

inspire!

A monthly magazine of
Wayzata Community Church

MARCH 2018

Volume 40, Number 3

inspire the world with the inclusive love of Jesus

I have a feeling we're not in Kansas anymore...

by Dorothy Gale

I enjoyed a simple life with my dog, Toto, in Kansas with my uncle Henry, and my auntie Em. The tornado came out of nowhere that summer day on the plains. I clutched Toto, but couldn't get to the storm cellar before the twister took my home over the rainbow to a faraway place known as "Munchkin Land." While I always dreamed of adventure, I wasn't sure I was prepared to be on my own without any warning in this strange place. I met Glinda, the good witch, who told me to follow the "yellow brick road" to the Emerald City and ask the great and powerful Wizard of Oz to help me return to Kansas.

My journey along the yellow brick road was filled with danger, but taught me many things I didn't know about myself. I encountered angry apple trees, poisonous poppy fields and a wicked witch trying to steal my magic ruby slippers.

I also met some dear friends along my journey: a Scarecrow searching for a brain; a Tin Man yearning for a heart; and a Cowardly Lion seeking courage. I quickly learned that my new friends became my family and would stop at nothing to get me home. By accepting me, and others who seem different from me, I was able to trust my senses and intellect to handle adversity along my journey.

While I started out my journey as a young girl, I grew up in a hurry by taking responsibility for my own destiny. I learned that good will ultimately defeat evil. Finally, I learned that I had the power to return home all along, but I first had to find the power within myself to get there. I discovered the true value of home that I had taken for granted. As one knows... "there really is no place like home."

Hey, meet your new teammate!

A lion, a scarecrow, a tinman, & one young girl—doesn't seem we could have a more diverse group, but in many workplaces employees might feel just as different from one another as these four. BUT, studies show that teams of diverse people can accomplish more and be more creative than homogenous groups. Once they get to know one another and have an understanding of each other, they are able to problem solve and imagine, counting on different perspectives on the same issue or problem. Different backgrounds bring new information to the table and exploring other points of view can broaden our thinking and enable us to work together toward a common goal.



If I only had a...

by The Scarecrow

Oh! Hey! Wow! I can't believe you're here! Reading something I wrote? That ain't right... no it can't be right? Well at any rate, it shouldn't be right. What gives me the right to write something for you to read, right? And actually, I had to dictate this out to my friend because nobody ever taught me how to write. Why would they? I was stuck up on a pole, until Dorothy found me, with not a pencil or crayon in sight. That was my whole world, and it makes sense, doesn't it? What good would a literate Scarecrow be? What use is a scarecrow for anything other than scaring crows?

At least that's how I *used* to view things.

See, as long as I was stuck on that pole, stuck in my old life, stuck in the plans that others had for me, I was never going to be much of anything. Whoever put me up on that pole took one look at me and told me what was best for the rest of my life without even pausing to imagine what the other possibilities could be. Want to know what the worst part of it all was?

I believed them.

In fact, if you pay attention to the story about Dorothy, our friends, and me, there's really only one person who calls me brainless: me.

Our worlds and our words have power, and many people, like me, go through life never figuring out that we have power, too. Power to change how we see ourselves, and how the world sees us, too.

I got lucky. I had friends help me down off the pole. They helped me see my imagination instead of my lack of information. They helped me see my originality, not my "outsiderness". They helped me see all this because it's how they saw me. It's how God sees me. It's how I'm trying to see the world now: not by my expectations of reality, but with the fullness of God's vision.

All I had to do was say yes to the invitation I received from God in the form of an unlikely stranger asking for directions.

Are you willing to say yes? God's Word is ready to transform your world. Just trust, and take the leap down off from whatever post you've gotten hung up on.

At least, that's how it starts. The rest?

I couldn't possibly imagine. I haven't got a brain, you see?



Being our best selves

One of the greatest responsibilities we have is to support ourselves and others in living to be our best selves. With everything we say and do, we're influencing—positively or negatively—the people we care about. The ideal is to do this with consideration and intention.

We can all help others reach their potential. Here are a few ideas that will help:

- Look for the best in others and acknowledge their accomplishments.
- Encourage them along the way and challenge them by asking good questions.
- Share yourself by spending time and being a good role model. Expect a lot and always tell them the truth.

