inspire

WAYZATA COMMUNITY CHURCH

WINTER 2022

Tired Together

BY REV. ANDREA TATLEY
PASTORAL CARE MINISTER

"Dear God,
I am sad to inform you that the planet is on fire and there's a global pandemic that goes on and on and takes more and more from us. Haiti has been decimated once again and Afghanistan is looking doomed and last week some scientists said some pretty depressing stuff about our planet." — Nadia Bolz-Weber, August, 2021

Friends, as I write, I wonder how you are doing. Yes, you, the person reading this: how are you doing? On days when I find myself most tired, it helps to put on my boots or snowshoes and meander through the pines, even for a few minutes. Connecting with nature is a spiritual practice for me, so I am reminded how grateful I'd be if I went outside. At the same time, another part of me tries hard to give myself permission to relax and do nothing. Sometimes they get in a bit of an argument in my head.

We are responding to so much these days. As we enter year three of the pandemic, the same questions flood our minds: *Which mask to wear? Where are the surges? What are the hours at my favorite coffee shop that are always changing due to a lack of staffing? Should I book a flight to see my parents? Visit grandma in the nursing home?* And the news... no wonder we are running on empty.

We are living in a time never before experienced by those of us alive on this planet. Anxiety is high, grief is even higher. We have only so much reserve: all of this impacts our mental health.

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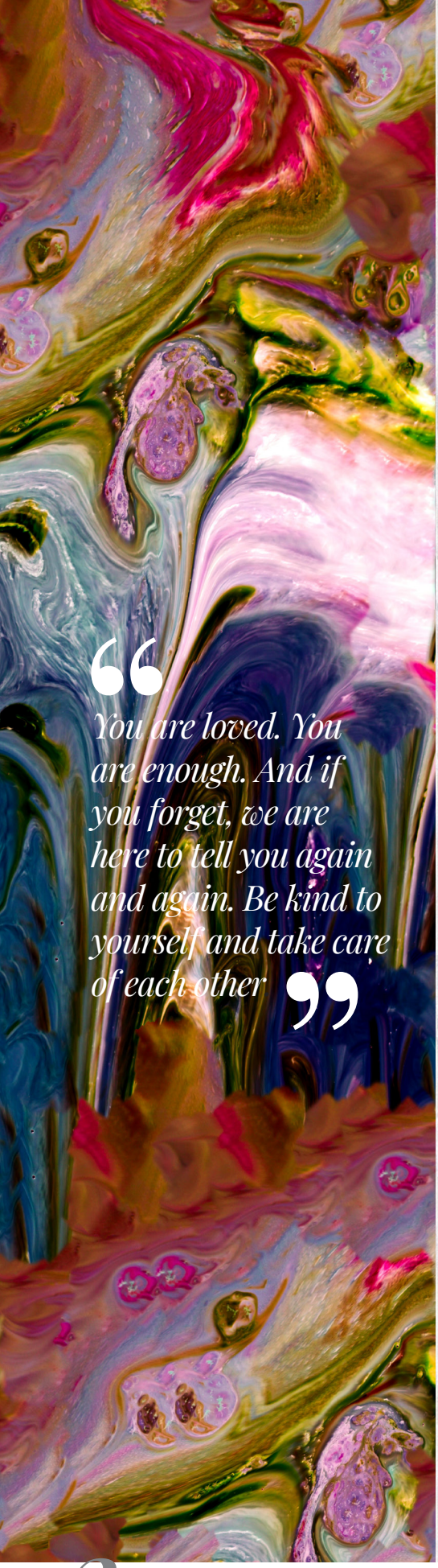

TIRED TOGETHER
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

There is reason it can feel as if we can no longer bear it.

If you find yourself grouchier than usual, lacking patience or focus... if you are eating more or eating less... being more talkative, or quiet... if you want to put your head under a blanket or find yourself deciding not to care about any of it... these sensations and many more can emerge from grief and loss.

It is ok to not be ok.

It is normal to have times when you don't want to care about anything, but deeply care about everything. We are pulled and pushed in multiple directions and if honest, what we want is peace.

