

inspire

WAYZATA COMMUNITY CHURCH

FALL 2023

BY BILL BRANN, CHAIR
MISSION & OUTREACH BOARD

Mission and Outreach work is one of the pillars of ministry at Wayzata Community Church. WCC has long engaged with partners like Interfaith Outreach and Community Partners to meet the needs of people in our community in real time. This fall we already launched our second round of Dough where we look forward to engaging dozens of our members in coaching social entrepreneurs who have good ideas to serve the world. By June 2024 we will have a new set of Dough Winners who will be resourced with funding and coaching to take their ideas to the next level.

The Board of Mission and Outreach is tasked with the good (and hard) work of building mission partnerships and giving away money all throughout the year. This year we have added three new partners as we seek to be wise stewards of our funds while generously partnering with organizations that are making a difference in our community.

The criteria used by MOB to evaluate new partnerships include:

1. Assess what a potential partner does and why that work is needed in the world today.
2. Consider our calling as WCC and how this partner will give our congregation opportunities to volunteer and assist with the mission.



One of our new mission partners is GiGi's Playhouse, in support of the GiGi U and Prep program, providing training and skills to young adults post high school to achieve their highest potential.

Branching out

INTRODUCING THREE NEW MISSION PARTNERS

3. Explore how our partnership can help make a difference in the organization and in the lives of those who are served.

The Board of Mission and Outreach spent the majority of the summer vetting new mission partners for WCC. Suggestions were gathered from congregants and MOB members and a variety of groups were invited to come and present their organizations to MOB. These meetings led to many new learnings and understandings about the needs in our community today.

Out of this process, the MOB decided by motion, second, and MOB vote to fund three new mission partner organizations.

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WAYZATA COMMUNITY CHURCH

BRANCHING OUT CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

PLAYWORKS MN

Supporting recess in elementary schools of need to encourage group play, leadership development, and conflict resolution. WCC made a 3 year commitment to partner with Playworks MN and have been assigned the Lucy Laney elementary school in North Minneapolis. We have already had one congregational service opportunity at Lucy Laney School to clean up and paint their playground to provide a better environment for recess.

GIGI'S PLAYHOUSE

Supporting individuals with Down Syndrome and their families. The grant from WCC will be used for GiGi U and GiGi Prep program — providing training and skills to young adults post high school to achieve their highest potential. GiGi's Playhouse offers goal-oriented programs for adults that focus on the development of self-confidence, real-world skills, health and wellness, and career skills.

MENTAL HEALTH MN

Provides several resources to those with mental health issues. Their vision is a world free from stigma that improves mental health and well-being for all. WCC's grant will help fund their Warmline — a call in, text in line open 365 days a year, providing peer support and connections to help people in need avoid crisis and get the help they need.

We look forward to partnering with these important organizations and cultivating new partnerships through the work that will be done this year through Dough. It is a gift to put our resources and gifts into action by living into our call to be the "hands and feet" of Jesus as followers of God.

DOUGH
HELPING PEOPLE AND IDEAS RISE

Interested in serving with Dough?

Contact Danielle Jones at djones@wayzatacommunitychurch.org
or visit doughgrants.org



On August 29th Director of Engagement, Autumn Toussaint, and Bill Brann led a group of enthusiastic volunteers to "Paint the Playground" at Lucy Laney elementary school in North Minneapolis, working with staff from our new mission partner, Playworks MN.





Planting for the Future

CHRISTEN CHRISTOPHERSON, MODERATOR

This is a story about bell peppers.

I am not new totally new to vegetable gardening, but this past spring I set out with bigger ambitions than usual. In April I left my 30-plus year career in higher education for a bit of ReWirement. I'm not yet calling it retirement in case I go back to work again, and using this time to rewire, to focus on other passions – like gardening, travelling, and involvement at church!

In my garden I planted my usual tomato plants purchased at the nursery, already sprouted. With great optimism, I started some vegetables from seed: rosemary, basil, thyme, dill, zucchini, lettuce and bell peppers. I was giddy about the pots I put on our deck, checking them daily, moving them around to catch more sun, and even posting progress pictures on social media. It is joyful work watching things grow, harvesting fresh herbs and salads. I shrug off the harassment I get: "You've become one of those people who posts pictures of their vegetables!" I just smile and say, "how about some fresh bruschetta?"

By late summer I was scrambling to keep up, Googling "what can I make with all this zucchini?" Tomatoes counted as both fruits and vegetables in my daily diet. I have enough frozen tomato soup and sauce to get me through the winter. And yet, I have no bell peppers.

