

inspire

WAYZATA COMMUNITY CHURCH

FALL 2020

STAYING Connected

BY JANICE SRNEC, WCC MEMBER

Our family is very thankful that WCC has offered so many ways to stay "together while apart." We've missed our usual Wednesday nights, Sunday mornings, and summer traditions.... but we've tried out and enjoyed many of the new ways we can participate from home.

We each had very different favorites, some of which took us by surprise! Online versions of worship, board meetings, adult Bible study, and the Mom's Podcast group helped Matt and me stay connected to our routines and our community.

What surprised us was just how much fun both kids had during their online spring retreats. Silas loved the fast paced treasure hunts, finding things in the house and bringing them back to the computer. Julia enjoyed her Wednesday high school small group and getting to know Molly during Freshman weekly chats.



This summer, Matt, Julia and Silas Srneć participated in Family Ministry programs from home. One of Silas' favorite activities was "making frozen s'mores", as shown below!

Spring went well, but the summer activities were highlights for all of us. Both kids participated in 'Camp-in-a-Box' and liked having the opportunity to really get to know their counselors. The daily challenges kept them busy and had them looking forward to seeing what the other campers came up with. Matt's favorite summer event was taking Silas for the camp Wednesday drive through and having Silas 'do the hula' with the counselors. Julia also was part of online work crew. Even though the crew was small and it was very different than helping at camp, it was her favorite summer event!



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Family Ministry Fall Events

Our Family Ministry team is offering these fun events this fall! Register on our website at www.wayzatacommunitychurch.org/fallregistration

CONNECTED, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Some of the things we tried were brand new this year. Each week our whole family looked forward to materials being dropped off for Silas' "Making It" with Christa. Over the summer he cooked, hammered, painted or assembled with Christa and other middle school students over Zoom. He says his favorites were "making frozen s'mores and the nail art project to hang in his room." Matt said "It was so creative – I learned a few things too!"

My favorites were the Family Fun Box – Food Challenge and the Project Joy Box. It was so nice to open the box and have quality family time ready to go. We spent multiple evenings playing the Family Fun games and working on projects to take and donate to IOCP and the Humane Society.

Sometimes it took a little more intention to sign up for an online version of something we would rather do in person, but we were surprised how often this allowed us to get to know other church members better. Some of the box activities were things we would never have chosen for our family, but trying them out was fun and helped us to connect with each other.



A Family Fun Box (top photo) was one of Janice's favorite activities to do as a family. Silas created lawn dice from one of the "Making It" kits offered by Christa Bowman for Middle School participants this summer (photo below).

Staying connected and deepening connections are what all of these things have in common. As we reflect on the last few months, we realize both how WCC is really our village as we raise our kids and how being apart has made us value it more than ever.

Thanks to the Srnec family for sharing their "Together" story!

Fall Family Fun Boxes

Pick up on Wednesday, November 4

Family Fun Boxes were such a hit this summer, so we're bringing you new boxes for the fall! Your WCC Family Ministry Team will put together a night for your family to enjoy that takes care of the fun, food & fellowship. The November Box is all about competition... that's right, Minute to Win It style competition! When you register we will ask you some specific questions so that your activities are age-appropriate with activity level preference. Boxes are \$40 per family.

Halloween Event

Saturday, October 31, 2 - 5 p.m.

This inclusive event is great for all ages and abilities!

Celebrate Halloween with us in a fun and safe way for the whole family! Wear a costume and join us in the WCC parking lot. This event will include a safe Trunk or Treat Experience along with pumpkin decorating. You can choose to decorate and carve your pumpkin onsite, or pick it up and take it home. Families will sign up to arrive at a certain time so that families can be spaced out and we can maintain safe social distancing. Cost is \$5 per person (\$20 max per family).



FOR THE MOMENT

REV. DR. JOHN ROSS
SENIOR MINISTER

**Come on in...
the water is fine!**

Exodus 14 is one of the most recognizable stories in all of scripture: the parting of the Red Sea. Moses and the Israelites have stood up to Pharaoh and escaped into the wilderness. They come to the shore of the Red Sea with Pharaoh's army gaining ground behind them. To lead them into the water was to drown. To do nothing was to be captured.

