

## Harvesting remnants: Goodness out of what remains

We know that a remnant is what is left and a harvest is what is chosen and bountiful. They are a contradiction of words and that is precisely why I like them together. We understand remnants are found in remaining cloth, kind words, acorns and mounds of colored leaves. Originally for me, the word remnant seemed to jump out the text in the familiar story we know of Joseph and it stayed stuck and planted ever since. Again, a remnant is what is left, however, as life is sometimes surprising and at best unsuspecting; these leftovers have an gradual potential within. Joseph, himself was deserted as a remnant, yet he abundantly preserves life with forgiveness and loyalty.

Joseph's remnant story evolves after a saga of rejection from his family in Genesis 45:1-9. We begin with a quite unlikely family reunion:

*"Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out 'Send everyone away from me.' So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. And Joseph wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it and the household of Pharaoh heard it. Joseph said to his brothers, 'I am Joseph. Is my Father still alive? But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed they were at his presence.*

*"Then Joseph said to his brothers, 'Come closer to me.' And they came closer. He said, 'I am your brother Joseph who you sold into slavery. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves that you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in this land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither ploughing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God.' "*

The sound of Joseph's raw sobs drifting to the ears of the Egyptians has seeped into my recollection of this passage. While Joseph's life is protected, it is one man crying for all he has imagined in the years he has yearned for the everyday, ordinary nuances in tradition and family. We imagine Joseph within our own world view. Was Joseph missing communal dinners, a familiar place or smell, a heritage, a tree in the yard or the shared history which he could no longer possess. However, this passage is not one man crying for what is lost, but a rem-

nant in Goshen where Joseph and his people would begin. Life continued and there was again a time of plenty. The rebirth comes from a remnant of quite imperfect brothers and sisters.

The story leads us to ask a similar question mirrored by Joseph and his family. Does God preserve some unforeseen comfort to remain after loss to sustain? We come closer. We notice the band who once were the unlikable and unlovable brothers become what is "family" and are remnants from poverty into land, plenty and forgiveness. They carry on.

We trudge and leap to carry our own remnants. Our natural world carries them too.

It is obvious to us, that the tree standing vulnerable with its inner, knobby trunk and willowing arms bare, but never barren is in a season. Its tawny limbs freeze with their imperfections in clear view. A reminder of a storm is clearly seen in the slice of a scar remaining where a branch once extended. These vacancies are evidence, that even the tree's a remnant of a time when it stood larger. Without explanation, we understand this is a season, and the tree's fullness will come as sure as spring.

If we come closer like Joseph, does humanity possess a remnant? Our roots come from the sacred Servant Jesus inviting us to come as we are while He launched a risky movement which was sacrificially hard won. A little movement with 12 trainable followers, who with Jesus have now inspired a new lens on compassionate living practiced worldwide.

Methodism grew from its founder, John Wesley and three college students who loved Jesus enough to call themselves "the holy club." We wonder if we would be that brave. The word Methodism has its remnant rooted as a mocking, derogatory term. Now, "methodist" — the label which was thrown out in disdain — has transformed to Methodism, a faith held in high respect. John Wesley was astute when he preached as Jesus, "Humility and patience are the surest proofs of the increase of love."

Might we come closer to comprehend our own intimate remnants that may encompass the potential to preserve? Whether it's a once-upon-a-time experience, an echo of acknowledgment or an appreciation for our gained sensitivity from those who harmed us, our prayer is that goodness lingers. 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](mailto:ljacot@q.com). **The Email Prayer Chain** accepts requests by contacting a pastor or leader Ronda Nelson, [rondalauva2@msn.com](mailto:rondalauva2@msn.com). **The Phone Prayer Chain** is organized through the UMW. If you would like to request a prayer, call Eva Shipley at 651-429-3570.



White Bear Lake  
UNITED  
METHODIST  
CHURCH

1851 BIRCH STREET, WBL, MN 55110 | 651-429-9026 | [WBLUMC.ORG](http://WBLUMC.ORG)

White Bear Lake  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
NOURISHING THE HUNGERS OF LIFE

9am Worship ~ Sunday, October 21, 2018

HEARING ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE; PLEASE SEE USHERS

• PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE

### WORDS FOR REFLECTION

"Though we cannot all think alike, may we not love alike?  
May we not be of one heart, though we are not of one opinion?  
Without all doubt, we may."

