

inspire the world with the inclusive love of Jesus

inspire!

Gifts from the Dark

By Rev. Rustin Comer, Minister of Faith Formation

Have you ever had a “dark night of the soul?”

The phrase “dark night of the soul” comes from a poem by St. John of the Cross (1542-1591), a Spanish Carmelite monk and mystic, whose *Noche obscura del alma* is translated “The Dark Night of the Soul.” This eight-stanza poem outlines the soul’s journey from the distractions and entanglements of the world to the perfect peace and harmony of union with God.

The dark night is not always pleasant, sometimes in the midst we feel lost, broken, or senseless, but in the end it allows us to approach nearer to God’s love. St. John of the Cross also calls the *dark night* a “happy night” and a “night more lovely than the dawn.” You might be asking “how can the dark night also be a happy night?” At the end of one’s journey, the gifts that we receive from these dark places (nights) can become

Gifts from the Dark, continued on page 2



Journey of Faith and Discovery

Rev. S. Lindy Purdy will lead a trip to the Holy Land from October 25-November 7, 2017. Informational meetings will be held Sundays, March 5 and 12. Read more on page 13.



Going Dark

As we journey into the darkness of Lent, we prepare for gifts that come uniquely out of trial and challenge. Read Rev. Dr. John Ross’ For the Moment on page 3.



A Concert for Peace

Hear the WCC Chancel Choir and Wayzata Symphony Orchestra perform *Dona Nobis Pacem* on Sunday, March 19. This concert brings awareness to Minnesota FoodShare Month. Read more on page 14.

In this issue

One special way to live our Baptism promises is through the gift of Summer Camp! Read Hilary Flynn’s article, page 10.

WCCNS encourages children to learn through the Gift of Play, preparing them socially and emotionally for a larger school setting. Read the article on page 11.

WCC’s Unique Family Ministry will host the movie “Blended: The Unspoken Truth About Stepfamilies” on Thursday, March 9. Read more on page 11.

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Ash Wednesday Worship

March 1 • 6:15-7:05 pm, Sanctuary

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, ushering us into 40 days of reflection, repentance, and renewal.

As worshipers arrive they will enter a bright room and receive the gift of Holy Communion. As the service unfolds, we will move farther and farther into the Dark—where we will collectively spend the season of Lent.

Concluding with the imposition of ashes for all who wish, we will exit a darkened Sanctuary ready to receive Gifts from the Dark—knowing that we learn profound lessons in the dark and challenging times of life.

Gifts from the Dark, from page 1

the most formative gifts of our entire life's voyage.

Engaging the Night

A dark night of the soul is a kind of transition, taking us from one phase of life into another. We may have several dark nights in the course of our life. Some of us may feel like whole periods of our lives are lived in the dark. In those times the dark can feel inescapable. Yet, we cannot lose hope. It is in the darkness that we are becoming more human, more connected, and entering life more fully.



What gifts have you received that have changed your life? Have you learned anything from the dark places of your life?

We must engage the dark, and receive the gifts it offers. The darkness leads to an extraordinary development in life. An example is Abraham Lincoln. With his early life surrounded by death (two of his children died) and loneliness and his adult life weighed down by a war in which thousands of young men died, he was a seriously melancholic man. He once said, "If there's a worse place than hell, I'm in it." But through his dark night, he became an icon of wisdom and leadership. One theory is that he escaped his melancholy in his efforts for his country, but another possibility is that the very darkness of his life was the ground out of which his leadership grew.

Gifts of the Dark Wood

This Lenten season, we are going to be reading a book by Eric Elnes called *Gifts of the Dark Wood*. The entirety of this book is geared toward engaging and learning the gifts we receive from the dark nights of our souls. We would love for you to purchase a book and journey with us this season. You can do that by joining a Lenten Small Group or by joining a Lenten Table Group. There will also be drop-in groups available throughout each week of Lent. A daily Lenten devotional will be another way to participate in learning about the gifts we receive from the dark parts of our lives. You can sign up for any of these opportunities at our Lenten table in Founders Hall.

As you continue reading the *inspire!* you will see all kinds of stories celebrating gifts. What gifts have you received that have changed your life? Have you learned anything from the dark places of your life? Share the most meaningful gifts you have received with us on Facebook.



One of the greatest gifts you can give someone is giving them room to just be themselves.

DEVIN C. HUGHES

Gift

by Mark Grover

I've known you with so many faces
I meet you everywhere I go
I'm standing at the traffic circle, waiting for a cue,
You've got a welcoming sense of warmth in you.
Pristine, pure, loving and calm
You seem to have lived through a storm
Connected both inside and out
Making the world a better place, no doubt.
Your hugs are puddles of joy
Make me feel like a teenage boy
Hair flowing like an ocean's tide
You show up in my life again, only to go back and hide.
But, for humans, complication
is our cup of tea
I went looking for answers for us
Came back with more questions for me.
I am poor, I am thirsty
Searching for the water of love
Quenching it for short moments
Looking for the rain from above.
There's the desire for freedom on one side
The other's got love and thirst
I don't know what I want
I ask only for the gift of freedom
Tied, with love, in a wrap of trust.



for the moment

Rev. Dr. John F. Ross, Senior Minister

Going Dark

"...we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us..." (Romans 5:3b-5a, NRSV)

As we venture into the darkness of Lent, preparing for gifts that come uniquely out of times of trial and challenge, I offer three words of encouragement and advice.

God's Place In Our Suffering

To begin, it's critical to remember again and again that God is not the source of the pain and suffering we endure in life. God does not take life, but gives life and gives it abundantly. It is a natural impulse to find a source or cause of our darkness, but we must take caution in assigning blame to God.

In his unforgettable sermon the Sunday after his young son Alex died, Rev. Dr. William Sloan Coffin rightly placed God's role in the car accident: "God doesn't go around this world with his finger on triggers, his fist around knives, his hands on steering wheels. My own consolation lies in knowing that it was not the will of God that Alex die; but that when the waves closed over the sinking car, God's heart was the first of all our hearts to break."

Keeping Score is a Dead End Road

We all experience our own forms of darkness. Depending on where we are in life, those dark times will look very different for each of us. As we begin to share our own stories and benefit from our collective wisdom, it's imperative that we acknowledge that darkness is darkness...regardless of its source.

