inspire!

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Wayzata Community Church
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Volume 39, Number 10

inspire the world with the inclusive love of Jesus

Be Brave

What does it mean to be a Purple Church and why does it matter?

By Rev. Rustin Comer, Minister of Faith Formation

While I know it is difficult, I would like to ask you to stay with me as I write about politics. Over the past few election cycles there has been significant conversation about red, blue and purple states. Purple counties and communities are those where both Republicans (red) and Democrats (blue) reside side by side in similar numbers. What we have learned from these color charts is that America, when lumped into color diagrams, has become increasingly more divided.

These color charts don't just pertain to our nation, they also pertain to our churches. In fact, most churches in America could easily classify themselves as either blue or red without much hesitation. As we spend this month talking about being a "purple church", we are intentionally acknowledging that our community is unique in that each week we intentionally choose to sit beside people whom we know believe differently than we do in core areas of their lives. I believe this is a profound gift we offer the world. Our televisions, our friendships, our social media feeds, tell us that we are better when we are all homogenous. Yet, what we are discovering and what the gospel of Jesus makes clear, is that it is only in encountering those who are different from us that we find the fullest expression of God's Kin-dom. In the Kin-dom of God we are encouraged to reach out and move towards the "Samaritan", the leper, and the stranger. We are called to get comfortable eating with the sinner, the gentile, the person that we view as holding different beliefs or who looks different than we do. I honestly can't think of many other places left in our world where people who disagree about politics choose to spend time together every single week. Voluntarily, WCC chooses to come together. We sit next to each other in the pews. We lay hands on one another during blessing. We believe there is a cord of unity that holds us all together in the body of Christ. It is a big deal that we maintain this purple space where we love and interact with those of different beliefs.

Be Brave, continued on page 2

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A

Fostering Conversation

We represent diverse backgrounds and beliefs, and the church is the perfect place to talk about things that really matter. Read our Moderator's report on page 2.

B

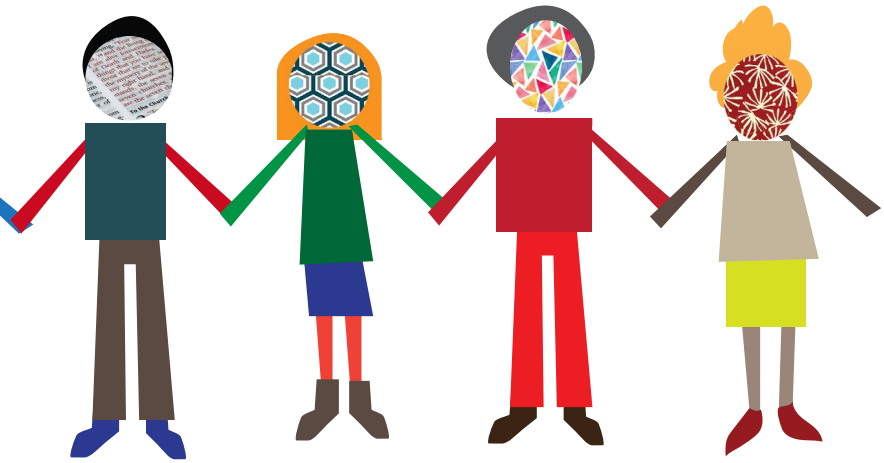
Celebrating Our Stories

Our 2018 Pledge Campaign celebrates the stories of WCC members. See page 12 for more about making your 2018 financial pledge to our amazing ministries!

C

Mission this Month

Operation Christmas Child, The Sleep Out, Adopt-a-Neighborhood and more... coming in November at WCC! More information on page 5.



Be Brave, from page 1

Thus, as a clergy team, part of what we are being awakened to as we strive to **BE church (as our September series encouraged), is that being the church requires being in relationship with those that are different from us.** The world is looking for places that inspire. A clear way that we can inspire the world with the inclusive love of Jesus is to start with the otherness that is already in our midst. If we can learn to be a purple church, not by accident, but with deep intentionality and pride, we can literally begin to embrace the kin-dom of Jesus in new ways. So, as we approach this series, let me give you some clear articulations about what we will never say as a church and what we will be saying during this series.

What we will not say

- We will never tell people that one party is better than another party.
- We will never tell people how to vote.
- We will never intentionally look down on one another because of our political beliefs.

What we are saying

- Politics matter: Where people are, politics exist.
- Our faith should inform our politics.
- Our "purpleness" gives us a unique lens through which our community sees the world and is seen by the world.
- If we can embrace our purple nature we can better embrace other forms of differentness or otherness within our community.
- We will create tools for our community to engage in all types of differences that exist in our world, our nation, and within our church.
- As a community, we will strive to build trust and goodwill among people who believe, think, and look different from us.
- When there is injustice, we will speak, but we will speak boldly from a place of our conviction that we are called to be a purple community.
- Being a purple church is our gift. It's our gift to one another, and it's our gift to the world.

I challenge you over the next few weeks to be brave, to trust as we walk diligently and carefully into our differences so we can see the true beauty of the inclusive love of Jesus that resides in our community each week.