For more on this subject, go to <https://issuesiface.com/magazine/help-people-realize-their-potential>

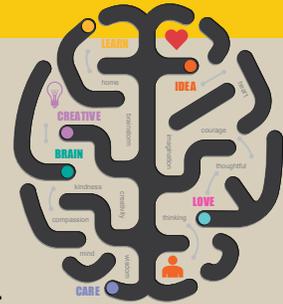
Brain Food

Beginning April 4 & 5, we'll offer 5 new CORE faith formation classes, taught by Dr. Ronald Troxel, Rev.

Rustin Comer, Rev. Danielle Jones, Rev. S. Lindy Purdy, and Rev. Kristen Jeide. Read more about these classes on page 11 of this *inspire!*

ABOUT CORE

We're all growing in something. The question is: What are we growing in? At the heart of our Christian faith is story. Stories about God, about those who have followed God, God's redeeming message, and the way of Jesus. CORE can help you find your place in this story. Through classes and small group discussion, you can find ways to grow in knowledge, wisdom, community, and service.





for the moment

Rev. Dr. John F. Ross, Senior Minister

There's No Place Like God

The struggle of Augustine 1,700 years ago is our struggle still today: the search for meaning and purpose in life. He'd pursued many of the same things we do: excessive materialism, false idols, relationships that make us complete, philosophy, overindulgence—all distractions that left him empty and unfulfilled. At the age of 31 he lamented, "How long, O Lord, how long?" His search led him to Paul's letter to the church in Rome... and soon thereafter, he was baptized.

From that moment on Augustine led a life that continues to shape Christians around the globe to this day. Among his many writings is his famous Confessions—in which he addresses God directly with the true yearnings of his heart. In one of the most quoted passages, Augustine speaks an eternal truth: "You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless, until they can find rest in you." There's no place like God.

Time and again scripture refers to God as our home. God is shepherd and host, pasture and valley, mansion and fortress, still water and open gate. Whatever the circumstances of our lives, God is with us—in peace, in war, in hope, in fear, in life, in death, in joy, in suffering. Augustine, Paul, and all of us know in our heart of hearts: nothing can separate us from the love... from the home... of God.

Dorothy's search through the Land of Oz is for a home in Kansas. Our search through life is for a home in God. In life and in death, we belong to God. In life and in death, we are at home in God. This is the great promise of Easter and the eternal reminder that try as we might... and search as we will... we are restless until we find our home in God. There's no place like God.

Lenten blessings to you and yours,

John

**Rev. Dr. John F. Ross
Senior Minister**

**In life and in death,
we belong to God. In life
and in death, we are
at home in God.**



Special Offering for Easter

Beacon Interfaith Housing - Cranberry Ridge Apartments to Receive 2018 Easter Offering

This Easter, the special offering will be donated to the construction of the newly approved Cranberry Ridge Apartments located on 45th Avenue North near Old Rockford Road in Plymouth, MN. Cranberry Ridge will be the future home for 47 working families who will benefit from the great schools, parks and other community assets we all appreciate.

WCC's Community Housing Committee and the Board of Mission & Outreach, are working together with Beacon, Interfaith Outreach, and other local churches to help secure funding for the project, now that the City of Plymouth has approved the site for zoning and construction.



Who really needs a heart?

By The Tin Man

It's hard being a man made out of tin. Finding replacement parts these days is next to impossible (who still makes tin knees?!). Rainstorms terrify me. And trying to find organic, sustainable, hypoallergenic metal polish in the Land of Oz? Don't get me STARTED!

But by far the hardest part is not having a heart, because I can't love. Or at least that's what I used to think. To me, having a hollow chest and no heart inside meant that I had no way to care for others. Then Dorothy came along, and I realized that what I was missing wasn't a heart, but a purpose. Until I met Dorothy and she became my friend and I agreed to help her get home, there was no reason for me to do anything but rust away in the woods. Hearing Dorothy's story sparked something inside me, and it woke me up. Helping Dorothy gave me a reason to get moving (the oilcan helped too).

Getting Dorothy back to Kansas became my mission, the purpose I needed to feel again, to take action. I met Scarecrow and Lion along the way, and learned why they were off to see The Wizard. We formed a bond around supporting each other—keeping Scarecrow stuffed with hay, reassuring Lion when things went bump in the night, making sure Dorothy and Toto were warm and fed, and oiling my joints so I wouldn't rust up when I got teary (for a man without a heart, I certainly was emotional!). My new friends and I became part of a higher calling. We were being asked to do something bigger than ourselves; we were being asked to help our friends.

