

Reaching is good news

“We often don’t quite trust that rebirth will follow the deaths of what we thought we knew. We sense that somehow what comes next is up to us, but we’re not sure where to begin. Yet, it’s precisely in these moments when we let our truest, hardest questions rise up in our midst and allow their place among us, that we become able to live into them rather than away and to do so together.” ~ Krista Tippet

As children we tenaciously experience reaching maybe more than we wish. Whether it’s your fingers that stray while grasping the crayon to fashion our imagination’s vision or a stretch to catch and balance on tiptoes, we’ve all reached. Perhaps a ball, surely the cookie jar, a park’s lofty steel bars, a trusted friend, a diploma, more patience or perhaps the best stretch of life is to make a difference? We recognized then, things are changeable and rebirths happen.

Reaching is something we can all connect with from the time we stood in our smaller childhood frame and hoped to be taller to our more astute hopes for a bigger canvass to paint the meaning of our lives. Author Krista Tippet’s words echo a need for enlarging the rebirths of our canvases. You see, Tippet has interviewed people who hold almost all faith traditions from many corners of the world and finds that hope is still a significant reach to rest in. Furthermore, hope emerges from the courageous grasp of goodness in quite contradictory times. That means we might be the carriers of hope now no matter the political, social or personal culture. We may be the ones.

To Jesus, life meant reaching. His testimony and ministry blurred the lines between us and them, and hopes became reachable. Jesus established a place for anyone. History was rewritten, and the words continue to fashion themselves in our history although we might not see hope’s rebirth.

A fresh history appeared because Jesus dared to listen at wells with an unlikely compassion, he sought out to find falsely named lost ones and began to redeem tree climbing, tax collectors, judgmental persecutors and most any of us. Jesus reached for everyone across the breadth of humanity and even for or particularly for, us skeptics. Jesus remembers our souls with us. If you think hope can’t happen now, an example is written into the dark days described upon the pages of Lamentations. Try to put to mind this writer re-

minding his soul and reaching: “Surely my soul remembers. And is bowed down within me. This I recall to my mind. Therefore I have hope. The Lord’s lovingkindness indeed never cease, for His compassions never fail. Fresh as the morning, as sure as the sunrise. They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness.” Although we might tip in our capacity to reach, the Sacred will not.

As we close, coax hope around you and keep this courageous child-sized view in mind and soul given to us by Tippet of Dorothy Day: “Some call her a saint, yet, none of the actual people who have been sainted were cartoon cutout characters with perfect lives. I mean, they had rough edges, and they knew the darkness in the world, and in themselves. So Dorothy Day had this really messy life. A beautiful life. I see a defining moment for her, again, coming back to the spiritual origin of questions, where she’s an 8-year-old girl in the San Francisco earthquake of 1906, living in Oakland, and watches people just emerging from devastation. Day watches also all the adults around her start caring for strangers in a way she’s never seen before, and with the clear-sightedness of a child she sees that somehow they knew how to do this all along. And she asks this question, ‘Why can’t we live this way all the time?’

“And I think that Day’s life was one long question — she walked into questions — I think we could ask that kind of question of us. That could be a spiritual discipline in very ordinary moments, in very ordinary weeks which happen all the time that we don’t honor. ‘Why can’t we live this way all the time?’ [This is] when we show the best of ourselves, letting that animate us...Our world is abundant with the quiet, hidden lives of beauty and courage and goodness. There are millions of people at any given moment, young and old, giving themselves over to service, risking hope, and all the while ennobling us all.” ~ 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.



White Bear Lake
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
NOURISHING THE HUNGERS OF LIFE

9am Worship ~ Sunday, January 28, 2018

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

WORDS FOR MEDITATION

“... Sometimes one feels freer speaking to a stranger than to people one knows. Why is that?”
“Probably because a stranger sees us the way we are, not as he wishes to think we are.”
~ Carlos Ruiz Zafón, The Shadow of the Wind

“For a split second they stared at each other. A fleeting, lasting moment. One person noticing another person out of a whole crowd of strangers.”
~ Alexandra Potter, Calling Romeo

“I’m not a stranger,” I said, and pointed to his book.
“I’m someone who reads the same authors you do.”
~ Lemony Snicket, When Did You See Her Last?

PRELUDE

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP “Peace Between Nations” Christopher Wiggins

+OPENING WORDS (responsively)
Sisters and brothers, as we gather in the welcome of God’s love, as we gather in the joy of our unity in Christ, as we gather in the power of the Spirit, let us listen for the voice of God.
Let us worship God, who has spoken and still speaks to those who attend to the roar or the whisper of the Holy One. Amen.

†OPENING HYMN

“Come Christians Join to Sing”

No. 158

UNISON PRAYER

O God, we realize you do not call us to be successful in the marketplace; you call us to be faithful as disciples of Jesus. You do not call us to achievement in work, but to responsible living. You do not call us to make a great fortune, but to labor for your reign. Guide us into greater understanding of your priorities. May we reach out to the strangers around us and hear their stories. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

After the message, children and youth through 8th grade are invited to leave for Sunday school.

