

MICAH MESSENGER

April 2022



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 -

Racial Justice Initiative

In December 2020, the Minnesota UM Conference Appointive Cabinet released a statement on racial justice and reconciliation that lists specific commitments and actions members will take to acknowledge the sins of racism and injustice and work to transform our Church, our Conference, our communities, and our world into the "beloved" community.

In June 2021, the Minnesota Annual Conference adopted a formal Racial Justice Resolution that calls upon *"all congregations in the Minnesota Annual Conference . . . to join in the national denominational agency work . . . in dismantling racism, opposing white supremacy and advocating for racial justice."*

Pastor Bill brought this Resolution to our Board of Directors and following inspiring conversation it was agreed that WBLUMC leadership on behalf of the congregation would begin exploring what a Racial Justice Initiative might look like at our church.

Connections were made with The Grove UMC to learn all about the process they have been undertaking for more than a year. Helpful advice and ideas were gratefully received! There is currently a small team of WBLUMC staff and laity interviewing consultants who might be able to help guide us through the process: Margie Grilley (Board Chair), Jan Peterson (Board Member), Pastors Bill Eaves and Christine Ford, and Lori McBride (Dir. Of Compassion & Justice Ministries). Eventually we'll be seeking additional stakeholders from the congregation who will be interested in participating in guiding this process. If that person is you, please contact Margie or Lori to let us know!

Our Endowment Committee awarded a \$10,000 grant to help with expenses including a consultant. THANK YOU! Once a consultant is chosen, the discussion about the RJI will begin in earnest. In the meantime, opportunities to begin learning more about the cultures and individual lives of BIPOC (a crucial first step!) will be offered to each of us. Our first opportunity, is to support the Franklin STEAM Magnet Middle School located in North Minneapolis with our Easter Offering.

Please turn the page to learn much more!

The articles in this Newsletter are authored by Lori McBride, Director of Compassion & Justice Ministries for White Bear Lake UMC. If you have questions or comments, please share them. If you would like more information, contact Lori at lori.mcbride@wblumc.org or 651-208-9000. Thank you.

Easter Offering

Franklin STEAM

Magnet Middle School



North Minneapolis is the home of the Franklin STEAM Magnet Middle School - a community school - offering Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Mathematics focused studies for students in grades 6-8.

Franklin welcomes students from Lucy Laney, Nellie Stone Johnson, Hall and Bethune Elementary Schools, all of which serve students who are 90%+ minority and app. 90%+ economically disadvantaged. The goal is for all Franklin students to be on the path to attend and be successful in North High School's Communication Arts and Summatech programs.

One of the biggest challenges identified at the elementary and middle school levels is reading proficiency - the ability to read fluently (the speed and accuracy of decoding words) and with comprehension (ability to understand what you are reading). A student is considered a proficient reader when reading fluency and comprehension are at grade level.

Franklin has developed an in-school plan for increasing overall proficiency adding additional time in the school day for focused reading, and, making available to students more reading material that can be related to on the basis of cultural beliefs, norms, etc. Along with these improvement goals, they have added helping students to create/expand personal libraries at home with books that will belong to them! This is where our participation comes in.

There is currently a "1000 book drive" taking place on behalf of Franklin. We will be joining with a couple of community organizations and 3 churches to provide the financial resources to purchase books that are desired. These books will be selected from a specific list created by representatives of the school and community keeping in mind diversity, inclusion and representation. If you would like to review the list, please contact Lori McBride.

Check out the "Welcome" video located at this link: <https://franklin.mpls.k12.mn.us/Home>

Compassion Partner Focus

NPH-Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos
(nphusa.org)

NPH (Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos) transforms the lives of thousands of children and their families throughout Latin America and the Caribbean by providing homes, health services, and educational programs that give children the best chance for future success becoming leaders in their communities.

It's officially 5k season-a highlight for everyone involved with NPH! The official in-person event takes place Saturday, May 7th at Rosland Park in Edina (4300 W. 66th St.) with registration opening at 8:00 am followed by a 1/4 Mile Kids Run, a 1 Mile Kids Run and the main event 5K beginning at 9:00 am. If you would like more information, please contact Dawn Kittleson @ dmkittleson@gmail.com. Additional info is available at <http://www.nphusa.org/5k>.

A local walk is being planned at WBLUMC for Sunday, May 8th at 11:45 am, immediately following conclusion of our 10:45 am New Crossings Worship Service. If you are interested in participating, **please** email lori.mcbride@wblumc.org or sign up on the registration sheet which will be located in the Narthex beginning April 17, 2022. ** It is important that you sign up so that appropriate plans for the walk can be made based on the size of our group. **

Opportunities to participate virtually or to make a donation are available on the website indicated above or by contacting Dawn.



In Other News . . .

United Methodist Women is now **United Women in Faith!** This name change is part of an organizational refreshing that includes a new logo and new programs to nurture current members and welcome new women to join *to put their love in action on behalf of women, children, and youth.*

The new programs are the fruits of five years of research done with more than 24,000 United Methodists and women of other Christian traditions participating in surveys, focus groups and interviews. This input informed the prayerful discernment of staff and elected leaders.

These changes are designed to address the different needs and life stages of current members and new women, and expand options for membership and engagement.

The new name also aims to welcome current members whose local churches may choose in the future to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church, as well as women of other faith traditions who want to join. More info available at uwfaith.org.

**United Women in Faith Sunday @ WBLUMC
is April 24, 2022 at 9 & 10:45 am.
Learn all about the past, present & future of
this amazing part of the UMC.**



United
Women
in Faith

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