Here are a few recommendations:

- **Pay attention to changes you notice in your life.** Remember grief shows up in many forms. (See above)
- **Grief and loss are part of life** and are a normal human experience. Allow yourself to feel your feelings. Offer yourself generosity and compassion.
- **Be honest with a loved one about how you are feeling.** We live in a culture which reminds us (daily) to look good on the outside, even if we feel like a train wreck on the inside. As tempting as it may be, don't buy into that mantra. Share what is going on inside you with someone you trust. We are ALL feeling these things.
- **Don't go it alone**. Community comes in the form of friends, family (by birth or by choice), or one of the phone numbers below.

Most importantly: you are loved. You are enough. And if you forget, we are here to tell you again and again. Be kind to yourself and take care of each other.

Mental Health Phone Numbers

- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800 273-TALK (8255)
- RAINN, Rape Assault Incest National Network 1-800- 656-4673
- Mental Health Connect 612-312-3377
- Relate Counseling Center 952-932-7277
- NAMI Minnesota 651-645-2948

Mental Health Crisis by County:

- Carver 952-442-7601
- Dakota 952-891-7171
- Hennepin - Adults 612-596-1223
  Children - 612 348-2233
- Ramsey 651-266-7900
- Wright - 1-800-635-8008

Wayzata Community Church

- Pastoral Care Line 952-473-8877

A Holy Longing

REV. DANIELLE JONES
ACTING SENIOR MINISTER

As we continue to journey together, I am aware of the longing and waiting that persists in this season of our lives. A "real" Minnesota winter, a spike in the pandemic, and leadership transitions are all long and winding roads that can leave us tired and a bit weary.

In these months of waiting, we long for connection, we long for a clear path forward, and we long for simple answers to complex questions. The longing of this season of our lives is a longing that at its worst wears us out and at its best points us back to God.

This longing we feel is not just about wanting to have our circumstances change, it is a Holy Longing. It is the same holy longing the people of God have experienced all throughout human history. We wish God would work faster and bend the future to our preferences. But the truth is, we are most shaped in the waiting and the longing when we can let it be what it is and find God here.

We were not created to find God by ourselves; we are created for community and Wayzata Community Church is a community centered on Love.

I have long loved a poem by Teilhard de Chardin called "The Slow Work of God". It starts like this,

> *"Above all, trust in the slow work of God. We are quite naturally impatient in everything to reach the end without delay. We like to skip to the intermediate stages. We are impatient of being on the way to something unknown, something new... Give Our Lord the benefit of believing that his hand is leading you, and accept the anxiety of feeling yourself in suspense and incomplete."*

As we continue to wait and long for new beginnings it is important to notice the slow work of God within us and around us. Community is the best place to wait. We were not created to find God by ourselves; we are created for community and Wayzata Community Church is a community centered on Love. We wait better together. So come back to worship, sign up for a class, join in a service project, or visit the prayer room on a Sunday morning for a moment of peace and prayer. Together we can look for God in the waiting.

Although these days can feel endless, they too will pass and we don't want to miss what God is teaching us through our longing and waiting. May we look for God in this unique season of our lives and uncover the slow work that is happening among us for the sake of joining God there and waiting with hope.

The Slow Work of God

Teilhard de Chardin

Above all, trust in the slow work of God.
We are quite naturally impatient in everything to reach the end without delay.
We should like to skip the intermediate stages.
We are impatient of being on the way to something unknown, something new.

And yet it is the law of all progress that it is made by passing through some stages of instability—
and that it may take a very long time.

And so I think it is with you;
your ideas mature gradually—
let them grow,
let them shape themselves,
without undue haste.
Don't try to force them on,
as though you could be today what time (that is to say,
grace and circumstances acting on your own good will)
will make of you tomorrow.

Only God could say what this new spirit
gradually forming within you will be.
Give Our Lord the benefit of believing
that his hand is leading you,
and accept the anxiety of feeling yourself
in suspense and incomplete.

the journey of Lent

REV. DAN STARK

Lenten Devotional Writing Workshop with Rev. Dan Stark
Wednesdays
February 2, 9, 16 & 23
4:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.
in the Colonnade

This Lent our Daily Lenten Devotions will be written by members of our congregation— like you! Join Dan Stark for a creative writing workshop that will focus on Lenten themes. Each week, Dan will teach on a specific scripture and theme that is connected to Lent and then the group will spend time practicing writing creative reflections on those themes together. No writing experience necessary! This is a chance to learn, reflect, write, and grow in new and creative ways.