Fostering Conversation

Ann Johnson Stewart, WCC Moderator

I know who you are. And you know who I am. Some of us disagree on very important issues, but we don't dare speak of it. At least not to each other.

Thanks to social media, opinions that were not previously discussed in polite conversation are now made freely known through "shares" and "likes". It's a reality that forces us to consider, "what do I do with that information? How do I feel about that person now?" And some of us are finding that biases and beliefs once held secret have arisen within us as well. It's unsettling.

We represent diverse backgrounds and beliefs, and church is the perfect place to talk about things that really matter.

I come from a large family with 5 siblings and in-laws, several grown grandchildren, and a politically-engaged mother. We have very different opinions about important issues that shape our world. In an effort keep the peace, several of us haven't spoken a word about anything that might be remotely controversial since last November's election. That covers a lot! So nearly one year has passed in which we don't even bring up what we used to consider safe, in fear that our conversation could drift and then escalate into something more heated.

Sadly, our interactions for the last YEAR have dissolved into superficial topics like how our children are doing, how work is going, the weather, home repairs, and other surface stuff. So often, I feel like there's an invisible wall between us that we are tip-toeing around. I hate it. Like the rest of the country, we are polarized, and these are the people that I should feel closest and safest with: my family!

So, we have succeeded in building a wall, but it's among ourselves. I'm as guilty as anyone, and it doesn't feel good. Let's break it down. Let's talk to each other. Discuss, not debate.

This fall, our church is learning about what it means to be "the purple church". We represent diverse backgrounds and beliefs, and church is the perfect place to talk about things that really matter. We've been careful to leave politics at the front door, but within the context of fostering the inclusive love of Jesus, there's still much to talk about. And, as we learn to discuss these issues with each other, my hope is that those conversations and insights drift into our homes, families, schools, work, and community. It can and should start in church.

Not everything is black and white (or red and blue), and most things never were. I want to learn about issues from another viewpoint; it's presumptuous and arrogant to assume that I have all the answers. Sharing ideas makes me smarter. It fosters mutual understanding and opportunity for conversations with people who have every right to believe differently than I do. I'm not interested in debating. I'm interested in conversation that values each opinion along with heartfelt dialogue. That's the opportunity that is presented to our purple church. Let's take it and move forward together.

for the moment

Rev. Dr. John F. Ross, Senior Minister

The Tie That Binds

"...that they may all be one..."
John 17:21

A 2017 study by Stanford scholar, Shanto Iyengar, reveals that Americans are more strongly attached to political parties than to any other social identifier—stronger than race, ethnicity, or religion. The study cites several reasons for this priority attachment, but it is the OUTCOMES of this reality that got my attention.

> "We are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection. The mystic chords of memory will swell when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature."
>
> Abraham Lincoln
> March 4, 1861
> 1st Inaugural Address

The most alarming discovery for me was that animosity toward people of other political viewpoints is stronger than favoritism shown toward those politically like-minded. In other words, **we dislike our opponent more than we like our ally!** What does this mean for our church?

We are a Purple Church. In political terms, we are a blend of Red (Republicans), Blue (Democrats) and others (to a small degree). Every week in worship I look out and see a beautiful diversity of theological, social, fiscal, and POLITICAL orientations. It's like the day of Pentecost every Sunday! **It's who WE ARE.**

Religiously speaking, Purple is more than a blend of red and blue. Purple is an ancient symbol, adopted by early Christians to stand for God's reign, in contrast to the reign of Roman Imperialism. Purple is the liturgical color for the seasons of Advent and Lent, representing humility and repentance—both are critical to following Jesus.

I believe there is a threefold opportunity before us as a Purple Church:

1. To show people a "still more excellent way" (I Corinthians 12-13)
2. To "love God, by loving neighbor as ourselves" (Matthew 22, Mark 12)
3. To be an answer to Jesus' prayer "that they may all be one" (John 17).

Aside from mayoral races, there is no major candidate election or social issue at the polls this November. This gives us a great chance to explore our Redness and Blueness without distraction, and remember that to be a Purple Church is to follow of Jesus—first, and foremost.

For the moment, join me in recalling the text of this beloved hymn: *Blest be the tie that binds / Our hearts in Christian love / The fellowship of kindred minds / Is like to that above.*

See you in church,

John

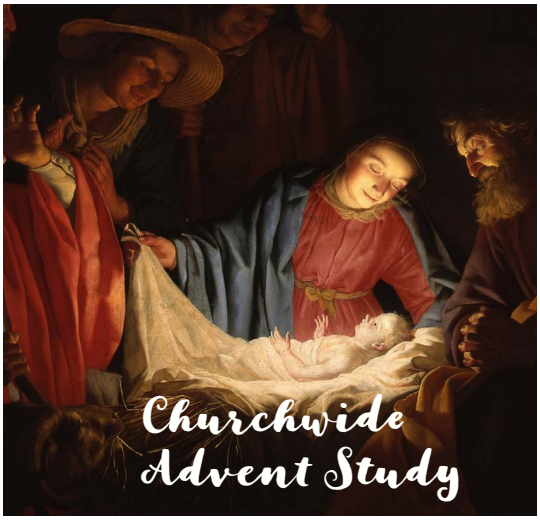
Auditions!

