

inspire!

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Wayzata Community Church
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inspire the world with the inclusive love of Jesus

A Summer for All Reasons

By Lou Vlahos, Director of Mission, Communications & Membership

“Love is to the heart what the summer is to the farmer’s year. It brings to harvest all the loveliest flowers of the soul.” – Rev. Dr. Billy Graham

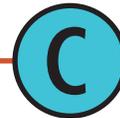
My family always went to church... always— even in the summer, when some families took a “summer vacation” from our church. I could not understand why anyone would not attend church in the summer when it was so fun!

One day, I asked my parents why we didn’t take the “summer” away from church. They responded, “How would you feel if we decided not to visit your grandparents, aunt & uncles, and cousins for three months? Would they feel loved? Wouldn’t you wonder if they were alright or needed something? Or what if something happened to one of them and we weren’t there to help? The Church is God, and you love God right? And what about the people who go to our church? They are part of our family too.”

I’ll admit it took a while for that to soak in, but as I grew older, I saw my parents’ analogy take yet another, different form... **ENGAGEMENT.**

Today, summer at church means meeting people in all different ways, different worship schedules and services, a summer festival, an opportunity to serve on special event committees, and social groups where we can meet people in a casual and inviting way. Summer makes me feel more engaged and alive. It is my spiritual and social connection between spring with Easter and fall/winter with Christmas.

A Summer for All Reasons, continued on page 2



From Our Moderator

Moderator Ann Stewart Johnson writes about appreciating hard work... and summer construction! Read on page 2.

Summer Worship on the Lawn

Summer WoW begins on Wednesday, June 14! We have a terrific line-up of musical guests. Read all about it on page 5.

Summer is a Time to Play

Director of WCCNS Sara Luedke shares the benefits of creative outside play for our kids, and for us! Read more on page 8.



From Our Moderator

Ann Stewart Johnson

There's a tired old saying that there are two seasons in Minnesota: Winter and Road Construction.... I am a construction engineer, and I get busy when summer arrives and the orange cones come out. So, how do I include God in my summer plans? I think about Him a lot as I'm working long hours with His people working to make our lives better.

Construction season is not a favorite time for most people; it means delays, detours, and disruption. For me, it means working outside in all weather and for long hours, hanging out with folks whose collars are anything but white and whose hands are calloused and dirty. I love it.

A construction engineer is required to be "on the job", next to the workers who are paving, digging, building, or demolishing. I'm there to watch, document, and make sure that the work is done correctly and efficiently. Standing next to someone for 10 or more hours a day, you get to learn a lot about them... if you ask. These are good people who work hard, care for their co-workers, and take their job seriously. God shows up for me in those daily conversations where we talk, laugh and share experiences from our different worlds.

There are many jobs most of us don't want, and heavy construction worker is probably one of them. Their job is physically difficult and the non-monetary rewards are few. There's no vacation or sick time for them....they get that each winter when they're laid off. Many commute for hours and camp nearby or sleep in their cars in order to provide for their families. One job I managed involved the construction of a main-line sewer meter, requiring that the crew spend several days knee-deep in raw sewage. They did it without hesitation. I asked one how he gets used to working in those conditions. His response? "I take my sewer jeans off before I go inside the house, and put them on again when I leave in the morning. It's no big deal." In other words, it's part of the job. Wow, that puts our worst day at work into perspective, doesn't it?

I am lucky to work in a place where I get to appreciate first-hand the sweat and energy others expend so that we can get to work faster, have clean water, and not think too much about sewage. Thank God for construction workers, and their daily work to make our lives better. While you're stopped on 394 this week, look around. Those yellow-vested people on the side of the road are working to support your lifestyle. Say a prayer of gratitude and give them a smile.

A Summer for All Reasons, from page 1

Here are five ways to help you feel more engaged and alive this summer:

1. Play with a child. Play like a child.

Who doesn't enjoy the outdoors in the summer? WCC maximizes the outdoor experience with our All-Church Camp, Thursday, July 27-Sunday, July 30, 2017. [Click here to register online!](#)

2. Attend a new spiritual service.

What could be better than sitting outside listening to great music and Word, in a picnic setting, with summer food, your family and, yes—even your dog. That's our Worship on Wednesday (WoW) service on the front lawn in the summer. We also encourage you to visit one of our Interfaith Community Partners: Adath Jeshurun Congregation (10500 Hillside Ln W, Minnetonka), Bet Shalom Congregation (13613 Orchard Rd, Hopkins), and the Northwest Islamic Community Center (3300 Plymouth Blvd, Plymouth)!

