

Stumbling into grace

When we imagine grace, the words undeserved favor may trickle into your mind. Midwesterners have always worked hard, and getting something for nothing might be a meandering trickle of a thought. Grace is to be re-deemed and received simply because we are. Grace is brimming with belonging and is akin to a gift we cannot imagine, but just got out of the clear blue when we least expected it.

The book of John explains how the sacred gift of grace arrived.:

“The Word became flesh and moved into the neighborhood.

We saw the glory with our own eyes,

The one-of-a-kind glory, like Father, like Son,

Generous inside and out, true from start to finish.”

~ *The Message*

Attributes of generous grace were difficult to set your eyes upon in the neighborhoods Jesus walked where social justice and generosity were rare. Pick a parable, a spoken line of His sacred life or Jesus’ last words and you see the impermeable images of a transparent life of grace.

Most of us don’t usually tell one another when we stumble or trip over grace, but God can give voice to this audacious courage to stand for the things God stands for while transparently claiming who you are. That is how it was for Harry.

When your eyes landed on Harry, he seemed to have the stuff some of us have, but his distinguishing feature that brought lightning into a room was his generosity. Harry was generous with money, generous with time and especially generous with lengths of time to listen. He seemed to land near to anyone with this thing that he had just had laying around, that seemed to be just the thing you happened to really need. So life rolled for

all the days of Harry’s life. Harry’s encounters consisted of simple things such as raking your leaves because he wanted to be outside, an anonymous down payment on a car and another to a mission school in the inner city. His generosity scooped up a kid with a skinned knee, lunch at a burger joint now and then with a teen and his family. Harry was modest, understated and his story was wrapped up in God’s.

A generous grace must have gushed into Harry because it seemed Harry had slowly and mysteriously met what was God.

You see, Harry did not meet the Sacred in the usual way, but rather stumbled head-on and bashed into grace in his small, 12-year-old self. Harry had lived from home to home and finally landed in a house owned by a couple of ministers. Harry was never required to go to worship, but began to see tender mercy in the real faces of humanity and it stuck. Over time the new faces of these ministers transformed into ‘Pops’ and ‘Gracie’ within the normal stuff. Family in the regular stuff we pray for like being there, the blessing in shared meals and a sense of belonging. If you ask Harry, Pops and Gracie are saints. Jesus came knocking next and Harry’s vision of himself changed into the fullness that the Sacred sees. Pastor Nadia Bolt-Weber writes, “I have come to realize that all saints I’ve known are accidental ones---people who inadvertently stumbled into a redemption like they were looking for something else at the time...”

Finally, our community celebrates All Saints Day today. Our hope is this writing tugs at the simplicity of generous love that is eternal. Our deepest respect for your heart and the Sacred in your neighborhoods. 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. **The Phone Prayer Chain** is organized through the UMW. If you would like to request a prayer, call Eva Shipley at 651-429-3570.



9am Worship ~ Sunday, October 28, 2018

HEARING ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE: PLEASE SEE USHERS

• PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE

A COVENANT PRAYER IN THE WESLEYAN TRADITION
(Contemporary Version)

I am no longer my own, but yours.

Put me to what you will, place me with whom you will.

Put me to doing, put me to suffering.

Let me be put to work for you or set aside for you,

Praised for you or criticized for you.

Let me be full, let me be empty.

Let me have all things, let me have nothing.

I freely and fully surrender all things to your glory and service.

And now, O wonderful and holy God,

Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, you are mine, and I am yours.

So be it. And the covenant which I have made on earth,

Let it also be made in heaven. Amen.

PRELUDE

“More Precious than Silver”

Lynn DeShazo

“Father, I Adore You”

Terrye Coehlo

Duet: Nan Rausch and Denise Kerr

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

“What Does the Lord Require of You

Words & Music: Jim Strathdee

Duet: Nan Rausch and Denise Kerr

Words based on Mic. 6:8

+OPENING WORDS (responsively)

We gather together in the name of Jesus Christ:

Members of God’s family, and brothers and sisters to one another.

There are no outsiders here among us.

No one has any special standing or bragging rights.

We have all been brought together by the grace-filled love of God.

Let us all join together in worship!

+OPENING HYMN

“O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

No. 57

1, 2, 3 & 5

Words: Charles Wesley, 1762

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

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

UNISON PRAYER

In every season, God of love and goodness, your steadfast love sustains us. You have brought us here, invited us to become a community of faith, and called us to remember that we live and breathe only by the power of your grace in our lives. In every season, our hearts are full of gratitude for what your hand has so generously provided us. On this day of promise, we look to the future with hope, opening ourselves to your Spirit at work in our lives. Be present with us this day and in this time of worship, we pray. Amen.

RECEIVING OF NEW MEMBERS

**Jill & Karl Anderson, Mic and Mary Jo Dahlberg, Gay Hendricks,
Curt & Kathie Merkle, Linda Phillips and Lance Zafft**

Brothers and sisters, I commend to your love and care these persons whom we this day receive into the membership of this congregation. Will you walk alongside these new members as companions in the journey of faith; and will you by example and prayer help them in loving God and neighbor?

