



inspire

WAYZATA COMMUNITY CHURCH

SUMMER 2021



Committed to Collaboration

BY DYLAN NOVACEK
BEACON INTERFAITH HOUSING COLLABORATIVE

In May 2021, Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative announced that construction would begin on Cranberry Ridge in Plymouth, allowing families more options for affordable housing in Plymouth. The development by Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative (Beacon) features 45 apartments for families who earn less than \$52,000 a year for a family of four. Twelve of the homes will be for families who make less than \$31,000 a year for a family of four. Underground parking, a fitness center, community lounge, and youth and adult program space will be among the amenities offered at the building, located at 18220 Highway 55 in Plymouth. Wayzata Community Church supported this effort by committing \$500,000 toward the project. The following interview was conducted by Dylan Novacek of Beacon Interfaith with Rev. Dr. John Ross.

“The core of our congregation has always been one of inclusivity,” reflected Rev. Dr. John F. Ross, Senior Minister at Wayzata Community Church. “We’re a congregation that believes in the local community. Being part of the Beacon collaborative means we can do more than we ever could on our own!”

Services at Wayzata Community Church end with the question from the prophet Micah, “What does the LORD require of us?” They answer, “To do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God.” Through their collaboration with Beacon and their support for Cranberry Ridge, the congregation lives out their deepest values.

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WAYZATA COMMUNITY CHURCH

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COMMITTED TO COLLABORATION
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“For more than a decade, we’ve looked to Beacon as our guide in this housing work,” Rev. Ross exclaimed. “In 2013 we went through an extensive mission and vision process. We came out with the realization that if we had an idea we could accomplish on our own, then it just wasn’t big enough.” Committed to collaboration, Rev. Ross looks back on his congregation’s Beacon journey and the road it took to see that Cranberry Ridge became a reality.

“Anything that we try to get done in this world should require collaboration and partners beyond our congregation. Beacon gives an expression to that conviction. I remember when we held a convening. At least a dozen other congregations joined us on a Saturday morning. There was this energy in the room; a shared sense of the power we have when we work as a collaborative,” he reflected and smiled.

“Several years later, we gathered again at the Plymouth City Council meeting to demonstrate our will and interest for Cranberry Ridge. There were a lot of familiar faces from the convening, as well as some new individuals who joined along the way. That night, Cranberry Ridge was approved!”

With shovels hitting the ground, construction at Cranberry Ridge has begun. Every day we get closer to 45 deeply affordable homes for families becoming a reality. Wayzata Community Church has shown a steady commitment to the creation of these homes through instrumental early investment and sustained advocacy.

As these new homes get closer to becoming a reality, Wayzata Community Church looks forward to supporting residents as they move in by working with our service provider at Interfaith Outreach.

serve

“The prospect of working with families who would occupy the building was key for our congregation,” he continued. “It’s about the names and faces from all walks of life. The opportunity to come alongside them and be in relationship with these families.”

“This is the impact of faith and collaboration over the long haul. Something that has stood out most in our Beacon journey is how long and sustained it has been. We’ve been growing together. Beacon educates us in our understanding of how these homes disrupt unjust systems.”

Rev. Ross and the congregation embrace the shared values of our work together, growing our power and centering home as the foundation for life. “Home is the context within which we can love and be loved,” he passionately states. “People who live in homelessness live in a state of fear. I’d imagine that to be the most debilitating feeling in the world... Home is the best shot we have at loving each other and being loved by others in return.”

Wayzata Community Church eagerly awaits the opening of Cranberry Ridge, mindful of the long journey it’s taken to get here. Relentless collaboration, bold early investments, and sustained advocacy are what it takes to create homes for families like those at Cranberry Ridge. This is the collaborative at work.

“I hope that Cranberry Ridge becomes a center of life. A center of community. A hub of activity. I hope and pray it is a place of transformation for people. A safe haven for families.”



FOR THE MOMENT

REV. DR. JOHN ROSS
SENIOR MINISTER

Sing a New Song

I waited patiently for the Lord, who inclined and heard my cry. He brought me up out of the pit, out of the miry clay. He set my feet upon the rock and made my footsteps firm. Many will see and fear but I will sing a new song.

(Psalm 40)

The power of music over our lives is difficult to overstate. Just think about what happens when you hear a familiar song from 10, 20, 30 years or more ago? The tune, the lyrics, the rhythm combine to transport us to another time and place. A song can not only elicit an emotional response, it can remind us of specific people, experiences, and the greatest truths in life. Music has the power to motivate us to continue to pursue those truths and more.