Our stories all ended happily. We received what we were seeking. As it turns out, The Wizard didn't really give us anything at all, because he didn't need to. He simply pointed out that the things we were looking for were with us the entire time. It took the journey, and some new friends, for us to realize it. I learned that the heart is just a muscle that all of my flesh and blood friends need to survive. You don't need a heart to love, or to care for others, because love is something you feel no matter what. It comes from a place deeper than your heart.... not from your chest, but from your soul. Love, friendship, and caring are born out of a sense of purpose, out of being part of a community. I was able to find that purpose, and that community, on my journey to the Merry Old Land of Oz.

Choosing to make the time in our busy days to spend with those we love shows we have a commitment to our relationship and that we are willing to sacrifice sometimes in that relationship. It also shows that the time we invest has purpose.

This is true about all the relationships that we have, where we care for another person or persons, including those in which we volunteer our time and/or resources to help.

"If you really care about someone, there is no such thing as not having enough time for them."

WCC currently has 30 organizations that need help from volunteers like you. If you think you would like to volunteer for one of these organizations, go on line to see a list of these organizations (<https://wayzatacommunitychurch.org/mission-outreach/2017-mission-outreach-grant-organizations/>) or look for the bright yellow brochures at each of the information centers throughout WCC.

Life is more about how present you are in somebody else's life, and in return gives our lives purpose. Volunteer and live life with a purpose today. There is somebody you have never met that desperately needs your help and time.



How to help a child who is being bullied

Bullying is defined as a repeated act of abuse, though psychologists say that extreme one-time incidents where, for instance, one child is targeted by a group or is harassed on the internet, can also qualify. How can you help a child who feels he or she is being bullied?

- Provide space to talk, and be understanding and empathetic.
- Use stories about a child being teased or bullied that might provide ideas for dealing with the problem.
- Try problem-solving together. Ideas may include: setting a boundary with deep breathing and walking away, telling someone (such as a teacher), listening to his or her body, not being afraid to ask for help, working on self-love so that the child knows s/he is valuable and does not deserve to ever be mistreated.
- It's important to distinguish between genuine bullying and relatively minor conflicts that would best be left for a child to handle. When parents intervene too readily, experts say, they hinder their child's ability to work out problems for themselves. They can also harm the child they accuse, who is not necessarily a bully, but an insecure or troubled kid who has simply acted out.



Cowardice made me a bully

by the Cowardly Lion

Punjab: "A child without courage is like a night without stars!"

(Annie)

Actually, me and Little Orphan Annie are a lot alike. Both of us had a rough time of it in the 1930s. But Annie found a family to give her encouragement when she needed it. And as for me, I picked up some terrific friends when I met Dorothy, Scarecrow and Tinman. They accepted me like I was even though I wasn't very nice to them when we first met, acting all mean, and trying to be scary.

See, my dad always told me to be aggressive and show people who was in charge. And whenever anything scared me, all my relatives would call me a cry-baby. That made me feel ashamed and just made me want to cry even more. I always felt inadequate and insecure, so I would try to act tough so that everyone would just leave me alone. But I didn't really feel tough. Or brave. And aggressive wasn't my style. I thought that I wanted to be alone, but what I really needed was a friend.

I would daydream about being "King of the Forest". But I was just thinking about being powerful and respected and obeyed. I didn't realize that a good king should be thinking about his subjects and not about himself all the time.

Right before we met the Wizard, I told the others that "With courage, I'd be King of Kings". Wow, was that ever arrogant and foolish! 'Cause the real King of Kings wasn't in it for his own glory. He wasn't motivated by power or money. He had the courage to sacrifice himself for the sake of His subjects. And I know that no medal from any Wizard could give me that kind of courage.

Even Toto understood more about real courage than I did, but I learned bit by bit. My new friends encouraged me to have courage to face the tyranny of the Wicked Witch of the West when Dorothy was in danger. Without them, I never would have had the nerve to face the Haunted Forest and the Witch's Castle – the Jitterbugs and the Winkies and the Flying Monkeys. Gosh, I still get the creeps just thinking about it!

But even if I don't have kingly courage, at least now I'm trying to be a reformed bully. I guess that it's important to stand up for yourself, but it's even more important to stand up for others. And for the Truth. So I can at least learn to have the courage of my convictions. The courage to speak up when I see someone defenseless being mistreated. The courage to speak Truth in the face of lies. The courage to befriend someone who's different from me. The courage to share the Good News of God's love.

And so what if I'm not "King of the Forest"? I've earned a title better than that: "Friend of Dorothy"!

"If bullies actually believe that somebody loves them and believes in them, they will love themselves, they will become better people, and many will even become saviors to the bullied."