3. Enjoy a light, spiritual book for summer reading.

 Our clergy recommends these books for summer:

- **John Ross:** *Hallelujah Anyway* by Anne Lamott
- **Lindy Purdy:** *To Bless the Space Between Us* by John O'Donohue; *Kitchen Table Wisdom* by Rachel Naomi Rmen, M.D.; *Circle of Grace* by Jan Richardson
- **Rustin Comer:** *The Book of Awakening* by Mark Nepo; *Love Warrior: A Memoir* by Glennon Doyle Melton; *The Seeker's Guide* by Elizabeth Lesser; *The Untethered Soul* by Michael A. Singer; *The*

Alchemist by Paulo Coelho; *Rising Strong* by Brene Brown

- **Danielle Jones:** *Anatomy of the Soul* by Curt Thompson; *In the Name of Jesus* by Henri Nouwen.

4. Listen to a new kind of music.

Besides our great Worship on Wednesday musicians, including the Daisy Dillman Band, Power Tap with Charles Lazarus, Lorie Line, and Why Not Sea Monsters? (see page 5 of this issue for more information about Summer WoW!) this is a great time to hear our Summer Organ Series. WCC's principal organist, Kraig Windschitl, has a fresh lineup of talented organists, each with a unique style. See page 10 of this issue for more information on this summer's series!



5. Try a new volunteering experience. WCC partners with over 30 different organizations that you can volunteer with this summer—and all year long. For more on how to volunteer, [visit our mission website](#). And if summer is your open time, there is no better way to volunteer AND shop than at the [WCC Rummage Sale](#), with lots of tasks to do, people to meet while helping those who are less fortunate. Who knows, you might just find a bargain ;-)



for the moment

Rev. Dr. John F. Ross, Senior Minister

Lamprocapnos Spectabilis

For what person, cause, or purposes are you willing to not only open your heart, but to let your heart go walking around outside your body?

Only you botanists out there knew immediately that lamprocapnos spectabilis is the scientific name for a flowering plant with the common name, **Bleeding Heart**. Popular among home garden enthusiasts, this monotypic species will grow to 45-inches high and 20-inches wide.

The Bleeding Heart, as the name suggests, is known most famously for its pink and white, heart-shaped flowers that bloom only in springtime. Dangling precariously from each offshoot of the stem, the blossoms are fully exposed to the elements of the natural world. Their delicate petals form a heart shape worthy of a Valentine's Day card, and have what appears to be blood dripping from the bottom.

The Bleeding Heart was one of my mom's favorites plants. From my earliest years I recall her having at least one in the garden of every home in which we lived, making it that much more meaningful to me when a friend gave me a potted Bleeding Heart last May at the passing of my mom. Even more meaningful was my discovery on Mother's Day weekend of an emerging shoot of that very lamprocapnos spectabilis, which I had placed prominently in our front garden bed—hope, new life, resurrection.

I've heard it said: "Making the decision to have a child - is to decide forever to have your heart go walking around outside your body" (Elizabeth Stone). I would extend that notion to anyone who risks loving another, caring for the needy, and being vulnerable to the natural world in the cause of doing justice. In short, making the decision to follow Jesus is to decide forever to have your heart go walking around outside your body.

For the moment, consider what you have in common with lamprocapnos spectabilis. For what person, cause, or purposes are you willing to not only open your heart, but to let your heart go walking around outside your body? May God bless you in that high and holy calling!

See you in church,

John

Rev. Dr. John F. Ross, Senior Minister



Anam Cara

A Summer Sermon Series

June 2017

Have you ever wondered what Celtic Christianity is, its history, and theology? Do you already have an appreciation for Celtic Spirituality and want to go deeper? Are you looking for a new topic or object of your commitment to lifelong learning?

Anam Cara is a Gaelic term for "soul friend." Embracing a summer journey together as soul friends, we will explore the depth and meaning of Celtic Christianity and Spirituality every Sunday in June. Here's a preview...

June 4— Wild Goose

On Pentecost, Rustin Comer will present the Celtic symbol for the Holy Spirit: a wild goose.

June 11— Thin Places

John Ross will lead us in understanding and recognizing "thin places" in life.

June 18— St. Patrick

On Father's Day, John Ross will share a fuller story of St. Patrick.

June 25— Everything Is Holy

On this final Sunday of the series and our last day with full worship schedule, John Ross will bring us to the heart of Celtic Spirituality—everything is holy.

Watch your email inbox throughout June as Senior Minister John Ross shares video messages filmed on location throughout Northern Ireland as part of the pilgrimage he and his wife Sheila are leading with 20 WCC members.



