

MICAH MESSENGER (Redux)

November 2021



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?*

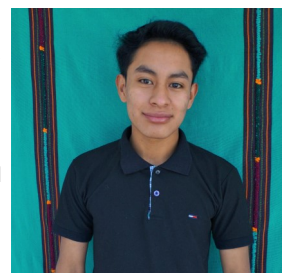
- Micah 6:8 -

Compassion & Justice Ministries 2021-2022

Compassion Priority Partner: **Common Hope**

Congratulations Luis Gil—2021 High School Graduate!

Luis Guillermo Gil Estrada has been sponsored by White Bear Lake UMC for the past five years and because of his intelligence and determination and your financial support for him and his mother, he has obtained a high school diploma and a degree in Business Administration (students in Guatemala choose a course of study while in H.S.). No word yet on where Luis will go from here, but we wish him blessings from God and best of luck!



Note: a card of congratulations is available if you would like to sign it and send a greeting to Luis. Stop by the table in the Narthex on Sunday morning by November 7.

Meet Daniela ~ our new Common Hope student!

Daniela Yasmin Aguirre Aguirre is 17 years old and lives in the town of Callejón las Maravillas, about 15 km north of Guatemala City. She is in her final year of high school studying Accounting. Daniela lives with her mother and has three siblings that are older than she: Zulma (27), Lilian (29) and Gerber (25).



Our congregational support will help ensure that she can finish her final year in school without interruption and graduate in November 2022. Keep Daniela in your prayers in the coming days.



UPDATE: Thank you everyone for the gracious reception of Teresa and Courtney from Common Hope on Sunday, October 10, 2021. It was a fun morning, and the BEST news of all is that **5 new students received sponsor families!** The newly sponsored student photos will be added to our Common Hope bulletin board as soon as received! Congratulations students and sponsors.

Compassion Priority Partner: **The Sandwich Project of MN**

The Sandwich Project helps coordinate the making and delivering of sandwiches to various homeless shelters and food shelves throughout the Twin Cities area. Making 200 meat, cheese & sliced bread sandwiches on Sunday morning, gives us the opportunity to deliver them to the Waite House in Minneapolis on Monday morning. Waite House is a neighborhood center located in the Phillips Community of South Minneapolis since 1958. The foundations for full, healthy lives for children and families are created there, and among the services offered to community members are a food shelf, community meal program and a fresh produce distribution every 2nd & 4th Wednesday monthly.

Upcoming Service Opportunities: Making Sandwiches

Date/Time: **October 31** @ 10 am (between worship services)

Location: Room 200

Date/Time: **December 5**; Time TBD



Sandwich-making on Rally Sunday 9.26.21

Compassion Priority Partner: **Solid Ground**

Solid Ground was founded by a group of dedicated women in suburban Ramsey and Washington Counties who wanted to help low income mothers in their community and incorporated as East Metro Women's Council in 1987. In 1993, East Metro Place opened its doors, providing affordable housing and supportive programs to twenty families experiencing homelessness, where they could stay for up to two years while they worked towards self-sufficiency. The location, right next to Century College, was chosen so that parents could have easy access to education, which is a key component in escaping poverty. Since first opening its doors, the organization has expanded to house over 70 families at a time in suburban Ramsey and Washington Counties. In 2013, East Metro Women's Council legally changed its name to Solid Ground, to capture their work in helping families build a strong foundation for their future.

Community Meal

Prior to the start of Covid restrictions, a Community Meal program took place at East Metro Place where community groups were invited to periodically prepare/serve a meal to the Solid Ground families to help promote fellowship for residents and stretch food budgets, while promoting learning more about Solid Ground for the community groups. After a period of pause, community meals are again taking place. On July 14, 2021 a team from WBLUMC served dinner. It was a great success for all! Two more opportunities to participate are now available:

Upcoming Service Opportunity: Prepare/Serve Meal

Date/Time: **November 10** and **December 8**, 2021. Food is prepared off-site and brought to East Metro Place about 4:30 pm with meal service from 5—6:30 pm. **Sign up to join the team in the Narthex or send an email to lori.mcbride@wblumc.org**



Above: Serving dinner at Solid Ground 7.14.21

Sandy, Judy, Pete, Mary, Marcia, Lori, and Terry. Not pictured: Shelley Jarnagin who provided a feast of fresh fruit and veggies!

Below: one of our new young friends looks over the veggies with skepticism!



Compassion Priority Partner: **Solid Ground**

All Aboard the Holiday Express

For 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. Solid Ground is excited to invite donors back in 2021 to share the holiday spirit through the Holiday Express!