This is nothing new. Throughout scripture, Biblical authors used songs to convey meaning that transcends mere words. From the song of Moses in Exodus 15 to Mary's hymn of praise the *Magnificat*; from the Song of Solomon to the hymns sung by Paul and Silas in prison; and Jesus himself singing hymns with the Disciples on the night of betrayal, music is more than mere entertainment — music is literally the language of faith.

In Psalm 40, the Psalmist writes a song of patience, forbearance, trust, and new life. This is a song worth repeating over and over again until we, too, can sing a new song. In 1983, Bono and his U2 bandmates released their own version of Psalm 40, titled simply "40". Over and over again they ask, "How long to sing this song?" It's a good and right question. How long must we sing a new song?

Reflecting on Psalm 40, we can see all the ways we have "waited patiently" over the past 18 months. We realize now how God has "inclined and heard our cry." God is bringing us "up out of the pit and miry clay." And although "many will see and fear" it's our choice to "sing a new song."

For the moment, consider the new song you are being called to sing. Whether in your own private life where patience has given way to joy, in your work life where pain is changing to purpose, or among neighbors where distance is transformed into community. Listen for the melody of your own life and sing a new song!

Be well... and know that you are loved.

John



IN-PERSON and ONLINE WORSHIP

Through September 12, we will continue to offer 2 Sunday services:

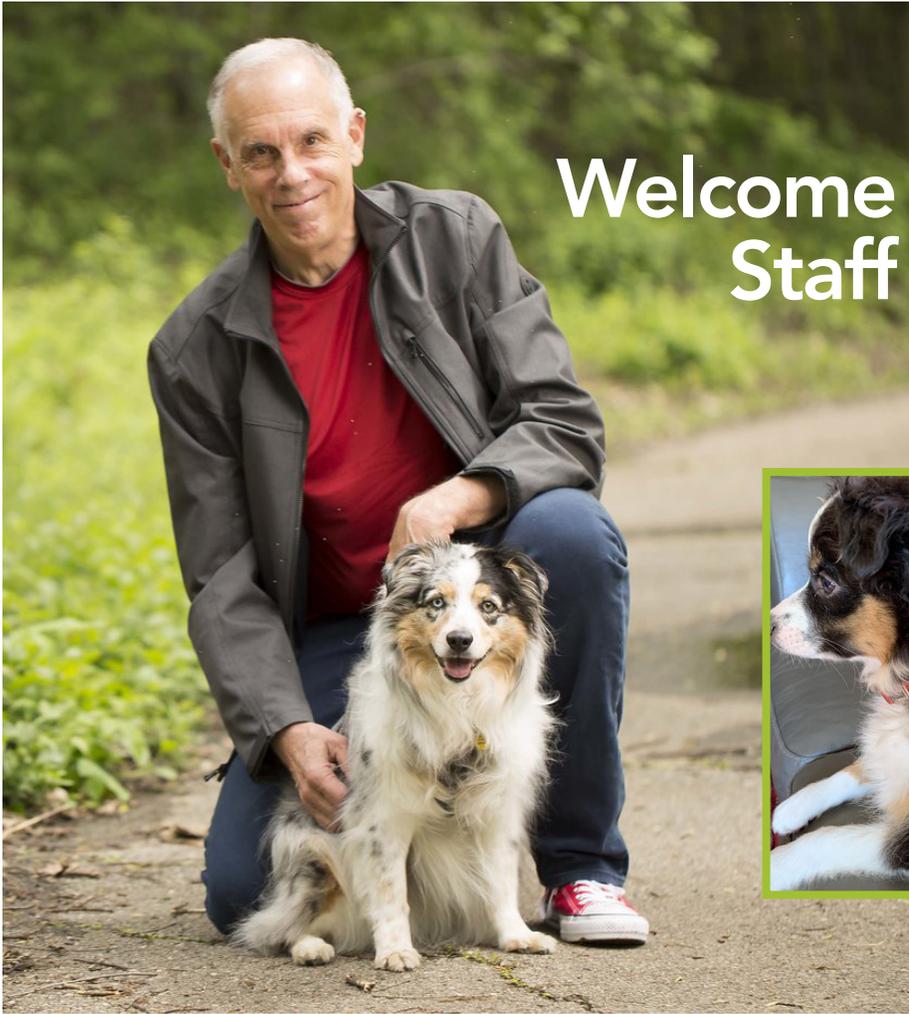
- 8:00 a.m. Communion Service in the Wakefield Chapel
- 9:30 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

The 9:30 a.m. service is also livestreamed on our website and on Facebook.

