

inspire!

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Wayzata Community Church

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inspire the world with the inclusive love of Jesus

Finding Home: The Gospel According to Oz

In the beginning of the Wizard of Oz, Dorothy is rescued from a plain, mundane, colorless existence in Kansas and transported to a magical land beyond her wildest imagination. A wild tornado whisks Dorothy away from everything she knew, and she finds herself immersed in confusion, beauty, and mystery. Amidst this beauty, for the first time in her life, Dorothy feels alive.

It is in this aliveness that she uncovers that her deepest desire is to return home. The first thing she is told is to "follow the yellow brick road." Sure enough, she finds the yellow brick road, right there at her feet, in all its glory. Like most advice, "following the yellow brick road" proves inadequate to help her achieve her deepest desire. While leading to Oz, this simple road doesn't lead her back home.

Along the yellow brick road, and along the road to fulfilling her desire to find home, Dorothy discovers some of the greatest gifts of any pilgrimage: Friendship. Dorothy discovers hidden resources within herself and within her friends.

You may be thinking "What in the world does the Wizard of Oz have to do with me?"

- Have you ever felt like you were on a crazy pilgrimage of life, wandering about, without clear direction?



THE WIZARD OF OZ

- Have you felt you lack what it takes to really make it?... To be truly successful?
- Have you ever gotten really bad advice that threw your life out of whack? Or really bad advice that led you to a beautiful discovery?
- Have you ever lost your sense of home?

Over the next five weeks of worship, using the metaphor of journey, and the gifts Dorothy and her new friends receive as they walk the road of life together, we will explore what it means to find home.

Week 1: Dorothy: *Finding Home*
Week 2: The Scarecrow: *Finding Wisdom*
Week 3: The Tinman: *Finding Heart*
Week 4: The Lion: *Finding Courage*
Week 5: The Witch and the Wizard

A

Ash Wednesday

We wear the sign of the cross on our foreheads to recall that God made us from dust. Danielle Jones writes about the importance of Ash Wednesday on page 2.

B

Summer Camp

Hilary Flynn writes about Christian identity and education at camp. Read more on page 4.

C

The Wizard of Oz

The Wizard of Oz is a story of hope and resilience... a journey of triumph over adversity and ultimately, a tale of friendship. Read more on page 5.

From the Moderator

Ann Johnson Stewart

WCC: A Home to Many

My husband and I are so fortunate to call WCC our church “Home”. That certainly didn’t happen overnight; we’ve been members for over 13 years. I think it rarely happens right away for anyone. For us, it took involvement and making just a few personal connections, and as we got more engaged and made more personal connections, the feeling that we were Home became stronger and more certain.

In this age of disconnection, many people are looking for a home and a place to belong. That feeling of Home really is about belonging: to church, to each other, to God. The church is a place that can offer that connection; wouldn’t it be great if WCC could become a church home for those who are seeking one?

If Home is about belonging and community, then we are all part of it for each other. For us to become a Home for new people, we must remember the process by which WCC became Home to each of us. What was that for you? And, are you working towards providing that for others? WCC became Home for me once I felt that I truly belonged there; I had a sense of connection, community and comfort. Mostly, I felt a true sense that I was being included; there is no “home” without inclusion, and that involves first welcome, then engagement, then true community that involves both give and take with its members. So my job now is to engage others, through conversation and making personal connections.

I’m writing this from Africa, where I traveled to see the Light of Hope (LOH) school for girls that our church supports. LOH has become a stable and secure home for over 100 girls. Many of them had no home or family before LOH, and the school welcomed them with open arms and immediate inclusion. Imagine the transformation that happens when a child is welcomed without judgment or condition, but only love and safety. Although our lives are much different than those of the LOH girls, we all crave a sense of belonging and inclusion. Our church could easily offer that as well; what a blessing it would be to provide that same safe welcome to those seeking to belong!

We are committed to inspire the world with the inclusive love of Jesus, and as Christians, are taught to reach out to others and welcome the stranger. Look around our church; who’s missing? And what can we do to make them feel like this is their Home, too? If, like me, you feel that WCC is your Home, I challenge you to invite others in. To be inclusive. Even to reach out beyond our walls to those people who would so benefit from finding a warm, loving, inclusive church that they can call “home” too. And once they’re in the building, truly engage; we’ll all be better for it.



The Importance of Ash Wednesday

By Rev. Danielle Jones

I don’t like dust. No matter how often I clean it seems I can’t fully eradicate the dust. There is always some corner of the house holding it, some strip of the floor I forgot to scrub. We walk on dust, we try and remove dust by brushing it away, and yet dust is the symbol we use to begin our Lenten Journey each year.

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the 40 day journey to Easter (not including Sundays). This ancient rite of the church is intended to remind us

of our mortality and our sin. The ashes are a sign of our humanity and are imposed upon the forehead while recalling the words in Genesis (3:19) “Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.”