A good mentor to me often said, "our joys are all different, but our pain is the same." If our first impulse is to judge or compare our challenges to those of others, we immediately stop listening and cease learning. Pain is pain. Our job is to love one another through it all.

Experience as Teacher

You've heard it said, "Experience is a hard teacher because she gives the test first, the lesson afterward." This is a great reminder of why a season such as Lent is so critically important to a deepening life of faith. If we don't set aside the time necessary to glean the lessons of our experience, they are doomed to the oblivion of our forgetfulness.

I had a great teacher in Junior High named Mr. Cash. He was famous for giving Pop Quizzes at the START of new units. By testing us on things we had not yet been taught, we could see at the outset the possibilities of what we might learn. If it works in 8th grade science, it will work for us in grown-up ventures of faith.

Paul's sequence in his letter to Rome is our sequence for reflection in this season of Lent: suffering... endurance... character... and hope. Let's go dark together trusting that gifts we receive in the dark will lead us to the light of God.

Inspire the world,

John

Rev. Dr. John F. Ross, Senior Minister

**Let's go dark together
trusting that gifts we receive
in the dark will lead us to
the light of God.**



Lenten Sermon Series

March 5: The Gift of Uncertainty

Do you want to be healed?

March 12: The Gift of Emptiness

What are you holding on to?

March 19: The Gift of Being Thunderstruck

What is the voice inside you consistently communicating?

March 26: The Gift of Getting Lost

Are you asking the right questions?

April 2: The Gift of Temptation

What good are you doing that you need to stop?

April 9: The Gift of Disappearing

What are you hearing most loudly from shame and pride?

April 16: Easter

April 23: The Gift of Misfits

What help have you found in the dark?

Unbridled Joy!

by Suzy Pederson McCoy

Sam was born three months prematurely over 18 years ago. My life forever changed. I just didn't know the extent of it in that moment. I believe I survived because I didn't know what the future had in store for all of us.

I don't think there is any worse pain than watching my child suffer and not be able to take his pain away. Even though Sam has cerebral palsy from his prematurity, it's his emotional imbalance that gets in the way of experiencing the kind of joy you want for your child. I learned during his first psychiatric hospitalization what it meant to see complete darkness.



Wisdom and grace are the gifts Sam gives to those who walk beside him. It bears the question: Who is helping whom?

At 8 years old, a few days after being at the hospital, Sam looked at me and asked what was wrong with him; I told him I didn't know. He then asked if I could make it go away and in that moment, I knew I couldn't lie. I told him I couldn't make it go away, but that I would sit with him as long as he needed. I kept saying to myself that everything is temporary--everything. I kept repeating this until I realized that I was more consoling myself than I was Sam.

Many "cycles" later, a lot of therapy, and growing up, mean that everything Sam learns, I learn right along with him. It finally dawned on me one day that we all wake up each morning with our own load to carry. All of us have it; some days it's light and other days it feels unbearable. I can't give my load to anyone else; I have to carry it myself. Sam included. I can ask for help, but it's still mine to carry every day. It's in carrying my load and knowing it's temporary that I see the most light in what used to be complete darkness. I say silly things like, "I've seen this movie before, Sam; it always ends!"

I used to think I knew what happiness was, but until I experienced what I thought was complete darkness and helplessness, I didn't know what unbridled joy feels like. It's not easy to allow the sadness to go through me, but if I fight it, then it will last longer. Now when Sam is in his darkness, he tells me it's temporary and that he knows it will end!

Wisdom and faith are the gifts Sam gives to those who walk beside him. It bears the question: Who is helping whom?



The Gift of Vulnerability

by Rev. Kristen Rouner Jeide

It was 9th grade when I missed the first week of school, due to a family vacation. That only added anxiety to what would be my first big venture into the "dark wood." For reasons not fully known to me, that whole fall was marked by a deep sense of the poignancy and passing of life – and of melancholy. I cried a lot, though I couldn't articulate why. Life felt lonely even when I wasn't alone. I went through the motions of living, but each day was a struggle.

Thankfully, I had help – the kind of help that didn't deny my pain or offer easy answers or escape from it, but honored it. There was the school nurse who made her office a safe place to let me be, if I needed it during the day. I had my parents, who loved me, listened, let me cry, and prayed with and for me. They made home a space held in love and faith for me to "incubate" my pain and find my way in the dark.

That support meant everything, but I knew the deep place of my need and longing was a place only the Spirit of God could go – and could heal. I cast myself upon God. Daily prayer and scripture became my "oxygen mask" that sustained me. And while I can't say when or how it changed, there was a gradual realization of dawn coming. Seeping into the places of emptiness and sadness came peace ... life stirring ... love that felt like home ... and a sense that I was not alone.

It may sound corny. And maybe my feelings in the "dark wood" could be attributed to circumstance and adolescent hormones. But explaining pain doesn't make it less real. And the spiritual journey it took me on has formed me in ways that sustain me to this day.

Among the gifts of that "dark wood" experience were these: experiencing the deep space of my own need as a meeting place with God; through the struggle of life, discovering the life-giving nature of prayer; learning to ask for and receive help; the realization that we are all connected most deeply through our human vulnerability – where the gifts of meaningful relationship and community grow.

Would I want to go through 9th grade again? No. Would I trade the gifts of that "dark wood" experience for anything? No. For there I began to understand the beatitude: "How blessed are those who know their need of God."

Our Journey

by Jen Hawley

Anger. Resentment. Jealousy. Sadness. Exhaustion. Loneliness. Fear. Abandonment. Loss of Joy. Isolation. All of these emotions can be felt in one day raising a special needs child. And the cycle doesn't end. With each gain, there is a milestone not met. With each sense of joy, there is an accompanying sense of grief.

Raising a special needs child is the hardest thing I have ever done. The journey has forced me to re-evaluate what I hold sacred and let go of what gets in the way. Reilly was born 14 years ago and has an undiagnosed developmental delay. She has the cognitive level of a 7 or 8 year old, but the social needs of a typical teenager, which puts her life into a constant source of conflict. Reilly loves lululemon, Justin Bieber, her cell phone and boys. You will never see her without jewelry and she'd wear high heels everyday if we'd let her. Reilly so longs to be included just like a typical teenager. Unfortunately the phone doesn't ring as often as she'd like, so Tim and I fill the gaps as best we can. Maddie, Reilly's older sister, left for college this fall which has created a void that is hard to fill. Bennett, Reilly's brother tries, but he doesn't enjoy getting his nails done and shopping for jewels!

