

inspire

WAYZATA COMMUNITY CHURCH

WINTER 2024

We believe we're at our best at WCC when we gather as an intergenerational community. When we do, we find out more about each other—our differences as well as our similarities—and we build more meaningful friendships. Several new opportunities are coming up at WCC and we invite you to check them out!



Save the date for ANNIE! March 6-10—see page 2 for details!

Lent Art Exhibit sponsored by the WCC Art & Design Committee

Praying, wishing, hoping, dreaming, imagining, envisioning—all are intentional acts of putting good in the world. Art and words create a mood that evokes hope and positivity. Our wish for this exhibit is that as you read these dreams, hopes, and prayers, you will take what you need from them, reflect on your heartfelt wishes, and pour your dreams, beauty, and goodness into the world!

View the Wishes, Hopes, Dreams & Prayers Exhibit in the long hall outside the Chapel and the short hall into Founders Hall beginning on Ash Wednesday, February 14. This exhibit was created with wishes and dreams shared by WCC members and friends, as is the art accompanying some of these special wishes. We are grateful to our WCC faith community for making the dream of this exhibit come true!



In Community

LEARNING TOGETHER IN LENT

Walking Through the Season of Lent Together with the WCC Clergy Team

Wednesdays, February 21 – March 20

4:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. in the Colonnade

This five week class will be based on the Lent Sermon series, Wandering Heart: Figuring out Faith with Peter. A devotional booklet will be provided to participants free of charge. Each class will be a further exploration and discussion based on the previous Sunday's sermon. In addition to the class content, participants will be able to read and reflect on their own during the week if they choose, following the reflections and prompts provided in the booklet. This class will be led by WCC Clergy.

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WAYZATA COMMUNITY CHURCH



presents Annie! March 6-10, 2024

If you keep hearing the tunes “It’s a hard knock life!” and “The sun’ll come out tomorrow!” being sung in your head, it’s no surprise—our cast and crew (comprised of 83 lovely humans ranging in age from 6 to 90, and 1 dog) have been rehearsing 3-4 times each week since last November, getting ready to present this beautiful story of Hope & Community. We are in for a treat with Good Works Community Theater’s fantastic production of Annie — our 14th full-scale musical production, directed by Autumn Toussaint.

We will be transported to Depression-era New York City and meet the spunky and optimistic Annie. Despite her difficult circumstances, Annie believes anything is possible with faith and hard work. She faces numerous challenges, from the strict and cruel Miss Hannigan to the con-iving Rooster and Lily — but through it all, Annie continues to believe that her dreams can come true and that good will triumph over evil. The message of hope is not just about the characters in Annie, but about all of us — a reminder that even in the darkest times, we can hold on to hope and, like Annie, have faith that things really will get better— and that the sun really WILL come out tomorrow!

There are six performances (all free—no tickets required), which include two matinees. The Saturday afternoon show is a disability-friendly matinee and will be ASL interpreted. Make plans now to come and immerse yourself in the spunky, hopeful world of Annie!

See pages 6-7 of this issue and get to know the Annie orphans!

Annie Performances

Doors open 30 minutes before show time with open seating. There will be a concession stand in Founders Hall, offering snacks and beverages. You may also tour our Lent Art Exhibit, right off the lobby area, before the show or during intermission.

- Wednesday, March 6: Opening Night at 7:00 p.m.
- Thursday, March 7: 7:00 p.m.
- Friday, March 8: 7:00 p.m.
- Saturday, March 9: 2:00 p.m. Disability-friendly and ASL Interpreted Matinee
- Saturday, March 9: 7:00 p.m.
- Sunday, March 10: 2:00 p.m. Matinee



The Sleep Out

A WCC MIDDLE SCHOOL TRADITION



On Saturday, November 11 our middle school kids participated in IOCP's annual Sleep Out — a time-honored tradition for Middle School Ministry at WCC. IOCP (Interfaith Outreach & Community Partners) has defined the Sleep Out mission: to raise awareness for our neighbors struggling with poverty, housing insecurity, and the impact poverty can have on these households and our community at large. Their goal was to raise \$3.2 million+ to deliver services that help strengthen our community by meeting its basic needs and equipping families and individuals for ongoing stability by providing services in critical areas: food, clothes, individual/family support, early childhood, housing, employment, transportation, and community connection.

