

inspire

WAYZATA COMMUNITY CHURCH

SPRING 2021

Holy Moments

a reservoir of the sacred

Holy Moments... they might also be described as those times when God simply winked

BY JAKE BEARD, WCC MEMBER

You, no doubt, remember the story about the guy who was running late for an important meeting but found the streets to be packed with nowhere to park. "Please, please, dear God. I'm desperate and can NOT afford to miss this one. If you can help, I promise to never miss church again; I'll even stop swearing and I'll tithe every year from now on." At that precise moment, a car began to pull away from the curb directly in front of him. "Oh, never mind what I was saying, Lord. Someone's just leaving so I'll simply duck in there. Thanks anyway."

In real life, some would describe what happened as pure luck or perhaps dumb luck. Others might look at it as merely a coincidence. Still others... who have their antenna properly affixed... recognize it as perhaps another time when God chose to remain anonymous.

Hasn't this happened to all of us? Of course, it has. And, it doesn't have to be all that complicated. Think about the time someone with whom you connect was going through your mind and suddenly your phone rang. Sure enough, there they were. In typical

fashion, you were both surprised for about a nanosecond, laughed, smiled, felt refreshed and moved on to the topic du jour.

I had one the other day, too. While sending an electronic Love Letter to a dear friend about to retire from a local non-profit, the same magic happened. A book was being assembled as a way of saying "Thanks." (Fortunately, someone recognized that unexpressed gratitude doesn't carry much weight.) The e-instructions said each participant's letter was limited to a max of 1000 characters. That included spaces, periods and any other punctuations. There was even a counter in the lower right corner of the screen. Midway through this note, I noticed the counter was actually keeping score. When completed, I happened to glance at the tally. It was exactly at 1000! I even tried typing a couple more letters to see what would happen.

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WAYZATA COMMUNITY CHURCH

“

Think of it as your personal Oh-Ya Journal... Whatever you call it doesn't matter. What *does* is the chance to build up our own personal soul-bank: a reservoir of the sacred.

”

Nothing. Not one more space was allowed. Upon seeing this, I paused for the same nanosecond. I smiled. Editing seemed like an unnecessary exercise and pressed the Send button. Everybody can think of other, far more poignant moments, too. Can't you?

These are Holy Moments. They might also be described as those times when God simply winked.

There's a problem, though. If our proverbial antenna isn't tuned in, we might miss them. Worse yet, we get busy, move on... and then forget. Really! The obvious solution is to write these priceless treasures down, sooner rather than later.

Better still, how about immediately? Think of it as your personal *Oh-Ya Journal* if that feels better than Holy Moments. Whatever you call it doesn't matter. What *does* is the chance to build up our own personal soul-bank: a reservoir of the sacred.

Perhaps you're already keeping this kind of journal. If so, good-on-you as they say in some circles. If not, just think of the comfort this collection of affirmations will give you... especially during moments when they are needed most.

Then someday, maybe, just maybe we can come together as a community of faith and share a few of our favorites. Together, we'll laugh, smile, and be refreshed. Oh ya, and give thanks. What do you think?

serve



A Truckload of Happy Memories

BY JUDY REED, WCC MEMBER

When my kids were little and we were living in Ohio, the yellow Tonka Toys were a big deal. They were very well made and very durable.

Never did I know the history of Tonka Toys, nor did I ever in my foggiest dreams expect to one day be living in "Tonka-land". When we moved to Minnesota, the remaining Tonka Toys in our Ohio attic were recycled to others unknown.

As a part of a WCC Mission committee, we support a Hammer House group home with 6 young adult residents, 4 men and 2 women. While we are unable to be together for activities during Covid, we have provided some activity items to this home.

One of the projects was making sensory boxes, which use kinetic sand and a lot of "touchy-feely" items. In the field of Special Needs, these are especially enjoyed by people with autism.

My first attempt at creating a sensory box is this construction site, using, of course, Tonka Toys. What joy I have experienced in getting to "play" with toys that brought back a truckload of happy memories.

