

inspire!

A monthly magazine of
Wayzata Community
Church

APRIL 2018

Volume 40, Number 4

inspire the world with the inclusive love of Jesus

Renewal from the Phoenix

by Lou Vlahos

The Greeks named it the Phoenix, meaning crimson or purple, but it is associated with the Egyptians, the Native Americans, Russians, Chinese, and Japanese, also. The symbolism of the Phoenix, like the mystical bird itself, dies and is reborn across cultures and throughout time.

Ancient legend paints a picture of a magical bird, radiant and shimmering, which lives for several hundred years before it dies by bursting into flames. It is then reborn from the ashes, to start a new, long life. So powerful is the symbolism that it is a motif and image that is still used commonly today in popular culture and folklore.

The legendary phoenix is a large bird, brilliantly colored in reds, purples, and yellows, associated with the rising sun and fire. Its eyes are blue and shine like sapphires. It builds its own funeral pyre or nest, and ignites it with a single clap of its wings. After death it rises gloriously from the ashes and flies away.

Does this story sound a bit familiar? Due to the themes of death and resurrection, it was adopted as a symbol in early Christianity, as an analogy of Christ's death and three days later His resurrection. The image became a popular symbol on early Christian tombstones prior to the use of the Cross.

How does the story of the Phoenix apply to us personally? Who hasn't experienced a time when life presents us with challenges that leave us barely hanging on? When problems become so compounded, all we can do is start over and rise again like the Phoenix with a new life. This is especially true for those who have experienced the death of a loved one, have been through a divorce, or loss of a job.



So when life begins to feel out of control, consider some of these tips to help you restart and begin your renewal:

- Let things happen.
- Give up trying to control.
- Don't pretend you know what you don't know.
- Stay close to what you know is true in the moment.
- Feeling bad isn't wrong – it's just how things are sometimes.
- Take good care of yourself.
- Engage with others.
- Reach out for support.
- When the time is right, feel the emotions.
- Get perspective – learn what not to do next time.
- Last but not least, remember the words of Marianne Williamson:

“Something very beautiful happens to people when their world has fallen apart: a humility, a nobility, a higher intelligence emerges at just the point when our knees hit the floor.”



Moderator's Report

Ann Stewart Johnson

Google “human power” and you will find several interesting articles about attempts to harness the great source of untapped renewable energy created by the human body. Maybe you’ve seen those flashlights that recharge by turning a crank, or bicycles that create energy as the rider pedals the wheels.

When I think of human power, I think of something else: the power for good or bad that one person wields. Recent school shootings, threats from world dictators, and news about drunk drivers causing highway deaths make me think about that kind of power often. The power of one person to inflict great harm on many people is a scary thought; I’d rather turn it around and think about the power that one person can do for good. I’ve also been thinking about my own power, much of which I didn’t earn, but what was awarded to me when I was born. In my life, I’ve gained even more power: I own a business, am engaged in my community, and have built a strong and stable social network of friends and colleagues. Call it power or privilege, but I’m lucky to have a lot of it. And, as a Christian, I know it’s my duty to share and use it to advocate for those who don’t. You can too.

Vice Moderator Mark Bayley and I recently attended a Beacon Interfaith “Congregation Convening” along with representatives from other Beacon Collaborative churches. The event was designed to “Focus on our Collective Power”, and we were asked by the facilitator to identify ways that our church could leverage its resources to further Beacon’s. Mark and I determined that our church’s power was in our diverse members’ abilities to ask their legislators to support Beacon’s proposed \$140 million for homes in the 2018 Minnesota bonding bill. We know that many of our church members are engaged, respected members of the community. Many are involved in local politics and even know their legislators. With addresses in the western suburbs, our letters and emails are most certainly opened and paid attention to, simply because of where we live. Fair or not fair, that’s the reality. We have power and we should use it.

For this issue, I was asked to reflect on my last year as Moderator and what I’m looking forward to in the next few years. I’ve seen the power of our members evident in the crowded Council meetings at Plymouth City Hall when hearings and votes on Cranberry Ridge were held. I’ve seen the power of welcome and hospitality that has opened doors to the special needs community. And I’ve seen power shown by many of our members as they engage in local and national issues that impact the lives of the disenfranchised.