We wear the sign of the cross on our foreheads to recall that God made us from dust.

We wear the sign of the cross on our foreheads to recall that God made us from dust. I may not like dust but God sure does. Of all the things God could have crafted us out of, God chose dust. God took the dust and breathed life into it to create us. Dust is the most ordinary of all the matter that surrounds us and yet here we are— extraordinary humans, each one of us.

This reminder that we are dust helps us reset our intentions toward what really matters. It reminds us to seek God with all our hearts. It moves us to “rend our hearts and not our garments and return to the Lord” (Joel 2:13). It calls us to take extra time in the 40 days to come to repent, seek God, listen carefully, and live the kind of lives God desires for us because we don’t know when we will return to the dust.

As you begin your Lenten journey, may you take time to remember that you are dust and that the God of the universe makes treasure out of dust.



for the moment

Rev. Dr. John F. Ross, Senior Minister

Yellow Bricks in the Rearview

Growing up in a family of 8, my family owned station wagons for a majority of my childhood. The wagon I remember most vividly had a powered back gate that opened like the jaws of a shark. The top half disappeared into the roof of the car, while the bottom half dropped down below the back bumper revealing a double-wide bench seat that faced backward. As kids we fought for the "back seat" (more than the coveted "shot gun") so we could make faces at the people in cars behind us.

As an adult, I now appreciate the perspective of facing backward for many other reasons. In his marvelous book, *Let Your Life Speak*, Parker Palmer, writes of the power of 'Way' from the Quaker perspective as the discipline of "having faith...and way will open". Most powerfully, however, he describes how we are impacted "when way closes."

He tells of visiting a lifelong friend named Ruth, well known for her thoughtfulness and candor. Parker was struggling with the Quaker conviction of 'Way' when she offered him this kernel of truth: "In sixty-plus years of living, 'Way' has never opened in front of me... but a lot of Way has closed behind me, and that's had the same guiding effect."

As we head into a season of following the yellow brick road in front of us, let's not forget the wisdom and value of the yellow bricks in our rearview. As we seek intelligence (brain), feelings (heart), and courage (nerve) we do well to learn from our own past and from history around us. Looking back on lessons from earlier times can open new horizons—new Way—for the future.

In this season of Lent, let's climb into the way back seat of life's station wagon for the unique perspective of seeing where we've been, hand the steering wheel over to God, and enjoy the view. For Dorothy there was no place like home, but for followers of Jesus the journey is just as important as the destination.

I'll see you in church!

John

**Rev. Dr. John F. Ross
Senior Minister**

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Pause: 40 days, 40 words, 40 invitations.

Receive our 2018 Lenten daily devotional, PAUSE. Each week in your email, from Monday through Saturday, you will receive a short devotional with a guiding scripture, challenging questions, and a call to action. Join with our community in focusing together on the same 40 words for the season of Lent.

Sign up online at www.wayzatacommunitychurch.org/lentdevotions



Child-centered religious learning; Christian identity and education at Camp

By Hilary Flynn, Director of Camp Ministries

I recently observed religious education models through a series of visits to Israeli primary schools. The models were fascinating, based on one over-arching reality: In Israel every student receives secular education on Jewish culture and Israeli history. In Israel, at every level of school, children are educated in what it is to be Jewish, as the religion of the state. This is separate from religious education, which is an additional layer of Jewish religious teaching and prayer.

As Americans we live in a reality of the separation of Church and State. From that American perspective, and as a youth minister for 15 years, I left the Israeli schools impressed by the pride and sense of unity in their Israeli identity. But I also grappled with the lack of separation – of Church and State – in the Israeli schools, and wondered about the experience of religious minorities.

By making room for religious freedom (in the U.S.A.) we took away the ability to offer compulsory religious education. As Americans we create room for religious faith and practice that is diverse. But, we also seek the pride and sense of identity that such an education would provide; as Christians we must find other places to establish pride and identity in our children and youth.

As a mother, in our American culture, I can hold these two things... one in each hand: I believe we are creating better, more compassionate and empathetic global citizens by engaging with our ethnically diverse and religiously diverse people AND that we must seek other educational pedagogy (systems for learning) in the pursuit of Christian education and identity.

I love that my 2nd grader (and her classmates) make presentations to their class on their family's holidays and traditions. I love that my children know what kind of taco meat we should serve which friends... and therefore more about world religions, from their public school in Plymouth, than many adults my age. I love that diverse traditions, names, diets and dress are all glimpses for my children into the religious practices of their friends at home.

And, I love that this cultural reality makes the Christian education experience at camp so unique and valuable.

