

inspire

WAYZATA COMMUNITY CHURCH

SUMMER 2022

Hello!

BY STEVE WIENS
CO-LEAD MINISTER

“So, what do you do?”

This is the question we sometimes ask when meeting each other, but it doesn't quite capture the essence of who we are, does it? It may paint a hazy picture of who you are, but with far too broad of brushstrokes. What if we had the courage to ask some different questions in order to get to know each other?

- *What's one experience you hope to have this year?*
- *What makes you belly laugh?*
- *What were you doing the last time you enjoyed an activity so much that you lost track of time?*
- *What questions are keeping you up at night these days?*

There's no way you can get to know me in just a few paragraphs, but I hope you'll get a sense of me: the kinds of questions I love to ask, the kinds of adventures I'm still hoping to experience, and the quality of relationships I enjoy the most.

So, let's pretend you asked me *what I love most*. What a great first question.

I love living in Maple Grove, right by Fish Lake, with access to lots of trails where we run, bike, walk, and explore.

I love learning new things and immersing myself in new situations. I love running outside in all four seasons in Minnesota. I love sitting across the table with people enjoying good food and getting lost in



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WAYZATA COMMUNITY CHURCH



honest conversations. I love watching people light up as they talk about something that brings them joy. Then I love going home and curling up with a good book and enjoying the silence that comes at the end of a long day. I love coffee. I love shoes. I love English football (don't even get me started).

I love watching my oldest son Isaac play soccer and I love our early morning conversations before I drop him off at De La Salle High School on Nicollet Island. I love seeing my son Ben charm people with his sharp wit and his bright blue eyes. I love doing the daily Wordle and Quordle puzzles with my son Elijah, and I love listening to him explain the latest algorithm on his Rubik's cube (even though I'm hopeless at understanding how to do it).

I love taking long walks with my wife Mary and our Goldendoodle, Leeli. I love seeing how people feel so welcomed and comforted in Mary's presence. She's a trained spiritual director and is going back to school this fall at St. Mary's to become a therapist.

I love sitting with people from all walks of life and helping them figure out what's next in their journey of faith. I love preaching, especially when it becomes an art form that leads us all into a genuine intersection of stories: our stories and God's story, which leads us into new ways of living, loving, and hoping. I love collaborating with staff members, trying new things and even failing, and learning everything we can from each failure. I love helping people slow down and discern what we must move toward and that which we must let go. I love following the seasons of the church calendar as they help us understand what time it is, in our own lives and in our lives as a community.

And I loved when Danielle smiled at me from across the table recently and said, "I can't wait until you fall in love with the people of this church." I don't think it'll take long.

Now it's my turn: What do *you* love? I can't wait to explore that question with many of you in the days and years to come.

In it together,

Steve Wiens



People, Purpose and Pause

BY JOHN HALLBERG
MODERATOR

It's been said that when the student is ready, the teacher appears.

When I talked about "People, Purpose and Pause" during the Annual Meeting Zoom call on April 30, I had no idea that those ideas would be reinforced the very next day. That next day was Sunday, May 1st, and Autumn Toussaint had asked our Celebration Singers group to also sing at that morning's Parables worship service. It is truly a joy for us to be invited to be a part of that service.

It was especially appealing because Allie Henley, an alto in the Celebration Singers, was preaching the sermon in Parables that morning. Allie and her family have been a bedrock of the Parables service and our Special Needs ministry since its inception.

People: Our Special Needs ministry and community is a powerful example of what it means to be church — people who come together regularly to worship God and care for each other. If you haven't taken in a Parables service, it is an inspiring experience. This service will continue on Sunday mornings through the end of June at 10:15 a.m. in the Chapel before taking a summer pause.

Purpose: Just before the service, Allie asked me to read the scripture lesson before she preached her sermon. I was honored to be asked. Allie selected Philippians 4:13 for the scripture: *"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."*

The theme of Allie's sermon was Change, and how all of us struggle at times with change. One of her key messages was "...life is about what makes you stronger and more complete." Talk about wisdom beyond her years! Continuing on that theme, Allie talked about the loss of her mom to cancer last year, and how she still struggles from time to time with the grief of that loss. Allie reminded us that grief never ends, but it changes, and it's OK to NOT be OK.

Her closing thought was the most powerful — Allie reminded us that God will not change; he will never leave you.

Through this important Parables ministry, Allie has brought her gifts to our church, and new purpose to her life. She is truly a blessing.