For my second box I think I will use blue kinetic sand and create a beach theme. I pray the residents of our Hammer home enjoy them as much as I have.

What joy I have experienced in getting to 'play' with toys that brought back a truckload of happy memories...



FOR THE MOMENT

REV. DR. JOHN ROSS
SENIOR MINISTER

False Peaks

I lift up my eyes to the hills—from where will my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. (Psalm 121, NRSV)

Adrenaline had taken over several minutes earlier and I was on cruise control taking one carefully chosen step at a time. Some clergy friends and I were climbing to the peak of Black Mountain near Cave Creek, Arizona, and making great progress at a heart-pounding pace.

None of us knew the exact distance to the top or how long it would take, but we could see a place, not far ahead, where the rocky terrain met the azure sky above — at last, the peak! We would soon be rewarded with a 360-degree view of Phoenix. With our knees nearly touching our noses with every huge step up, we were finally at the top. But the view would have to wait, as what we had just experienced was a “false peak.”

I should have seen it coming — I’ve climbed enough mountains to know about these moments when optimism and hope turn to disappointment and discouragement. And, I should have seen it coming — I’ve hiked the journey of faith long enough to know that optimism and hope often give way to disappointment and discouragement.

This past year of pandemic-living has brought many false peaks. Just when it seemed the air had cleared (literally!) and our lives would soon return to normal, another wave of infections and social-distancing sent us back into our bunkers of isolation. Even as we celebrated Easter a few days ago, we believe we have arrived at the summit of faith, but we quickly became aware that challenges still lie ahead and we must keep moving.

For the moment, when in your faith journey you arrive at a false peak, take joy in knowing that while the path may have changed, the destination has not. Lean on and draw from the faith that has brought you thus far, and keep taking one carefully chosen step at a time. In time you will reach a peak and the next journey will begin: climbing down.

In faith,

John

GRACE

What's So Amazing About Grace?

A Post-Easter Sermon Series

The Rev. Dr. John F. Ross

Will God truly save every person? How “good” do we have to be? Doesn’t the Bible say that only Christians go to heaven? If God’s grace extends to all people, why did Jesus have to die?

If you have ever asked these or similar questions about the concept of grace, join us for a post-Easter sermon series that seeks not to diminish the importance of the death and resurrection of Jesus, but to bring even more centrality to it. Join us for this important conversation!

IN-PERSON and ONLINE WORSHIP UPDATE

Beginning on Easter Sunday, WCC will offer in-person worship opportunities while continuing our online presence.

For the months of April and May we will continue our mid-week worship on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m., as well as three Sunday morning in-person offerings, and Parables online. Here’s a rundown of the schedule:

- Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m. Music & Message (Indoor) in the Sanctuary
- Sundays, 8 a.m. Communion Service in the Wakefield Chapel
- Sundays, 9 a.m., Contemporary Worship in the Sanctuary *
- Sundays, 10 a.m., Parables Online Worship *
- Sundays, 10:30 a.m., Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary *

Pre-registration is requested and all Covid safety requirements remain in place.

** We are grateful for all that we have learned during the past year, and pleased to stream these services live online.*



GETTING TO KNOW KERRI SHAY

AN INTERVIEW BY HEIDI SEGEDY,
DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL NEEDS
MINISTRY

How did you find WCC? Through word-of-mouth from one of my friends.

Have you ever been to WCC?

I have never been to WCC. I did go over there though to see Allie Henley in a play a few years ago, but never to a church service.

What special things has WCC empowered you to do as part of our Parables community? I have written and recorded a sermon for the month of December 2020 and have gotten to recite the responsive prayer for the month of November.

Is it true that you are on the path to becoming a member? Yes!

How has finding WCC given you a sense of belonging? I have people at this church who understand my disability and understand what I'm going through.

How is WCC different from other churches you have been a part of?

WCC is a lot more inclusive than other churches that I have been a part of. I have been in churches where I tend to not understand what they are talking about.