DAN PEARCE, SINGLE DAD LAUGHING

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

march 2018



All kids ages 8 and under are invited to hop on over to Wayzata Community Church on Saturday, March 31st from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. for our annual Easter Egg Hunt. Festivities will start in the Gym with hunts happening throughout the morning. Cost is \$5 per person. Register online at <https://wayzatacommunitychurch.ccb-church.com/goto/forms/681/responses/new>



Thimble Bees
All women— members a fellowship, and mission. of each month from 9:00 include baby blankets and shawls, and much more. donated to area charities comfort, and encourage at 612-964-3591.

4 **THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT**
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.
Band of Brothers, Able Seedhouse Brewery Tour, 1 p.m.
Parables Pizza & Family Night, 5:30 p.m. (offsite)

5 Archives, 9:30 a.m.
Women's AA, 10 a.m.
Rummage Committee, 4 p.m.
Wizard of Oz Rehearsal, 6:15 p.m.
Parables Women's Book Club, 6:15 p.m.
Middle School CE Board, 7 p.m.
Al Anon, 7:30 p.m.

6 Planning Committee, 6 p.m.
Wizard of Oz Rehearsal, 6:15 p.m.
High School Board, 6:30 p.m.
Art & Design Board, 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.

11 **FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT**
Rev. Dr. John F. Ross preaching
8 a.m. Nominating Board
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
Parables Buddy Training, 11:30 a.m.
Pathways Leader Meeting, 12 noon
Meridian Manor Worship, 1 p.m.
Wizard of Oz Dress Rehearsal, 6:15 p.m.

12 Archives, 9:30 a.m.
Women's AA, 10 a.m.
Wizard of Oz Dress Rehearsal, 6:15 p.m.
Camp/Retreat Board, 6:30 p.m.
Al Anon, 7:30 p.m.

13 Thimble Bees, 9 a.m.
Executive Team, 5:30 p.m.
Wizard of Oz Dress Rehearsal, 6:15 p.m.
Building and Grounds Board, 7 p.m.
Personnel Committee, 7 p.m.
Parables Candlelight Conversations, 7 p.m.
OA, 7 p.m.

18 **FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT**
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.
Middle School Leaders Meeting, 11:45 a.m.
Mission Trip Parent and Student Meeting, 12:30 p.m.
WIZARDOFOZ, 2 p.m.

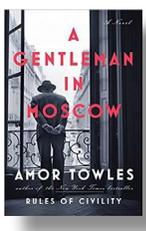
19 Archives, 9:30 a.m.
Women's AA, 10 a.m.
Soul Sisters Meeting, 6 p.m.
Rummage Committee, 4 p.m.
Parables Women's Book Club, 6:15 p.m.
Al Anon, 7:30 p.m.

20 Thimble Bees Handicrafters, 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.

25 **PALM SUNDAY**
Rev. Dr. John F. 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
Mission Trip Leader Meeting, 12 noon
Meridian Manor Worship, 1 p.m.

26 Archives, 9:30 a.m.
Women's AA, 10 a.m.
Al Anon, 7:30 p.m.

27 Thimble Bees, 9 a.m.
Generosity Committee, 7 p.m.
OA, 7 p.m.



The Third Thursday Readers
All Readers Invited! The Third Thursday Readers meet in the Piper Library at 1:00 p.m. on the Third Thursday of each month. On March 15 we will discuss *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles. All are welcome!



Join Rev. Lindy Purdy for Soup, Salad & Song on Wednesday, March 21 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.