Register for this class on our website at wayzatacommunitychurch.org/winterregistration

Dear Church,
We will soon begin the season of Lent together on Ash Wednesday. The moment the ashes are smudged on our foreheads or on our hands — we will inch closer to the cross every week. Just as Advent took us on a voyage from darkness to light, Lent also takes us on a journey. However, it's more of a spiritual rollercoaster from Jesus' baptism to his last days on earth. Christ's march to his death brings us to a deep and dark place before the stone is rolled away and the tomb is laid bare on Easter Sunday.

The Lenten season tends to make us ponder about the cost of Christian discipleship. Many Christians take on the spiritual practice of "giving up" certain creature comforts to reflect the forty days Jesus was tempted in the wilderness. We might refrain from drinking coffee or eating chocolate or meat. We may decide to do a "social media sabbath" or limit our screen-time. There are a lot of things you could (or should) give up.
On the other hand, Christians can also "take on" practices to put their spiritual muscles to work. You could begin a practice of reading scripture or praying for someone each day. Perhaps you might decide to take on a stewardship practice and give your time, talents, energy, or resources to people in need. You could also take time to dwell with God's Word through intentional study and writing.

This February I am offering a class on several major Lenten themes. The hope is that we can do a deep dive into Bible passages and learn to do thoughtful and creative written responses to them. If you are looking for a spiritual practice to take on in preparation for Lent, I hope you will join me on Wednesday nights in the Colonnade for our creative devotion writing class.

Whatever the case may be for you and your family, I pray that Lent may be a time for contemplation, growth, and renewal for you. Before we get to Easter Sunday, we must journey through the darkness together to the light. I invite you to join me by taking on the spiritual practice of reflecting on the Word as we face into this journey from the wilderness to the cross and the empty tomb together.

Blessings,
Dan

Donor Advised Funds

A Growing (and Easy) Way to Support Wayzata Community Church

By John Hallberg, Vice Moderator

When Danielle Jones welcomed our latest group of new members in worship last month, she reminded us about the three pillars of membership at WCC – Grace, Growth, and Generosity. Our most recent pledge campaign is one of the many ways our members show their generosity in support of our church. We are also blessed by the hundreds of members who give their time and talent in support of our many ministries and of each other.

One fast-growing way to provide financial support to our church and other charitable institutions is through a Donor Advised Fund (DAF). A Donor-Advised Fund is a philanthropic giving vehicle that provides an immediate tax benefit to you, and allows you to recommend grants to your favorite charities over time. These funds have been around since the 1930's but were codified in the Tax Code with Pension Protection Act of 2006. DAFs are easy to set up and manage and allow donors to make large charitable contributions that are earmarked for charity, to be given immediately or in the future. Donors distributing funds from their DAFs grew 27% in 2020 to nearly $35 billion. In a recent article in The Wall Street Journal, it was noted that in 2020 the payout rate from DAFs was 23.8%, the highest rate on record.

When you donate to your DAF, you receive an immediate tax deduction. Gifts can then be made to any qualifying organization in your name or anonymously, either immediately or in the future. Many donors use a DAF to "front-load" charitable giving to support philanthropy through retirement or even future generations.

Did You Know?

Three Ways to make a gift to WCC from your Donor Advised Fund

- Recommend a one-time grant from your DAF by contacting your fund administrator, or by initiating a grant online from your DAF website.
- Set up a recurring grant from your DAF by contacting your fund administrator. You can choose how frequently the automated grants will occur.
- Name Wayzata Community Church as a beneficiary of your DAF. You can help continue the ministries of WCC after your lifetime by naming WCC as a beneficiary of your DAF. Simply contact your fund administrator to do so.

DAFs are also one of the easiest ways to transfer appreciated securities to charity and avoid paying capital gains tax. With equity markets at record levels in recent weeks and tax increases likely on the horizon, DAFs are becoming a more attractive way to give.

