

Hidden and new

“Now we see things imperfectly, like puzzling reflections in a mirror, but then we will see everything with perfect clarity. All that I know now is partial and incomplete. But then I will know everything completely, just as God now knows me completely. Three things will last forever — faith, hope, and love — and the greatest of these is love.”

Many of us may have glanced at that 1 Corinthians passage, we see in a “mirror” dimly or foggily at one time or another. It’s a standard of living love, paired with leaning toward God and uncertainty. The passage begins with stuff that passes away like if I had the ability to fathom all mysteries and knowledge; but the scripture truly resonates with the thing that will last which is love or charity (caring/*caritas**).

Matthew Henry writes this in his Bible commentary, “It is as if we are presently more like children and when we come to heaven all things dim or dark now will be become seen easily bright and clear.” Henry elaborates: “Such is the difference between earth and heaven — what narrow views, what confused notions of things, have children when they are compared with grown men [women]. “ He ends his quick commentary with “God is love and that is where God is to be seen.”

We have a bit of experience with imperfect seeing if we lived through any December. The unknown human experience is illustrated if we imagine gazing into the manger for the very first time, scanning its parts and people and then in our very human vision attempt to predict the full color, eternal Jesus. Alas, many of us were not ordained to be prophets. While we have puzzling unknowns, what we do possess is scripture, centuries of history, experience and never last or least, Spirit carefully nested with and in us.

We have brought in a new year and whether it’s 2019 or any other ordinary day, it’s synonymous to surrendering to the premise that what will be is an uncompleted puzzle. We lug around our unfinished pieces each morning and there’s a hidden uncertainty in the frames of our futures. We can only guess as we strain to see the attributes and accomplishments we do not see yet within the outsides of people all around us. Hidden uncertainty is present in the newborn, in the job that may become the worst or the best that we ever landed and more sensitively, in the healings we yearn for.

I occasionally recall the unknowns of the Sacred as I enter our sanctuary. It’s here in this space that folks enter to sooth and immerse their souls in what is holy and worship their Maker. It is here that we might bid a good bye to the souls that will always remain in our heart. It’s here, that we trustingly pledge

our covenants of marriage, confirmation and baptism to the God who holds each of us. A church is more than a building; its walls echo the sacred touchpoints of our life.

Nevertheless, the unknown mystery of our Creator is reflected in our sanctuary as our eyes strain toward the stained glass. There are three vibrant windows pulling our eyes upward to glimpse the spiraling steeple that adorns our cupula. However, there is another attribute of this sanctuary that we can’t miss. They are the massive, strong beams that not only support the sanctuary; they seem to block our vision from seeing the cupula’s full view. You see as sanctuary construction was completed this aspect was unexpected, however in the end, the beams presence is like the Holy. There is a mystery to seeing God fully and our pursuit of faith is a meandering journey sustained by grace. The way of Jesus supports, sustains and grids this world and us in our knowing and not knowing. Those massive beams might remind us as surely as the glass images and steeple.

So what do we do with unknowns? I suppose that answer is as uniquely individual as we are. Theologian Richard Rohr fits together the transformative parts of our hidden and new year:

“Jesus clearly believed in change ... In fact, the first public word out of his mouth was later translated into the Greek imperative verb *metanoeite*, which literally means “change your mind” or “go beyond your mind” (see Matthew 4:17, 6:4 18 and Mark 1:15). Unfortunately, in the fourth century, St. Jerome translated the word into Latin as *paenitentia* (“repent” or “do penance”), initiating a host of moralistic connotations that have colored Christians’ understanding of the Gospels ever since. The word *metanoeite* referred to a primal change of mind, worldview, or way of processing and perceiving...

Jesus invariably emphasized inner motivation and intention.

“Many of us seem to think God really is “back there,” in the good ol’ days of old-time religion when God was really God, and everybody was happy and pure. This leaves the present moment empty and hopeless — not to speak of the future.”

God keeps creating things from the inside out, so they are forever yearning, developing, growing, and changing for the good. This is the generative force implanted in all living things, which grow both from within — because they are programmed for it — and from without — by taking in sun, food, and water. Picture YHWH breathing into the soil that became Adam (Genesis 2:7). That is the eternal pattern. God is still breathing ... which leaves the full field of the future in God’s hands and agrees to humbly hold the present with what it only tentatively knows for sure.” Amen. ~ J. Jacot

*The English-language word “charity” originated from a Latin word, *caritas*, that meant to care (care, caress, cherish and charity all originated from the same Latin word). The Latin word *caritas*, and the English word that was derived from it, “charity,” were originally used with the applied meaning of love. This is the reason that some translations of the Bible use "charity," while others use “love.”