Hebrew Midrash brings commentary, details, and depth beyond the words on the page—the story beyond the story. In the Rabbinic tradition, the Midrash is an extension of the sacred text into interpretation, reflection, and ideas.

The Midrash of Exodus 14 goes that as the leaders of the tribes of Israel were stuck between water and a murderous army, they did what all good congregations do: sat down, argued about the situation, and formed committees. There on the banks the committee met and NO decision about what to do was made. Anxious, scared, and trapped the people grew restless. What to do? Where to go? Who to lead?

Nashon, from among the people, unwilling to wait any longer stood up and headed for the water. As the sand shifted between his feet with every step, he remembered the promises of God to be with them. He thought about why they were there in the first place and found a new source of hope and courage.

Nashon walked straight into the water. First only up to his ankles—the water didn't part. Then up to his knees—the water didn't part. Up to his waist, chest, and shoulders but still the water did not part! As the water closed in around his chin, began to lap his ear lobes, and just before it flooded his nostrils the sea parted. The rest of the story is "history" as they say, and the whole scene can instruct us in moments of paralyzing fear.

For the moment, consider the challenges squeezing in on you. Consider the forces challenging our church. Consider the seemingly no-win situations of our world. And then remember the promises of God to be with you... providing hope and courage. And then, just one trusting step at a time... walk straight into the water of the unknown. Listen for Nashon saying to you: Come on in... the water is fine!

Be well. Know that you're loved.

John

worship



**For The Living Of These
Days: A Worship Series
On Wisdom & Courage
Beginning Sunday, October 25**

2020 is not the only year in history that has brought challenges to our nation and world that are beyond our imagination. It won't be the last. 1931 was a year full of challenges—in the U.S. and around the world. In the midst of those challenges was written one of the most memorable and meaningful hymns in the Protestant tradition: God of Grace and God of Glory.

Across four verses there is a repeated and repeating line: *Grant us wisdom, grant us courage*. This bold prayer lifted to God finds specific expression in four specific ways that will each serve as a theme throughout the series:

10/25: ...for the facing of this hour...

11/1: ...for the living of these days...

11/8: ...lest we miss your kingdom's goal...

11/15: ...serving you whom we adore...

What can we learn from words written in 1931? How can we lean on God's grace and God's glory in 2020? What wisdom and courage is waiting to be discovered... for the living of these days?

Join us for this series online or in-person worship beginning Sunday, October 25.



"I believe that we, as a society, are still in a state of praxis... we are still learning that to bear witness to the majesty of life is our humanity."

BY ELLIE SANFORD

Called to dream

When I was confirmed at WCC, I received a block of wood. I was told I should ask someone who had influenced my faith journey to give it to me. I spent a long time thinking about who I would ask and moments before the ceremony, I pulled aside a boy in my class. He was the only one in our year choosing not to be confirmed. I asked if he would be willing to give me my block. Without question or any conversation, he agreed.

I chose him because he wasn't sure. Maybe he didn't believe, but he kept showing up and participating. He reminded me that I was still becoming, and I was not finished. The ceremony and the version of me I was, was not final.

I believe that we, as a society, are still in a state of praxis. We are still becoming. We are still learning that to bear witness to the majesty of life is our humanity. However, we teach ourselves to believe that we already are, and this arrogance only serves to enable forgetfulness. So, we find comfort in forgetting, believing we are not authors, contributors, participants, or neighbors of the world. And in so doing, we lose the ability to be remade. We become static characters in a story already written.

Editor's Note: In the midst of the social unrest and racial turmoil of this past summer, many of our members were moved to engage and to help. We asked one of our lifelong members, Ellie Sanford, a 22 year old recent college graduate, to write about her motivation, experience, and opinions.





“Things might be better now than they were 100 years ago, but that doesn’t mean we should stop. I believe that Jesus looked at the world around him and reminded us to dream.”

But I want to be what that boy reminded me I was. I want to be a dynamic individual undergoing major transformation in a story that is still being written. That is why after centuries of systemic and systematic discrimination and in the wake of George Floyd’s murder, I am called to action.