Travel with us next spring over the rainbow to a magical kingdom filled with munchkins, flying monkeys, witches, and wizards! Join four unlikely friends as they set out to discover wisdom, compassion, courage, and the way home.

We need YOU to be a part of WCC's Good Works Community Theater's 12th full scale Musical Production, THE WIZARD OF OZ. All ages and stages are welcome (from beginners to professionals), and behind-the-scenes help is needed too. There will be singing and non-singing parts, a Children's & Youth/Adult Ensemble, and lots of fun character parts (Lollipop Guild, anyone?) Opportunities abound for ALL who wish to be involved in this amazing community event, open to members and non-members of WCC (invite your neighbor!)

- **Auditions will be held Monday & Tuesday, November 13 & 14, 2017 in the Chapel (choose one date).** Ages 15 and under: 6:30-7:30 p.m. Ages 16-110: 7:30-8:30 p.m.
- **"Dogditions" for the role of Toto will be held on Monday & Tuesday, November 13 & 14, 2017 in the Chapel** from 5:30-6:30 p.m.
- **Production dates** are Wednesday through Sunday, March 14-18, 2018.

For more information visit www.wayzatacommunitychurch.org/wizardofoz



Gerard Van Honthorst, *Adoration of the Shepherds*, 1622

Sent from God, Swaddled in a Manger

November 29 - December 13
Taught by Rev. Rustin Comer
10 a.m., 4 p.m., and 7:15 p.m.

Each Advent we hear stories about an angel's announcement to Mary that she will bear a son, about the child born in a manger, and shepherds startled by an angelic host. But a star that travels ahead of the Magi until it stands over the family's dwelling conflicts with what we know of astronomy, and the report that the Magi find the family in a "house" seems a different scene than a manger in a stable. And although we hear that this birth is news of God come to dwell among us, in what sense is this child God's presence? Whom or what do we receive at Christmas?

November 29 - *A look at the differences between Matthew and Luke and how these difference have become conflated in our celebration of Advent and Christmas.* Join us as we look at why stories matter and what makes them "true."

December 6 - *The Christmas story for a Jewish audience:* Matthew - A look at how Matthew is following the story line of Moses, including the quandary over Mary's pregnancy, etc. Is the Christmas story Christian?

December 13 - *The Christmas story for a Gentile Audience:* A dive into how the Christmas story speaks truth to power. Luke's way of telling the story to make it fit a Roman context, particularly in his attempt to show the legitimacy of the gospel message for Roman ears, including his use of the *Magnificat* and the theme of poverty.

Operation Christmas Child Packing Party

Wednesday, November 15
4:30-6:15 p.m. in Mithun Hall

Since 1993, Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes have delighted over 135 million children and given children hope and the love of Christ through small shoe boxes filled with gifts and the gospel. For the past 11 years WCC Children's Ministry has participated in this wonderful Mission project by hosting a packing party! Join us in Mithun Hall before and during Suppers (4:30-6:15 p.m.) to pack a shoebox of love for a child in need around the world. All ages and stages are invited to participate. A donation of $20 per box will cover shipping and offset the cost of the gifts we'll purchase to put in the boxes, with a maximum of $45 per family. We also need your help with items to put in the boxes! Please check our website for needed items (deliver by November 12.)

How Parables Changed My Life

by John Robards

Photo: Marnie Buratto

Sometimes in our lives we aren't made to feel special, but the very first time I walked into a Parables service I knew that I was special. We live close to Wayzata Community Church so I had seen the Parables banner many times. I convinced my parents that we should visit and after that first service, my life was changed! I instantly felt welcomed and respected and that I had found a place where I belong.

The church has allowed me to be the outgoing person that I am. I work as an usher getting to greet people and generally making their day. There is nothing that makes me happier! I volunteered with the church Rummage Sale this year. I helped with the heavy lifting and people saw me as the capable man I know I am.

As a teenager I didn't have a purpose. Being a part of Parables has helped me find my purpose. I wasn't confirmed in my teenage years because my former church didn't offer a confirmation program that fit my needs. I committed myself to God with my peers as a part of Parable's first confirmation class. Parables has helped me find my purpose and helped me become a man.

I am a part of the bi-weekly Parables young adult Bible Study. We have the chance to learn together in a way that we can all understand. We may have a disability, but we are able to learn. We desire a relationship closer to God and want to learn to understand the Bible. This Bible study is perfect, because we do it in a way that works for all. Like the Bible Study, Leslie is the best pastor because she gives us the chance to lead and she gives meaningful sermons that all can understand.

I want all of the people at Wayzata Community Church to feel welcome and invited to come to a Parables service. It is a time when people with special needs are the teachers, the leaders, and the happiest people on Earth!

