

Pledging pilgrimage

“Blessed are those whose strength is in you, who have set their hearts on pilgrimage” — Psalm 84:5

Most of us have been tourists, but alas, setting your eye of ambition on the broad trip of a meandering lifetime is, in all likelihood, a pilgrimage. It's not a pilgrimage in reference to lanky elementary kids adorned in starchy paper hats and bonnets we reminisce of this time of year, but the kind of pilgrim that traverses a lifetime. One might imagine, these are giant boots to walk in.

An indelible man in our sacred history is Abraham, whose family set out as just that—pilgrims. To be a pilgrim is to set out on a God-journey expecting that it will be an unknown and sometimes foreign “land.” Ask most folks and they will witness that their life has uncertainties even with their most detailed and best-laid plans. Jesus, Moses, the Israelites, the holy family, the early church and we have plans muddled and jumbled with illness, loss, love and surprise.

Both Genesis and Hebrews expand on Abraham's family. “By faith Abraham was called to set out for a place that he would receive an inheritance.” Typically, we imagine inheritances to be touchable like money or land that we can set our feet upon or capture in our hands. Abraham's inheritance references the longer view of giving, bounty and thanksgiving. The family was to go awkwardly forward trusting an inheritance that would conceivably be more a likened to the bounty of stars in the sky. There is more about this trip of a lifetime.

The *Good News* and *The Message* versions of the Bible enlighten our grasp of sacred pilgrimage: “Abraham's family left their own country without knowing where they were going. By faith he lived as a foreigner in the country that God had promised him.” *The Message* reads, his family did it by keeping their eye on an inner “unseen city with real, eternal foundations—the City designed and built by God.”

Conceivably we might give this a nod. Who doesn't know by living that life is nestled equally in vision, hard work and unsuspected change? When we experience a new place there are swaps, adjustments and refinements awaiting for most of us and not all of them are pleasing. We need to keep our eyes on the best of life designed with real eternal foundations. There is a dark side of disillusionment surrounding this globe whirled with the nimbleness lit by what is good, lovely and worthy of praise and excellence.

This is exactly why we love to read this eternally human scripture describing the uncertainty the early Christians may have lived. It reminds us of something we may have forgotten. “They did not receive the things God had promised, but from a long way off they saw them...and admitted openly that they were foreigners and refugees on earth. Those who say such things make it clear that they are looking for a country of their own. If they were homesick for the old country (or the old way of living), they could have gone back any time they wanted. They did not keep thinking about the country they had left; if they had, they would have had the chance to return. But they were after a far better country than that—heaven country. You can see why God is so proud of them, and has a City waiting for them.”

It is possible that sensing anything close to heaven seems distant today and it is equally true as your eyes cross this page that you sense the Sacred's nearness. While either is true, it is the truest to recall the pursuit of a pilgrimage is to a part of bringing bountiful tender kindnesses to the places we name as home. We journey resurrecting new pathways trudging in the footsteps of Jesus—Jesus, the Pilgrim. JJ

A Blessed Thanksgiving from WBLUMC and Prayer Team!

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, ljacot@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.

STAFF

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Harry Jones, Financial Secretary
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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, Nov. 26, 2017

HEARING ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE; PLEASE SEE USHERS

• PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE



WORDS FOR MEDITATION

“Remember then: There is only one time that is important — Now!
It is the most important time because it is the only time when we have any power.”

~ Leo Tolstoy

“How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.”

~ Anne Frank

“Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.”

~ Psalm 90:12

PRELUDE

“On Eagle's Wings”

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

“All Are Welcome”

Marty Haugen

+OPENING WORDS (responsively)

This is the day the Lord has made:

a day for praise and prayer; a day for gratitude and generosity.

This is the time God has given us:

a time for singing and silence; a time for speaking and listening.

This is the life to which God calls us:

a life of humility and service; a life of faith and trust. Amen.

Sunday, Nov. 26

9-10am—Worship; Sunday school and nursery
10am—Coffee, tea and treats, Fellowship Hall
Individual prayer, prayer room
10:15am—All-church conference, room 200
10:45-11:30am—Worship; nursery

Monday, Nov. 27

10am—Hang Loose Women's Al-Anon, room 206
3-5pm—UMW Board meeting, room 200
7-8:15pm—Book Club, library

Tuesday, Nov. 28

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

Wednesday, Nov. 29

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, Nov. 30

7:10am—Men's Breakfast Group, library
10am—Pages of Wisdom, room 107
10:30am—Open the Door class, library

Friday, Dec. 1

No scheduled activities; office open 9am-noon.

Saturday, Dec. 2

7:30am—Men's Prayer Group, room 200
10am—Women's Breakfast group, room 200
10am-noon—Music rehearsal, sanctuary
1-2pm—Baking With A Purpose bread pickup

Sunday, Dec. 3

9-10am—Worship; Sunday school and nursery
10am—Coffee, tea and treats, Fellowship Hall
Individual prayer, prayer room
10:45-11:30am—Worship; nursery
2-6pm—Holiday Breads class, Fellowship Hall

WHITE BEAR LAKE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Visit wblumc.org for weekly sermon podcasts, 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

Please email information to office@wblumc.org by **noon on Tuesdays**. Most events require a two-week lead time, but the earlier you get us the information, the more time we have to get the word out.

WEEKLY E-BLAST

To receive our weekly email update, call 651-429-9026 or email office@wblumc.org. Please submit church-related events or announcements by **3pm Wednesdays**. All e-blast and bulletin information is subject to staff approval.

