



inspire the world with the inclusive love of Jesus

inspire!

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It's always the "right" time to take part in Random Acts of Kindness! Read more on page 2.

Jason Barger, author of "ReMember: renewing our focus in a distracting world", will be our guest preacher on Sunday, February 5. Read more on page 3.

Gifts from the Dark is the theme for our Lent Study beginning in March. Read more about the study and the Lent Sermon Series on page 12.

A monthly magazine of
Wayzata Community Church
FEBRUARY 2017
Volume 39, Number 2

From the Heart

Dear Jesus,
I thought I would write you a thank you note for the gifts I received from you this Christmas. As usual I had been wondering what to give you, and as usual, I was with people who showed me and gave me presents from you and for you.

When I hear you calling my heart, I usually notice a person looking sad, scared, needing comfort, encouragement or just someone to acknowledge them. Many times there is someone there who shows me and my reluctant self how to help.

I went to the Parables service at church this morning. I saw a new young person sitting up by the pulpit with a few others and Getty, the service dog. She looked scared and nervous. I was wondering what to do. Then one of the Parables gang got up, walked to the front, smiled at the girl, said "hi" and sat down next to her. The young girl seemed

FROM THE HEART, continued on page 2



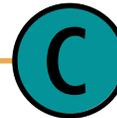
Travel to the Holy Land

Rev. S. Lindy Purdy will lead a trip to the Holy Land from October 25-November 7, 2017. Read about this trip on page 9.



The Longest Journey

Open yourself to the possibility that the longest journey—the one from your head to your heart—just got a lot shorter. Read Rev. Dr. John Ross's For the Moment on page 3.



Coffeehouse Concerts

Coffeehouse in The Loft through February! Read more about these casual Friday evening concerts on page 6.

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to relax. They left after the service, talking to each other and smiling. That young Parable taught me how to reach out with my heart. Faith made real.

I went to Founders Hall to check on how the volunteer sign-ups were doing for Families Moving Forward, which will be at WCC soon, as we host four homeless families for a week. I was suddenly impacted by the number of volunteers signed up who have been doing this as long as we have hosted. I think since 1997.

I left church this morning filled with gratitude, for new possibilities. I felt like I had been encountering Jesus all morning.

I remembered the last time we hosted. It was the week of Christmas and how it hurt me to know these families would not be in their own place for Christmas. BUT our volunteers set up the rooms where the families would be staying—a room for each family. Other volunteers made and served the dinners. People came to host, greet the families, help them feel comfortable, sit around the table having dinner together, hear some of their stories, and get to know them.

I watched as a group of our youth and adults took the older kids to the Gym, while volunteers played with the younger kids. I got to carry a baby around for as long as I wanted. Such a gift to me. Other people came to spend the night for support if a guest needed something. They fixed breakfast and made sure the families got on the bus to go down to the shelter or off to school.

I knew at the end of the week the families would go on to another church and have Christmas with them, as another group of WCC volunteers would clean up, take down the beds and take the laundry home to wash. And the rooms would turn back into classrooms.

I'm sure that each person involved with Families Moving Forward was "Jesus as Spirit" giving from the heart.

After I signed up I turned to leave and saw an adorable 3 year old girl taking off her coat and hugging her long eared stuffed bunny rabbit. We waved, she smiled, and I felt blessed. True JOY.

May I bring my heart to others. I can do this!
Thanks, Jesus, for being with me.



Mindful Kindness

To encourage a kinder world, start at home. Here are a couple of simple guidelines from [Mindful Magazine](#) to help develop kindness and compassion.

Find Small Ways To Connect

One mom and her kids talk at dinner about simple ways to be kinder to others. For example, they decided that every time they walk into an elevator, they would make eye contact with one person, possibly offer a smile and maybe even a few words.

"It's about making an effort to connect," she says. "Once we had the sense of what kinds of things we can do, we really broadened our 'giving' vocabulary. My kids and I share this sense that every day and in every situation, there are lots of ways to reach out beyond ourselves and do something—however tiny—that is kind."

Acknowledge Those Around You

Others notice when you're not noticing them because you're preoccupied. Interact with anyone who's helping you. One parent said, "While I was going through a grocery store checkout, I got a phone call from a doctor I'd been waiting to hear from. I took the call. Afterwards, I told the checkout person and grocery bagger I was sorry. 'I had to take that call but I know it was rude.' They said, 'Nobody ever says sorry for that. You're right; it's rude. It's like we're invisible.' They were touched by the apology and the acknowledgement. After all, it doesn't feel good to be ignored, particularly while you're helping somebody." Considerate gestures matter.

Random Acts of Kindness

Mark Twain said, "Kindness is a language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see." To me, kindness is important because when I am kind, I feel good and my life has meaning.

Kindness is the ability to enrich the lives of others. It can be expressed though a smile, a kind word or a helping hand. Sometimes, the kindest thing we can do is just to walk away from a tense situation and not react with anger or retribution. One thing is certain, each of us benefits personally, and our world is a better place when we treat each other with kindness, regardless of the circumstances.

Sometimes we search for "the right" opportunity to be kind, or we look for someone who is "deserving" of our kindness. *Everyone* needs kindness. Regardless of our social status, education level or any other factor that might separate us, an act of kindness always brings us together.

