

The hunger to bear witness

While standing in the hushed corridors of a home or medical center, we can sometimes bear witness to a patient fellowship as a strong soul emerges and reports comfort has come, the baby is here, the surgery is past or the fever has broken.

There’s an embrace and eyes that search for one another beginning to resemble some sort of soft, empathetic football huddle. In this almost ecstatic, magical moment, the culture of a room changes, like a glassy reflection across still waters. We watch bonded in our humanity, as a smile begins to permeate over relieved faces and stiff knees arise from their wait. There is no question who belongs to whom.

Fortunately, but never chosen, this cultural shift is painted as well when our ultimate hope does not come. Then, a circle of supportive, strong arms brace and tears surround our heavy realizations. This is an obvious, live portrait of what belonging is, with no need to examine or inquire who belongs with this crowd of grateful, but weary waiters. “We do not lose heart...and we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.” (2 Cor. 4:16-18)

Belonging is a fickle word which resides deeply tucked into our inward souls meaning to be connected along with a sense of place. We belong to work groups, faith communities or neighborly places, but the best places to belong regardless of location, are simply because of our being.

Recently a survivor of the New York City September 11 bombing remembered the chaos that surrounded him and the towers that seemed to implode and vanish in gray rubble. The greatest conviction that lingers and spills over this dark memory, though, is arriving home. After a struggle with travel, he hugged his family, shared a meal, attended church and suddenly, “I realized I was really home.” It would be impossible for the violent memories of dusty whirlwinds to not reoccur over the following years dotted sometimes with panic, but the embrace of some who were family and some who were not, bore witness and brought life back to an awkward normalcy. He was home, he belonged.

We have opportunities to bear witness to homecoming, to love and to offer basic worth even though the times surrounding us may be uncertain. We have the opportunity to bear witness to the person right next to us. In *When the Heart Waits: Spiritual Direction for Life's Sacred*, author Sue Monk Kidd writes: “What has happened to our ability to dwell in the unknowing, to live inside a question and coexist with the tensions of uncertainty? Where is our willingness to incubate pain and let it birth something new? What has happened to patient unfolding, to endurance? These things are what form the ground of waiting.”

With Jesus we are home and embraced in a fellowship right now. Humanity waits not alone, but rather embodied with a sliver of the Sacred. Jesus has the capacity to visualize our goodness now, while simultaneously fostering our future transformative, latent lives. A patient God of potential reassures “the people who I formed for myself.” It is I “who make a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters...they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing [in you]; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness...” (Isaiah 43:16-21 NRSV)

You are an image bearer and reflect the Sacred in all the hushed or loud corridors you move in. Early in the pages of Genesis humanity is formed in the image of God, as kin and in the ongoing, life-giving pages, we’re challenged to conceptualize how to welcome the stranger. We know sometime or some place, we were once new. We are asked to bear mercy, to bear justice and to bear an image of our Creator.

In closing, ponder this description by theologian, Bob Benson: “So fill me with thy life, that I may feel thy slightest touch, thy softest whisper, see thy faintest footprint. Yielding in such glad response, that others may see thy grace and beauty.”

This is to bear witness to the Christ. Amen.

~ J.Jacot



9am Worship ~ Sunday, Sept. 23, 2018

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

WORDS FOR REFLECTION

“We are not to simply bandage the wounds of victims beneath the wheels of injustice; we are to drive a spoke into the wheel itself.”
~ Dietrich Bonhoeffer

“True peace is not the absence of war.
It is the presence of justice.”
~ Jane Addams

“Justice will never be served until those who are unaffected
are as outraged as those who are.”
~ Benjamin Franklin

PRELUDE

WELCOME

CHORAL INTROIT “Love is Love” Abbie Betinis
Chancel Choir

+OPENING WORDS (responsively)
In the midst of a world where people hunger and thirst,
come worship a God who feeds the hungry.
In the midst of a world where people are abused and oppressed,
come worship a God who calls for compassion and justice.
In the midst of a world filled with wars and rumor of war,
come worship a God who desires nothing less than peace for the world.
In the midst of a world of spiritual emptiness,
come worship a God who gives life meaning and whose grace and love know no end.

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. **The Phone Prayer Chain** is organized through the UMW. If you would like to request a prayer, call Eva Shipley at 651-429-3570.

