

JOY Newsletter

July 2022

United Methodist Church
of Whitefish Bay

Introducing Rev. Dr. Don Francis Join us in worship and for an All-Church Meeting Sunday, July 10

Dear Friends,

We are excited to announce that our interim senior pastor will be Rev. Dr. Don Francis. **His first Sunday will be July 10 where he will preach and then speak at our all-church meeting.** He will serve our church through the end of September.

Pastor Don is well-known to many in our church. He was a member of our church with his wife, Jeong Rim "JR", while their two children, Daniel and Hannah, were growing up and he and JR consider our church their second home.

Pastor Don has a long and varied background in ministry and education. He has served Wauwatosa Avenue UMC for the past two years as interim pastor and was the lead pastor at North Pointe UMC in Racine prior to that, shepherding them through an intercultural two-church merger. He was a professor at Lakeland University in Sheboygan and Tokyo, Japan

for many years where he taught sociology and created the school's nonprofit organization management degree. Earlier in his career he worked with urban churches in Chicago, Pittsburgh, Detroit, Korea and India.

Pastor Don is a graduate of UW-Madison and received his Master of Divinity from McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago. He earned his doctorate in whole system design from Union Graduate School in Cincinnati.



We can thank God that Pastor Don was available just when we needed him. He will bring a familiarity with and love for our church, years of pastoral experience, a deep spirituality and a humble and caring heart to his ministry with us.

Welcome, Pastor Don.

Don Behrens
Chair, Staff Parish Relations Team

Kathy Schluter
Chair, Accountable Leadership Board

United Methodist Church of Whitefish Bay

819 E. Silver Spring Dr. Whitefish Bay ~ umcwfb.org ~ 414- 964-2424



Thank you to Greg Swanberg

Greg Swanberg, our Director of Food Ministry, is retiring at the end of this month. For the past three years, Greg has been responsible for the delicious food at all of our church events—including Wednesday Night Live. The volunteers supporting Greg's work, as well as those who have gotten to know him outside of the kitchen, will miss his professionalism, warm personality, and easy-going manner.

Best wishes to Greg in retirement. Envelopes for a love offering for Greg are available on the counter outside the church office.

Taizé Prayer Worship Service THIS FRIDAY, July 1 at 7 p.m.

Experience this monthly meditative service that is sure to start your weekend off on a calming note.



Saturday, July 2 Worship, 5 p.m.

Larry Roou on organ &
Sue Stanley sharing thoughts on faith statements
found in songs about America

MEET PASTOR DON FRANCIS - July 9-10

- **First Weekend Preaching**
- **All-Church Meeting** after Sunday Services
 - Pastor Don's role and focus
 - Selection Process for Permanent Senior Pastor
 - Questions and Answers



All-Church Ice Cream Social & Games - July 24



Sunday Worship Hospitably Needed

Please check the calendar in the [SignUpGenius](#) schedule, and see where you can make Sunday a joyful, welcoming experience! Thank you!

Feed My Starving Children Meal Packing Event September 29 - October 1

After a long hiatus due to COVID, our church will be sponsoring another Feed My Starving Children meal packing event this fall. The event will take place at Portal Industries in Grafton from September 29 to October 1. We expect to pack at least 125,000 meals.

There will be eight 2-hour sessions to choose from and jobs for older and younger adults and children. Those who have packed before know sessions are fun and high energy.

This year the meals we pack will be needed more than ever. Countries around the world are suffering from extreme food shortages. The COVID pandemic has ravaged the world for two years, interrupting food production. The war in Ukraine has resulted in millions of Ukrainian refugees and a blockade of the shipment of Ukrainian grain that many countries rely on. Neither of these crises appear to be ending soon. Haiti and many countries in Africa too are suffering from environmental disasters, violence, and extreme poverty.

When we partner with FMSC, we know that we are directly impacting people in need:

1. FMSC is a Christian-based organization with a top charitable rating.
2. All of our donations are used to purchase the ingredients we will pack.
3. FMSC meals are scientifically designed to be nutritious, easy to prepare, and culturally accepted worldwide.
4. Despite obstacles, almost 100% of the meals reach the people who need them due to FMSC's trusted network of local NGOs in each country.

When we volunteer for FMSC, we are doing more than packing meals - we are providing hope. We are reaching people that we could not reach alone.
We are truly serving in the world.

Help us provide hope. Mark your calendars for **September 29 - October 1** and become part of our FMSC mission!