Pause: Early on in her sermon, Allie provided some ideas to help all of us deal with change. She encouraged us to "be kind to our brains" and to "find a quiet place" to process the change and to hear God's voice. If that isn't a reminder about the importance of pause, then I don't know what is.

I truly didn't expect to have these themes demonstrated a mere 24 hours after the meeting, but it was a gift that WCC provided these reminders of what it means to be a church community.

See you in church!



The theme of Allie's sermon was Change, and how all of us struggle at times with change. One of her key messages was "...life is about what makes you stronger and more complete." Talk about wisdom beyond her years!



Building *Ovens* and *Opportunities*

BY ADAM THOMPSON

In January, I traveled with my son Jack, a freshman at Wayzata High School, to Costa Rica. We were part of a small contingent of Wayzata Community Church Members traveling with Bricks to Bread, one of WCC's Dough winners, to determine how we could work more closely to further their mission. We arrived thinking our objective was to build an oven; we left realizing we were there to build relationships and opportunities.

Bricks to Bread was established in 2012 with a vision of "Creating a sustainable source of income for families and access to fresh baked goods in rural communities." They work with the Peace Corps in Costa Rica to identify strong, motivated women who want to create better lives for their families, and teach them to create and run a small business—a community bakery. The training process is extensive and takes months. The women who are selected learn how to bake, and how to budget. They learn their local regulations, and how to navigate the process of owning, and running, a business. The oven is a small— but vital— part of the overall program.

We spent a week with Marlen and her family, working alongside them to build their oven. The work was difficult and complicated. We worked late to stay on schedule, and everyone — the trip's leaders, the volun-

“ We arrived thinking our objective was to build an oven; we left realizing we were there to build relationships and opportunities. ”

teers, Marlen and her family, even curious neighbors with a flair for mixing concrete — pitched in. Through the process, relationships were formed. We got to know Marlen and her family through broken Spanish and games of tag. We ate incredible food (did I mention that Marlen is a FABULOUS cook and works all of her magic over an open-fire stove behind her house?). We took breaks every day at 3 p.m. for empanadas, fresh (as in, picked off the plant) papaya and pineapple, and coffee. We played with the kids, we told stories, we shared how the trip was impacting us personally, and we learned how families live in Costa Rica.

After the trip, I asked Jack about his overall experience. He told me “At first, I was scared, we didn’t speak the language and I was nervous about that. I didn’t know what to expect. It was actually not scary; it was fun. Costa Rica is beautiful and it was amazing to experience the culture and build relationships with Marlen and her family. I got to see a lot of new things. I can’t wait to go back.”

We have a long tradition at WCC of identifying mission partners that allow us to contribute our time, talent, and treasure. Partnering with Bricks to Bread allows us to do all of it. We can get our hands dirty and do physical work that has a lasting impact. We can push our youth (and ourselves) outside our community and comfort zones to learn how families in different cultures live. We can use the combined knowledge of our community to help B2B expand as a non-profit business and do more work in other parts of the world. And we can contribute financially to ensure that B2B has the resources needed for that expansion. And it is all rooted in lasting, meaningful relationships.



Best Buddies Walk



We celebrated inclusivity and love at the Best Buddies Friendship Walk on May 21! It was a magical day — over 35 WCC friends showed up to walk at Weaver Lake Park in Maple Grove. In addition to our walkers, we had many other friends and family who donated, helping to raise over \$80,000 for Best Buddies Minnesota! We extend a big, big thank you to all who participated.

BELONGING

BY MICHELE RAMERT, DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRY

You make our world a better place!



If you were to Google, Wayzata Community Church Special Needs Ministry, it brings you to our web page where you find the sweetest picture of a much younger Brennan Riley along with this statement, "We believe that each member in the Special Needs community is a present day parable. Each offers deep and challenging lessons for all of us, turning our world upside down, and demanding that we wrestle with ambiguity. They embody meekness, humility, and trust. They are wise teachers in our midst."

They are also athletes, musicians, artists, public speakers, preschool assistants, cashiers, co-workers, huggers, helpers... that all make our world a better place!

Chris Neugent, past Chair of WCC Special Needs Ministry Board introduced me to the work of Erik W. Carter, Ph.D., a Cornelius Vanderbilt Professor of Special Education at Vanderbilt University. His work promotes full participation, belonging and valued roles for those with special needs. The main takeaway from Erik's work is the basic need that we ALL want is to BELONG!