"Building Community" 2017 Mission Festival Wine Tasting

November 19 • Mission Sunday
4:00-6:30 p.m. at 6Smith in Wayzata

How can you enrich the lives of 39 families, be an education mentor to children, help build a safe space for a community, AND eat out-of-this-world cuisine and taste outstanding wines? Simple… come to the Mission Festival Wine Tasting at 6Smith Restaurant (Boat Works Building, 294 East Grove Lane, Wayzata MN 55391). This is the third year for our wine tasting, and thanks to your attendance and generosity, it's back this year to help complete funding and build a new community room at Kimberly Meadows, that will allow more children to receive educational assistance and mentoring, and provide a safe meeting place for those who live in this affordable housing development.

Interfaith Outreach (IOCP) and WCC have been working as a team at this development for over ten years now, providing monthly community meals and educational mentoring to the children of this community in Plymouth. An expanded community room will provide more space to teach children and open program opportunities for the adults in this development.

Tickets go on sale November 1. Buy them online or at the door for $50.00 each. Ticket price includes a wine tasting that's paired with a beautiful buffet provided by 6Smith, music, and a host of parties, food and fun.

Call or email Lou Vlahos (lvlahos@wayzatacommunitychurch.org or 612.850.5178) for more information. Watch for more details through the inspire Weekly, insight email, Facebook, Interfaith Outreach and more!

The Sleep Out

When you drive by WCC's front lawn on Sunday, November 19 you will see a community built by our Middle Schoolers. They will be awakening in their box houses built in an effort to raise awareness of homelessness in our area as part of the kick-off IOCP's Sleep Out Campaign. They will have a best box competition, collect items for IOCP food shelf, do a service project, a poverty simulation, and sleep in a box for the night. Thank you for your prayers and support of the youth and for those that don't have a bed to call their own every night.

Adopt-a-Neighborhood

Adopt-a-Neighborhood is a ministry of joy! In partnership with Interfaith Outreach, Wayzata Community Church provides monthly dinners and activities for the residents of Kimberly Meadows Townhomes (at County Roads 6 & 101). The dinners offer an opportunity for families to gather together, to get to know new families, to grow friendships and to maintain a safe, supportive and fun community. On **Tuesday, November 28 from 6:00-7:30 p.m., we will gather at Interfaith Outreach (van shuttle provided) and help with a Chain of Thanks art project.** If you would like to volunteer, please contact Vicki Thompson at 952-542-9152 or peterthompson9@comcast.net.

Donate Holiday Food to IOCP

Help your neighbors from your own kitchen! Please drop off items at the east or west entrance at WCC, or at Interfaith Outreach, 1605 County Road 101 N in Plymouth from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., according to the specific deadlines below. Visit the IOCP website for a list of most-needed food items.

- Thanksgiving food: please deliver items no later than Saturday, November 11
- December holiday food: please deliver items no later than Saturday, December 9
- Desserts for client Christmas Party: Holiday cookies and bars should be securely packaged, labeled with quantity and type, and delivered to Interfaith Outreach November 27 – 29, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