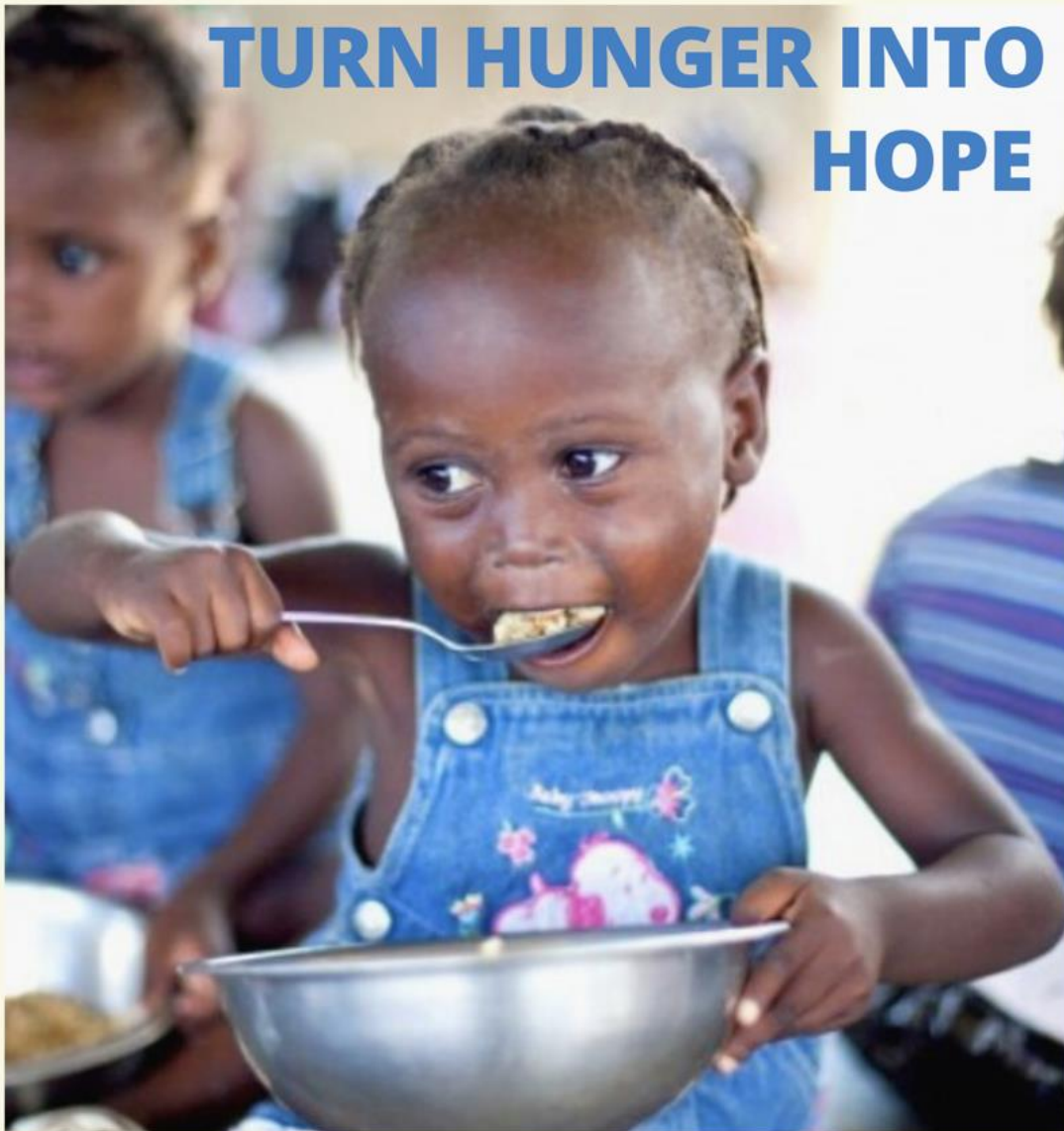


**SAVE THE DATE
SEPTEMBER 29 - OCTOBER 1**

Feed My Starving Children Meal Packing Event

Led by UMCWFB

Giving Children Hope!



Feed My Starving Children Meal Packing Event
September 29 - October 1, 2022
Portal Industries, Grafton
Sponsored by United Methodist Church of Whitefish Bay

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

Calling all moms of young children!

United Women in Faith are thrilled to announce the launching of a new circle – Esther Circle.

The circle, led by Jenny Fisher and Chelsea Montague, will meet the **second Friday of the month from 12:30-2 p.m.**, starting September and continuing through June.

“We are a group of Christian mothers of young children. Our mission is to build relationships with one another, strengthen our faith and our relationship with God, serve our community and support the UMCWFB,” says Jenny.

