

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. 30, 2018

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

Hymn Sing Sunday

WORDS FOR REFLECTION

“If you want to go quickly, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.” ~ African Proverb

“We can not eliminate hunger, but we can feed each other. We cannot eliminate loneliness, but we can hold each other. We cannot eliminate pain, but we can live a life of compassion.” ~ Mark Lepo

PRELUDE

WELCOME

To make a request for the Hymn Sing, please fill out the cards handed out with your bulletins, including your name plus your requested hymn and its number in the hymnal, then hand them to the ushers when indicated.

+OPENING HYMN “Be Thou My Vision” No. 451

UNISON PRAYER

Glorious God, source of joy and righteousness, enable us as redeemed and forgiven children evermore to rejoice in singing your praises. Grant that what we sing with our lips we may believe in our hearts, and what we believe in our hearts we may practice in our lives; so that being doers of the Word and not hearers only, we may receive everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

After the children’s message, children and youth through 9th 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 Hebrews 10:19-25 Reader: Sheila Bennett

Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

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 Connection Pastor Bill Eaves

SEPTEMBER HYMN SING

Music staff will announce hymn selections based on your requests written on the cards handed out by the ushers.

FINAL SONG “Bind Us Together” See PowerPoint
Sing twice

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 “Just a Closer Walk with Thee” arr. Zsolt Gárdonyi
Chancel Choir

ANNOUNCEMENTS

+CLOSING HYMN “When in our Music God is Glorified” No. 68
1. All 2. Women 3. Choir 4. Men 5. All

+BENEDICTION

+POSTLUDE

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. We look at some of these common human hungers, the ways they affect our lives, and sources of sustenance to satisfy them. This series also helps us reflect on our church’s vision of providing nourishment for the hungers of life.

Today: The Hunger for Connection — with **Hymn Sing!**
Oct. 7: The Hunger for Passion

Coming next: Exploring our Methodist Roots

WBLUMC weekly calendar

Sunday, Sept. 30: Hymn Sing!
9-10am—Worship; Sunday School & nursery
10-10:45am—Coffee, tea, treats in Fellowship Hall;
prayer room is open
10:45-11am—Worship; Children’s Church & nursery

Monday, Oct. 1
10am—Hang Loose Women’s Al-Anon, room 206
3-5pm—UMW Board meeting, room 200
6:30-8pm—“Revival” study, room 200

Tuesday, Oct. 2
10:30am-noon—Staff meeting
6pm—YogaDevotion class, Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, Oct. 3
6-7:15pm—Alleluia Ringers, sanctuary
6:30pm—Children & Youth activities
6:30pm—BreadX Talk, Fellowship Hall
7:30-9pm—Chancel Choir rehearsal, music room

Thursday, Oct. 4
7:10am—Men’s Breakfast Group, library
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

Friday, Oct. 5
No scheduled activities; office closed

Saturday, Oct. 6
9am-3pm—Music rehearsal, sanctuary
7:30am—Men’s Prayer Group, room 200
10am—WBL Sat. Morning Women’s Group, 200/206

Sunday, Oct. 7
9-10am—Worship; Sunday School & nursery
10-10:45am—Coffee, tea, treats in Fellowship Hall;
prayer room is open
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 bill.eaves@wblumc.org, 763-355-7825 mobile	John Koziol, Jr. Director of Music
John McBride , Associate Pastor	Gerald Gurss , Chancel Choir Director
Lori McBride , Missions & Faith Development Minister	Patricia Kytola , Director of Operations
Joan Hartman , Director of Children & Family Ministries	Lauri Hopple , Administrative Assistant
Linnea Uhler , Director of Youth Ministries	Lori Hughes , Website & Social Media
Peteria Cochran Routt , Director of Traditional Music	Carol Houghtby , Treasurer
	Carolyn Keith , Financial Secretary
	Ron Houde , Housekeeper



A word cloud featuring various community service roles and organizations. The most prominent words are 'gardens' (large red), 'Refugee' (large red), 'Family' (large red), 'Reading Buddy' (large blue), 'Food Shelf' (large blue), 'Helping Neighbor' (green), 'organize' (black), 'Befrienders' (black), 'tutor' (black), 'Bridging' (black), 'mentor' (green), 'Notes' (blue), 'MobileMarket' (green), 'Gathering' (green), 'hospice' (black), 'recycling' (red), 'AAadvocacy' (green), 'youth' (black), 'SimpsonShelter' (green), 'LakeshorePlayers' (red), 'hospital' (red), 'library' (green), 'prayer' (black), 'DementiaSupport' (black), 'CenturyCollege' (green), 'GunViolencePrevention' (blue), 'hospice' (black), 'Notes' (blue), 'MobileMarket' (green), 'Gathering' (green), 'recycling' (red), 'AAadvocacy' (green), 'youth' (black), 'SimpsonShelter' (green), 'LakeshorePlayers' (red), 'hospital' (red), 'library' (green), 'prayer' (black), 'DementiaSupport' (black), 'CenturyCollege' (green), 'GunViolencePrevention' (blue).