~ John Wesley

### PRELUDE

"Shepherd Me, O God"

Words and music by Marty Haugen  
Words based on Psalm 23

### WELCOME

### CALL TO WORSHIP

"Honor and Praise"

Words and music by Twila Paris  
Words based on Rev. 22:16

### †OPENING WORDS (responsively)

The Living God gathers us  
**to celebrate our common heritage.**

The Risen Christ invites us

**to explore our calling to lives of love and holiness.**

The Loving Spirit longs to transform us

**not through nostalgia, but through new birth.**

**Let us join together to praise our God, the same yesterday, today, and forever!**

### †OPENING HYMN

"Love Divine All Loves Excelling"

No. 384

Words: Charles Wesley, 1747

UNISON PRAYER

**Gracious God, you call us on a journey to grow in grace and holiness. As we travel on that journey, give us an assurance of your loving presence, that, filled with your Spirit, we may work with you, and our fellow pilgrims, in the transformation of our communities and our world so that they become signs of your kingdom of justice and joy. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

*After this message, children and youth through 9th grade are invited to leave for Sunday school.*

ANTHEM

“A Charge to Keep I Have”

Words: Charles Wesley, 1762  
Words based on Lev. 8:35

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

1 Peter 3:8-13

Finally, all of you, have unity of spirit, sympathy, love for one another, a tender heart, and a humble mind. Do not repay evil for evil or abuse for abuse; but, on the contrary, repay with a blessing. It is for this that you were called—that you might inherit a blessing. For “Those who desire life and desire to see good days, let them keep their tongues from evil and their lips from speaking deceit; let them turn away from evil and do good; let them seek peace and pursue it. For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.” Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good?

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

Exploring our Methodist Roots: The Catholic Spirit

Pastor Bill Eaves

+HYMN

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

No. 196  
Words: Charles Wesley, 1744

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

“Arabesque No. 1 from Deux Arabesques”  
Isaac Hartman, piano solo

by Claude Debussy

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CLOSING HYMN

“Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies”

No. 173  
Words: Charles Wesley, 1762

+BENEDICTION

+POSTLUDE

“Prelude in C Major”

Johann Sebastian Bach

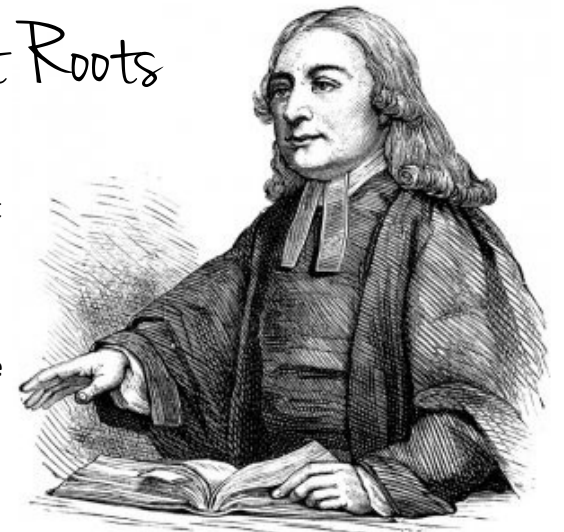
ALTAR FLOWERS

This week’s altar arrangement is provided by Joan and Gerald Shull in celebration of their 60th wedding anniversary.

# Exploring our Methodist Roots

**Today: John Wesley — The Catholic Spirit**  
Explore some of Wesley’s life and how he sought and found a middle ground theologically: Willing to change his position when he saw that his first position may be in error.

**Oct. 28: John Wesley — Salvation and New Life**  
Explore Wesley’s understanding of grace and salvation as something in this life as well as the afterlife.



ROYALTY FREE IMAGE FROM DEPOSITPHOTOS.COM

# "A Way Forward" in the UMC

## Background information and our communication plan

While the Methodist Church traces its founding to John Charles Wesley in 1736, the church we know as the United Methodist Church was created on April 23, 1968, as a union of the Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church. This was not the first reorganization of these church bodies, which include various changes in structure and doctrine throughout their histories.

The UMC is governed by a Book of Discipline— basically the rules for the administration of the Church. This "Discipline" is subject to review and revision at each quadrennial General Conference of the Global UMC.

Throughout the history of the Methodist movement in America, there have been changes to the theology and practice of the various groups that ultimately became the UMC. This history of change continued at the GC in 1972 (4 years after the UMC was formed), when a change was made that called homosexuality "incompatible with Christian teaching" (which was not a part of the initial Book of Discipline).

