

UMCWFB

CONNECT. GROW. SERVE.



A MEANS OF GRACE CONFERENCE

VOICES OF YOUTH:
CHILDRENS MUSICAL HIGHLIGHTS

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN
MEAL PACK EVENT

APRIL 2026

WWW.UMCWFB.ORG

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819 E. Silver Spring Dr.
Whitefish Bay, WI 53217

www.umcwf.org

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A Reflection From The Pastor

Beloved Church,

April invites us again to gather at the Table.

Not just any table, but the Table where death has been defeated, where grace is poured out, and where Christ meets us with healing, hope, and love. In this season of Easter, we celebrate the victory of the risen Christ—a victory that is not distant or abstract, but deeply personal and powerfully transformative.

As the Apostle Paul reminds us: “Death has been swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?” (1 Corinthians 15:54–55)

At the Table, we remember that the cross was not the end of the story. Resurrection has the final word. And because Christ lives, we are no longer bound by what was—we are invited into what can be.

This is where healing begins.

At the Table, Christ meets us in our brokenness—not to shame us, but to restore us. The wounds we carry, the burdens we bear, the grief we hold—none of it is beyond the reach of God’s grace. The risen Christ breathes peace into our lives, just as he did with the disciples:

“Peace be with you.” (John 20:19)

This is where hope is renewed.

The empty tomb reminds us that God is always at work bringing life out of death. What feels lost can be redeemed. What feels finished is not over. In Christ, we are a resurrection people—called to live with courage, trust, and expectation.

This is where love takes root.

At the Table, we are not only reconciled to God—we are drawn into one another. We become part of something larger than ourselves: a community shaped by grace, grounded in love, and committed to living differently in the world.

This is what we mean when we speak of becoming Beloved Community.

We are invited to be a people who reflect Christ’s victory—not just in what we believe, but in how we live. A people who connect, grow, and serve. A people who embody healing, hope, and love in real and tangible ways.

And we do not do this alone. God has given us the gift and power of the Holy Spirit to guide, renew, and transform us. That is why I want to invite you to a special opportunity this month:

A Means of Grace: The Work of the Holy Spirit Conference

May 13th-17th at UMCWFB

This gathering is an opportunity for our whole church to lean more deeply into the presence and power of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Together, we will explore how the Spirit continues Christ's work—bringing renewal, awakening faith, and equipping us to live as disciples in the world. We will be led by Pastor John Peters and Kristin Breuss (Daughter of Loretto Steinmetz) from St Mary Anglican Church in central London, England.

There are several ways to participate:

- **A Prayer Team Training:** Wednesday May 13th 6:00pm, for those who feel called to support this work through prayer
- **A Clergy & Church Leadership Training:** Friday May 15th 10:30am-3:00pm **we need greeters*
- **An All-Church Training:** Saturday May 16th 10:30am-3:00pm, for all to attend!
- **A Worship Celebration:** Sunday May 17th 9:00am & 10:30am, Worship Services, for all to attend!

This is more than an event—it is an invitation to experience God's grace in fresh and life-giving ways.

As we come to the Table this Easter season, may we come with open hearts.

Ready to receive healing.

Ready to embrace hope.

Ready to be shaped by love.

And then, may we rise from the Table—

renewed by Christ,

empowered by the Spirit,

and sent into the world to help build Beloved Community.

Grace and peace,



A MEANS OF GRACE: THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Conference

Are you seeking a fresh outpouring
of the Holy Spirit in your life?

Through biblical insights and reflections on the life and ministry of Jesus, we will explore how the Spirit works in and through us to accomplish God's purposes.

Come prepared to be renewed, inspired, stretched, and empowered.