Many people don't understand our journey. Friends start talking about being empty nesters and what they think they'll do. I smile and think, we'll probably never be empty nesters. Friends complain about how busy they are and I smile again and think to myself: do you have 3 doctor appointments this week along with 5 therapy appointments? And have you done this for 14 years?



Reilly (left) is active in the Parables worship service on Sunday mornings in the Chapel.

Probably not. Very few understand. And most don't even realize that they don't. It's not their fault, but that doesn't make it any easier for those of us on this journey.

So I retreated. For a long time. I'm a social person, an extrovert and saw myself spending more and more time alone. This wasn't a healthy place to be. I questioned God. I questioned my friends. I even questioned my marriage. Life wasn't supposed to be this hard.

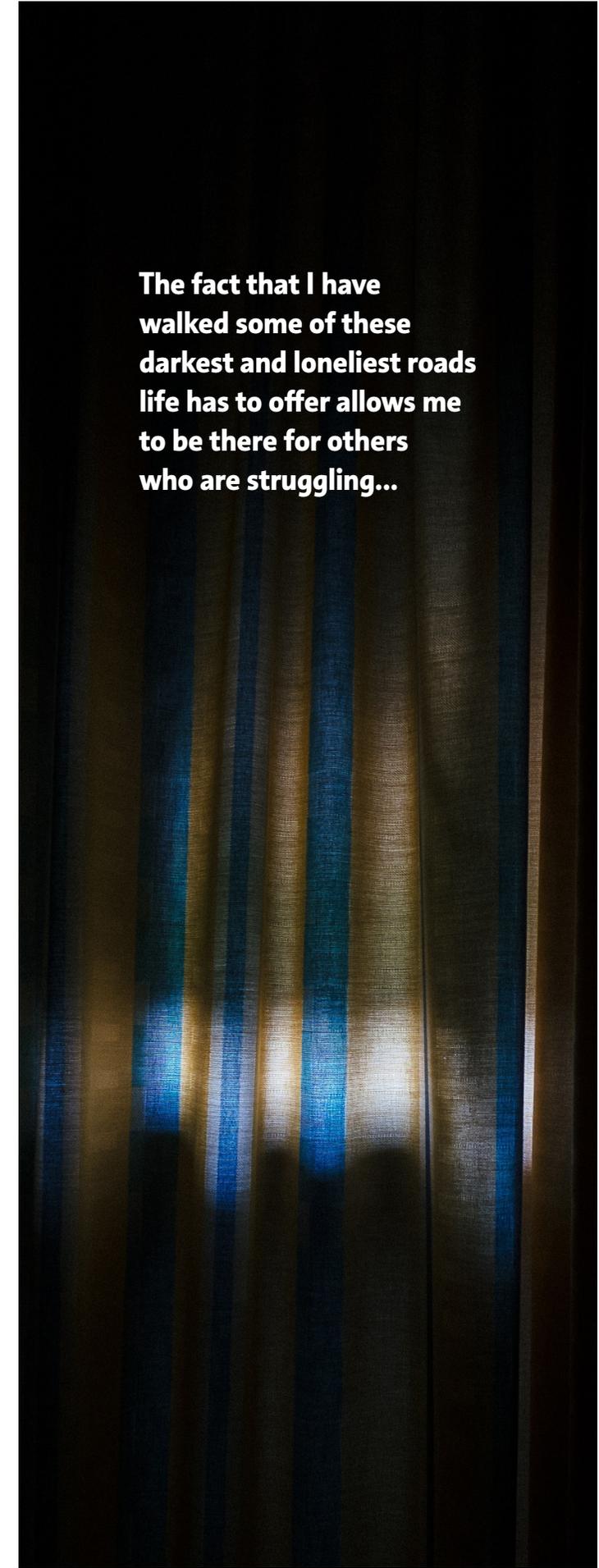
But in time, I began to see God on this journey. I saw God in the random acts of kindness geared towards Reilly – whether a Jamaican giving her a conch shell on the beach or an artist handing Reilly a free bracelet at the Edina art fair. They knew there was something special about Reilly. Then there are kids like Cloe Nymo. Cloe's genuine and unconditional love for Reilly is truly God living on this earth.

More than anything, I see God through Maddie and Bennett and their passion and commitment to the special needs community. Maddie has chosen to major in special ed at Miami of Ohio and continues to find ways to touch that community in her new college environment. Bennett coaches special needs baseball, hockey, and golf. I know Maddie and Bennett would be amazing kids without a special needs sister; that's who they are. But I believe this commitment to a better world started earlier and is much deeper because of Reilly.

Where do I see God in dark places? Parables. And through the entire Parables community. We "get" each other. We lift each other up.

And lastly, where do I see God in dark places? Parables. And through the entire Parables community. We "get" each other. We lift each other up. And we share true joy and genuine sadness with each other. Parables is my light in dark places. I'm not sure where I'd be without it.

I don't think I'd choose this journey. In fact, I know I wouldn't. But, I would also not change it for anything in the world. Reilly has taught me to pause. To stop. To wonder. And to enjoy what truly is important in life. In both the dark and light places.



The fact that I have walked some of these darkest and loneliest roads life has to offer allows me to be there for others who are struggling...

My Gifts from The Dark

by Matt Borneman

So how can I say that any of my struggles with my mental illness or self-homophobia have been a gift? I mean, I'm a bisexual man who suffers from Major Depression and Generalized Anxiety Disorder, and I have extreme self-homophobia over my sexuality. That sounds more like a curse than a gift, right?

It has felt like a curse a lot of the time, in fact I was hospitalized due to a suicide attempt just last March. When Rev. Rustin Comer asked me to write this, I was grieving a friend who had just taken her own life. And now I find myself here, while she is gone. How can any of this darkness be a gift? Well, the way I view life has changed this past year, and I now see all of my struggles as gifts from the dark and here's why:

These struggles with my own mental illness and sexuality have not only made me who I am today, but they are gifts that allow me to be there for others. The fact that I have walked some of these darkest and loneliest roads life has to offer, allows me to be there for others who are struggling. I can help others navigate those lonely roads, and let them know that they are, in fact, never alone. And what I've learned in the wake of my friend's tragic death, is that my struggles have not only helped her family grieve, but also helped me connect with friends I have known for ten years and never known they suffer from mental illness or depression.

