

The measure of forgiveness

“Love is an act of endless forgiveness, a tender look that becomes a habit.” — Peter Ustin

She stood between her desire to love generously and her desire to plainly justify hate. The bridge to settling somewhere better seemed to be blown away into the broken places that our lives go. We twirl around the scenario in our mind one way, only to turn it inside out the opposite. We humans hold these opposing quandaries — hard worn, scraped like the barn wood our bare feet slide across hoping to step toward a bit of common ground. Forgiveness can be a difficult bridge to cross.

Mathew 18 alters the “math of forgiveness.” We are offered boundless sums of forgiveness whether we hope to estimate the sum of 7 x 70 or place ourselves as king or debtor. Consequently, “followers of the way” of Jesus are placed upon bridges toward giving without keeping track. Yet, how might we navigate forgiveness with our human hearts?

The Bible is no easy book; rather, it is one that asks you to make your way forward. The Shepherd asks us to keep walking the dry deserts where the cypress trees seem to bend and wave while other trees are heavy laden with harvest. Living in forgiveness is finding a bridge, a more refined passage because you seek something better even when we’re moving with legs that wobble. We somehow grab onto a sense of Immanuel, God with us and begin to reach out. It is suffering through the wrongs and the rights of a thing and coming out on the sturdiness of a bridge that is in the end the highest ideal — because it is life-giving.

The shores where Peter and the disciples received forgiveness, demonstrate an abundant forgiveness. If there

would have ever been a time to doubt another’s goodness it would have been then for Jesus. Contrastingly, Jesus declares from the upper room to the impromptu fish picnic, “I bring you peace, but please feed my sheep.” Jesus envisions and expects more of us through our failures to love as a means to heal our broken passage ways.”

Joseph Addison once described, “I do not believe that sheer suffering teaches. If suffering alone taught, all the world would be wise, since everyone suffers. To suffering must be added mourning, understanding, patience, love, openness and the willingness to remain vulnerable.” Likewise, Paul Anderson writes: “Forgiveness is a difficult and noble action — not a weak one, not a surrender or a capitulation. Of course, we can confuse it with giving in, with giving up our standards or principles, as tantamount to forcing amnesia. That kind of coercive denial could never be healing. Forgiveness is not a single action, but a process. By forgiving those who harmed us, we do not pretend that what harm they caused did not happen, or that it did not hurt. We can see that chronic resentment stands in the way of love. The bitterness that arises from a long-held wrong, gone over and over, encases the heart, making it difficult for love to get through.”

Jesus wanted love to get through as the highest of needs as well as the highest of callings. Might the grace of forgiveness land us on a bridge of wholeness and might we seek that tender look of forgiveness that becomes a habit. Amen.

— J.Jacot

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, ljjacot@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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John Koziol, Jr. Director of Music

Matthew Goinz, Chancel Choir Director

Patricia Kytola, Director of Operations

Lauri Hopple, Administrative Assistant

Lori Hughes, Website & Social Media

Tom Leiser, Treasurer

Harry Jones, Financial Secretary

Ron Houde, Housekeeper

White Bear Lake
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
NOURISHING THE HUNGERS OF LIFE

9am Worship Sunday, Oct 15, 2017

HEARING ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE; PLEASE SEE USHERS

• PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE

WORDS FOR MEDITATION

“Forgiveness of sins is the very heart of Christianity,
and yet it is a very dangerous thing to preach.”

~ Martin Luther

PRELUDE

“Loving and Forgiving”

Mark Fleischhacker and John Koziol

Scott Soper

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

“Arise, Shine; For Your Light has Come”

Choral Scholars: Ingrid Haugen, soprano; Tara Priolo, alto

Hal Hopson

+OPENING WORDS (responsively)

Early in the morning, when the world was young,

You made life in all its beauty and terror,

You gave birth to all that we know.

Early in the morning, when the world least expected it,

A newborn child crying in a cradle announced that you had come among us,

That you were one of us.

Early in the morning, in the multicolored company of your church on earth and in heaven,

We celebrate your creation, your life, your presence within us.