Kimberly Meadows Needs Our Support

The CONECT Program of Interfaith Outreach has been active at Kimberly Meadows Townhomes since 2001. Interfaith Outreach serves 2,000 struggling families in 9 affordable housing complexes throughout Plymouth by providing food, housing, employment, education, transportation, and clothing as well as links to other community resources.

CONECT's Homework Club program at Kimberly Meadows helps residents in grades K-5th complete their homework, gain academic confidence and skills, and form meaningful relationships. Thanks to data sharing with Gleason Lake Elementary, we know that Homework Club has transformative potential for these students.

Last year, Interfaith Outreach served 13 students at the Kimberly Meadows Homework Club, and they saw growth in standardized test scores for most of these students. However, due to the size of the current community room at Kimberly Meadows, they can only accommodate 4 students and 2 volunteers at a time. Last year, they split the group into 3 shifts, which means that each student can only attend for half an hour. We know that more investment is needed to help these children and families reach their full potential. Having sufficient physical space to hold programs is a critical element that is missing at Kimberly Meadows.

The addition to expand the Community Room would allow us to take advantage of the many volunteers who come to Interfaith Outreach wanting to share their skills with the community by volunteering to teach a class. In the past, we have had to turn down free lessons for residents from artists, culinary arts teachers, yoga instructors, and more, because we don't have the space to host those types of activities at Kimberly Meadows.

Yet teaching is only one part of what WCC is involved with at Kimberly Meadows. For the past four years, members of WCC have provided monthly dinners and activities for residents of Kimberly Meadows. Our program of "Food, Fun and Fellowship" helps us be good neighbors and offer families a time to gather together, to get to know new families, to grow friendships and maintain a safe, supportive and fun community.

Currently plans are being drawn by a local architect which will be presented to the City of Plymouth for approval. Last Christmas we raised \$43,000 towards our goal of \$85,000 to complete this project. With the net proceeds from Mission Festival we hope to raise another \$25,000 towards our goal. While financial resources are very important to the completion of this Community Room, we also need volunteers each month to help with our monthly gatherings. Want to volunteer? Email Vicki Thompson at peterthompson9@comcast.net or Lou Vlahos, lvlahos@wayzatacommunitychurch.org.



Photos: Interfaith Outreach

SUMMER WORSHIP ON WEDNESDAY

Join us on the front lawn this summer for **Worship on Wednesday!** Enjoy fabulous music, picnic dinners, and a meaningful message as we celebrate worship

in God's glorious creation! Music starts at 6 p.m., and worship begins at 6:30 p.m. Dogs are welcome!



June 14: Daisy Dillman Band

The Daisy Dillman Band is a legend in Minnesota Music history and in the loyal hearts of fans across the nation. Their country rock sound is not to be missed! With over 40 years performing together, these guys have a chemistry and a sound all their own.

June 21: PowerTap with special Guest Charles Lazarus, and Blessing of the Animals

With the varied backgrounds of 11 versatile musicians, you'll hear every genre from rock, pop, and soul, to country, blues and 80s hair metal. Rockin' out with PowerTap is Trumpeter Charles Lazarus, an internationally-acclaimed musician who has performed with the Dallas Brass and the Minnesota Orchestra. Bring your pets for a Blessing of the Animals following worship!



June 28: Lorie Line

In 1986, Lorie moved to Minneapolis and landed the perfect job—serenading shoppers at the piano for Dayton's department stores. Midwestern fans took notice of her classic style; she has since sold 6 million albums and performed on over 2000 stages. We welcome Lorie and her glamorous style! Following worship, we will head down to Wayzata Beach for full immersion baptisms in the lake.

July 5: Ipsy Facto

Rock-style reggae with our WoW drummer, Greg McFarlane, and brothers Wain and Jujui! Ipsy Facto has toured with everyone from UB40 to Tracy Chapman. We welcome them back again this summer for an All American Celebration!

July 12: Why Not Sea Monsters? featuring Justin Roberts (Children's Night)

"Why Not Sea Monsters?" songs are all original retellings of Bible stories. With Justin's wit and catchy hooks, topics such as Noah building the ark and Moses at the burning bush are silly and touching! "Why Not Sea Monsters?" tours across the country with their whimsical music tailored to children.

July 19: Jack Brass Band

The Jack Brass Band plays everything from old Louis Armstrong-style New Orleans jazz to the modern street Mardi-Gras anthems.