Camp is a place within, and distinct from, the blessings of our culture in an increasingly diverse world. Camp is a place for young Christians to celebrate their own religious tradition, and find community there. Our mission is clearly Christian, but we also welcome broad denominations, and even campers of different, or no-faith, traditions.

**Our mission is clearly
Christian, but we also welcome
broad denominations, and even
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traditions.**

Because we are unapologetic about our Christianity, we also avoid any risk of coercion or manipulation. During my first summer as a Camp Staff in 1999 I wrote the senior minister expressing my revelation and joy that religion wasn't "forced down my throat", or anyone else's. The camp program allowed child-centered exploration, in a community of trust and encouragement.

This is after all God's own way with us... always inviting, but never overpowering. God, the first child-centered educator. God a relational minister for our modern times.



The Wizard of Oz

WCC's GOOD WORKS COMMUNITY THEATER presents its 12th full scale musical production, The Wizard Of Oz!

Good Works Community Theater brings together a cast and crew of 150 amazing people ranging in age from 4 to 64. From professional actors and singers who have been doing this nearly their whole lives, to those who have never before stepped onstage. We have brand new WCC members, long time members who have appeared in all 12 productions, and many who have never set foot in our church building until now. We also have parent/grandparent and child combinations, siblings, aunts and uncles and nieces and nephews, cousins, Godchildren and Godparents, and several almost complete family units (including the 4 legged kind).

The Wizard of Oz is a story of hope and resilience. A journey of triumph over adversity and ultimately, a tale of friendship. Dorothy is a young girl who is struggling to find her own voice amongst the chaos of the adults around her. When her best friend, Toto the dog, is handed up to the evil Miss Gultch as a sacrifice to 'keep peace' it is the last straw. In a dream, Dorothy Gale is transported to the Land of Oz when her home is caught up in a tornado. As it lands, the falling house kills the Wicked Witch of the East. Dorothy is celebrated by the strange locals, the Munchkins, but she feels alone and displaced in the superficial other world and only thinks of getting back home. Dorothy begins to understand her family as complex and flawed individuals.

We invite you to click your heels together and follow the yellow brick road to the merry old land of Oz. Delight your little munchkins (or your inner munchkin!) with a trip "Over the Rainbow", and rediscover this wonderful story full of lessons and love for all ages.

Wizard of Oz Performances

- Wednesday, March 14 @ 7:00 p.m.
- Thursday, March 15 @ 7:00 p.m.
- Friday, March 16 @ 7:00 p.m.
- Saturday, March 17 @ 2:00 p.m. (Child/Special Needs friendly Matinee! Audience is encouraged to come in costume and sing along)
- Saturday, March 17 @ 7:00 p.m.
- Sunday, March 18 @ 2:00 p.m. (Also featured in both Sanctuary Worship services that morning, at 9:00 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.)



No Place like WCC Nursery School!

It's said that there's no place like home... unless it's at WCC Nursery School!

For over 60 years at WCC Nursery School our mission has always been to create an environment where children feel safe, nurtured and encouraged to grow and learn. Parents and staff at WCC Nursery School inherently know this and strive to create together the highest quality early childhood education experience possible. As we know, children are little sponges, learning fast and furiously throughout their early years of life, and studies show that the most impactful learning and development happens in early childhood

"Early learning helps children to be confident and curious about the world. It also helps them do better when they go to school" —Vicki Palmer

There are so many important benefits to an early childhood education where children get to work on many important skills including their social and emotional development, learning to trust other adults, and building self-confidence through cooperative teamwork and play with their peers. And, both parents and teachers want these early experiences to create a life-long joy for learning and love of school.

The staff here at WCC Nursery School is dedicated and passionate about the part they play in a young child's life-long learning journey, and their goal is to provide a loving and nurturing place where they can safely come to play, learn, and grow... just like home.

"A teacher is a compass that activates the magnets of curiosity, knowledge, and wisdom in the pupils." — Ever Garrisso

Since an early childhood education has such a tremendous impact on young lives, we love that WCC Nursery School has become such an important place for children to experience the joy of learning in our little "home away from home"!

Sara Luedke
Director, WCCNS

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY



The Third Thursday Readers

All Readers Invited! The Third Thursday Readers meet in the Piper Library at 1:00 p.m. on the Third Thursday of each month. On February 15 we will discuss *The Girl With Seven Names: A North Korean Defector's Story*, by Hyeonseo Lee. All are welcome!



Meals on Wheels Drivers Needed

The Wayzata-Plymouth Meals on Wheels, which delivers meals to elderly, our community. Several church deliver meals year-round on a regular basis. a.m. at the loading dock of Carl's. visiting people and driving, Wayzata. come you! Children are welcome. time commitment is roughly 1-2 hours. Bob Nash at 952-476-0434 for more information.