In the next year, I’m excited to see us use our collective and individual power to affect change in our community for those things that define us: affordable housing, welcoming the special needs community, and building a summer camp that welcomes all children from across the metro area. Let’s welcome, hire, befriend, care, initiate and advocate. Let’s use our collective power to make new connections throughout the community, engage and transform our visitors and members, and tackle relevant issues that impact all of us.



for the moment

Rev. Dr. John F. Ross, Senior Minister

Transformation

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds... Romans 12:2 (NRSV)

I often find myself jealous of kids today for the toys they get to play with compared to the toys of my childhood. Among the cool toys that didn't exist when I was a child are, TRANSFORMERS. These plastic, handheld toys are a marvel of engineering as they can be changed from a really cool sports car or truck into a powerful robot with all sorts of tools and weapons.

I remember watching my youngest son change a Transformer several times from truck to robot and back again, then put it down on the kitchen table. It was my turn. It seemed so simple at first. And as I began it was fun. But before long the process became confusing, the vision unclear, and the task complicated. After a while I gave up, put the toy back on the kitchen table, and went back to something more within my skill set—washing dishes.

It has been said that the church is shaped by the dynamic interaction of three elements: worship, theological reflection, and governance—many moving parts—each with complex facets and expressions. But when put in the right configuration the result is transformation. The lives of the faithful people embody the good news of God's love encountered in Jesus.

Everything we do from nursery care to mission work, from receiving new members to performing funerals all work to transform us—to re-make us from within. But what appears simple at first can become complicated and we might just give up—as I did with that Transformer toy.

As we witness the resurrection of Jesus in Easter, consider your own transformation. Has your spiritual life become confusing, the vision unclear, or the task too complicated—don't give up. Open yourself to the renewal that comes when we find more grace in the search for meaning than in absolute certainty. Come share the joy in worship, theological reflection, and/or governance... be transformed!

Inspire the world,

**John F. Ross
Senior Minister**

***Do justice.
Love kindness.
Walk humbly with God.***

Open yourself to the renewal that comes when we find more grace in the search for meaning than in absolute certainty.



2018 ANNUAL MEETING

**WCC Annual Meeting:
Sunday, April 22**

The 2018 Annual Meeting of Wayzata Community Church will be convened in the Sanctuary on April 22, 2018, immediately following the 9:00 a.m. worship service (approximately 10:00 a.m.). All WCC Members are encouraged to attend. The purpose of the meeting includes the following:

- 1.) To elect Officers of the Church and to approve the Nominating Board's slate for Council and Deacons;
- 2.) To accept a 2018 operating budget for the church;
- 3.) To receive updates from our Finance Director, Moderator and Incoming Moderator;
- 4.) To enact any other business that may be properly brought before the Congregation at that time.

Renewal: Emotional Health

by Kris Sanford

Lent is a time for reflection and introspection. We take time to dig deep, to get in touch with God and with our true selves. We are encouraged to remove the distractions of life, to pause, to spend time connecting to what truly matters in our lives, as well as, to look honestly at how we are living.

I don't know about you, but some of what I uncovered this Lent wasn't easy to see. Things I had put off, bad habits I had let get the best of me, stories I had been telling myself about others and myself that weren't accurate or useful. To be Easter people, people of new life, we are called to cultivate the soil of our lives, to let go of the old and begin growing roots in things that nurture our souls and draw us closer to God. Going deep and recognizing things in ourselves we want, or need, to change can be scary or disorienting. Letting go and growing into new creations means taking risks and getting curious about what makes us tick.

Living lives that are emotionally healthy can free us to speak openly and honestly about ourselves, acknowledging we are works of art AND works in progress.

Caring for our emotional selves as we grow requires us to be aware of our emotions, to take time to ask "why" when we feel sadness, frustration, anger, etc. It also means we are able to acknowledge that everyone makes mistakes and to ask for forgiveness. This not only heals our spirits, it opens pathways for connection and reconciliation. Living lives that are emotionally healthy can free us to speak openly and honestly about ourselves, acknowledging we are works of art AND works in progress. It is finding trusted people to share our stories with, the stories that make us proud and the ones where we show up as fragile, broken, or misguided. It is freedom to live life, and live it abundantly.