Those with kids not-yet in-school are invited to bring their little ones to meetings. **At the first meeting on Sept. 9**, members will brainstorm plans for future meetings. Ideas include an outdoor picnic and lunch, service projects, yoga or Zumba, flower arranging work shop, and more. Jenny and Chelsea would love to connect with you!

Please email Jenny at jennylorethafisher@gmail.com.



Do you need a summer reading suggestion?

The Reading Circle members have voted for the 2022-23 book selections, and members are looking forward to reading *The 1619 Project: New Origin Story* by Nikole Hannah Jones for the Sept. 6 meeting. Plan to join us when we hope to meet in person this fall!

Missions benefit from United Women in Faith donations of more than \$19,000 for 2021-22

Among the contributions made by United Women in Faith was \$19,303.49 to various missions.

Those missions benefitting include ASP Youth Mission Trip, \$1,800; Camp Lucerne, \$700; Faithworks, \$500; Feed my Starving Children, \$1,250; Habitat for Humanity, \$700; Keefe Avenue Field Trip, \$500; MacCanon Brown Homeless Sanctuary, \$1,500; Northcott Neighborhood House, \$1,500; United Methodist Children’s Services, \$1,000; Southeast District United Women in Faith, \$5,285; UMCWFB Mission at Home/Kitchen, \$762.50; UWCWFB Mission at Home/Walnut room, \$59.57; UMCWFB Meal Programs, \$1,500; Holiday Fair Cookies for St. Vincent’s & MBHS, \$300; UMCWFB Mission Team, \$1,166; University Christian Ministries, \$61.42.

“Love Offerings” were gathered for UMCOR Ukraine Relief, \$250; Northcott Neighborhood House, \$164; and United Methodist Children’s Services, \$30.

“A profound thank-you to all who participated in the holiday bazaar and the Souper Bowl fundraiser, which helped us be able to support these missions so generously,” said members of the United Women in Faith Board.



Event Reflection

Judge Derek Mosley Speaks on Unconscious Bias

Judge Derek Mosley gave a powerful and thought-provoking presentation on unconscious bias at our church on Wednesday, June 15. The event was co-sponsored by Bay Bridge and 9 other faith and community groups. It was attended, in-person or via livestream, by over 200 people.

Judge Mosley defined unconscious bias as “a preference for or against a person or group of people that operates on a subconscious level and runs contrary to our stated beliefs and attitudes.”

Unconscious bias results from our brain taking mental shortcuts to process the overwhelming amount of information with which it is constantly bombarded. These shortcuts can be helpful but can also lead to harmful biases.

Judge Mosley showed how unconscious racial bias is transmitted in ways that are so common and accepted that we don't even notice them:

- the use of the word ‘black’ in common phrases to connote evil, bad or dirty and white to connote purity and goodness (black sheep, black magic, blackmail v white knight, angels and white lie)
- the tendency of Disney movies to dress the good guy in white and the bad guy in black (Snow White v wicked witch, Luke Skywalker v Darth Vader)
- use of black and white imagery in children's textbooks and stories (the Ugly Duckling is a black duckling that becomes beautiful by transforming into a white swan)
- media emphasis on crimes by black people over white people
- advertisements glorifying white skin (a soap that transforms a black person into a white one)

Judge Mosley said the messages are so pervasive that “we don't stand a chance” against unconscious racial bias.

This bias results in discrimination against black and brown people in all aspects of life including hiring, medical care, commercial transactions, policing, and politics. When confronted with evidence of discrimination, whites are often not even aware that they treated blacks differently from whites. However, the impact on the lives and well-being of black people can be devastating.

Judge Mosley emphasized that, although we can't prevent unconscious bias, we can mitigate our bias. Here's how:

1. Become more aware of your unconscious bias.
2. Don't be color blind. Recognize and appreciate differences. Cultures are not monolithic.
3. Be aware of the make-up of your social networks. Make an effort to encounter and engage in positive interactions with those different from you.
4. Monitor your internal motivations and habitual practices.
5. Stop and reflect on your thoughts, beliefs, values or attitudes before decisions.

Finally, he encouraged whites to speak up and support racial justice. Black people need white allies to join them in the work to build a more equal, just, and inclusive society.



Letters for Those on ASP

On July 16, 22 people, youth and adults, will head to Kanawha County, WV to work on homes as part of Appalachia Service Project.

It is a tradition that family members, friends and member of our church community write letters to those who are on ASP. We give the letters to them midweek as it's great time to receive some love from home. Since most of the group are first-timers, this will be a nice surprise for them.



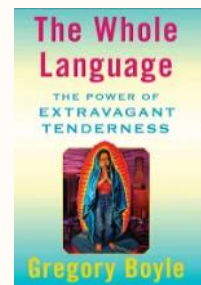
Please consider writing letters for those on ASP.
Letters can be dropped off at church by
Friday, July 15.