Early in the morning, we sing your praises and offer our thanks.

+OPENING HYMN

“All Creatures of Our God and King”

Stanzas 1,2,3 & 4

No. 62

UNISON PRAYER

God of kindness, we celebrate your generosity in the kaleidoscope of color and shade and shape in this world. Forgive us when we forget the gift in our every breath, the care that sustains our every moment, the grace that can transform our every day. Set us free from the prison of grudging hearts, mean desires, resentful spirits. Draw us into a love that does not calculate or keep scores. Amen.



White Bear Lake
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH

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

ANTHEM

“The Butterfly Song”

Cherub Choir

If I were a butterfly,
I’d thank you Lord
for giving me wings.
If I were a robin in a tree,
I’d thank you Lord that I
could sing.
If I were a fish in the sea,
I’d wiggle my tail and I’d
giggle with glee.
But I just thank you father
for making me, me.

Chorus:
For you gave me a heart
and you gave me a smile,
You gave me Jesus and you
made me your child.
And I just thank you Father
for making me, me.

If I were an elephant,
I’d thank you Lord
by raising my trunk.
If I were a kangaroo,
you know I’d hop right up
to you!
If I were an octopus,
I’d thank you Lord for my
fine looks.
But I just thank you Father
for making me, me
Chorus

If I were a wiggly worm,
I’d thank you Lord that I
could squirm.
If I were a fuzzy wuzzy
bear, I’d thank you Lord for
my fuzzy, wuzzy hair.
If I were a crocodile,
I’d thank you Lord for my
great smile.
But I just thank you Father
for making me, me.
Chorus

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

After the message, children and youth through 8th 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 18:21-35

Reader: Ann Mozey

Forgiveness

Then Peter came and said to him, “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.”

The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant

“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt.

But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow-slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ Then his fellow-slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he should pay the debt. When his fellow-slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place.

Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow-slave, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he should pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

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

Good Religion Practices Forgiveness

Pastor John McBride

+HYMN

“Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive”

No. 390

Tune: Land of Rest

CONNECTION CARDS

“Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus”

by Helen H. Lemmel

Please take time now to fill out your green connection cards. After the prayer of dedication, place them in the offering plates.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

OFFERING

“Morning Has Broken”

Traditional Gaelic tune

Chancel Choir

arr. Dick Averre

ANNOUNCEMENTS

+HYMN

“Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

No. 400

Stanzas 1 & 3

+BENEDICTION

+POSTLUDE

“All Creatures of Our God and King”

Setting, John Carter

Upcoming sermon series: Option B

For two weeks only! Based on the book with the same title by Facebook CFO Sheryl Sandberg and Adam Grant, this two-week sermon series will explore how we face adversity, build resiliency and find joy after trauma, loss, hardship, and more during chaotic times.

Oct. 22 — Option B: Bouncing Forward

Oct. 29 — Option B: Building Resilience Together

Altar flowers: This week’s flowers are from Barb Qualey to thank the church for hosting The Gathering for the past nine years. We appreciate the support of this important ministry for those with dementia.

In memoriam: The white rose on the altar is in remembrance of WBLUMC member Oliver Walkingstick, who died on Sunday, Oct. 8, 2017. He is survived by his wife, Connie Caitlin, and son Todd. There will be a visitation and service the evening of Thursday, Oct. 26; please watch for updates on exact times.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, Oct. 15

9-10am—Worship; Sunday school and nursery
9-10am—Adult Faith: Be Still class, room 200
10am—Coffee, tea and treats, Fellowship Hall
Individual prayer, prayer room
10:45-11:30am—Worship; nursery
2-5pm—Simple Tools for Hot Topics, room 200

Monday, Oct. 16

10am—Hang Loose Women's Al-Anon, room 206
3:30-5pm—Bell Trio rehearsal, sanctuary
7-8:30pm—Hearts & Hands knitting group, library

Tuesday, Oct. 17

9am-2pm—Board of Ordained Ministry, 205 & 206
12:30-1:45pm—Faith in Action, library
2-3:30pm—Tuesdays at 2, room 200
6pm—YogaDevotion, Fellowship Hall
6-8pm—Board of Directors, room 200