The idea behind the Sleep Out event is that different groups in our communities will raise awareness and funds for this mission by sleeping

**BY ANN HUNHOFF, DIRECTOR
MIDDLE SCHOOL MINISTRY**

outside together for one night. Sleep Out donations provide a great deal of funding for IOCP's budget every year. Last year, Interfaith Outreach prevented homelessness or eviction 548 times by providing housing-related assists. Sleep Out has a significant impact on making these assists possible; it's a huge part of why IOCP is able to do the crucial work they do!



Bob "Shoe Bob" and Terrisa Fisher. Bob started the Sleep Out in 1995 when he pitched a tent in his front yard.

WCC Middle School Ministry has been a part of this incredible tradition for years and years, but the event has humble beginnings even farther back with one bold man deciding to sleep out in his own yard. That man is WCC's very own Bob "Shoe Bob" Fisher. The Sleep Out legacy he has built impacts so many local people and families experiencing hardship, and it's become a core piece of WCC's Middle School programming that helps students learn about doing justice in their own communities. I could go on and on about the importance of Sleep Out for everyone in the entire process who participates, benefits, and learns. Instead, I want to share with you some reflections from students who participated in Sleep Out 2023: 8th graders Lila Bullinger and Reese Truelsen. I hope you can see through their writing not just how bright, perceptive, and compassionate they (most certainly) are, but also how much Sleep Out makes an all-around impact.

LILA BULLINGER

"I really enjoyed the Sleep Out, I learned that low income families can't pay for all necessities so they have to decide what is most important. They might not be able to afford a car so they have to bike, walk, or take a bus so they can pay for other things like childcare or rent. I really enjoyed building my cardboard

THE SLEEP OUT



house because it helped me understand what other people might live in. It was also really fun to decorate the cardboard house because I made it with one of my best friends and we had a lot of fun making it together. It was also fun to learn to budget your money based on what you think you can afford and what you want to pay for. It was challenging to sleep in the cold because I like to sleep really warm. I kept waking up in the middle of the night because I was so cold. Overall, I really enjoyed the Sleep Out."

REESE TRUELSEN

"I went to the WCC Sleep Out at Wayzata Community Church. It was such a great experience and I can't believe how much I learned, how much fun I had and how much of a challenge it was. When most people think about homelessness they have a stereotypical image of what homelessness may look like. They may imagine someone who is unemployed, a drug addict or a criminal. Through the Sleep Out I learned that everyone has a different background and we can't judge them due to their current circumstances. Do you know that 52% of people experience a type of homelessness in their lifetime?

I also learned about IOCP (Interfaith Outreach and Community Partners). IOCP is such an amazing organization. It helps people who are struggling with basic needs get back on their feet. IOCP is able to help them pay rent, pay bills, get food, and so much more. IOCP is such an incredibly helpful and welcoming program to anyone in need.

The first thing we did when we arrived at WCC was a household budgeting activity. This activity was super challenging because we had a budget and we had to pay for our whole family's needs for the month. We had to decide what was a necessity and what we didn't need to pay for at the moment. It was hard to determine what was more useful to pay for, and it really

made me realize how much stress it can be to have to worry about keeping a roof over your head and the electricity on.

Another challenging activity was creating our shelter. We had to use cardboard boxes to put together a shelter to sleep in outside that night. I enjoyed the process because it made me think around challenging obstacles and roadblocks. For example, constructing the box so that we had enough space to sleep, but not too much so we would stay warm throughout the cold November night. I really enjoyed decorating our box with fairy lights, blankets, and photos but I realize that people in need don't have many decorations to decorate their homes.



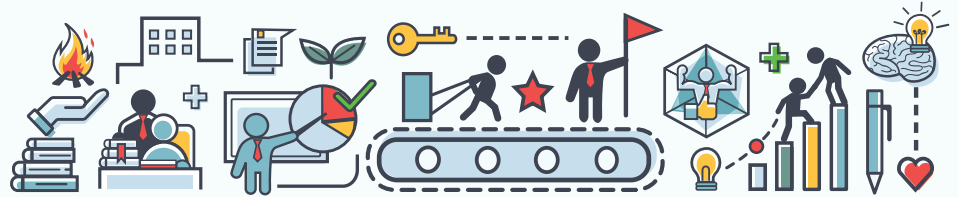
After we made our box we had to sleep through the night which was really challenging. I did not get a very good night's sleep because I would wake up cold and would struggle to fall back asleep. It was really challenging to make it through one night outside so I can't imagine how hard it would be to live an everyday life like that for an unknown period of time in Minnesota.

Another challenge we faced was dinner. We were given a budget of 2 dollars per person to buy groceries for dinner. Did you know most people experiencing homelessness have a budget of \$1.75 for food per day? Ultimately, the group decided to combine our money to buy dinner. We agreed on basic tacos but the struggle of determining what groceries were within our budget was a real challenge.