4

SUPER BOWL OF SOUL

Rev. Dr. John F. Ross preaching

8 a.m. Chapel Communion, Chapel
9:00 a.m. Celebrations Worship, Sanctuary
Smart Stepfamily Class, 10:15 a.m.
10:30 a.m. Parables Worship, Chapel
10:45 a.m. Traditions Worship, Sanctuary
Meridian Manor Worship, 1 p.m.
High School Super Bowl Party, 5 p.m.
Parables Pizza & Family Night, 5:30 p.m. (offsite)

5

Archives, 9:30 a.m.
Women's AA, 10 a.m.
Rummage Committee, 4 p.m.
Wizard of Oz Rehearsal, 6:15 p.m.
Parables Women's Book Club, 6:15 p.m.
Middle School CE Board, 7 p.m.
Al Anon, 7:30 p.m.

6

Planning Committee, 6 p.m.
Wizard of Oz Rehearsal, 6:15 p.m.
Art & Design Board, 7 p.m.
Board of Deacons, 7 p.m.
Children's CE Board, 7 p.m.
WCCNS Board, 7 p.m.
OA, 7 p.m.

11

COMMUNION

Rev. Kristen Rouner Jeide preaching

8 a.m. Nominating Board
8 a.m. Chapel Communion, Chapel
9:00 a.m. Celebrations Worship, Sanctuary
Smart Stepfamily Class, 10:15 a.m.
10:30 a.m. Parables Worship, Chapel
10:45 a.m. Traditions Worship, Sanctuary
Meridian Manor Worship, 1 p.m.
Smart Stepfamily Social, 11:45 a.m.
Wayzata Symphony Orchestra Concert, 3 p.m.

12

Archives, 9:30 a.m.
Women's AA, 10 a.m.
Wizard of Oz Rehearsal, 6:15 p.m.
Camp/Retreat Board, 6:30 p.m.
Al Anon, 7:30 p.m.

13

Thimble Bees, 9 a.m.
Executive Team, 5:30 p.m.
Wizard of Oz Rehearsal, 6:15 p.m.
High School Board, 6:30 p.m.
Building and Grounds Board, 7 p.m.
Personnel Committee, 7 p.m.
Parables Candlelight Conversations, 7 p.m.
OA, 7 p.m.

18

BAPTISMS

Rev. Dr. John F. Ross preaching

8 a.m. Chapel Communion, Chapel
9:00 a.m. Celebrations Worship, Sanctuary
Smart Stepfamily Class, 10:15 a.m.
10:30 a.m. Parables Worship, Chapel
10:45 a.m. Traditions Worship, Sanctuary
Meridian Manor Worship, 1 p.m.
Middle School Leaders Meeting, 11:45 a.m.
Minneapolis Civi Orchestra Concert, 3 p.m.

19

Middle School Ski, Board & Tubing Day, 8:30 a.m.
Archives, 9:30 a.m.
Women's AA, 10 a.m.
Soul Sisters Meeting, 6 p.m.
Parables Women's Book Club, 6:15 p.m.
Wizard of Oz Rehearsal, 6:15 p.m.
Al Anon, 7:30 p.m.

20

Wizard of Oz Rehearsal, 6:15 p.m.
Mission and Outreach Board, 6:30 p.m.
Wizard of Oz Rehearsal, 6:15 p.m.
Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
Unique Family Ministry Meeting, 7 p.m.
OA, 7 p.m.

25

Rev. Dr. John F. Ross preaching

8 a.m. Chapel Communion, Chapel
9:00 a.m. Celebrations Worship, Sanctuary
Smart Stepfamily Class, 10:15 a.m.
10:30 a.m. Parables Worship, Chapel
10:45 a.m. Traditions Worship, Sanctuary
Parables Buddy Informational Meeting, 11:30 a.m.
High School Colorado Trip Parent/Student Meeting, 12:30 p.m.
Meridian Manor Worship, 1 p.m.

26

Archives, 9:30 a.m.
Women's AA, 10 a.m.
Loaves and Fishes, 5:15 p.m.
Wizard of Oz Rehearsal, 6:15 p.m.
Al Anon, 7:30 p.m.

27

Thimble Bees Handicrafters, 9 a.m.
Wizard of Oz Rehearsal, 6:15 p.m.
Generosity Committee, 7 p.m.
OA, 7 p.m.



Join Rev. Lindy Purdy for Soup, Salad & Song on Wednesday, February 21 at 12 noon in Mithun Hall for delicious homemade soups, salads, bread and dessert!

Anyone "55 or Better" is invited to share in this! The lunch is free, and made possible by the committee and by those who wish to share their culinary skills with the group. Each lunch is a unique and wonderful experience of great food and fun.

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

Volunteers Needed!