DATE & LOCATION:

May 13th-17th, 2026

Hosted By:

The United Methodist Church of Whitefish Bay

819 E. Silver Spring Drive

Whitefish Bay, WI 53217

A MEANS OF GRACE: THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

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Conference

DATE & LOCATION:

Saturday May 16th, 2026

UMCWFB

10:30-11am: Arrive

11am: Session 1 Worship & Talk

11:45/50am: Break

12pm: Session 2 or Seminars

1pm: Lunch

2pm: Session 3 - Worship, Talk, Ministry

3:30pm: Close

Sunday May 17th, 2026

UMCWFB

**John Peters & Kristin Breuss will
join us and speak during
Sunday Worship.**

9am - Contemporary

10:30am - Traditional

All are welcome / No cost to participate

EVENT SPEAKERS



JOHN PETERS

John Peters, author of the book, *Third Person*, is Rector and gifted preacher of St. Mary, Bryanston Square, an Anglican church in central London. St Mary's has planted several churches in the UK and abroad. He may not be John Wesley, but he does have a wonderful English accent!



KRISTIN BREUSS

Kristin Breuss, Associate Vicar of St. Mary's London, is a gifted speaker and teacher. She is also the daughter of a long-time member of the UMCWFB, and groups look forward to her inspirational leadership when she visits from London.

Feed My Starving Children Meal Pack Event

Register today to make a difference!

Registration is open for our Feed My Starving Children meal pack event. Sign up now for a one of our seven two hour packing sessions from April 30th-May 2nd.

When you pack FMSC meals, you are helping feed malnourished children all over the world. But you are doing even more. You are supporting FMSC's work with local nonprofits in those countries to help children, families and communities thrive and become self-sufficient. FMSC meals make it possible to provide education, skills training, employment, and community development in poverty-stricken areas.

Here are the stories of two children - Allan and Maritza - whose lives were changed by FMSC.

Allan was starving and undisciplined as a child. A local community group helped him receive FMSC meals but also worked to develop his athletic potential. He joined the baseball team where, through hard work and mentoring, he became a star player, leading his team to victory in the national championship game with three home runs. Now he hopes to become a professional baseball player.

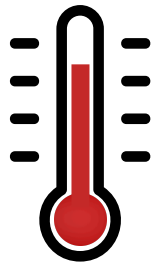
Maritza was a teenager with a small child when she was lured into trafficking by promises of food and protection. FMSC meals gave Maritza the security and stability to break free from her trafficker and build a new life for herself and her child.

Available Shifts Include:

Thursday April 30th:	6:00pm - 8:00pm
Friday May 1st:	10:00am - 12:00pm
	1:00pm - 3:00pm
Saturday May 2nd:	9:00am - 11:00am
	12:00pm - 2:00pm
	3:30pm - 4:30pm

We still need to raise \$8k to reach our \$30k funding goal!

Donate today with the QR code or check to UMCWFB, marked for FMSC.



Venmo: @UMCWFB

Registration Now Open!

Options to register:

Online Registration: [FMSC Registration](#)

You may also register directly with the FMSC Planning Team, who will have a table located in the Narthex after Worship services.



Claudia Circle Providing Comfort & Warmth



Claudia Circle was started over 50 years ago by longtime church members, Betty Stuckert and Gail Hinson. Over the years, the circle has sewn and donated 784 quilts and 68 wheelchair bags to many organizations throughout the Milwaukee area.

Organizations that have benefitted include Rooted and Rising, Village at Manor Park, West Allis Care Center, Luther Manor, Hmong American Friendship Association, Nigerian refugees, Sojourner Family Peace Center, Courage + and New Castle Memory Center.

“Our goal is to provide warmth and comfort to anyone in times of need, including our own church members,” says circle member Elayne Waeltz. “We have workdays at our church in Fellowship Hall, where we gather to make beautiful quilts to donate,” says Elayne. “There is a job for everyone no matter your level of sewing expertise. We enjoy each others company. We laugh, share sewing tips and lovingly care for one another.”