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

<p>ers and friends— are invited to enjoy fun, on. The group meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday 9:00 to 12:00 noon in Mithun Hall. Projects s and quilts, knit scarves and hats, prayer ore. Any level of skill is valued! All items are ities and hospitals to provide support, agement. Questions? Contact Kathy Smith</p>	<p>1 Women's AA, 10 a.m. Wizard of Oz Rehearsal, 6:15 p.m.</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3 Saturday Seekers, 8 a.m. Old Timer's Basketball, 8:30 a.m. Wizard of Oz Rehearsal, 9 a.m. AA, 10 a.m.</p>
<p>7 Women's AA, 10 a.m. Pause Lenten Practice, 10 a.m. Soul Sisters Lunch Bunch, 11:30 a.m. Pause Lenten Practice, 4 p.m. Children's/Youth Choirs /Classes, 4:30 p.m. Suppers, etc., 5:15 p.m. Worship on Wednesday, 6:15 p.m. Pause Lenten Practice, 7:15 p.m. Children's 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.</p>	<p>8 Women's AA, 10 a.m. Folkestone Bible Study, 11 a.m. Library Committee, 2 p.m. Wizard of Oz Rehearsal, 6:15 p.m.</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10 Pinewood Derby, 7 a.m. Saturday Seekers, 8 a.m. Wizard of Oz Rehearsal, 9 a.m. AA, 10 a.m.</p>
<p>14 Women's AA, 10 a.m. Pause Lenten Practice, 10 a.m. Pause Lenten Practice, 4 p.m. OPENING NIGHT WIZARD OF OZ, 7 p.m. Al Anon, 7:45 p.m.</p>	<p>15 Finance Committee, 6:45 a.m. Women's AA, 10 a.m. Third Thursday Readers, 1 p.m. WIZARD OF OZ, 7 p.m. Music Board, 7 p.m.</p>	<p>16 Kids' Night Out, 6 p.m. WIZARD OF OZ, 7 p.m.</p>	<p>17 Saturday Seekers, 8 a.m. Old Timer's Basketball, 8:30 a.m. AA, 10 a.m. WIZARD OF OZ, 2 p.m. WIZARD OF OZ, 7 p.m.</p>
<p>21 Women's AA, 10 a.m. Pause Lenten Practice, 10 a.m. Soup, Salad and Song Lunch, 12 noon Pause Lenten Practice, 4 p.m. Children's/Youth Choirs /Classes, 4:30 p.m. Parables Young Adult Book Study, 5 p.m. Suppers, etc., 5:15 p.m. Worship on Wednesday, 6:15 p.m. Pause Lenten Practice, 7:15 p.m. Children's and Youth Classes, 7:15 p.m. Adult Choirs, 7:15 p.m. New Member Orientation, 7:15 p.m. Middle School Crossroads, 7:15 p.m. High School Acts, 7:15 p.m. Al Anon, 7:45 p.m.</p>	<p>22 Women's AA, 10 a.m. Folkestone Bible Study, 11 a.m. Bridge, 12 noon</p>	<p>23 Parables Respite/ Friendship Night, 5 p.m. Coffeehouse, 7 p.m.</p>	<p>24 Saturday Seekers, 8 a.m. Old Timer's Basketball, 8:30 a.m. AA, 10 a.m.</p>
<p>28 Women's AA, 10 a.m. Pause Lenten Practice, 10 a.m. Pause Lenten Practice, 4 p.m. Children's/Youth Choirs /Classes, 4:30 p.m. Suppers, etc., 5:15 p.m. Worship on Wednesday, 6:15 p.m. Pause Lenten Practice, 7:15 p.m. Children's and Youth Classes, 7:15 p.m. Middle School Crossroads, 7:15 p.m. Adult Choirs, 7:15 p.m. High School Acts, 7:15 p.m. Al Anon, 7:45 p.m.</p>	<p>29 Women's AA, 10 a.m. Maundy Thursday Service, 7 p.m.</p>	<p>30 Good Friday Service, 5 p.m.</p>	<p>31 Saturday Seekers, 8 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt, 10 a.m. AA, 10 a.m.</p>

Coming Up in April

- **Easter Sunday, April 1**
- **New Member Sunday, April 8**
- **Blended & Blessed Event, April 21**
- **Annual Meeting, April 22**



We Need a New Fairy Tale

By Rev. Rustin Comer

In 1900, a 44-year-old L. Frank Baum published *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* and became the father of the American fairy tale. The book was a commercial and critical success. "In the beginning of the *Wizard of Oz*, Dorothy is rescued from a plain, mundane, colorless existence in Kansas and transported to a magical land beyond her wildest imagination. A wild tornado whisked Dorothy away from everything she knew, and she found herself immersed in confusion, beauty, and mystery." This story captured the hearts of children and adults who had lived through an economic crisis but saw all around them invention and change. As a young country abuzz with "progress," the United States needed a different kind of fairy tale. It's not 1900 anymore, but I think we need a new fairy tale again.

It was amidst this confusion, beauty, and mystery that, for the first time in her life, Dorothy felt alive. It is in this aliveness that she uncovered her deepest desire to return home. It's a fascinating tale. In the mystery, Dorothy found herself more... she found her passion... she uncovered her deepest desires.

The first thing Dorothy is told is to "follow the yellow brick road". Sure enough, she found the yellow brick road, right there at her feet in all its glory. Like most advice, "following the yellow brick road" proved inadequate to help her achieve her deepest desires. While leading to Oz, this simple road doesn't lead her back home.