My own struggles have brought me closer to others and have helped others grieve. Both of those are amazing gifts that lead to love. Two of my biggest strengths are my heart and voice. I've also learned that sharing my story helps those who don't struggle with mental illness better understand the struggle of those who do. I share my story to let those who do suffer from mental illness know that they are not alone. I have walked those dark roads and have come out into the light on the other side. These are my gifts from the dark, gifts of love that I am here to share with others. Know you are never alone.



The Way of Being Lost

by Parker Palmer, On Being Columnist

Here's a mysterious little poem by William Stafford. I can't tell you exactly why it has such a grip on me, but it does:

Cutting Loose

from *Dancing with Joy: 99 Poems*

*Sometimes from sorrow, for no reason,
you sing. For no reason, you accept
the way of being lost, cutting loose
from all else and electing a world
where you go where you want to.*

*Arbitrary, a sound comes, a reminder
that a steady center is holding
all else. If you listen, that sound
will tell you where it is and you
can slide your way past trouble.*

*Certain twisted monsters
always bar the path—but that's when
you get going best, glad to be lost,
learning how real it is
here on earth, again and again.*

Maybe it's because we're in a time of great sorrow when accepting what Stafford calls "the way of being lost" seems important, even necessary, if we are to "cut loose" from business as usual and reach for a better world.

Then there's Stafford's vital reminder that "a steady center is holding all else," and if you know where it is, "you can slide your way past trouble."

The poet also names the "twisted monsters" that always bar our path, suggesting that they need not defeat us but can prod us to "get going" amid the complex mix of horror and heroics of which reality is made.

In the final stanza, Stafford suggests that, as we "get going," our acceptance of being lost can turn to gratitude for being lost — for if we didn't feel lost, we wouldn't look for a better way.

Having said all that, I still don't know exactly why this poem grabs me as it does. But I feel certain it contains a truth that I need to understand to live in a way that's responsive to our troubled time.

Read more from Parker Palmer at www.onbeing.org.

Lenten Devotionals

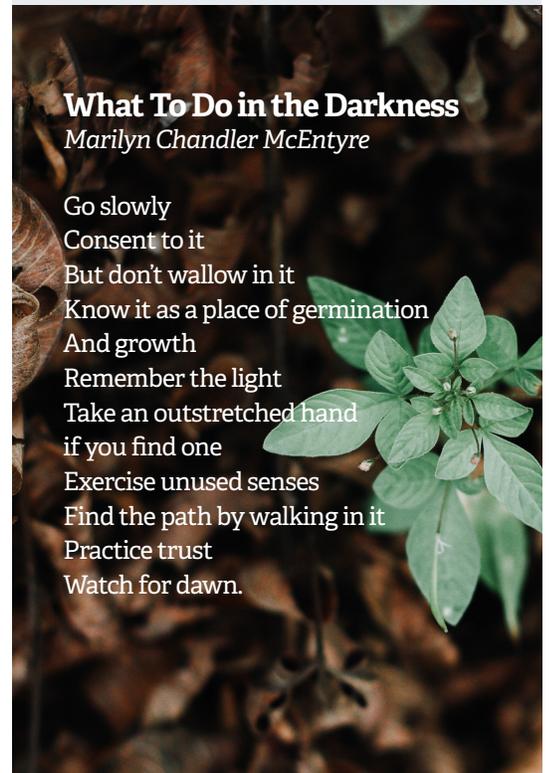
Lent is the season on the Christian calendar that commences on Ash Wednesday (March 1) and culminates on Easter Sunday (April 16). Each year, Wayzata Community Church creates an email devotional for our journey through Lent. You can also get a booklet of daily devotions for the Lenten season if you prefer not to go the email route. (available March 1st)

This year's devotional is named "Gifts From the Dark." We will walk through Biblical stories where people meet God in the midst of their personal darkness. As they find the gifts, which they receive in the darkness, we, too will be challenged to look at our darkness and find gifts awaiting discovery.

What To Do in the Darkness

Marilyn Chandler McEntyre

Go slowly
Consent to it
But don't wallow in it
Know it as a place of germination
And growth
Remember the light
Take an outstretched hand
if you find one
Exercise unused senses
Find the path by walking in it
Practice trust
Watch for dawn.



March 2017

SUNDAY

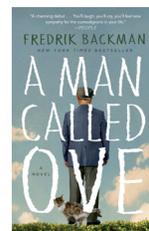
MONDAY

TUESDAY

<p>5</p> <p>First Sunday in Lent Rev. Dr. John F. Ross 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 Journey to the Holy Land Informational Meeting, 10 a.m. and 12 noon, Piper Library Hillcrest Golden Living Worship, 11 a.m. Meridian Manor Worship, 1 p.m. Families Moving Forward at WCC this week</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Archives, 9:30 a.m. AA, 10 a.m. Parables Task Force, 6:30 p.m. Middle School CE Board, 7 p.m. Al Anon, 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>7</p> <p>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. OA, 7 p.m.</p>
<p>12</p> <p>Second Sunday in Lent, Baptisms Rev. Dr. John F. Ross 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 Nominating Board Meeting, 8 a.m. New Member Breakfast, 10 a.m., Colonnade Journey to the Holy Land Informational Meeting, 10 a.m. and 12 noon, Piper Library Meridian Manor Worship, 1 p.m.</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Archives, 9:30 a.m. AA, 10 a.m. Parables Book Group, 6:30 p.m. Camp & Retreat Board, 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. Al Anon, 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>14</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>19</p> <p>Third Sunday in Lent Rev. Rustin Comer 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. Biloxi Mission Trip Full Group Meeting, 12:30 p.m. A Concert for Peace, 3 p.m.</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Archives, 9:30 a.m. AA, 10 a.m. Music Board, 7 p.m. Al Anon, 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Thimble Bees Knitters, 9 a.m. Church Council, 7 p.m. OA, 7 p.m. Unique Family Ministry Meeting, 7 p.m.</p>
<p>26</p> <p>Fourth Sunday in Lent 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 Biloxi Leader Meeting, 12 p.m. Meridian Manor Worship, 1 p.m.</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Archives, 9:30 a.m. AA, 10 a.m. I Am That Girl HS, 7 p.m. Al Anon, 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Thimble Bees, 9 a.m. CHC Meeting, 4:30 p.m. GenComm Meeting, 7 p.m. OA, 7 p.m.</p>



Soup, Salad and Song Luncheon
 Led by Rev. Lindy Purdy
 March 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 March 16 to discuss *A Man Called Ove*, by Fredrik Backman. If you like to read and discuss books, please join us! Everyone is welcome!