Imagine what the world could be like if we would ask ourselves one simple question before we react—What is the kind thing to do in this situation? Could we eliminate war, hatred, poverty, starvation and human suffering? I don't know, but we should try—for ourselves, for our children and for the world.

—Kelsey G. of the Pittsburgh Kindness Initiative



for the moment

Rev. Dr. John F. Ross, Senior Minister

The Longest Journey

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. (Romans 12:2, NRSV)

As a child my parents told me never to get in a car with a stranger and until very recently I would never have considered sleeping in a stranger's house. Now I do both things on a regular basis. What changed? My heart. How did that happen? TRUST.

A truly remarkable shift in trust is happening right now. Researchers refer to it as "distributed trust"—a fundamental shift from trusting institutions (as we have over the past 150-200 years), back to trusting individual people (in ways humans did when our lives revolved around small, local villages).

Ironically, technology is making this renewed person-to-person trust possible. UBER is what got me to trust a total stranger for rides around town. Airbnb created the trust-leap that had my family and me sleeping in the home of total strangers in Decorah, IA. Both platforms and countless others are experiencing exponential growth. It seems the electrons in our devices are encouraging the electrons in our brains to make the longest journey in the world: from our heads to our hearts.

In his letter to the church in Rome, Paul encouraged Christians to be transformed by the renewing of their minds—or as I say at the close of every worship service: *...let God re-make you from within.* In order to have our hearts changed, we need to open our minds by trusting others—one to one—in all new ways.

For the moment, consider the ways you can learn from high-tech applications ways to be more high-touch in your daily life. Open yourself to the possibility that the longest journey—the one from our heads to our hearts—just got a lot shorter.

I'll see you in church,

John

Rev. Dr. John F. Ross, Senior Minister

Open yourself to the possibility that the longest journey—the one from our heads to our hearts—just got a lot shorter.



Author Jason Barger in Worship February 5



Our collaborative preaching series *ReMember* was inspired by Jason Barger's second motivational book, "*ReMember: renewing our focus in a distracting world*".

Jason's book has been very successful in connecting teams and organizations to impact change in their lives and work. Jason is a motivational speaker, leadership coach, storyteller and a culture and service visionary. He adds value to organizations across the country and around the world that are passionate about Culture-Shaping, Leadership Development, and bringing their Mission, Vision and Values to life every day.

In 2004, he was one of five people in Columbus, Ohio, to receive a Jefferson Award, a national award given to "ordinary people doing extraordinary things." In 2014, *Business First* named him one of their "Forty Under 40" Award recipients.

Join us Sunday, February 5 as Jason closes our series with the profound challenge to become a first responder.

For more information about Jason check him out here: <http://jasonvbarger.com/>



Ready for another new shell? Summer Camp 2017 at Bay Lake Camp

by Hilary Flynn, Retreat & Camp Ministry Director

One year ago I wrote about the true lives of hermit crabs. These little creatures live inside shells all their lives. Over time, as they grow, they become too big for the shell that once fit them. When they are too squeezed, they venture out to find new shells that are big enough to allow them to grow again.

Last year I wrote about how scary it must be for the hermit crab to crawl out of its shell... vulnerable and searching for a new home. It was an apt metaphor for the experience of Camp Ministry. After 5 years at our original "shell", we surpassed the available time and space at Pilgrim Point. Camp Ministry had grown, and our shell no longer fit our needs, so, after a lengthy search we leased Camp New Hope for our 2016 season. We loved the accessibility, the intimate property, the stunning seclusion and northwoods beauty of Glacier Lake... but the property presented significant challenges as well, and the search continued for the best "new shell" for 2017 and beyond.

Once again, our faithful Camp Ministry Board, registrar volunteers, dozens of subcommittee members, Church Council and Church Staff have prayed us all forward in pursuit of our next home. We are thrilled to be taking the next step - along a faithful journey of finding a permanent home for Camp - to another lease, this time at Bay Lake in Deerwood, Minnesota. The property is located on Church Island, and is owned and operated by First Lutheran Church in St. Paul. The camp has previously been for sale, and they have made it available for our 2017 sessions. We are blessed to have found Bay Lake Camp, and are excited to learn more through a whole summer of use. We know campers will love the beauty of the lake, the quality of the facilities, and the unique wooded island setting. Our summer staff is already preparing to welcome all incoming 3rd graders through graduated seniors for a variety of sessions during June and July, as well as, Church Camp for all ages and stages of life in our faith community.

I have loved every "shell" that our Camp Ministry has called "home". Each has been a beautiful, unique, and memorable back-drop for outdoor ministry. But have no doubt; the primary reason we have loved every "shell" is because of the ministry that has taken place there... relationships formed and renewed, encounters with God at Camp that have shaped lives back at home, God's kingdom created wherever we go, and loving each camper with the inclusive love of Jesus.

Each new "shell" is a gift from God. We can't wait to share Bay Lake Camp with all our campers — children, youth, and adults — and invite them to continue growing into a new, and sacred, home.

Read more about Camp dates, session fees, and download a Summer Camp 2017 brochure at www.wayzatacommunitychurch.org/summer-camp.



Wayzata Ice Palooza Fundraiser for WCC Camp Scholarships!