The pepper plants have sprouted, grown, and flowered. They weathered a major hail storm. Tiny little green peppers appeared in mid-September. Still, I am waiting for them to be big enough to harvest. The hopes I had in May have simmered to quiet watching. They've taught me about

patience and long-term planning, and that God and nature work in their own sweet time.

This is also a story about generosity.

We have launched our 2024 Generosity Campaign, *Planting for the Future*. The Council's Generosity Team and our clergy are highlighting the seeds we planted long ago: Expanding our Mission and Outreach; Deepening Faith; Engagement: Making a Big Church Feel Smaller; and Vibrant Programming for All.

We see the bounty of these seeds regularly in programs like Wednesday night Community Meals and programs, contemporary and traditional music offerings, our growing Parables Ministry, and robust Mission & Outreach programs.

We're tending to those plants that took a hailstorm-of-a-hit during the pandemic but are seeing new life, such as Family Ministries and Summer Camp. And we're returning to the kinds of Engagement we've seen in the past but in new form: gatherings for women, for men, for brewery fans, intergenerational connections and a second round of Dough to share our time, talents and treasure with social entrepreneurs in our community.

The "bell pepper" of our generosity seeds represents our patience and planning.

Years ago, wise lay leaders planted the seeds of our endowment, planning for the rainy day – or even a drought – that was ahead of us. That drought came over the last few years as our giving dropped and then flattened. Through budget cuts and shifting focus in our spending, we weathered the decrease in giving, but even with government supports granted during the pandemic years, we have used reserve funds to

meet the needs of the re-emerged program year in 2023. We cannot continue to do this. Thus, we are asking for additional gifts not only to maintain the level of programming we've rebuilt but to enhance it to meet the needs of our congregation.

We are asking for congregants to prayerfully consider increasing their giving

in 2024 on a weekly basis. Although we may give or pledge monthly or annually, we are asking if you are able to make small sacrifices in our regular out-of-pocket spending that could be shared with the church. Can we consider not having dessert when we eat out? Can we only buy the lightbulbs and toilet paper at Target, and not add all the other stuff to the cart that tallies \$100? Skip Starbucks on the way to church and enjoy the lovely coffee (and now real cream!) offered before and after the services?

We recognize that some of the same pressures impacting the church budget are affecting family budgets: inflation, increased energy costs, stagnant incomes for some. We hope you are doing the same things we are: focusing on core mission and investing in the future.

It has been said "The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit." We are asking you to plant those seeds with us in 2024, and some will sprout and bear fruit, bringing joy quickly. Other seeds will become those abundant zucchini and tomatoes. With patience and tending, others the long-awaited bell peppers. And with the help of God, seeds we plant now will become the mighty shade trees of the future.

**In peace,
Christen Christopherson**

What does *Planting for the Future* mean to you?

Our Generosity Committee has been planning and developing the 2024 Generosity Campaign, *Planting for the Future*, for many months. Here they share what “planting for the future” means to them.

“When I think about the concept of ‘Planting for the Future’ I try and imagine what it can mean for everyone — not just those who have a lot to share. The effort to give something, even if it’s small, is a starting place we all need to establish. My experience has been that it’s easier to start small, and then make gradual and steady increases. The thought of an aspirational jump up to a full 10% tithe felt overwhelming to our young family. So we just started with what we could manage, then committed to adding at least 10% each year, and that felt great and was easier to integrate into our budget. It’s a different formula for each household, but that worked well for us.”

— DAVE KNOLL

“This year’s generosity campaign theme, *Planting for the Future*, conjures up many questions from the ‘small me’ such as: *What should we plant? How long until these seeds will bear fruit? Who will be there come time to harvest? Will I even be alive to enjoy the bounty?* I realize Planting for the Future necessarily requires faith — faith in the WCC leadership, faith in our entire WCC community, and finally, faith that God has led me/us here.

I’ve been invited to release myself from the grip of the risk averse, ego-centric thinking ‘small me’, precisely because of this “not-knowing”. Accepting this invitation— to go big on our family’s commitment to WCC— now seems obvious to me, even exciting! I’ve felt one of those occasional glimpses of the Divine washing over me. I pray for nothing less for everyone else.” — JON MCCLURE



GENEROSITY 2024

“The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit.”