Along the road to fulfilling her desire to find home, Dorothy discovered some of the greatest gifts of any journey: community. The friends that Dorothy met and asks to join her on the journey, each had their own issues. Their journey actually became a pilgrimage of self discovery. Together they discovered the hidden resources within themselves. Together they found what they had always been looking for.

When she had reached the end of the road, Dorothy stood with Toto in her arms and a tear in her eye. She had not found the way home. The yellow brick road, as simple and well-marked as it was, had led her nowhere. The great city had proved no better than the farmyard at satisfying her heart. As Dorothy stood crying, Glinda the Good Witch appeared.

Dorothy: Oh, will you help me? Can you help me?

Glinda: You don't need to be helped any longer. You've always had the power to go back to Kansas.

Dorothy: I have?

Scarecrow: Then why didn't you tell her before?

Glinda: Because she wouldn't have believed me. She had to learn it for herself.

What? Read those words again. "You've always had the power to go back to Kansas." From the moment grace set her down in a new land, she had the power to find home. She had the ability to make the journey. She didn't know it then, but it had all been given to her.

She didn't need the yellow brick road, or the city, the wizard. She and her friends (who, by the way learned the same lesson), didn't need what they thought they needed or what others thought they needed.

All the "paths" laid out for them proved to be worthless.

All the "experts" proved incapable of granting their deepest needs and wants. In walking, they found the way.

What better fairy tale for our nation and our community to hear. In walking in community, with people whose needs are different from ours, we find the way.

In walking in community, with people whose needs are different from ours, we find the way.



1. Save the date for Blended and Blessed on April 21 in the WCC Chapel.

Blended & Blessed is a one-day live event (8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.) 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 the keys that are crucial to healthy stepfamily living. With some of today's most trusted and respected stepfamily 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. [Click here to register online.](#)



2. March is Minnesota FoodShare Month.

Hunger in the suburbs is not always visible, but it is no less real. 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!



3. Families Moving Forward and The Wizard of Oz

The Good Works Community Theater has chosen Families Moving Forward as our mission partner for Wizard of Oz. We ask that you consider contributing to our onsite mission partner for this production, Families Moving Forward, a program that offers families experiencing homelessness hospitality, emergency shelter and a path to home with support for stability. Volunteers from about 80 congregations throughout the Twin Cities metro area — including Wayzata Community Church— create shelter space at congregation sites. In addition to a safe place to sleep and a warm meal, volunteers share kindness and compassion with families experiencing homelessness. Completing the circle of support, our professional staff work closely with each family to address their unique barriers to stability so they may leave our shelter program for permanent housing.

Membership at WCC

By Rev. Danielle Jones

I like options. At any given time there are four different kinds of cereal available in our house. Right this very moment we have oatmeal, Cheerios, Cinnamon Life and granola. Over the course of a month I visit three different grocery stores to make sure our family has just what we like. My affinity toward keeping my options open extends to things like waiting to commit to social events until the last minute, considering different schools for our two kids, and giving to and becoming involved with non-profits we support.

In a world full of increasing options in almost every area of life, why consider becoming a member of Wayzata Community Church? Shouldn't we all just keep our church options open? Here are just a few reasons why church membership matters.

1. In joining a church you make visible your commitment to Christ and community. Membership is one way to express what you believe. By joining WCC, you express your commitment to be involved in a community of faith through growth, generosity and giving. We can say we value something but the things we truly value are the things we get involved in.

2. Making a commitment makes a powerful statement in a low-commitment culture. Many sports teams require more of their members than our churches. In a "keep your options open" kind of environment it is easy to put off getting connected at church and getting to know new people. When you join WCC, you will meet more people and get connected to meaningful ways to worship, grow and serve.