ANTHEM

“Poor Wayfaring Stranger”

Arr. by Gary Matheny

Chancel Choir

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

Deuteronomy 10:12-19

Reader: Barbara Richter

So now, O Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you? Only to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments of the Lord your God and his decrees that I am commanding you today, for your own well-being.

Although heaven and the heaven of heavens belong to the Lord your God, the earth with all that is in it, yet the Lord set his heart in love on your ancestors alone and chose you, their descendants after them, out of all the peoples, as it is today. Circumcise, then, the foreskin of your heart, and do not be stubborn any longer.

For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who is not partial and takes no bribe, who executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and who loves the strangers, providing them food and clothing. You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.

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 Reach the Stranger

Pastor Brooke Heerwald Steiner

†HYMN

“We Are Called”

No. 2172

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

“Sing with All the Saints of Glory”

arr. by Thomas Keesecker

ANNOUNCEMENTS

†CLOSING HYMN

“To God Be the Glory”

No. 98

†BENEDICTION

†POSTLUDE

2018 altar flower sign-ups

The 2018 altar flower calendar is posted on the bulletin board outside the office with lots of dates available. Sign your name on the Sunday you’d like, **and please remember to fill out a yellow form!** This will give Mary Ellen and the office information on types of flowers, price and dedication for the bulletin. Leave the completed form and payment with the office. Thank you!

Sunday, Jan. 28
9-10am—Worship; Sunday school and nursery
10am—Coffee, tea and treats, Fellowship Hall
Individual prayer, prayer room
10:45-11:30am—Worship; nursery
5:30pm—Potluck supper with Bishop Ough,
Fellowship Hall

Monday, Jan. 29
10am—Hang Loose Women’s Al-Anon, room 206
3:30-5pm—Bell Trio rehearsal, sanctuary

Tuesday, Jan. 30
6pm—Yoga class, Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, Jan. 31
6-6:30pm—Children’s Choir, room 205
6-7:15pm—Alleluia Ringers, sanctuary
6:30pm—Children & Youth activities
7:30-9pm—Chancel Choir rehearsal

Thursday, Feb. 1
7:10am—Men’s Breakfast Group, library
10am—Pages of Wisdom, room 107
7-8:30pm—BeFriends meeting, room 200

Saturday, Feb. 3
7:30am — Men’s Prayer Group, room 107
8:30am-noon—WBLUMC leadership retreat, rm.200
10am — Women’s Breakfast group, room 107
1pm—Baking With A Purpose, Fellowship Hall

Sunday, Feb. 4
9-10am—Worship; Sunday school and nursery
10am—Coffee, tea and treats, Fellowship Hall
Individual prayer, prayer room
10:45-11:30am—Worship; nursery
1pm—ASP team meeting

STAFF
Bill Eaves, Senior Pastor
bill.eaves@wblumc.org,
763-355-7825 mobile
Brooke Heerwald Steiner, Associate Pastor
John McBride, Associate Pastor

Joan Hartman, Director of Children
& Family Ministries
Linnea Uhler, Director of Youth Ministries
Peteria Cochran Routt, Director of
Traditional Music
John Koziol, Jr. Director of Music
Matthew Goinz, Chancel Choir Director

Welcome to

WHITE BEAR LAKE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Visit **wblumc.org** for weekly sermon podcasts,
PDFs of the 9am bulletins, 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

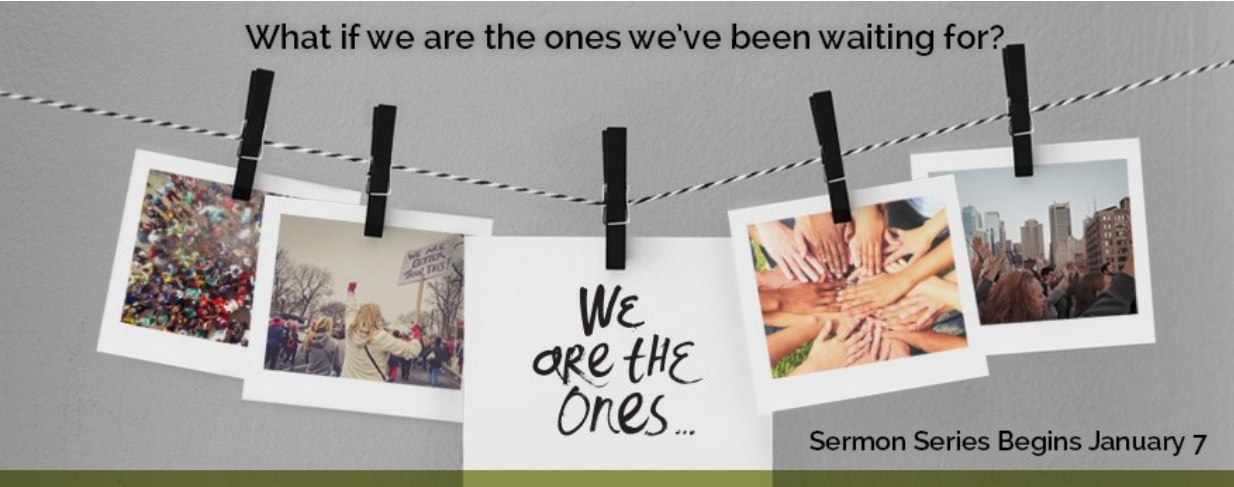
SUNDAY BULLETIN

Have a church-related event you’d like to appear in
the Sunday bulletin? Please email all pertinent
information, including contact information, to
office@wblumc.org no later than 1pm on the Tuesday
before publication. All bulletin information is subject
to staff approval. Thank you!