We will.

Then do all in your power to increase their faith, confirm their hope and perfect them in love.

We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love.

As members together with you in the body of Christ and in this congregation of The United Methodist Church, we renew our vows to uphold this church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service and our witness, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

ANTHEM

“If You’re Happy and You Know It”
Cherub Choir

traditional

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

Ephesians 2:8-10

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Luke 10:25-28

Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he said, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” He said to him, “What is written in the law? What do you read there?” He answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.” And he said to him, “You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.”

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: Salvation and New Life

Pastor John McBride

+HYMN

“A Charge to Keep I Have”

No. 413

Tune: Festal Song

Words: Charles Wesley, 1762

Words based on Lev. 8:35

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

“Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God”

Karen Lafferty, b 1948

Duet: Nan Rausch and Denise Kerr

Text: Matthew 6:33, 7:7

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CLOSING HYMN

“Christ Whose Glory Fills the Skies”

No. 173

+BENEDICTION

+POSTLUDE

“Earth and All Stars”

arr. Michael Burkhardt

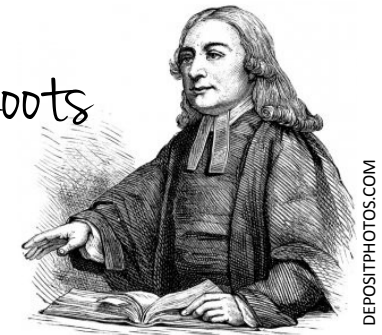
ALTAR FLOWERS

This week’s altar arrangement is provided by David and Dawn Kittleson in loving memory of Auntie Francie.

Exploring our Methodist Roots

Today: John Wesley — Salvation and New Life

Explore Wesley’s understanding of grace
and salvation as something in this life
as well as the afterlife.



Coming next: Fearless Generosity!

In conjunction with our 2018-19 Stewardship Campaign

November 4: Scarcity

November 11: Sufficiency

November 18: Money is Like Water

Weekly calendar at WBLUMC

Sunday, Oct. 28

9-10am—Worship; Sunday School & nursery
10-10:45am—Coffee, tea, treats in Fellowship Hall;
prayer room is open
10:10-11:30am—“A Way Forward” session, room 200
10:45-11am—Worship; Children’s Church & nursery
1-4pm—Minnesota History Center outing

Monday, Oct. 29

10am—Hang Loose Women’s Al-Anon, room 206
6:30-8pm—“Revival” study, room 206

Tuesday, Oct. 30

9am-3pm—Big Waters DCOM meeting, room 206
6pm—YogaDevotion class, Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, Oct. 31

6-7:15pm—Alleluia Ringers, sanctuary
6:30-7:30pm—Youth Halloween Extravaganza
(no children’s activities or confirmation)
7:30-9pm—Chancel Choir rehearsal, music room

Thursday, Nov. 1

7:10am—Men’s Breakfast Group, library
10am—Pages of Wisdom AA, room 107
10:30am—“Created for Happiness” study, room 206
11:30am—Up All Night meeting, room 206
6:30-8pm—“Making Sense of the Bible” class, room 200

Friday, Nov. 2

Church office closed

Saturday, Nov. 3

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

Sunday, Nov. 4

9-10am—Worship; Sunday School & nursery
10:05am—Church Charge Conference, room 200
10:05am—Baking With A Purpose bread pickup
10-10:45am—Coffee, tea, treats in Fellowship Hall;
prayer room is open
10-10:45am—Stewardship Committee, Bill’s office
10:45-11am—Worship; Children’s Church & nursery
11:05am—Baking With A Purpose bread pickup

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

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
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 Hopple, Administrative
Assistant

Lori Hughes, Website & Social
Media

Carol Houghtby, Treasurer

Carolyn Keith, Financial Secretary
Ron Houde, Housekeeper



2018-19 Stewardship Campaign

This year’s campaign kicks off **TODAY** with speakers during both services. Messages will continue on Nov. 4 and 11 about our church’s financial needs and how the dollars you give are used. It will culminate with a call for pledges and celebration with fresh-baked cinnamon rolls on Sunday, Nov. 18. The sermon messages during the campaign will call us to the goal of supporting WBLUMC programs with **Fearless Generosity!**

Next Adult Faith outing: Dec. 9



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. 4!** Tickets not spoken for by this date are released back to the Center. Sign up in the narthex; you’ll receive instructions for ticket payment after sign-up closes on Nov. 4. Contact Lori McBride at lori.mcbride@wblumc.org.

Order deadline Nov. 4



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. That's next week!** (For display in the sanctuary, white poinsettias are preferred.)

Up All Night speaker: 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 6:30-7:30pm on **Thursday, Nov. 8**, in the sanctuary. This is a free community event — bring a guest!



Children & Youth updates

Third annual gratitude challenge

Everyone is welcome to join this WBLUMC November tradition! If you're a family who has registered for the Children's communication list, you should receive an orange November Gratitude Calendar in the mail. Or pick one up from the Welcome Table in the narthex. Contact Joan at joan.hartman@wblumc.org with questions!