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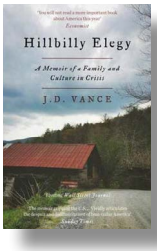
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Join Rev. Lindy Purdy for Soup, Salad & Song on Wednesday, November 15 at 12 noon in Mithun Hall for delicious homemade soups, salads, bread and dessert! Anyone "55 or Better" is invited to share in this! The lunch is free, and made possible by the committee and by those who wish to share their culinary skills with the group. Each lunch is a unique and wonderful experience of great food and fun.		
5 **All Saints Sunday** 8 a.m. Chapel Communion, Chapel 9:00 a.m. Celebrations Worship, Sanctuary 10:30 a.m. Parables Worship, Chapel 10:45 a.m. Traditions Worship, Sanctuary Meridian Manor Worship, 1 p.m. Smart Stepfamily Study, 10:15 a.m., Piper Library All-Church Potluck and Show, 5 p.m.	6 Archives, 9:30 a.m. Women's AA, 10 a.m. Rummage Committee, 4 p.m. Middle School CE Board, 7 p.m. Al Anon, 7:30 p.m.	7 Planning Committee, 6 p.m. High School Board, 6:30 p.m. Art and Design Committee, 7 p.m. Board of Deacons, 7 p.m. Children's CE Board, 7 p.m. WCCNS Board, 7 p.m. OA, 7 p.m.
12 **Rev. Rustin Comer preaching** 8 a.m. Chapel Communion, Chapel 9:00 a.m. Celebrations Worship, Sanctuary 10:30 a.m. Parables Worship, Chapel 10:45 a.m. Traditions Worship, Sanctuary Meridian Manor Worship, 1 p.m. Smart Stepfamily Study, 10:15 a.m., Piper Library Middle School Leader Meeting, 12 p.m.	13 Archives, 9:30 a.m. Women's AA, 10 a.m. Camp & Retreat Board, 6:30 p.m. Wizard of Oz ToTo "Dogditions", 5:30 p.m. Wizard Of Oz Auditions, 6:30 p.m. I Am That Girl, 7 p.m. I Am That Girl Moms, 7 p.m. Al Anon, 7:30 p.m.	14 Thimble Bees, 9 a.m. Executive Team, 5:30 p.m. Wizard of Oz ToTo "Dogditions", 5:30 p.m. Wizard Of Oz Auditions, 6:30 p.m. Building & Grounds Board, 7 p.m. Personnel Committee, 7 p.m. OA, 7 p.m.
19 **Mission Sunday** **Rev. Dr. John Ross preaching** 8 a.m. Chapel Communion, Chapel 9:00 a.m. Celebrations Worship, Sanctuary 10:30 a.m. Parables Worship, Chapel 10:45 a.m. Traditions Worship, Sanctuary Meridian Manor Worship, 1 p.m. High School Bake Sale, all morning Smart Stepfamily Study, 10:15 a.m., Piper Library Wayzata Symphony Orchestra Concert, 3 p.m.	20 Archives, 9:30 a.m. Women's AA, 10 a.m. Soul Sisters Steering Committee , 6 p.m. Al Anon, 7:30 p.m.	21 Thimble Bees Handcrafters, 9 a.m. Mission & Outreach Board, 6:30 p.m. Church Council, 7 p.m. Unique Family Ministry Meeting, 7 p.m. OA, 7 p.m.
26 **Rev. Danielle Jones preaching** 8 a.m. Chapel Communion, Chapel 9:00 a.m. Celebrations Worship, Sanctuary 10:30 a.m. Parables Worship, Chapel 10:45 a.m. Traditions Worship, Sanctuary Meridian Manor Worship, 1 p.m.	27 Archives, 9:30 a.m. Women's AA, 10 a.m. I Am That Girl, 7 p.m. I Am That Girl Moms, 7 p.m. Al Anon, 7:30 p.m.	28 Thimble Bees, 9 a.m. Generosity Committee, 7 p.m. OA, 7 p.m.
 **All Readers Invited! The Third Thursday Readers will meet in the Piper Library on Thursday, November 16 at 1:00 p.m. to discuss *Hillbilly Elegy*, by J. D. Vance.** If you like to read and discuss books, consider joining this group of avid readers. Books are chosen by the group members, and include literary and historical fiction, as well as non-fiction of many types, including biography, autobiography, and memoir. Attend every month, or when time and interest allow. Everyone is welcome!		

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Women's AA, 10 a.m. Adult Faith Formation Classes, 10 a.m. Soul Sisters Lunch Bunch, 11:30 a.m. Adult Faith Formation Classes, 4 p.m. Children's & Youth Choirs & Classes, 4:30-6 p.m. Suppers, etc., 5:15 p.m. **Worship on Wednesday, 6:15 p.m.** 4th Grade Milestone, 7:15 p.m. Adult and Youth Classes, 7:15 p.m. Adult Choirs, 7:15 p.m. Middle School Crossroads, 7:15 p.m. High School Acts, 7:15 p.m. Al Anon, 7:45 p.m.	**2** WCCNS Operations Board, 9:30 a.m. Women's AA, 10 a.m. Emotionally Health Spirituality Class, 6:30 p.m.	**3**	**4** Saturday Seekers, 8 a.m. Old Timer's Basketball, 9 a.m. AA, 11 a.m.
8 Women's AA, 10 a.m. Adult Faith Formation Classes, 10 a.m. Adult Faith Formation Classes, 4 p.m. Suppers, etc., 5:15 p.m. **Worship on Wednesday, 6:15 p.m.** 7th Grade MIlestone, 7 p.m. 4th Grade MIlestone, 7:15 p.m. Adult and Youth Classes, 7:15 p.m. Adult Choirs, 7:15 p.m. Middle School Crossroads, 7:15 p.m. High School Acts, 7:15 p.m. Al Anon, 7:45 p.m.	**9** Women's AA, 10 a.m. Library Committee, 2 p.m. Heritage Council, 4 p.m. Emotionally Health Spirituality Class, 6:30 p.m.	**10** St. Paul Chamber Orchestra Concert, 8 p.m.	**11** Saturday Seekers, 8 a.m. Old Timer's Basketball, 9 a.m. Parables Respite/ Friendship Group, 10 a.m. AA, 11 a.m.
15 Women's AA, 10 a.m. Adult Faith Formation Classes, 10 a.m. Soup, Salad and Song, 12 noon Adult Faith Formation Classes, 4 p.m. Operation Christmas Child, 4:30 p.m. Children's & Youth Choirs & Classes, 4:30-6 p.m. Suppers, etc., 5:15 p.m. **Worship on Wednesday, 6:15 p.m.** Adult and Youth Classes, 7:15 p.m. Adult Choirs, 7:15 p.m. Middle School Crossroads, 7:15 p.m. High School Acts, 7:15 p.m. Al Anon, 7:45 p.m.	**16** Finance Committee, 6:45 a.m. Women's AA, 10 a.m. Bible Study with Lindy Purdy, 11 a.m., Folkestone Emotionally Health Spirituality Class, 6:30 p.m. Music Board, 7 p.m.	**17** Kids' Night Out, 6 p.m.	**18** Saturday Seekers, 8 a.m. Old Timer's Basketball, 9 a.m. AA, 11 a.m. The Sleep Out, 3 p.m.
22 Women's AA, 10 a.m. Turkey Bowl, 3 p.m. Suppers, etc., 5:15 p.m. **Worship on Wednesday, 6:15 p.m.** Al Anon, 7:45 p.m.	**23** **Thanksgiving Building Closed**	**24** **Building Closed for Holiday**	**25** Saturday Seekers, 8 a.m. AA, 11 a.m.
29 Women's AA, 10 a.m. Core Adult Advent Class, 10 a.m. Core Adult Advent Class, 4 p.m. Children's & Youth Choirs, 4:30-6 p.m. Suppers, etc., 5:15 p.m. **Worship on Wednesday, 6:15 p.m.** Core Adult Advent Class, 7:15 p.m. 7th Grade Milestone, 7:15 p.m. Adult Choirs, 7:15 p.m. Middle School Crossroads, 7:15 p.m. High School Acts, 7:15 p.m. Al Anon, 7:45 p.m.	**30** Women's AA, 10 a.m. Women's Christmas Tea, Doors open at 6 p.m, Christmas Tea is at 7 p.m.		