WEEKLY E-BLAST

To receive our weekly email update, which is sent
every Thursday, call the office at 651-429-9026 or
email your request to office@wblumc.org.

To have your information included in the weekly up-
date, please submit church-related events or an-
nouncements by 3pm Wednesdays. All e-blast infor-
mation is subject to staff approval.



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 Reach the Stranger
Feb. 4: We Are the Ones to Share the Good News
Feb. 11: We Are the Ones to Lead

Potluck tonight!

Dinner and conversation with Bishop Ough
Starts at 5:30pm Sunday, Jan. 28

It’s not too late join us for an old-fashioned potluck dinner and a special visit from Bishop Ough. He’ll share with us what’s happening with Methodist churches in Minnesota, plus give us his own view on our church. Sign up in the narthex to let us know if you can come and what you can bring to share. For more information, contact Mike Faust at mcf Faust@comcast.net



ASP registration deadline coming soon!

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

Interactive Faith

Wednesday night project: Students in 6-7th grade will be working on making prayer stools every Wednesday for four 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.

Save the dates: Good Earth Village Camp Sleep Away Camp for Grades 2-5 (completed), July 15-20

We loved it last year, so we're going back to Good Earth Village in Spring Valley! Second grade stays for two nights, all others may stay five nights. Contact Joan Hartman for more information.



Sponsoring a refugee family

We are excited to be starting the process to sponsor a refugee family through the church. Families are still arriving in Minnesota, although at a much slower rate. If you have any furniture, household items, hygiene items or seasonally appropriate clothing that you are thinking of giving away, we would appreciate it if you could save it for our future family. For questions or other ways to help, please contact Barb Hinz at 651-777-0465 or barbhinz@juno.com.



Bread Oven events

February Baking With A Purpose

Freshly baked loaves of multi-grain and cranberry walnut bread will be available first-come, first-served **Saturday, Feb. 3**, 1-2pm in Fellowship Hall and **Sunday, Feb. 4**, after each service. All February donations will go to Solid Ground to support families.

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 volunteers to set up, prep and bake pizzas, serve and clean up. See the sign-up sheet in the narthex and help make this fun event happen!

We need PowerPoint presenters!

We are desperately short on volunteers to run the projection for Sunday morning worship services. We need several people willing to volunteer at least once a month. Volunteers will receive enough training to make them feel comfortable with the program. Contact Peteria at peteria.cochranroutt@wblumc.org if you're willing to help out. Thank you!

February book club

Get started now on next month's book club selection, *Fiction on a Stick: New Stories by Minnesota Writers*, edited by Daniel Slager. With writings by and about an extraordinarily wide range of voices and characters, including powerful work by Sarah Stonich and Éireann Lersung, *Fiction on a Stick* is an essential collection for fans of the North Star State, regional fiction, and serious literature. The next book club meeting will be **Monday, February 26.** Contact Rick Flynn with questions.



Another reading opportunity

Dorcas Circle is reading *A House in the Sky* by Amanda Lindhout and Sara Corbett, a memoir of a young Canadian woman's experience with her ex-boyfriend as a hostage for 460 days in Somalia. The author provides insight into life in Somalia, the role of women in that country, the Muslim religion, and what motivates first-world citizens to travel to the world's most dangerous places. This is a book that's hard to put down! All are welcome to join our discussion; meet in room 200 on **Wednesday, Feb. 14**, at 9:45am. (There is one copy in our church library and six in the Ramsey County Library System.) Questions? Contact: Barb Hinz at 651-777-0465 or barbhinz@juno.com



FAT SUNDAY RETURNS

9am and 10:45am Sunday, Feb. 11, 2018
Join us to again celebrate "Fat Sunday" — the last Sunday of thankfulness and celebration before Lent brings a season of contemplation and meditation. By popular demand, the Jerry O'Hagan Dixieland Band will return! Their joyous Dixieland music will add a sense of Mardi Gras music and spirit to both services —don't miss!

SAVE THE DATE

FOR STEVIE WONDER

10:45am Sunday, April 22, 2018:

The Music of Stevie Wonder

Come for messages of love and peace from Motown's legendary musical artist.

UMW REMINDER

JRLC day earlybird registration

Get \$15 off when you register by **Jan. 31** for the Joint Religious Legislative Coalition's Day on the Hill on March 13. Clergy and lay people statewide attend to show our interfaith commitment to social justice and to participate in the lawmaking process. The event includes prayer, issue briefings, time to meet with your district and opportunities to take action. For more information, go to jrlc.org.