Youth Halloween extravaganza

All youth 6-12th grade are invited to the church for food, fun, and games on **Wednesday, Oct. 31**, from 6:30-7:30pm. Contact Linnea at linnea.uhler@wblumc.com with questions.

Youth Sunday School

Youth Sunday School has MOVED we are now being released to the upstairs Senior High Room. Between services, youth are invited to stay and play games.



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. 8**, from 10am-noon. Questions? Call Karen Halsey at 651-426-4725 or email her at ahkah@yahoo.com.

Update on Poe Reh family

The Karenni family being sponsored by WBLUMC is learning to negotiate our community with amazing skill. The family has moved from the three bedroom apartment they started in to the second and third floors of a duplex with more space and closer to the local Karenni community. The older daughters have transferred from LEAP Academy to Como High School, where they will have the opportunity to play soccer. We had a huge shopping trip recently to buy winter jackets, boots, hats and gloves for the family. We have now exhausted our endowment and memorial funds. The family could still use two pairs of boys' snowpants, one medium and one large; scarves for the two older daughters to go with maroon coats; a scarf for the older son to go with a green jacket; and face masks for the two boys in 3rd and 5th grades. If you have something you can donate, please contact Barb or Mike Hinz at 651-777-0465. The family is overwhelmed by the generosity of our church and are so thankful!



November's book

The church book club's selection for **November** is *Something Wonderful: Rodgers and Hammerstein's Broadway Revolution* by Todd S. Purdum. We'll meet at 7pm on **Monday, Nov. 26**, in the church library.



Say cheese!

We're updating the church 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. *Sign up in the narthex between services today; online through the church website, wblumc.org; or via this link: <https://tinyurl.com/wblumcphotos>.*

Next bread-baking

November's Baking With a Purpose will be **Sunday, Nov. 4**, and will raise funds for Common Hope. Selections will be Rustic Country and Oatmeal, with loaves available first-come, first-served on a donation basis after each service. Contact Glenn Oliphant at golipha@gmail.com to volunteer to prep, bake, distribute and clean up!

Holiday breads class

Join master bakers Bryce Johnson & Ross Safford at 2pm on **Sunday, Dec. 2**, to make holiday breads — a spice bread and one with fruit (*not* a fruitcake). Take home a loaf of each, and you'll be ready for the holidays with some tasty treats. Limited to 14; register at bryce@companionbreads.com by **Nov. 28**. Cost: \$40 per person; \$10 for a child accompanied by a paid adult.

"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 General Conference 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 General Conference 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, or attend our last of four in-church meetings TODAY at 10:10am in room 206.

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



Welcome new members!

If you wish to send our new members a card or note of welcome, please sign in to ACS or the Church Life app to get their home addresses. You may also email office@wblumc.org and we'll send you the information. Thank you!



Jill and Karl Anderson

Jill and Karl moved to the White Bear area recently from Rochester, where they lived for 34 years. They are transferring from Evangel UMC in Rochester. Jill and Karl have three grown children. Soon they will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. Currently they are both retired. Jill enjoys quilting, helping at Bundles of Love, and cooking. Karl enjoys golfing, bowling, model railroading, and genealogy.

Please extend a warm welcome to our new members!

Mic and Mary jo Dahlberg

Mic and Mary jo have lived in the North Branch area for 20 years after living in Proctor, Minn. They're transferring membership from North Branch Main Street UMC. Mic and Mary jo have two grown married daughters and one granddaughter. Mic is retired from his position as the Chisago County Public Works Director. They recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Mary jo enjoys reading, playing games and travel. Mic enjoys building and tinkering with computers.



Gay Hendricks

Gay was a member of this church from 1978 to 1995. She and her husband John were married in this church in 1984. They moved to Arkansas in 1995 and returned to this area last year. They have two grown children. Gay enjoys quilting, embroidery, and reading.



Curt and Kathie Merkle

Curt and Kathie are returning to the Maplewood area after 45 years in Rochester. Kathie is retired and Curt will retire in December from his position as a Field Program Manager at Johnson Controls. They are transferring from Evangel UMC in Rochester. Curt and Kathie have two grown children. Kathie and Curt enjoy sporting events, yard work, outdoor activities, spending time with their children and grandchildren.

Please extend a warm welcome to our new members!

Linda Phillips

Linda lives in the Oakdale area. After visiting here in past years, she has decided to join this congregation. She is transferring from Silver Lake UMC. Linda worked at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Denver Children's Hospital and Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital before moving to Oakdale and working at St. John's and St. Joseph's hospitals. She enjoys volunteering for HealthEast hospice and the Maplewood Library used book store. She also enjoys golfing, playing cards, reading, and travel.



Lance Zafft

Lance lives in White Bear Township. He and his wife Jennie have two school-age children, Will and Quinn. Lance is a financial analyst at Amano McGann. He has volunteered with Kids in Need Foundation, youth baseball. Lance enjoys biking, listening to music, fishing, and reading.