The Sleep Out was such a great experience because I learned, had fun, and was challenged. I would recommend this activity for future middle schoolers and I'm so glad I took the opportunity."

DOUGH

HELPING PEOPLE AND IDEAS RISE



Serving as a Skills Coach

BY KATIE SEMERSKY

Katie Semersky volunteered as a Marketing Skills Coach on the team for Wildflyer Coffee in the 2021 round of Dough. We asked her to reflect on her experience.

What compelled you to become a skills coach?

I saw the Dough program promoted at church and it got my attention because I was already looking for opportunities about how I could add value to non-profits in a new way, different than typical “manual labor” volunteering. My strengths are in Marketing, Business, and Leadership, and I was looking for opportunity to serve my community with those skills.

Apply to be a Skills Coach for Dough semi-finalists!

Dough is a social entrepreneurship initiative of Wayzata Community Church, created to help people and ideas rise, by offering grants for great ideas and help start-up organizations grow. Serving as a Skills Coach is a great opportunity to contribute your knowledge and expertise and help mentor Dough semi-finalist candidates in the Dough process through May 2024.

Semi-finalists are paired up with a “Navigator” who serves as a main point of contact to shepherd applicants forward through the process. In this phase, “Skills Coaches”—church members who have deep knowledge and who are willing to provide their support to you at no cost—are available to help candidates polish their ideas.

Fill out a skills form on our website at bit.ly/doughcoach. Please let us know your areas of expertise where you feel you will be the most effective Skills Coach for a Dough applicant.

Why did you feel called to volunteer?

I was in a time of transition in my career, and I was curious to know if my corporate business skills would be valued in the nonprofit industry. Volunteering as a Skills Coach was a great way for me to test and learn a new industry with my business skills. And it was a great way to connect with new people in the WCC community.

How do you feel you made a difference for the applicant?

Carley Kammerer at Wildflyer Coffee was very appreciative of our team's coaching in enhancing her business plan, strengthening her presentation skills, and marketing her business to gain new customers and donations. I have continued my relationship with Wildflyer, and have led various marketing projects for them for the last 3 years. Dough was like a matchmaker for me to find a nonprofit that I am passionate to serve!

How is working with Wildflyer rewarding for you?

I find it very rewarding to help nonprofits with a mission that I believe in. I enjoy helping them make progress on their mission and grow their impact on our community.

Meet the Wonderful Orphans!



Stella Gelperin

"I play Louise, the Additional Orphan :) So far, she doesn't have many very distinct characteristics — but I'm thinking of adding some to her character! My favorite part of being in *Annie* is that I love learning all the dances and singing with all the orphans, and everyone in the cast. This is my first show with the Good Works Community Theater. Through my school (Hopkins High School) I have been in *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *Shrek*, and I look forward to getting more acting experience being in the *Annie* cast, growing friendships with my fellow castmates, and being part of a real, professional show!"

playing her— it's a fun role. *Annie* is my second show with Good Works Community Theater — I was in *Big Fish*— and I've been in a couple of other shows as well. I attend Wayzata East Middle School. I look forward to developing more connections with the people in the cast, so when I pass them in the hallway we can be like hey— *I recognize you from Annie!*"



Adelaide Helmers

"I play the orphan Tessie in *Annie*. Tessie is kind of a crybaby and a complainer, but she's also best friends with Duffy and Pepper! I love playing the role of Tessie. My favorite thing about being in this show is that I like all my orphan friends, and I love being able to SING in the show. I LOVE singing! I go to school at Plymouth Creek Elementary, and I have been in a lot of plays through the Plymouth Community Center. This is my first show with Good Works Community Theater. While performing in *Annie* I hope to learn to be confident singing in front of a crowd, and also make new friends!"



Maeve Finn

"I play the orphan Kate. She is a tom-boy and kind of adventurous. I am actually a lot like Kate! My favorite part of being in the show has been getting to know all the wonderful friends I've made, getting to know Autumn, and all the other cast members. I've performed in *Annie* at the Morningside Theatre in Edina, a show called *Hotel Noel*, and I just auditioned for *Sound of Music*. I go to school at Countryside Elementary. I look forward to making a lot of friendships doing this show, and maybe some pen pals!"