Physical Renewal

By Paul J. Moe

Very early in life I came to recognize the synergy between physical activity and overall well-being. When I took up Martial Arts, it was to learn a new art-form. Very soon it brought an intense renewal in all aspects of my life. Today, I have a Fifth-Degree Master Black Belt in Taekwondo. I've competed in Traditional Forms and Weapons for the last 16 years and have been the NCKA overall Forms and Weapons champion for a total of 8 years. My dedication to Martial Arts, as with my dedication to Wayzata Community Church, helps me be a better father to my beautiful daughter Teneglis (*in photo above*), and a better leader at the helm of Mora Global, whose mission is to positively enrich relationships using the universal language of original music. Truly, Martial Arts is my second religion.



There are tremendous amounts of scientific evidence proving that a healthy and active lifestyle can bring about immense renewal and spiritual fulfillment.

Renewal in Energy and Spirit

The energy that we acquire from exercising not only fuels our bodies for everyday physical activities, but also boosts our mental state. Mental stimulation is key in order to function at a higher level of excellence. The "high" that we get from increased energy encourages practices like connecting with nature, practicing gratitude, loving others, and giving.

Renewal in Physical Fitness

Exercise keeps you lean, fit, and strong to do everyday activities. So, whether it be helping a struggling stranger lift an object, walking a 5k to beat cancer, or volunteering on your feet all day, we all need endurance to engage in our own spiritual practices. A healthy body will encourage one to live out a spiritual life filled with action and integrity.

Renewal in Eating Habits

Eating mindfully can have a major impact on our body and mind. Generous servings of fruits, vegetables, nuts, seeds and whole grains affect our mental and physical state. These foods release chemicals in the brain that positively influence one's moods and behaviors. When we feel top notch, our thoughts and actions will have a greater impact on the world around us.

Renewal in State of Mind

Physical activity is a great "stress-buster". If you feel overwhelmed in life, engaging in regular physical activity can greatly reduce stressful adrenaline and cortisol levels in the body. When we have less stress weighing us down, we spend our time engaging in uplifting activities to connect us to something greater than ourselves.

Staying physically active is a way of life. As they say, "just move". You don't have to make big life changes to see the benefits. Just start building more activity into your day, one step at a time and feel renewal flood your life.



Social Renewal

By Rev. Danielle Jones

Spring is a natural time to reconsider schedules and commitments. After a long winter of hibernation and reflection, the brighter sun, longer days, and **hope of new life finally springing forth from the ground once again**, expand our hearts and minds as we consider how to spend our time in this new season.

Winter tends to tighten our circles as we stay in, quiet our schedule, and stay cozy. **Spring calls us to get back out into the world to explore the new life that is bursting all around us.**

What does this “spring” mean to you? How might engaging the natural renewal that comes each spring give you a chance to consider serving your community in a new way? **What could it mean to expand your circles by initiating coffee with someone you have been wanting to get to know better?** How could combining exercise and prayer renew your heart and soul as you listen to your body while listening to God?

Whatever spring holds for you, don't miss this chance to get out and try something new. **Listen to God's call for renewal in your own life in the spring, just as He has set into motion the renewal of the earth.**

Spring Thaw of Spirit

By Rev. Andrea Tatley

Lovely spring birdsongs caught my attention: the Chickadee's tic-tic, the Finch's warble, the rat-a-tat-tat of the Downy Woodpecker. As I backed out of the drive, the dirt softly gave way with the heft of the car, gently splashing the doors, misting the windows. Another sign of spring: driveway flooding.

Snow and ice pile up at the end of the drive courtesy of local plows, clogging the drains from sweet, spring release. Intentional maintenance of digging snow ditches allows water to move as we navigate the quick spring thaws.

Like the snow at the end of the drive, our spirits can experience a “piling up” that leads to a “clogging up” of our emotions. When we experience loss, challenges with family, work, finances, and the daily events of life, stress gets stuck in us instead of doing its work and moving through us. It seems we are at the bottom of that snow pile, and the plow keeps dumping more on top of our already strained spirits. Tending to our spiritual life can feel like “another thing to do” rather than what supports and holds us.

“Where do you experience the sacred presence of love, joy, peace, kindness, and goodness?”