Charles Schwab, Fidelity Investments, and Vanguard Group all offer low-fee DAFs, which can be a great option for donors who know how they want to distribute their charitable dollars. All offer a broad range of investment options, and any investment gains within the DAF are tax-free. You can consult with your financial adviser on the best option for you.

No matter how or when you give, thank you for your generous support of Wayzata Community Church. Your gifts matter.

THE 2021 SLEEP OUT

I've been curious about The Sleep Out for a long time, often seeing the huge yellow tent outside Interfaith Outreach around the holidays and hearing about people raising money around church. A few years ago, my older brother did The Sleep Out with the Middle School program here at church. From his perspective, I learned how fun it was and I really looked forward to participating in it myself. So of course I said "yes!" when my mom asked me if I wanted to do it this year.

I was so excited to hang out with friends, spend time at the church and sleep outside in a box! I soon realized I was in for a lot more than fun. When we got to church, we decorated our boxes, using markers and glow sticks and lots of other fun decorations. Then we went to IOCP with Steven Olan, adult leaders, and all the middle schoolers. There were food trucks and hot chocolate. There was even a bonfire to roast marshmallows. It was so great! Soon, everyone gathered around this huge screen. Some IOCP workers and volunteers shared messages about their goals for the coming year, and it started to make me realize how important IOCP is, and that what they do truly matters and makes a difference in our community.

People across the world sleep outside every night without these fun boxes, sleeping bags, and warm clothes designed for subzero weather. People in our community may have a hard time paying rent, getting a job, or getting and paying for childcare, especially after the pandemic. While we were bonding and having fun, I also realized how important it is to share our gifts, time, and money to help support IOCP and all the people with whom we share this community.

After we enjoyed some s'mores, we headed home to the church. We all got in a circle and Steven, our amazing Middle School director, asked us to go around and say something we are thankful for. I am really thankful for everything in life, but mostly my home and my family. My experience learning about the many ways IOCP helps others (affordable housing, job transition, community connections, tutoring, etc.) served as a reminder for this. I listened to what everyone said as we went around, and I thought "what if people like me don't have a home and family they can be thankful for?" All I wanted to do at that moment was to make sure everyone had a home.

Later, we set up our boxes outside. I started getting really nervous. It was cold, and it was dark. We got into our boxes and everyone said goodnight. I remember it was pitch black outside and inside our box. I couldn't see anything. I heard cars outside and maybe some owls, but I couldn't see anything. I finally fell asleep and woke up really early to see the sun shining super bright. All I could remember about the night before was that it was so dark. But I woke up to pure light. It reminds me of how when we are sad, or mad, and feel like we are in psure darkness, God makes our days lighter and fills us up from within. The Sleep Out has taught me many things: we are all children of God, we need to do Jesus' work here on Earth, and mostly that God always brings light to us, no matter what.

BY MCLEAN ROEDER
WCC MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT

HIGH SCHOOL + ALUM

TURKEY BOWL!

For many families at WCC, Thanksgiving break is synonymous with the "Turkey Bowl". After a one-year hiatus, due to the pandemic, the Turkey Bowl returned on November 24.

It was bitter cold, but the excitement of being together again warmed many hearts — at least for a bit! This year, the tradition had a new twist. WCC Camp Staff were our emcees, and of course, they rocked it! The competition was fierce for many, and the senior class uniforms were cold to look at, but they survived... wearing only shorts and crop tops!

Both past and present High School leaders brought their amazing selves to the field, creating energy and competition like no other. I hear a few may have regretted it the next day as they tried to move about and had to give in to a nap after their turkey dinner. However, after a rest and a slice of pie, the WCC community and the strength of their relationships here already have them planning for next year's Turkey Bowl!

After our game, dinner, and awards — including the new and now infamous Nierman trophy — the fun continued at the after-party in the Loft, led by the High School Band, which included returning college freshmen, and they rocked it! Thanks for being a part of this year's Turkey Bowl!

