

I wish ...

Most of us may say, “I wish I had” done something that is unique to our now. Wishes can be like a blown dandelion or, in this season, a blur of snowflakes going every which way. Perhaps we wish we had lived or traveled somewhere, studied longer, had more spontaneity, played an instrument or even spoken more meekly or boldly. Just give your expectation a chance to wander and fit your dreamy imagined hope here. This writing is about possibility and an ample expectation of the world, the church, and maybe us. It seems there is a gloomy view out there similar to the overused, stale adage by the 18th century poet Alexander Pope. Pope wrote, “Blessed is he who expects nothing, for he shall never be disappointed.” But, the Creator the one that claims us heirs, children, friends and mine, claims us as blessed nonetheless, let’s examine the potential for possibility.

There was a highly unusual jazz album released in 2015 that defies all “wishing we would-haves.” *I Should have Learned (To Play the Piano)* was surprisingly received; however most of us would search for any common-sense reason why. This album features professional musicians Scott Kreitzer on sax, David Finck on bass, Johnathon Peretz on drums and, lastly, novice H. Jon Benjamin as the pianist. When you imagine Jon, the novice, resist conjuring an impression of some new, undiscovered, emergent talent who is an obvious protégé. Instead, imagine an accomplished voice actor who was never musically trained. It seems Jon, who literally ‘never did play the piano,’ hired unsuspecting professionals, a gifted musical mentor, Odean Pope, and then simply rented a recording studio. Jon, the novice, trusted his lack of knowledge, experience and hope with people who knew how to orchestrate their artful talent more than he could. Frankly, the album would be a disaster without the sum of blending his inexperience with the master’s experience to set tempos, chords and notes . It’s wild to imagine a grown man sitting awkwardly down at a piano with a combination of trepidation and faith to change his patterns and accomplish something he has never practiced. While no masterpiece, the album is a fun listen, and is musically covered by the master musicians. It’s an example of purpose, mission and leaning into what is new rather than regret. Incidentally, Jon is now taking lessons.

Ancient people could and folks in 2019 still can build masterpieces and missions. The Master Jesus supported a countercultural change by trusting new disciples who followed His patterns. We are reminded of the classic writing of Paul to the Ephesians. “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works” and we have the opportunity to lean with “God who is able to do immeasurably more than anything we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us...” H. Jon Benjamin allowed himself to be open to learn more by placing himself with the masters regardless of his experience. The established group of musicians were flexible enough to receive a newcomer.

In our humble, human lives and within the change in our churches, we may wonder how God can foster potential. Spiritual director Helen Cepero shares a view of God, the Dreamer for humanity, as she retells an experience of a child’s orchestra concert. Cepero speaks from the sightline of a parent mesmerized as she studies the face of her daughter trying to count each measure, notice when to play and note when to rest: “At home this same child can seem irritatingly careless about living life’s details. But, now I see a glimpse of the poised, knowing woman she may become, and I am mesmerized. I have fallen in love again with my own child. Next to her, another parent’s attention is focused on just one student. As the band finally finishes this first number, her excitement spills over and she turns with tears in her eyes, ‘That’s my Darrin in the back playing the drum, isn’t he just great?’ I see, she too, has fallen in love with her child.” They pass tears and mutual recognition with one another, “eagerly awaiting the next number.”

In the compassionate view of Jesus, will we see our soul life with a God who sees us as finished or as the Shelter Parent, who loves us and yearns to hear our “unique song, the depths of our silent pause, the surge of our feelings and our tentative insights?” I believe Cepero speaks of the heroic effort, the possibility and the intention of the beginner’s band drenched in blessed hope. “What if, instead, God is like the parents who sit in the audience and listen with rapt attention fixed on their own son or daughter?” What if God is patiently blessing us in a benediction of what may become goodness? What if communities of faith may be filled with the Spirit so our world may have a vision of what it is to care as Christ? ~ 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. **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



9am Worship ~ Fat Sunday + Communion, March 3, 2019

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

WORDS FOR REFLECTION

“God has no hands but ours, no bread but the bread we bake, no prayers but the ones we make. God has decided to be made known in the flesh. Matter matters to God. The most ordinary things are drenched in divine possibility. Pronouncing blessings upon them is the least we can do.”