When we are exhausted, it is hard to see what renews our spirit. I invite you to consider: **Where do you experience love? Joy? Kindness? Peace? When we identify what and who nourishes our spirit, we can choose what restores us. Peace can be found on a walk down a dirt road; love, in family and friends; joy, in reading poetry, and kindness, in the eyes of a stranger. Where do you experience the sacred presence of love, joy, peace, kindness, and goodness? Let those experiences seep into the stress clog in your heart and allow spring melting. Take a deep breath to a renewed spirit.**

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

april 2018



Join Rev. Lindy Purdy for Soup, Salad & Song on Wednesday, April 18 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.



Boy Scout Pancake Breakfast
The Boy Scouts of America will be having a pancake breakfast on **April 15th in Mithun Hall**. Coffee and juice will be available for \$2.00 per person or \$20.00 for a table and west entrance.

1 **EASTER SUNDAY**
Rev. Dr. John F. Ross
6:30 a.m. Sunrise Service at Wayzata Beach
8 a.m. Chapel Communion, Chapel
9:00 a.m. Celebrations Worship, Sanctuary
10:15 a.m. Traditions Worship, Sanctuary
10:30 a.m. Parables Worship, Chapel
11:45 a.m. Traditions Worship, Sanctuary
Meridian Manor Worship, 1 p.m.

2 Archives, 9:30 a.m.
Women's AA, 10 a.m.
Rummage Committee, 4 p.m.
Board of Fellowship, 7 p.m.
AI Anon, 7:30 p.m.

3 Planning Committee, 6 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.

8 **THE SUNDAY AFTER EASTER**
NEW MEMBERS
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
Meridian Manor Worship, 1 p.m.

9 Archives, 9:30 a.m.
Women's AA, 10 a.m.
Parish/Teaching Committee, 1 p.m.
Parables Women's Book Club, 6:15 p.m.
Camp/Retreat Board, 6:30 p.m.
Middle School Board, 7:15 p.m.
AI Anon, 7:30 p.m.

10 Thimble Bees, 9 a.m.
Executive Team, 5:30 p.m.
High School Board, 6:30 p.m.
Building and Grounds Board, 7 p.m.
Personnel Committee, 7 p.m.
Parables Candlelight Conversations, 7 p.m.
OA, 7 p.m.

15 **BAPTISMS**
Rev. Dr. John F. Ross preaching
Troop 283 Pancake Breakfast, 8 a.m.
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.

16 Archives, 9:30 a.m.
Women's AA, 10 a.m.
Soul Sisters Meeting, 6 p.m.
Rummage Committee, 4 p.m.
Author Event: Allen Hilton, 6:30 p.m. followed by reception
AI Anon, 7:30 p.m.

17 Community Group Disability Meeting, 9:30 a.m.
Council Dinner, 5:30 p.m.
Church Council, 7 p.m.
Unique Family Ministry Committee, 7 p.m.
OA, 7 p.m.

22 **ANNUAL MEETING**
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
Meridian Manor Worship, 1 p.m.
Cantus Concert, 3 p.m.
New Member Reception, 4:30 p.m. (offsite)

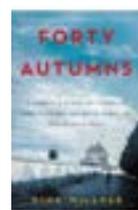
23 Archives, 9:30 a.m.
Women's AA, 10 a.m.
Loaves and Fishes, 5:15 p.m. (offsite)
Parables Women's Book Club, 6:15 p.m.
AI Anon, 7:30 p.m.

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

29 **CELEBRATING HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS**
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
Parables Art Show, 11:30 a.m.
Wayzata Symphony Orchestra Concert, 3 p.m.
Families Moving Forward at WCC all week

30 Archives, 9:30 a.m.
Women's AA, 10 a.m.
Parish/Teaching Committee, 1 p.m.
AI Anon, 7:30 p.m.

The Third Thursday Readers
The Third Thursday Readers meet in the Piper Library at 1:00 p.m. on the Third Thursday of each month. On April 19 we will discuss *Forty Autumns* by Nina Wilmer. All are welcome!



WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

Pancake Breakfast

at Pancake Breakfast will be held on Sunday, Mithun Hall. We will serve pancakes, sausage, juice from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Cost is \$5.00/0.00/family. Tickets can be purchased at the east rances that morning.

Beacon Interfaith Legislative Action Meeting

Attend Beacon's 2018 Legislative Campaign on Tuesday, April 10, 7:00 p.m., at Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church in Plymouth. Funding for building affordable housing like Cranberry Ridge comes from these bonding bills... and our work on Cranberry Ridge is not possible without funding.