I am Worship ~ Communion Sunday, Jan. 6, 2019 ~ Epiphany

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

WORDS FOR REFLECTION

“What Can I Do? An Alphabet of Ideas for Anxious Times” by Martha Peck

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Act as you wish the world to become | Name the good |
| Believe | Organize for change |
| Create beauty | Play |
| Defend those who are in danger | Quiet your mind |
| Experience nature | Respect differences |
| Feed people | Savor life |
| Give of yourself | Take risks |
| Hope, then help it happen | Use less of the earth’s resources |
| Inspire imitation | Voice your vision |
| Join with others | Welcome strangers |
| Know your strengths | X Cross out cruelty |
| Listen, Learn, Love | Yield your privilege |
| Make music | ZZZ... Sleep well, because God is awake. |

PRELUDE “Winter Waltz” Jim Brickman

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP “We Shall Overcome”
Protest song arr. Tesfa Wondemagegnehu

♦OPENING WORDS

A new year has come.
We step over its threshold with faith and hope.
May this be the year of love and kindness. May strangers come to be friends.
May truth and compassion always guide us.
May this be the year of hope and healing, for all those in need.
May all of our deeds be a blessing.
May this be a year of selfless giving. May this be a year of peace.
And may we forgive and be forgiven.
A new year has come: **A chance to start again.**

+OPENING HYMN

“Star Child”

No. 2095

UNISON PRAYER

Creative God, you make all things new in heaven and on earth. We come to you in a new year with new desires and old fears, new decisions and old controversies, new dreams and old weaknesses. Because you are a God of hope, we know that you create all the possibilities of the future. Because you are a God of love, we know that you accept all the mistakes of the past. Because you are the God of our faith, we enter your gates with thanksgiving and praise, we come into your presence with gladness and a joyful noise, and we serve and bless you, in Jesus’ name. Amen.

ANTHEM

“Unclouded Day”
Chancel Choir

Josiah Kelley/arr. Garry Cornell

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Karen Flynn

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

After this message, children and youth through 9th grade will leave worship 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

Revelation 21:1-6

Reader: Rick Flynn

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them as their God; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.” And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.”

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

About Life: New Year, New Life

Pastor Bill Eaves

+HYMN

“The is the Day of New Beginnings”
1. All, 2. Women, 3. Chancel Choir, 4. Men, 5. All

No. 383

CONNECTION CARDS

Please take time now to fill out your green connection cards to help us track attendance. After the prayer of dedication, you may place them in the offering plates as they are passed to you.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

OFFERING

“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”
Handbell trio and Heather Broneak, piano

setting, Anne K. Organ

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

RESPONSIVE PRAYER

We give thanks for all that has led us to this day and to this new year.

We call to mind the challenge of Jesus for us to be light – a light to those who live in darkness, whatever its form; to be light for our families, our friends, and our world.

To this end, we share the bread and cup, as a sign of our commitment to follow the way of a loving God.

May our commitment bless our lives and be a blessing for all we meet in the coming year.

GIVING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

We will receive communion by intinction — dipping the bread into the cup so as to take them together. Individual and gluten-free servings are available at the table. We serve communion at an open table — you are welcome to participate as you choose.

COMMUNION MUSIC

“Come, Let Us Eat”

setting by John Carter

ANNOUNCEMENTS

+BENEDICTION

+POSTLUDE

“The First Noel”

Lori Line

Please welcome our new Choral Scholars: Meagan Seubert, soprano; Alma Neuhaus, mezzo; and Tyler Berg, tenor.

IN MEMORIAM

The white rose on the altar is in memory of WBLUMC member Jerry Todd, who died on Dec. 31, 2018. His funeral was Friday, Jan. 4, at the church. Memorials appreciated to the Philippine-Asian Missions Inc. or the charity of your choice.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Happy New Year! If you’d like to provide altar flowers for worship, the 2019 calendar is posted on the bulletin board outside the church office — with lots of open dates! When you sign up, please also complete a form to indicate your dedication, preferred arrangement type and payment amount.

Leave the form and payment in the church office. Thank you!