Wednesday, Oct. 18: No kids/youth activities

1-2:30pm—Prayer Team meeting, prayer room
6-7:15pm—Alleluia Ringers, sanctuary
7:30-9pm—Chancel Choir rehearsal

Thursday, Oct. 19

7:10am—Men's Breakfast Group, library
9am-5pm—Harvest Market set-up
10am—Pages of Wisdom, room 107

Friday, Oct. 20

9am-5pm—Harvest Market set-up

Saturday, Oct. 21

7:30am—Men's Prayer Group, room 107
9:30am-2pm—Harvest Market
10am—Women's Breakfast group, room 200

Sunday, Oct. 22

9-10am—Worship; Sunday school and nursery
9-10am—Adult Faith: Be Still class, room 200
10am—Coffee, tea and treats, Fellowship Hall
Individual prayer, prayer room
10:45-11:30am—Worship; nursery

Autumn urn welcome

Gail Stucky and the John Stucky Memorial have generously given the bursts of orange, yellow and red representing harvest in our outdoor displays. It is a gift we receive gratefully. Gail would also like to thank Julie Jacot for her tender care of pots and prayers for this church and its congregation.



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.

SPREAD THE WORD! BRING A FRIEND!

47th Annual

Harvest Market

Shop. Eat. Give.

White Bear Lake United Methodist Church

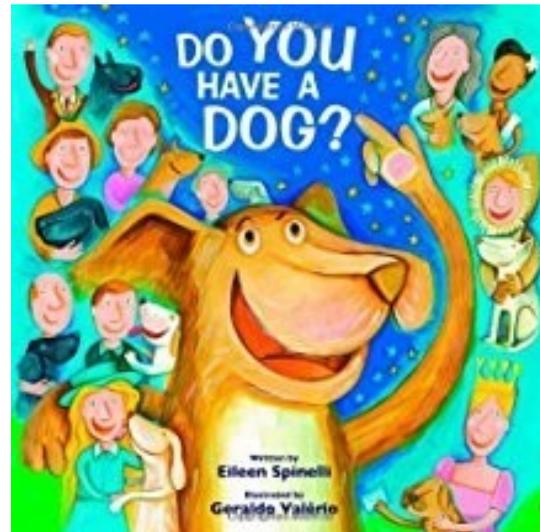
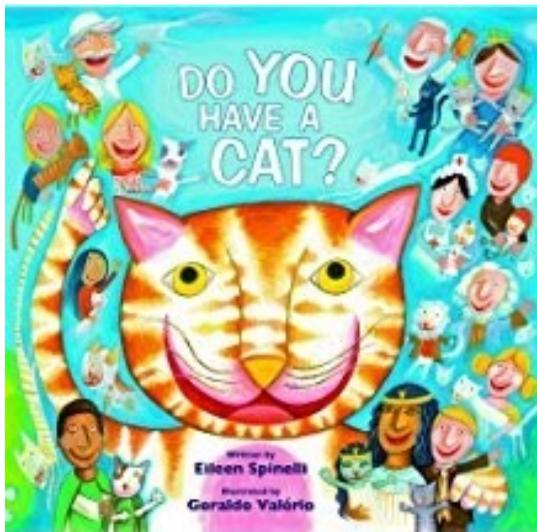
Saturday, October 21, 2017

9:30 am-2 pm

1851 Birch Street | White Bear Lake, MN
www.wblumc.org

- Handmade arts & crafts
- Homemade baked and preserved goods
- Vintage and antique jewelry
- Gently used books, vintage antique and gently used household items
- Harvest Market Café

KIDS! (GROWNUPS TOO!)
Do you have a dog? Do you have a cat?



October is DOG AND CAT MONTH in the church library!

All month, there will be new books and movies about favorite dogs and cats. And, **starting today**, we'll have a display of our own DOG AND CAT CONGREGATION! Come see the to the Church Library Pet Parade with all of the pictures that WBLUMC members sent in of their pets.