Meet with local legislators to tell them, "Our faith calls us to act. Our congregation wants money for homes in the bonding bill." Help us build and preserve affordable housing.

<p>4 Women's AA, 10 a.m. CORE Class, Dr. Ron Troxel, 10 a.m. Soul Sisters Lunch Bunch, 11:30 a.m. CORE Class, Dr. Ron Troxel, 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. CORE Class, Rev. Kristen Jeide, 7:15 p.m. New Member Orientation, 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>5 Soul Sisters Walking Group, 9 a.m. Women's AA, 10 a.m.</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7 AA, 10 a.m.</p>
<p>11 Women's AA, 10 a.m. CORE Class, Dr. Ron Troxel, 10 a.m. CORE Class, Dr. Ron Troxel, 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. Membership Committee, 7:15 p.m. CORE Class, Rev. Kristen Jeide, 7:15 p.m. CORE Class, Rev. Danielle Jones, 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>12 Soul Sisters Walking Group, 9 a.m. Finance Committee, 6:45 a.m. Women's AA, 10 a.m. Folkestone Bible Study, 11 a.m. Library Committee, 4 p.m. Baptism Milestone, 6 p.m. CORE Class with Rev. S. Lindy Purdy, 6 p.m.</p>	<p>13 Middle School Retreat Parables Respite/ Friendship Group, 5 p.m. SPCO Concert, 8 p.m.</p>	<p>14 Middle School Retreat Saturday Seekers, 8 a.m. AA, 10 a.m.</p>
<p>18 Women's AA, 10 a.m. CORE Class, Dr. Ron Troxel, 10 a.m. Soup, Salad and Song Lunch, 12 noon CORE Class, Dr. Ron Troxel, 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. CORE Class, Rev. Kristen Jeide, 7:15 p.m. CORE Class, Rev. Danielle Jones, 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>19 Soul Sisters Walking Group, 9 a.m. Women's AA, 10 a.m. Third Thursday Readers, 1 p.m. CORE Class with Rev. S. Lindy Purdy, 6 p.m. Music Board, 7 p.m.</p>	<p>20 Band of Brothers Breakfast, 7:30 a.m. Kids' Night Out, 6 p.m.</p>	<p>21 Saturday Seekers, 8 a.m. Blended and Blessed Event, 8:30 a.m. Old Timer's Basketball, 8:30 a.m. AA, 10 a.m.</p>
<p>25 Women's AA, 10 a.m. CORE Class, Dr. Ron Troxel, 10 a.m. Soup, Salad and Song Lunch, 12 noon CORE Class, Dr. Ron Troxel, 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. 8th Grade Milestone, 7 p.m. CORE Class, Rev. Kristen Jeide, 7:15 p.m. CORE Class, Rev. Danielle Jones, 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>26 Soul Sisters Walking Group, 9 a.m. Women's AA, 10 a.m. Folkestone Bible Study, 11 a.m. Bridge, 12 noon CORE Class with Rev. S. Lindy Purdy, 6 p.m.</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 Saturday Seekers, 8 a.m. Old Timer's Basketball, 8:30 a.m. Rummage Leadership Meeting, 9:30 a.m. AA, 10 a.m.</p>

Coming Up in May

- **High School Retreat, May 4-6**
- **Nifty Nineties Luncheon, May 11**
- **Mother's Day, May 13**
- **Last Day of Wednesday Programs, May 16**
- **High School Senior Night, May 20**



Renewal at Work

By Anne Harbison

I recently visited a Montessori pre-school and was fascinated at what the teachers called “work.” Each child was fully immersed in an activity, fascinated and focused by the “task” at hand. Clearly they were at play, basking in the pure enjoyment of the process rather than the outcome. I was struck by the power of this basic idea—that our “work” in the world, whether we are seven or seventy, is to fully engage in the process of exploration and learning. If we really believed and honored that, can you imagine how engaging and creative our workplaces would be?

Unfortunately, by the time we are working adults, most of us have had a workplace experience of stress, social dysfunction, and mind-numbing monotony. (I both flipped burgers and cleaned dental equipment as my first two jobs in high school). At the same time, in my job as an organizational consultant, I have witnessed dozens of workplaces brimming with energy, compassion, and creativity.