Meals on Wheels program is an outreach ministry for the elderly, sick or recovering home-bound people in our area. Churches in our area have teams of volunteers who serve on a rotating basis. Meals are picked up at 10:15 a.m. by the Carlson Companies in Minnetonka. If you enjoy driving, Wayzata Community Church volunteers welcome to accompany you on your delivery. The trip is only 1-1.5 hours per time that you drive. Contact us for more information or to volunteer.

1

Women's AA, 10 a.m.
Baptism Milestone, 6 p.m.
CORE Class with Dr. Ron Troxel,
6:15 p.m.
Wizard of Oz Rehearsal, 6:15 p.m.

2

West Metro
League Kids
Night Out,
5:30 p.m.

Coffeehouse,
7 p.m.

3

Saturday Seekers, 8 a.m.
Old Timer's Basketball,
8:30 a.m.
Super Bowl Of Soul
Rehearsal, 9 a.m.
AA, 10 a.m.

7

Women's AA, 10 a.m.
CORE Classes, 10 a.m.
Soul Sisters Lunch Bunch, 11:30 a.m.
CORE Classes, 4 p.m.
Children's/Youth Choirs /Classes, 4:30 p.m.
Suppers, etc., 5:15 p.m.
Worship on Wednesday, 6:15 p.m.
CORE Classes, 7:15 p.m.
Children's and Youth Classes, 7:15 p.m.
Adult Choirs, 7:15 p.m.
Middle School Crossroads, 7:15 p.m.
High School Acts, 7:15 p.m.
AI Anon, 7:45 p.m.

8

Women's AA, 10 a.m.
Folkestone Bible Study, 11 a.m.
CORE Class with Dr. Ron Troxel,
6:15 p.m.
Wizard of Oz Rehearsal, 6:15 p.m.

9

Middle School
Guys Night,
6 p.m.

Coffeehouse,
7 p.m.

10

Saturday Seekers, 8 a.m.
Old Timer's Basketball,
8:30 a.m.
Wizard of Oz Rehearsal,
9 a.m.
Dr. Seuss Book
Breakfast, 9 a.m.
AA, 10 a.m.

14

ASH WEDNESDAY
Women's AA, 10 a.m.
Mission in Motion, 4 p.m.
Parables Young Adult Book Study, 5 p.m.
Suppers, etc., 5:15 p.m.
Ash Wednesday Service, 6:15 p.m.
Adult Choirs, 7:15 p.m.
Middle School Crossroads, 7:15 p.m.
Valentine's Day PrimeTime, 7:15 p.m.
AI Anon, 7:45 p.m.

15

Finance Committee, 6:45 a.m.
Women's AA, 10 a.m.
Third Thursday Readers, 1 p.m.
Wizard of Oz Rehearsal, 6:15 p.m.
Music Board, 7 p.m.

16

Kids' Night Out,
6 p.m.

Coffeehouse,
7 p.m.

17

Saturday Seekers, 8 a.m.
Old Timer's Basketball,
8:30 a.m.
Wizard of Oz Rehearsal,
9 a.m.
AA, 10 a.m.

21

Women's AA, 10 a.m.
Lent CORE Class, 10 a.m.
Soup, Salad and Song Lunch, 12 noon
Lent CORE Class, 4 p.m.
Children's/Youth Choirs /Classes, 4:30 p.m.
Parables Young Adult Book Study, 5 p.m.
Suppers, etc., 5:15 p.m.
Worship on Wednesday, 6:15 p.m.
Lent CORE Class, 7:15 p.m.
Children's and Youth Classes, 7:15 p.m.
Adult Choirs, 7:15 p.m.
Middle School Crossroads, 7:15 p.m.
High School Acts, 7:15 p.m.
AI Anon, 7:45 p.m.

22

Women's AA, 10 a.m.
Folkestone Bible Study, 11 a.m.
Bridge, 12 noon
Wizard of Oz Rehearsal, 6:15 p.m.

23

Parables
Respite/
Friendship
Night,
5 p.m.

Coffeehouse,
7 p.m.

24

Soul Sisters Retreat
(offsite)
Saturday Seekers, 8 a.m.
Old Timer's Basketball,
8:30 a.m.
Wizard of Oz Rehearsal,
9 a.m.
AA, 10 a.m.

28

Women's AA, 10 a.m.
Lent CORE Class, 10 a.m.
Lent CORE Class, 4 p.m.
Children's/Youth Choirs /Classes, 4:30 p.m.
Parables Young Adult Book Study, 5 p.m.
Suppers, etc., 5:15 p.m.
Winter Fun Crossroads, 6 p.m. (offsite)
Worship on Wednesday, 6:15 p.m.
Lent CORE Class, 7:15 p.m.
Children's and Youth Classes, 7:15 p.m.
Adult Choirs, 7:15 p.m.
High School Acts, 7:15 p.m.
AI Anon, 7:45 p.m.