If you want a list of those going,
please email loriaeschbacher@sbcglobal.net.

WOW

NEW Thursday morning book study beginning in July 7 at 10 a.m. – Gregory Boyle's *The Whole Language* – *The Power of Extravagant Tenderness*.

Over the past thirty years, Gregory Boyle has transformed thousands of lives through his work as the founder of Homeboy Industries, the largest and most successful gang-intervention program in the world. Boyle's moving stories challenge our ideas about God and about people, providing a window into a world filled with fellowship, compassion, and fewer barriers. Bursting with encouragement, humor, and hope, *The Whole Language* invites us to treat others—and ourselves—with acceptance and tenderness. There will be no shortage of shared thoughts, ideas and Christian sisterhood. Email Nell Nash at nnash@umcwfb.org for the Zoom link or join with others in the Wesley Room at church.



Lydia's Treasure is OPEN Saturday evenings before and after **5 p.m.** worship and Sunday **mornings before and after 10:30 worship**. Find just what you are looking for, the perfect greeting card, a delicious box of Hughes' Chocolates, jewelry, gently read books, games, puzzles, fair trade, and Thistle Farms. Every purchase, every day, supports mission in at least one way. Help us by spreading the word and dropping off "boutique" shopping bags and gently used/new treasures.



Help our Planet

Church in Society invites you to join

Plastic Free July

You can be a part of a global movement, started in 2011 in Australia, that has become an annual event in over 150 countries. During July, increase your awareness of plastic waste, especially single-use plastic, and challenge yourself and others to make changes to create a cleaner world. Recycling is not enough, as so much plastic is not recycled or cannot be recycled. A recent article in *The Atlantic* noted that the U.S. in 2021 had a recycling rate of only 5% for post-consumer plastic waste.



Go to the website, plasticfreejuly.org for more information and to sign up to receive weekly tips by email during July. You will be encouraged to commit to changes for a day, week, month, or all year like:

- Avoiding single-use plastic packaging
- Targeting take-away items (Top 4: bags, bottles, straws, and coffee cups)

Only you can choose what convenience you are willing to give up for the sake of future generations. Change your lunch and picnic habits to no disposables, try eco-products like laundry detergent sheets, and shampoo bars (no more liquid in plastic bottles), or try paper grocery bags to line garbage containers (use bread bags for wet-type trash).

Read more about the complexities and economics of plastic recycling by clicking [HERE](#).

The best way to change a habit is to start. Being part of Plastic Free July can help you to find alternatives that can become lasting new habits. You can commit to being a better environmental steward of the earth God created for all of us.

Outreach

Mission of the Month for June — Meal Program Needs

The last 2 years of the Covid pandemic affected our meal programs by causing the 6 agencies we support to either shut down completely or to accept our food but not allow us to provide servers. However, with Covid subsiding the past few months, all 6 have opened up again or plan on opening up in the next month. This is great news, but it has presented a challenge for us to get the volunteers we need to sustain our commitments.

If you are interested in helping out with any of these meal programs and need more details, please email John Wierschem at jjwiers@sbcglobal.net.

You may also help this ministry by making a donation, either during worship or by sending money or a check made out to the church with “meal programs” in the memo line. Thank you.

Notes from the Board

Our church is in the midst of a pastoral change. It was a change requested by Pastor Matt for his health and well-being. We wish him well as he moves on to his sabbatical and future ministry. Our church must move on as well. While we appreciate and celebrate the past, we must prepare for our future. That means welcoming new pastoral leadership and building on our many strengths to revitalize our ministry. Let us use this change as an opportunity for renewal and a call to sharpen our focus to grow committed followers of Jesus Christ who love God, care for others and serve in the world. The Bible says all things work together for good for those who trust God. Let us trust God to use this change for good in our church!

Pastor Don Francis

Our new interim pastor, Rev. Dr. Don Francis, has already met many of us. In June, he attended a staff meeting and ALB meeting. At ALB, he led a discussion about what his key focus should be. We agreed that creating caring connections and engagement within our church was a top priority. He will also focus on providing positive staff leadership, offering meaningful worship, and helping the church assess its future leadership needs and prepare to receive a new senior pastor. Pastor Don emphasized that his door is always open to the congregation, and he will visit anyone who would like a pastoral call.

Pastor Don's first preaching weekend will be July 9-10. He will also help lead an All-Church meeting after the Sunday services to discuss his role and our church's future. He will not be with us on July 17 as he will be out of town celebrating his mother's 100th birthday. But he will be back the following week and we will officially welcome him with an Ice Cream Social following services on July 24.