“I am planting for the future because I simply love my church. I love that so many of my favorite people and our dearest relationships came from WCC, through Koinonia, the high school program, Contemporary worship, and serving on boards and committees. I love that we've always felt comfortable letting our kids roam the halls of WCC, because we knew they were safe and surrounded by people who cared for them. I love the impact made by amazing staff members like John Estrem, Miss Jodie, Miss Autumn, and so many others. I love our tradition of giving away our offerings on our two biggest services of the year, and that we are striving to do more, for our community and beyond. I love the legacy left by the good work of WCC, and that we can all have an impact on that legacy. See you in church!” — **ADAM THOMPSON**

“We just came through a tough couple years where we simply needed to make it! Now the church is bustling again and full of active energy. You might say we are back to ‘normal’. But WCC cannot linger at normal. We can't become complacent. It says so in our Mission Statement: ‘to boldly challenge our own complacency.’ I had to ask myself. . . Have I become complacent? Could I be doing more?”

Planting for our future is a gift I want to give my granddaughters who have been actively engaged in the church since baptism. I want them to see and understand that it takes the generosity of all to build this spiritual home. Our generosity is what allows us to grow in our faith, in our church, in our community, and in our world. I want them to see that generosity makes an impact. Most of all, as they near confirmation and become full members of this church, and part of lay leadership, I want to hand them a healthy, vibrant church that is continually moving, reaching and inspiring. And to do that, I need to do more. To challenge my complacency. To plant for the future.” — **NANCY BENEDICT**

“We were blessed to join Wayzata Community Church when our children were just beginning school. The faith and community foundation they received from WCC during their school years — especially the High School Program and Summer Camp — shaped who they have become as adults, and was a gift to us as parents. Planting for the Future means providing that same sense of community and faith formation to other young people and their families.”

— **JOHN HALLBERG**





How Legacy Has Planted for Our Family's Future

Introduction by Sarah Linden

Reflections by Andrew and John Linden

A few years ago, I visited the former location of Wayzata Community Church, on the corner of Rice and Walker streets in Wayzata, with my mom, Nancy Crist. As we walked into the building I could see she was immediately transported back to the times when her family attended Sunday service and her father, Arthur Quay, used to sing in the choir. She said she could visualize her dad standing in the choir, could hear his music and could smell his aftershave. Music has such a potent way of connecting us to God and unlocking special memories.

I often wonder if our son's appreciation for music and church wasn't in some small way, planted by my grandfather many decades ago. For our sons, Andrew and John, to be participating in the youth programs and contributing musically to the worship services at WCC over the last few years has been a true blessing and one that I am sure my grandfather would have appreciated.

What follows are these reflections from Andrew and John on their experiences at WCC.

PLANTING FOR THE FUTURE

A Youth Ministry Reflection from John Linden

I have always held a special place in my heart for the youth ministry programs at WCC. They have not only helped me to grow spiritually through a variety of activities, but the youth directors and small group leaders have had an immensely influential role in helping me become the person I am now. I accredit in large part my musicianship to the music ministry, directed by Dr. Stephen Self, and the influences of Patrick Morgan, Joel Bowers, and Mike Solberg. These men will always be mentors in my life for not only music, but how to live as a Christian in A.D. 2023.

The influence of WCC's youth ministries is not limited to a group of amazing mentors, but it is most often defined by the outstanding activities that it offers. These are, but are not limited to, retreats, Wednesday night youth group, Church Camp, and more. If it were not for these opportunities, I would have likely never gotten to know and learn from the mentors I mentioned above in the way that I have. Additionally, I have come to know a multitude of friends through both camp and retreats. In fact, I spend time at school with many of my peers who have been at camp and retreats.

In the summer of 2022, I was part of the mission trip to Sisseton, SD. There was an incredible group of people on this trip from a variety of different churches. I maintain contact with many of these people to this day, despite the fact that they live in different states. I cannot put into words the impact this trip had on me as a Christian, and I am extremely grateful to the leaders, Cory Hample and Reverend Danielle Jones, for the opportunity.



Andrew Linden playing in worship, accompanied by Stephen Self, Director of Traditional Music.

A Musical Reflection from Andrew Linden

I have always enjoyed hearing Stephen Self play on Sundays. I was overjoyed when I got the opportunity to play with him for the congregation during a service. During my breaks from music school in Nebraska, I do not play much classical literature. Playing at church gives me a perfect opportunity to play classical literature and practice performing. I also love having the opportunity to give my musical talent to the congregation.