I collected money to donate supplies in the weeks following Memorial Day. I protested. But mostly, I dreamed. I watched, believing the protesting, weeping, rioting, burning, and shouting was testimony of our praxis. I heard the outcry of witness in gas filled skies. Our city burned and I realized we had believed the lie. Things might be better now than they were 100 years ago, but that doesn’t mean we should stop. I believe that Jesus looked at the world around him and reminded us to dream. Roman’s pleas, *do not to let the world around you squeeze you into its mold*. We pray every Sunday, “on earth as it is in heaven”.

I am honored to write this piece. However, it should not take atrocious imagery of Black bodies experiencing violence to be “called into action.” It should not take the burning of buildings to see the poverty. It horrifies me that a video of murder must go viral in order for people to affirm and acknowledge that racial discrimination is real and life threatening. There is overwhelming evidence that affirms the existence of racial disparity, countless individuals speaking and sharing their experiences, and still, it took a viral video of murder and the destruction of property for our nation to consider acknowledging that racism is a public health crisis. That is not heaven. But we are still becoming. Black Lives Matter.



Photos by Ellie Sanford

Why I Said Yes!

There once was a man who lived in Wayzata. He lived on Grove Avenue with his loving wife and four daughters in the house that his father-in-law built. He was a successful businessman, serving as President of First National Bank in Minneapolis. He was well known in his community. It was said that the train conductor would see him standing along the tracks and stop to give him a lift into Minneapolis. He loved his community and wanted to give back in any way he could. After returning home from WWI, he helped establish the Veteran's of Foreign Wars post in Wayzata, serving as the post's First Commander.



Sarah's grandfather, Arthur Quay, with three of his four daughters. The baby on his lap is Sarah's mother, Nancy Quay Crist.

He was a deeply faithful man, as a member of the Congregational Church of Wayzata located then on the corner of Rice and Walker Streets. He could be found worshiping and singing in the choir every Sunday. When the membership of the church grew to 600 and there was not enough seating for Sunday services, the congregation decided it was time to relocate and build a new church. Serving as a member of the committee tasked to find a new location, this man helped to move and rebuild the church on the corner of Ferndale and old Highway 12. The new church, dedicated in the Spring of 1949 was now officially called Wayzata Community Church.

This man continued to worship and serve his new church until his passing in 1951 at the young age of 56. I can only imagine the hopes, fears and dreams that this man and his fellow congregants had as they moved the church to a new location, one that lovingly came to be referred to as "the little church on the hill in Wayzata".

This man was Arthur Quay, my grandfather and the father of my mother, Nancy Quay Crist. Knowing what I know about my grandfather, I imagine that part of his legacy was to leave a place for all in the community to come together so they could continue to worship and grow in Christ.

So when I was asked to serve as Chair of the Generosity Committee this year, I thought of my grandfather, and the legacy he left, the legacy I wanted to help preserve, and I said, "Yes!"

I feel honored to be able to serve our church while fulfilling the legacy of my grandfather. By giving my time, as well as pledging to give again this year, I am not only fulfilling his legacy, but I am starting to plant the seeds of my own legacy. One I hope my children and their future families can be part of for years to come.

I hope you can all join me and my family in pledging your support for 2021. I realize for many of us that this may be a more challenging year and ask that you prayerfully consider your legacy and give as you are able.

**Sincerely yours,
Sarah Linden
Generosity Committee Chair**



To make your 2021 pledge to the "Together" Generosity Campaign, please visit www.wccpledge.org

Reaching Out

BY CARLA JACOBSON

During the first days of the Covid quarantine, I found myself feeling stressed, isolated and lonely. When the call for homemade fabric masks came out, I grabbed my box of cotton fabrics. (I'm embarrassed to say I made hundreds of masks without buying any fabric.) Who knew sewing could save the world! First, I gave masks to my friends, then I checked in with church. I gave masks to many of the staff, then expanded to mailing masks to many of the seniors at church. I was not alone—many of my friends joined in to make masks for hospitals, Hammer Residences, clinics and more. We swapped elastic and fabric to maximize resources. It was a perfect way to help when we felt such uncertainty.