Serving our community

As individuals, members of WBLUMC serve others in our community in many ways.
The image above reflects the May/June responses to the Connection Card question
“How have you served your community in the past month?” May it inspire us all to continue
or begin reaching out to help others whenever we can, however we can.



A satellite image of Hurricane Florence, showing a well-defined eye and spiral cloud bands over the Atlantic Ocean. A NOAA logo is visible in the bottom left corner.

**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 craisin-walnut. Bread pickup will be one
day only, on **Sunday, Oct. 7**, after each service.
We need your help! Sign up in the narthex or email
Glenn Oliphant at golipha@gmail.com to volunteer
for this event. Thank you!

Bread class with Bryce

Bread Class with master baker Bryce Johnson on **Sunday, Oct. 21**, from 2-4pm. You’ll get your hands
messy as you mix, knead, stretch and shape the dough. Take home a loaf baked in the wood-fired
oven. Cost: \$40 per person. Limited to 18 people; register by Oct. 18 and pay at wblumc.org/events
under event registration, or sign up in the narthex. Contact: Glenn Oliphant, golipha@gmail.com.

Coming up soon

Opportunities to discuss A Way Forward

Join Bishop Ough at The Grove UMC in Woodbury, one of 15 stops to continue the Conversations on A Way Forward — part of the lengthy process to address UMC’s differences regarding human sexuality — as the denomination prepares for a special session to vote on a plan early next year. For information and to register for the Woodbury event on **Monday, Oct. 1**, 6:30-9 pm, go to minnesotaumc.org/news and scroll down to “Join Bishop Ough for Conversations on a Way Forward.”

Save the dates at WBLUMC: You will have four opportunities in our church to learn more about this process and about the next steps. Please save the date that works best for you: **Thursday, Oct. 18**, at 7pm; **Sunday, Oct. 21**, at 10:10am; **Monday, Oct. 22**, at 7pm; and **Sunday, Oct. 28**, at 10:10am. Sign-up sheets will be available in the narthex beginning Oct. 7.

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.

State Capitol tour with Sarah Circle

Join Sarah Circle for a tour of the State Capitol on **Monday, Oct. 8**. Car pooling will leave church at 11:45am for a 1pm guided tour that lasts 45 minutes. This tour has a limit of 15 people, so sign up ASAP on the sheet in the narthex. Contact Gail Stucky at 651-354-9537 with questions.

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, followed by unlimited self-guided museum exploration. **Deadline to reserve your spot is Sunday, Oct. 14:** Sign up in the narthex ASAP — we have 30 spots! Cost is \$10/person (ages 5 and up); email lori.mcbride@wblumc.org with questions.

New member class

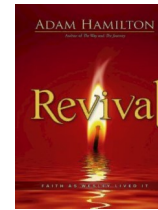
Are you interested in joining WBLUMC? Come to a class with the pastors on **Sunday, Oct. 21**, from 11:30am-1:30pm in room 200. Lunch will be provided. To sign up for the class, either indicate it on the connection card or email Carol Effertz at doncarol@q.com.

October book club selection

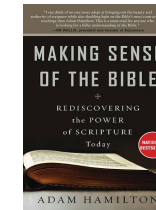
October’s book selection for church book club is *The Reporter Who Knew Too Much: The Mysterious Death of “What’s My Line” TV Star and Media Icon Dorothy Kilgallen*, by Mark Shaw. Our next meeting will be at 7pm on **Monday, Oct. 22**.

Fall Adult Faith Studies

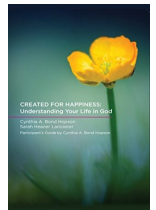
Classes have begun but it’s not too late to start reading and join one or more groups.



Revival: Faith as Wesley Lived It
by Adam Hamilton
Leader: Pastor John McBride
6:30-8 pm Mondays
Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29



Making Sense of the Bible
by Adam Hamilton
Leader: Pastor Bill Eaves
6:30-7:45pm Thursdays
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

The Gathering memory care respite Q&A sessions

Learn more about Lyngblomsten, the Gathering and in-home respite programs by attending a Respite Q&A Session with Lyngblomsten staff. The sessions, which are free and open to anyone, will include an overview of respite and volunteer opportunities through 2nd Half with Lyngblomsten, a chance to observe The Gathering in action, and a time to ask questions. The next Q&A sessions will be 10-11:30am **Thursday, Oct. 23**, at Salem Lutheran Church in West St. Paul or **Thursday, Nov. 13**, at Centennial UMC in Roseville. To register or to get more information, contact Lyngblomsten Volunteer Services at 651-632-5406 or volunteer@lyngblomsten.org. You may also visit the website at lyngblomsten.org/individualvolunteer.



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.

Another Pancake Breakfast success

Thank you to everyone who helped with our 2nd Pancake Breakfast to raise money for United Methodist Women’s mission work. It took many hands to organize, set up, cook, serve and clean up afterwards. And thanks to Paul Dickson and Arlo Halsey for fixing the one burner on the grill. ~ UMW Executive Board