Changes in other aspects of the Discipline have been made during each GC since, including further limitations to the full inclusion of LGBTQ persons (referred to in the Book of Discipline as "homosexuals") in the life of the church.

The quadrennial debate about this issue, which has been ongoing for decades, was brought to a head at the 2016 General Conference, when the Council of Bishops was asked to take a leadership role in proposing a way forward for the UMC with regard to issues of "human sexuality." The result of this request was a proposal that was accepted by the GC for the formation of a special commission that would propose "A Way Forward" for the UMC.

This "Commission on A Way Forward," a diverse, 32-member group appointed by the Council of Bishops, has spent the past two years working to address the denomination's differences on this topic. (Group members included 21 from the USA, seven from Africa, two from Europe, and two from the Philippines; among those were 11 laity, 11 Elders, two Deacons, and eight Bishops.) The Commission developed and discussed three plans, one of which was subsequently recommended by the Council of Bishops. All three plans and the Bishops' recommendation will be presented to a special General Conference that will meet in St. Louis on Feb. 23-26, 2019.

For more information about the three plans, you can find links on our website, [wblumc.org](http://wblumc.org), or attend one of our in-church meetings on Sunday, Oct. 21 at 10:10 am; Monday, Oct. 22 at 7pm; or Sunday, Oct. 28, at 10:10am.

If you have questions, contact Pastor Bill Eaves through the church office, 651-429-9026, or via email at [bill.eaves@wblumc.org](mailto:bill.eaves@wblumc.org). As we learn more, we will communicate more.

## Changing seasons for Welcome Urns

Although we hate to imagine the flutter of white snow, it's time to consider sponsoring the welcome urns that greet us outdoors for a new season. Urns may be sponsored anonymously or by name in honor or in memory of an organization, person or family. Pick up a request form from the bulletin board outside the office; donations may be given to the office or given during our offering with an Adopt-A-Pot notation. Questions? Contact Julie Jacot at [ljjacot@q.com](mailto:ljjacot@q.com)



## Talent show tryouts

UMW is sponsoring a talent show! All children and youth who like to perform are invited to tryouts on **Saturday, Nov. 10**, at 10am in Fellowship Hall. The talent show will be on **Saturday, Dec. 10**, from 10am-noon. Questions? Call Karen Halsey at 651-426-4725 or email her at [aehkah@yahoo.com](mailto:aehkah@yahoo.com).

## October book club

Join us in the library on **Monday, Oct. 22**, to talk about *The Reporter Who Knew Too Much* by Mark Shaw. **November's book** will be *Something Wonderful: Rodgers and Hammerstein's Broadway Revolution* by Todd S. Purdum.

## New picture directory

Say cheese: We're updating our pictorial directory! The photo session will be on **Tuesday, Dec. 4**. If you had your photo taken in 2016, you don't have to get a new one. But please do if: you're a new member; you used a submitted photo in 2016; you didn't have a photo taken last time; or you just want a new photo. You'll get a new directory if your photo is in it, old or new. *Look for sign-up information soon!*

## Up All Night: Author Duchess Harris

Our social justice group welcomes Dr. Duchess Harris, who will speak on freedom of the press and how to determine if a news source is legit. Dr. Harris is Professor of American Studies at Macalester College, and she is the author of several books, the latest of which is *Black Feminist Politics from Kennedy to Trump*. Join us 6-7:30pm on **Thursday, Nov 8**, in the sanctuary. Free community event!

## Holiday breads class

Class with master bakers Bryce Johnson & Ross Safford: Join us at 2pm on **Sunday, Dec. 2**, to make holiday breads including a spice bread and one with fruit (trust us — this will *not* be fruitcake). You'll be ready for the holidays with some taste treats. You'll take home a loaf of each. Limited to 14 people; registration deadline is **Nov. 28**. Cost: \$40 per person; \$10 for a child accompanied by a paid parent or grandparent. Register and pay through Bryce at [bryce@companionbreads.com](mailto:bryce@companionbreads.com).

## Thank-you's

**Landscape volunteers:** As winter approaches, a big thank you to the volunteers who tended the garden plots surrounding our church this spring and summer: Steve Peterson, Judy Slomkowski, Lisa James, Joy Ballou, Carol Effertz, Connie Dixon, Marlene Conrin, Shelley Jarnagin, and Marcia Lantto. Additional volunteers are always encouraged to join us. Contact Linda anderson at [ljranderson@comcast.net](mailto:ljranderson@comcast.net).