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

1 WEDNESDAY PROGRAMS	ASH WEDNESDAY AA, 10 a.m. Soul Sisters Lunch Bunch, 11:30 a.m. Director of Ops Search, 1 p.m. Mission in Motion, 4 p.m. Adult Bible Study with Rustin, 4 p.m. Soul Sisters Book Study, 4:30 p.m. Food for the Soul (Suppers), 5-6:15 p.m. Worship on Ash Wednesday, 6:15 p.m. Evening Classes, 7:15-8:30 p.m. Al Anon, 7:45 p.m. Inklings, Theology on Tap, 9 p.m. (offsite)	2	Women's AA, 10 a.m. Faith Bible Study, 10 a.m. at Folkestone Funeral Volunteer Appreciation Lunch, 12 p.m. Summer WoW Meeting, 4:30 p.m. Minister for Congregational Life Search Committee, 5:30 p.m. Smart Stepfamilies Class, 7 p.m.	3	Coffeehouse, 7 p.m.	4	Saturday Seekers, 8 a.m. WCCNS Carnival, 9 a.m. AA, 11 a.m.
8 WEDNESDAY PROGRAMS	AA, 10 a.m. Adult Bible Study with Rustin, 4 p.m. Soul Sisters Book Study, 4:30 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, 6:15 p.m. Screenagers Parent Ed Night, 7 p.m. Evening Classes, 7:15-8:30 p.m. Al Anon, 7:45 p.m. Inklings, Theology on Tap, 9 p.m. (offsite)	9	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. Minister for Congregational Life Search Committee, 5:30 p.m. Baptism Stepping Stone, 6 p.m. Unique Family Ministry: Blended Movie, 7 p.m.	10	Coffeehouse Concert, 7 p.m.	11	Saturday Seekers, 8 a.m. Old Timers' Basketball, 9 a.m. AA, 11 a.m.
15 WEDNESDAY PROGRAMS	AA, 10 a.m. Soup, Salad and Song Luncheon, 12 noon Adult Bible Study with Rustin, 4 p.m. Soul Sisters Book Study, 4:30 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, 6:15 p.m. Screenagers Parent Ed Night, 7 p.m. Evening Classes, 7:15-8:30 p.m. Al Anon, 7:45 p.m. Inklings, Theology on Tap, 9 p.m. (offsite)	16	Women's AA, 10 a.m. Faith Bible Study, 10 a.m. at Folkestone Third Thursday Readers, 1 p.m. Minister for Congregational Life Search Committee, 5:30 p.m. New Member Orientation, 6:30 p.m. WSO/Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 7 p.m.	17	Kids' Night Out, 6 p.m.	18	Saturday Seekers, 8 a.m. Old Timers' Basketball, 9 a.m. Parables Respite Care, 10 a.m. AA, 11 a.m. WSO/Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 2:30 p.m.
22 WEDNESDAY PROGRAMS	AA, 10 a.m. Preschool Stepping Stone, 4:30 p.m. Adult Bible Study with Rustin, 4 p.m. Afternoon Classes, 4:30-6:00 p.m. Soul Sisters Book Study, 4:30 p.m. Food for the Soul (Suppers), 5-6:15 p.m. Worship on Wednesday, 6:15 p.m. Evening Classes, 7:15-8:30 p.m. Al Anon, 7:45 p.m. Inklings, Theology on Tap, 9 p.m. (offsite)	23	Women's AA, 10 a.m. Faith Bible Study, 10 a.m. at Folkestone Bridge, 12 noon Summer WoW Meeting, 4:30 p.m.	24	West Metro League Kids' Night Out, 4 p.m.	25	Saturday Seekers, 8 a.m. Old Timers' Basketball, 9 a.m. AA, 11 a.m.
29 WEDNESDAY PROGRAMS	AA, 10 a.m. Afternoon Classes, 4:30-6:00 p.m. Soul Sisters Book Study, 4:30 p.m. Food for the Soul (Suppers), 5-6:15 p.m. Worship on Wednesday, 6:15 p.m. Evening Classes, 7:15-8:30 p.m. Al Anon, 7:45 p.m. Inklings, Theology on Tap, 9 p.m. (offsite)	30	Women's AA, 10 a.m. Faith Bible Study, 10 a.m. at Folkestone Summer WoW Meeting, 4:30 p.m. Minister for Congregational Life Search Committee, 5:30 p.m. New Member Orientation, 6:30 p.m.	31			



Coming Up in April

- **Music at Wayzata Concert: Cantus, Sunday, April 9 at 3 p.m. in the Sanctuary**
- **Easter Worship: April 16**
- **The Sunday After Easter, April 23, 9 & 10:45 a.m. worship: Minnesota Boy Choir**
- **Blended & Blessed Simulcast: Saturday, April 29 from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. in the Chapel**



One Way to Live Our Baptism Promises Summer Camp 2017 on Church Island

by Hilary Flynn, Retreat & Camp Ministry Director

I love baptisms. The moment of baptism is transformative for everyone who shares in the sacrament... with a child, and God, at the center of the moment, with family and friends gathered, and with covenants that we make to support them all – “for good” – in lives of faith.

We promise to care, pray and support each child, and WCC’s Camp Ministry is a great experience of the fulfillment of the covenant promises.

In the last few weeks as camp attendance has surged, I have been conducting meetings with our summer staff applicants. These fantastic college and young adults are brimming with excitement, with passion for the ministry of Camp that adds value to the lives of everyone there, and is changing the world into the shape of God’s kingdom... day by day, moment by moment, relationship by relationship.