You can always access our worship archives on our YouTube channel at <https://bit.ly/wccworshipservices>

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY PROGRAMS

We offer child care and programs during our 9:30 a.m. service for ages Birth-Grade 5. Check in at the KidCheck stations at either the east or west entrances.



Welcome to our New Staff Members!



Human Resources Manager, Michael Coty with his dog Sophie, and LuLu (at right).

MICHAEL COTY, Human Resources Manager

I am delighted to join the staff of Wayzata Community Church as your Human Resources Manager. I honestly was not looking for a job and happily taking a break in my consulting business which I began more than 11 years ago. A friend of mine sent me the job posting and strongly nudged, urged, and finally pushed me to submit my resume. In an effort to get her “off my back” I sent my resume to the search committee. Several hours later, I had my first phone interview scheduled. Throughout the interview process, I was increasingly impressed by the thoughtful consideration and wise questions that were asked of me by some wonderful people. They hooked me!

Prior to consulting, I worked for a high tech company headquartered in Silicon Valley as an HR Director and led their global leadership development efforts. I worked for 18 years with Catholic Charities in the Twin Cities where I led all of their services for homeless people— their largest agency division with 22 different program sites and hundreds of volunteers.

I grew up on the east coast, came to the Twin Cities for college, and have made my home in South Minneapolis. I live with my two dogs, Sophie (7) and LuLu (1) — miniature Australian Shepherds. I am currently on the Board of Dharma Field, and am past chair of the Hopkins Center for the Arts, and have volunteered with the Aliveness Project and Guthrie Theater.

It is a blessing to be here and join you.

welcome to our new staff



DAVID KNOLL Director of Operations

David Knoll joined Wayzata Community Church on June 7, 2021 as the new Director of Operations. David brings over 38 years of financial and business leadership experience through a wide variety of organizational management and administration roles in both for-profit industries and nonprofit settings.

Dave and his wife, Susan, with their 6 kids— Lilli, Hayley, Hannah, Phillip, Linda, Jessica, and son-in-law, Ray. Not pictured: their 3 dogs :)

He served most recently as the President and CEO of Prairie Restorations in Princeton, MN. He is very excited to join WCC and determine how to best utilize his diverse experience and skills to help advance the church and achieve its next phase of growth and stability in support of the mission. David has had more than the average number of opportunities to develop his job and organizational development strategies having worked professionally in 12 distinct industries over his career.

David earned his BA degree in Accounting and History from Gustavus Adolphus College. He has an MBA with a concentration in Venture Management from The University of St. Thomas Opus Graduate School of Business. He owned his own business, and has held senior leadership positions in multiple organizations.

David grew up in south Minneapolis and graduated from Washburn High School. He lives in Plymouth, MN with his wife Susan where they have raised their 6 children. David and Susan are avid runners and have rarely had less than 2 dogs at any time. They also enjoy spending time with family activities, including with their grandchildren. David's favorite movie is *Father of the Bride* and his favorite book is *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee.

welcome to our new staff



ANNE COLE Accountant

After working as the temporary Accountant, I am happy to officially join the staff of Wayzata Community Church in a permanent role. Before coming to work at WCC, my mother-in-law lived with my husband and I until her death in 2019. I took on the role of full-time caregiver. Prior to that, I worked as a Staff Accountant at Forterra in Maple Grove in a busy, high volume accounting department.

I grew up in Chaska and now live outside of Monticello. My husband Mark and I have been married over 40 years. My daughter, Teresa and her husband, Jeremiah have three kids, Tiziana, Lily and Calvin. My husband and I spend a lot of time with them, camping and exploring the Twin Cities. I enjoy reading, knitting and crocheting and gardening. I am happy to be here and look forward to growing in my ever-expanding role.

TYLER AMES Assistant Director, Camp/Retreats

Tyler Ames joined Wayzata Community Church in May of 2021 as the new Camp/Retreats Assistant Director. Tyler brings 9 years of camp leadership experience from multiple settings and sites with a wide variety of skills from aquatics to adventure, from resident camping to wilderness programming.

In Tyler's own words, "I am a son of Jeff and Cindy and an older brother to Erin, Lindsay, and Ethan. I am from Duluth, MN but have lived on the East Coast, West Coast and Midwest over the last 5 years where I have worked in the Camping Industry, Environmental Education, High Ropes Courses, and Corporate Facilitation. I have an undergraduate degree from Bethel University in Missional Ministry and will be starting a Master's Degree at Luther Seminary in Child, Youth, and Family Ministry this fall. I have worked in the Outdoor and Camping Industry for the last 9 years and am very excited to take this career step into a Director role with the WCC team."



welcome to our new staff



Michele and her husband, Brett

Jesus said, "Let all the children come to me." Not some. Not most. All the children!