What makes the difference? Clearly leadership, a shared vision and mission, and the culture of the organization are powerful drivers of workplace engagement. Yet as people of faith, called to be transformed—not letting the world squeeze us into its mold—I encourage you to reflect upon how you can renew your relationship to work from within, rather than waiting for a workplace to renew you.

Renew Your Purpose

Why do you work? For a paycheck, to care for your children, to pursue a career, to express your deepest talents and calling? Regardless of your title, job description, paid or unpaid service, exploring the deeper WHY to the WHAT of how you spend your days can regroup and revitalize even the most mundane workday.

Renew Your Partnerships

In studying the most engaging workplaces, Gallup has found that individuals who can say they have a “best friend at work” feel more appreciated, have more opportunities to learn and grow, and that their voices are truly heard. Deep social connections that are formed in the joint pursuit of meaningful work can serve as a balm for tough days and challenging times.

Renew Your Path

Like long-term friendships and marriages, you don’t have to leave a workplace to explore new possibilities for the future. Even within the same role and set of responsibilities, you can reimagine the path you want to take in learning new approaches, building skills, and providing value. Maybe it’s through mentoring others, or offering an inclusive welcome to new team members. Drawing your own map, rather than passively following the one that’s been given to you, can ignite a sense of inner confidence and calling.

By experiencing work as a playful opportunity to explore, learn and contribute, we can transform our workplaces. As we transform the world through our work, our work has the potential to transform us.



1. Register for Blended and Blessed on April 21 in the WCC Chapel, 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. New Member Orientation Wednesday, April 4 7:15 to 8:30 p.m. in the Holmes Room
This hour is packed with helpful information including a short overview of our church’s heritage, traditions and ministries, led by Rev. Danielle Jones, with a brief message from Rev. Dr. John Ross, Senior Minister, WCC.
*Childcare is available.
Register online at <https://wayzata-communitychurch.org/ministries/visitors/new-member-information/>

New Member Receiving Sunday
We welcome new members into Wayzata Community Church on April 8 during our 9 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. services in the Sanctuary.

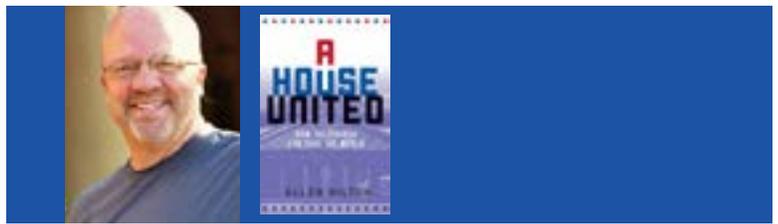


3. Loaves and Fishes. Thirty-six years ago Wayzata Community Church was a founding congregation of Loaves and Fishes. Many of you have served at the St. Stephens School on Clinton Ave. in Minneapolis and know that between 175 and 250 people come for a hot, healthy meal. This outreach requires approximately 20 volunteers to cook, serve, and clean up each time. To sustain the much needed outreach, we need more volunteers! Please consider volunteering as a family, Soul Sisters Table Group, Bible Study group, Koinonsia group, or come as an individual. We serve only 5 times a year. 2018 dates are: April 23; June 25; August 27; October 22; and December 24. Typically, this is about a two-hour commitment. You may sign up for any dates that fit your schedule. We'll send you an email reminder about two weeks before the serving date. Please email Mary Meyer meyer023@umn.edu.



4. Piper Library Update
The Piper Library has been blessed with many donations from members of WCC. However, until further notice, the Library Committee cannot accept donations. The committee is currently doing some necessary "weeding," which includes eliminating damaged or outdated books and duplicate copies. We are carefully considering how to best serve the current and future needs Wayzata Community Church, and expect to share a new library mission statement and policy statements in the next few months. Thank you for your past book donations, and for understanding the current need to suspend donations.

Also do you have library experience and some free time? The Piper Library Committee needs your help with evolving plans for updating and reorganizing our library. Knowledge of cataloging, organization, and/or library software would be especially helpful. For more information, contact Rev. Rustin Comer at rcomer@wayzatacommunitychurch.org.



Author Event: Rev. Dr. Allen Hilton

Monday, April 16

6:30 p.m. in the Chapel, followed by a reception in the Colonnade "A House United: How the Church Can Save the World"

By entering the culture wars, churchgoers in the United States have ushered the Left and the Right to even greater extremes. Battles over moral issues have widened.