What activities do you participate in at WCC? Bingo, Unified Choir, AWE on Wednesday Nights.

Which one do you look forward to the most? Bingo—because I get to be with all my friends while playing a fun game and possibly winning a gift card to my favorite store.

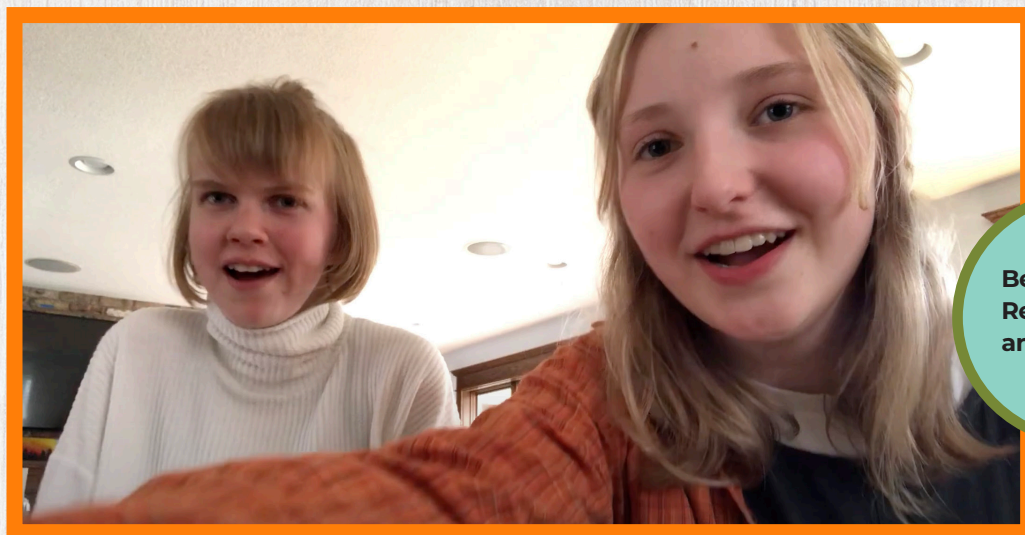
What would you share about WCC with someone who was looking for a church? It is a very inclusive church and everybody is so supportive of everyone. Whether you are big, small or have a disability, you have a home at WCC!!

A NOTE FROM HEIDI

This past year has been a tough one, but it has brought with it so many new ways to work in our field of ministry. Even though it's easy to feel detached from our faith family and church during such unprecedented times, Kerri Shay's story is proof that even in the darkest times, a community can grow.

As you'll learn in our interview, Kerri started participating in our Parables worship and Special Needs Ministry programming in the middle of the pandemic. Since then she has become a very valued and recognized member of our community. Kerri has read prayers, preached, and joined in all of the programming we have offered while staying safe at home. She has truly become a part of our faith family and community. (P.S. She loves when people greet her at Lunds in Eden Prairie where she works as a cashier.)

The most amazing part about this is that Kerri still has not ever set foot in a WCC worship service. She is a testament to positivity and courage during a very difficult time. Even more so she is a representation of a community that openly welcomes new members and treats each one like family. I'm so grateful we are that church!



Best Buddies
Reilly Hawley
and Cloe Nymo

BEST BUDDIES

Recipient of our Special Easter Offering

BEST BUDDIES



The recipient this year for our Easter Offering is Best Buddies, a worldwide non-profit volunteer movement that creates one-to-one friendships between teens and young adults

with their peers with disabilities. Best Buddies is dedicated to ending the social and physical isolation of the 200 million people in the world with intellectual and developmental disabilities. WCC is blessed to have been sanctioned as the first ever Best Buddies chapter located within a church.

Your generous donations along with our matching gift of \$10,000 truly made our launch a big success.