Parents & grandparents

Interested in 10:45am Sunday School for ages 4 years-3rd grade? Please plan to attend a gathering on **Sunday, Oct 22**, at 10:10 am in room 206 or **Wednesday, Nov. 15**, at 6:45pm in room 106. A decision to move forward will be based on feedback from these two dates.

Thank you

From George Cannon Sr.: My family and I thank you for your many kind acts and words of comfort concerning the death of my son. You lifted our spirits.

Silver Harmony Singers

The Silver Harmony Singers will present their annual White Bear Food Shelf Benefit program on **Saturday, Oct. 28**, at Parkview Church, 3737 Bellaire Ave., White Bear Lake. Members from this church singing are Ruth Sass and Paul Rodecap with pianist Leilani Lewis. Last year we raised \$4,000 and collected over 400 pounds of food. Let's hope for a bountiful harvest for/from everyone!

Next fall cleanup

After working to clean out the inside of the church on Oct. 14, we need volunteers to help get the grounds ready for winter on **Saturday, Oct. 28**, 9am-noon. Contact Curt Jenkins, board of trustees chair, or Patricia Kytola, director of operations, with questions or to sign up.

New member class

Interested in joining WBLUMC? Come to class and lunch on **Sunday, Oct. 29**, 11:30am to 1:30pm, in room 200. To sign up, email jeremy@steinermn.com.

Books and classes

Adult Faith classes

Be Still! Departure from Collective Madness
9am Sundays, Oct. 8-Nov. 12, room 200

All faith is both personal and public, and all personal and public life are intrinsically theological. Explore this premise and become clearer about the faith lens through which you see yourself, others, and the world through the book *Be Still! Departure from Collective Madness* by Gordon C. Stewart. Books are available for \$20 in the church office.

Open the Door: A Journey to the True Self
10:30am Thursdays, Oct. 26-Dec. 7, library

Interested in expanding your faith experience through a daily devotional practice? Retired? Have some time on a weekday morning? We are offering a study of *Open the Door: A Journey to the True Self* by Joyce Rupp, with daily devotions and weekly gathering in the church library. Questions? Contact Tammey Busch, 651-472-1522, or Jan Morey, 651-464-0027. Sign up in the narthex; books are available in the office for \$13.

Book club updates

All who love books and reading are welcome to join us for any or all book club meetings. Our next one will be **Monday, Oct. 23**, 7-8:15pm in the church library, when we'll discuss the novel *The Girl in the Tangerine Scarf* by Mohja Kahf.



November's new double selection:

***Hidden Figures* by Margot Lee Shetterly. 2015. 368p.** Before John Glenn orbited the earth, or Neil Armstrong walked on the moon, a group of dedicated female mathematicians known as "human computers" used pencils, slide rules and adding machines to calculate the numbers that would launch rockets and astronauts into space. Among these problem-solvers were a group of exceptionally talented African American women, some of the brightest minds of their generation.

***Hidden Human Computers* by Sue Bradford Edwards & Duchess Harris. 2016. 112p.** "*Hidden Human Computers* goes beyond the three black women focused on in the book and movie *Hidden Figures* and offers in-depth biographical information about a range of women who worked at NASA at its inception, offering context for their own interest in science and mathematics beyond their function at NASA." — Alexis Pauline Gumbs [via African American Intellectual History Society]

Tuesdays at 2 video

Even if you haven't been able to participate so far in our current discussion about race, feel free to join us for a viewing of "Loving," the story of the 1958 interracial marriage of Richard and Mildred Loving in the state of Virginia, starring Joel Edgerton and Ruth Negga. Meet in room 200 at 2pm on **Tuesday, Oct. 17**.

November Baking With a Purpose

Each month we have a chance to help address hunger in our community through your donations to Baking With A Purpose. November selections will be **New York deli-style rye** and **holiday pumpkin bread**. Look for sign up sheets in the narthex soon or order online. Pick-up will be noon-1pm on **Saturday, Nov. 4**, or between services on **Sunday, Nov. 5**. **Update: Through bread sales we raised \$5,721 for UMCOR hurricane relief. Thank you!**

