

Epiphany

“Gratitude bestows reverence, allowing us to encounter everyday epiphanies, those transcendent moments of awe that change forever how we experience the world.” ~ *John Milton*

If you have ever had a prayer come knocking so brashly that it appeared you had not only been summoned, but you discovered your doorway gaping open, you will understand why a hope prayer is significant. Hope prayers tug at the soul, jostle our rest and usually claim some of the people we love the most. These prayers blow open the center of our being and ultimately nudge open new realities about the way we live. Hope prayers like many prayers are expectant and their angst pines for a new understanding or epiphany. Lord, in this world whirring around me, please let something new come. Let me forge change.

January is a time when calendars beckon us to forge newness in the year sprawling in front of us. “Epiphany” encompasses, “an illuminating discovery, realization, or insight,” or “a revealing scene or moment.” Epiphany is paired with our recollection of star gazers or wise ones who dreamed and hoped bigger to allow themselves to look less on the troubled world they stood in and be quickened across an unknown distance by starry constellations to a hope-laden Jesus. I suppose our prayers are a trust like this too. We allow our vision to be lifted in these offerings to plead and pledge with plump optimism that somehow there will be a sense of a new and different peace in the places our feet are planted. A prayer for an epiphany leaves a holy space open.

The late Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., who we honor in January and daily, lived an earnest dream of a prayer. King prayed, preached, sang, was jailed, threatened and scared. He concluded, in the demeanor only this sincere, courageous black man, whose prayer would be immense enough to become the *I Have A Dream* speech: “The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.”

King stepped to the forefront of an open space not of holiness, but rather of hatred as he forged a movement blessing “those who were considered the least of these.” King’s dream is a prayer for all of us. Underlying all of this, Jesus claims this open, holy space. God, the Shelter, claims us all. Is it any wonder that King penned, “Only in the darkness can you see the stars.” His prayer reminds us of wise men following a star.

What about us? We wrestle humanly, pushing at the hugeness to close these unhinged doors. The edgy or estranged family who we keep a light on for, the injustice, the person whose soul yearns for the soul mate residing heaven side or the friend that is just plain unfriendly. These are some of the lonely, quiet places of a soul that Jesus claims to come for. The Walking God-man whom is no longer contained in a stable is living out loud in and all around us. “Come to me when your burden is heavy, and I might give your weariness a rest.”

Coretta Scott King found purposefulness in continuing the non-violent movement. Coretta was criticized for not properly mourning when she led a march to remember her husband and another representing the sanitation workers strike. She recalls giving “a speech from my heart.” “I was impelled to come,” she said at the time. “I ask the question, ‘How many men must die before we can really have a free and true and peaceful society?’” Coretta was in this foreign, open place.

Clayborne Carson, a professor of history and director of the MLK Research and Education Institute at Stanford remembers: “I just think that that was one of the most incredibly brave acts in my lifetime ... To have the courage to go back to the place where her husband was assassinated with her kids and with the history of the previous violence that had brought Martin back to Memphis.”

Leaving an open door to The Holy is not easy. An openness might become complicated simply because these edgy prayers are the thresholds of our hope laden epiphanies. Perhaps, it might be clearer if we realign God, the Shelter into our doorways of prayer. God is at the threshold immersed poignantly and patiently in his choice to bear hurt in his life and now with us. Prophetic voices from long ago tell us “I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” These voices lead and reverberate across centuries in sacred texts lifting our eyes to “let His people go” to a new sort of promised land. Might we carry along a vision of God, the Shelter to realign our waits. What might God do in this and how might I be a part of what is restorative with God? 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 ljacot@q.com. **The Email Prayer Chain** accepts requests by contacting a pastor or leader Ronda Nelson, rondalauva2@msn.com.



White Bear Lake
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH

1851 BIRCH STREET, WBL, MN 55110 | 651-429-9026 | WBLUMC.ORG

White Bear Lake UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

NOURISHING THE HUNGERS OF LIFE

9am Worship ~ Sunday, January 27, 2019

HEARING ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE; PLEASE SEE USHERS

• PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE

WORDS FOR REFLECTION

When I was young my teachers were the old.
I gave up fire for form till I was cold.
I suffered like a metal being cast.
I went to school to age to learn the past.

Now when I am old my teachers are the young.
What can't be molded must be cracked and sprung.
I strain at lessons fit to start a suture.
I go to school to youth to learn the future.

~ *Robert Frost*

PRELUDE

“Beautiful Savior”

Michael Burkhardt

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

“We Shall Overcome”
Protest song

arr. Tesfa Wondemagegnehu

+OPENING WORDS

God, as we gather together to worship you, we stand in awe of your creation.

We see you in the rising and setting of the sun. We see you in the moon and the stars of the night sky. Your creative presence is all around us.