Hello, I am Michele Ramert and have stepped into the role of Interim Director of Special Needs Ministry. I am thrilled to be a part of this ministry.

My family and I have been members of Wayzata Community Church for the past 13 years. My husband, Brett, and I have 3 children, Michael, 26, Will, 22 and Ben, 19. Back when we were looking for a new church, a main priority was inclusion for all. We quickly landed at WCC. Throughout the years, I have volunteered in many different capacities at church. My biggest and most fulfilling role to date is being a Middle School and High School leader. The

relationships and experiences being a leader are immeasurable. I love the energy of the youth and feel so called to walk beside them.

For the past 14 years, I have worked as a Special Education Para. Working one on one with a special needs student is nothing short of amazing. So, you can imagine my excitement when Wayzata Community Church launched Parables. I am so proud that WCC has created a safe and inclusive space for ALL to worship. The need and response did not stop there, the church then developed a Special Needs Ministry. In a few short years, the Special Needs Ministry has created meaningful programming such as Best Buddies, Respite Care, Bible Studies, Vacation Bible School, and so much more.

When God talks, you listen.... and here I am, eager to meet, connect and continue the good work of the WCC Special Needs Ministry.

PS. I love yoga, gardening, cooking, biking, and my dog, Jax!

Mental Health Ministry

Many of our WCC members have had to face the unimaginable loss of a friend or loved one due to mental illness or substance use disorder. As we met to talk and care for one another, we realized what a need there is for a WCC Mental Health Ministry (MHM)

Wayzata Community Church holds membership in Mental Health Connect (MHC), which works collaboratively with a network of 26 local churches to deliver comprehensive resource information and mental health navigation. MHC is an interfaith, non-profit organization that provides mental health and substance use support and resources for members of the community. This resource is available to church members, in addition to the Caring Community Ministry and pastoral care offered by WCC.

Our first accomplishment was to create our mission statement:

The WCC Mental Health Ministry provides resources to create community knowledge about and compassion for all people living with Mental Illness and/or Substance Use Disorder— they can often be related. This includes families with loved ones, friends, and affected individuals themselves. We do this through offering educational opportunities, advocating for support, and links to community support groups, classes, webinars, etc. as posted on our webpage and announcements.

By making these opportunities available, we want to help anyone “get started” on a very complicated and emotionally demanding journey. Our intent is to connect individuals and families who would like to have more information, and explain how these resources are best utilized.

Mental Health Connect

As we studied what other organizations and churches are doing to fight this crisis in our community, we discovered the Mental Health Connect (MHC), an interfaith, non-profit organization which provides mental health and substance abuse support and resources for members of the community. We have been accepted as a member, along with 26 other local churches.

MHM now has a presence on our WCC website on the Care tab and we are currently planning Community Events featuring speakers, panel discussions and information sessions on topics of mental health and substance use/abuse issues.

We invite you to check out the resources on our website, and explore the MHM website.

WCC Mental Health Ministry Team

Rick Graft (Chair), Susan Anacker, Barb Fordyce, John Peterson, John Magnuson, Mary Bildsoe, Christine Litsey, Gina Byers, and Dana Essex

Coming Back

BY RACHEL SORRENTINO, WCC MEMBER

Like so many other parents, I spent much of the last school year doing my best to shepherd our kids through hybrid & distance learning, watching the COVID numbers and hoping for a change in the learning model so we could get back to in-person school. And even though their teachers did an amazing job getting them through that tough time, going back to in-person was a watershed moment. Attitudes improved, they were thrilled to see their friends again, and I could see that they were learning faster and better.

Considering that, it shouldn't have been surprising to me what a difference in-person church has made for our family. The kids, of course, are excited to be back in Sunday school; when we pick them up, they're bubbling over with stories of what they did, who they got to play with, and what they learned. But I didn't expect to feel as much renewal as I have by coming back to in-person church. My husband Tony is far more intuitive than I am; he saw it coming, but I didn't. As with so many other things, I had convinced myself that the kids were the ones who were really missing out; "it's hard for the kids", but as adults, we'd be able to fill the gaps or do without.