I have always had some kind of volunteer work, but we were all quarantined in our homes! After feeling sorry for myself for way too long, I thought about what other people might be experiencing. I'm fortunate to have dogs and a nearby trail so I could get outside, but of course, not everyone does. I realized people in care facilities were essentially locked in their rooms.

After talking with Rustin Comer, I decided to start a group to write letters to seniors. The church gave me a list of names, so I contacted everyone I know asking for help. We now each write to five people about twice a month. Some real friendships have developed. I am so grateful to have these outlets to share the love of God's family.

One of my recruits has been writing to five women and sadly, two of them have passed away during this time. She writes, "Peggy, one of my women, called me after she received a few letters. She shared with me a little about her family and how she was coping with staying at home during Covid. I loved hearing from her and was hoping I would be lucky enough to hear from her again. Each time I wrote to her I would include a little note, prayer, or other small item. One time I sent a copy of the Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi, one of my favorite prayers. A few days later, Peggy's son called to let me know that Peggy had died unexpectedly and that the Prayer of St. Francis was the last piece of mail she had read. I was so saddened by her death, and so touched by the call from her son."

So, we truly are together in this, even though we may be home alone. Reaching out to others may make all the difference in someone else's life, and also in ours.





BY ROB WILLIAMS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND FOUNDER OF THE SHERIDAN STORY

More than 200,000 children in Minnesota experience food insecurity. Without reliable access to food – such as free and reduced meal programs at school – the risk of hunger is very real. The Sheridan Story began as a response to this need at Sheridan Elementary in Minneapolis.

Fighting Hunger

The Sheridan Story came to fruition through a mission initiative at Colonial Church in Edina, through the same model that we used to develop our new initiative, Dough.

children at Sheridan Elementary for a couple years and wondered if we could do the same at more schools in Minnesota. Could we develop a network of partners that could fill the food gaps children face during weekends?

We weren't sure, and we only had a general framework, not a fully developed plan, when we applied for Innové. Throughout the whole process The Sheridan Story significantly benefited from our relationship with Innové and the coaches and mentors who came from the pews of Colonial Church.

The funding was certainly helpful, but it was just one component of the support we received. The coaching and connections made to subject experts like lawyers, designers, and strategists who collaborated in developing a full business plan, were invaluable. Innové allowed us to launch The Sheridan Story as a full non-profit and was instrumental in our trajectory of growth.

Now, seven years after Innové, our organization has provided over 6 million meals to children and families in our community. We now

have food programs serving over 10,000 children across 300 locations. And we still retain a close partnership and relationship with Colonial Church and its congregants – many of whom continue to serve in key volunteer roles, including on our Board of Directors.

As Innové has given rise to Dough at Wayzata Community Church, it's an opportunity to not just give away money. It's an opportunity for Wayzata Community Church to help change injustices in our community – through your knowledge, relationships, vocational experience, wisdom and, yes, also funding. I'm thrilled that Wayzata Community Church is offering Dough, as I'm proof that the process helps give rise to new ideas.

The imagery of dough and bread also brings to mind Jesus' words from the story of the feeding of the 5,000 in Matthew 14: 15-18. *When Jesus saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick. As evening approached, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a remote place, and it's already getting late. Send the crowds away, so they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food." Jesus replied, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat." "We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish," they answered. "Bring them here to me," he said.*

I'm not a pastor, but my understanding is when Jesus said something he meant it. I also believe God works through his people: that's US. There are many, many more problems in this world that God is waiting for us to help solve.

I strongly encourage your involvement and investment in WCC's Dough.



DOUGH

Wayzata Community Church is a community of humble followers of Jesus Christ who choose, by God's grace, to live by love, seek continual transformation, and equip all to be servant leaders in the Twin Cities and throughout the world. In other words, the energy Christians gain from their relationship to Jesus within this faith community is ultimately intended for the sake of others.

The purpose of Dough is to identify, empower, and prioritize the use of the human and financial resources from within Wayzata Community Church for the sake of entrepreneurial ventures with program models that would ideally serve as catalysts for self-reliance and empowerment, promoting human flourishing.