We see you in the beasts of the field, the birds of the air and the creatures of the sea.
From the flowers of the valley to the mountaintops in the sky.

We see your beauty all over the earth – in the colors of flowers and fruit, in the shimmering of sunlight on the lakes, in the clouds of the skies.

Let us worship you, our Creator and Sustainer.

+OPENING HYMN

“This is My Father’s World”

No. 144

UNISON PRAYER
O God, maker of all that is beautiful: Your Son Jesus gave us the seeds of your justice and peace. In this time together, touch us, teach us, inspire us to sow those seeds through our words and actions so that all may share in Creation’s abundance. Let us reflect on the words we hear, and find ways to apply them to our own lives. Help us to better learn forgiveness, to spread kindness, to practice patience and to remain humble as we go about our days. Your love binds us together in perfect harmony. Let that love be the guiding factor in our lives. Amen.

ANTHEM
“Many are the Lightbeams” by Marty Haugen
Children’s Choir soloists are Leila Johnson and Violet Heiden

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE
After this message, children and youth through 12th 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 Matthew 13:31-34 Reader: Chris Ober
He put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”
Jesus told the crowds all these things in parables; without a parable he told them nothing.

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 An Abundant Future Rev. Lauren Rheingans
University of Minnesota Wesley Foundation

+HYMN “You Are the Seed” No. 583

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 “Requiem” by Eliza Gilyson
Chancel Choir

ANNOUNCEMENTS

+CLOSING HYMN “All Creatures of Our God and King” No. 62
v. 1 and 7

+BENEDICTION

+POSTLUDE “Lift High the Cross” arr. by Cindy Berry

TODAY’S MUSICIANS
Please welcome our Choral Scholars:
Meagan Seubert, soprano; Alma Neuhaus, mezzo; Tyler Berg, tenor

ALTAR FLOWERS
If you’d like to provide altar flowers for worship, please sign up on the 2019 calendar outside the church office. 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.

New art installation at WBLUMC

Our latest exhibit in the main hallway of WBLUMC includes paintings by award-winning White Bear Lake artist Nels Femrite. The artwork will be displayed through March. Thanks to Mary Ellen Calderwood for her dedication to providing WBLUMC with high-quality visual artwork!

Sunday, Jan. 27

9-10am—Worship; Sunday School & nursery
10am—Seekers meeting, room 206
10:10am—All-church charge conference, room 200
10-10:45am—Coffee, tea, and treats in Fellowship Hall; prayer room is open
10:45-11:30am—Worship; Children’s Church & nursery
10:45am—Bible Milestone event, room 200

Monday, Jan. 28

10-11am—Hang Loose Women’s Al-Anon, room 206
7-8:15pm—Book club, library

Tuesday, Jan. 29

6pm—YogaDevotion, Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, Jan. 30

6-7:15pm—Alleluia Ringers, sanctuary
6:30pm—Children’s & Youth Activities
7:30-9pm—Chancel Choir rehearsal, music room

Thursday, Jan. 31

7:10am—Men’s Breakfast Group, library
10am—Pages of Wisdom AA, room 107
6-8:30pm—HCI 2019 dinner, Fellowship Hall

Friday, Feb. 1: church office closed

3-7pm—Bread baking prep, kitchen/Fellowship Hall

Saturday, Feb. 2

6am-1pm—Bread baking, kitchen/Fellowship Hall
7:30am—Men’s Prayer Group, room 206
10am—WBL Sat. Morning Women’s Group, 107/206

Sunday, Feb. 3: Bread pickup after both services

9-10am—Worship; Sunday School & nursery
10am—Seekers meeting, room 206
10-10:45am—Coffee, tea, and treats in Fellowship Hall; prayer room is open
10:45-11:30am—Worship; Children’s Church & nursery

Monday, Feb. 4

10-11am—Hang Loose Women’s Al-Anon, room 206
3:30-5pm—UMW Board meeting, room 200

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

Next sermon series:
A Vocabulary of Faith

Words are the building blocks of our thoughts. In our spiritual lives, there are some special words that help us to build a faith, talk about it, and live it. This series will explore the words that make up the Vocabulary of Faith.