—Molly Schroeder, High School Ministry Director

GENEROSITY 2022

We are grateful to everyone who has pledged for 2022 in support of the ministries of Wayzata Community Church. Our 2022 Generosity Campaign theme this year is "Wherever you are on your faith journey, your gift matters." Our church community continues to show how, when we give, we inspire the world with the inclusive love of Jesus! If you haven't pledged yet, it's not too late. Just go to WCCpledge.org. THANK YOU! The pledges listed here reflect those received by December 31, 2021.

Kari and Joseph Abood
Judy Adams
Sara and Erik Ahlquist
Sue and Tom Alexander
Brad and Lori Alexander
Beth Almquist
Susan Anacker
Paul and Marilyn Anderson
Gillian Jeffy-Anderson and Michael Anderson
Jocelyn and Jay Anderson
Mike and Vicki Anderson
Mike and Sandy Andert
Erika Andrade
Carolyn Arnebeck
Andy and Jamie Arola
Jim Jensen and Laura Babcock
Merlin and Carol Bachellor
Bill and Jeanette Bachellor
Marilyn and Bob Backlund
Bruce and Betty Bacon
Nancy Bacon
Betty Baggott
John and Patty Bailey
Richard and Joan Baker
Ralph and Monica Ballard
Bill and Ellie Bathe
Jeff and Tracy Baumer
Shirley Baxter
Mark Bayley
Bob and Jane Beach
Jake and Nan Beard
Ron and Joyce Beauchane
Alex and Melissa Becker
Tim and Marie Becker
Rita and Marty Beckman
Bruce and Mary Beckman
Nancy Benedict
Ellisun Benedict
Bryan Benedict
Gary Orris and Susan Bennett
Deborah Benson
Carol and Richard Bergenstal
Nicole Bergeron
Kathryn Beste
Donald and Deborah Bierbaum
Jeanne and Kullen Birkeland
Steve and Shari Bjorklund
Beverly Blomberg
Dennis and Mari-Ellen Bobel
Lisa Boes
Kay Boorsma
Tanja Borchardt
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Les and Lezlie Bork
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Sondra Braden
William and Lisa Brann
Cara and Glen Broich
Karen and Doug Bros
Tony and Catherine Brown
Matt and Margaret Buechel
Doug and Natalie Bullinger
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Marnie Buratto
Mark Stein and Tracy Burlow
Georgia and Tom Burton
Tracy and Tom Busyn
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Carla and Dave Carlson
Harriet Carlson
Rich and Robin Carlson
Geri Carlson
Russell and Diane Carlson
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Beth and Nels Carlson
Flip and Gina Carlson
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Nancy Caswell
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John Estrem and Lisette Chapman
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Christen and Marc Christopherson
Mary Clinton
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Lynn and Jeff Colyer
Ben and Karen Cooper
Judy and Dick Corson
Donna May Cox
Jim and Nancy Cox
Anne Creed
Barbara and Paul Cross
Flip and Gayle Crummer
Angie and Ross Dahlof
Alan and Sarah Dale
Chris and Lynn Dale
Darrel and Jo Damhof
Wendy and Jeff Dankey
Belle Davenport
Sandy and Tom Davis
Caryn Schall and Jeff Davis
Karin and Ken Dayton
Jacquelyn Dekoning
Bob and Judy DeRoma
James and Marlene Doak
Pat Doan
Peggy Douglas
Bonnie Dowsett
Rod and Karen Dummer
Tad and Lorie Dyrdahl
Amy and Alex Edwards
Jan Eickhoff
Sandra and Dean Eldred
Betsy Ellgren
Lynn and Mary Endorf
Charlotte and Paul Englund
Jon and Allison Errickson
Amanda and Mark Escen
Sandy and Carol Evans
Stephen and Bev Ewing
Wayne and Elizabeth Fadden
Steve and Marcey Fahrenholtz
Jeffrey and Rhonda Farran
Elizabeth and Andy Fazendin
Andrea and Ben Fazendin
Diane and Bruce Feist
Eleanor Ferrill
Michael and Julia Fink
Sue Fink
Anne Finn
Sheri Fischer
Bob and Terrisa Fisher
Melissa Fogelberg
Daniel and Emily Forbes
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Barb Fordyce
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GENEROSITY 2022