Zoe Ryan

"I play the orphan Pepper. Pepper is kind of negative, sort of the grumpy one, not very realistic, not very positive— but she's also kind of the leader of the bunch! I like that she's very independent— even when the other orphans are singing and dancing, she sticks to her usual grumpy self! I enjoy



Genevieve Helmers

"I play an orphan named July. July is very protective. She likes following the rules, so whenever Miss Hannigan says 'do this!' July does it— but she does it very angrily, and she sort of makes just half the effort because she



Annie with Sandy, played by sweet Golden Girl Getty!

doesn't want to get in trouble. But she also doesn't like Miss Hannigan, and so she wants to rebel! She is a fun character to play. My favorite thing so far is meeting new people and having fun with everyone, and I like all the dancing and the choreography. This is my first show with Good Works Community Theater, and I have also performed in plays at Wayzata East Middle School. I hope to gain more acting experience being in *Annie*, and make some new friends!"

leave without making a new friend. *Annie* is the fourth Good Works Community Theater show I've been in—my first show was playing a daughter in *Fiddler on the Roof* when I was 6 years old. It's cute to now get to know the littler cast members in *Annie* and think, 'oh, that used to be me!' I go to Wayzata West Middle School. I have already gotten so much from this show, and I have already made such great friends, but if I could leave with just one thing I would say that carrying on friendships with the cast for the rest of my life would be great!"



McLean Roeder

"I play Duffy. She is the oldest orphan of the group, so she kind of 'holds down' the pack—mostly the troublemakers. When she can't control the troublemakers, that's when Annie takes over! It's hard to choose what I've enjoyed most about being in the show so far, but one of my biggest priorities is building community, meeting a lot of new people, having fun, always being excited to come to rehearsals, and knowing I'll never



Amy Lukasik

"I play Annie—I have never played Annie before! I previously played a mermaid in *Big Fish* with Good Works Community Theater. I go to school at Capitol Hill, where I also play percussion in the band. Last year I was in a show at Stages Theater called *Once On an Island*. I am really enjoying making friendships and connecting with others in the *Annie* cast!"



Landyn Rondeau

"I play Molly, who is the youngest and shortest orphan. I am 6-1/2 years old and my favorite thing about being in *Annie* is having fun, making new friends, and being the bossy one of the orphans! She is the youngest and the other orphans Pepper and July sort of baby her. This is my first time being in a theater performance. I also do Irish Dance. I started that when I was five and I love it. I look forward to having a happy time with my friends in the cast and helping them do a good job in their roles, and I am really glad to be in this play!"

No problem to solve

BY RICHARD ROHR

If you watch your mind, you will see you live most of your life in the past or in the future. The present always seems boring and not enough. So, to get yourself engaged, you will often “create a problem” to resolve, and then another, and another. The only way many people know how to motivate themselves is to create problems or to need to “fix” something.

If you can't be positively present right now, without creating a probe, nothing new is ever going to happen to you. You will only experience what you already agree with and what does not threaten you— and will never experience the unexpected depth and contentment that is always being offered to you.

Notice that the Scriptures present God as a thief, or a master who returns before being expected (see Matthew 24:42-46), who even “puts on an apron, sits them at the table, and waits on them” (see Luke 12:35-38)! Do you realize what an extraordinary notion of God Jesus must have had to talk that way? God waiting on us! No problem to solve; just an immediate intimacy to enjoy.

It is just such a moment that can elicit such awe and surrender from you; awe before the utterly undeserved and unexpected— and some sweet surrender to the fact that it might just be true.

From Just This, Prompts and Practices for Contemplation by Richard Rohr



celebrations & transitions

BAPTISMS

- George Philip Jackley, child of Philip & Kaylee Jackley, on November 19, 2023.
- Liam Gary Brennan, child of Raya Zimmerman & Nate Brennan, on November 19, 2023.
- Emilia Bea Neal, child of Kevin & Laura Neal, on November 19, 2023.

CARES

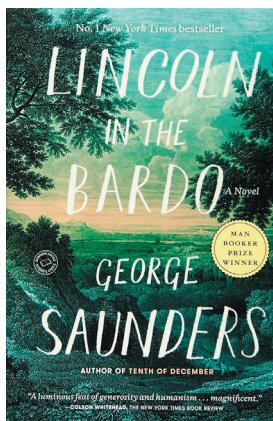
If we can be helpful before or during your hospital stay, please call our Pastoral staff at the church, 952-473-8877.