Donating my time playing trumpet and sharing music with others brings me true joy. It is one of the main drivers for my musical aspirations. Having played trumpet at Nebraska for three years, I have had my fair share of playing experiences with piano accompanists. Out of all of them I have played with, Stephen is my favorite. He makes it easy for me to fulfill my role as a soloist. Rehearsals go very smoothly because he understands how to treat the accompanying part perfectly. Any small changes I suggest are quickly incorporated into the music. I also enjoy his company. While taking breaks, we talk about composers, the pieces he is preparing for the upcoming service, how school is going, and graduate programs I am thinking about applying to. Stephen has also invited my father, Bradley, my brother John, and our friend McCallen, and me to play as a group on hymns. I have enjoyed performing with my father and brother, and really appreciate that Stephen gave us the opportunity to do that.

Joel Bowers has also been such a great mentor and friend to me this past summer. I worked with him shadowing his daily duties on Sundays and Music + Message. I learned so much about the music industry, live sound, stage set up, how to interact with artists, how to coil a 50 foot cable, and how to be a good leader and facilitator for other musicians. I greatly appreciate his time spent teaching and advising me. I enjoy Joel's company just as much as Stephen. Joel and I spent time weekly debriefing from each service, talking about my musical future, and his past experiences in the music industry.

“A warm hug of love”



This experience was shared with us by a health caregiver at one of the organizations that receives handmade items from Thimble Bees.

“We have a patient (and family) who have been in our care for months. As a team, we knew this would not end well, and hospice was more than appropriate. The patient and family were committed to miracles and felt certain that God would heal. It was traumatic for the care team because the patient was in a great deal of physical pain, and both patient and family were also in emotional pain, which turned into spiritual pain as the healing did not come. . . at least not in the form for which they hoped.

This weekend, they chose to shift to a comfort-focused care plan, which meant they had, at some level, come to terms with the situation. My colleague on service came to my office and found the prayer shawls you all have created for us. Delivering one to the family in hopes of offering a bit of peace, she watched the family open the package and read the prayer aloud.

**Gracious and loving God,
May this Prayer Shawl, stitched with love
and many prayers, bless you and keep you.
May you feel the peace and love of
God that is knitted into every stitch.
May the warmth it brings, and the
color it bears, soothe your body
and comfort your spirit. Amen.
Made with special love by the Thimble Bees
of Wayzata Community Church.**

Finally, they could sink into a deeper knowing of what was happening and were able to cry. . . and cry. It was as if the prayer shawl opened their hearts and touched their souls. They genuinely appreciated the gift of the shawl, the prayers, and the reminder of God's care and love.

Thanks to each of you who take your gifts of time and talent to place a warm hug of love around those in great need of care. ”



celebrations & transitions

BAPTISMS

- Wesley James, child of Laura & Scott Furnary, on July 30.
- Nolan Mark, child of Tyler Gene & Alyse Anne Iorio Eichorst, on August 13.
- Kelly Lynn, child of Caci & David Carlson, on August 13.
- Robert and Christopher, children of Meredith & Chris Palm, on August 13.
- Joshua James, child of Michelle & John Thomas, on October 15.
- Vaughn Paul, child of Mary Kathryn & Seth Haake, on October 15.
- Christian Shaw, child of Nate & Lauren Grinager, on October 15.
- Henry James, child of Ryan & Elizabeth Lueck, on October 15.

CARES

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

CONDOLENCES

- Mark, Erick and Kent Ellgren on the death of their mother, Betsy Ellgren, on March 29, 2023.
- Kris Finneman and Pete Riedesel on the death of Marlys Riedesel on May 3, 2023.
- Andrew and Kaitlyn Baum on the death of Clara Baum, on June 29, 2023.
- Teri Myhran and family on the death of Erik Myhran, on July 10, 2023.
- Steve Beachler and family on the death of Trudy Beachler, on July 26, 2023.
- Jayne Hilde on the death of Al Hilde, on July 28, 2023.
- Howard Dyrdaahl and family on the death of Sandra Dyrdaahl, on August 23, 2023.
- Jim Mitchell on the death of Linda Mitchell, on August 29, 2023.
- Carla Liesch and family on the death of David Liesch, on September 2, 2023.
- Don Ankeny and Emily Martinson on the death of Lisa Ankeny, on September 7, 2023.
- Mark Smith and family on the death of Gina Smith, on September 16, 2023.
- Alistair, Karen and Sophie Jacques and family on the death of Nicholas Jacques, on September 19, 2023.
- Tom and Julie Wallfred on the death of Mary Wallfred, on October 15, 2023.

Inspire Magazine

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COMING UP AT WCC



Burger Night Out!

Friday, November 17, 5:30 p.m.