Thimble Bees

All women— members and friends— are invited to enjoy fun, fellowship, and mission. The group meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month from 9:00 to 12:00 noon in Mithun Hall. Projects include baby blankets and quilts, knit scarves and hats, prayer shawls, and much more. Any level of skill is valued! All items are donated to area charities and hospitals to provide support, comfort, and encouragement. Questions? Contact Kathy Smith at 612-964-3591.



THE WIZARD OF OZ

Coming Up in March

- **The Wizard of Oz! March 14-18**
- **Maundy Thursday Service: March 29 at 7 p.m.**
- **Good Friday Service: March 30 at 5 p.m.**



Special Christmas Offering: Kimberly Meadows

A Christmas "wish" became a reality in December, through our Christmas Offering for the Community Room addition at Kimberly Meadows Affordable Housing in Plymouth.

Through your generosity, WCC received \$77,500 in donations at Christmas for this project. When combined with prior donations raised, this brings us to \$132,500 of the \$140,000 goal. Additional funding will be added by the WCC Mission and Outreach Board and by the owners of Kimberly Meadows. This will also help furnish the inside of the Community Room with tables, chairs, etc. Bidding for the construction project will begin soon and construction is hoped to begin in late spring.

This Community Room will provide a safe place for all 39 families at Kimberly Meadows, to help children learn and adults build community through the Interfaith Outreach "Neighborhood Program". WCC will also utilize the room each month by providing a community dinner to the families who live there, along with other activities that support the Neighborhood Program.

A Community Room is also planned in the construction of the new Cranberry Ridge Development near Hwy 55 and Old Rockford Road. Interfaith Outreach and WCC plan to provide the same Neighborhood Program for that development once it is built and occupied by families.

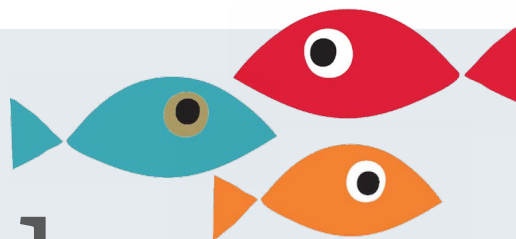
Blessings to all of you who donated to this project and thank you on behalf of all the Kimberly Meadows families. You have enriched their lives and yours.



Adopt-a-Neighborhood

Join us for Adopt-a-Neighborhood on February 27 at Interfaith Outreach (van shuttle provided) for an evening of Board games and GoNoodle! In partnership with Interfaith Outreach and Community Partners, Wayzata Community Church provides monthly dinners and activities for the residents of Kimberly Meadows Townhomes (at County Roads 6 & 101). Our program of Food, Fun and Fellowship helps us to be good neighbors. The dinners offer an opportunity for families to gather together, to get to know new families, to grow friendships and to maintain a safe, supportive and fun community. We believe that being good neighbors is essential to our faith. Conversation, sharing stories, and laughing together over a meal builds community and affirms that people are cared about and valued.

Each month we serve about 50 people. Volunteers are needed to help bring food, to set up and serve dinner and to help with the family activities after dinner. Adopt a Neighborhood events are great volunteer opportunities for families and people of all ages. Please contact Vicki Thompson at peterthompson9@comcast.net or 952-542-9152.



1. Attention all 15-25 Year Olds— Be a Parables Buddy! Come join us at our Information Session and learn how you can get involved in an immediate way to "Inspire the world with the inclusive love of Jesus." The Parables Ministry will be launching a Parables Buddy Program on Sunday, February 25, from 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. in the Colonnade. Pizza and drinks will be provided. Parables is a Sunday morning worship service and ministry designed to empower people with disabilities and special needs. It's a sacredly chaotic time where people of ALL abilities come together to celebrate who God uniquely created each of us to be. We have lots of opportunities to get involved— weekly to occasional events — with both long- and short- term commitments. We will provide all the necessary training. ***Smiles and hugs are a guarantee.***

2. Dr Seuss Book Breakfast! Join us on Saturday, February 10th from 9 a.m.-10:30 a.m. in Mithun Hall for a delicious breakfast and a morning full of whimsical and age-appropriate games, art, and a larger than life story time featuring this year's Dr. Seuss book, *The Lorax*. Tickets are \$5 per person or a max of \$20 per family.

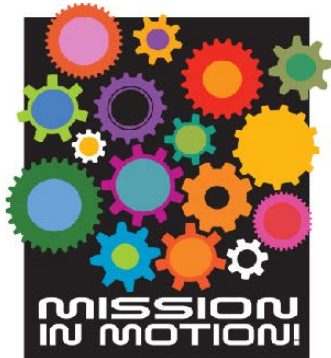


We will be hosting a book drive at this event. Bring a favorite children's book, new or gently used, and you will receive a special gift and a single raffle entry. For each additional 2 books brought, you will receive an additional single raffle entry. The winner will be chosen at random during the event and will receive a special Lorax themed gift basket!

