

Community

“I am praying ... All of mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them.” ~ Jesus in John 17:9

Community is a commonly used buzzword thrown — or perhaps even earnestly sown — about raising our hope for a societal healing balm. Community is where we meet; grab our groceries, worship and work. We crave community because it’s the place we plant our dust to dusty lives into home base. How might church be synonymous with community?

Steven Doughty describes a woman who has “known both worlds.” Her life is packed with her professional history of managing a community center, a strong commitment to her faith and what we call the fullness of life. Doughty explains how his friend saw an absence of community rather than the gathering of one. It was a moment of mutual sadness.

She began with this imagery: “ ‘We’re like this.’ With both hands she formed a series of imaginary clumps on the table that lay between the two of us. Each clump is separate and distant from the others. ‘We’re like this in the church now.’ [Her other hand distantly sweeps across the table.] ‘And we are like this in society. We live in little bunches that don’t much connect...’ We were quiet. For

the moment, [our eyes met across the table and we realized], the clumps coming together were only in our yearning.”

Doughty’s words are one with of many voices pleading for community. Across a wide spectrum, politicians and social advocates, corporate and educational leaders are speaking about this very yearning. Jesus has his own magnified voice supporting this yearning. He renamed us adopted heirs, friends, children and citizens who belong and are clumped into a greater family of God. Imagining these elusive, independent “clumps” is not difficult to muster into view amidst living in a family, neighborhood or church. It is revealed each day — however, seeing with the soulful seal of the Sacred is ultimately different, holy and set apart.

If we are immersed with the Sacred, my wanting to see something better wrapped in the eyes of God is possible. We see there is opportunity for goodness, compassion, charity, temperance, forgiveness and nurturing growth. Are there not words that surround this thought given by our Creator: “Are we are not the clay,

and You are our potter; we are all the work of your hand (Is. 64:8ESV).”

Do we not walk in the way and spirit of a Guider that has showed us “clumps” can be transformed? In fact, “clumps” are there to be transformed. Clumps of mud, clay and dust are substantial resources to build with.

Community means finding a place to transform and bless another for their value within this broad, different, longer view. Reverend, Barbara Brown Taylor describes our need for shared community in this way: “All I am saying is that the world needs you to bless, because there is a real shortage of people willing to kneel wherever they are and recognize the holiness holding its sometimes bony, often tender, always life-giving hand above heads. That we are able to bless one another at all is evidence that we have been blessed, whether we can remember when or not. That we are willing to bless one another is miracle enough to stagger the very stars.” — J.Jacot

Discovering Community, A Meditation on the Community in Christ by Steven V. Doughty

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. **The Phone Prayer Chain** is organized through the UMW. Call Eva Shipley if you would like to request a prayer at 651-429-3570.

STAFF		
Bill Eaves , Senior Pastor bill.eaves@wblumc.org, 763-355-7825 mobile	Joan Hartman , Director of Children & Family Ministries Amy McGrew , Interim Director of Youth Ministries	Matthew Goinz , Chancel Choir Director Patricia Kytola , Director of Operations
Brooke Heerwald Steiner , Associate Pastor John McBride , Associate Pastor	Peteria Cochran Routt , Director of Traditional Music John Koziol, Jr. Director of Music	Lauri Hopple , Administrative Assistant Lori Hughes , Website and Social Media Tom Leiser , Treasurer Harry Jones , Financial Secretary



10am Worship Sunday, July 23, 2017

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

WORDS FOR MEDITATION

“It’s like everyone tells a story about themselves inside their own head. Always. All the time. That story makes you what you are. We build ourselves out of that story.” ~ Patrick Rothfuss

“Stories have to be told or they die, and when they die, we can’t remember who we are or why we’re here.” ~ Sue Monk Kidd

PRELUDE

“Let Us Rejoice”
“Here I Am, Lord”

Marty Haugen
Dan Schutte (#593)

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

“You Are Called to Tell the Story”

+OPENING WORDS (responsively)
These are the days that have been given to us;
Let us rejoice and be glad in them.

These are the days of our lives;
Let us live them well in love and service.

These are the days of mystery and wonder;
Let us celebrate them in gratitude together.

These are the days that have been given to us;
Let us make of them stories worth telling.

+OPENING HYMN

“I Love to Tell the Story”

No. 156

UNISON PRAYER

Be with us, Spirit of God; for nothing can separate us from your love. Breathe on us, breath of God; and fill us with the empowering force of your loving presence. Speak in us, wisdom of God; and bring direction, healing and peace. God of our days and years, we set this time apart to let our hearts be open to your presence. Form us in the likeness of Christ so that our lives may reflect you. Amen.

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

Mark 5:25-34

Reader: Dan Richter

Now there was a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years. She had endured much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had; and she was no better, but rather grew worse. She had heard about Jesus, and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, for she said, “If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well.” Immediately her hemorrhage stopped; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. Immediately aware that power had gone forth from him, Jesus turned about in the crowd and said, “Who touched my clothes?” And his disciples said to him, “You see the crowd pressing in on you; how can you say, ‘Who touched me?’ ” He looked all around to see who had done it. But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling, fell down before him, and told him the whole truth. He said to her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease.”

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.

ANTHEM

“The Presence of the Lord”

Eric Clapton

MESSAGE

Everybody Has a Story: A Woman with an Issue

Pastor Bill Eaves

+HYMN

“Healer of Our Every Ill”

No. 2213

CONNECTION CARDS

Please take time now to fill out your green connection cards. After the prayer of dedication, place them in the offering plates.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

OFFERING

“Don’t Let the Sun Go Down on Me”

Elton John

ANNOUNCEMENTS

+HYMN

“We’ve a Story to Tell to the Nations”

No. 569

+BENEDICTION

+POSTLUDE

MUSICIANS

Guest vocalist: **Mark Fleischhacker**
Keyboards: **John Koziol**
Sound technician: **Godfrey Holzbach**

ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers on the altar are provided by
David and Dawn Kittleson in celebration of their
25th wedding anniversary.