Coming back to in-person church showed me how many of those gaps I was never able to fill. The big, obvious spiritual needs were met; we'd had access to sermons online, as well as some podcasts, books, etc., but the nuances of being in-person that made our kids' learning experience change overnight are present here, too. There's the emotional experience of physically being back in the Sanctuary, which was like coming home after a very long time away. And there's the simple joy of being in that sacred space alongside other people, being able to say hello or even just exchange a smile. There's something unifying about coming together in the same time and place with people from all stages of life, each with their own joys and sorrows, to take another step together along the path of discipleship. It's saying "yes" to God, allowing Him to come and fill your gaps through others, and letting Him work through you to fill their gaps.

From our first Sunday back, the full experience of attending church began restoring my soul in ways I hadn't even realized I needed. I leave church now on Sundays refreshed, at peace, full of perspective, and newly appreciating our church's "middle name" of Community.

Thimble Bees

EXPANDING THEIR MISSION DURING COVID



During a typical year, an average of 35 women gather in Mithun Hall twice a month to create hand-crafted items — baby quilts and blankets, chemo hats, prayer shawls, and much more — for charity.

BY MARGARET GREEN

Covid-19 brought those meetings to an abrupt halt in March of 2020. But many Thimble Bees set up workspace in their homes and kept working! Some answered the plea for cotton face masks, and in just two months, used their personal fabric stashes to make over 800

much-needed face masks for IOCP, Our Lady of Peace Hospice, Hammer Residence and several hospitals and clinics. That was just the beginning!

The Thimble Bees Leadership Team, headed up by **Kathy Smith**, was determined to keep their mission going. They devised Pick Up/Drop Off events at WCC to safely provide members with the supplies to make their chosen projects and a location to deliver the finished items. The first drop-off, in September, yielded 784 completed items!

In early December when the church was temporarily closed, Bill Boulware and his team helped relocate these events from Mithun Hall to **Polly Carver's** garage. Polly shared that she was happy to provide the space, and "it enabled a small group of us to handle the assembly/packaging and provided the ambassadors a spot to pick up

their items [for delivery]. We also were able to have a bit of face-to-face fellowship since we were outside (though weather didn't always cooperate), something we had all been missing. Ours is not a group that can function using Zoom, so we were grateful for this alternative."

Karen Freeman also expressed her thanks: "It was a pleasure to be able to briefly visit in person, of course wearing masks. Thanks go out to our leaders for keeping the Thimble Bees active. It continued to help me be in contact with WCC even though not physically being at the church.

Many Thimble Bee members have shared how grateful they were to continue creating their gifts to support people in need. They took advantage of their long days at home, and devoted many hours to producing their hand-crafted items.





Anne Creed, who had just moved into Folkestone when the pandemic closed everything down, said, “Without Thimble Bees, it’s doubtful I would have survived the pandemic close-down. . . . Knitting has been a part of every single day and I could probably have stocked a store with all the blankets, baby hats, prayer shawls and adult hats I have made. I thank God every day that Thimble Bees is a part of my life. I greatly miss the gatherings at WCC but have faith that they can resume before long. I have loved sharing the Thimble Bees ‘story’ here at Folkestone, always with the hope of recruiting another knitter or sewer to join us.”

“Without Thimble Bees, it’s doubtful I would have survived the pandemic close-down... Knitting has been a part of every single day and I could probably have stocked a store with all the blankets, baby hats, prayer shawls and adult hats I have made.”

Sylvia Sheeran, part of the leadership team, “kept her sanity” by sewing 100 face masks and over 75 prayer pocket quilts. Working from her apartment, she also coordinated the sewers’ requests for supply pick-up, kept an inventory of the sewing projects in process, and prepared fabric for layette and lap robe quilts, receiving blankets, and ice pack sleeves. “It got me through a long season of being more or less ‘locked-in’ and gave me a feeling of great accomplishment that our Thimble Bee group was able to keep our mission moving along to organizations in need of our finished goods,” Sylvia said. “I also kept the feeling of belonging and being able to keep in touch.”

Judy Reed thinks she has the best job in Thimble Bees — assembling and packaging infant layettes. She explains: “I coordinate a large quilt or blanket with a receiving blanket (examples of just how creative our sewers are!) Then I choose two knitted hats and a cute homemade toy. Add in a burp cloth and a tiny washcloth for baby. A store-bought onesie and pair of socks get tucked in with a small card stating, ‘With love, from Thimble Bees of Wayzata Community Church.’ We hope a mom and newborn facing many hardships will feel joy when they receive this package through a social service organization serving their area. About once a month, 20 or more layettes are taken to such agencies. We were able to do this even when we were unable to meet at WCC.”