~ Barbara Brown Taylor

“Blessings sometimes show up in unrecognizable disguises.”

~ Janette Oke

PRELUDE

“Ain’t Misbehavin’ ”
“Alexander’s Ragtime Band”

Fats Waller
Irving Berlin

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

“The Preacher”

Horace Silver

+OPENING WORDS (responsively)

Lord, we celebrate your blessings.

We give thanks for the love of Christ.

From a tree branch to humanity,
You bless ordinary things.

You find divine possibility in all creation.
Help us to slow down, to celebrate divine possibility.

Guide us to share the light of Jesus and blessings,
with the world and one another.

+OPENING HYMN

“Down By the Riverside”

1. Gonna lay down my burden,
Down by the riverside, down by the
riverside,
Down by the riverside
Gonna lay down my burden,
Down by the riverside,
gonna study war no more.

Chorus
Ain’t gonna study war no more,
Ain’t gonna study war no more,
Ain’t gonna study war no more.
(repeat)

2. Gonna lay down my sword
and shield ...
3. Gonna meet my loving Jesus ...
4. Gonna walk with the Prince of
Peace ...

UNISON PRAYER
God, designer of life, whose blessings surround us in our everyday life: Help us to stop in our tracks, to enjoy the moonlight and the stars. Encourage us to rest and listen to the story of another. All good blessings come from you, O Lord. Inspire us to share the blessings of Jesus with all creation, big or small. Amen.

ANTHEM
“Jesus On the Mainline” arr. by Moses Hogan
Chancel Choir with the Jerry O’Hagan Dixieland Band

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 5:1-12 Reader: Janis Hebaus
When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

“Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

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 A Vocabulary of Faith: Benediction
Missie Aberle, Next Generation Minister

+HYMN “Just a Closer Walk With Thee” No. 2158

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 “That’s a Plenty” Lew Pollack
Jerry O’Hagan Dixie Land Band

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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 “St. Louis Blues” by W.C. Handy
Jerry O’Hagan Dixieland Band

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (in unison)
Lord Jesus, we welcome your presence with us. May the food and companionship we share nourish our bodies, hearts and minds. And may our spirits be refreshed as we live in the light of your presence with us now, and at all times and places. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

+CLOSING HYMN “When the Saints Go Marching In”

1. Oh, when the saints go marching in, When the saints go marching in, O Lord, I want to be in that number When the saints go marching in. <i>(instrumental)</i>	2. Oh, when the new world is revealed, Oh, when the new world is revealed, O Lord, I want to be in that number When the new world is revealed. <i>(instrumental)</i>	3. On that hallelujah day, On that hallelujah day, O Lord, I want to be in that number On that hallelujah day. <i>(instrumental)</i>	4. Oh, when the trumpet sounds the call, Oh, when the trumpet sounds the call, O Lord, I want to be in that number When the trumpet sounds the call. <i>(instrumental)</i> Repeat verse 1
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+BENEDICTION

+POSTLUDE “Sweet Georgia Brown” by Ben Bernie, Maceo Pinkard, Kenneth Casey
Jerry O’Hagan Dixieland Band

THIS WEEK’S MUSICIANS
WBLUMC Chancel Choir directed by Dr. Gerald Gurrss
Dixieland band members: Gus Lindquist, trumpet; Mike Larson, trombone; Brett Smith, drums; Jim Chenowith, bass; Brian Handeland, clarinet

Easter flowers: Order starting today!

To order Easter lilies, calla lilies, azaleas, hydrangeas, mums and hyacinths to decorate the sanctuary for Easter Sunday worship, please pick up your order form from the Welcome Table in the narthex. Deadline to the office is **Sunday, March 17**, for orders *and* payment. Please remember to write “Easter flowers” in your check’s memo line. You may take your flowers home after the 11am Easter service on Sunday, April 21. Thank you!



