



*Happy Valentine's Day*  
Saturday, February 14

The church office is closed Mon. Feb. 16 for President's Day!



**WHITE BEAR LAKE**  
**UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

*Nourishing the Hungers of Life*

WEEKLY NEWS & UPDATES FROM WBLUMC | Thursday, February 12, 2026

**Sunday Worship | February 15, 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 Cross**  
**1 Corinthians 1:18-25 | 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.

**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

All are welcome!

share the service so more people can join us!

## 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 "Scars: Beauty from Ashes."** Your scars are proof of the battles you have been through. This three-day plan will walk you through what it means to allow God to use your scars for His glory. It doesn't happen overnight, but if you let him, God can take you from broken to beautiful, damaged to your destiny and scarred to set free.

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](#)

## Ministry Minute Videos

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

## Sunday School

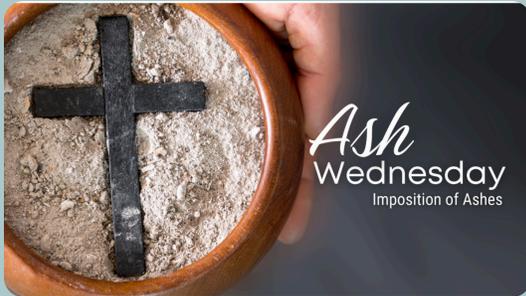
**Sunday school** is available during the 9am service for kids 3 years old and up.

**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.

[9am bulletin](#)

[10:45am bulletin](#)

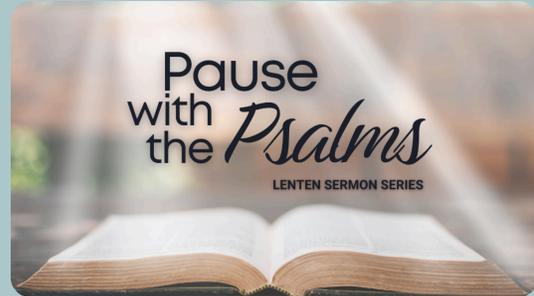
## Coming up in Worship



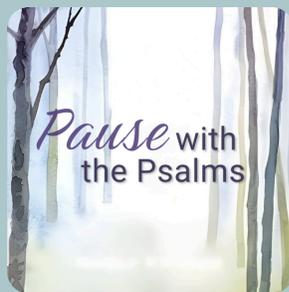
**Wednesday, February 18:** Let us begin our Lenten journey together at 7pm for a youth led in-person worship with the imposition of ashes.

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.

### Mary & Martha in Sunday School through February

With only good choices, which way should we go? What does Jesus say about acts of service AND quality time? Special activities: spending time with God in color and games where time is the prize.



### Last Camp Meeting for Church Scholarship

If we didn't see you last time, join us between services on **February 22nd in room 200**. We'll chat about one, two, and 5 night stays at Good Earth Village in Spring Valley, MN. Attendance is mandatory if you have never attended this camp and you wish to receive the generous church scholarship. Early bird discount of 10% off runs through March 1st. Siblings receive 25% anytime. Spots will fill. 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 18:** Lead Ash Wednesday Service at 7:00pm

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

## Connections



### Lenten Soap Drive Begins Sun., Feb. 22

At WBLUMC, we are seeking to provide nourishment for the hungers of life. It is in this spirit that we support our immigrant neighbors with an "All Things Soap" supply drive, including laundry soap, hand and body soap, and shampoo, **beginning Sun. Feb. 22 and continuing through Sun., Mar. 29**. You may

place your donations in the bin located in the Narthex, which will then be delivered to the **International Institute of Minnesota (IIM)**. The IIM will distribute the supplies to those in need. The IIM "empowers New Americans as they begin new lives and achieve their full potential." You may read more about the IIM at their [website](#).

### CAT Feedback

**THANK YOU to everyone who shared their honest feedback—192 responses were received!**

#### Key Insights from the Survey:

- **Overall Satisfaction:** 70% of respondents are satisfied with the current state of our church.
- **Excitement:** Half of respondents (50%) disagree with the statement that there isn't much excitement in our church, indicating a positive outlook.
- **Meaningful Participation:** 63% agree that participating in church activities is meaningful to them.

#### What Drives Our Satisfaction:

- Our worship services are exceptional, both in quality and spiritual depth.
- The church actively supports those in ministry, reminding them that their contributions truly make a difference.
- Our pastors deliver sermons that engage and enrich our lives beyond the church walls.

**What's Next:** Next week, we'll share the top priorities our congregation has identified for the future of our church. Stay tuned for more updates as we continue to grow together.

### 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. 12:** Finance Committee, 7pm, rm. 200

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

**Tues., Feb. 24:** Endowment Committee, 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!**

### Coffee Gathering for Widows & Widowers

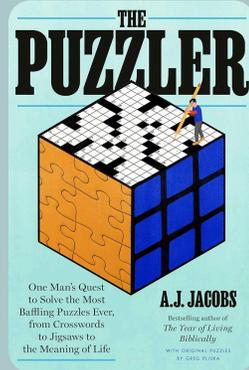


Our next coffee gathering is on **Thurs., Feb. 19** at 9:30am in the library. All are welcome, regardless of how long you have been widowed. If you have any questions or need more information, please feel free to reach out to Karen Fairchild at 651-426-4725.

## 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.



## 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](#).

## Sandwich Sunday

Join us for sandwich-making **Sun., Mar. 1**, at 10am between services. Our sandwiches go to [Waite House](#) in Minneapolis to serve those experiencing food insecurity. We'll make 300 bologna and cheese sandwiches in room 200. All are welcome to help; gloves and masks are required. This is a fun activity and a good way to get to know people in the congregation. You're welcome to grab a doughnut and coffee before coming to help!



## Blood Drive March 11

**Every 2 Seconds someone in the U.S. needs blood.**

Our church will once again be hosting a blood drive on **Wed., Mar. 11 from noon-**

**6:00pm**. Join us in Fellowship Hall as we partner with the American Red Cross to help save lives. Every donation makes a difference. Please [CLICK HERE](#) or on the Red Cross logo to sign up online for a time to donate. You may also call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

## Solar Credits Rolling In

Xcel Energy is now including solar power bill credits on our monthly statement. Over the past several months, Xcel Energy has adjusted electrical bills based on the church's solar garden production. The result was a **\$701 credit** which was applied to our January invoice.



As daylight hours increase the benefits of the solar garden will result in more solar energy generation, which will then be included in future Xcel invoices. If you'd like to view the Xcel invoices with the solar credit calculations, please contact Director Of Operations, [Jim Lindner](#).



## 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.

## 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](#)

Learn more about the Green Team by attending a meeting! The meetings are held the first Monday of each month at 7:00pm in room 200. See the online church calendar for updates.

## 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.

## 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](mailto:dylan.mcdonough@solidground.org) 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](#).**



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Pastor Chris Kneen email: [christopher.kneen@wblumc.org](mailto:christopher.kneen@wblumc.org)



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