CONDOLENCES

- Paula Ellwein and family on the death of her husband, Jack Errett, who died on October 5, 2023.
- Betty Peters and family on the death of Leonard Peters, October 21, 2023.
- The family of Marilyn Powers, who died on October 28, 2023.
- The family of Jim Cox, who died on November 20, 2023.
- Laurie Falla on the death of her husband, Chuck McGrew, who died on November 21, 2023.
- Chad Nelson and family on the death of his wife, Nancy Nelson on December 9, 2023.
- The family and friends of Nan Nicolle, who died on January 8, 2024.
- Sharon Frank and family on the death of her husband, Bill Frank, on January 17, 2024.
- The family and friends of Betty VanValkenburg, who died on January 18, 2024.
- Marcia Aamodt and family on the death of her husband, James Aamodt on January 18, 2024.

Inspire Magazine

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Third Thursday Readers

February 15

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 February we will discuss *Lincoln in the Bardo*, by George Saunders.



Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, March 23

9:30-11:30 a.m. in the Gym

for kids ages 2-10

Join us at church a week before Easter for our annual Easter Egg Hunt! In addition to hunting for eggs, kids will have fun playing on inflatables, decorating an Easter cookie, face painting and making a fun Easter craft. Don't forget to take a picture with the Easter bunny! \$10 per child.



Treat Yourself to a Lenten Mini Retreat

Saturday, March 23, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at WCC

\$30 for materials and lunch

Take a morning this Lent to pause and reflect on this tender time of the church year as we move toward Easter. We will meet together in the Chapel for a meditation and reflection from Rev. Danielle Jones. Then we will engage in an active way of reflecting on God's work in our lives called Soul Collage. We will close our time together with a shared lunch and fellowship.



Register at bit.ly/wcc_Lent_retreat or scan the QR code.

COMING UP AT WCC



Soup, Salad and Song Luncheons

Thursdays in Mithun Hall

March 14, April 18, and May 16

Especially tailored to those ages 60+

11:30 a.m. Community time, 12:00 p.m. Lunch

Our crew of amazing volunteers provide a variety of delicious soups and salads to share! We start with music and fun, followed by the luncheon. If you would like, please bring a dessert, salad, bread, appetizers, or any favorite of yours, and invite someone who might enjoy a time of fun and fellowship. Contact Sandy Seibert for more information at 952-334-2840 or sandyfreyseibert@gmail.com. For transportation options, please contact Vicki Thompson at 612-270-4458 or peterthompson9@comcast.net.



VBS 2024: Start the Party

Monday – Friday, August 5 – 9, 2024

9:00 a.m. to Noon Daily

For ages 3 through 5th grade

\$100 per person

We believe God's love and the Gospel of Jesus are the best news ever! So, let's have a party to celebrate! Kids ages 3 through pre-teen are invited to join in on this fun experience. All week long they'll discover the Good News through this hands-on, high energy, engaging week. Register today at bit.ly/WCCVBS2024



Holy Week and Easter

Maundy Thursday, March 28

6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Join us at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary for the Maundy Thursday service. Through Traditional music, Prayers of Confession, and Scripture readings, we will journey through the final moments in the life of Jesus prior to his death on the cross.

Good Friday, March 29

12 noon in the Sanctuary

Join us at noon on Good Friday for a reflective service featuring Contemporary music, Scripture readings, and a brief meditation as we walk with Jesus all the way to the cross.

Easter Sunday, March 31

Sunrise at 6:30 a.m. at Wayzata Beach

Chapel Service at 8:00 a.m.

Contemporary Service at 9:00 a.m.

Traditional Service at 10:30 a.m.

Join us at any of our four Easter Services as we celebrate the risen Christ together! All ages are welcome at each service. Childcare provided for ages birth through Pre-K at the 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services.



WAYZATA COMMUNITY CHURCH
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Summer Camp!

Register now for the best week of your summer!

2024 CAMP SESSIONS

Elementary Camp

For campers entering 3rd – 6th Grades in Fall 2024

Elementary Session #1 – Friday, June 21 – Monday, June 24, 2024

Elementary Session #2 – Monday, July 8- Thursday, July 11, 2024

Middle School Camp

For campers entering 7th – 9th Grades in Fall 2024

Middle School Session #1 – Wednesday, June 26 – Monday, July 1, 2024

Middle School Session #2 – Saturday, July 13 – Thursday, July 18, 2024

High School Camp

For campers entering 10th through graduated Seniors in Fall 2024

High School Camp – Friday, June 14— Wednesday, June 19, 2024

Work Crew

For campers entering 10th – 12th grade in Fall 2024

Work Crew Session #1: June 21 to July 1, 2024 (11 days)

Work Crew Session #2: July 8 to July 18, 2024 (11 days)



Register at wayzatacommunitychurch.org/summer-camp-registration