Here at WCC we have several longtime friendships. Cloe Nymo and Reilly Hawley have been BFFs for a long time and are a great representation of the kind of friendship our special needs crew is dreaming of. Cloe says, "We like to sing and dance... we hang out a lot... and are constantly giggling about everything. Reilly has the biggest heart and smile of anyone I know...When we are not together we facetime and text. I can't imagine going a day without talking to Ri!" These two have also shared hundreds of happy hours being in Good Works Community Theater musicals together.

“

We like to sing and dance... we hang out a lot... and are constantly giggling about everything. Reilly has the biggest heart and smile of anyone I know.

”

John Robards is a long-time member of WCC and now an employee on our Building & Grounds team. He has been an usher in Parables worship since its beginning. John says, "I am so excited to meet my new Best Buddy! I love the idea of having a special friend to socialize with and share activities. I am so grateful that Wayzata Community Church is involved with this program".

These quotes illustrate the need and benefits that come from being a part of Best Buddies for ALL who choose to join in. We know that with your contributions we can make a difference. We are so looking forward to making many more buddy pairings this year and supporting our friends with special needs as they start new friendships that will without a doubt be transformative for them, especially after a year of staying safe at home. If you are interested in learning more about how you can be involved, contact Heidi Segedy at hsegedy@wayzatacommunitychurch.org

SUMMER CAMP

Gentle Days

**BY CHRIS PAULSON,
DIRECTOR OF CAMP MINISTRY**

I believe I'm not alone when I say that it's hard to contextualize how this last year has shaped all of us. March 2020 seems like a different lifetime.

As we continue to navigate 2021, I am reminding myself to be 'gentle'. To be gentle with myself spiritually, to be gentle to and with others, and to be gentle with all the change that is still ahead.

As we plan for a return to summer camp — gentle is still the word that comes to mind... but I am able to see how important this word is for this summer when I see it through the lens of our (5) camp goals:

Safety... We have been tailoring our entire programming and layout to meet the safety needs of this summer. It takes a whole village to ensure the physical, emotional, and spiritual safety of all campers and staff. All camp participants need to be gentle with the reality that this summer will be a mix of emotions for everyone! Excitement is absolutely one of those emotions... but let us remember to be gentle with others — as their story from this past year may look very different from ours.

Fun... There will be no shortage of fun this summer. Campers will return to familiar sights & sounds that make camp "camp". Gentle will be seen in the patience of campers and staff as they walk side-by-side with each individual's comfort level around covid-safe camp activities. Emerging from their schedule at home may be difficult for some... our staff will be ready to meet each camper 'exactly where they are'.

Message... Oofta, do we need to hear 'good news'! Our messaging this summer will bring hope, positivity, and light to the hearts of our campers. May we all walk gently with those who need their 'spiritual cup' filled — and may it "overflow with love".



Affirmation... We love every person, just as they are. Period. Gentle acts of kindness will be abundant at camp this summer.

Community... What we have all desperately missed — so much. As we begin to slowly emerge out of this pandemic, may we be gentle with everyone's physical and emotional safety, socializing tolerance, and so much more. Community is home, and we hope that camp feels like 'home' to everyone who returns.

Thank you to all families who have the confidence & faith to let us take care of their campers...

Thank you to the amazing incoming camp staff who are ecstatic to be back at camp this summer...

Thank you to the Wayzata Community Church community for your continued support of this unbelievable ministry...



Thank you, Phyllis



At one of the first Parables services, Phyllis Foreman observed that there was no Deacon present and, as a retired Deacon, she immediately recognized an opportunity to help. She approached Rev. Leslie Neugent and asked if she could fill that role. That began a multi-year loving relationship between Phyllis and the Parables community, one she enjoyed and fully embraced, and maybe still does.

In her later years, Phyllis found her strength and refuge in her relationship with the Bible. She and Bart had many long discussions on quiet Friday evenings by the pool in the summer and by the fire in the winter, exploring the stories and messages in the Bible.

