



Council of Bishops
The United Methodist Church



United Methodist Church Bishops Condemn Violence in Minnesota

The bishops of The United Methodist Church have released a statement calling for peace, justice, and prayer in response to what's happening in Minnesota and beyond: "As followers of Jesus, we're reminded that when one part of the body suffers, we all suffer. We invite you to read and reflect on this important message."

[Article Link](#)



WHITE BEAR LAKE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Nourishing the Hungers of Life

WEEKLY NEWS & UPDATES FROM WBLUMC | Thursday, January 29, 2026

Sunday Worship | February 1, 2026

Through February 15, 2026

Christian Symbols

- 9am & 10:45am IN-PERSON
- 10am CHURCH ONLINE

Every symbol tells a story.

Join us as we explore the cross, the dove, the fish, and other powerful images that have illustrated our Christian faith for centuries.

Discover what these symbols reveal, how they deepen our discipleship, and invite us into a richer visual tapestry of our faith.

In-person worship 9am Traditions & 10:45am New Crossings

Christian Symbols: Bread & Wine
1 Corinthians 11:23-26 | Pastor Chris Kneen

Every symbol tells a story. Join us as we explore the cross, the dove, the fish and other powerful images that have illustrated our Christian faith for centuries. Discover what these symbols reveal, how they deepen our discipleship, and invite us into a richer visual tapestry of our faith. All are welcome! Church online continues weekly at 10am.

Church Online

Weekly online worship is available early Sunday mornings on [YouTube](#).

You can also watch via the church website by using the [Church Online](#) button.

Our [Facebook](#) premiere with live chat is every Sunday at 10am. Please share the service so more people can join us!

Ministry Minute Video:

9am bulletin

10:45am bulletin

Our Jan. 25 video was on our Adult Faith Formation (AFF) group. To view the video, please click [here!](#)

You may view all other videos on our [YouTube channel](#).

The YouVersion Bible App

This is a free, popular mobile and web platform for reading, listening to, and sharing the Bible, offering thousands of versions and languages, customizable features (highlights, notes), reading plans, devotionals, and social sharing with friends to foster faith communities. Key features include audio Bibles, offline access, verse of the day, prayer tools, and community features to engage with Scripture together.

For people interested you can download the YouVersion Bible App through the store on your mobile device or through the button below.

Then join Pastor Chris by signing up for the class, "I Choose Peace" by Chip Ingram.

If you need help downloading the App and/or signing up for the class please ask Pastor Chris or Pastor Christine for help.

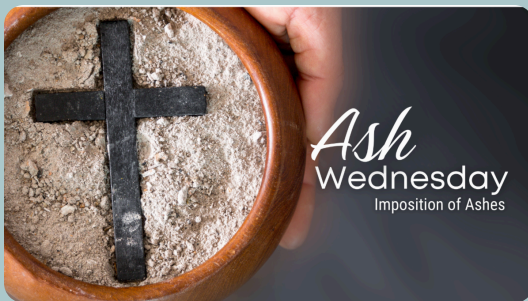
[Download the YouVersion Bible App](#)

Sunday School

Sunday school is available during the 9am service for kids 3 years old and up.

Nursery is open for infants to 3-year-olds during this week's 10am service. On most Sunday's it's open during both 9am and 10:45am worship.

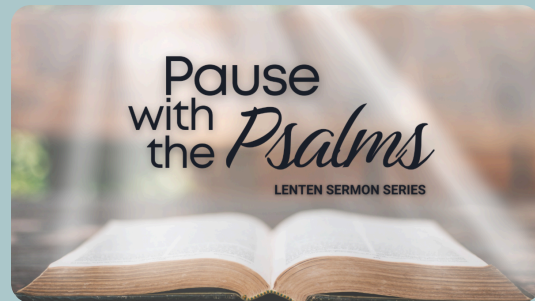
Coming up in Worship



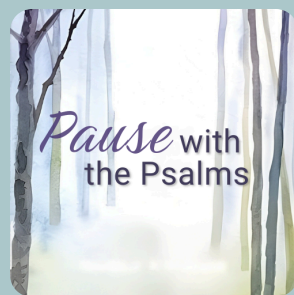
Wednesday, February 18: Let us begin our Lenten journey together at 7pm for a youth led in-person worship with the imposition of ashes.