Come and support Summer Camp Scholarships!
Saturday, February 25th, 2017 • Noon to 3:00 p.m.
Lake Minnetonka, Wayzata Bay
(17502 County Road 101 W, Wayzata, MN 55391)

- 1.) Take part in an epic broomball tournament on the lake. We'll provide the equipment and give prizes for top-finishing and best-dressed teams—gather a team of 5 and sign up today.
- 2.) Just come to hang out on the lake and enjoy hot drinks, live music, and great company. Register today at www.wayzataicepalooza.com.



Melting Our Hearts

by Gary Johnson, Mission & Outreach Board

Like most Minnesotans I've been thinking a lot lately about ice. How can that beautiful, pure, new fallen snow of Christmas turn into three inches of ice on my driveway? We spray, steam, salt, sand, curse and hack at ice. Some skate on it, I worry about slipping on it. Fishermen build a shack and drill through it. It seems to cover everything—our sidewalks, windshields, lakes, streets, roofs and sometimes our hearts.

Maybe for you, it's just a frost. For me, it's a frozen Minnehaha Falls. Thick cold rigid layers that build, one on another, numbing yet protecting. Flicking a channel when there is a tragedy I don't want to hear about. Not quite finding the time to call a friend in need. Driving by a homeless person on the street. Looking away without a welcome. It seems colder and thicker after pain. A family member who struggles with alcohol or depression or both. The death of a friend. A betrayal.

But then when you least expect it, a frigid winter day soars into the forties. For some, the ice melts into a stream of sparkling diamonds like the Sanctuary filled with candlelight on Christmas Eve. For me the thaw came on suddenly with gushes of water threatening to soak my shoes and socks. Salty, shockingly cold, messy.

It was a young girl's smile in Nicaragua that thawed my frozen heart. Her face glowed as pristine as her school uniform. Lovingly washed and carried in a plastic bag for the two hours she had walked to school for the chance to learn in a country where education stops in fifth grade. Where the typical family exists on \$500 a year. A chance at earning a livable wage. At something better. Her face radiated worth, hope and grace.

In 2016, the net proceeds from Mission Festival were given to the Emprendadora Technical High School in Nicaragua, which empowers kids (7th-12th grade) through hands-on learning in the areas two most promising industries, tourism and agriculture. Because of you, because of us, that school will have a library. Available to the whole community. The first in the area. Ever. Imagine that!

Why Nicaragua? JR profoundly, yet simply, says "because we can". For those young students. For the community. But mostly for us. Because underneath, haven't we all suffered a broken heart covered in sheets of ice?

Give God's grace. Feel God's grace. Our church is involved in many mission projects near and far, which desperately need you. Come discover what melts your heart and fills you with the hope of spring.

Let's make messes!

Life sure is messy and busy, isn't it? We are busy people, with busy families, going to busy places.

We're often a mess trying to live a productive and put-together life. I recently had a student sit down next to me and produce a wet cough square in my face. I'm sure my face reflected pure shock and we went on to practice how to properly cough at school. Now this is pretty much an inevitability at some point as a preschool teacher, so it wasn't a big deal, but it got me thinking, as a teacher, about messes.

At WCC Nursery School we love messes. Students walk through the door in a flurry of activity with missing boots, coats, folders and frazzled busy parents. This is an opportunity to show love; to practice what we preach. We love messes. A student coughs in our face and it's a teachable moment. We love messes. A sensory table project goes horribly wrong and suddenly there is green paint on the ceiling. It's an opportunity to talk about physics. We love messes. A student draws on the wall. What a wonderful time to show them how to use a washcloth. We love messes.



Children need messes, a recent study at the University of Iowa concluded that there is a link between toddler messes and early vocabulary. If they make a mess at their highchair, they are more likely to identify the food they are playing with. So, amid the busy, put-together lives we strive to achieve, let's make messes. Let's love our children through the messes and the perfect moments in life. Let's love messes.

WCCNS is enrolling for 2017-2018 now! [Click here](#) to download a pdf of the WCCNS Enrollment packet, which includes all necessary enrollment forms that need to be completed. Once you have completed the forms, please return them to the Wayzata Community Church Nursery School. Visit www.wccns.org for more information about the variety of programs offered.

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

february 2017

**February Mission of the Month:
Read Indeed**

We are collecting new or gently used books for Read Indeed, a local non-profit which donates used books to kids who don't have books of their own in the US and abroad. Help a child develop the love of reading by owning their own books!



Thimble Bees

Thimble Bees meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month from 9:00 a.m. to noon in Mithun Hall. Whether you have been in Thimble Bees for years or are just thinking about it, please join us! If you sew or knit, this group is for you. Women willing to tie baby quilts, stuff toys, and do other tasks are welcome, too. Come for the joy of participating in some very special mission work and the fellowship of a group of caring women.



5

SUPER BOWL OF SOUL

Jason Barger, Guest Preacher
8 a.m. Chapel Communion, Chapel
9:00 a.m. Celebrations Worship, Sanctuary
10:10 a.m. Parables Worship, Chapel
10:45 a.m. Traditions Worship, Sanctuary
Israel Trip Information Meetings, 10 a.m. & 12 noon
Hillcrest Golden Living Worship, 11 a.m.
Meridian Manor Worship, 1 p.m.
High School Super Bowl Party, 5 p.m.

