

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 mounding, 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 burdening the head of this flower flexes deeply one more time, triumphantly shaking the bleakness of mid-winter. The burdensome 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 talking going on. The world was telling me about itself, above myself, and about the mystery permeating everything.”

Earthly-planted folks know life can muster mysterious harshness 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 because 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 nature 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 leading us full circle to the wintery watching of the hydrangea. God’s prophets pull and pulled everyday examples from people’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 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.

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|-------|--|---|
| 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 14, 2018 ~ MLK Sunday

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

WORDS FOR MEDITATION

“Jesus was a Jew who dared befriend Samaritans, a carpenter who did not hesitate to challenge scholars, a male who was sensitive to women’s experience, an activist who prayed continually, a Nazarene who confronted the power structure in Jerusalem. Jesus showed special concern for the poor and marginalized, yet knew how to speak to the powerful. He stood rooted in the past while giving birth to a new heaven and a new earth.”
~ International Review of Mission

“There are more than one hundred fifty species of plants on this prairie – to say nothing of the insects, birds, and mammals they attract – just as there were before we first broke the sod and started farming. It’s beautiful, of course, but that’s not the whole story....The prairie as it once was – a state to which it can be restored – has a lot to teach us about how we need to live.
~ Parker Palmer

PRELUDE

“Peace Train”
“A Change Is Gonna Come”

Cat Stevens
Sam Cooke

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

+OPENING WORDS (responsively)
We seek our place in the world and the answers to our hearts’ deep questions.
As we seek, may our hearts be open to unexpected answers.
We seek the way forward and the inspiration to know the right way.
As we seek, may our eyes be open to wisdom that surprises us.
We seek companions on the way, to enrich our journey.
As we seek, may we be open to different perspectives.
As surely as we are children of God, we belong together.
Let us know ourselves to be at home here and connected with each other.

UNISON PRAYER
**God of all people,
we gather here today to be aware of your presence among us.
May we listen so that we can hear.
May we hear so that we can feel.
May we feel so that we can know.
And may we know so that we can change ourselves and this world.
In the name of Jesus. 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.

ANTHEM
“Up To the Mountain”
Trish Sisson, vocals
Patty Griffin

SCRIPTURE
Acts 2:1-21
Reader: Sherrie Bloodgood
When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, ‘Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.’ All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, ‘What does this mean?’ But others sneered and said, ‘They are filled with new wine.’ But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: ‘Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

“In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy.
And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord’s great and glorious day.
Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

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 to Embrace Differences
Pastor Bill Eaves

+HYMN
“We Shall Overcome”
No. 533

CONNECTION CARDS
“Blackbird”
George Harrison
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
“Imagine”
Trish Sisson, vocals
John Lennon

ANNOUNCEMENTS

+CLOSING HYMN
“We Are Marching”
No. 2235-b

+BENEDICTION

+POSTLUDE
“There Is No Greater Love”
I. Jones/M. Symes

Today’s musicians: Trish Sisson and Lisa Draves, vocals; Tom Lewis, bass; Kerry Johnson, drums and vocals; Connor Carroll, woodwinds; John Koziol, piano
Sound technician: Godfrey Holzbach; PowerPoint presenter: Lori McBride

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

Monday, Jan. 15
10am—Hang Loose Women’s Al-Anon, room 206
3:30-5pm—Bell Trio rehearsal, sanctuary
6-9pm—Wild Game dinner, Fellowship Hall
7-8:30pm—Hearts & Hands knitting group, library

Tuesday, Jan. 16
12:30-1:45pm—Faith in Action, library
5pm—Worship committee, library
6pm—Yoga class, Fellowship Hall
7pm—Finance Committee, room 107
6-8pm—Board of Directors, room 200

Wednesday, Jan. 17
1-2:30pm—Prayer team, prayer room
6-6:30pm—Children’s Choir, room 205
6pm—All-church charge conference, room 200
6:30pm—Alleluia Ringers, sanctuary
6:30pm—Children & Youth activities
7:30-9pm—Chancel Choir rehearsal

Thursday, Jan. 18
7:10am—Men’s Breakfast Group, library
10am—Pages of Wisdom, room 107

Friday, Jan. 19
No scheduled activities; office open 9am-noon

Saturday, Jan. 20
7:30am — Men’s Prayer Group, room 107
10am — Women’s Breakfast group, room 107

Sunday, Jan. 21
9-10am—Worship; Sunday school and nursery
10am—Coffee, tea and treats, Fellowship Hall
Individual prayer, prayer room
10:45-11:30am—Ladies of the 80s worship event
3-5pm—Organ dedication concert, sanctuary