Coming Up in December

- **WCCNS Santa Breakfast, Saturday, December 2 at 8:30 a.m.**
- **Advent Workshop, Sunday, December 3 at 2:30 p.m. in the Great Hall (Gym)**
- **Music Sunday, December 17 at 9:00 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.**
- **The Longest Night Service, Thursday, December 21 at 12 noon and 7:00 p.m.**

Camp Ministry

By Hilary Flynn, Director of Camp Ministry

"Seek ye first, the Kingdom of God"
Matthew 6:33

There is no place I would rather be than Camp, especially when life seems uncertain, scary and fractured by conflict. It is not because we avoid hard topics of our culture, or deny big questions of life and faith, or are blissfully buffered from technology and bewildering world news.

It is because we prepare for how to be a community that embraces each person, as they are, despite anything that sets us apart or against. We are constantly cultivating this community. We frame the difficult issues within this community (instead of letting the culture and conflicts define us). We all protect and sustain this community, from campers to counselors to our leadership staff.

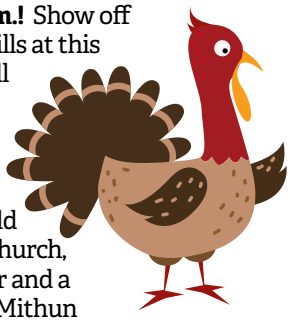
An example from last summer: during staff training, individual counselors were appropriately worried how the divisive political culture, from the previous November election, would impact the dynamics of camp. Would campers debate politics? Would we be able to frame disagreement in ways that are mutually respectful and collectively affirming? Should we avoid conflict and politics all together? What do we say if we disagree with a belief a camper shares?

Campers are a microcosm of our broader culture, and they did come with different opinions. They voiced beliefs that were not held by consensus. In community, we listened respectfully to each other, because we were focused first on the love we know from God. We could weather differences because we share something more foundational first: a loving community, inspired by Jesus, designed by God "on Earth, as it is in Heaven".

Camp is a unique place to experience God's loving community. It is the most pure expression of God's kingdom on earth that I've been part of. But it is not something we have created. It is something we cultivate as stewards. The design is God's; the inspiration is Jesus. The result is no less than the kingdom of God.
Our collective membership in God's loving community must be our primary membership. The differences – as they come – are only secondary. They can't divide the family of God, to which we each individually commit ourselves. Do you seek God's kingdom first?

1. Join us on Thursday, November 30 for the Women's Christmas Tea, a magical night of fellowship, special Christmas music, and an inspiring Christmas story. Share this special time in the Christmas season with the women close to you and in your church family. Invite a friend! Mithun Hall doors open at 6:00 p.m. and the Tea begins at 7:00 p.m. Look for registration coming soon!

2. Come on out for the annual High School Turkey Bowl on Wednesday, November 22 at 3 p.m.! Show off your best football skills at this annual touch football game as each team battles it out for the legendary Turkey Bowl trophy. The fun begins on the field directly behind the church, and ends with dinner and a trophy ceremony in Mithun Hall. All skill levels welcome!



3. Thanksgiving Worship Service
On Wednesday, November 22, Thanksgiving Eve, we invite you to a very special evening of celebration & worship. We'll start with yummy Suppers beginning at 5:00 p.m. (No Turkey, we promise). Worship begins at 6:15 p.m. featuring the House Blend Band, our adorable kids' choir, Rev. Rustin Comer will bring a great Word, and have special appearances by some of our "home from college" friends. Don't miss this wonderful evening with your church family. All are welcome!