Visit www.wayzatacommunitychurch.org/drseussbreakfast for more information and to purchase tickets.

3. Join us for Mission in Motion on Ash Wednesday! February 14 from 4:00-6:00 p.m.

The Wayzata Church Community is invited to join us on Ash Wednesday for an afternoon of hands-on service projects. This year the day we celebrate love—February 14th—is also a day to show love to our neighbors near and far! Join us in the Gym for our annual service and mission fair at WCC. We will make sandwiches for the homeless, fill bags of laundry soap for those in need, make dog and cat toys for the dog shelter... and so much more. Representatives from many organizations will be here also to tell you more about their non-profit and to encourage your family to continue volunteering. There is no cost for this event. Bring your friends!



In your home, how do you respond with hospitality?

Hospitality is a tangible, outward display of Godly character. Really? If that's true, then it's a stark change from what's on the cover of "Make Your Home A Welcome Place in Minutes Magazine". How many times do we consider hospitality as a Christian virtue, rather than what we are having for appetizers, how the house looks or the home décor we display? How do we extend hospitality to others when we are NOT at home, but at church or in a group?

If you are scratching your head on this one, you are not alone. So much of hospitality is not in what you serve or display, it's in the fact that you have opened your home or welcomed the stranger in the first place.

"Stranger? Who said anything about opening up my home to strangers?" Alexander Strauch explains this by saying, "Hospitality is a concrete expression of Christian love and family life. It is an important Biblical virtue. ... Giving oneself to the care of God's people means sharing one's life and home with others. An open home is a sign of an open heart and a loving, sacrificial, serving spirit. A lack of hospitality is a sure sign of selfish, lifeless, loveless Christianity." Hospitality is a tangible, outward display of Godly character.

Hospitality creates opportunities for relationship, for discipleship, and for evangelism. It creates a natural context for modeling marriage, parenting, and a host of Christian virtues. While we are to teach others what the Bible says, we are also to demonstrate what it says, and we do that by inviting people into our homes and into our lives.

So, how about you? Would others say that you are hospitable? Engage with these questions and be honest with yourself and with God:

- How many people from your church have you invited into your home for a meal? When was the last time someone stayed the night?
- Do others come to you when they need help, or do you give the impression that you don't want to be bothered?
- Is your family intentional about welcoming others into your home, even if they are different from you or if they make you feel awkward and uncomfortable?
- Why do you fear welcoming others into your life and your home? What promises has God given you that you can cling to for hope, peace, and assurance?

Copy excerpts from Tim Challies, "The Character of the Christian: Hospitable" Feb. 11, 2016



4. Make a Difference in a Child's Life! English Exchange – E2 ɣy tú? (And You?)

Wayzata Community Church is actively partnering with Opportunity International and Emprendedora school in Nicaragua. WCC members have already funded a technology center at the school. The next step is even more exciting – WCC members can participate in an "English as a Second Language (ESL)" mentoring program directly with Nicaraguan students at the school. Sign up to be a "Conversation Partner"! You don't have to go to Nicaragua. You can do it in the comfort of your own home or office or, if you'd prefer, within the friendly confines of Wayzata Community Church. All you need is a computer and an internet connection. You connect via Skype with two Nicaraguan students once a week for one-half hour and speak with them in English. Read more about this fabulous ministry on our website at www.wayzatacommunitychurch.org/mission-outreach/english-exchange-e2-y-tu/



Experience Friday evenings with great music and coffee drinks! Founders Hall will be transformed into a European Coffeehouse, featuring fabulous music, steamy coffee drinks from **roastlab**, and delicious desserts (included in the price of your ticket)! Doors open at 7 p.m., and music begins at 7:30 p.m. Tickets (\$10) available at the door.

FEBRUARY 2: MICHAEL MONROE WITH CHRIS JANTZEN AND MARK ANDERSON.

Michael's unique creation of music blends rich vocals, guitar, bamboo and glass flutes, combining musical styles of acoustic folk and jazzy reggae.

FEBRUARY 9: COURTNEY YASMINEH. Courtney brings her sassy alt-rock/indie pop singer-songwriter magic to Coffeehouse with clever lyrics and her amazing band!

FEBRUARY 16: ALISON SCOTT AND HER BAND return to Coffeehouse with her soulful, organic, and empowering music.

FEBRUARY 23: DAISY DILLMAN ACOUSTIC. Stymie, Feagan & Pat bring the best of "West Coast" Country Rock: Poco, Eagles, Buffalo Springfield and Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young.



Super Bowl of Soul Sunday!