Allen Hilton believes that religion isn't inherently divisive, and he suggests a new role for Christianity. Jesus prayed that his disciples might all be one, and this book imagines a proper answer to that prayer in the context of American polarization. Rather than asking people to leave their political and theological beliefs at the church door, he promotes a Christianity that brings people together with their differences.

Rev. Allen R. Hilton, Ph.D. is the founder and executive director of House United, a non-profit initiative designed to help churches learn to collaborate and build community across lines of political difference.



Band of Brothers Breakfast

Friday, April 20, 7:30 a.m. in Mithun Hall. Cost: \$20

Speaker: Brian Jones of Innové Studios

Innové Studios empowers churches to coach, resource, and launch social innovation ideas in their own communities. Innové empowers churchgoers to connect their Monday work with their Sunday faith. There is a great potential for churches to build powerful congregation-driven engines that intentionally launch and scale fresh ideas and solutions that empower young social entrepreneurs. Brian began his career with the FBI only to have that lead him to seminary. Until recently, he served as the Minister of Mission at Colonial Church in Edina, MN. He now serves as the Executive Director of Innové Studios, a start-up non-profit with a mission to empower churches around the nation to launch and scale new social innovation ideas. Register online at www.wayzatacommunitychurch.org/education/adult-faith-formation/band-of-brothers/



2018 Easter Offering Cranberry Ridge Apartments in Plymouth

The Easter offering this year, will go towards a WCC pledge of \$500,000 to Beacon Housing for construction of Cranberry Ridge Apartments in

Plymouth, MN. Our goal to complete this pledge is \$150,000.

Cranberry Ridge will be the future home for 47 working families earning between \$20,000 and \$45,000 per year. Up to 10 homes will be set aside for families who are earning less. Interfaith Outreach will be the onsite provider supporting residents that need help with educational, employment, and family support services and more.

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. Please make check contributions to this Special Easter Offering payable to Wayzata Community Church, noting "Cranberry Ridge" on the memo line.



“Faces of Parables” Photo Gallery Event

People with disabilities are often known by labels. Come get to know us by name. This is a wonderful opportunity to see inspiring photography and to meet the inspiring people being photographed.

You are invited to join the Parables community for the “Faces of Parables” Photo Gallery “Meet & Greet”, April 29th in the Colonnade, from 10:00 to 10:30 a.m. and from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Delicious food and beverages will be served at each event.

This photo collection was inspired by the Parables Summer Camp experience where twenty campers of various ages came together for one week of faith, formation, fellowship, and fun. Come and view a very special exhibit highlighting the inspiring people of Parables Summer Camp. The Parables Community is so excited to share their unique beauty and talents in a way that enables them to introduce themselves to you.

Music at Wayzata Concerts

**St. Paul Chamber Orchestra*
Maureen Nelson, *The Lark Ascending*
Friday, April 13, 2018 • 8:00 p.m.**

The SPCO’s talented wind section gets to show off their virtuosity in two chamber music works for winds, *Hertel’s Concerto a cinque* and Gounod’s charming *Petite symphonie*. The full orchestra joins forces at the center of this program as SPCO violinist Maureen Nelson takes center stage for Ralph Vaughan Williams’ iconic *The Lark Ascending*, based on the George Meredith poem of the same name. *Tickets required at www.thespco.org

Cantus*

***For the Beauty of the Earth*
Sunday, April 22, 2018 • 3:00 p.m.**

We can all too easily find ourselves detached from the natural world. The Earth always remains integral to our lives, providing not only life-sustaining resources but also artistic inspiration. Though we may be imperfect



stewards of our planet, we can share an appreciation of its profound beauty and fragility. Come for this celebration of the majesty of this planet that we share. *Tickets: www.cantussings.org

Wayzata Symphony Orchestra *Shostakovich!*

Sunday, April 29, 2018 • 3:00 p.m.

Why are we so obsessed with Dmitri Shostakovich? A brilliant composer, an isolated figure, working under one of the 20th century’s most terrifying dictatorships, his music is emotional, controversial and misunderstood. Join the WSO as we attempt to illuminate the back story of these two compositions through musical examples – some suggesting hidden messages. The concert is free, no ticket required. Please join us for a reception following the concert to meet the musicians.