The group currently has 25 members that meet monthly in member's homes on the third Tuesday of each month at 9:30am. The circle also prepares and hosts the September United Women in Faith Salad Luncheon.



Carpenter's Shop

The 3-month Carpenter's Shop renovation project at the lower level will begin on Friday May 15th with moving of furniture, toys and items to Fellowship Hall from the first and second floors. All items must be moved to allow for asbestos abatement, new flooring, plumbing and painting along with new cabinets & countertops in seven classrooms and daycare office.



Moving Help Needed: Friday May 15th and Saturday May 16th

RSVP or for more information:
Tom Van Cleave tvanceleave@ameritech.net
Kari Nau at karinaw010@gmail.com





MacCanon Brown Work Day

We had an incredible day serving at MacCanon Brown Homeless Sanctuary! Ten youth and six adult volunteers came ready to work, and their effort and teamwork were truly inspiring. By lunchtime, all of the pieces for the garden beds were assembled. After lunch, the group installed two beds and dismantled many old ones. What a showing of productivity, efficiency, positivity, and teamwork throughout the day.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who gave their time and energy to make this day such a success!

Next Work Day: April 11th 10am-2pm

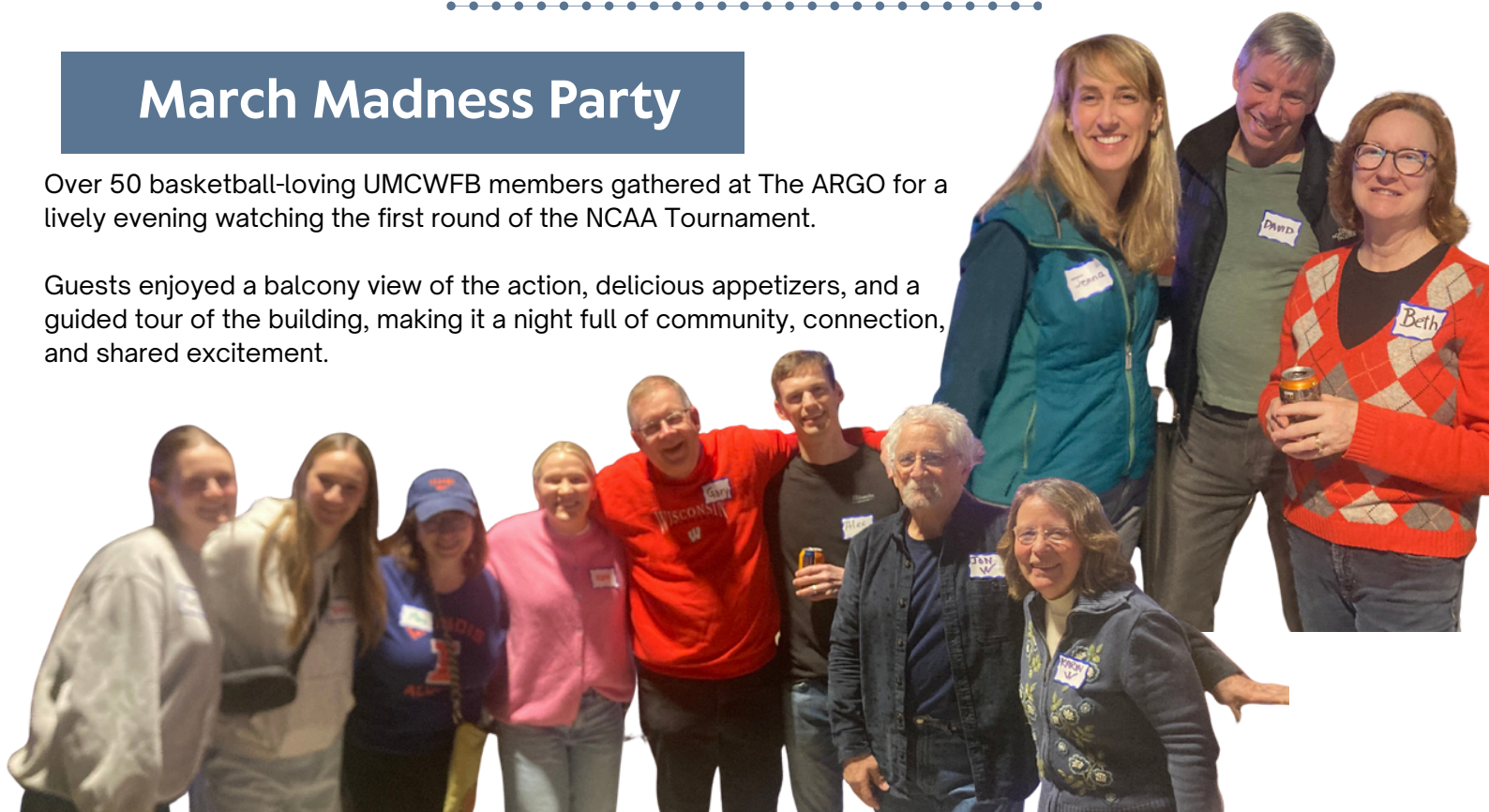
RSVP Here: [MacCanon Brown Work Day](#).



