

Your heart and the art of praying a parable

“Teaching might be the greatest of the arts since the medium is the human mind and spirit.”  
Nobel- and Pulitzer Prize-winning author, John Steinbeck

Like author John Steinbeck, most of us have stories that tussle around in our head. Most of them are seldom fixed to paper and rarely told with the exception of that one story your uncle has narrated so often it’s cemented into place. Steinbeck’s pen enlightened us with views of hard-working, everyday people and their lives. His words echo what Jesus knew about humanity, teaching and story. We recognize Jesus is “the” Teacher of the human mind and spirit, and he told many stories as a means of imparting truth.

In Luke, it is written that “Jesus told parables to show them of their need to pray and to not lose heart (18:1).” This one scripture delivers an insight into God. It is a wide, gracious view of the Ancient One who would not want even one of us to lose heart. You see, a parable is a sacred story told in a fashion where we all grab a piece of the story. Somewhere in the telling of the story, I see myself and I compassionately see you. Then, it becomes jumbled and I see myself in you. It is at this precise teachable moment when I remember to see your heart in the midst of mine.

Parables are complex. They capture the plight of the downtrodden, personal wilderness, heaven and unlikely neighbors. Through parables Jesus shared what God

desires for us. The most minute seed or speck of yeast possesses the potential for growth; the master continues to pay what is right and fair rather than for our earned worthiness; and a neighbor is hidden in an enemy. Overall, parables teach us there is the capacity for a treasured grace, a way home and wisdom to be found when lost in the depths of expansive places. Fields, dusty roads, lost stuff or even something lost within us is a story of potential rather than despair.

If it is true that writers can weave lingering classic stories where goodness overcomes, if it is true that music can bring comfort in its melody, if the great masters can brush magnificent canvases that still fill our eyes with a tear for their color. then it is true as well that a parable has the capacity to continue to move us. Within the parables, Jesus, the Maker of Peace, eclipses the way of this kinder love layering it over our murky, moral boundaries. After all, humankind is not usually known for the kind part of this word. When you are hoping to unite kindness to the art of humanity, read a parable. It’s an opportunity not only to unite human and kind, but to pray that our views may become eclipsed by the desire of God. It is written, “God would not want even one of us to lose heart.” Amen.  
~ 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).

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

White Bear Lake

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
NOURISHING THE HUNGERS OF LIFE

10am Summer Worship ~ Sunday, July 8, 2018

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

WORDS FOR REFLECTION

“Nourish hope in yourself. It is the care of your soul, over which only you have the power to make a difference. The world may not run just the way you’d like it to. In our lifetimes, we are witness to injustice and tragedy that leave us heartbroken and in pieces. It is up to each of us to determine what difference we can make in the cycle of violence and inhumanity that is part of our world.”

~ Judith Meyer

“There’s no more central theme in the Bible than the immorality of inequality. Jesus speaks more about the gap between rich and poor than he does about heaven and hell.”

~ Jim Wallis

PRELUDES

“Blest Are They”

Cantor: Matthew Goinz

David Haas

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

“The Spirit and the Bride”

Teresa Muller

+OPENING WORDS (responsively)

O God, who called all life into being,

**The earth, sea, and sky are yours.**

Your presence is all around us,

**Every atom is full of your energy.**

Your Spirit enlivens all who walk the earth,

**With your Spirit we yearn for justice to be done.**

For creation to be freed from bondage,

**For the hungry to be fed.**

For captives to be released,

**For your Reign of peace to come on earth.**



✚OPENING HYMN

“Come Christians Join to Sing”

No. 158

MESSAGE

Provocative Stories of Jesus: The Rich Man and Lazarus

Pastor Bill Eaves

UNISON PRAYER

**Loving God, you have led us to this place, not to shield us from heartache and the pain of human life, but to heal us and inspire us, to gently redirect us, until we see the world as you do and love it with your love. Here in the presence of our sisters and brothers, may we know your presence and have hearts open to what you have to give to us today. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

*After the children’s message, children through 3rd grade (completed) are invited to leave for Children’s Church.*

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

Luke 16:19-31

Reader: Ronda Nelson

There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man’s table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. He called out, “Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames.”

But Abraham said, “Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.”

He said, “Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father’s house — for I have five brothers — that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.” Abraham replied, “They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.”

He said, “No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.” He said to him, “If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.”

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.**

✚HYMN

“The Servant Song”

No. 2222

1,2,3 & 6

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

“Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus”

Lemmel/BJ Davis

ANNOUNCEMENTS

✚CLOSING HYMN

“They’ll Know We Are Christians By Our Love”

No. 2223

✚BENEDICTION

✚POSTLUDE

“The First Song of Isaiah”

Jack Noble White

ALTAR FLOWERS

**This week’s arrangement** is provided by Gail Stucky  
in honor of family birthdays, anniversaries and in memory of John.

# Provocative Stories of Jesus

Jesus told stories to make a point, to draw pictures in the minds and hearts of his listeners — and to provoke a response. As with all good stories, the parables of Jesus are rich with meaning. Through the centuries we have often reduced them to platitudes or simple moral lessons. We’ll look at these stories through the eyes of those who heard them first, the mostly Jewish crowds who were attracted to Jesus and his teachings. We’ll discover that these stories can still surprise us, shake us up, indict us, and open us up to multiple interpretations that prompt us to see the world in new ways.