Belonging is more than being invited to participate; it's being missed when you are gone! A perfect example of this, many of the young adults participate in the contemporary choir. They practice on Wednesday evenings and a schedule change has made it difficult for them to attend practice. Brad Sleeper and other choir members consistently reach out and let them know they are missed. This is belonging!

A primary goal of the Special Needs Ministry is to create a bridge to the wider church. The vision is to create a diverse church community where everyone can flourish. For the past few months, the Parables Young Adults have been invited and participated in various events throughout the wider church. Many have teamed up with Ms. Jodie and volunteered at Trunk or Treat, the Advent Workshop, and Mission in Motion.

We were recently invited to serve the Community Meal and it was a highlight! Over 20 friends from the Parables Community showed up to work concessions at 2 performances of Big Fish! The energy and excitement



Jack Webert prayed alongside Lindy Purdy in the April 3 Sanctuary service (photo above). Members of the Parables community volunteered at Mission in Motion, a service fair for children & families held on Ash Wednesday, and also sold concessions at performances of Big Fish to benefit the people of Ukraine.

of being needed and valued was priceless. On Sundays, in the Chapel you will always find our Parables reading scripture and leading prayer. But for our full church service on April 3rd, Jack Webert was asked to pray alongside Lindy Purdy in the Sanctuary. His smile and that of his dad said it all. We all just want to BELONG!

Steve Olan (Nash) was hired nine months ago as the Director of Middle School Ministries, but now he's headed for Summer Camp!

“Here I am Lord, send me!”

If you read the WCC Lenten devotions, you may have caught one which I wrote about listening, paying attention, and responding to God's will for my life.



This season of ministry at Wayzata Community Church has felt like a whirl wind, after a thunderstorm, in the middle of a blizzard. Which is really just a normal Spring Day in Minnesota, but wild nonetheless. A funny question came up when I was interviewed for the job of Director of Middle School Ministry that I still chuckle at to this day. “What is your 5-10 year plan?” Response: “Honestly, in all my years of ministry, I have realized that’s an impossible question to answer.” I have never taken a role without of course creating a road map or a long-term plan, but rarely, if ever, do those plans unfold exactly how we envisioned. Truly, life rarely unfolds the way we would hope. At least not for me, and I’m okay with that!

As I stated in my Lenten devotion, “God is an ever-flowing river and we can either choose to step into what God has for us, or we can do things on our own.” I have always known God’s will to be something to seek, in fact my understanding or prayer is aligning myself with God’s will. “Thy kingdom come, thy will be done...” So then the question is, “Was it God’s will for me to accept the Middle School role only to have me step into the camp role 6 months later?” That seems unnecessarily complicated.

As in any good interview, they pressed the question a bit “but can you say that you will be here for at least a while to re-establish a good program rhythm for the students?” Response: “Of course I want to — and will do my best to — establish a good rhythm for the Middle School program, but I don’t want to promise any amount of time, because I can only respond to God’s will.”

The thing was that through the process, I knew God was opening a door for my family to be part of the WCC community. Wholeheartedly, even if I would not have been offered the “job” as MS director, I knew the next season of our lives would be part of this church. However, I could not bring myself to make any promises about my time in the Middle School director role. It was like I knew that this was going to be a season of trust.

At times God’s will for our lives can be revealed like the two crossing stories in scripture. I have experienced God showing me clear paths, very much like when the Israelites crossed the Red Sea, where the waters parted and they saw the path of dry land before taking the first step. Then other times, it can be like the crossing of the Jordan, when the Israelites needed to take a step, and the waters would then part before them, and the path was made clear along the way. This season at WCC has been a crossing of the Jordan type of season as I have realized more and more clearly what God wants of my time at WCC. My hope is that I can be the kind of team player to step into the river, because as we all know, life rarely goes according to plan and sometimes we need to trust God, one step at a time.



Faith in action

BY DANIELLE JONES, CO-LEAD MINISTER

I just opened my refrigerator and I am embarrassed at how full it is. We have been gone more than we planned this week and we have been eating on the run instead of cooking meals at home, so our groceries are piling up. That is not the reality for more than 300,000 children who are food insecure in the state of Minnesota.

Every Meal is a program that is fighting childhood hunger through school and community partnerships. This past April, during Holy Week, our Board of Mission and Outreach organized a food packing event to feed kids in our own communities. 140 members and friends of WCC gathered the Saturday before Palm Sunday in our gym to pack meals that will go to the kids and families that need it most. Our goal was to also use our Easter Offering to pay for all the food we packed. We hoped to raise \$20,000 and because of your generous support, and through a matching gift from an anonymous donor, we blew past our goal and raised \$50,000!