A common thread in many of these staff conversations is that these young adults want to be part of giving to campers what they have received. Sam Kottke is excited for the conversations at Camp. These conversations formed him by encouraging him to think deeply, and to enter his big questions of faith and life. Now he is coming to camp to engage campers in “the conversations of camp; the two-way relationships” that offered affirmation, and also the spiritual and intellectual “challenge” that he needed.

Piper Hennings sees that the responsibility of being on the summer staff includes the opportunity “to make camper’s experiences like my past experiences; to give that to other people”. Jackson Miller describes WCC’s summer camp as “a place that combines life and faith... camp had a big impact on me.” He continues “I am applying to be a part of the Camp staff because Camp has given me so much and it was a place where my faith felt it was the strongest. I want to be part of the staff that can do those things and more.”

These 3 young adults, and many more, are examples of the promises we make at baptism. The church has poured love and prayer into them, and the ministries that form them. Now these young adults are living into the baptism promises for the next wave of campers... joining their time, hearts, minds, love and tears... all to move forward the love of God to campers this summer.

I invite you to offer the baptism covenant as a prayer for the whole ministry of Camp.

These young people will do that in their time this summer, and as a wider church we continue to join in the fulfillment of those promises... nurturing and encouraging the ministry of Camp, and celebrating the life of faith that is encouraged by our young adults, pouring out themselves for our children and youth, pouring out themselves for God who forms us all.



Read more about Camp 2017 at Church Island on Bay Lake! Space is still available in many sessions; please invite friends and family to join us at Camp! For more information and registration links, check our website at www.wayzatacommunitychurch.org/summercamp.



Unique Family Ministry

"Blended: The Unspoken Truth About Stepfamilies" Movie

Thursday, March 9

7-9 p.m. in the Chapel

The Unique Family Ministry will host *Blended: The Unspoken Truth About Stepfamilies*, a 75 minute film that taps into the complex dynamics of stepfamily living, weaving the emotional, firsthand stories of parents & children who overcame serious obstacles to solidify their love. The movie shares advice from top family experts in this field with knowledge on how to make stepfamilies work.

Join us on March 9 in the WCC Chapel. Get support & encouragement from others walking through the complexities of stepfamily living and learn more about our Unique Family Ministry. No registration or materials needed. All are welcome!



Coming in April

Community-Wide Event:

Blended and Blessed Simulcast

April 29, 2017

Hosted in the WCC Chapel

Blended & Blessed is a FREE one-day live event for stepfamily couples, single parents, dating couples with kids, and those who care about blended families.

Join hundreds of sites around the globe as we unpack 5 keys that are crucial to healthy stepfamily marriages. With some of today's most trusted and respected experts, Blended & Blessed will challenge, inspire, and encourage you.

If you are part of a stepfamily, or know someone who is, this is a can't-miss opportunity!

WCCNS: The Gift of Play

In our fast-paced world, many of us tend to push, creating high expectations for ourselves and the people around us. We can become competitive, constantly striving to be the best. As parents, we can do the same with our children, the littlest and most precious gifts we are given. We want them to be the best and brightest in their class, even in preschool. Often we hear parents wanting homework and more academics in the classroom. Is this the best way to encourage learning in these little ones? We believe that it is not.



Their innocence and zest for school is everywhere, and we believe that to foster the joy of learning comes through play, engaging with their peers and teachers. As preschool educators, we get to experience this joy on a daily basis. Part of this experience is watching these tiny scholars learn about their world through play. Our philosophy and curriculum is "play based" for we believe that when we set up the environment where children are allowed to play and experience the "flow" of learning, they not only thrive, but also grow by leaps and bounds.

As early childhood educators, we are holding on tight to the importance of play; the NAEYC guidelines for developmental best practices recommend that we provide "experiences, materials, and interactions to enable children to engage in play that allows them to stretch their boundaries to the fullest in their imagination, language, interaction, and self-regulation". Some of us feel the tug between honoring this philosophy, that we know to be true and important, and the push to close the learning gap and get the children "academically" ready for kindergarten. However, here at WCC Nursery School, we ultimately trust the idea that allowing preschoolers to learn through play prepares them far better, socially and emotionally, for a larger school setting. We will stay true to our fundamental beliefs and together we will continue to experience the "gift of play" and the wonder and joy in the eyes of our little friends.



WCCNS is currently enrolling for the 2017-2018 program year!

WCCNS is a non-profit, non-denominational school offering toddler and preschool classes for children from 26 months to 5 years old. (September through June)



Our mission is to promote the development of the whole child; physical, intellectual, social and emotional and to assist parents in their parenting challenges.

- We are licensed by the State of Minnesota Department of Human Services.
- We are NAEYC accredited and Parent Aware 4-Star rated program.
- WCCNS welcomes any and all families regardless of race, color, creed, religion, national origin or gender.

Come see what Wayzata Community Church Nursery School has to offer. We would love to share our exceptional school with you! Call (952) 473-2114 today to set up a tour!



Thanks, Bell Ringers!

Given a mission, our congregation jumps in and wraps its arms around the needs of our church family and the community we live and work in. Bell Ringers for the Salvation Army Harbor Light Center are no exception!

Thanks to WCC volunteers' time (120 hours) and donations, \$13,664.33 was raised to support the ongoing mission and services provided at the Salvation Army Harbor Light.

— Dana Morrison

March is Minnesota FoodShare Month

Hunger in the suburbs is not always visible, but it is no less real. Our ministry partner Interfaith Outreach serves over 250 families per week right here in our communities. You can help by bringing donations to WCC; bins are located in Founders Hall and at the east and west entrances. If you prefer to give a cash donation, every \$1 you donate buys \$9 worth of food!



Thimble Bees

This fall and winter, the WCC Thimble Bees knitted and donated over 400 hats, scarves, and mittens to The Bridge for Youth, a Minneapolis nonprofit that provides services, food, and shelter to homeless teens. "You play a crucial role in showing youth that this community believes



in them and thinks they are a worthy investment. Thank you for supporting youth and families when they need it most." —The Bridge for Youth

Thimble Bees meets the second and fourth Tuesday mornings in Mithun Hall from 9:00 a.m.-12 noon, September through May. Volunteers are always welcome!