4. Christmas Poinsettias

If you would like to honor a loved one and help to beautify the Sanctuary and Chapel for Christmas, please feel free to make a Christmas Memorial gift. The names of those honored will be printed in our Christmas bulletins. You will receive a form in the mail or pick one up at our Reception Desk. You may list a name or a couple's name for each $25 donation. Forms are due in the office by December 1!!

5. Soul Sisters Christmas Fellowship: Let your Light Shine!

Join the Soul Sisters for a Christmas celebration on **Monday, December 18 from 6:30-8:30 p.m.** at Connie Hines' home in Wayzata. Click here to register online. Register by December 11. Donations are encouraged to benefit Home Free (Domestic Women's Shelter). Women are in need of deodorant, tooth brushes, and hair conditioner... and to help their light shine, cosmetics and lip sticks, sugar/salt scrubs, nail polish, and yummy lotions are a fun donation (no travel size items). Please contact Karin Dayton with any questions at 612-669-5702 or kndayton@comcast.net.

Addressing issues of social justice is a core mission at WCC. It is messy and controversial, very much like discipleship.

How will you respond?

By now most of you are aware of Cranberry Ridge, a proposed 47 unit apartment building in Plymouth designed for working families who struggle to afford quality housing. Working with non-profit developer, Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative, WCC has pledged $500,000 toward this $12,000,000 initiative, and leads a group of congregations in the West Metro who are working with public officials to advocate for the need for quality affordable housing.

Having a decent place to live is a lot like having decent health. When you have it, you tend to take it for granted. When you don't have it, you think of little else. But, that is where the similarities end. For if you cannot afford health care, no doctor or hospital will deny you the care you need. Of course, if you are without a home, or cannot afford a decent home for your family, things are a bit more complicated. There are shelters, but never enough of them. There are government housing subsidies, but they are not adequate to meet the need.

In fact, believe it or not, the government actually subsidizes housing for the wealthy far more than they do for the poor. The government spends about $34 billion to subsidize housing for those whose annual income is less than $25,000 per year. Astonishingly, this is the same amount that the government "spends" on the mortgage interest deduction for those making more than $200,000 per year! The problem is that there are 30 million households below $25,000 and only 1.2 million above $200,000 in income. Ironically, there is no cap on the number of people making over $200,000 who can claim the deduction, but there is a cap on the low income subsidy. In the Twin Cities 36,000 people recently applied for the subsidy and 2,000 were selected to get on a waiting list. Can you imagine if we rationed health care in the same way?

Addressing issues of social justice is a core mission at WCC. It is messy and controversial, very much like discipleship. In the September sermon series, *Be Church*, we heard how Jesus called the apostles to go into the world and to be prepared for resistance, and even hatred, but to never give up. We have worked for many years as a church to support the development of affordable housing in the West Metro. Cranberry Ridge does not solve the problem, but it will forever change the lives of 47 working families. It is a very good start.

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT! We need over 100 WCC Members (especially if you live in Plymouth) to attend the City Council meeting at the Plymouth City Hall, 3400 Plymouth Blvd, Plymouth, MN. On Tuesday, November 14 at 7:00 p.m. the City Council will vote. You don't have to live in Plymouth to attend. Just come and show your support!

> “Do your little bit of good where you are. It’s those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world.”
>
> *Desmond Tutu*

Teaching kindness

By Anita Blaine Stavitzski

Kindness is defined as “the act of being friendly, generous, and considerate”. Simple concepts, really, but teaching it to our children requires thoughtfulness and intention. It is more than telling a preschooler: “Be nice to your friend” or “Share your cookie”. What does it look like? When one thinks about it, it truly is an abstract concept, so to best teach it, we must practice it.

As a staff, we decided on three standards or behaviors we wanted to encourage: Respect, Connect and Safety. The first car on our train model is Respect. And it is on the first car that we learn the very basis of kindness.

We learn to take care of ourselves. We take care of our things. We take care of each other. Young children learn by doing. So to teach kindness, we act and we practice respect, and as simplistic as it sounds for young children it means the daily tasks of our routine. We wash our hands and use a tissue to keep ourselves healthy and to keep our friends and teachers healthy. This is kindness. Instead of stepping on our toys laying on the floor, we pick them up or we walk around them. We take care of our toys so all our friends can use them and because it is good for our classroom and for our earth (broken toys have to go somewhere). This is kindness. If a friend has an “owie” because someone accidentally stepped on their fingers, or we notice they may be feeling sad, we try to help by getting them an ice pack or asking how we can make them feel better. This is taking care of each other. This is kindness.

It is so necessary to give children the opportunity to practice kindness. So, it would seem, is the recognition that all we do can impact the day of others, hopefully positively, and that we are all connected. Responding thoughtfully, it is in teaching kindness that we spread kindness.

In our school, we strive daily through our curriculum and interactions to make kindness and its companion, empathy, the expectation rather than the exception. It requires intention and planning on behalf of all stakeholders-administration, teachers, and parents, and the community at large. Like reading, writing, and arithmetic...and soccer, football, and piano...the more opportunities young children have to practice kindness and understand the reason behind it, the kinder they will become. And soon those little bits of kindness will, in the words of Desmond Tutu, “overwhelm the world”.