Our Ash Wednesday online service premieres at noon on Church Online, the service is also available on YouTube.

[CLICK HERE](#) to check out the online calendar for Holy Week 2026.



Starting Sunday, February 22: This Lent, we invite you into the ancient poetry of the Psalms. Together, we'll explore how these sacred texts still speak to our lives today-naming suffering honestly, imagining a more compassionate world, and discovering a spirituality that embraces both lament and joy. The Psalms give us permission to bring our whole selves before God: our questions, our justice-longing, our weariness, and our hope. Come be inspired on Sundays, February 22-April 5.



Lenten Study: Pause with the Psalms

Come pause with a Psalm this Lenten season with Pastor Christine Ford during this 6-week class on Tuesdays during Lent. We will be using the book **Pause** by Elizabeth F. Caldwell to delve deeper into the rich theology reflected in these ancient Hebrew songs.

This class will meet weekly at **2:00pm** starting **Tuesday, Feb. 24** and run through **March 31**. Participants are encouraged to purchase their own copy of the book, as it will enhance our shared study. To secure your spot, please **click the image to register**. You may also sign up in the narthex or by contacting the church office.

Children & Youth

Sunday School: Wedding at Cana

We will be learning about Jesus's first public miracle, the power of suggestion, and the importance of joy, abundance, and celebration in your life.

Good Earth Village Camp, June 21-26

Our next parent and grandparent info session is **Sun., Feb. 22, in room 200 at 10:10am** (between services).



Receive 10% off through March 1st. Siblings receive 25% off while space is available. To receive WBLUMC scholarship, attendance is mandatory for new families. If you have questions, please [email Joan Hartman](#), Next Generation Minister.



Confirmation & Beyond

If your student is in middle school or high school, they are welcome to join us on Wednesday evenings. We study scripture, share ideas, cook, eat, play, and go on field trips. Check the church calendar for the schedule.



- **Jan 28:** Students will learn about Handbells alongside the Alleluia Ringers,
- **Feb 4:** Rehearse Ash Wednesday Service,
- **Feb 11:** Feed My Starving Children & Dinner Out (4-8pm). Join us at Feed My Starving Children! Confirmation travels to Coon Rapids site on February 11th and then out to dinner. [Contact Pastor Chris](#) if you can help drive; leave church at 4pm and return at 8pm. We're a fun group!
- **Feb 18:** Lead Ash Wednesday Service

If you have questions, please [email Joan Hartman](#), Next Generation Minister. Our [google calendar](#) is updated through February.

Ringin' it on!

The youth had a wonderful time working with the handbell choir last night, and the musicians were amazed at how quickly the students learned. The handbell choir greatly enjoyed the opportunity to spend meaningful, face-to-face time with the youth.



Thank you to all who made this experience possible. This was a generous investment in our young people, and we are blessed to have musicians who value time spent guiding and sharing with them.

Connections

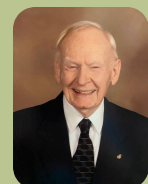
TONIGHT! Ask a Pastor (almost) Anything:

Join us **tonight at 6:30pm** in Fellowship Hall as Pastor Chris and Christine answer as many questions as possible...about the bible, the church, and worship. Coffee and desserts provided!



In Memoriam

John Kenyon, longtime WBLUMC member, died on Sunday, Jan. 11, at the age of 91. A celebration of life will be held at **2pm, Sat., Jan. 31, 2026** here at the church. Visitation with family beginning at 1pm; ice cream social to follow the service. You may read his obituary by



Rainbow Families

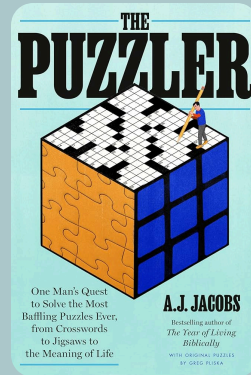


Are you the parent or grandparent of a member of the LGBTQ community? Join us for conversation and fellowship on **Thurs., Feb. 5 at 6pm** in the church library. Questions? Contact [LuAnn Roberts](#) or 218-590-6424.

February Reading

The title for February is *The Puzzler: One Man's Quest to Solve the Most Baffling Puzzles Ever, from Crosswords to Jigsaws to the Meaning of Life* by A.J. Jacobs. We'll meet on **Monday, Feb. 23, 7-8:15pm**; meet in person in room 200 or via Zoom. Please [email Rick Flynn](#) for the Zoom link. Everyone is welcome!