Wayzata Community Church intends to be faithful stewards of our resources for the sake of the Kingdom of God. WCC has people, relationships, experience, and facilities to assist and direct mission endeavors. We desire to unleash these resources for the sake of Christ's work in the world. Further, WCC desires to be a place where people are drawn to develop and use their particular gifts, talents, and skills.

Finally, Wayzata Community Church has been challenged to heed a personal and collective calling to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our Lord. Historically, common mission works to generate enthusiasm, galvanize service, solicit deeper faith, necessitate prayer, build community, and bear fruit for the kingdom of God. Wayzata Community Church seeks to do that which will stretch us toward greater faith and dependence on Christ as we demonstrate love for our neighbors.

Visit our website to read Frequently Asked Questions, how Dough works, and how you can be involved as a mentor, navigator, or skills coach to social entrepreneurs through Dough.

www.doughgrants.com



Legacy Conversation Series

A series of 3 Legacy Conversation videos are available on our website for on-demand viewing. These conversations are led by Rev. S. Lindy Purdy, Pastor Emerita, joined by a team of committed and knowledgeable members, and offered to all generations as a way to prepare for, plan for, and share the gift of legacy with family and community.

In Session One, we look at giving the gift of information with **“Courageous Conversations: Practical Planning for Close Family Members.”** This gift provides loved-ones confidence and comfort in managing the end of a life journey. We explore how to honor the wishes of a loved one at the time of death, and explore resources that will make this transition more manageable. Whether you are preparing these documents for yourself or for a parent, sibling or friend, this gift will be truly appreciated when that time comes.

In Session Two, we turn to the softer side of our legacy gifts—**How do we want to be remembered?** How can we retain “membership” in the communities of meaning that have been so important on our life journey? We explore creative ideas, memories and values that will endure long beyond our lifetime, and will have the added benefit of allowing us to savor important milestones and memories while still living with those we love and value.

Session Three is entitled **“Legacy Living and Legacy Giving”**. In this session, we turn toward specific ways to pass things along. We start with Ethical Wills, a formal way to put into writing the values and teachings that we want our families, friends and communities to know. We conclude with an “Estate Will” or estate plan that enables continuing financial gifts that support the generations who will come after us.

Together, these strategies for planned giving will insure that the things that matter most to us will live beyond our physical lifetimes.

Visit our website to view this Legacy Series.



Planned Giving

Planned Giving is a legacy opportunity for everyone. We invite you to join the WCC Legacy Society, which honors those individuals who have remembered Wayzata Community Church in their wills and financial plans. You don't have to be wealthy to include WCC in your will, trust, or long range giving plans. Planned giving is for anyone with a generous spirit for whom WCC has been meaningful. To find out more, please contact Jim Rice, Planned Giving Chair.





We would love to hear from you when you have a new baby or grandbaby, so we can share the good news with your church family.

BIRTHS

JP & Aleisha Rondeau announce the birth of Ellis John Rondeau born May 1, 2020.

BAPTISMS

- Milo Donald Johnson, son of Clare and Trent Johnson.
- Lennon Mae Johnson, daughter of Clare and Trent Johnson.
- Joie Clare Jonson, daughter of Clare and Trent Johnson.
- William John Hoff, son of Matthew and Erin Hoff.
- Audrey Jeanne Hoff, daughter of Matthew and Erin Hoff.
- Nyla Lynn Quigley, daughter of Wayne and Lindsey Quigley.
- Brynn Ruth Rusin, daughter of Grant and Amanda Rusin.
- Jonah Bernard Schmitt, son of Matthew and Jacqueline Schmitt.
- Asher Einar Lee Ameluxen, son of Brian and Carlee Ameluxen.
- Hazel Alberta Tangen, daughter of Kevin and Kristen Tangen.
- Carson William Foreman, son of Aaron and Aubrey Foreman.
- Caroline Elizabeth Walk, daughter of Nicholas and Susanne Walk.