Sunday, March 3: Bread pickup after each service

9-10am—Worship; Sunday School & nursery
10-10:45am—Coffee, tea, and treats in Fellowship Hall
10:10am—Way Forward listening session, sanctuary
10:10am—Prayer team training, prayer room
10:45-11:30am—Worship; Children’s Church & nursery

Monday, March 4

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

Tuesday, March 5

10:30am-noon—Staff meeting, room 206
6pm—YogaDevotion, Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, March 6: Ash Wednesday

No Children’s or youth activities; no bell rehearsal
5:30pm—Ash Wednesday supper, Fellowship Hall
6:30pm—Ash Wednesday service, sanctuary

Thursday, March 7

7:10am—Men’s Breakfast Group, library
10am—Pages of Wisdom AA, room 107
11:30am-1pm—Up All Night social justice group, room 206

Friday, March 8

No scheduled activities; office is closed

Saturday, March 9

7:30am—Men’s Prayer Group, room 107
10am—WBL Sat. Morning Women’s Group, 200/206

Sunday, March 10

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

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 Gurs , 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



Fear is the prison of the heart that often paralyzes our lives. Let’s draw back the curtain on some of the frightful things we deal with: Conflict, intimacy, change, the unknown, failure, losing control, and death. Some may be terrifying, others merely intimidating. Our spiritual lives offer us resources to face them and to discover the great truth that perfect love casts out fear.

March 10 UMW Sunday

March 17 | Intimacy

March 24 | Change

March 31 | The Unknown

April 7 | Failure

April 14 Palm Sunday | Losing Control

April 21 Easter | The Fear of Death and the Invitation to Life

Easter services at 8:30am, 9:45am and 11am

Ash Wednesday | March 6

5:30pm light supper | 6:30pm worship

Join us in Fellowship Hall for a soup dinner served by our youth. As a church, we find immense joy in having our youth participate in gatherings like these. Freewill offering appreciated. Bring a guest to enjoy food and community!

Resources for your Lenten journey

WBLUMC exists to provide nourishment for the hungers of life. Here are some digital resources for feeding our hungers when we’re away from church:

Upperroom.org is a United Methodist resource that offers a daily devotion, other reflections, and Sight Psalms (daily photo inspirations to help you reflect on God’s presence in the world and in your life).

Pray-as-You-Go is a free app for your phone that provides you with a 10-minute daily reflection on scripture, with music from diverse Christian communities around the world, presented by the English Jesuits, a Catholic religious order.

Our Bible app provides devotional readings from a diverse and inclusive group of writers, aimed at “uplifting believers of all stripes.” The app is free; content can also be found at online at ourbibleapp.com.

We Croak provides five daily reminders that this life is temporary and invites us to make the most of it. Each time the reminder comes, you are invited to take a moment of contemplation and recover your perspective on your day and your life. Look for it in the app store; it costs 99 cents.

Children & Youth

Don't miss this! Pastor Bill has promised to dye his beard GREEN for St. Patrick's Day if we accomplish our goal!



Seeking Nominations for our Board of Directors

Each year some members of our Board of Directors end their term, and two or three new members join. This transition takes place July 1 each year, following the same schedule as other church committees and boards. Members of the congregation are invited to nominate people for the Board of Directors on the back of the green Connection Cards during the month of March. All names will be forwarded to the Nominating Committee for consideration; a slate of nominees for open positions will then be presented to the Church Conference for a vote.

We are looking for candidates who can offer leadership in the four following areas:

Strategic – The Board is charged with setting the congregation's strategic priorities. With input from ministry leaders and the congregation, the Board is involved with writing the vision and mission statements of the church, naming the core values, and determining strategic priorities.

Fiduciary – The Board is the chief steward of the church's tangible resources, ensuring that resources are deployed effectively and efficiently in service of the congregation's mission.