Sunday, Jan. 6: Bread pick-up after each service

9-10am—Worship; Sunday School & nursery
10-10:45am—Coffee, tea, and treats, Fellowship Hall;
prayer room is open
10:45-11:30am—Worship; Children’s Church & nursery

Monday, Jan. 7

10-11am—Hang Loose Women’s Al-Anon, room 206

Tuesday, Jan. 8

10:30am-noon—Staff meeting, room 206
6pm—YogaDevotion, Fellowship Hall
6:30pm—Trustees meeting, church office
7-9pm—Staff-Parish Relations Committee, room 206

Wednesday, Jan. 9

9:45-11:45am—Dorcas Circle, room 200
6-7:15pm—Alleluia Ringers, sanctuary
6:30pm—Children’s & Youth Activities
6:30pm—Youth Mentor night
7:30-9pm—Chancel Choir rehearsal, music room

Thursday, Jan. 10

7:10am—Men’s Breakfast Group, library
10am—Pages of Wisdom AA, room 107
1-3pm—Book club (outside group), library

Friday, Jan. 11: OFFICE CLOSED

No activities scheduled

Saturday, Jan. 12

7:30am—Men’s Prayer Group, room 206
9am-12pm—Leadership summit, room 200
10am—WBL Sat. Morning Women’s Group, 107/206

Sunday, Jan. 13

9-10am—Worship; Sunday School & nursery
10-10:45am—Coffee, tea, and treats, Fellowship Hall;
prayer room is open
10:45-11:30am—Worship; Children’s Church & nursery

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.
The Email Prayer Chain accepts requests by contacting a pastor or leader Ronda Nelson, rondalauva2@msn.com.

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
for the hungers of life.

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 **10am Wednesday** for the e-blast. *All information is subject to staff approval.* Thank you!

To receive the weekly email update — sent every Thursday — call the office at 651-429-9026, email your request to office@wblumc.org or indicate it on a connection card.

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

WBLUMC STAFF

Bill Eaves , Senior Pastor bill.eaves@wblumc.org , 763-355-7825 mobile	John Koziol, Jr. Director of Music
John McBride , Associate Pastor	Gerald Gurss , Chancel Choir Director
Missie Aberle , Next Generation Minister	Patricia Kytola , Director of Operations
Lori McBride , Missions & Faith Development Minister	Lauri Hopple , Administrative Assistant
Joan Hartman , Director of Children & Family Ministries	Lori Hughes , Website & Social Media
Peteria Cochran Routt , Director of Traditional Music	Carol Houghtby , Treasurer
	Carolyn Keith , Financial Secretary
	Ron Houde , Housekeeper

Adult Faith Formation Classes

In January and February, White Bear Lake United Methodist Church will offer these faith formation opportunities. Sign up in the narthex or contact Lori McBride at lori.mcbride@wblumc.org.

“God Unbound”

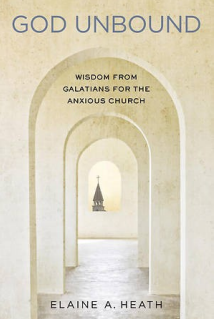
Wisdom from Galatians for the Anxious Church
by Elaine A. Heath

“Christians today are wringing their hands over the church’s declining influence even as they become stuck in defending and protecting its traditions. Is there a way through this dilemma?”

When: 6:30-8pm Thursdays,
Jan. 10, 17 & 24

Leader: Bill Eaves

Books will be available for purchase (\$9) today in the narthex.



Yearning for Wholeness in a Fractured World

You’re invited to join a dialogue/study group for people who are yearning for a deeper understanding of faith for the time in which we live.

When: 10:30am-noon or 6:30-8pm Mondays on Jan. 7 & 14

Leader: Jim Roe, retired pastor

Everyone has a Story

Your story has the power to encourage and inspire others. If you’ve ever wanted to help others learn from your experiences, please join us for this Spiritual Storytelling workshop.

When: 9am-noon Saturday, Feb. 2

Leader: Faith Ralston, PhD

Cost: \$40 donation to WBLUMC



“About Life” sermon series

A new series for a new year, exploring hopes, risks, opportunities, and choices.

