

Bleak mid-winters

Hope can illusively resemble that hydrangea flower outside our door or a host of other living things with its long reed-like stem standing removed from the warmth of green that once draped its blossoming form. Instead, for this flower, what was once a season of brilliance has been replaced, bleakly by some sort of cumbersome, cold, unwanted, wintery bonnet. I watch the flower as the flakes compound and topple its usual balance. Its willowy stem stoops and bows to the rhythm of each mound-ing, silent chilly flake. Our sharpest eye would barely recognize it for the flower it is. Then in some time, it is as if our eyes craved evidence of hope; the bonnet of heavy white snow bur-dening the head of this flower flexes deeply one more time, triumphantly shaking the bleakness of mid-winter. The bur-den-some snow bonnet topples to the ground.

I suppose peering at dry hydrangeas gives us an opportunity to imagine our very intimate bleak mid-winters and the winds that arch us back to form and give us new breath. Jose Hobday speaks of prayer walking this way. “When I was a little girl...my mother took us kids for prayer walks out into the country... I’ve been walking into the world ever since. And while my walks with my mother were in silence, there was a whole lot of talk-ing going on. The world was telling me about itself, above my-self, and about the mystery permeating everything.”

Earthly-planted folks know life can muster mysterious harsh-ness paired with the blooms that remain poised in our hearts forever. We have felt its icy winters and the ache and bend of heaviness. We have felt and bask in the radiance of sun be-cause it symbolizes a brilliant buoyant hope.

Conceivably, there may be God shaped answers for hydrangea frozen winters like these. It may be possible to frame hope in our own bleak mid-winters like our Teacher, Jesus, who whose life is synonymous with strength and tender compassion and immersed with burden and redemption. Enveloped in finding

“the way” is the concrete vision of Jesus on his way with eyes and body both fixed. Possibly this is a portion of why is He is named Savior-- heaven sent--raw determination in motion placed before you and me to catch a loving imprint of the na-ture of God on earth. Our eyes pause on the blend of scripture coaxing us see what is sacred more clearly. The printed text calls, “He has spoken to us in a Son, appointed heir of all things...He sustains all things...”

Hope might be just be Radiance bearing and sustaining all of us stooping in our winter weight. Furthermore, Jesus pledges the nearness of the Holy Spirit and his intensity to sway, arch and be with us winter or not. Hear the Sacred’s deep conviction. “In a little while, the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live in Me. On that day you will know... you are in Me, and I am in you. This hope is more than wishful thinking, but rather Spirit enmeshed with us in a quiet confidence beyond this day and what we might see or know.

One last small verse collects our fears and concerns of life lead-ing us full circle to the wintery watching of the hydrangea. God’s prophets pull and pulled everyday examples from peo-ple’s living. The prophet Isaiah nurtures and seeks to comfort people now and then with these words. “A bruised reed He will not break. And a dimly burning wick He will not extinguish; He will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not be disheartened or crushed...”

In conclusion, Helen Keller lived boldly in a quiet world from 1880 to 1968. She experienced blindness and deafness and never gained the reality of human speech. Helen wrote this simple, but profound poem which speaks beyond her lifetime, entitled *Voice in My Silence*: “I believe that God is in me. As is the sun the color and fragrance of a flower — The Light in my darkness, the Voice in my silence. “

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 spe-cial 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	Joan Hartman , Director of Children & Family Ministries	Patricia Kytola , Director of Operations
	Linnea Uhler , Director of Youth Ministries	Lauri Hoppie , Administrative Assistant
	Peteria Cochran Routt , Director of Traditional Music	Lori Hughes , Website & Social Media
	John Kozioł, Jr. Director of Music	Tom Leiser , Treasurer
	Matthew Goinz , Chancel Choir Director	Harry Jones , Financial Secretary
		Ron Houde , Housekeeper



9am Worship ~ January 7, 2018 ~ Communion Sunday

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

WORDS FOR MEDITATION

“Both the positive and the negative, we are the ones that give meaning to certain things, so decide from now on to give positive meaning to everything that you encounter. Yes, in the given moment, it might be difficult ... ” ~ Steve Maraboli