Pastor Don brings a love of and familiarity with our church, a deep faith and spirituality and a wealth of pastoral experience to his appointment with us. We are blessed to have him lead us through this transition period.

Staff Parish Relations

With Greg Swanberg's retirement, we have three open positions - Director of Member Engagement, Director of Social Media and Director of Food Ministry. We decided to put our postings on hold for a short time so we can evaluate our budget and our key ministry needs with Pastor Don.

Processes and Procedures

Four women have volunteered for a new Library Committee and are busy reorganizing the church library.

The Shelby Team, formed to develop expertise in the Shelby membership software system, held an in-depth training session with Shelby and made substantial updates and corrections to member information on the system.

ALB discussed areas for which the church does not have adequate policies and procedures and proposed that teams be formed to create them. The Tech Team has already developed upgrades, procedures, and a request form for the use of ProPresenter and Livestream in the Sanctuary. This will help us host more events in the Sanctuary, increasing our community outreach and presence.

Notes

Trustees

The Narthex Renovation has been put on a temporary hold during this pastoral transition period. While the team still intends to hold congregational listening sessions on the Narthex proposals, it is more important during this period that the board focus its time and attention on developing selection criteria for our next senior pastor.

The renovations to the Youth Room have been completed and a proposal for more energy efficient lighting in the Sanctuary is being developed in response to an earlier energy audit by WE Energies.

Finances

FY 21-22 Operating Budget

The operating budget showed a \$13,000 deficit at the end of May. Pledge and non-pledge income are below budget and last year's totals. Nevertheless, because our expenses are also lower this year, we should break even for the fiscal year ending on June 30 provided most of our outstanding pledges are paid.

Capital Accounts

The 2017 Capital Account, Future Fund and Properties Capital Account remained at \$67,301, \$97,435, and \$213,507, respectively.

Pledge Drive

To date we have received 142 pledges for \$531,000. We expect to receive 62 additional pledges for \$183,000. The total of \$714,000 is almost \$50,000 below our projected FY 22-23 pledge income of \$761,000. The board is discussing ways to make up this deficit. In the meantime, we urge all those who have not pledged to prayerfully consider doing so.

Boy Scouts of America

The United Methodist Conference has reached an agreement with the Boy Scouts of America on agreements that churches can use with Boy Scout troops that they support or allow to use their buildings. We are looking into whether the contractual guarantees and insurance coverage provided by the Boy Scouts will be adequate to cover potential liability resulting from a continuing relationship with them.

The next meeting of the ALB will be
Tuesday, July 26 at 6:30 p.m.
All are welcome to attend.



Our Birthdays for July

Mary	Mueller	07/01	Bob	Scheelk	07/14
Allison	Feix	07/01	Andrew	Nerbun	07/14
Kevin	McMahon	07/02	Henry	Sanders	07/15
Kate	Owusu-Ayim	07/02	Linda	Serrano	07/15
Jane	Meade	07/02	Bret	Nerbun	07/15
John	Wierschem	07/03	Linda	Lalicata	07/15
Nancy	Bolender	07/03	Cameron	Blegen	07/16
Tom	Ebert	07/04	Timothy	Perry	07/16
Kathryn	Yunk	07/04	Andrew	Joeckel	07/16
Barb	Armstrong	07/05	Oliver Mason	Wilcox	07/16
Lynn	Bennett	07/05	Lara	Lirely	07/17
Julie	Harding	07/06	Kory	Douglass	07/18
Beth	MacNeil	07/07	Matthew	Fisher	07/18
Sarah	Potter	07/08	Lea	Rayman	07/20
Elizabeth	Koch	07/08	Pamela	Vaughan	07/22
Lauren	Toll	07/08	Daniel	Whitney	07/22
Molly	Milia	07/08	August	Mortellaro	07/23
Nancy	Batchelder	07/09	Ed	Harris	07/24
Tom	Webster	07/10	Madeleine	Modrinski	07/24
Matthew	Felland	07/11	Karen	Haedt	07/25
Michael	Felland	07/11	Carl	Trimble	07/26
Ben	Wunderlich	07/11	Jerome	McCutcheon	07/27
Cole	Zastava	07/11	Susan	Westergard	07/28
Cynthia	Abel	07/11	Carly M.	Chiappetta	07/28
Madison	Huber	07/11	Susan	Krezoski	07/29
Nicholas	Gorham	07/12	Ann	Yurkowitz	07/29
Catherine	Lathrop	07/14	Christopher	Siebert	07/29
			Julie	Hapeman	07/31