July 26: The Finale, Robert Robinson & Friends

Minnesota's own, Gospel Legend Robert Robinson is back, sharing his soulful voice and messages of love and hope!



Jordan and Gabe in Colorado

Thriving Above the Timberline High School Ministry Senior Trip to Colorado

"Timberline" is defined as an imaginary boundary above which trees will not grow. In Colorado, this line is between 11,000 and 12,000 feet, depending on the variety of tree. It's astounding to see the abruptness where the trees stop growing as the peak gets nearer. Giant, deep-rooted organisms are too nervous to inch any closer into the thinning air. Yet, just as quickly as the trees drop off, the wild flowers grow rampant. They sprinkle hills in hues of deep purples, indigos, and butterscotch yellows. They infest the space no tree would dare to go, while growing higher and higher towards the summit.

The trek to join the ranks of the wild flower brigade is not often easy. The graduated seniors each must carry a pack averaging around forty pounds, filled to the brim with a selection of camp gear and personal items, each carefully packed to limit the weight one must carry up 14,000 feet. This trip to Colorado focuses on discipleship and what is possible when God is behind you. It shows what exquisite beauty only nature holds in our world and the exuberance brought forward by years of faith-based relationships.

I am reminded time and time again the infinite number of possibilities that lie in front of us when we focus on God. Every summer, I see students who swear they will not make it to the peak, do so in incredible strides. I see those who are more than equipped to race to the top, choose to stay in the back and carry the weight of another's pack, one who is struggling to move forward. These students transform by merely seeing their own capabilities when presented with adversity. Every year, these soon-to-be adults remind me of the wild flowers they pass as they march to the mountain's peak. More resilient than the strongest or tallest of trees and more beautiful the closer they go towards God. —Jordan Masters

Jordan Masters has been on the High School Colorado Senior Trip three times, the first as a high school student in 2010. She graduated from Iowa State University in 2015 and is now pursuing her Master of Social Work degree at the University of Minnesota. Jordan currently serves as Associate Director of High School Ministry and believes it to be the greatest job in the world as she gets to spend time with the most wonderful students.



Lake Baptisms!

Are you interested in being baptised in Lake Minnetonka? On June 28, immediately following our Summer WoW service, we will head down to Wayzata Beach for full immersion baptisms. Call the Pastoral Office for details.

4 PENTECOST, CAMP COMMISSIONING
Rev. Rustin Comer preaching
 8 a.m. Chapel Communion, Chapel
 9:00 a.m. Celebrations Worship, Sanctuary
 10:45 a.m. Traditions Worship, Sanctuary
 Hillcrest Golden Living Worship, 11 a.m.
 Meridian Manor Worship, 1 p.m.
 Middle School Mission Trip Meeting, 12 noon

5 Rummage Volunteers, 9 a.m.
 AA, 10 a.m.
 Parables Task Force, 6:30 p.m.
 Board of Fellowship, 7 p.m.
 Al Anon, 7:30 p.m.

6 Rummage Volunteers, 9 a.m.
 Planning Committee, 6 p.m.
 High School CE Board, 6:30 p.m.
 Board of Deacons, 7 p.m.
 Children's CE Board, 7 p.m.
 OA, 7 p.m.

11 **Rev. Dr. John F. Ross preaching**
 8 a.m. Chapel Communion, Chapel
 9:00 a.m. Celebrations Worship, Sanctuary
 10:45 a.m. Traditions Worship, Sanctuary
 Minnetonka Chamber Choir Concert, 3 p.m.

12 Rummage Volunteers, 9 a.m.
 AA, 10 a.m.
 Camp & Retreat Board, 6:30 p.m.
 Al Anon, 7:30 p.m.

13 Rummage Volunteers, 9 a.m.
 Bible ABCs for Twos, 11:30 a.m.
 Executive Committee 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.

18 BAPTISM SUNDAY AND FATHER'S DAY
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
 Hillcrest Golden Living Worship, 11 a.m.
 Meridian Manor Worship, 1 p.m.

19 Rummage Volunteers, 9 a.m.
 AA, 10 a.m.
 Al Anon, 7:30 p.m.

20 Rummage Volunteers, 9 a.m.
 Bible ABCs for Twos, 11:30 a.m.
 Mission & Outreach Board, 7 p.m.
 Church Council, 7 p.m.
 Unique Family Ministry Meeting, 7 p.m.
 OA, 7 p.m.