March Madness Party

Over 50 basketball-loving UMCWFB members gathered at The ARGO for a lively evening watching the first round of the NCAA Tournament.

Guests enjoyed a balcony view of the action, delicious appetizers, and a guided tour of the building, making it a night full of community, connection, and shared excitement.



Notes From the Board

Key Takeaways from the Servant Leadership Board’s March Meeting:

Pastor Gary Holmes led a devotional discussion centered around joy and forgiveness; Scripture Colossians 2: 13-14, noting this how Beloved Community begins – not with perfection, but with forgiveness that reshapes how we live and lead together. Questioning how can we lead in a way that reflects grace rather than pressure or performance has shaped the focus areas for 2026:

Two areas of focus for 2026 within our Spiritual Journey Pathway model– a life of Service and a life of Generosity – were discussed in February. A third area of focus for 2026 – Visioning – was discussed in March.

Pastor Gary led the conversation on starting and nurturing a Visioning process: “How do we know we will be present in the future, to be a Beloved Community 10 to 15 years in the future? I believe that people are looking for an inclusive community and connection with the divine. How do we draw more people in with a more effective Congregational Development team that’s intergenerational?”

Volunteer Request: We need volunteers for all focus teams. Please contact Pastor Gary Holmes for details

Foundation Update: Craig Walker presented a quarterly update that began with 2025 as a transitional year with a change in leadership, as well as a new policy focused on meeting church needs that align to our vision / mission objectives, not funded through a Capital Campaign or our Operating Budget. The past year of 2025 saw a solid year in total fund financial returns, a large bequest received through a member’s will and grants disbursed in several need categories of building, family, people development and program.

In 2026, the Foundation will focus on developing & launching a program on legacy gift giving with coordination from Stewardship team and continuing a focus on sustainability.

Misc: Erin Norris presented that the church’s financial operating position is in excellent shape to meet our annual budget after 2 months. The Trustees update highlighted the Carpenter’s Shop renovation project earmarked in the summer months and finally, Pastor Gary noted the upcoming Council of Ministries meeting on April 12th.

Full Meeting Minutes are available from **Tom Van Cleave**.



Serving Neighbors at St. Ben’s

Several of our families—along with Pastor Gary—spent a Monday evening serving at St. Ben’s Clinic for the Homeless. It was a meaningful opportunity to care for our neighbors and live out our call to serve with compassion.





Creation Care Progress as a Congregation

In efforts to make progress toward being a greener organization, UMCWFB has recently joined the North Shore Interfaith Green Team and Faith in Place. We are involved in Hope for Creation classes with other midwest churches, and our Church and Society Team has offered various educational events and encourages members to advocate for climate justice and take action on environmental issues.