Families Moving Forward

We will host our Families Moving Forward guests from April 29 to May 6.

WCC provides shelter and hospitality in our building to families with children who are currently without a home. We need volunteers to set up rooms, welcome guests, prepare and serve meals, wash laundry, help with evening activities for children, and overnight hosting. Please contact Peter Thompson at peterthompson9@comcast.net. Would you like to be on the Families Moving Forward Committee? We need volunteers who can assist us with the planning and execution of this rewarding opportunity. Contact Lou Vlahos at lvlahos@wayzatacommunitychurch.org for more information.

Music and Memory 2017

If you have unused iPods and don’t know what to do with them, consider donating to the Music and Memory Program. The gift of music is priceless.

As Frank Sinatra crooned “It was a very good year”:

- 5,338 songs currently in the music library
- 400+ CD’s donated from the Rummage Sale and the generosity of WCC members
- 9 residents of Meridian Manor’s Memory Care received personalized music
- 15 residents of the Birches of Trillium Woods are listening to their own playlists
- 90 hours of volunteer time at our mission partner, Walker Methodist Health Center

Contact Mary Jane Hoschstein at maryjaneh@frontier.com

CORE

CORE Classes in April

www.wayzatacommunitychurch.org/springCORE

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

April 4-May 16. \$20 class fee.

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?

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

April 11-May 9. \$20 class fee.

Parenting is hard. 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 Wednesdays at 7:15 p.m.

April 4-May 16. \$20 class fee.

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 Leadership*, 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 study discussion on how to be an interfaith leader.

Called2Care with Rev. S. Lindy Purdy Thursdays from 6-9 p.m.

April 12-May 17. \$20 class fee.

Called2Care is a skill-based training for healthy relational ministry and relationship building. It is useful, and even transformational for all people. The core elements of this training (first three sessions) are required of all adult leaders of our youth, and highly recommended for all those who serve in the church environment as staff or volunteer leaders. Completion of all six sessions (18 hours) completes the required training for becoming a Called2Care Companion. The last three sessions are open individually to any past C2C companions, or any person interested in knowing more about the topic.

The training is a compilation of materials that are common to Stephens Ministry, Befrienders, Seminary Pastoral Care classes, and the wisdom of many lay and professional leaders who have contributed their experience and expertise over the past 15 years.

celebrations & transitions

BAPTISMS

- Hailey Quinn Davis, daughter of Edward and Kristen Davis
- Bowie Quinn Davis, daughter of Edward and Kristen Davis
- Aspen Bear Nollens, son of Hendrik & Brittany Nollens
- Ocean Bear Nollens, son of Hendrik & Brittany Nollens
- Samuel Richard Escen, son of Mark & Amanda Escen
- Simon Michael Early, son of Joe & Lindsay Early

CARES

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

HOSPITALIZATIONS

Carole Kilmanas

CONDOLENCES

- Nancy Erickson and family on the death of her husband, Clayton Erickson, on March 7, 2018
- Donna Cox and family on the death of her husband, Don Cox, on March 10, 2018
- Bill and Barb Boulware on the death of their niece, Stacey Boulware, on March 12, 2018
- Angie Kniss and family on the death of her father, Jim Locke, on March 16, 2018
- Family and friends of Eve Rutter, on March 18, 2018.
- Dan Savaloja and family on the death of his father, Ray Savaloja, on March 19, 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, April 10 for the May 2018 issue. ©2018 Wayzata Community Church. All rights reserved.

- 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

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



The Sunday After Easter

Cantus

Sunday, April 8 at 9 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

Cantus, the internationally-recognized male vocal ensemble based in the Twin Cities, will be our guest for both the 9 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. services on April 8— an exquisite addition to worship at Wayzata Community Church following Easter Sunday. Cantus, co-founded by WCC Chancel Choir Director Adam Reinwald, performs throughout the United States and Europe, and maintains a regular subscription series here in the Twin Cities, including three concerts per season at Wayzata Community Church. The men of Cantus are educators, singers, and artists dedicated to lifting up the human experience through song. The engaging men's vocal ensemble is widely known for its trademark warmth and blend, innovative programming and engaging performances of music ranging from the Renaissance to the 21st century. Join us... for The Sunday After Easter!