Almost every morning, Phyllis could be found sitting in her favorite living room chair reading the Bible and meditating. When it was time to downsize to a townhome, she wanted a unit that faced east, so she could enjoy the morning sun with a cup of coffee and her Bible. She always felt the Christian church should not have adopted the cross as its symbol, but rather a Shepherd's staff to symbolize Jesus as the teacher.

On Valentine's Day 2020 Phyllis left this earth; her family says she died "of a broken heart". She was very distressed by the political divisiveness that had developed over the last few years, and it weighed so heavily on her that her broken heart gave out. She will be remembered for speaking her mind, and always being an ambassador for the good and grace she found in her love of God as the Father, Jesus as the teacher, and the stories of the Bible.

Of all the roles Phyllis played at WCC, including multiple years on the Finance Committee, search committees, and Church Council, her most cherished service was being a Deacon, and that blossomed into helping the Parables Ministry.

As a remembrance of Phyllis and her love of the Parables ministry, her family has chosen to use her memorial funds for camera equipment that will be used for the Parables online ministry.

What is Your Legacy?

A Three-Part Video Series

by Rev. Lindy Purdy, Minister Emerita

For years, Rev. Lindy Purdy has been leading deep conversations in small groups about legacy. She asks us to slow down, take time now to reflect on the things that really matter – our families, friends, and communities that give our lives meaning.

If you haven't had the opportunity to join one of Lindy's small groups, you are in luck.

There is a new three-part video series you can view at WCClegacy.org that is a condensed version of the Legacy classes that Lindy has taught for many years. The three-part series consists of three approximately 20-minute recorded sessions, and has powerful messages and practical resources you can download for your Legacy journey. Joining Lindy in these Legacy Conversations are WCC members Peggy Douglas, Rick Graft, John Hallberg, Jim Rice, and Sarah Stout Miller.

Whether you are 40, 60 or 80+, we believe the information in this series will be invaluable as a gift and will provide comfort to you and your family. The series is designed to meet you wherever you are on life's journey—starting a family, working with aging parents, post-retirement or even nearing the end of your life. Now is a great time to start your legacy planning.

We hope you will join us for a meaningful, informative series of Legacy Conversations. Just go to WCClegacy.org.



Rev. Lindy Purdy



Jim Rice



Sarah Stout Miller



Peggy Douglas



John Hallberg



Rick Graft

New three-part video series on Legacy Conversations featuring Rev. Lindy Purdy, Jim Rice, Sarah Stout Miller, Peggy Douglas, John Hallberg, and Rick Graft. [Go to WCClegacy.org](http://WCClegacy.org)

WCC Legacy Society

We invite you to become a member of the WCC Legacy Society, which honors those individuals who have remembered WCC in their wills and financial plans.

You don't have to be wealthy to include Wayzata Community Church in your will, trust, or long-range giving plan. Planned giving is for anyone with a generous spirit for whom WCC has been meaningful.

If you have already included WCC in your will or estate plan, please let us know so we can include you as a member of the Legacy Society. To find out more, please go to WCClegacy.org or contact the WCC Director of Finance and Operations at 952-473-8877, ext. 215.

Session 1: Courageous Conversations

In **SESSION ONE**, we look at the gift of information to honor the wishes of a loved one at the end of life, and explore resources that will make this transition more manageable. You can download information about:

1. **Courageous Conversations**, including ten tips to help prepare for crucial end of life discussions
2. **Health Care Directives**, resources and information
3. **Vital Information**, a resource that you can update annually to make sure your critical information is all in one document

Session 2: How Do We Want to Be Remembered?

