumc.org">bill.eaves@wblumc.org</a> , 763-355-7825 mobile	<b>John Koziol, Jr.</b> Director of Music
<b>John McBride</b> , Associate Pastor	<b>Gerald Gurss</b> , Chancel Choir Director
<b>Missie Aberle</b> , Next Generation Minister	<b>Patricia Kytola</b> , Director of Operations
<b>Lori McBride</b> , Missions & Faith Development Minister	<b>Lauri Hopple</b> , Administrative Assistant
<b>Joan Hartman</b> , Director of Children & Family Ministries	<b>Lori Hughes</b> , Website & Social Media
<b>Peteria Cochran Routt</b> , Director of Traditional Music	<b>Carol Houghtby</b> , Treasurer
	<b>Carolyn Keith</b> , Financial Secretary
	<b>Ron Houde</b> , Housekeeper

Next week: Fat Sunday



The Jerry O’Hagan Dixieland Combo will return to WBLUMC with guest vocalist Laurel Kaeflein on March 3 for combined Jazz and Fat Sunday for both worship services, celebrated in the spirit of Fat Tuesday in New Orleans style with upbeat Dixieland music. This Sunday signals the end of the church’s “ordinary time” and begins the season of Lent on Ash Wednesday. These special music services are free and open to the public, so bring a guest!

Ash Wednesday Service | March 6

5:30pm light supper  
in Fellowship Hall

6:30pm worship

Lydia Project purple scarves

If you’ve made a scarf for the United Methodist General Conference, please turn it in by **Sunday, March 31**. Place them in the box labeled “Lydia Project” in the closet near the office; please include your name. Contact Julie Rindelaub with questions at 651-343-4725.

Resources for senior citizens

For information on help with senior housing, Medicare, home care, housekeeping help, long-term care, health-problem support groups, caregiver support and more, pick up a resource packet prepared by the Congregational Care Team from the CCT mailbox in the church office.

Today: Community Outreach initiative meetings

WBLUMC will launch a unique Community Outreach initiative to better connect with people in the White Bear Lake area. It will offer opportunities to meet the needs here in our own backyard and position our church as a strong supporter to organizations, families and special groups. Learn about this initiative **today** from Mike Faust at 10:10am in room 107 and immediately after the second service in room 200.



## Children & Youth



### Good Earth Village camp

The final informational meeting for Good Earth Village camp is **TODAY** at 10:15am in room 200. No commitment needed, but please come if you're curious! We'll return to Good Earth in Spring Valley, Minn., **July 28-Aug. 2** for grades 2-8 (completed). A two-night stay is also an option.



### 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 start at 6:30pm 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](mailto:missie.aberle@wblumc.org)

## Choral Scholars Spotlight

### Alma Neuhaus, mezzo-soprano

Alma Neuhaus has performed on both American and European stages. In the summer of 2018, she sang in the Mill City Summer Opera Chorus in *Carmen*, and debuted the role of Dritte Dame



with the Berlin Opera Academy in *Die Zauberflöte*. A graduate of St. Olaf College, Alma has performed solo works with the St. Olaf Orchestra, Chamber Singers, and Collegium. Other roles at St. Olaf include Mad Margaret in *Ruddigore* and Dolly in *Der Vampyr*. In 2016,

she trained with Musica Nelle Marche in Urbino, where she performed in numerous regional concerts, including the Concerto Lirico at Teatro Sanzio. She then studied in Milan, where she sang at Casa Verdi and performed in an original collaborative opera work titled *Sogno: Una Pastiche* at Teatro Franco Parenti. Other performances include Alto Soloist for *Messiah* with the Minnetonka Choral Society, the Opernfest Berlin's Opera Gala at the Mendelssohn Remise, Alto soloist with the Bethlehem Lutheran Church Choir, and a chorus member in the Skylark Opera Theater's production of *Don Giovanni*. Besides serving as a Choral Scholar with the White Bear Lake United Methodist Church, Alma is also a member of the Minnesota Opera Chorus for their current production of *The Italian Straw Hat*.

### Call for PowerPoint volunteers

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

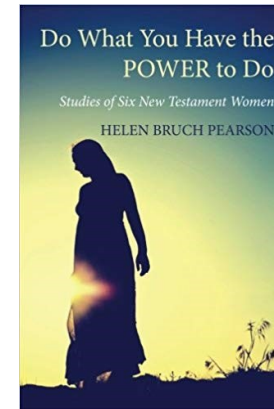
## Adult Faith classes

### 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



Sign up in the narthex; contact Lori McBride at [lori.mcbride@wblumc.org](mailto:lori.mcbride@wblumc.org)

### From Bethany to the Sea of Tiberias

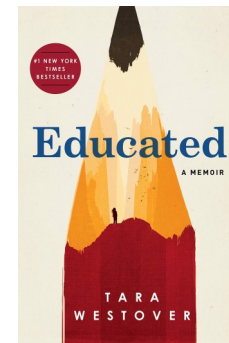
Follow the final week of Jesus' life, his death, and his resurrection, according to the Gospel of John. The only book required is a Bible. Study materials will be provided.

**When:** 6:30-8pm Mondays  
March 11, 18, 25, April 8, 15

**Leader:** Pastor John McBride

### February book club

Book club meets **Monday, Feb. 25**, 7-8:15pm in the church library to discuss this month's book, *Honolulu* by Allen Brennert.



**The March book selection** will be *Educated: A Memoir* by Tara Westover, with the meeting on Monday, March 25.

Tara Westover was 17 the first time she set foot in a classroom. Born to survivalists in the mountains of Idaho, she prepared for the end of the world by stockpiling home-canned peaches and sleeping with her "head-for-the-hills" bag. In the summer she stewed herbs for her mother, a midwife and healer, and in the winter salvaged metal in her father's junkyard. *Educated* is an account of the struggle for self-invention. It's a tale of fierce family loyalty, and of the grief that comes from severing one's closest ties. With the acute insight that distinguishes all great writers, Westover has crafted a universal coming-of-age story that gets to the heart of what an education is and what it offers: the perspective to see one's life through new eyes and the will to change it.

### A Way Forward listening session

Join us for the final Listening Time on **Sunday, March 3**, at 10:10am — after the General Conference in St. Louis Feb. 23-26 on issues related to same-sex marriage and LGBTQ clergy. 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 conversations give us an opportunity to look to the future together.

### Girl Scout cookies

Girl Scouts will be selling cookies in Fellowship Hall **today, 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.