Shine a Light of Hope Gala

Enjoy a fun evening for a great cause at the 15th Annual Shine a Light of Hope Gala! This is a fundraising event to benefit Light of Hope Home and School for Girls in Naivasha, Kenya. Come and experience the girls' stories of hope and healing on Saturday, March 11 at the Minneapolis Marriott Southwest, 5801 Opus Parkway, Minnetonka beginning at 5:30 p.m.

Individual tickets are \$100, or you may purchase a table for \$1000 and fill your table of 10 with friends! An After Party will follow, featuring music from Power Tap, dancing, drinks, and a Sweet & Salty Bar. Purchase tickets online at <https://lightofhopekenya.salsalabs.org/gala2017/index.html>



1. Adopt-a-Neighborhood!

Adopt-a-Neighborhood is a ministry of joy. In partnership with Interfaith Outreach, WCC provides monthly dinners and activities for the residents of Kimberly Meadows Townhomes (at County Roads 6 & 101). On March 28 we will host dinner and an art activity at 6 p.m. If you would like to help serve dinner to about 50 people and coordinate the art project that evening, please contact Vicki Thompson at peter-thompson9@comcast.net or 952-542-9152.



2. All are invited to Mission in Motion on Ash Wednesday

(ages 3 through adult). This is our 6th annual service fair, held on March 1st from 4:00-6:00 p.m. in the Gym. Stop at the information desk in the West entrance and take a map and Passport Card. 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!



3. Olé! Join us for Celebrity Suppers on Wednesday, March 8 for a special Mexican Dinner with Rev. Dr. John Ross,

featuring Chicken Fajitas, Mexican Rice, Cinnamon Churro, Guacamole, and more! Suppers is served from 5 p.m.-6:15 p.m. in Mithun Hall.



4. 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.

Lindy will host Informational meetings on Sundays, March 5 and 12 at 10 a.m. and 12 noon in the Piper Library. You may download a brochure from our website at https://wayzatacommunitychurch.org/israel_trip.

5. WCCNS Carnival!

Join the fun at the WCC Nursery School Carnival on Saturday, March 4 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. in the Gym, Community Room and Mithun Hall. Kids will enjoy face painting, a Bouncy House, Crazy Hair, a Giant Slide, Games with cool prizes, along with hot dogs, pizza, popcorn & more! Admission is free & individual tickets are 50 cents. We'll see you there!



Why are people homeless?

HERE ARE FOUR KEY REASONS:

- Not enough affordable housing to meet the current need.
- Systemic imbalances that cause socio-economic gaps affecting opportunity and access to housing.
- Circumstances that could happen to anyone – a sudden job loss, a medical crisis, a natural disaster.
- And, as one Beacon Interfaith Citizen has said so well: “Because we allow it.”

There is not enough rental housing to meet the demand in any Minnesota county, nor in any of the 50 states. According to the National Low Income Housing Coalition, there is a shortage of 7.2 million units of housing affordable and available to the lowest income people, and yet just one out of every four eligible families receives the help that they need. Larger units (three or four-bedroom apartments) are especially scarce, leaving some families very squeezed for space.



Socio-economic imbalances can create even bigger barriers to keeping a roof over one’s head, especially in combination with circumstances. Many people live paycheck to paycheck, lacking a safety net of savings or credit access, or family and friends who can loan money or open a spare room in an emergency. Furthermore, more than half of Minnesota’s renter households don’t earn enough to afford an average two-bedroom in the state. Some families, youth or older adults with low or fixed incomes must choose between paying rent and other necessities – groceries, medication, transportation, utilities. And, child care costs are prohibitive for many families. (Even though child care workers themselves, whose national median hourly wage is \$9.77, may be among the low-income workers who can’t afford market-rate housing...)

Far more often, events they could not predict have led them to a place they never thought they’d be – without a home, a job layoff, death or divorce leading to income loss, fleeing domestic violence, a debt-inducing medical crisis or chronic illness.

Finally, we allow homelessness. We, the public, have yet to demand that our public officials adequately fund affordable housing development and other supports such as rent subsidy vouchers and services that help keep families and individuals in stable, safe homes. We can do better.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Advocate, donate, VOLUNTEER: This is what it will take to end homelessness and how YOU can help. Contact our Community Housing Committee and sign up to become a WCC advocate. Email Erika Kringen (erikakringen@gmail.com), Chris Pierson (chrisp@ssmnlaw.com), or Mark Bayley (mtbayley65@gmail.com)

BUT THERE IS MORE...

From March 5 to March 12, participate in the WCC Families Moving Forward Program! WCC is hosting families four times in 2017; January, March, July and December. Your help with donating food, setting up rooms, hosting for a night, preparing a meal, doing activities with kids, is so important to the program’s success. But what these families really want is to know they have friends at WCC when they arrive. That’s why YOUR ATTENDANCE while they are here is so important. Email Peter Thompson (pthompson@hamline.edu) or Cindy LaRue (cindyla29@aol.com) for more information about how you can help.



A Concert for Peace

Wayzata Community Church Chancel Choir and Wayzata Symphony Orchestra

Sunday, March 19, 3:00 p.m.

Vaughan Williams: *Dona Nobis Pacem*

Kraig Windschitl, Organ

Written in England in 1935 *Dona Nobis Pacem* is Vaughan Williams plea for the world to bring forth the peace of the kingdom of God. WCC's organist Kraig Windschitl opens the program as soloist on Alexander Guilment's exciting and too rarely performed *Symphony #1 for Organ and Orchestra*. WCC Chancel Choir and friends, and Wayzata Symphony Orchestra, are conducted by Thomas Paulson, Director of Traditional Music. Recognizing Minnesota FoodShare Month, we ask that you bring donations of non-perishable food items for the Interfaith Outreach food shelf, which serves over 3,000 families in our community. Cash donations to Minnesota FoodShare are also welcome.

Coffeehouse Concerts

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, March 3: Daisy Dillman Band

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



Friday, March 10: Jeff Dayton and Chris Daniels

Nashville songwriter, guitarist and producer Jeff Dayton is one of Music City's busiest touring and recording artists. With songs recorded by George Strait, Doug Stone, Sarah Darling, and placed on hit shows *The Voice* and *Hawaii Five-O*, Jeff is a dynamic and interactive entertainer who loves performing live and making records. Jeff teams up with Chris "Spoons" Daniels, an American bandleader, singer, songwriter, and multi-instrumentalist. A member of the Colorado Music Hall of Fame, Chris is best known for his work with Chris Daniels & the Kings, a band he has led since 1984.