Recipients have also expressed their gratitude, as stated in one note: “Sending along to you much thanks and appreciation for the beautiful handmade items. Your generosity is heartwarming. It is obvious that each gift holds a hope and joy from you as love goes into each thing you make.”

Thanks to the creative thinking, dedication, and determination of its leaders and members, Thimble Bees continued its mission, despite the global pandemic. From September 2020 through March 2021, the group made and delivered 2,822 gifts—just 67 fewer than in 2018-2019!

From September 2020 through March 2021, the Thimble Bees made and delivered 2,822 gifts. Donations included:

- Hats, scarves and mittens for teens and young adults
- Layettes that contain quilts, clothing, toys and more for young mothers
- Wool hats for the military overseas
- Emergency overnight bags for foster children’s belongings
- Weighted blankets for special needs children
- Twiddle muffs for memory care adults and special needs children
- Prayer shawls and pocket prayer quilts
- Adult twin size quilts
- Chemotherapy hats and surgical drain pouches
- Comfort pillows and ice pack covers for use after breast biopsies or mastectomies
- Hats and blankets for babies in the NICU or nursery
- Lap robes for seniors and hospitalized patients
- Dishcloths and hot pads for food shelf baskets

Thimble Bees is sponsored by the Mission and Outreach Board and has over 50 members. All are welcome to participate in this fulfilling ministry including WCC members and nonmembers, all ages, and all skill levels. For further information, contact Kathy Smith at 612-964-3591 or ksmith3600@aol.com.

Leadership Transition

An Update on our next Pastoral Leader

Our Church Council authorized the formation of a Search Committee, and we are pleased to announce that committee has been formed and has already begun to meet. The committee is being led by Dick Minors, who served on the Search Committee that brought John Ross to WCC, and he brings a deep history of the church and great experience to this important role. Dick is being joined by a dedicated group of members, including Lydia Botham, Webb Friedly, John Hallberg, Brandon Moore, Chris Paulson, Lindy Purdy, Anne Sample and Rima Torgerson. We are confident that these members represent a broad cross section of our membership, with all ages and stages being represented on the committee. Please visit the Leadership Transition section of our website to meet each of the Search Committee members and learn more about their work.

The Church Council and the Search Committee are planning to engage a search firm to help identify and screen prospective candidates for this important role. There are a number of reasons why we believe this is the best approach:

- It will help us cast the net as wide as possible in recruiting qualified applicants;
- It will allow us to move more quickly – leveraging the search firm resources – AND reduce the burden on our volunteers;
- These are times of great staffing change within the larger church, and using a search firm will help the Committee stay close to the applicant market.

The Committee will also use the resources of the MN Conference of the UCC and our own clergy networks to attract applicants.

In a meeting last month, the Church Council voted unanimously to pursue a Co-Pastor model for WCC, with Rev. Danielle Jones as one of the Co-Pastor leaders.

This recommendation was made informed by several factors:

- In late 2020, John Ross and Danielle Jones had already begun to develop a Co-Leadership structure to move WCC forward; this structure builds on that good work.
- The strategic initiatives identified by the congregation in the Strategy Transformation work points to a Co-Pastor model as one way to better align clergy skills with church priorities.
- We are blessed to have, in Danielle Jones, a clergy leader who is respected by the staff, beloved by the congregation, and who is personally invested in and committed to this Co-Pastor model.

We have an FAQ page on the Leadership Transition webpage that may address any questions you have about the process.

Associate Pastor Search

The Associate Pastor Search Committee, led by Reid Shaw, has begun to screen applicants and will begin interviewing their top choices next month. They hope to have this new clergy member on board later this fall.

WE— members and staff— are the church, and we are blessed to have a growing staff and dedicated group of lay leaders and other volunteers who are helping to create the foundation for the continued growth of WCC.

Dough Grant Recipients

On Sunday, June 6, we celebrated Dough, our extraordinary mission initiative, met our grant winners, and heard their pitches live and in person!



Nancy Alvarado

Nancy Alvarado, Bricks to Bread International

Bricks to Bread partners with local organizations to support female entrepreneurs in rural Costa Rica with dreams of owning their own bakery and pizza businesses, provide fresh baked goods and bring communities together. The focus is on single household women seeking a sustainable source of income to combat poverty.

Melanie Leehy, Mocha Momma's Coffee

Mocha Momma's is a faith based driven venture that will both model and teach biblical principals and fruit of the spirit. Participants will thus be disciplined whilst they are gaining employment. Leadership staff will be individuals who can demonstrate grace, justice, and love even in challenging work situations. We desire to recruit Christian business personnel who want to be mentors to young adults.