**Hurricane relief donations:** The Bread Oven Ministry thanks the congregation for donating \$400 to the WBL area food shelf and \$700 to UMCOR for hurricane relief through bread bakes. Special thanks go to John, Cindy, Marsha, Teresa, Dave, Billy, Jim, Ben, Vaughn and Terry for their hard work last Saturday.

## Weekly calendar at WBLUMC

### Sunday, Oct. 21

9-10am—Worship; Sunday School & nursery  
10-10:45am—Coffee, tea, treats in Fellowship Hall;  
prayer room is open  
10:15-11:30am—"A Way Forward" session, room 200  
10:45-11am—Worship; Children's Church & nursery  
11:30-1:30pm—New Member Class, room 200  
2:00-6:00pm—Bread class, Fellowship Hall/kitchen

### Monday, Oct. 22

10am—Hang Loose Women's Al-Anon, room 206  
6:30-8pm—"Revival" study, room 206  
7-8:15pm—Book club, library  
7-8:30pm—"A Way Forward" session, room 200

### Tuesday, Oct. 23

6pm—Yoga/Devotion class, Fellowship Hall

### Wednesday, Oct. 24

9am-1pm—PEO women's group, room 206  
6-7:15pm—Alleluia Ringers, sanctuary  
6:30pm—Children & youth activities  
7:30-9pm—Chancel Choir rehearsal, music room

### Thursday, Oct. 25

7:10am—Men's Breakfast Group, library  
9am-3pm—The Gathering, room 200 & Fellowship Hall  
10am—Pages of Wisdom AA, room 107  
10:30am—"Created for Happiness" study, room 206  
6:30-8pm—"Making Sense of the Bible" study, room 200  
7-8:30pm—BeFriendsers, room 206.

### Friday, Oct. 26

Church office closed

### Saturday, Oct. 27

7:30am—Men's Prayer Group, room 200  
9am-noon—Fall cleanup day  
10am—WBL Sat. Morning Women's Group, 200/206

### Sunday, Oct. 28

9-10am—Worship; Sunday School & nursery  
10-10:45am—Coffee, tea, treats in Fellowship Hall;  
prayer room is open  
10:15-11:30am—"A Way Forward" session, room 200  
10:45-11am—Worship; Children's Church & nursery

## Notice: Charge conference

There will be a Church Charge Conference on **Sunday, Nov. 4**, at 10:05am in room 200 for the purpose of setting pastoral compensations for 2019.

## 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

<b>Sunday:</b>	9am to 12pm
<b>Monday-Thursday</b>	9am to 3pm
<b>Friday and Saturday</b>	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](mailto: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](mailto:office@wblumc.org) or indicate it on a connection card.

Visit [wblumc.org](http://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](mailto:bill.eaves@wblumc.org),  
763-355-7825 mobile

**John McBride**, Associate Pastor  
**Lori McBride**, Missions & Faith  
Development Minister

**Joan Hartman**, Director of  
Children & Family Ministries

**Linnea Uhler**, Director of Youth  
Ministries

**Peteria Cochran Rountt**, Director  
of Traditional Music

**John Koziol, Jr.** Director of Music  
**Gerald Gurs**, Chancel Choir  
Director

**Patricia Kytola**, Director of  
Operations

**Lauri Hopp**, Administrative  
Assistant

**Lori Hughes**, Website & Social  
Media

**Carol Houghtby**, Treasurer

**Carolyn Keith**, Financial Secretary  
**Ron Houde**, Housekeeper

It's already time to order!

### Christmas poinsettias

White and red poinsettias are now available to order for the Advent Season. Pick up a bright pink order form on the Welcome Table in the narthex and be sure to get your request, dedication and payment to the church office by **Sunday, Nov. 4**. (For display in the sanctuary, white poinsettias are preferred.)



Next Adult Faith outing: Dec. 9



**"No man is a failure who has friends."**

In this holiday classic, we're reminded of the important gifts we all bring to the world when George Bailey is visited by his guardian angel, Clarence, who shows him what the world would be like without him.

Join us for this Lakeshore Players presentation at Hanifl Performing Arts Center in White Bear Lake on **Sunday, Dec. 9**, at 2pm. Cost is \$16 per ticket and WBLUMC has 34 seats reserved; deadline for claiming a ticket is Nov. 5! Tickets not spoken for by this date are released back to the Center. Sign-up sheets will be in the Narthex the next starting today. You'll receive instructions for ticket payment after sign-up closes on Nov. 4. Contact Lori McBride at [lori.mcbride@wblumc.org](mailto:lori.mcbride@wblumc.org).