6

Archives, 9 a.m.
AA, 10 a.m.
Rummage Committee Meeting, 4 p.m.
Parables Task Force, 6:30 p.m.
Middle School CE Board, 7 p.m.
AI Anon, 7:30 p.m.

7

Planning Committee, 6 p.m.
High School CE Board, 6:30 p.m.
Art & Design Committee, 7 p.m.,
Board of Deacons, 7 p.m.
Children's CE Board, 7 p.m.
GenComm Meeting, 7 p.m.
OA, 7 p.m.

12

Rev. Leslie Neugent preaching

8 a.m. Chapel Communion, Chapel
9:00 a.m. Celebrations Worship, Sanctuary
10:10 a.m. Parables Worship, Chapel
10:45 a.m. Traditions Worship, Sanctuary
Meridian Manor Worship, 1 p.m.
Troop 283 Pancake Breakfast, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Nominating Board Fair, 10-11 a.m., Founders Hall
Israel Trip Informational Meetings, 10 a.m. & 12 noon
Civic Orchestra Concert, 3 p.m.

13

Archives, 9 a.m.
AA, 10 a.m.
Parables Book Group, 6:30 p.m.
I Am That Girl MS, 7 p.m.
I Am That Girl HS, 7 p.m.
I Am That Girl Moms, 7 p.m.
AI Anon, 7:30 p.m.

14

Thimble Bees, 9 a.m.
Exec. Comm. of Council, 5:30 p.m.
Membership Committee, 6:30 p.m.
Adult CE Board, 7 p.m.
Personnel Committee, 7 p.m.
OA, 7 p.m.

19

Rev. S. Lindy Purdy preaching

8 a.m. Chapel Communion, Chapel
9:00 a.m. Celebrations Worship, Sanctuary
10:10 a.m. Parables Worship, Chapel
10:45 a.m. Traditions Worship, Sanctuary
Hillcrest Golden Living Worship, 11 a.m.
Meridian Manor Worship, 1 p.m.
Artaria Concert, 3 p.m. (Chapel)
Wayzata Symphony Orchestra Concert, 3 p.m.

20

Archives, 9 a.m.
AA, 10 a.m.
Music Board, 7 p.m.
AI Anon, 7:30 p.m.

21

Church Council, 7 p.m.
OA, 7 p.m.
Unique Family Ministry Meeting, 7 p.m.

26

Kai Brewster preaching

8 a.m. Chapel Communion, Chapel
9:00 a.m. Celebrations Worship, Sanctuary
10:10 a.m. Parables Worship, Chapel
10:45 a.m. Traditions Worship, Sanctuary
Meridian Manor Worship, 1 p.m.
Minnetonka Orchestra Concert, 3 p.m.

27

Archives, 9 a.m.
AA, 10 a.m.
Loaves & Fishes, 5:15 p.m. (offsite)
Parables Book Group, 6:30 p.m.
I Am That Girl MS, 7 p.m.
I Am That Girl HS, 7 p.m.
I Am That Girl Moms, 7 p.m.
AI Anon, 7:30 p.m.

28

Thimble Bees, 9 a.m.
CHC Meeting, 4:30 p.m.
GenComm Meeting, 7 p.m.
OA, 7 p.m.



Soup, Salad and Song Luncheon

Led by Rev. Lindy Purdy
February 15 • 12:00 noon in Mithun Hall
Join us for a potluck lunch for all folks
55 or better, featuring music, games, fellowship
and great food! All are welcome.



The Third Thursday Readers will meet in the Piper Library at 1 p.m. on February 16 to discuss *One Summer: America, 1927*, by Bill Bryson.

If you like to read and discuss books, please join us! Everyone is welcome!