Our faith invites us to respond to the needs of our neighbors. The food we packed in April was delivered to schools across the Twin Cities and to kids right in our own neighborhood. This kind of work and mission is what faith in action looks like. It is responsive, it is generous, and it is good. We give thanks that we could partner with Every Meal in their important work of ending childhood hunger in Minnesota. Thank you all for your participation and your generosity — together we are making a difference and we are loving our neighbors in tangible ways.



**EVERY
MEAL**

Eagle Scout Project: A Little Free Library



One of the things I like most about my Eagle project is that it's something that I get to see used and that it's something I hope will be there for a long while.

My name is Anna Park, I'm an Eagle Scout in Girls' Troop 5283. For my Eagle project I built a Little Free Library and bench for the Wayzata Community Church. They're located at the East Entrance of the church, next to the playground, so if you're ever over there you should check it out and maybe get a book as well.

One of my favorite parts of my project was getting to stock the original books in it, because there were so many options. I thought it would be nice to have a theme. I used the "Read in Color" program, from the Little Free Library Organization, which is focused on diversity and inclusion in reading for all ages. I'd like to thank Jodie Nyberg, Director of Early Childhood and Elementary Ministry, for showing me that program, because I think it is important to make sure there is good variety. I went through their entire list of books trying to choose favorites from all the categories and tried to make sure there were books that would interest people of all ages.

I did a stained glass mosaic design for the roof of the library, because I really wanted the library to be colorful and creative. The most difficult parts of the project were the concrete and building the library because I didn't actually have any experience with either. Fortunately I had some help. It took a lot of planning and time, but I am really happy with how the project turned out.

If you have any books that you would like to share with the community, you are welcome to leave them in the little free library!



celebrations & transitions

BAPTISMS

- Josephine Jean Cook, daughter of Jason and Anna Cook
- Nash Steven Dwyer, son of Ryan and Elise Dwyer
- John Liam Thomas, son of John and Michelle Thomas
- Katherine Casey Gorka, daughter of Stephen and Elizabeth Gorka
- Josephine Grace Schwartz, daughter of Christopher and Lisa Schwartz

CARES

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

DEATHS

- Family and friends of Margie Ankeny, January 17.
- Family and friends of Pete Ankeny, January 18.
- Lonnie Hillis and family on the death of her sister Seri Steinmetz on February 17.
- Family and friends of Sigrud Birkin Hommeyer who sang in the WCC Chancel Choir for about 30 years.
- Family and friends of Joanne (Joan) Carlson, March 14.
- Ann Howard and family on the death of her husband, Jim, March 29.
- Nancy Kuhl and family on the death of her husband Roger Kuhl, March 31.
- Family and friends of Bob Woodburn, April 10, and Nan Woodburn, May 15.
- Family and friends of Mavis Myhran, former WCC office manager, April 11.
- Suzanne Caswell and family on the death of her husband, Dick Caswell, April 17.
- Eileen Phiher and family on the death of her husband, Keith, April 19.
- Family and friends of Susan Tenney Sellwood, April 25.
- Martha Van de Ven and family on the death of her husband, Andy, April 30.
- Susanne Egli on the death of her sister, Carol Baker.
- Family and friends of Karen Ryding, May 15.
- Family and friends of Susan Oare, May 3.

Inspire Magazine

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WAYZATA COMMUNITY CHURCH

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PERIODICAL TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL

JULY 27 & 28

The Rummage Sale



DONATE!

Our garage is open for Rummage donations at 8 a.m.

Hours are Monday through Thursday, 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.;

Friday through Sunday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Donations will be accepted through July 15. If you need large items picked up please contact Bill Boulware at 612-804-0486. All donated items must be in good, clean working condition. (A list of items we can not accept is on our website— click the Serve/Rummage tab and then “we cannot accept.”)

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!

We need volunteers to help sort and price donated items. You are welcome for any amount of time! Volunteer hours are Monday-Thursday and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 12 noon, and Tuesday evenings from 5:30-8:30 p.m. Volunteers earn pre-sale shopping privileges and students will receive volunteer service hours.

We also need volunteers to help set up tents for the sale (July 23-24), and at the Sale on July 27 (9:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.) and July 28 (9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.). Following the sale we need clean-up crews to help on July 29 (7:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m.) and July 30 (8:00 a.m.-finish).