WCC Nursery School
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.

Music at Wayzata

St. Paul Chamber Orchestra*
Mozart’s *Jupiter Symphony*
with Pekka Kuusisto
Friday, November 10, 2017 • 8:00 p.m.
Anders Hillborg, one of Sweden’s leading composers, wrote *Bach Materia*, his response to Bach’s *Third Brandenburg Concerto*, specifically for our Artistic Partner Pekka Kuusisto and his improvisational spirit and abilities. Each performance of the Bach and Hillborg promises to be a premiere in its own right, with Kuusisto improvising different elements every time. Mozart’s *Jupiter Symphony*, led from the concertmaster chair by Kuusisto, brings the concert to a triumphant close. *Tickets required. Visit www.thespco.org or call 651-291-1144 for tickets.

Wayzata Symphony Orchestra
Water Music
Sunday, November 19, 2017 • 3:00 p.m.
Ann Bancroft, Arctic Explorer, will be our guest as we play music inspired by water, featuring Handel: *Water Music Suite No. 2,* Mussorgsky: *Dawn on Moscow River*, Beethoven: *Symphony No. 6 Op. 68 in F Major*, and Eric Whitacre: *Water Night*. This concert is free; donations gratefully accepted. Join us for a reception after the concert to meet Ann Bancroft and all of the musicians.

Photo above, Jane Nibbe gave the Spirit Award to Nancy Holmes at a recent Council Meeting. Not pictured, Tammis McMillan.

Tammis McMillan and Nancy Holmes of the Arts and Design Committee received the September Spirit Award for their outstanding work in beautifying Wayzata Community Church. One space that they've recently completed is Founders Hall— a place that needed to be comfortable and warm for all who enter our door, a place for fellowship and inspiration.

Wayzata Community Church is grateful to Tammis and Nancy for their years of dedication to the church and their time and talent which they give so freely. Tammis currently serves as the chair.

The purpose of the Arts and Design Committee is to collaborate with the Building and Grounds Board to: advise and consult on the artwork and overall beautification of the Church to enhance the artistic experience of members and visitors, including seasonal decorations and everyday art displays throughout the public areas of the Church; decorate the Church and order appropriate flowers for Advent and Easter seasons; and recognize the artistic talents of members by executing art shows and other artistic programs that promote participation and spiritual growth.

celebrations & transitions

BAPTISMS

- James Michael Zechmeister, son of Michael and Jennifer, and grandson of Dale Schulz
- Quinn Grace Dalbec, daughter of Cory and Tierney
- Florence Madison Hill, daughter of Matthew and Gwenda
- Easton Michael Crow, son of Michael and Rachel
- Sterling Zak Thornburg, son of Sterling and Meagan
- John Lawrence Wendolek, son of Aaron and Emily
- Harper Ann Biscay, daughter of Andrew and Kathryn
- Reese Collins Robinson, daughter of Ryan and Paige, granddaughter of Bruce & Wendy Paulson, and great granddaughter of Donna Norlin

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

Oksana Billy
Nan Woodburn

CONDOLENCES

- Krista Johnson on the death of her father, Terry Johnson, on September 24, 2017.
- Brian Botham on the death of his father, Kaye John Botham, on October 9, 2017.
- Friends and family on the death of Gerald Fox, on October 10, 2017.
- Jane Hesse and Family on the death of Bruce Hesse, October 20, 2017.
- Family and Friends on the death of Ken Verbridge, October 21, 2017.
- Friends and family on the death of Harriet Doerrie on October 23, 2017.

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PERIODICAL TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL

2018 Annual Giving Campaign

By Mark Knueppel
Generosity Committee Chairperson

We hope you have been enjoying the videos we're sharing with you that highlight the many ways our ministries are changing lives as part of this year's stewardship campaign, **Celebrating our Stories.** We hope that these stories help show how your generosity is making a difference in the lives of your fellow church members.

This year's annual giving campaign has returned to a traditional pledging approach where we're asking families to prayerfully consider increasing their annual pledge to support our growing ministries. This will allow families to best plan and budget for their pledge commitment, as well as allow our church to better budget and plan for its financial needs for the year. Please know that your pledge is very important to the church's planning for 2018 and a small increase will help support our growing ministries. Our goal is to hear from everyone.

To make pledging easier for you, there are three ways you can pledge this year.

1. **You can go to WCCPledge.org and pledge online . . . or print a pledge card.**
2. **You can complete the pledge card that was sent to you in the mail.**
3. **You can call Ashleigh Kreider at the church office and she can help you with your pledge at 952-473-8877.**

With our new online pledging option, you can also set up or change your automatic giving from your checking/saving account or debit/credit card. You can also set this up on your pledge card or by calling the church office.

Also, please stay faithful in your year-end giving so we can finish the year strong and be best positioned for the year ahead.

Thanks again in advance for your support of what God is doing in and through Wayzata Community Church.