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

<p>1 WEDNESDAY PROGRAMS</p> <p>AA, 10 a.m. Soul Sisters Lunch Bunch, 11:30 a.m. Director of Ops Search, 1 p.m. SEEDS, 4 p.m. Afternoon Classes, 4:30-6:00 p.m. Food for the Soul (Suppers), 5-6:15 p.m. Worship on Wednesday, 6:20 p.m. Super Bowl of Soul Choir Rehearsal, 7:15 p.m. Evening Classes, 7:15-8:30 p.m. SEEDS, 7:15 p.m. Al Anon, 7:45 p.m. Inklings, 9 p.m. (offsite)</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Women's AA, 10 a.m. Faith Bible Study, 10 a.m. at Folkestone Called to Care Intensive, 12 noon Minister Search Committee, 5:30 p.m. Smart Stepfamilies Class, 7 p.m.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>SPCO Concert, 8 p.m.</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Saturday Seekers, 8 a.m. Old Timers' Basketball, 9 a.m. Super Bowl of Soul Choir Rehearsal, 9:30 a.m. AA, 11 a.m.</p>
<p>8 WEDNESDAY PROGRAMS</p> <p>AA, 10 a.m. Director of Ops Search, 1 p.m. SEEDS, 4 p.m. Afternoon Classes, 4:30-6:00 p.m. Parables Young Adult Bible Study, 5 p.m. Food for the Soul (Suppers), 5-6:15 p.m. Worship on Wednesday, 6:20 p.m. 5th Grade Stepping Stone, 7:15 p.m. Evening Classes, 7:15-8:30 p.m. SEEDS, 7:15 p.m. Al Anon, 7:45 p.m. Inklings, 9 p.m. (offsite)</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Finance Committee, 6:45 a.m. Women's AA, 10 a.m. Faith Bible Study, 10 a.m. at Folkestone Library Committee, 11 a.m. Smart Stepfamilies Class, 7 p.m.</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Middle School Guys Lock-In, 6 p.m. Coffeehouse Concert, 7 p.m.</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Saturday Seekers, 8 a.m. Old Timers' Basketball, 9 a.m. Breakfast with Clifford, 10 a.m. AA, 11 a.m.</p>
<p>15 WEDNESDAY PROGRAMS</p> <p>AA, 10 a.m. Soup, Salad and Song Luncheon, 12 noon SEEDS, 4 p.m. Afternoon Classes, 4:30-6:00 p.m. Parables Young Adult Bible Study, 5 p.m. Food for the Soul (Suppers), 5-6:15 p.m. Worship on Wednesday, 6:20 p.m. 5th Grade Stepping Stone, 7:15 p.m. Evening Classes, 7:15-8:30 p.m. SEEDS, 7:15 p.m. Al Anon, 7:45 p.m. Inklings, 9 p.m. (offsite)</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Women's AA, 10 a.m. Faith Bible Study, 10 a.m. at Folkestone Third Thursday Readers, 1 p.m. Arizona Snowbirds Dinner, 5 p.m. Smart Stepfamilies Class, 7 p.m.</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Kids' Night Out, 6 p.m. Coffeehouse, 7 p.m.</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Saturday Seekers, 8 a.m. Old Timers' Basketball, 9 a.m. AA, 11 a.m. WSO Dress Rehearsal, 2:30 p.m.</p>
<p>22 WEDNESDAY PROGRAMS</p> <p>AA, 10 a.m. SEEDS, 4 p.m. Preschool Stepping Stone, 4:30 p.m. Afternoon Classes, 4:30-6:00 p.m. Food for the Soul (Suppers), 5-6:15 p.m. Winter Fun Crossroads, 6 p.m. (offsite) Worship on Wednesday, 6:20 p.m. 7th Grade Stepping Stone, 7:15 p.m. Evening Classes, 7:15-8:30 p.m. SEEDS, 7:15 p.m. Al Anon, 7:45 p.m. Inklings, 9 p.m. (offsite)</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Women's AA, 10 a.m. Faith Bible Study, 10 a.m. at Folkestone Bridge, 12 noon Smart Stepfamilies Class, 7 p.m.</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Parables Respite Care, 5 p.m. Coffeehouse, 7 p.m.</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Saturday Seekers, 8 a.m. Soul Sisters Soul to Soul Retreat (offsite) Old Timers' Basketball, 9 a.m. AA, 11 a.m. Wayzata Ice Palooza, 12 noon (offsite)</p>



INKLINGS: Theology on Tap

Join Rev. Rustin Comer every Wednesday for Theology on Tap, a guided discussion on theology, the Bible, and courageous conversations topics. Tailored to Young Adults 21+, Post College and Career, 9:00 p.m. at Kips Irish Pub, St. Louis Park.



Coming Up in March

- **Ash Wednesday Service, March 1 at 6:20 p.m.**
- **Mission in Motion, 4-6 p.m. on March 1**
- **Coffeehouse Concert: The Daisy Dillman Band, March 4, doors open at 7 p.m.**
- **WCC Chancel Choir & Wayzata Symphony Orchestra, Sunday, March 19, 3 p.m.**



Spirit Award

This month's Spirit Award recipient is Sandy Seibert. Sandy's handprint is all over Wayzata Community Church. As a 40+ year member, Sandy has woven a legacy of caring through her work with Stephen Ministries and as a volunteer with our funeral ministry. For years, she has volunteered her talents as a calligrapher, beautifully inscribing our 4th graders' names into the Bibles they receive on Bible Sunday. Sandy is also active in the music ministries of WCC, participating in the Bell Choir, Celebration Singers and the Good Works Community Theater. She has been a member of

the Music Board and last year, served as a member of the Principal Organist Search Committee. Judy Reed put it this way, "Sandy is a very empathetic, fun, and kind individual. She's been a dear friend to many, helping in lots of hands-on ways." Sandy is a longtime volunteer for the Rummage Sale and helped on the Rummage Grants Committee. Since its inception, Sandy has volunteered to work with the leadership team for the Soup, Salad & Song Luncheons. In the growing season, you can find Sandy out planting and weeding to make the church campus lovely for all. In profound ways, Sandy has served the church. With an open heart and a loving spirit she has generously given of herself and we are all blessed by her ministry.



Mission in Motion!

All are invited (ages 3 through adult) to attend our 6th annual service fair, Mission in Motion, on Wednesday, March 1 (Ash Wednesday) from 4:00-6:00 p.m. in the Graceland Gym. We'll learn about 10+ organizations in our community and world and help make a difference by doing hands-on service as a church family! We'll make sandwiches for the hungry and homeless to support Simpson Place, create simple shoes for Sole Hope, bookmarks for Read Indeed, door decorations for Meridian Manor, Book Bags for refugees through Church World Service, letters for military troops, and more. Stop at the information desk outside the Gym, take a map and Passport (receive a stamp after completing each service projects), and have fun!