LIFESOURCE

If you're part of a group or ministry that plans to hold a church event this December 2017 through March 2018, we want to help you spread the word. Photos from repeating events would be great! Please email info and photos to Lauri at office@wblumc.org.
NEXT DEADLINE: Tuesday, Nov. 21.

'Tis the season to gather & celebrate!

Lessons & Carols

WBLUMC INVITES
YOU TO A SPECIAL
MUSICAL EVENT

Sunday,
Dec. 17

Peter Mayer, nationally known folk singer & songwriter, will perform music focused on Advent, Solstice and New Year at the 9am & 10:45am services

All are welcome, bring a friend!



Christmas Eve worship

We'll have four services on **Sunday, Dec. 24**. Donations of non-perishable food for the White Bear Lake Emergency Food Shelf are encouraged at all services. We will also take a special Christmas offering to support the programs and resources at the food shelf.

10am: Worship unplugged — A simple service with carol singing accompanied by piano and guitar.

3pm: Family worship will be a shorter service of carols and visuals for our most wiggly and energetic friends.

5pm: A service of carols led by the music team.

10pm: A traditional service of carols and candle lighting featuring the choir.

New Year's Eve worship

We'll have one service at 10am on **Sunday, Dec. 31**.

Featuring the children's storybook *The Cloud Spinner* by Michael Catchpool, our morning message will talk about how we can make 2018 a year of healing and hope.



Advent Sermon Series

Transforming our Bah! Humbug! world into one of peace, hope, love and joy this Advent.

Dec. 3 — The Remembrance of Christmas Past

Dec. 10 — The Life of Christmas Present

Dec. 17 — Lessons & Carols with Peter Mayer

Dec. 24 — The Hope of Christmas Future

Adult Faith Advent Class

6:30-8pm Mondays, Nov. 27-Dec. 18

Discover the teachings of Jesus in the words of the Charles Dickens' classic *A Christmas Carol*. Rediscover and reinvigorate your faith this Advent and Christmas season and look at this familiar classic through the lens of faith. Class will meet in room 200, led by Pastor John McBride. *Sign up in the narthex today.*

Solid Ground shopping

Students in grades 6-12, their families and mentors are invited to Christmas shop for Solid Ground's Santa Shop on **Wednesday, Dec. 6**, 6:15-7:30pm. We'll carpool to Target to shop for specific age groups to help holiday wishes come true for families in our community. Drivers and participants must sign up with Linnea Uhler in person or by email at linnea.uhler@wblumc.org by **Sunday, Dec. 3**. Permission slips can be found at wblumc.org/ministries/youth.

ASP 2018

Appalachia Service Project will be in Kentucky, **July 21-29, 2018**. For the ASP trip, students completing grades 9-12 and college students are invited to serve. Register at wblumc.org/ministries/youth. First meeting will be at the end of January.

In December: Stories, Songs & Sparkles

Preschool through fifth-grade students will meet in the kids' theater downstairs for songs, stories of the Nativity, and sparkly ornament crafts for 9am Sunday School. In all the hustle and bustle of December, we strive to make the season of Advent a relaxing and recharging experience for our children. Contact joan.hartman@wblumc.org with questions.

December break

Remember, there will be no Wednesday night activities for children and youth — including Children's Choir — on Dec. 20 and 27, resuming on Wednesday, Jan. 3. Also, after a break on Sundays Dec. 24 and 31, Sunday school will return on Dec. 7.

UMW WINTER PROGRAM:

The Ornaments We Remember



Childhood memories of Christmas often revolve around the tree and its ornaments. Each year we take out ornaments that remind us of special memories and stories of Christmases past. This year's UMW Winter Program will bring those memories to life on **Saturday, Dec. 9, at 9:30am**, starting with brunch followed by stories of your favorite or most memorable Christmas ornament or decoration. All are welcome — bring an ornament and

share your story, if you wish. Please bring new socks and underwear (men, women, children, in all sizes) to donate to God's Closet. Instead of an auction this year, crafts from the 2017 Harvest Market will be available for free-will donations that will go to the White Bear Area Emergency Food Shelf.

Sign up in the Narthex or contact [Eva Shipley](mailto:evashipley.41@comcast.net) for more information at evashipley.41@comcast.net.

December Baking With a Purpose

December's breads — 40 loaves each of Challah egg bread and roasted potato and olive — will be available on a first-come, first-served basis on **Saturday, Dec. 2**, 1-2pm, or **Sunday, Dec. 3**, 10am-12pm. All December donations will go to Second Harvest Heartland. Thank you for your continued support to help address hunger in our community.



Bookmark sale coming soon!

Feedback from staff during the recent Scholastic book fair at Willow Lane Elementary commented on the joy of students holding a book of their own for the first time, several needing reminders that it was time to "stop reading for now."

The Faith in Action team will hold its third annual bookmark sale on Sunday, Dec. 3, before and in-between services.

Bookmarks will be available for a free-will offering. Please remember that each donation represents a book in a child's hand.

More than 225 students and 13 classes were served at our recent book fair. Thanks to each of you for supporting this program that encourages reading for young children.

Book club on Monday

Join us in the library at **7pm on Monday, Nov. 27**, to discuss *Hidden Figures* and *Hidden Human Computers*.

December's selection will be *The Other Einstein: A Novel* by Marie Benedict, and the meeting will be on Dec. 18, a week earlier than usual because of Christmas.