The Lion's Tap, 16180 Flying Cloud Dr., Eden Prairie

Burger Night Out is exactly what it sounds like! Please join our terrific group of hosts as we gather for burgers, conversation, and connection. Come with someone, or come alone — ALL are welcome! Burger Night is hosted by Jeff McMillan and Gina Unger, Sven and Jodie Nyberg, and Jeff and Anne Johnson. **Register at <https://bit.ly/wccburgernight>**

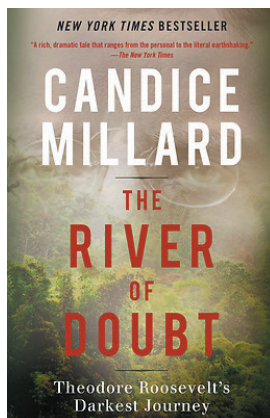


Next Chapter with Clancy Clark

"Love Your Work and Live Your Dream"

Thursday, November 9, 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

It goes without saying that the people who are most successful at their jobs—and in life—are those who really love what they are doing. Clancy Clark learned that lesson as a young man when he observed his border collie, Arlo, come alive when introduced to a flock of sheep to herd. Since that day, he too has been following his passion, which is to help others. Clancy has enjoyed a three-decade career as a highly-successful and recognized sales professional. Now he's on to his next adventure: sharing his life experiences and wisdom as an author, speaker, and coach to help others enjoy truly meaningful work and realize their dreams. This event is free and open to the community.



Third Thursday Readers

November 16

1:00-3:00 p.m., Onan Room

All are welcome to join this group of women and men for a lively discussion of a wide variety of fiction (historical, literary), and non-fiction books. Participate each month or whenever you are able. Contact Margaret Green with any questions, margyg63@gmail.com. In November we will discuss *River of Doubt: Theodore Roosevelt's Darkest Journey*, by Candice Millard. (We will not meet in December.)

COMING UP AT WCC



Upcoming Chancel Choir Concerts

On All Saints Sunday, November 5, Stephen Self, the Chancel Choir and the Meetinghouse Chorale will present an afternoon concert of John Rutter's stirring *Requiem* in a service of remembrance. Prayers and hymns will help to create a meditative time of remembrance and thankfulness. Please join us at 3:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

On Sunday, November 19 at 3:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary, the four section leaders of the Chancel Choir will present an entertaining afternoon of solo and ensemble music that spans genres from classical and sacred to Broadway.



Generosity: Commitment Sunday

Sunday, November 12 is Commitment Sunday

During worship, you'll be invited to bring forward your Intent Card, offering your gifts to God. You may also mail your intent card to the church office or fill out an online Intent Card. Then on the following Sunday, November 19, we'll announce the current results of our Ministry commitments, including the number of Intent Cards received and the faithful response of our congregation. We're excited about the opportunities to meet the needs of our church and community in 2024. We're confident that together, we'll continue to grow and expand the work of God within and beyond our walls through our shared generosity to Plant for the Future.

Angels for Advent

The All-Church Christmas Tea and Advent Angel Display

Please join us for the **ALL-CHURCH CHRISTMAS TEA** on Thursday, December 7th, a special Advent experience for everyone ages 12 and older. Beginning in the Sanctuary, we will savor the sights, sounds and tastes of Christmas, featuring music by Tonia Hughes and Friends, and a Christmas story by Rev. Lindy Purdy. Following the program, enjoy a delicious dessert buffet in Founders Hall, featuring a potluck of sweet holiday treats, with hot tea, coffee and cider. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., and the program begins at 7 p.m.

The Art & Design Committee will host an **ADVENT ANGEL DISPLAY** that will be exhibited in Founders Hall from December 7 to December 17. WCC members are invited to display their personal angels on tables draped with black cloth along the perimeter, and there will also be a Christmas tree especially for angel ornaments. All angel forms and sizes are welcome... figurines, framed art on easels, ornaments, and more! Visit <https://bit.ly/adventangels> for more information and to sign up to participate in the angel display.



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Interfaith Prayer Gathering

On October 24 WCC welcomed many folks from our wide community to gather in Interfaith Prayer. LaDonna Hoy, Founder and Executive Director Emerita at IOCP, spoke eloquently about the wisdom and power of simply, intentionally, praying for those suffering so deeply in Gaza, Israel and Ukraine. Reverends Lindy Purdy, Kristen Rouner Jeide, and Steve Wiens shared moving prayers and poetry, and a young adult string quintet from St. Louis Park played beautiful music throughout the evening. We are grateful that so many felt called to share this powerful time together, praying for peace, forgiveness, hope, and understanding. As one participant wrote on a prayer note, "I have hope that despite differences, unity, love, kindness and peace will be known and embodied." May it be so.