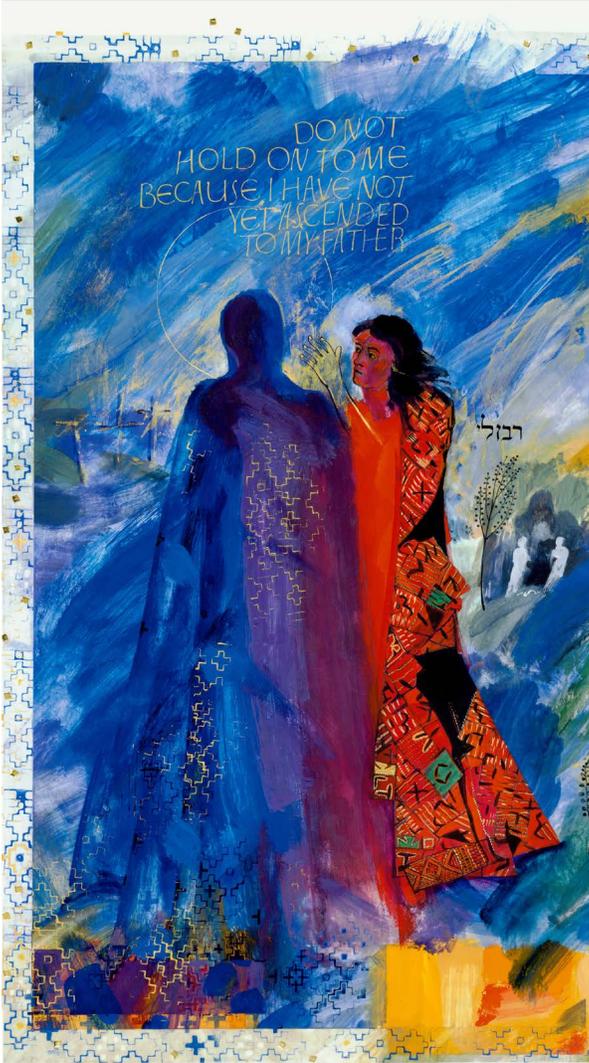
3. Joining the church gives you an opportunity to be cared for. We are not called to live out our faith in isolation. We are called to live into Christian community. When you join the church we can care for you and you can care for others. When you join WCC, we know you by name and we commit to praying for you, caring for you, and walking through the ups and downs of life with you.

Please consider becoming a Member of Wayzata Community Church. Upcoming New Member Orientations are Wednesday, March 21 and Wednesday, April 4 from 7:15-8:30 p.m. in the Holmes Room. RSVP to Mandi Lee at mlee@wayzatacommunitychurch.org.

4. Be a Greeter!

Thank you to the WCC Members who have signed up to become Sunday Morning Greeters at the three entrances for the 9 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. services. We are looking for more members to help with this effort, especially at 10:45 a.m. If you are interested in this easy and important way to serve, please contact Kathy Probelksi at probelksi@msn.com or call 952-215-5398. You set the schedule when you are available. Volunteer as an individual or as a family. You just need to be ready to greet 20 minutes before the service.





Holy Week and Easter

PALM SUNDAY

SUNDAY, MARCH 25

- 8:00 a.m. Chapel with Communion
- 9:00 a.m. Celebrations Worship
- 10:30 a.m. Parables Worship (Chapel)
- 10:45 a.m. Traditions Worship

MAUNDY THURSDAY TENEBRAE SERVICE

THURSDAY, MARCH 29

7:00 p.m., Sanctuary

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

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

FRIDAY, MARCH 30

5:00 p.m., Sanctuary

Service of the Seven Last Words of Christ.

EASTER SUNDAY

SUNDAY, APRIL 1

- 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, Celebration Singers, and Children's Choirs, with a Children's Message.
- 10:15 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Traditional, lively Easter celebrations with sermon and music by the WCC Chancel Choir, Organ and members of The Dallas Brass.
- 10:30 a.m. in the Chapel. Parables Special Needs, Special Gifts. All are welcome!
- 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 members of The Dallas Brass.



CORE Classes in April

[Click here for more about these Faith Formation Classes](#)

More Than A Good Story: Of Kings, Prophets, and the Wise with Dr. Ronald Troxel, Wednesdays at 10 a.m. & 4 p.m.

The Sunday School lessons of our youth made Joshua a godly general and gave us the courageous David, an innocent youth who felled a giant with faith and a few stones. Our adult discoveries that Joshua sought to kill everyone in the "promised land" and that David was avaricious can reasonably kindle a sense of betrayal about what we were told of these stories. And even if the prophets' demands for justice seem boldly relevant today, those men seem given to bouts of madness and vitriol. How could the Spirit be interested in speaking to us through these flawed books?

Do You Hear the Cry of The Poor: Understanding A Theology of Liberation with Rev. Rustin Comer

Wednesdays at 4 p.m. & 7:15 p.m.

Do you care about justice issues? Have you wondered what you can do about the inequality in the world? Liberation theology seeks to give a theological grounding for how to act and be as a person of faith while directly responding to these questions. Liberation theology is a Christian theology which emphasizes a concern for the liberation of the oppressed. Join us as we dive deep into this historic theology.

