



WHITE BEAR LAKE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Nourishing the Hungers of Life

WEEKLY NEWS & UPDATES FROM WBLUMC | Thursday, February 5, 2026

Sunday Worship | February 8, 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

Church online continues weekly at 10am.

Christian Symbols: The Dove
Mark 1:1-11 | Pastor Christine Ford

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!

[9am bulletin](#)

[10:45am bulletin](#)

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!

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.

Ministry Minute Video

Our Feb. 1 video was on our Dorcas Circle group. To view the video, please click [here!](#)

You may view all other Ministry Minute videos on this [playlist](#).

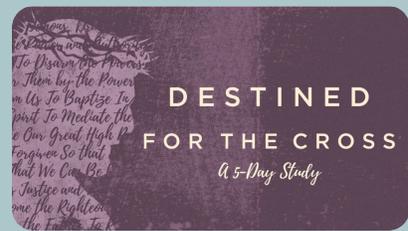
The YouVersion Bible App

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.

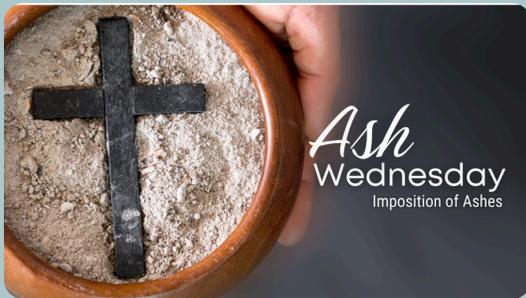
Then join Pastor Chris for "Destined for the Cross," a 5-day study exploring the single most central aspect of Christianity: Jesus Christ and His death on the cross.

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](#)

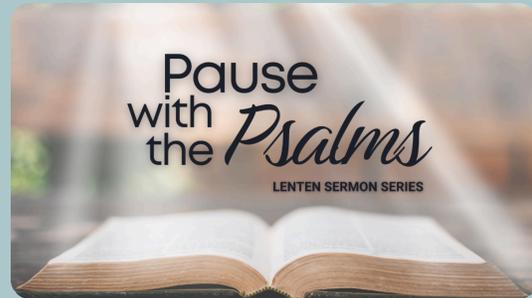
Coming up in Worship



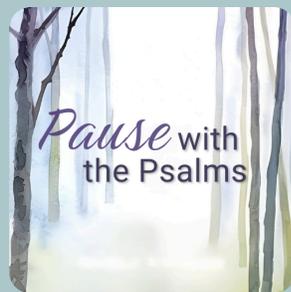
Wednesday, February 18: Let us begin our Lenten journey together at 7pm for a youth led in-person worship with the imposition of ashes.

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.



- **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.

Connections

Coffee Gathering for Widows & Widowers

Our next coffee gathering is on **Thurs., Feb. 19** at 9:30am in the library. All are welcome, regardless of how long you have been widowed. If you have any questions or need more information, please feel free to reach out to Karen Fairchild at 651-426-4725.



Green Team Tip

Ramsey, Washington, and Hennepin Counties are sponsoring a **February Plastic-Free Challenge**. Participants can choose a one-time or daily action to reduce plastic use throughout the month.

You can click in the link below to learn more and choose your own one-time or daily action for the month. Example action: "I will avoid buying toxic plastics—#3, #6, and #7."

Learn more and sign up here: [TC Plastic Free Eco Challenge](#)



Order Easter Flowers

Help beautify the sanctuary this Easter and honor or remember a loved one, family member or friend; dedications will be published Easter Sunday. Stop by the board in the narthex or outside the office to pick up your Easter Flower order form! All orders are

due by **Sun., Feb. 22**. If you have questions, please [email MaryEllen Calderwood](#) or call her at 612-720-4733. [Click on the photo for a PDF of the order form that you can print and fill out.](#)

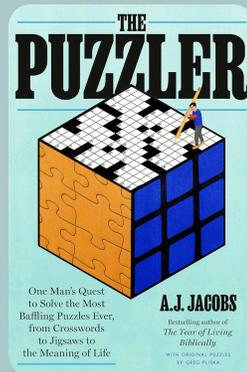
Church Calendar

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 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.

February Committee Meetings

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

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



Save the Date: Feb. 26 - Global Food & Fellowship is back!

Click on the photo to reserve your spot for dinner and conversation at [Red Luna](#)

Seasons Restaurant (114 Mahtomedi Ave., Mahtomedi) on **Thurs., Feb. 26, at 5:30pm**. These dinners support local restaurants, perhaps help us better understand different cultures and, of course, allow us to enjoy a meal and each other's company. Register soon, only 10 spots available. Questions? [Email Jan Peterson](#).

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.



Wicked Wisdom, TCGMC at Orchestra Hall

Based on the children's book with a similar title, "Song of Wisdom from Old Turtle" tells the story of the beginning of time before humans ruled the earth. Everything was great, until they started debating who and what God was. Finally, the humans came along, and guess what? The same thing happened. Maybe it gets better by 2026?

This story by Minnesota author, Douglas Wood, comes to life at Orchestra Hall on **Sat., April 4** (matinee and evening options). Join Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus, See Change Treble Choir, and Heart of the Beast Puppet Theatre for a poignant evening where we learn: the table is big enough for all the people, animals, and beliefs that come. The first half of the concert is the music of Stephen Schwartz (Pippin, Godspell, The Prince of Egypt, and of course, Wicked). **For tickets and more info, click on the photo or [HERE](#).**

A Means of Joy

Our Chancel Choir Director, Dr. Gerald Gurs, along with his husband, Ervin, welcomed a new member to their family this past weekend. Meet Skye, a rescue pup found on the streets near the Texas-Mexico border. Gerald shares, "She's learning that she is safe, loved, and home—and she's figuring out how to be okay with the Minnesota cold." We thank Gerald for this reminder of joy, grace, and second chances as we welcome Skye to our church community!



If you have a "Means of Joy" you would like to share, please email the [church office](#).

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!



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, 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



White Bear Lake United Methodist Church | 1851 Birch Street | White Bear Lake, MN 55110 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!