Sunday, February 4, 2018

9:00 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

Join us for Super Bowl of Soul with J.D. Steele, Guest Director, the WCC Community Gospel Choir, Fred Steele on keyboards, and special guest worship leader, Tonia Hughes! Everyone is invited to sing with the community choir. Children ages 10+ are welcome to sing; if under 10 years of age we ask that they sing with a parent or guardian. Workshops will be held these dates (childcare provided for each workshop):

- **Wednesday January 31, 7:30-9:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary AND/OR**
- **Saturday, February 3, 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary**



Music at Wayzata

Wayzata Symphony Orchestra

Music without Borders with Guest Artist Andrew Staupe, Piano

Sunday, February 11, 2018 • 3:00 p.m.

Arturo Marquez: *Danzon No. 2*

Sergei Rachmaninoff: *Piano Concerto No. 2 Op. 18 in c minor*

Alexander Borodin: *Polovtsian Dances* (from Prince Igor)

This special concert highlights the universal language of music that transcends all barriers and draws us together. The concert is free, no ticket required. Please join us for a reception following the concert to meet the musicians.



Spirit Award: Katherine Poindexter

The December Spirit Award was presented to member of the Church Council. She is passionate about helping others and is known for encouraging others to achieve their personal best in life as she walks alongside people of all ages, helping them create their own stories. She lives out her personal goal of leaving the world around her in a better place than she found it. She makes a true difference in the lives of many people at Wayzata Community Church.

Katherine Poindexter has been a WCC member for more than a decade, she can woo the young and old, and yearns to get to know new people. She'll stand before many and share a story. She is loved by numerous young people and enjoys sharing life events. She'll search for just the right person at the right time to fit a great opportunity. She is a wonderful mom of two awesome kids and came to WCC through the Cherub Choir.

Katherine is currently serving in her second year of High School leadership and her fifth year of Middle School leadership. Her Turkey Bowl costumes are award winning! Just imagine how cool it is to have this strong, independent woman as your guide in your Christian journey. She also coordinates our lay scripture readers known to many as Word, Inc and serves us on Council's Personnel Committee.

Katherine – you are a truly remarkable woman... thank you for serving at WCC!



CARES

If we can be helpful before or during your hospital stay, please call our Pastoral staff at the church, 952-473-8877.

HOSPITALIZATIONS

Sadie Andrews
Richard Wing

Karen Freeman
Tad Dyrda

Tom Alexander

CONDOLENCES

- Friends and family on the death of Ralph Turtinen, on January 2, 2018.
- Dave Holden and family on the death of Ellie Holden, on January 7, 2018.
- Marie Shutte and family on the death of her father, Shannon Tomasine O'Neil, on January 14, 2018.
- Kirt Woodhouse and family on the death of Woody Woodhouse, on January 20, 2018.

Interfaith Partners for Peace Roundtable Discussion on Forgiveness Sunday, February 25 at 4:00 p.m. Bet Shalom Congregation 13613 Orchard Rd, Hopkins, MN 55305

What is forgiveness? Why does it matter? How do Jews, Christians and Muslims understand and practice forgiveness? These are some of the questions we will get to hear addressed and then discuss together in this first Roundtable Discussion. We hope you'll join us for this great opportunity for interfaith conversation, understanding and friendship with neighbors of the Abrahamic faith traditions. This roundtable is sponsored by Interfaith Partners for Peace: Adath Jeshruan Congregation, Bet Shalom Congregation, Northwest Islamic Community Center, St. Edward the Confessor Episcopal Church, and Wayzata Community Church. All are welcome!



inspire! Magazine is published by Wayzata Community Church, A United Church of Christ Congregation. Assigned articles, or story ideas, may be emailed to Cami Farley at cfarley@wayzatacommunitychurch.org. Please call Katie Kraus at 952-473-8877, ext. 228 with address changes or if you would like to be removed from the *inspire!* Magazine mailing list. Upcoming deadlines: 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, February 6 for the March 2018 issue.

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PERIODICAL

TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL

Pause: A Lenten Practice

Pause: Living a whole life... attentively... together... in the real world... for the good of all... in response to God.

This year during Lent we are going to do things a bit differently. Instead of a Lenten study, we are going to do a cooperative Lenten practice. Each Wednesday at 10:00 a.m., 4:00 p.m., and 7:15 p.m. we will gather in the Colonnade, to pause. As we practice pausing, taking a break, breathing deeply... we will learn to be attentive to ourselves, to others, and to the Divine.

We recognize that our faith, while practiced in church, is lived in the world. As we pause, we will look at what the lessons of the week have brought before us to learn. Together we will receive these gifts both messy and beautiful, and we will respond. We will move to action for the good of all people.

Our deepest desire is that, as we move through the business of the new year, with deep intention we can learn to encounter our lives in new ways. Join us as we learn to practice attentive whole living.

Pause will meet on Wednesdays, February 21-March 28, led by Rev. Rustin Comer and Rev. Danielle Jones.

CORE