February 3 — A Vocabulary of Faith: Reverence
Jazz Sunday with Reeves Carey and Connor Carroll

February 10 — A Vocabulary of Faith: Incarnation
featuring Mark Fleischhacker at 10:45am worship

February 17 — A Vocabulary of Faith: Community

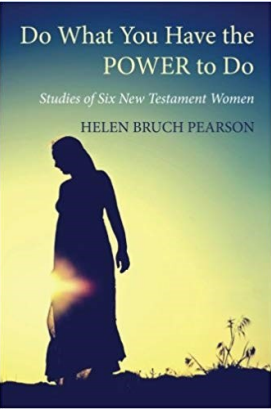
February 24 — A Vocabulary of Faith: Vocation

March 3 — A Vocabulary of Faith: Benediction
Fat Sunday with a Dixieland band at both services

Lenten season 2019

New Testament women

As we enter the Lenten season, we remember well the images and names of the women at the cross and the women at the tomb. But many of the women who encountered Jesus remain unnamed, such as “The Woman at the Well.” We’ll explore six gospel stories about women who did what they had the power to do. We want to remember and respect these women’s stories and what they might say to us today. Join this devotional study of the book “Do What You Have the Power to Do: Studies of Six New Testament Women” by Helen Bruch Pearson on Thursdays, March 14-April 18, 10:30-11:30am in room 206. Led by Tammey Busch and retired pastor Jan Morey. Look for sign-up sheets coming soon!



Ash Wednesday:
Come for supper
and worship

The season of Lent will begin on Wednesday, March 6. Gather for an Ash Wednesday pizza and salad supper at 5:30pm in Fellowship Hall, followed by Ash Wednesday worship at 6:30pm.

Stay tuned for information on additional classes and events coming soon!

Adult Faith Formation



Save the date: Feb. 6

Both Sides Now with John Koziol: WBLUMC's Director of Music, will join us on **Wednesday, Feb. 6**, to speak about what he's learned from playing music and his service in different denominational settings, including his own spiritual and musical journey, the value of building bridges and other golden nuggets he can't wait to share. John will speak at 6:30pm in Fellowship Hall, and a light supper will follow. Bring a friend to this free event!

Save the date: Feb. 17

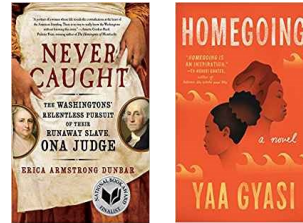
Como Conservatory outing: Stay tuned for details on a fellowship outing to Marjorie McNeely Conservatory in St. Paul at 12:30pm on **Sunday, Feb. 17**. Email Lori McBride, lori.mcbride@wblumc.org.

Invitation from Dorcas Circle

Have you wondered which women have had significant roles in our Christian faith? Throughout history, countless women have left their mark on those around them and the wider church. Dorcas Circle will learn about them on **Wednesday, Feb. 13**. Join us at 9:45am for learning and fellowship. Please bring a donation for the White Bear Lake Food Shelf to support our mission project of the month. Contact Barb Hinz, 651-777-0465.

All-church charge conference **today**

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



Book Club meeting Monday

January's double selection will be discussed on **Monday, Jan. 28**, at 7pm in the church library. Everyone is welcome, even if you haven't attended before. **February:** For those of you who want to get ahead, next month's book will be *Honolulu* by Allen Brennert.

How to get church information

Have you ever wondered what's happening on any given day at WBLUMC? Need another member's phone number, e-mail or mailing address? These can be at your fingertips, if you have a computer or smart phone. Go to the church website, wblumc.org, and click on the events tab for a month-by-month view. This is available to the public, so when sharing information about your worship home, tell others to check out the website and calendar. To get a church directory on your computer, you'll need to log on to the secure WBLUMC site, just like you do when giving online. The complete directory is there for you to use, and it's updated frequently. If you have a smart phone, just download the Church Life app and follow the directions.

If you need help with any of these steps, call Patricia Kytola at 651-429-9026 x104 or email her at patricia.kytola@wblumc.org. Office hours are Monday-Thursday 9 am to 3 pm.

Bread Ministry updates



Thank you

From Bread Ministry co-leader Glenn Oliphant: "Thank you everyone for your efforts to help raise funds for Solid Ground. I am pleased to let you know that we gave Solid Ground a check for \$550. We are so blessed to have wonderful volunteers and donors who help us make an impact to improve the lives of those less fortunate."

February bread next Sunday

The next Baking with a Purpose will be next **Sunday, Feb. 3**, with bread pick-up after each service. February's selections are Country White and sourdough Craisin Walnut. February's donations will go to Common Hope. Email golipha@gmail.com to volunteer to prep, bake or distribute. Thanks!

WBLUMC joins Chamber of Commerce

WBLUMC is now an official member of the White Bear Area Chamber of Commerce, and Next Generation Minister Missie Aberle will be our representative. Being a Chamber of Commerce member will allow Missie — the new kid on the block and new to this area — to network and connect on a local level with various businesses, churches and nonprofits. It will also increase our visibility in the community, helping to promote WBLUMC beyond our walls. Congregation members will also receive discounts offered by numerous businesses for services or merchandise.

Bible Milestone class

Bible Milestone class for 3rd/4th graders is **today**, at 10:45am for adults and children. After class, there is a lunch for the family followed by a blessing and the gift of your student's new bible.