+OPENING HYMN

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

No. 139

1) All 2) Women 3)Men 5)All

UNISON PRAYER

Almighty God, who created us in your image: Grant us grace and courage to contend against evil and to make no peace with oppression. Let us reverently use our freedom, and help us to employ it in the maintenance of justice in our communities and among the nations, to the glory of your holy name and the strengthening of your human family. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

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

ANTHEM

“Prayer”

music by Arthur Frackenpohl

Chancel Choir

text by Robert Langwig

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 5:13-16 and 38-41

Reader: Peteria Cochran Routt

“You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.”

“You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ But I say to you, do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also; and if anyone wants to sue you and take your coat, give your cloak as well; and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile.”

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

The Hungers of Life: The Hunger for Justice

Pastor John McBride

with special guests Gary, Lynne and Katie Schurrer

+HYMN

“Lord You Give the Great Commission”

No. 584

1,2 & 5

CONNECTION CARDS

Please take time now to fill out your green connection cards. After the prayer of dedication, you can place them in the offering plates as they are passed to you.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

OFFERING

“Let Justice Roll Like a River”

Solo, Carrie Sinclair

by Marty Haugen

ANNOUNCEMENTS

+CLOSING HYMN

“We Are Called”

No. 2172

+BENEDICTION

+POSTLUDE

“O God Beyond All Praising”


setting, Jeffery Honoré

ALTAR FLOWERS

This week’s arrangement is provided by Susan and Don Torgerson to celebrate their 62nd wedding anniversary.

Today! Stay for a special WBLUMC music event

Facial image: Jonathan Powell via Wikimedia. CC2.0.



The Music of

QUEEN

Sept. 23, 10:45am service

(music starts at 10:30am)

Reach high for your falsetto at WBLUMC. Listen in a new way

— a better way — and hear the sacred in the secular.

WBLUMC weekly calendar

Sunday, Sept. 23: Music of Queen @ 10:45 worship

8am-noon—UMW Pancake Breakfast, Fellowship Hall
9-10am—Worship; Sunday School & nursery
10-10:45am—Coffee, tea, treats in Fellowship Hall
10:10-10:30am—Parent/Volunteer orientation, room 200
10:45-11am—Worship; Children’s Church & nursery

Monday, Sept. 24

10am—Hang Loose Women’s AI-Anon, room 206
6:30-8pm—“Revival” study, room 200
7-8:15pm—Book Club, library

Tuesday, Sept. 25

6pm—YogaDevotion class, Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, Sept. 26

6-7:30pm—Wednesday night dinner & first night of youth & kids programs
6-7:15pm—Alleluia Ringers, sanctuary
6:30pm—Parent meeting with Joan, room 200
7:30-9pm—Chancel Choir rehearsal, music room

Thursday, Sept. 27

7:10am—Men’s Breakfast Group, library
9am-3pm—The Gathering, room 200/Fellowship Hall
10am—Pages of Wisdom AA, room 107
10-11:30am—Memory loss support group, library
6:30-8pm—“Making Sense of the Bible” study, room 200
7-8:30pm—BeFrienders, room 206

Friday, Sept. 28

No scheduled activities; office closed

Saturday, Sept. 29

9am-3pm—Music rehearsal, sancutary
7:30am—Men’s Prayer Group, room 200
10am—WBL Sat. Morning Women’s Group, 200/206

Sunday, Sept. 30

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

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 **1pm 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
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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 Routt, Director
of Traditional Music

John Koziol, Jr. Director of Music
Gerald Gurss, 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

Fall sermon series: The Hungers of Life



There are some hungers – yearnings, longings – that are part of being human. Throughout history, people of faith have found that the real hungers of life are best satisfied by joining together with a community of other hungry seekers.

In this series, we look together at some of these common human hungers, the ways they affect our lives, and the sources of sustenance we can find to satisfy them. This series also gives us an opportunity to reflect on our church’s vision of providing nourishment for the hungers of life.

Today: The Hunger for Justice

Sept. 30: The Hunger for Connection with Hymn Sing

Oct. 7: The Hunger for Passion

Lydia Project update

Knitters, if you’ve been busy making purple scarves for the 2020 UMC General Conference in Minneapolis, we have a place for you to put them! Please drop them off in the marked plastic bin in the closet next to the church office. Thank you.



Coming up at WBLUMC

First fall Book Club meeting tomorrow

If you love books and reading, don't miss this year's book club. Our first meeting will be in the church library at 7pm tomorrow, **Monday, Sept. 24**, to talk about *Les Miserables* by Victor Hugo.