This annual service fair began as a way to keep the memory and spirit of church member Suzanne Graft alive after she passed away from cancer several years ago. Suzanne's husband, Rick Graft, sponsors this annual mission event in her name as a way to inspire the next generation of Christ's followers to continue doing good work for others in the world. Join us on March 1st and be inspired to serve and give from your heart!

1. Don't miss the Troop 283 Pancake Breakfast, February 12 from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in Mithun Hall. Tickets are \$5 per person or \$20 for a family of four or more if purchased before February 12 (or \$6 and \$25 at the door). Scouts will be selling tickets before and after each church service on Sunday, February 5 at the West and East entrances.



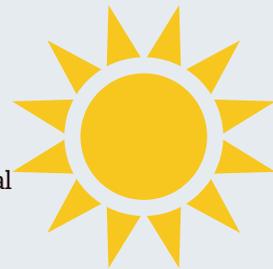
2. Grandmother Baggott's Authentic Buttermilk Fried Chicken Dinner! "Celebrity Chef" Autumn

Toussaint will team up with Chef Jeff to prepare a southern family specialty at Suppers, etc. on Wednesday, February 8. Join us in Mithun Hall between 5:00 & 6:15 p.m. We'll also enjoy cornbread made with her grandma's recipe. The cost is \$8 per person. It is sure to be an extra special evening of great fun and fellowship. We may even be treated to a song or two!



3. Arizona Snowbirds Dinner

Join us for our Annual Arizona Snowbird's Dinner on Thursday, February 16th, 5:00 p.m. at Margie and Pete Ankeny's home, 18514 East Picacho Road, Rio Verde, AZ. The cost is \$25 per person. Do you have new WCC snowbird friends? We'd love to invite them, too! Thanks to our hosts: Don & Helen Knutzen, Don & Anne Bice, Eric & Brenda Thompson, and Dick & Elaine Swanson. To RSVP please contact Mandi Lee at (952) 473-8877.





- 4.** Rustin Comer continues a 6-week Adult study called **Seeds: A glimpse into the Kingdom parables of Jesus**. This study will lead us into our congregation-wide Lenten study and teaching series, and is offered on Wednesdays at 4 p.m. and 7:15 p.m. in the Wakefield Chapel.
- February 1: The Sower
 - February 8: The Seed
 - February 15: The Pearl
 - February 22: The Supper



- 5.** **A Journey of Faith and Discovery: The Holy Land Today** The Journey to the Holy Land, October 25-November 7, will be more than a site-seeing trip, although we will see the major sites that are sacred to Christians, Jews, and Muslims. It will be a trip of experiences that excites the senses, stimulates and promotes our understanding of the complexities of the Middle East, and inspires our faith journey along the way, led by Rev. S. Lindy Purdy and Mike and Marcia Bussey.
- Registration begins February 1, 2017 and remains open, as space allows, until June 1. Once registration is filled, preparation sessions will be scheduled.
- For more information, attend one of the Informational Sessions on Sundays, February 5 and February 12 at 10 a.m. or 12 noon in the Parlor.** Or, contact Rev. Lindy Purdy at lpurdy@wayzatacommunitychurch.org or check out our website: www.wayzatacommunitychurch.org.

What would you like to do?

The Power of Habit

by Rev. Rustin Comer, Minister of Faith Formation

In 2016 my favorite book was *The Power of Habit* by Andrew Duhigg. Duhigg argues that habits control a large portion of our behaviors. Each of us have habits that create either goodness or negativity. These powers shape the reality of our day to day life. Imagine, if you will, that over seventy percent of our day is controlled by our habits or the habits of others. Then habits become a powerful force for positive or negative moments in our lives. What I love about this concept is that then we have the power in our lives to create and establish new positive habits, which lead to profound shifts in our life and world.

As we explore the theme "From the Heart," what we realize, through Duhigg's research, is that we have the power to create a life that is transformed by putting the passions of our heart to the forefront of our behavior. We can create habits that help us live our passion. "The real power of habit is the insight that your habits are what you choose them to be." In fact, "there's nothing you can't do if you get the habits right." This is a beautiful revelation.

From a spiritual formation perspective God offers us the opportunity to co-create our world and co-create ourselves through the power of habit. One of the things I love most about Duhigg's book is his use of real world examples. As he looks at athletes like Olympic swimmer, Michael Phelps, Duhigg reminds us, "Champions don't do extraordinary things. They do ordinary things, but they do them without thinking, too fast for the other team to react. They follow the habits they've learned." Over time we can construct habits that help us to live each moment from our heart, from the heart and passion that God has gifted us with. Like any process in our life, "Change might not be fast and it isn't always easy. But with time and effort, almost any habit can be reshaped." With time and effort we can reshape our lives, reshape our families, and reshape our world.

So the question is: *What would you like to do with your habits?*

* all quotes from *The Power of Habit*



SAINT PAUL CHAMBER ORCHESTRA
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 8:00 P.M.
Dvorák in America

This program opens with the *First Symphony* by French composer Joseph Bologne, Chevalier de Saint-Georges, the first known Classical composer of African ancestry, and is followed by the dance-like *Serenade No. 12* by his contemporary, Mozart. The program finishes with Dvorák's popular *American Quartet*, inspired by American folk music. Visit www.thespc.org or call 651-291-1144 to order tickets.

CIVIC ORCHESTRA OF MINNEAPOLIS
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 3:00 P.M.