SESSION TWO turns to the softer side of our legacy: the gift of sharing your values, history and faith. How do we want to be remembered and how can we retain “membership” in the communities of meaning that have been so important on our life-journey? The session explores how to capture memories that endure long beyond our lifetime, and how to savor important life milestones and values while we’re still living with those we love. You can download information about:

1. **Sharing your Values**, through Re-Membering and creative life rituals, like journaling, scrapbooking or video interviews
2. **Sharing your History**, with helpful questions to ponder as you craft and share your life story
3. **Sharing your Faith**, with thought provoking questions to help you write your spiritual autobiography

Session 3: Legacy Living and Legacy Giving

SESSION THREE wraps up with ideas about legacy living and legacy giving. Legacy Living will explore how to live a life of purpose, as well as information about Ethical Wills, a formal way to put into writing the values and teachings that we want our families, friends and communities to know. Legacy Giving will explore Planned Giving, which is the opportunity to support organizations by making them a beneficiary of your will or estate plan. For many people, their estate gift may be the largest gift that they ever give to an organization that has given purpose to their lives. You will be able to download information about:

1. **Legacy Living** – how to live a life of purpose and Ethical Wills
2. **Legacy Giving** – planned giving resources

legacy



Puzzling Times

A LIFE REFLECTION

BY SARAH LINDEN, WCC MEMBER



It sure seems like the last year has been quite literally puzzling. Even though it has been a year since the start of COVID, I still find that I am puzzled by the ever changing school schedules and community dials telling me when I can go to this place or not, whether my child is in school or home online. I am constantly moving the pieces of my life around to try to find the best and safest fit.

On the flip side, this last year has been one of literally doing puzzles, as I have enjoyed the confined days by completing 1,000 piece puzzles. I have now completed my fourth 1,000 piece puzzle.

Over the past year, I have found that doing a puzzle has been a great way to distract myself from all of the other “puzzling” parts of my life. There is something peaceful and meditative in watching the puzzle image come together piece by piece; even a small sense of accomplishment when you find a piece that fits.

So whether you are a first time puzzler, or an experienced puzzler, here are a couple of practical things I have learned while puzzling this past year along with a life reflection that occurred to me during these times.

First thing to do after opening the box is to sort the puzzle pieces by edge, and not an edge. Sometimes we need to take the time to sort things out in order for them to make more sense to us.

Next, piece together the outer border of the puzzle using just the edge pieces. Knowing one's boundaries can be a very helpful thing in life.

When working on a puzzle, change your perspective; see and work on the puzzle from different sides. You will likely see pieces you missed seeing before. Even just the slightest change in perspective can have dramatic changes in how we see our daily lives and can open us up to new opportunities and possibilities.



celebrations & transitions

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.

BAPTISMS

- Mia Fernanda Loeffler, daughter of Kevin and Jennifer Loeffler

CARES

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

DEATHS

- Linda Wotipka and family on the death of her husband, Lee, November 11, 2020 and her mother, Melva Frances Gregory, January 9 at the age of 95.
- Grace Lephart and family on the death her mother.
- Mollie Hildebrandt and family on the death of her father.
- Amy Mackey and family on the death of her mother Peggy Anderson, February 7.
- Family and friends of longtime member, Ruth Himan, January 13.
- Steve Kniss and family on the death of his sister Kimberly Peterson, February 16.
- Frederick & Christine Meyer on the death of his brother and former WCC member, Richard Meyer, February 28.
- Tracy Busyn and family on the death of her mother, Liz Fogler, March 20.
- Shirley Baxter and family on the death of her husband, Bill, March 22.

Correction: We would like to apologize for a misprint in our January Inspire Magazine that stated that Susan Backstrom Buss lost her daughter, it was Susan's Father who passed away last year. Our sincere and heartfelt apology for this misprint.

Inspire Magazine

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PERIODICAL TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL



2021 Annual Meeting



Saturday, April 24 at 9 a.m.

Our Annual Meeting is moving to a Saturday this year, and will be held on-line via Zoom. Due to the mix of in-person and on-line services on Sundays this spring, the meeting will be on Saturday, April 24 at 9 a.m.

Please mark your calendar, gather the other WCC members that are in your household and join us! We will have an update from our Moderator, approve our 2021 operating budget, and elect Officers, Council, Deacons, Board and Committee members.

Prior to the meeting, we will send an email with links you will need to join the Zoom meeting, along with instructions on how to attend. You will also have the option of listening to the meeting on your phone.