Melanie Leehy



Carley Kammerer

Carley Kammerer, Wildflyer Coffee

Wildflyer Coffee exists to end youth homelessness by addressing the most significant barrier to stable housing – consistent employment. Youth experiencing homelessness struggle to get and keep jobs due to internal and external barriers intrinsic to homelessness. With consistent employment and income, and strong support from Wildflyer staff, youth are able to leave homelessness, breaking the pattern of cycling through programs and into adult services without gaining the traction necessary to break the cycle of homelessness.

Grace Berbig, Letters of Love

Letters of Love is a nonprofit organization with the goal of providing emotional support for patients in Children's Hospitals around the world. It has been recognized that child patients have not been receiving enough emotional support. We strive to make sure that each and every child fighting a serious illness knows that they are supported, loved, and have a whole team fighting right along with them.



Grace Berbig



Edith Perlin

Edith Perlin, Edith's House Inc.

Edith's House provides services to people who need support for their housing needs, characterized by its attention to individual experiences. The Edith's House team takes time to understand the specific situation and create a plan to establish a path to self-sufficiency, rooted in ministry and stabilization of housing. Once this basic need is addressed, a comprehensive plan to address employment, connection to required social services, and emotional support for continued success is created in order to set a clear path to self-reliance.

5th Grade Communion... Reimagined!

This year we created a whole new experience for our 5th graders and their parents in our Communion Milestone. Since we were still in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic, we saw the need to create new ways of connecting with our families, but still bring fun and meaningful content.

Instead of hosting the classes in person, Rev. John Ross and I recorded two class sessions for families to watch together at home. On the day of the class we all met on Zoom for an interactive icebreaker and introduction. Over 35 families joined in on the Zoom experience! After the games and fun, families were sent a link to the prerecorded video.

The third session was in person! Families gathered in distanced pods in our Sanctuary for a very meaningful communion experience together. Each family came forward, one at a time, to take communion together while Kraig Windschitl played beautiful hymns on the piano. At the end, each child received a hand-made beaded cross to help them remember this holy moment.

