

MICAH MESSENGER

Mission Newsletter
Christmas 2020



White Bear Lake
**UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH**

Nourishing the Hungers of Life

*He has told you,
O mortal, what is good;
and what does the LORD
require of you
but to do justice,
and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly
with your God?*

- Micah 6:8 -

*Thank you one and all for
your generous support of
our mission partners and
projects in 2020.*

*If you have questions or
need assistance giving an
Alternative Gift, please
contact Lori McBride at
lori.mcbride@wblumc.org
or 651-208-9000.*



Alternative Gift Ideas

gifts that celebrate the special people in your life
while helping people in need around the world

Common Hope Giving Tree

The Common Hope Giving Tree provides critical support to students and families living in poverty in Guatemala. The 2020 Giving Tree is focused on Common Hope's COVID-19 Crisis Response, meeting families where they are as they fight new levels of food insecurity, unmet connectivity, and strained physical, emotional, and educational health. By choosing a gift on the Common Hope Giving Tree, you are helping to provide hope in the face of uncertainty.

To choose from gift ideas including a holiday food basket, mask & cleaning supply kit, or internet connection service for a family for distance learning (and many more ideas!) go to the White Bear Lake UM Giving Tree online page and follow the directions for choosing your gift: give.commonhope.org/WBLUMCGivingTree

If you would like to select a gift from Common Hope but need a printed copy of the gift catalog call (651) 917-0917 for assistance.



Understanding Families in Need This Holiday Season

- In Guatemala, 26% of the population lives on less than \$2 per day and 54% live below the country's poverty line.
- Due to the pandemic, families already living on less than \$300/month are out of work and unable to earn a wage.
- Internet access and mobile phone data is needed more than ever for distance learning, access to telehealth, and being able to contact Common Hope social workers and vital programming.
- Food insecurity is among the top concerns for families during this crisis.
- Educational programming from schools is inconsistent and inadequate. Supporting students' educational health is as important as their physical health.



NPH USA
Raising Children. Transforming Lives.

NPH USA supports Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos - NPH, Spanish for "Our Little Brothers and Sisters"

Through NPH a loving, supportive home is provided to nearly 3,300 vulnerable boys and girls living in Bolivia, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua and Peru. An additional 2,800 children who live outside the NPH homes receive scholarships, meals and healthcare. NPH community outreach programs provided over 107,000 services in 2019.

This Christmas season, White Bear Lake UMC is asking for **cash donations** that will help us supply the following specific educational needs for NPH students:



- ◆ 350 Notebooks needed for NPH Bolivia: \$1,000.
- ◆ Materials for 36 NPH youth at NPH's International Youth Development Conference (workbooks, t-shirts, books): \$860.

How can you donate to this Mission Priority Partner in this way? Send your donation to the church via mail (be sure to write "NPH" on the memo line) or donate online at www.wblumc.org.



For many years Solid Ground has invited the community to share the magic of the holidays with

the families they serve. Holiday donors have brought joy to hundreds of children and relief to many parents who might have otherwise struggled to afford gifts. In 2020, the gift giving continues in a new way through the Holiday Express Program which has matched each family with a donor for gift giving support. There remain a few families who have not signed up or have moved into the programs past deadline for sponsorship and you can donate gifts from the Solid Ground Amazon Wish List to support this effort. A link to the Amazon site is provided at <https://www.solidgroundmn.org/end-homelessness/holiday-express/>



Century College Community Giving Tree

A Message from Layton Hernandez, WBLUMC congregation member and Assistant Director of Student Life and Leadership Development at Century:

"Season's greetings! The Resource and Support Center and Student Life teams are thrilled to announce the launch of the Giving Tree for 2020! Wishes are being collected from student parents' children and a registry is being compiled. The community is invited to fulfill a gift wish for one of the children using an option below:

- ◆ An Amazon or Target registry with a shipping address to send the gift directly to the family
- ◆ Mail a gift from a convenient shipping location
- ◆ Drop off your gift to Layton at Century campus

If you would like to participate contact Layton:

Layton.hernandez@century.edu or call 651-779-3452



Cooperativa Mercado Central

Located on the corner of Lake Street and Bloomington Avenue, this building was badly damaged by looting during the unrest in Minneapolis following the tragic killing of Mr. George Floyd in the spring of 2020. The looting resulted in great losses to the small business owners whose shops are located in Mercado, many of whom had been struggling to stay in business during the restrictions in place because of the COVID-19 Pandemic. Generous food & cash donations from WBLUMC members provided groceries and hygiene supplies to families over the summer and 2 chickens for each family for Thanksgiving 2020—a total of 72 fresh chickens for feasting!



For Christmas WBLUMC can provide each family with a much needed \$50 Target gift card through your ongoing generosity. You may purchase a gift card and mail it in to the church office or donate cash directly to WBLUMC via mail or online at www.wblumc.org.