Gist: The Essence of Raising Life-Ready Kids with Rev. Danielle Jones, Wednesdays at 7:15 p.m.

Parenting is hard. Anyone who says it isn't, hasn't done it. Take time to read this parenting book with others and to discuss a parenting approach that is effective, efficient, and enjoyable—whether you are parenting a toddler child or a college-aged student. Gist is a powerful book that reviews and examines what the journey to adulthood entails. The book's focus on life-readiness offers parents a new lens through which to see their parenting interactions and translates to an approach that eliminates many of the power struggles and ineffective patterns that can rob families of much of their joy.

Interfaith Leadership, A Book Study with Rev. Kristen Jeide

Wednesday at 7:15 p.m.
This book study will act as a guide for those seeking to foster interfaith dialogue and promote understanding across religious lines. In this book, interfaith leader Eboo Patel offers a clear, detailed, and practical guide to interfaith leadership, illustrated with compelling examples. Patel explores the core competencies and skills needed, before turning to the issues that interfaith leaders face and how they can prepare to solve them. Join us for this in-depth 7 week study discussion on how to be an interfaith leader.

Called to Care with Rev. S. Lindy Purdy

Thursdays at 6 p.m.
We are always seeking ways to be better friends, better parents and more simply, we are seeking ways to be better humans. Our Called to Care class will help you gain the critical skills necessary to develop more empathic, more compassionate relationships with everyone you come into contact with.



BAPTISMS

- Grace Lindsey Parkhurst, daughter of Charles Parkhurst & Lindsey Torkilsen, Granddaughter of Larry & Becky Parkhurst and Lauren Torkilsen & Michael Hennessy
- Cole Parker Rusin, son of Grant & Amanda Rusin
- Henrik David Tangen, son of Kevin & Kristen Tangen
- Hudson Anthony Howard, son of Joshua & Samantha Howard, brother of Colton
- Merritt Louise Willems, daughter of Ted & Jennifer Willems
- Victoria Elizabeth Arnold, daughter of Timothy & Andrea, sister of William
- Crosby James Hull, son of Chase and Andrea, sister of Charlotte
- Nolan Harrison Chapman, son of Matthew & Stephanie Chapman

CARES

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

HOSPITALIZATIONS

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| Bob Hudnut | Gene Anonsen |
| Nan Peterson | Roger Olson |
| Bill Boulware | Richard Nelson |

CONDOLENCES

- Jack Lindahl and family on the death of Cathy Lindahl, on January 12, 2018
- Friends and family on the death of Charlotte Dickerson, on January 25, 2018
- Friends and family on the death of Sally Pillsbury, on February 4, 2018
- Rustin Comer and family on the death of his Grandma, Betty Comer, on February 7, 2018
- Grace Lephart and family on the death of her step-father, Douglas Winter, on February 12, 2018
- Tracy Clark and family on the death of her Uncle, Roger Paine, on February 20, 2018

inspire! Magazine is published by Wayzata Community Church, A United Church of Christ Congregation. Assigned articles, or story ideas, may be emailed to Cami Farley at cfarley@wayzatacommunitychurch.org. Please call Katie Kraus at 952-473-8877, ext. 228 with address changes or if you would like to be removed from the *inspire!* Magazine mailing list. Upcoming deadlines: 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 6 for the April 2018 issue. ©2018 Wayzata Community Church. All rights reserved.

- Editor: Cami Farley, 952-473-8877, ext. 225; cfarley@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

Inspire! (USPS 472-430) is published monthly, June-July combined,
by Wayzata Community Church, 125 Wayzata Boulevard East, Wayzata, MN 55391.

Periodical postage paid at Wayzata, MN.

Postmaster: send address changes to Inspire! 125 Wayzata Blvd. E., Wayzata, MN 55391

PERIODICAL

TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL



Follow the Yellow Brick Road!

The Good Works Community Theater
presents *The Wizard of Oz!*

**ALL PERFORMANCES ARE FREE AND
WILL BE HELD IN THE SANCTUARY!**

- Wednesday, March 14 @ 7:00 p.m.
- Thursday, March 15 @ 7:00 p.m.
- Friday, March 16 @ 7:00 p.m.
- Saturday, March 17 @ 2:00 p.m.
This performance is a Child- and Special Needs-friendly Matinee!
The audience is encouraged to come in costume and sing along.
- Saturday, March 17 @ 7:00 p.m.
- Sunday, March 18 @ 2:00 p.m.
Highlights of the show will also be featured in both Sanctuary
worship services that morning at 9:00 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.



THE WIZARD OF OZ