Upcoming Service Opportunity: Fulfill a Wish List

Each family participating in Solid Ground Programming will complete their Wish List of items. Families will then be matched with community donors who generously fulfill the Wish Lists and deliver the gifts (wrapped or unwrapped) to Solid Ground by December 10th for distribution.

There are two ways you can participate in the wish program:

1. Our congregation will be matched with one or more families we can purchase gifts for. We'll have our Holiday Express display set up in the Narthex and you can take a gift card for a person and buy the gift to fulfill the wish. All of these items will be returned to the church for re-delivery by 12/10/21.
2. If your family would like to sponsor an entire Solid Ground family, sign up to purchase gifts by completing the Holiday Express Donor Form found at <https://www.solidgroundmn.org/holiday-express/> (they will start matching donors with families by early-mid November).

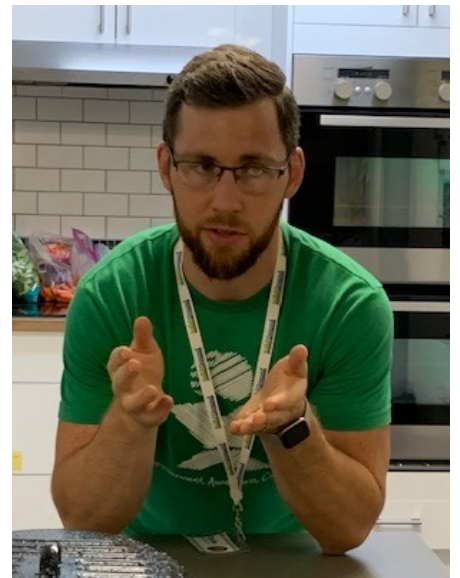
Upcoming Service Opportunity: Distribute Gifts to Families

Dates: December 13-15, 2021

Time: 4:30-6:30 pm each day

Volunteers are needed for both in-person and delivery distribution for families in the scattered site housing in Washington and Ramsey counties.

For more information about helping with gift distribution, please contact Lori McBride @ lori.mcbride@wblumc.org or call 651-208-9000—please leave a message if call isn't answered.



Dylan McDonough, Volunteer & Community Engagement Manager provides orientation

Greetings WBLUMC family & friends,

I'm delighted to share with you that I'll be staying on as a member of the church staff to serve as the Director of Compassion & Justice Ministries. I'll be working about 25 hours per month and will focus my time on shepherding the service and advocacy initiatives of our church on a local, national and international level. While I love many aspects of church ministry, Compassion & Justice Ministry has always been my passion and I'm so fortunate to be able to continue serving in this way for the foreseeable future. Thanks for having me!

I wanted to take a moment to share my thoughts about the new terminology we are using to describe what we have called "missions" to this point in time. I've always felt "missions" was a pretty vague and ambiguous term and really feel that referring to what we do from this point forward as Compassion & Justice work helps give greater definition to our initiatives and helps all of us to be clear about what we are seeking to accomplish with the things we do. See what you think:

What is a "compassion" ministry? We will use this term to describe all the many ways we will use our gifts and graces individually and collectively to help meet the physical, emotional and mental needs of people and communities as a way of sharing Christ's love with them. We will strive to meet people where they are, as they are, and offer ourselves as caregivers and partners for the purpose of alleviating the suffering of others.

What is a "justice" ministry? Luke chapter 4 puts social justice at the center of the Gospel message when Jesus proclaimed the words of Isaiah: *"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor"* (Luke 4:18-19 NRSV). And of course we have Micah's call *"to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God,"* (Micah 6:8)

Justice looks at the systemic barriers to thriving, at the misuse of power that exploits people's lives, labor and dignity. Justice is intricately tied to power and seeks to repair harm and inequities. Justice differs from charity as it challenges powerful people and systems that perpetuate cycles of corruption, violence and disenfranchisement of the poor. As a social justice community it means we will join together to work in protecting and defending those who can't defend themselves. As God is just and loving, so we are called to do justice and live in love.

In future editions of the Micah Messenger will explore all of the ways our church is and can be a community of compassionate and just followers of Jesus Christ who set the ultimate example of what that means for all of humanity.

Peace to all,
Lori McBride, Director of Compassion & Justice Ministry

WBLUMC—Home of the Community Brick Oven



**White Bear Lake
United Methodist Church**
1851 Birch Street
White Bear Lake, MN 55110
www.wblumc.org
651-429-9026

Sunday Services: online @ 10 am
In-person @ 9 & 10:45 am