Under the direction of Cary John Franklin, this concert will feature Rimsky-Korsakov's *Scheherazade*, and Beethoven's *Leonore Overture no. 3*. Dave Werden, euphonium, will play the premiere of Creole musician Edmond Dede's *Mephisto Masque* in recognition of Black History Month. The concert is free.

WAYZATA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 3:00 P.M.
Brahms Requiem

The program will feature Johannes Brahms: *Requiem Free* with guest artists, Two Rivers Chorale, Tim Sawyer, Director; and Edina Chorale, Tom Paulson, Director. Tracey Engelman, Soprano. Thomas Glass, Baritone. The concert is free.

ARTARIA STRING QUARTET
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 3:00 P.M. (CHAPEL)

Artaria presents "Russian Souvenirs", featuring Beethoven *Quartet, Op.59/2* and Tchaikovsky *Souvenir de Florence*, with guests artists Renee Skerik, viola, and Laura Thielke, cello. The concert is free.

MINNETONKA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA AND CHORUS
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 3:00 P.M.

The Minnetonka Symphony Orchestra presents its 36th Annual Young People's Concert. The concert is free.



Super Bowl of Soul

Sunday, February 5
9 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. Worship

Come and sing in the WCC Community Gospel Choir at Super Bowl of Soul at the 9 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. services! We are honored to welcome back legendary Grammy Award Winning Director of the Sounds of Blackness, Gary Dennis Hines. Gary will be leading the workshops and directing the Community Gospel Choir on Sunday, February 5. Everyone is invited to sing with the community choir. Children ages 10+ are welcome to sing; if they are under 10 years of age we ask that they sing with a parent or guardian. All are welcome!

Workshops will be held in the Sanctuary on these dates (attend one or both):

- Wednesday, February 1 from 7:15 p.m.-9:15 p.m.
- Saturday, February 4 from 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

COFFEE HOUSE

Enjoy great music at Coffeehouse! The Loft (3rd floor) is transformed into a European Coffeehouse, offering fabulous music, steamy coffee drinks, and delicious desserts—all included in the price of your \$10 ticket (available at the door)! Doors open at 7 p.m., and music begins at 7:30 p.m.

Friday, February 10:
Chancel Choir Section Leaders

Just in time for Valentine's Day, the Chancel Choir Section Leaders (members of Vocal Essence, The Singers, Minnesota Opera Chorus, etc.) sing your favorite love songs from the Great American Songbook. Enjoy Gershwin, Bacharach, Lloyd Webber, Richard Rodgers, and Cole Porter!

Friday, February 17:
Michael Monroe and Chris Jantzen

Michael Monroe's original acoustic music blends folk, reggae and some jazz. A self-taught musician, Michael complements his warm, expressive vocals with guitar, ukulele and glass and bamboo flutes. Collaborating with Michael is WCC's Chris Jantzen on viola.

Friday, February 24: Nate Sabin and Friends

Nate Sabin is music preacher at Grace Place in St. Paul. He has a passion for beauty and excellence and his songs and influence have inspired congregations around the world. He prefers his folk-rock served with a side of gospelicious R&B!

Friday, March 3: Daisy Dillman Band

Acoustic guitars and fiddle in hand, the Daisy Dillman Band has dominated the Minneapolis music scene since the late 70's. Along the way, they've earned a place in the hearts of loyal audiences across Minnesota and the entire country.

The Risk of Love

REV. S. LINDY PURDY



St. Valentine, the patron saint of lovers, lived during the reign of Claudius, the Roman Emperor just after the time of Jesus. Claudius forbade marriage, for he felt the commitment of love weakened a soldier's resolve. St. Valentine

secretly married members of his flock and was eventually martyred for doing so. His enduring message was that to believe in something, you must be willing to suffer for it. True love for another is not all candy hearts and flowers.

I believe in love, in all of its glorious forms. I believe in its ability to heal and give meaning, and also in its ability to bring us to the place of grief and suffering. The power of love to heal is well documented. The love for another can overcome pain, can increase immunity, can allow us to achieve great and selfless things. To love deeply the things God loves, can allow us to be in line with all of God's good creation. How and what we love matters to how we find meaning in life.

But to truly love another is risky behavior, for when we open our hearts, we allow them to be bruised or broken. And it seems the more we love, the greater the risk to have our hearts broken. The more we invest of ourselves in love for another, the greater the loss we feel when the object of our love is gone. That is grief, and the best definition of grief I know, is that grief is the natural human emotion that occurs when someone or something ends before we are ready for it to end. I believe God grieves, just as we do.

In my work with grieving families I see this up close, and it is a difficult, beautiful thing. Saying goodbye, finding yourself without the love of your life is devastating and heartbreaking. But who would have it any other way? Grief is helpful and necessary and shows the depth of our human love and caring.

We love, because God first loved us. The knowledge that God suffers right alongside of us, God's tears are the first to fall, means that God's love for us is deeper and wider than we will ever be able to imagine. I believe that with all of my heart.



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.