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

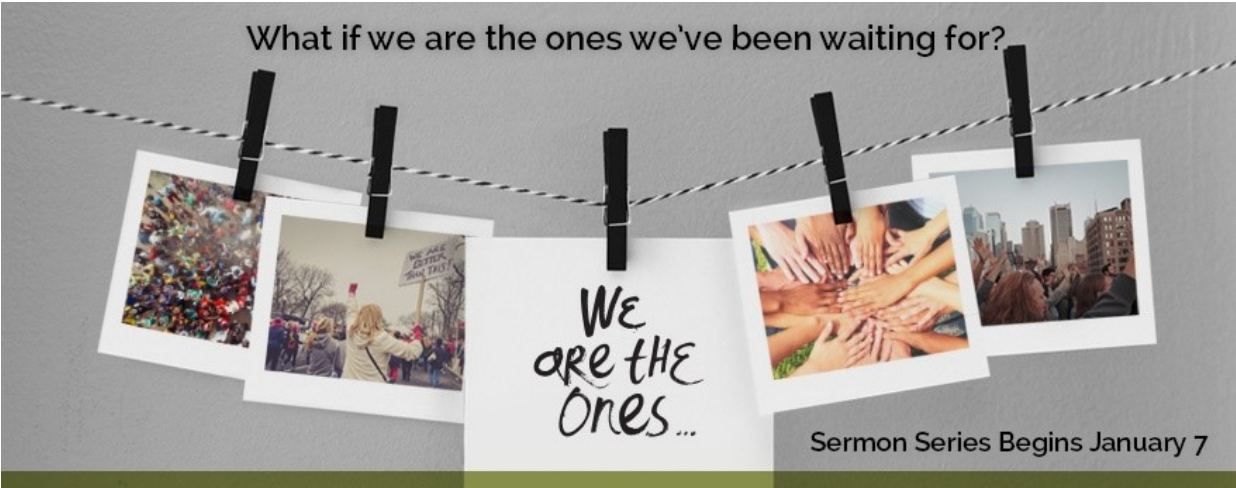
Submit information for the bulletin directly to office@wblumc.org by 10am Tuesdays.

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.

Winter welcomes

The urns that welcome you at the church’s east entrance are given in gratitude for the gifts of the WBLUMC staff. The urns at the south entrance are given in honor of Oliver Walkingstick by friends who love Connie Catlin and remember Oliver. Might the loveliness of this memorable man and friendship arise.



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 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.

NEXT WEEK! SPECIAL MUSIC EVENTS



Music of the Ladies of the 80s

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

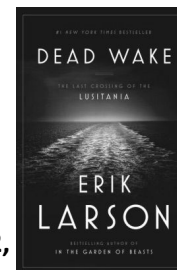
In celebration of the installation of a Rodgers Infinity 361 organ, White Bear Lake United Methodist Church proudly presents concert organist Kraig Windschitl in a dedication concert. The concert will include some classics of organ repertoire and will include the church's handbell and Chancel choirs.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

42nd Wild Game dinner Monday

The 2018 Men's Club Wild Game Dinner is this **Monday, Jan. 15**, starting at 6pm with appetizers, followed by dinner 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. Dinner costs \$20/person; \$15/seniors & youth.

January book club

The first selection for 2018 is *Dead Wake: The Last Crossing of the Lusitania* by Erik Larson. This is the enthralling narrative fiction tale 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!



February's book selection: *Fiction on a Stick: New Stories by Minnesota Writers*, edited by Daniel Slager. Meeting will be Monday, February 26.

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.

Baking With A Purpose

Freshly baked loaves will be available first-come, first-served **Saturday, Feb. 3**, 1-2pm in Fellowship Hall and **Sunday, Feb. 4**, between services. All February donations will go to address hunger in our community.

Ash Wednesday pizza dinner

You're invited! Come for fresh-baked pizza from our brick oven before the Ash Wednesday service. Pizza will be served 5:30-6:15pm and worship at 6:30pm on **Wednesday, Feb. 14**.

The bread team will need several volunteers to set up, prep and bake pizzas, serve and clean up. Check out the sign-up sheet in the narthex and help make this fun event happen!

Potluck dinner with Bishop Ough

Please join us on **Sunday, Jan. 28**, for an old-fashioned potluck dinner and a special visit from Bishop Ough. He'll share with us what is happening with Methodist churches in Minnesota, plus his perspectives about our church. Signup sheets are now posted in the narthex! For more information, contact Mike Faust at mcfaust@comcast.net



Hallway display

Thanks once more to WBLUMC member and resident hallway art curator Mary Ellen Calderwood for bringing us the amazing display of Peruvian rugs and weavings. They are made with hand-spun wool that is dyed through a labor-intensive process using leaves, seeds, minerals and insets for rich and varied tones. The textile design and technique inspirations is rooted in Pre-Inca influences. Please pick up the information on the hall tables to learn more about these amazing weavings.