25 COMMUNION
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
 Meridian Manor Worship, 1 p.m.

26 Rummage Volunteers, 9 a.m.
 AA, 10 a.m.
 Loaves and Fishes, 5:15 p.m., Offsite
 Al Anon, 7:30 p.m.

27 Rummage Volunteers, 9 a.m.
 Bible ABCs for Twos, 11:30 a.m.
 CHC Meeting, 4:30 p.m.
 Generosity Committee, 7 p.m.
 OA, 7 p.m.



The Third Thursday Readers will meet in the Piper Library at 1 p.m. on June 15 to discuss *The Lost Wife*, by Alyson Richman. If you like to read and discuss books, please join us! Everyone is welcome!



WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

		1 Rummage Volunteers, 9 a.m. Women's AA, 10 a.m. Baptism Stepping Stone, 6 p.m.	2 Rummage Volunteers, 9 a.m. WCCNS Luncheon, 12 noon	3 Saturday Seekers, 8 a.m. Israel Trip Meeting, 9 a.m. AA, 11 a.m.
7	Rummage Volunteers, 9 a.m. AA, 10 a.m. Soul Sisters Lunch Bunch, 11:30 a.m. Al Anon, 7:45 p.m.	8 Rummage Volunteers, 9 a.m. Women's AA, 10 a.m. Library Committee, 2 p.m.	9 Rummage Volunteers, 9 a.m. Parables Respite Care, 5 p.m.	10 Saturday Seekers, 8 a.m. AA, 11 a.m.
14	Rummage Volunteers, 9 a.m. AA, 10 a.m. Summer Organ Concert, 12:15 p.m. Summer Worship on Wednesday, 6 p.m. Al Anon, 7:45 p.m.	15 Rummage Volunteers, 9 a.m. Women's AA, 10 a.m. Bible ABCs for Three & Fours, 11:30 a.m. Third Thursday Readers, 1 p.m.	16 Rummage Volunteers, 9 a.m.	17 Saturday Seekers, 8 a.m. AA, 11 a.m.
21	Rummage Volunteers, 9 a.m. AA, 10 a.m. Summer Organ Concert, 12:15 p.m. Summer Worship on Wednesday, 6 p.m. Al Anon, 7:45 p.m.	22 Rummage Volunteers, 9 a.m. Women's AA, 10 a.m. Bridge, 12 noon Bible ABCs for Three & Fours, 11:30 a.m.	23 Rummage Volunteers, 9 a.m.	24 Saturday Seekers, 8 a.m. AA, 11 a.m.
28	Rummage Volunteers, 9 a.m. AA, 10 a.m. Summer Organ Concert, 12:15 p.m. Summer Worship on Wednesday, 6 p.m. Al Anon, 7:45 p.m.	29 Rummage Volunteers, 9 a.m. Women's AA, 10 a.m. Bible ABCs for Three & Fours, 11:30 a.m.	30 Rummage Volunteers, 9 a.m.	



Coming Up in July

- **Summer Worship Schedule begins on July 2: worship at 8 a.m. (Chapel) and 10 a.m. (Sanctuary)**
- **Worship on Wednesday on the front lawn! Continues through July 26**
- **All-Church Camp for the Whole Church Family! Thursday, July 27-Sunday, July 30**



Summer is a Time to Play!

by Sara Luedke, Director of WCCNS

What a wacky winter and spring! The weather has been up and down, but now we are experiencing summer flowers and warm weather—the time of year when children are excited to get out and play in the green grass! Summer is a time for renewal and re-acquainting ourselves with nature.

Being outside provides all kinds of wonderful learning experiences for children, whether you go to a park, or a playground, or just play in your own yard. We know that this is most valuable for children’s development and growth. Fun materials can be things like water, mud, sand, vehicles, swings, boxes, blankets, dress-up clothes, props and more. This kind of play gives children a sense of freedom to be and do things according to their own ideas, and develop the “senses of autonomy and initiative”.

Give your children the opportunity of creative outside play this summer. Pitch a tent, reuse the big empty box you have in your garage, pull out the messy art supplies, and let the imaginations and little feet run wild. Through a variety of play experiences, we can help them develop physically, emotionally, socially, creatively, cognitively, and in self-awareness.

So, watch, learn, and enjoy your child’s play outside. You will learn about your kids and have fun while doing it!



1. Families Moving Forward Guests.

Volunteer for Families Moving Forward from July 9 to July 16! We need people to help with food, overnight stays, hosting and more! A table will be set up in Founders Hall in June to sign up, or contact Peter Thompson (pthompson@hamline.edu) or Cindy LaRue (cindyla29@aol.com) for more details.