CARES

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

DEATHS

- Scott Udell and family on the death of his father, Donald Udell, on April 5, 2020.
- Family and friends on the death of Jill Davis, on April 5, 2020.
- Victor Hallberg and family on the death of his mother, Mildred Hallberg, on April 7, 2020.
- Carrie Cosler on the death of her mother, Nancy Cosler, on April 8, 2020.
- Friends and family on the death of Nadine Storms, on April 15, 2020.
- Jeff Urban and family on the death of his father, Bob Urban, on April 17, 2020.
- Lisa Malay and family on the death of her father, John Kraft, on April 20, 2020.
- Rick Graft and family on the death of his son, Trey Graft, on April 26, 2020.
- Carla Broich and family on the death of her mother, Patricia Duerner, on April 27, 2020.
- Roger Patterson and family on the death of his mother,

Gert Patterson, on April 29, 2020.

- Friends and family on the death of Nancy Pothilla, on May 2, 2020.
- Kaye O'Leary and family and friends on the death of Ken Melrose, on May 3, 2020.
- Kathleen Palmer and family on the death of her mother, Mary Ann Jaye, on May 4, 2020.
- Nicole McKay and family on the death of her father, Thomas McKay, on May 8, 2020.
- Vicki Thompson, Shelley Perkins and their family on the death of their mother and grandmother, Doris Zink-Wood, on May 9, 2020.
- Penny Sprague and family on the death of her husband, David Sprague, on May 15, 2020.
- Kathie Challengren and family on the death of her husband, Carl Challengren, on May 22, 2020.
- MaryKay Keenan and family on the death of her sister, Vicki Ferrin, on May 27, 2020.
- Raymond Haverstock and family on the death of his father, Jim Haverstock, on May 31, 2020.
- Linda Blyth and family on the death of her husband, Peter Blyth, on June 10, 2020.
- Sally Shultz and family on the death of her husband, Robert Shultz, on June 17, 2020.
- Caden Ladner and family on the death of her father, Bob Henderson, on June 15, 2020.
- June McGrath and Gretchen Vroege and their family on the death of their husband and father, Donald McGrath, on June 21, 2020.
- Bob Weaver and family on the death of his mother, Peggy Weaver, on June 24, 2020.
- Friends and family on the death of Ruth Horvath, on July 3, 2020.
- Sheila Chaffee and Beth Malloy and family on the death of her husband and father, Richard Chaffee, on July 9, 2020.
- Rick Gegenheimer and Laura Janckila and family on the death of his sister and her aunt, Judy Chavez, on July 8, 2020.
- Lenore Watkins and family on the death of her brother, Alan Scholtes, on July 14, 2020.
- Jeff Davis and family on the death of his mother, Sherry Davis, on July 16, 2020.
- Stan Wiebe and family on the death of his brother, Harry Wiebe.
- Alan Diamond and family on the death of his brother, Harvey Diamond, on July 30, 2020.
- Michael and Rick Palm and their families on the death of their father, Reuben Palm, on August 9, 2020.
- Friends and family on the death of Elizabeth Powell, on August 14, 2020.
- Anne Sample and family on the death of her nephew, Walter deBruin, on September 6, 2020.
- Morry Hodges and Parker Hodges and family on the death of his wife and mother, AJ Hodges, on September 11, 2020.
- Friends and family of Bob Stout, on September 12, 2020.
- Rebecca Hopf and family on the death of her mother, Carol Hopf, on September 15, 2020.
- Carole Kilmanas and family on the death of her brother, Gene Van Roekel, on September 15, 2020.
- Friends and family on the death of Jean Stark, on September 20, 2020.

WAYZATA COMMUNITY CHURCH
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PERIODICAL
TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL



Worship with us!

IN-PERSON WORSHIP

We now offer a Sunday service in the Sanctuary at 10 a.m. Attendance is by reservation only; please register for worship each week. Please visit our website to register at www.wayzatacommunitychurch.org/registerforworship

ONLINE WORSHIP

We also offer 4 online services on Sundays, on Youtube, our Facebook page and our website. Our services include a blend of music styles and an inspiring sermon each week.

- 8 a.m.
- 9 a.m.
- 10 a.m. Parables
- 10:45 a.m.

All our digital services are available to watch on-demand on our website at any time— check out our worship archives.