CARES

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

RECENTLY HOSPITALIZED

Teresa Roberts	Dave Lindahl
AnnaLou Ford	Diana Lee Lucker

CONDOLENCES

- Family and friends of Scott Luse, on December 18, 2016.
- Stacy Johnson and family on the death of her grandfather, Kenneth Aumock, on December 21.
- Sven Nyberg and family on the death of his cousin, Bruce Toms, on December 25.
- Jodi Nelson and family on the death of her father, Vern, on December 28.
- Bill Kuendig and family on the death of his mother, Joan Kuendig, on December 29.
- Taylor Baggot and family on the death of his Aunt, Amy Bomba, on December 29.
- Peter Carlson and family on the death of his wife, Stacie Carlson, on January 3.
- Family and friends of Bill Thompson, on January 3.
- Nancy Cosler and family on the death of her son, David Cosler, on January 11.
- Lorra Alber, friends and family on the death of her brother, Scott Gilpin, on January 14.



A Helping Hand

The Deacons Fund provides a "helping hand" to those in need in our community with emergency, short-term financial assistance. The fund has been part of WCC since its beginning and is supported by contributions beyond the operating budget of the Church. In fact, this ministry of short-term help goes back to the very beginnings of the Christian Church (Acts 6:1-6). Emergency financial assistance from the Deacons Fund can take the form of help with food needs, housing, utilities, gasoline, car repairs and medical and dental help. If you or someone you know has such a need, inquiries can be made to the Pastoral Office. Contributions to the Deacons Fund can be made using the small white and red envelopes located in the pews. Thank you for your generosity!

inspire! Magazine is published by Wayzata Community Church, A United Church of Christ Congregation. Assigned articles, or story ideas, may be emailed to Cami Farley at cfarley@wayzata-communitychurch.org. Please call Robin Carlson at 952-473-8877, ext. 218 with address changes or if you would like to be removed from the inspire! Magazine mailing list. Upcoming deadlines: 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, February 7 for the March 2017 issue. ©2017 Wayzata Community Church. All rights reserved.

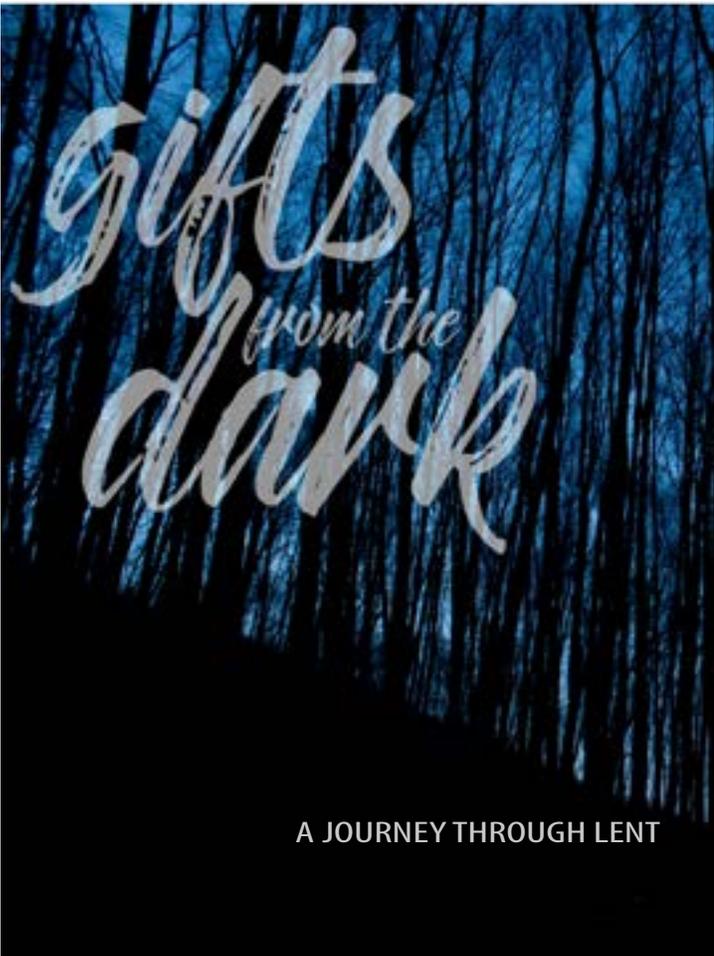
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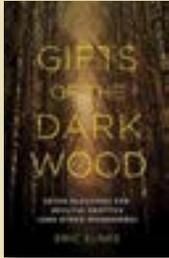
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PERIODICAL TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL



We've all been there. In the dark, where failure, emptiness and uncertainty live.

Eric Elnes has written a remarkable book called "Gifts of the Dark Wood." This book offers a hopeful, humorous, and poetic look at how walking through the Dark moments of



our lives can lead to the discovery of profound gifts. What better time in the life of WCC to explore these themes than in the season of Lent. Eric's book will guide our Lenten Journey and is fodder for a deeper knowing about who we are and where our path in life is going. Our hope is that this Lenten journey, *Gifts from the Dark*, will shine light into places that seem too dark to talk about, or too difficult to journey alone.

This book combined with our sermon series will speak profoundly to many. We will also dive deep together through table groups and small group book studies. There will be an opportunity for all ages and stages to get involved as community and grow in faith. Don't miss this excellent opportunity for Wayzata Community Church and those who want to have deeper conversations about faith and life in the presence of our dark moments.

Starting February 5th you can buy a book, sign up to be a group leader, join a small group book study or table group, and begin the preparation for our church-wide journey through Gifts from the Dark.