Generative – The Board looks forward by identifying changes within the congregation and challenges from outside the congregation, adapting the church's witness and outreach to meet them.

Policy – In keeping with the by-laws of the church (i.e. The Book of Discipline), the Board develops policies that clarify the role of Board, staff, and ministry leaders. The Board also establishes policies to guide financial and property management, as well as guidelines for healthy relationships.

Learn more about the Board of Directors online at wblumc.org/about/board-of-directors.

Sunday hosts needed

Part of being a welcoming church involves giving our visitors a loaf of bread and helping introduce them to what our church has to offer. The host position was created to be that friendly face. To fill this position every Sunday for the rest of the year, we need a few more volunteers. Scheduling is flexible with minimal time involved, and orientation is provided. The only requirement is wanting our church to be warm and welcoming on Sunday mornings! Check your interest on the back of the connection card in March.

Save the date: All-church Mission Day

WBLUMC's annual All-church Mission Day will be **Saturday, March 30**. Sign up to participate March 10-24 in the narthex; collection items can be placed in bins on the north wall of Fellowship Hall anytime after March 10. Watch for more information regarding mission projects and items needing to be collected in bulletins and e-blasts. If you'd like to lead one of the groups, sign up on your green connection card.

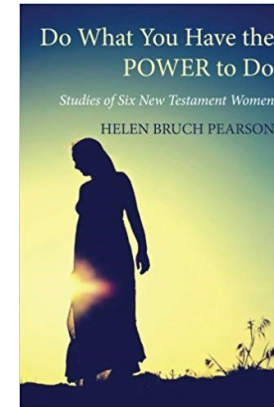
Adult Faith classes start soon

Do What You Have the Power to Do

We'll explore six gospel stories about women who did what they had the power to do, remembering and respecting their stories and what these women might say to us today.

When: 10:30am Thursdays on March 14, 21, 28, April 4, 11, 18

Co-Leaders: Tammey Busch and Rev. Jan Morey, retired pastor



There's still time to sign up in the narthex; you may also contact Lori McBride at lori.mcbride@wblumc.org

From Bethany to the Sea of Tiberias

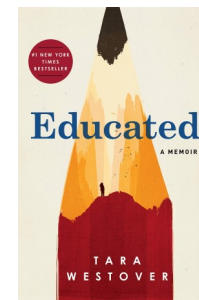
Follow the final week of Jesus' life, his death, and his resurrection, according to the Gospel of John. The only book required is a Bible. Study materials will be provided.

When: 6:30-8pm Mondays
March 11, 18, 25, April 8, 15

Leader: Pastor John McBride

March book club

The March book selection will be *Educated*:



A Memoir by Tara Westover, with the meeting on **Monday, March 25**, at 7-8:15pm.

Tara Westover was 17 the first time she set foot in a classroom. Born to survivalists in the mountains of Idaho, she prepared for the end of the world by stockpiling home-canned peaches and sleeping with her "head-for-the-hills" bag. In the summer she stewed herbs for her mother, a midwife and healer, and in the winter salvaged metal in her father's junkyard. *Educated* is an account of the struggle for self-invention. It's a tale of fierce family loyalty, and of the grief that comes from severing one's closest ties. With the acute insight that distinguishes all great writers, Westover has crafted a universal coming-of-age story that gets to the heart of what an education is and what it offers: the perspective to see one's life through new eyes and the will to change it.

A Way Forward listening session

Join us **TODAY** at 10:10am in the sanctuary for Listening Time with the Pastors to discuss vote at the General Conference to advance the Traditional Plan. Regardless of the outcome, the United Methodist Church will continue to worship, serve, and reach out to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. These conversations give us an opportunity to look to the future together.

Dorcas Circle: Images from Japan

Need a blast of spring? All are invited to see pictures from Japan last spring, when Lisa James and Barb and Mike



Hinz traveled to see the cherry blossoms and other sights. They had a wonderful trip and would love to share what they saw and learned! Dorcas Circle meets at 9:45am on **Wednesday, March 13**, in room 200.