2. Father’s Day is June 18th!

This Father’s day about 74 million cards will be given to fathers in over 50 countries around the world, but Father’s Day cards are far older than Hallmark. One of the earliest dates back roughly 4,000 years. Elmesu, a Babylonian young man, made a card out of clay to wish his father “good health and long life.”



A Summer Tradition: Vacation Bible School

By Linda Wollerman

My three kids love, and have always loved, Vacation Bible School (VBS). When they were little it was a highlight of the summer. They enjoyed everything about it; the silly songs, the fun games, the messy crafts, and the wonderful setting to learn about God’s love. As the years went on they looked forward to it even more, anticipating becoming a junior counselor and then a counselor. Now my kids take so much pride in being part of the leadership team at VBS, helping to provide for others the amazing VBS experience they had themselves. As counselors they look forward to helping get the VBS week set up with amazing sets and props and learning all the camp songs, and they just can’t wait to meet their campers. VBS is also a wonderful opportunity to connect with their church friends that they may not see as much in the summer. Every day of camp, whether as a camper or counselor, my kids come home with funny stories about things that happened at VBS. For our family, Vacation Bible School has been a wonderful summer tradition.

[Click here for more about Vacation Bible School 2017!](#)



3. The Mission of the Month is the Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery. They are in need of the following items:

- Hygiene: Aveeno/Eucerin, Unscented Lotions, Infant/Children's Toothbrushes, Blue Magic® Brand Hair Grease, Oil Detangler/Crème/ Pink lotion, Baby Wash, Kleenex, Sunscreen, Bug Spray
- Diapers/Wipes: Diapers Sizes 4-6, Pull Ups Sizes L-XL ("Overnights"), Unscented Baby Wipes
- Formula/Baby Food: Similac Formula – all types, Similac Spit Up, Similac Advance, Baby Food Stage 1

If you would like to volunteer, please call (763) 591-0100 or ask one of the WCC Soul Sisters how you can help.



4. Middle School Summer Stretch! WCC & St. Philip the Deacon are once again offering students an opportunity to STRETCH their faith! You'll enjoy spending time with friends, learn how you can make a difference, and have a fun service opportunity in the morning followed by a fellowship activity in the afternoon.

This year's service activities include: visiting & playing games with the seniors at Folkestone in Wayzata, making dog/cat toys for the Humane Society, baking a "thank you" for our local Firefighters & Police, and making kid comfort bags for Home Free & Sojourner Shelter.

To build community and have fun, afternoon activities include enjoying lunch together, playing Knockerball, exploring Minnehaha Falls, laughing at Comedy Sportz, and challenging ourselves at Sand Creek Adventures High Ropes and Zipline.

For our incoming 6th, 7th, 8th & 9th graders, this is a great opportunity to make new friends in a safe environment. Adult volunteers may also attend. Summer Stretch dates are Tuesday, July 18 through Thursday, July 20 from 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. [Click here to register online.](#)

A Sacred Week with Middle School Ministry

By Michelle Ramert

Two years ago, Christa Bowman Workmon invited me to join the Middle School mission trip to Fargo/Moorhead. Now, I had been a middle school leader for over 5 years and absolutely love this role. However, traveling to Fargo with 20+ middle schoolers was not in my summer plans. I reluctantly agreed, as this would make it much easier to convince my own son to attend. It worked, Ben agreed to go! This was going to be an amazing experience for him! He loved it and as he says, "the best week of his life!" And, as it turned out, this trip was an amazing experience for me!

Once we rolled out of the WCC parking lot, the week was all about being together. We would ride together, eat together, work together, play together, pray together, stay up late and get tired together. Very quickly I saw barriers being broken down, trust growing and friendships made. The entire group grew tremendously as a faith community. We were able to serve others and see a different perspective right here in Minnesota. Most importantly, this week felt sacred. The desire to serve, the daily adventures, and our relationships with God created a bond amongst us. That week in Fargo/Moorhead changed us and forever brought us closer together.



It didn't take long to have our eyes opened and our hearts softened. Christa had planned a variety of service projects throughout the week. There is one that has stayed with me from our trip to Rochester last year. On the hottest day of the week, my group was assigned to help a woman dig up her dead grass. The kids were not too excited about digging up dead grass, and I was questioning what I had gotten myself into. We arrived at Chan's home, an elderly woman from Cambodia, who was thrilled we were there. Chan explained her predicament. Not knowing how to read English, she had accidentally sprayed her grass with weed killer. Her homeowner's association had cited her with a violation and a fine of \$250. We were all outraged at how unjust this seemed — but that quickly turned into determination. The kids were on a "mission" to get every last blade of dead grass out of Chan's yard.