**July 15** — Provocative Stories of Jesus: *The Pharisee and the Tax Collector*

**July 22** — Provocative Stories of Jesus: *Mustard Seed*

**July 29** — Provocative Stories of Jesus: *Pearl of Great Price*

# Coming up at WBLUMC

## Bikes, burgers & beverages

Bikers of all abilities and experience levels are welcome to join us for a fun ride on **Tuesday, July 10**, at 5:30pm. RSVP is needed! Sign up in the narthex or email John McBride for more details at [mcbride.johnr@gmail.com](mailto:mcbride.johnr@gmail.com).

## Paddling the St. Croix



Canoe or kayak the St. Croix River from Sunrise Ferry Landing to the Wild River State Park Landing 9:30am-3pm **Saturday, July 14**, led by Jim Roe. Contact Jim at 651-242-1322 or [jameseroe8@gmail.com](mailto:jameseroe8@gmail.com).

## Bread Talks: Find your purpose at any age

What's your God-given purpose? This question prods and pokes us throughout our life, nudging us forward until we discover our unique way of making a difference in the world. Whether you're 21 or 92, join us in Fellowship Hall at 6:30pm on **Wednesday, July 25**, for this inspiring message as WBLUMC member Faith Ralston shares her life lessons and coaching experiences to help you ignite and renew your purpose. Light supper will be provided. For information, contact Lori McBride at [lorijomcbride@gmail.com](mailto:lorijomcbride@gmail.com).

## 2018 UMC Creation Care Summit

Hosted by Minnesota EarthKeepers, this national gathering at Hamline University **July 26-29** is designed for United Methodists concerned about environmental justice, sustainable food, transportation options, energy systems, climate change, and environmental degradation. Join us to explore ways to collaborate between local congregations, annual conferences, general boards, agencies, and interest groups. Get details and registration information online at [umcreationcaresummit.org](http://umcreationcaresummit.org).

## Calling all knitters: Lydia project

The United Methodist General Conference is coming to Minneapolis in 2020. United Methodists in Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota are being asked to knit or crochet 10,000 purple scarves, enough for every attendee. Our church has committed to making 40 scarves by June 2019. To help with this project, find directions on the Welcome Table. Contact Julie Rindelaub at [rindelaub@msn.com](mailto:rindelaub@msn.com) or 651-343-4725, or go to [minnesotaumc.org/lydiaproject](http://minnesotaumc.org/lydiaproject).



## Women's golf group

Our next Wednesday outings will be **July 11** at Goodrich Golf Course, 1820 Van Dyke St. N in Maplewood, and **July 18** at Manitou Ridge, 3200 N. McKnight Road in White Bear Lake. To play, email Mary Cripe by Monday at [suzary006@comcast.net](mailto:suzary006@comcast.net).

## Send your summer photos!

Once again, visual artist Mary Ellen Calderwood will collect photos that represent your summer and hang them in the church halls starting mid-July. Please send images to [mecalderswood@aol.com](mailto:mecalderswood@aol.com) **ASAP** so Mary Ellen can start hanging them after the quilts come down July 15.

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## WBLUMC calendar

**Sunday, July 8**  
10-11am—Summer service; Children’s Church; nursery  
11am—Coffee, tea and treats, Fellowship Hall  
Individual prayer, prayer room

**Monday, July 9**  
10am—Hang Loose Women’s Al-Anon, room 206

**Tuesday, July 10**  
10:30am-noon—Staff meeting, room 206  
6pm—Yoga class, Fellowship Hall  
6:30pm—Trustees meeting, room 107  
7-8:30pm—Finance committee, room 200  
7-9pm—Staff-Parish Relations committee, room 206

**Wednesday, July 11**  
No scheduled activities

**Thursday, July 12**  
7:10am—Men’s Breakfast Group, library  
9am-3pm—The Gathering, room 200  
10am—Pages of Wisdom AA, room 107  
1-3pm—Book Club (outside group), library

**Saturday, July 14**  
7:30am—Men’s Prayer Group, room 200  
9:30am-3pm—Paddling the St. Croix, offsite  
10am—WBL Sat. Morning Women’s Group, room 200/206

**Sunday, July 15**  
Good Earth Village camp starts!  
10-11am—Summer service; Children’s Church; nursery  
11am—Coffee, tea and treats, Fellowship Hall  
Individual prayer, prayer room

**Monday, July 16**  
Good Earth Village camp  
10am—Hang Loose Women’s Al-Anon, room 206  
7-8:30pm—Book club planning meeting, room 200  
7-8:30pm—Hearts & Hands Knitting Group, library

**Tuesday, July 17**  
Good Earth Village camp  
12:30-1:45pm—Faith in Action meeting, room 200  
6-8pm—Board of Directors meeting, room 200  
6pm—Yoga class, Fellowship Hall

## Welcome!

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  
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**REGULAR CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**  
**Sunday:** 9am to 12pm  
**Monday-Thursday** 9am to 3pm  
**Friday and Saturday** 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 no later than ***1pm Tuesday*** for the bulletin and ***1pm Wednesday*** for the e-blast. All information is subject to staff approval. Thank you!

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

STAFF

<b>Bill Eaves</b> , Senior Pastor bill.eaves@wblumc.org, 763-355-7825 mobile	<b>Matthew Goinz</b> , Chancel Choir Director
<b>John McBride</b> , Associate Pastor	<b>Patricia Kytola</b> , Director of Operations
<b>Joan Hartman</b> , Director of Children & Family Ministries	<b>Lauri Hoppie</b> , Administrative Assistant
<b>Linnea Uhler</b> , Director of Youth Ministries	<b>Lori Hughes</b> , Website & Social Media
<b>Peteria Cochran Routt</b> , Director of Traditional Music	<b>Carol Houghtby</b> , Treasurer
<b>John Koziol, Jr.</b> Director of Music	<b>Harry Jones</b> , Financial Secretary
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