—Jodie Nyberg, Director of Children's Ministry

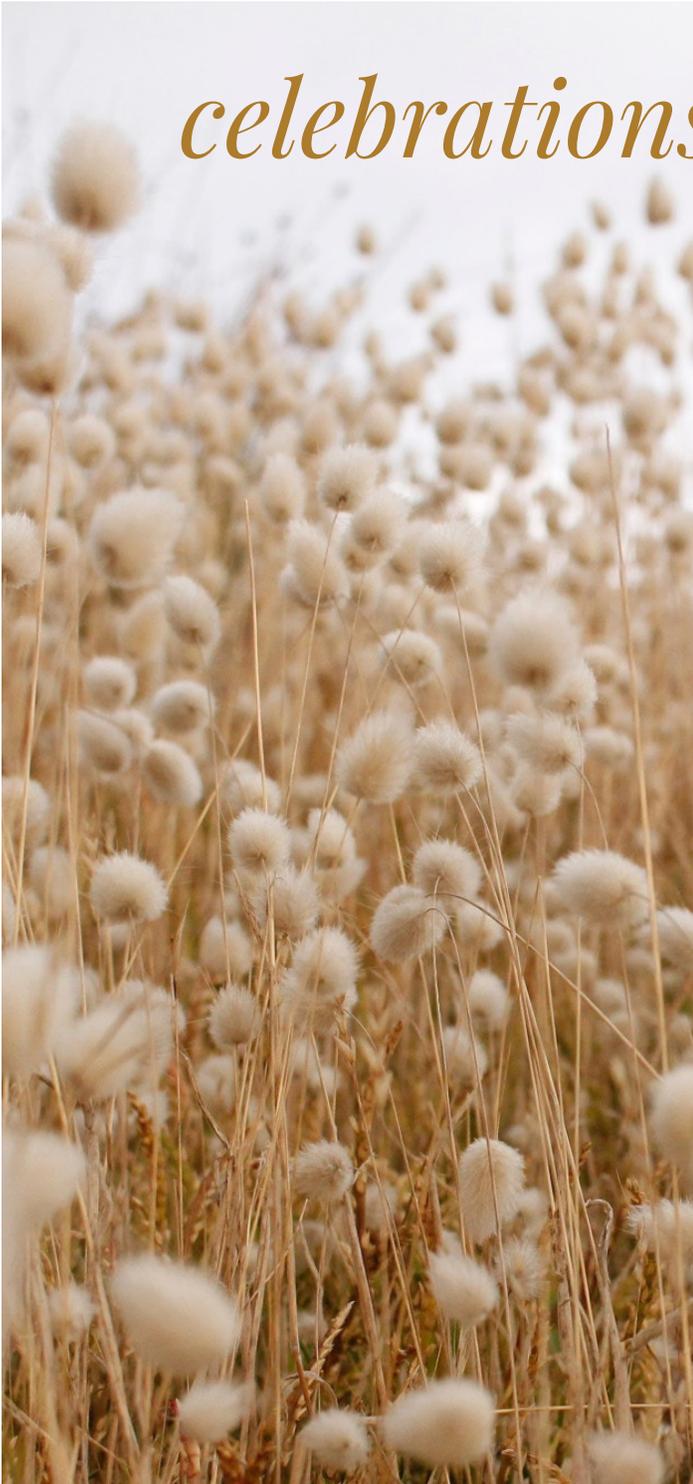


I was incredibly fortunate to receive a lung transplant in late 2020. Because the anti-rejection medication I take leaves me vulnerable to COVID-19 despite being vaccinated, our family has very limited social contact. So, I was happy that my daughter Gretta and I were able to experience the 5th-Grade Communion Milestones classes virtually. But even with the rigorous safety protocols in place, we were disappointed that we could not attend the 5th Grade Communion celebration in the Sanctuary.

So, when Jodie Nyberg and Danielle Jones offered to do an outdoor service to celebrate Gretta's first communion, we were thrilled! It was especially wonderful in the labyrinth in May with the blossoming apple tree, flowers, and fountain. The labyrinth is special to us because Danielle had conducted a memorial service there for us after my mom died. We still talk about releasing monarch butterflies in the labyrinth to honor my mom.

Danielle created the Communion service as a dialogue with Gretta, so personal and special. We had missed Danielle and Jodie during Covid, and I am so grateful that they had the flexibility and desire to help my daughter grow in her faith in a way that met our family's needs.

— WCC Member Gail Baumgart



celebrations & transitions

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

BAPTISMS

- Piper Laverian Carlson, daughter of David & Caci
- William Scot Schendel, son of Dillon & Anne
- Campbell Scott Murphy, son of Michael & Cally
- Charlie Barto Puskas, son of Jenny Patnode
- Miles George Massie, son of Robertson & Kelsey, grandson of John & Betsy Massie
- Ada Jean Boyer, daughter of Ryan & Lauren
- Scott Price Furnary, son of Scott & Laura, grandson of John & Betsy Massie
- James Bryant Landman, son of Sean & Sally, grandson of Deb & John Bryant
- Evelyn Rose Grinager, daughter of Nathan & Lauren
- Holly Mae Thornburg, daughter of Sterling and Meagan

CARES

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

DEATHS

- Mark Nebel and family on the death of his mother, Margaret Nebel, April 12.
- Marcia Hollis and family on the death of her husband, Bob Hollis, April 22.
- Sonja Knudsen and family on the death of her husband, Don Knudsen, May 6.
- Roger and Kathleen Patterson on the death of Roger's mother, Gertrude Patterson.
- Mary Webster and family on the death of Paul Webster, June 2.
- Tim Freeman and family on the death of his brother, Todd Freeman, June 5.
- Dave Tweet on the death of his wife Janice, June 13.
- Joel, Allie, and Megan Henley on the death of Betsy, June 30.
- The family and friends of Linda Wotipka, July 7.
- Bob Fisher on the death of his sister, Colleen, July 7.
- Joanne Reinquist and family on the death of her daughter-in-law, Jennifer Jorgens.
- Anne Cole on the death of her brother, Gary Koll, June 25.
- Stan Wiebe on the death of his brother.

Inspire Magazine

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**The
Rummage
Sale**
Wayzata
Community
Church

Ways we are serving this summer!

Our Rummage Sale summer activities have been postponed again, but we are at work trying to help our WCC family and neighbors with items that we can make available to those in need. We are also making nicer items available for sale through The Langdon in Mound, with great success. We hope to be able to help our graduating High School seniors with items they may need to set up for their first year of college. If any donors have gently used

dressers, desks, love seats or other items that would furnish a college dorm room or apartment, let the "A" team know by calling the Rummage Office. We will be working to make our 100th Sale in 2022 a memorable and magical experience for the Church and our guests. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Bill Boulware and join WCC's largest mission and service ministry.