The kids worked tirelessly. Chan made sure we had water, reminded us to work in the shade, and to take breaks. After we finished, Chan invited us into her home to thank us. We entered her home to find she had prepared an entire Cambodian dinner for us. Chan said that she felt so blessed to have the hands and feet of Jesus helping her, and making us dinner was the least she could do. This day was so much more than a service project and removing the dead grass from Chan's yard. I was so moved by the compassion of the kids and the appreciation of Chan. It was a God moment!

We bring these kids out of their everyday lives, have them leave their phones behind, and ask them to be open to the experience of serving others. I didn't know what that would look like or what my role would be. I have come to understand that I have been invited to walk alongside these kids... to have fun, work hard, keep them safe, and love them.

Christa spends an incredible and thoughtful amount of time planning these trips. I get such joy in sharing these experiences with the kids and leaders and can't wait for my third trip this summer. Certain moments stay with me, from the student-led devotions to the leaders washing the feet of the youth. These mission trips are sacred. I see God work *for* us and *through* us. Now I realize that I didn't make plans to include God in my summer, He included me in His!



Getty's Spirit Award

We are so excited to honor our dear friends, Wendy Hitch and Miss Getty, with the WCC Spirit Award.

Since the beginning of our launch of the Parables ministry, Wendy and Getty have offered a profound pastoral presence at our weekly worship service. Quietly sitting at the foot of the cross, Wendy and Getty welcome all in the room to come and be loved exactly as they are. Wendy's keen eye and pastor's heart allows her to read the room and offer Getty's magic when she sees the need. Many of our Parables children have significant anxiety and social skill deficits and crave the unconditional love that they receive from this dynamic duo.

If you pop into the Chapel anytime during Parables, you will see "Jesus with fur on" in action. Our kids find the "peace that surpasses all understanding" in the presence of these two ministers. Their welcoming spirit to nervous newcomers is a ministry unto itself. We are so blessed to have them sharing their gifts among us.

But their impact doesn't stop at Parables. In the past two years you can find these two quietly offering pastoral presence throughout the church. Autumn shared that she actually gave Miss Getty the title of "Cast Therapist" for the "Fiddler On the Roof" production, as she and Wendy were at almost all of the rehearsals—to be a calming presence in the midst of the pressures of putting on such an extensive performance.

Thank you, Wendy and Miss Getty, for sharing your God-given gifts with all of us. We are richer in your presence.

SUMMER ORGAN CONCERT SERIES

Enjoy free 30-minute concerts by world-class organists performing on the landmark magnum opus Charles Hendrickson tracker organ in our beautiful Sanctuary, 12:15 p.m. every Wednesday! Following each recital, join us for refreshments in Founders Hall.



June 14: Diana Lee Lucker

Dr. Lucker is Organist Emeritus at Wayzata Community Church.



June 21: Kyle Black

Kyle is the current Organist/Choirmaster of St. Martin's by-the-Lake Episcopal Church in Minnetonka Beach.



June 28: Cynthia Rapacke Betz

Cynthia serves as Organist at Normandale Hylands United Methodist Church, Bloomington.



July 5: Matt Haider

Matt is Director of Worship and Music at Edison Park Lutheran Church, Chicago.



July 12: Sharon Kleckner

Sharon holds degrees in organ performance from the Oberlin Conservatory of Music where she studied with Garth Peacock, and Syracuse University where she earned the Master of Music.



July 19: Joshua Lindgren

Joshua is Minister of Worship and Music for Shepherd of the Lake Lutheran Church in Prior Lake.



July 26: Christopher Stroh

Christopher has served as Principal Organist at The Basilica of Saint Mary in downtown Minneapolis since 2006.



August 2: Christopher Ganza

Christopher is the Organist & Choirmaster at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Minneapolis, where he directs the Parish Choir, Vespers Choir, and Cantors, and plays for all of the parish's sung liturgies.



August 9: Carolyn Diamond

Active as both pianist and pipe organist, Carolyn Diamond performs regularly on concert series in the metro areas of Minnesota and New York.



August 16: Kraig Windschitl

Kraig is Principal Organist and Director of Handbells at Wayzata Community Church.



celebrations & transitions

The Summer Day

As summer approaches, a familiar sense of lightness washes over me. The additional sunlight, the greening green and the open water all have the effect of lifting my spirits and filling me up. For me, this summer will be different. I have high hopes of being filled up with sweat and soil and sabbatical. I want to get my hands dirty, dig in the dirt, work up a sweat. I plan to sit in the stillness of a summer day, noticing nature and thinking big thoughts. And I am reminded of my favorite poem, by Mary Oliver, "The Summer Day."