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Inez Gantz
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Sharon Gay
Heather and Parker Gay
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Bette Johnson
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Autumn and Chris Toussaint
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Ron and Jacki Troxel
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Molly Whitman
Susan and Chad Wichmann
Barbara and Lawrence Wiken
Matthew and Devin Wilcox
Jennifer and Rob Wilder
Dave and Marion Williams
Elena Wilsey
Thomas and Jen Wilson
Richard and Stephanie Wing
Matt and Jenny Wocken
Dana Wood
John and Kristina Woodburn
Kirt and Nicole Woodhouse
Scott and Joyce Woolery
Jim and Kathy Wyman
Chris Yarger
Mary Yokiel
Gene and Karen Zaske
Marilyn Zastrow
Robb and Jennifer Zavitz
Michael and Jennifer Zechmeister
David and Kathleen Zenk
Jim Zimmerman

celebrations & transitions

BAPTISMS

- Brooks David Ford, son of Chris & Melissa Ford
- Anhthi Ngo Tran
- Audrey Hoa Tran, daughter of Brandee and Anhthi Hoa
- Earl Allen Mazorol V, son of Earl & Gina Mazorol
- Maddex Christopher Crow, son of Christopher & Kelly Crow
- Maya Lea Wocken, daughter of Matthew & Jenny Wocken
- Georgia Anne Zawicki, daughter of Thomas & Paige Zawicki
- Lila Van Brunt, daughter of Peter & Delaney Van Brunt, grandchild of Bill & Gail Van Brunt
- Jackson Van Brunt, son of Peter & Delaney Van Brunt, grandchild of Bill & Gail Van Brunt
- Keegan Xavier Cain, son of Patrick & Shannon Cain
- Isabell Georgia Kelley, daughter of Kyle & Lauren Kelley, granddaughter of Jim & Georgia Thompson
- Camden James Thompson, son of Christopher Thompson & Rebecca Sloat, grandson of Jim & Georgia Thompson
- Zachary Skeet Bollom, son of Todd and Debra Bollom

CARES

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

DEATHS

- Judy and Kelly Pederson on the death of John Holt Pederson.
- Patricia Holmes on the death of her husband, Shed Holmes.
- Family and friends of William Hubbard IV.
- Peter Bailey and family on the death of Leah Bailey.
- Dena Naylor and family on the death of Al Naylor.
- Family and friends of Diana Lee Lucker, longtime organist of WCC.
- Kristen and Bruce Jeide and family on the death of her father, Rev. Arthur Rouner.
- Judy and Warren Pillsbury on the death of their son, John Warren Pillsbury.

Inspire Magazine

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Editor: Cami Farley
cfarley@wayzatacommunitychurch.org
Design: Marnie Baehr
mbaehr@wayzatacommunitychurch.org

WAYZATA COMMUNITY CHURCH
125 Wayzata Boulevard East
Wayzata, MN 55391

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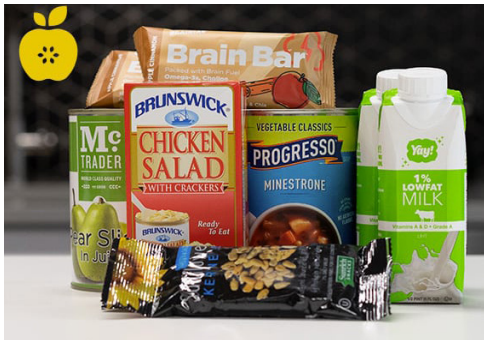
PERIODICAL TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL

Serving

EVERY MEAL



EVERY MEAL SERVICE PROJECT

Every Friday at Fair Oaks Elementary School in Minneapolis

300,000 kids in Minnesota live in food insecurity. WCC recently began partnering with Every Meal, an organization that works to fight child hunger. WCC volunteers are needed to discreetly place a bag of food into children's backpacks at Fair Oaks Elementary school each Friday. These bags of food provides meals for families on the weekends when kids don't have access to school free lunch programs. If you are interested in volunteering for a Friday packing date, please contact Dean Johnson at deanromness@gmail.com.