“Be the change you wish to see in the world.” ~ Anonymous, often attributed to Mahatma Gandhi

PRELUDE

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

+OPENING WORDS (responsively)
Come and see!
**The light of God has come into our world
to proclaim God’s justice and love;
It has overcome the darkness and brought new life.**

Come and follow!
**Christ our companion has redeemed our world
He draws us into a loving family
From every tribe and family and culture.**

Go and tell!
**The Spirit has equipped us for service
To love our neighbors as we do ourselves
To bring God’s salvation to the ends of the earth.**

Come and see, come and follow, go and tell!
In God’s Love the nations of the earth will put their hope. Amen.

UNISON PRAYER

Loving God, you are light in our darkness. When we doubt our ability to affect change in the world, show us the way. In the hard places of life, may we become channels of your friendship with every person. In the testing situations of life, may we stand with the troubled ones and witness to the Risen Christ. 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

John 1:1-14

Reader: Rick Flynn

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth.

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

We Are the Ones We’ve Been Waiting For

Pastor John McBride

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

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right ... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you ... as we proclaim the mystery of faith.
Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

GIVING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

COMMUNION MUSIC

“As With Gladness”

arr. by Lori Line

ANNOUNCEMENTS

✚BENEDICTION

✚POSTLUDE

Sunday, Jan. 7

9-10am—Worship; Sunday school and nursery
9am-noon—Science Museum event, grades 6-12
10am—Coffee, tea and treats, Fellowship Hall
Individual prayer, prayer room
10:45-11:30am—Worship; nursery
11:45am—Common Hope meeting, room 200

Monday, Jan. 8

10am—Hang Loose Women’s Al-Anon, room 206
1-3pm—UMW Sarah Circle meeting, room 200
3-5pm—UMW Board meeting, room 200
3:30-5pm—Bell Trio rehearsal, sanctuary

Tuesday, Jan. 9

10:30am-noon—Staff meeting, room 206
6pm—Yoga class, Fellowship Hall
6:30pm—Trustees meeting, room 107
7-8:30pm—Finance Committee meeting, room 200
7-9pm—Staff-Parish Relations Committee, rm. 206

Wednesday, Jan. 10

9:45-11:45am—UMW Dorcas Circle, room 200
6-6:30pm—Children’s Choir, room 205
6:30-7:30pm—Alleluia Ringers, sanctuary
6:30pm—Children & Youth activities

Thursday, Jan. 11

7:10am—Men’s Breakfast Group, library
10am—Pages of Wisdom, room 107
1-3pm—Book club (outside group), library
6:30-8pm—Sponsoring a Refugee Family, sanctuary

Friday, Jan. 12

No scheduled activities; office open 9am-noon

Saturday, Jan. 13

7:30am — Men’s Prayer Group, room 107
10am — Women’s Breakfast group, room 107

Sunday, Jan. 14

9-10am—Worship; Sunday school and nursery
10am—Coffee, tea and treats, Fellowship Hall
Individual prayer, prayer room
10:45-11:30am—Worship; nursery

Welcome to

WHITE BEAR LAKE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Visit wblumc.org for weekly sermon podcasts, the church calendar and programming details.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Sunday:	9am to 12pm
Monday:	9am to 3pm
Tuesday:	9am to 3pm
Wednesday:	9am to 3pm
Thursday:	9am to 3pm
Friday:	9am to 12pm
Saturday:	CLOSED

Please email information to office@wblumc.org for Christmas Eve bulletins no later than Monday, Dec. 18. New Year’s Eve bulletin information is due by Wednesday, Dec. 28. Thank you!

SUNDAY BULLETIN

Submit information for the bulletin directly to office@wblumc.org by 10am Tuesdays.