*Who made the world?
Who made the swan, and the black bear?
Who made the grasshopper?
This grasshopper, I mean—
the one who has flung herself out of the grass,
the one who is eating sugar out of my hand,
who is moving her jaws back and forth instead of
up and down—
who is gazing around with her enormous and
complicated eyes.
Now she lifts her pale forearms and thoroughly
washes her face.
Now she snaps her wings open, and floats away.
I don't know exactly what a prayer is.
I do know how to pay attention, how to fall down
into the grass, how to kneel down in the grass,
how to be idle and blessed, how to stroll through
the fields,
which is what I have been doing all day.
Tell me, what else should I have done?
Doesn't everything die at last, and too soon?
Tell me, what is it you plan to do
with your one wild and precious life?*

I want to pay attention (as our new friend Danielle reminded us) with intention. For our God has created and is re-creating this world before our very eyes. Summer is the perfect time to express gratitude and praise for our lives, for our world and for this community we love. Let's do it together at church! So, "Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?"

Blessings and happy summer!
Lindy

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.

BAPTISMS

- Berkeley Kathryn Wine, daughter of Nicholas & Lindsey, granddaughter of Barb Wine & Dave Weir.
- Landyn Louise Rondeau, daughter of Jon & Aleisha.
- Henry John Rongnan Kahler, son of Christopher & Delphine.
- Micah August Ruehl, son of Daniel & Andria.
- Cole Douglas Sailer, son of Shawn & Caroline.

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

John Purdy Karen Ryding

CONDOLENCES

- Mari Somekawa on the death of her husband, Carl Somekawa, on April 11.
- Vicki Yungerberg and family on the death of Steve Yungerberg, on April 16.
- Lorie Juberien and family on the death of her father, Charles Larson, on April 22.
- Georgia Burton and family on the death of her mother, Ann Leavenworth, on April 25.
- Amy Sakayan and family on the death of her mother, Mindy Sakayan, on April 26.
- Mavis Myhran and family on the death of her son, Brooks Myhran, on May 7.

Kharlamphy Komonash

Kharlamphy Komonash, 16 year WCC Building & Grounds employee, died May 1, and is survived by his wife Liya and family. Kharlamphy came to the United States in 1996 with a family of 7 and \$300 in his pocket. Leaving his beloved homeland of the Ukraine after being persecuted for his belief in God and working for the church was bittersweet. His great work ethic and great strength came from a long history of farming and it is that background that gave him the skills to fix and do most anything for our church. He also had a great passion for bee keeping. This is a skill he brought from the Ukraine where he made his living from the honey he harvested. When Kharlamphy was helping others, you could see the light of God shining in his eyes. —John Estrem

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- Editor: Cami Farley, 952-473-8877, ext. 225; cfarley@wayzatacommunitychurch.org
- Design: Marnie Baehr, 952-473-8877, ext. 238; mbaehr@wayzatacommunitychurch.org



WAYZATA COMMUNITY CHURCH
inspire the world

A United Church of Christ Congregation
125 Wayzata Boulevard East
Wayzata, MN 55391
(952) 473-8877 • Fax: (952) 473-2695
www.wayzatacommunitychurch.org
www.ucc.org

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PERIODICAL
TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL



Summer of Rummage!

Before we know it, the 96th Rummage Sale will open its doors— on Wednesday and Thursday, August 2 and 3! Its mission of Service, Fellowship and Outreach is only possible thanks to the hundreds of volunteers and donors from all ages and stages who contribute each year.

Do you know that many of those who volunteer started as children accompanying parents and grandparents who volunteered? Many of our volunteers are multiple generations; one is the fifth generation of her family to help! We welcome children and have many age-appropriate, useful, fun tasks. Molly Hegwood's four boys start asking every year in January when they can start coming to help with Rummage.

Nick and Mitch Swanson have grown up volunteering in many different ways. Mitch was supervising others while still in High School, because he knew most of the departments and jobs that needed to be done. Now the Swanson's are grown, but still actively help with Sale preparations.

Our Department Heads welcome our young volunteers. Paul Anderson, Chair of Electronics, says that the benefit from his young helpers is that they ensure we have good working audio and video equipment—they understand this new technology! The Teens department depends on youth to make sure we keep what our young buyers are looking for.

So, come and bring the kids! All are welcome and important to the Sale's success. And, with the kids helping, we all have more fun!

—Bill Boulware