New Members Welcome!

Whether you are looking for a new church home or just visiting, WCC has something great for you! Visit our website to sign up for classes: www.wayzatacommunitychurch.org.

Upcoming New Member Events

Friday, March 3

7:00 p.m. Coffeehouse @ WCC (Loft 3rd floor)

New Members & Prospective Members get in for free. Enjoy a concert with the Daisy Dillman Band, delicious coffee drinks and desserts.

Sunday, March 12

10:00 - 10:45 a.m. New Member Breakfast

in the Colonnade (in between 9:00 & 10:45 a.m. services)

New Member Orientation

New Members can choose an orientation evening in the Holmes Room from the following dates:

- **Thursday, March 16, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.**
- **Thursday, March 30, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.**
- **Thursday, April 20, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.**

New Member Receiving Sunday

April 23, 9:00 or 10:45 a.m. Services

or the 10:10 a.m. Parables Service

New Member Reception

On **Sunday, April 30**, a New Member Reception will be hosted at the home of Rev. Dr. John and Sheila Ross.



Koinonia Groups

Koinonia is a curious (and hard to spell) word derived from Greek. Roughly translated it means a communion or joint sharing within a faith and spiritual community.

At WCC, we use Koinonia to refer to small adult fellowship groups that typically get together once a month. We have a number of existing Koinonia groups within WCC, some dating back decades, others that have blossomed in the last few years, but all sharing their life journeys (faith and otherwise). While each Koinonia group is unique and self-governed, most consist of folks that share a similar age and/or stage in life.

If you are interested in learning more about Koinonia groups, want to form a new group, join a group, or if you are in an existing Koinonia group that has room for new members, please contact John Estrem for more information at jestrem@wayzatacommunitychurch.org.



celebrations & transitions

We would love to hear from you when you have a new baby or grandbaby, so we can share the good news with your church family.

CELEBRATIONS

Congratulations to Jay and Kathy Handy on the birth of their new granddaughter, Elizabeth (Betsy) Adele Handy, daughter of John and Emily Handy.

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

Merlin Bachellor
Joyce Blaine
Jay Handy
Bob Henderson

CONDOLENCES

- Katy Beste on the death of Richard Beste, on November 8, 2016.
- Pam and Chris Toussaint on the death of their brother-in-law and uncle, Dennis Toussaint, on January 13.
- Family and friends of Robert (Bob) Hodgson, on January 25.
- Jan Thome and family on the death of her husband, Ken Thome, on January 27.
- Vicki Wyard and family on the death of her mother, Lois Mary Shaw, on January 28.
- Lisa Goodwin and family on the death of her grandmother, Lois Mary Shaw, on January 28.
- Family and friends on the death of Don Wiborg, on January 30.
- Becky Parkhurst, Jack Lindahl, Dave Lindahl, Rob Lindahl and their families and friends on the death of their mother, Betty Lindahl, on February 1.
- Family and friends on the death of Kathy Casmer, on February 1.
- Kay Boorsma and Greg and Pam Boorsma on the death of their husband and father, Marty Boorsma, on February 4.
- Tom Hull and family on the death of his mother, Anne Hull, on February 12.

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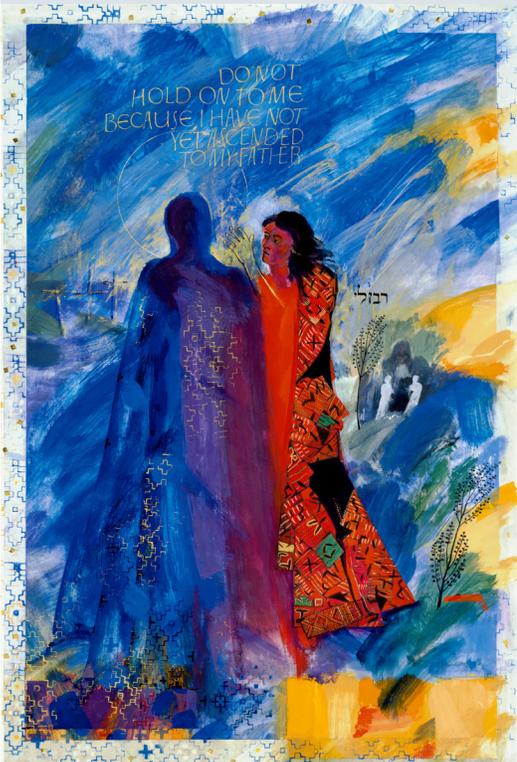
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PERIODICAL

TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL



Holy Week and Easter

PALM SUNDAY • April 9

- 8:00 a.m. Chapel with Communion
- 9:00 a.m. Celebrations Worship
- 10:10 a.m. Parables Worship (Chapel)
- 10:45 a.m. Traditions Worship

MAUNDY THURSDAY TENEBRAE SERVICE • Thursday, April 13, 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary

Tenebrae will tell the story of the Last Supper, Jesus' betrayal, arrest, and trial in story and song; with WCC Chancel Choir and solo cello.

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE • Friday, April 14, 5:00 p.m., Sanctuary

Service of the Seven Last Words of Christ.

THE WATCH: STORIES OF LIBERATION • Saturday, April 15, 7:00 p.m., Chapel

EASTER SUNDAY • April 16

- 6:30 a.m. Sunrise Service at Wayzata Beach. A Wayzata classic! Music, communion, scripture, message, and bonfires. Dogs welcome. (Wayzata Beach is just west of the Depot, on Lake Street in Wayzata.)
- 8:00 a.m. in the Wakefield Chapel. A celebration of Easter in an intimate setting with traditional music, soloist, communion, and sermon.
- 9:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary. A joyful contemporary celebration of Easter with sermon, and music by Tapestry and Children's Choirs, with a Children's Moment.
- 10:10 a.m. in the Chapel. Parables Special Needs, Special Gifts. All are welcome!
- 10:15 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Traditional, lively Easter celebrations with sermon and music by the WCC Chancel Choir, Organ and WCC Brass.
- 11:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Traditional, lively Easter celebrations with a Children's Message, sermon, and music by the WCC Chancel Choir, Organ and WCC Brass.