WEEKLY E-BLAST

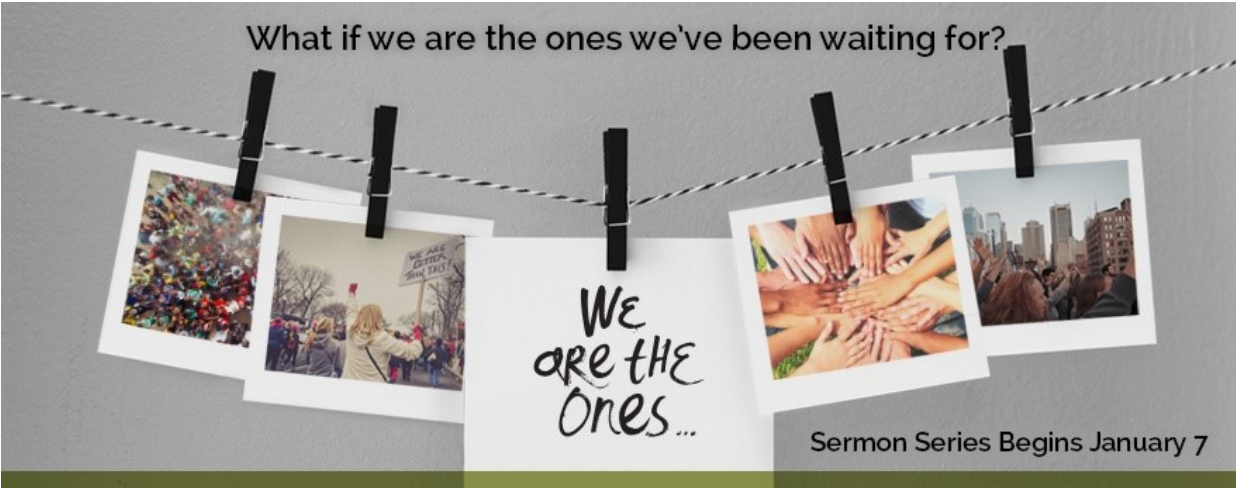
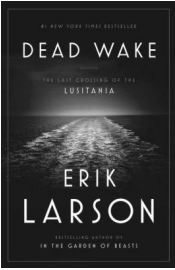
To receive our weekly email update, call 651-429-9026 or email office@wblumc.org. Please submit church-related events or announcements by 3pm Wednesdays. All e-blast and bulletin information is subject to staff approval.

Altar flowers

The 2018 flower calendar is up on the bulletin board outside the office! Sign up for your date, plus fill out a yellow form for the office.

January book club

The first selection for 2018 is *Dead Wake: The Last Crossing of the Lusitania* by Erik Larson. This is the enthralling story of the sinking of the *Lusitania* on May 1, 1915. Meeting will be **Monday, Jan. 22**, at 7pm in the church library. All are welcome, hope you can join us!



Join us in 2018

Starting Jan. 7, 2018, at 9am and 10:45am worship

“We Are The Ones”

Winter Sermon Series

With all the deep divisions in the world today, all the overwhelming problems, all the soul-crushing threats, it’s easy to lose heart and to lose hope of things getting better. This series looks at the ways we can influence our common life by reaching deep within ourselves and calling out the best that is within us.

- TODAY:** We Are the Ones We’ve Been Waiting For
- Jan. 14:** We Are the Ones to Embrace Differences
- Jan. 21:** We Are the Ones to Change Politics
- Jan. 28:** We Are the Ones to Reach the Stranger
- Feb. 4:** We Are the Ones to Share the Good News
- Feb. 11:** We Are the Ones to Lead



Register for ASP

Appalachia Service Project will be **July 21-29** in Kentucky. Students completing grades 9-12 and college students are invited to transform faith into service, responding to a specific need: housing. Register at wblumc.org/ministries/youth by **Feb. 1, 2018**. The first of four required ASP team meetings will be at 12pm on **Sunday, Feb. 4**.

Interactive Faith

Starting Jan. 24: Students in 6-7th grade will be working on making prayer stools every Wednesday for 4 weeks. During Connect they will learn about different types of prayer. Connect students are learning about K-knowing, I-interceding, S-spurring or encouraging, and S-serving others.

Summer Fest 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! Meet terrific people from all over the Upper Midwest. More information to come shortly.