Today — New Year, New Life

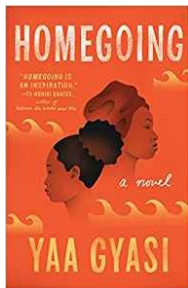
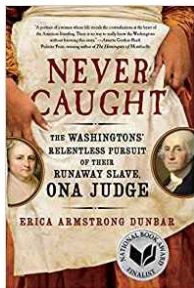
Sunday, January 13 — The Hidden Life

with the Soul Food ensemble at 10:45am worship

Sunday, January 21 — Living Out Loud: Remembering

the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

with guest musician Maurice Jacox at both services



January book club

January's reading is a double selection!

The first book is *Never Caught: The Washingtons' Relentless Pursuit of Their Runaway Slave, Ona Judge* by Erica Armstrong Dunbar. When George Washington was elected president, he reluctantly left behind his beloved Mount Vernon to service in Philadelphia. In setting up his household he brought nine slaves, including Ona Judge. As Washington grew accustomed to Northern ways, there was one change he couldn't abide: Pennsylvania law required enslaved people be set free after six months of residency in the state. Rather than comply, every six months he sent the slaves back down south. When the opportunity presented itself to Ona Judge one clear and pleasant spring day in Philadelphia, Judge left everything she knew to escape to New England.

The second book is *Homegoing* by Yaa Gyasi. The unforgettable *New York Times* best-seller begins with the story of two half-sisters, separated by forces beyond their control: one sold into slavery, the other married to a British slaver. Written with tremendous sweep and power, *Homegoing* traces the generations of family who follow, as their destinies lead them through two continents and 300 years of history, each life indelibly drawn, as the legacy of slavery is fully revealed in light of the present day.

Book club will meet at 7-8:15pm on **Monday, Jan. 28**, in the church library. Everyone is welcome, even if you haven't attended before.

42nd Wild Game Dinner

The featured speaker at this year's Wild Game Dinner will be our own Kurt Johnson, who will talk about his adventures hunting big game around the world.

This is the 42nd anniversary of the Men's Club dinner, which will be held on **Monday, Jan. 21, 2019**. Everyone is invited to join us for delicious and interesting dishes prepared by members of WBLUMC. We'll start with appetizers at 6pm followed by main dishes and Kurt's presentation.

As always, this dinner depends on the donations of fish and game from our members and friends. We never have a shortage, and we appreciate your support in donating fish and game for the dinner. It can be straight from the field or freezer, or you can bring in dishes you prepare at home. Look for the sign-up sheets in Fellowship Hall to donate fish and game or just to attend this fun event. Contact Paul Dickson, Al Rausch or Jeff Olson if you have any questions. Please join us!

Yoga class by Yogadevotion

The next 8-week session of yoga by Yogadevotion will run **Jan. 8- Feb. 26, 2019**, and the cost is \$64. We meet once a week, every Tuesday in the Fellowship Hall from 6-7pm. If you're interested or have questions, contact Carolyn at 651-779-0311 or at ter-say@msn.com. All are welcome!

All-church charge conference

All church members are requested to attend a charge conference to set the annual budget at 10:10am on **Sunday, Jan. 27**, in room 200.

WBLUMC Bread Ministry



Your generous donations from December's Baking with a Purpose allowed WBLUMC bread team leaders Glenn Oliphant, John Schmidt and Bob Knutson to present a check for \$500 to Second Harvest Heartland recently. Thank you!

Also, the office received this email recently: "Just before lunch our door bell rang. It was Bob from your church with a bag of welcome-ings, including a loaf of bread. Delicious bread. We enjoyed it immediately. Thank you for your greetings. Bob was a terrific messenger from WBLUMC! Merry Christmas!!"

Baking with a Purpose pick-up is TODAY, Jan. 6, after each service. Selections are oatmeal and sourdough raisin walnut. Donations will go to Solid Ground. *February's Baking with a Purpose will be Sunday, Feb. 3.*

Youth pizza night

We'll have a multigenerational night on **Wednesday, Jan. 23**, 6-7:30pm when the WBLUMC youth will make pizzas with the bread team. Contact Glenn Oliphant at golipha@gmail.com to volunteer with the bread team or Next Generation Minister Missie Aberle at missie.aberle@wblumc.org with questions about youth involvement.

Resources for senior citizens

Would you like more information on resources with issues such as senior housing, Medicare, home care, housekeeping help, long-term care, health-problem support groups, or caregiver support? The WBLUMC Congregational Care Team has prepared a packet on the many resources available in our state and local communities. Pick up a copy at the church office in the CCT mailbox.