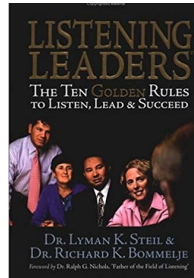
Next: October's selection is *The Reporter Who Knew Too Much: The Mysterious Death of "What's My Line" TV Star and Media Icon Dorothy Kilgallen*, by Mark Shaw. Meeting on Oct. 22.

Join Bishop Ough for Conversations on a Way Forward

Bishop Ough comes to Woodbury as one of 15 stops to continue the Conversations on A Way Forward — addressing UMC's differences regarding human sexuality — as the denomination prepares for a special session to vote on a plan early next year. He will host the conversation at The Grove UMC, 7465 Steepleview Road in Woodbury, on **Monday, Oct. 1**, 6:30-9 pm. For information and to register, go to minnesotaumc.org/news and scroll down to "Join Bishop Ough for Conversations on a Way Forward."

Next BreadXTalks: Listening Pays in Many Ways

Our next BreadX speaker will be Dr. Lyman K. "Manny" Steil, a well-known expert on how to listen. Join with friends and neighbors on **Wednesday, Oct. 3**, at 6:30pm for a short presentation in Fellowship Hall, followed by a free light dinner of homemade soup and breadsticks. No need to sign up, all are welcome. Questions? Contact Lori McBride at lori.mcbride@wblumc.org.



Love Thy Neighbor: Bread for hurricane relief

To help ease the suffering in the Carolinas, hit hard by recent Hurricane Florence, all donations from October's Baking with a Purpose will go to the United Methodist Committee on Relief to help our neighbors in the South. Bread selections will be ciabatta and raisin-walnut. Bread pickup will be one day only, on **Sunday, Oct. 7**, after each service.

Minnesota History Center outing

You're invited to the Minnesota History Center in St. Paul from 1-4pm on Sunday, Oct. 28. We'll have access buttons and maps that ensure hassle-free admission with no waiting, plus an overview of the building and a guided tour of the "1968" exhibit. Then we'll have access to unlimited self-guided museum exploration, including exhibits such as "The Greatest Generation," "Somalis + Minnesota," and "THEN, NOW, WOW." We'll share our experiences over a snack. **Deadline to reserve your spot is Sunday, Oct. 14:** Look for signup sheets in the narthex and be sure to include your contact information and number of requested tickets — we have 30 spots! Cost is \$10/person (ages 5 and up); you'll be contacted with details for payment. Email lori.mcbride@wblumc.org with questions.

TODAY!

UMW PANCAKE BREAKFAST

8am-noon | Sunday, Sept. 23 | Fellowship Hall

Join us for pancakes with syrup, sausages, fruit, coffee and juice.

Cost for this community event is \$8/person or \$20/family, with all proceeds going to UMW-supported mission projects that serve women, youth and children, including Emma Norton Services, White Bear Area Emergency Food Shelf, Solid Ground, Simpson Shelter, and more.

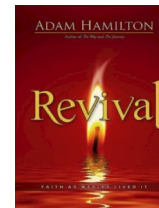


ALSO TODAY: REGISTER TO VOTE

Between services, stop by the table in the Narthex to register to vote on Election Day, Nov. 6. You'll need your Minnesota driver's license or State ID number in order to register online at the table, or you can pick up a paper registration application to fill out at home. If you've moved or changed your name in the past year, you'll need to update your registration. An update is also needed if you haven't voted in the past four years. The deadline for pre-registering is Oct. 16, 21 days before Election Day. After that, you'll have to wait and register on Election Day at your polling place. You can check on your registration and get more information, including ways to vote early, at mnvotes.org.

Fall Adult Faith Studies

Classes have begun but it's not too late to start reading and join one or more groups.



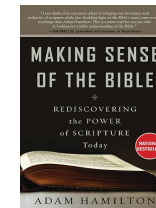
Revival: Faith as Wesley Lived It

by Adam Hamilton

Leader: Pastor John McBride

6:30-8 pm Mondays

Sept. 24; Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29



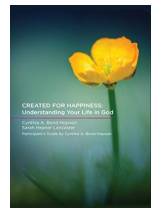
Making Sense of the Bible

by Adam Hamilton

Leader: Pastor Bill Eaves

6:30-7:45pm Thursdays

Sept. 27; Oct. 4, 11, 18; Nov. 1, 8



Created for Happiness

by Cynthia Bond Hopson and Sarah Heaner Lancaster

Leaders: Tammey Busch

& Judy Slomkowski

10:30-11:30am Thursdays

Oct. 4-Nov. 8