DON'T MISS! SPECIAL MUSIC EVENTS



Music of the Ladies of the Eighties

Exclusively at the 10:45am service on Jan. 21, 2018
Music will start at 10:30am

We're bringing back the big hair, rolled jeans, shoulder pads and MC Hammer pants as we rock out to Madonna, Cyndi Lauper, Tina Turner, Indigo Girls and more. This is a free community event, so spread the word and invite a friend or neighbor!

Organ dedication concert

3pm Sunday, Jan. 21, 2018

In celebration of the installation of a Rodger Infinity 361 organ, White Bear Lake United Methodist Church proudly presents concert organist Kraig Windschitl in a dedication concert. The concert will include some classics of organ repertoire and will include the church's handbell and Chancel choirs. This is a community event, so please invite a guest! Free-will offerings appreciated.

42nd Wild Game dinner

The 2018 Men's Club Wild Game Dinner will be **Monday, Jan. 15**. Join us for delicious and interesting dishes prepared by WBLUMC members. The event will start at 6pm with appetizers, followed by the main dishes and speaker Chris Niskanen, DNR communications director. Chris was previously the outdoor writer for the St. Paul Pioneer Press and published articles for numerous other outdoors publications and has published two outdoors-related books. Chris also organizes fishing trips in Alaska, which he'll talk about in addition to current conservation issues. **Cost: \$20 per person; \$15 seniors/youth.**

We need volunteers! We'd love your help: 9am-4pm — preparing dishes; 2-5pm — setting up Fellowship Hall; 5-7pm — serving; 6-8pm — cleanup. To sign up, contact Paul Dickson at 651-482-9934 or email him at paul.dickson@comcast.net.

Common Hope meeting TODAY

Join us **TODAY** at 11:45am to learn about plans for sending a team of volunteers to Common Hope in Antigua, Guatemala, from July 29-Aug. 5. Everyone interested in learning more about Common Hope's work in Guatemala and/or about joining the Vision Team are encouraged to attend. No commitment needs to be made today, but the Team Leaders will be doing their best to convince you to join the fun. It's an immersive experience where you'll make friends and memories to last a lifetime.

Save the date! Meet Bishop Ough

On **Sunday, Jan. 28, 2018**, the Board of Directors will host a visit from Bishop Ough. He'll share with us what is happening with Methodist churches in Minnesota, plus his perspectives about our church. Mark this event on your calendar! We're planning to have an old-fashioned potluck dinner. Look for a letter in the mail with more specifics. Contact Mike Faust at mcf Faust@comcast.net for information.

2017-18 contributions

TODAY is the last day the church can receive donations for calendar 2017. Checks must have a 2017 date and be received by Jan. 7, 2018. For 2018 contributions, you could benefit from accelerating 2018 charitable donations to 2017. Talk to your tax adviser to see if accelerating 2018 donations makes sense for you.

All-church conference

All church members are invited to the 2018 Charge Conference on **Wednesday, Jan. 17, 2018**, led by Pastor Bill Eaves in room 200, at 6pm. The purpose is to approve the 2018 church budget and approve the membership report.

Yoga class resumes

The next yoga session by Yoga-devotion will run on Tuesdays from Jan. 9 to Feb. 27, 6-7 pm in Fellowship Hall. The cost is \$64 for 8 weeks. All are welcome. Contact Carolyn at tersay@msn.com.

Race discussion

What are the facts about the concept of race? When was the concept developed? What does biology have to say? Discuss these questions and watch the PBS special "Race: The Power of an Illusion" at the Dorcas Circle meeting **Wednesday, Jan. 10, 2018**, at 9:45am in room 200. Contact Barb Hinz, 651-777-0465 or barbhinz@juno.com.

Baking With A Purpose

Loaves of cinnamon raisin and sourdough are available first-come, first-served **today** between services. All January donations will go to Meals on Wheels.

How to sponsor a refugee family

Kathryn Berger from the Minnesota Council of Churches Refugee Services will talk about how to sponsor a refugee family on **Thursday, Jan. 11**, 6:30-8pm in the sanctuary. If you have questions or are interested but unable to attend, please contact Barb Hinz at 651-777-0465 or barbhinz@juno.com.