Click [HERE](#) to learn more about WBLUMC's Book Club and to view the full year's reading list with synopses.



Volunteer at Solid Ground

If you enjoy working with kids, you may be interested in these Solid Ground volunteer opportunities at their East Metro Place facility on Century Avenue in White Bear Lake.

TUTORING: Solid Ground's Tutoring program matches you 1:1 with a student in grades K-8 who lives in our East Metro Place facility. You'll work with your student

on homework help and learning enrichment each week. (Materials supplied) Volunteers are needed to serve at least one hour per week (or more if desired) over the course of a school semester.

Times needed are Mondays-Wednesdays, 3:15-4:15 pm & 4:30-5:30.

ARTS AND CRAFTS: Help with staff-provided arts and craft activities for kids ages 1-9 at the Little Sparks after-school program. **Thursdays and Fridays 3:15-5:30.** Choose a regular time commitment that works for you.

With questions or to sign up, [email Dylan McDonough](#) or call him at 651-846-9024. You may also sign up directly on their volunteer website by clicking on the Solid Ground logo above.

clicking on his photo. Please keep John's family in your prayers.

Church Calendar

What's Happening at Our Church?
Stay up to date with parish meetings, events, and activities. To see our updated online calendar, click on the Church Calendar button!

[Church Calendar](#)

February Committee Meetings

Below are the February meeting dates for elected church committees, in addition to the volunteer Worship Committee.

Thurs., Feb. 5: Staff-Parish Relations Committee, 2:30pm in rom. 206.

Mon., Feb. 9: Worship Committee Mtg., 5:30pm, library

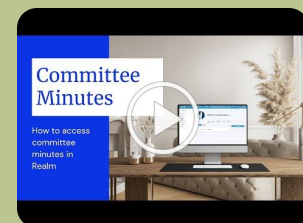
Tues., Feb. 10: Trustees Committee, 6:30pm, rm. 200

Thurs., Feb. 12: Finance Committee, 7pm, rm. 200

Thurs., Feb 19: Church Council Mtg., 6:30pm, rm. 200

All committees are being asked to provide minutes, and we now have a [Realm link](#) for the congregation to access this information.

Click the video below to learn how to view all minutes that are available!



A note from Peteria's desk...

I want to celebrate this beautiful group of faithful women from **Dorcas Circle**, who spend their time making cards for our homebound and sick members. At 70 & 80+ years young, they are still quietly and lovingly serving—reminding us that God's work takes many forms.

I truly believe God calls each of us to care for one another in different ways. Some are called to pray fervently. Some are called to protest peacefully. Some are called to volunteer at the food shelf. Some are called to offer words of encouragement and kindness to everyone they meet.

The question isn't how others are responding—it's: How is God calling you to respond?

There's no need to feel "less brave" or "less faithful" because your calling looks different. We each have unique, God-



Interested in joining Dorcas Circle?

Dorcas Circle focuses on projects involving service to others, along with spiritual growth, fellowship, and learning about the root causes

given gifts and talents. As Scripture reminds us:

*"The foot cannot say, 'Because I am not a hand,
I do not belong to the body.'" (1 Corinthians 12:15)*

Thank you, Dorcas Circle, for showing us what quiet, faithful love looks like.

~Peteria Cochran Routt
Digital Minister & Director of Handbells

of conditions particularly harmful to women, children and youth in our world today.

Watch for monthly announcements about current programs. Any woman in church is invited to attend. When a speaker is hosted, all are welcome.

Meetings are the second Wednesday of the month from 10:00am - 12noon, September - May.

Free Piano – Conover Baby Grand (As Is):

Our church is giving away a well-loved Conover Baby Grand Piano. While it is past its prime for performances, it would make an excellent practice piano. The piano is offered as is and moving and transport are the responsibility of the recipient. If interested, please contact:

[Jim Lindner](#), Director of Operations, or 651-429-9026.



WHITE BEAR LAKE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH | 651-429-9026 | wblumc.org
General email: office@wblumc.org | OFFICE HOURS: 9am-1pm M, T, W, Th
Pastor Chris Kneen email: christopher.kneen@wblumc.org



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