We are fortunate to have two dedicated members who help to manage church waste. Volunteers Laurie Jeffery and Chris Felix break down boxes, consolidate trash, save plastic bags for store recycling, sort recycling bins, and more. Reducing the amount of waste and recycling items appropriately helps the environment and reduces church expenses. Please thank them for this valuable work. *“Volunteer engagement is critical to sustaining our green practices related to food and fellowship”* says Tom VanCleve, SLB Chair. *“We’re grateful for our faithful volunteers and welcome more people to get involved.”*

Green Practices Implemented

- Real coffee cups and glasses for coffee hour and events
- Compost Crusaders contract for food waste (began in 2023)
- Regular tableware and silverware used (when dishwashing possible)
- Eco-friendly cleaning products are used
- Energy efficient lighting installed in narthex, sanctuary, and fellowship hall
- Banners and lawn signs are reused
- Bike rack available: Biking and walking to church is encouraged
- Grounds have trees, shrubs, and perennials with mulch to retain moisture
- Bus for kids camp offered (reduces fuel from multiple cars)
- Old computers, phones, technology recycled after recent upgrades
- Recycling of cardboard, paper, glass, cans, and plastic

This Earth Day, challenge yourself to do something more for the environment. *“When it comes to creation care, no one can do everything, but we are all called to do something,”* said Vernetta Jefferson, Church and Society and SLB member. *“Learn more with Hope for Creation’s online curriculum. Come as you are and join sessions when you can.”*

North Shore School for Seniors Spring Session Term 1 Begins April 20th

New Term 2 classes include “Anatomy of a Catastrophe,” “History of the First World War,” “Native American Wisdom,” “Responding to Climate Change,” “Human Dignity: A Blessing or a Trap?,” “The Day the Music Died,” and “Finding Trustworthy News.”

Online registration is at nss4s.org and catalogs with registration forms are available at the church. Email questions to nssbxt@gmail.com or phone (414) 292-0960. Classes are open to all! NSSS is an adult outreach program of our church.



Upcoming Events

For a complete listing of upcoming events, please sign up for our Weekly Connection:

**SIGN UP
FORM
HERE**



Events are also listed on our website: www.umcwfb.org

**APRIL SERMON SERIES:
THEN, NOW, NEXT**
LESSONS LEARNED FROM
EACH GENERATION

- APRIL 12-GEN Z
FAITH IN A DIGITAL WORLD
- APRIL 19-MILLENNIALS
FAITH THAT SEEKS MEANING
- APRIL 26-GEN X
FAITH THAT ENDURES
- MAY 3-BABY BOOMERS
FAITH THAT LEAVES A LEGACY

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
of Whitefish Bay

**SPRING
Small Group**

THURSDAYS AT
10:30AM
APRIL 16, 23, 30
NARTHEX

**“UNCLUTTERED FAITH”
BY JOSHUA BECKER
BOOK DISCUSSION
LED BY JENNY FISHER**

Youth Choir led

**Praise &
Worship
celebration**

Wednesday, April 15
6pm

Join us for a joyful evening of youth-led worship music, prayer, scripture and a special message from Youth Director, Kristal Melbye

**Faith, Food, and
Friendship**



April Birthday Wishes

- 1st - Joanie Modrinski
- 2nd - Chris Gaffney
- 3rd - Susan Abram, Josh Guarisco, Ephram KindKeppel-Longden
- 4th - Margie Hogan, Karen Swartzberg, Scott Longden
- 5th - Nancy Lizdas
- 6th - Charles Tharp
- 9th - Anne Ehle, Beth Groble
- 10th - Junise Clark, Mark Westphal
- 11th - David Dettinger, Jenny Provancher, Jack Bryan Schultz
- 12th - Judy Linsley, Rega Plaster
- 14th - Tom Groble, Greg Schimanski
- 15th - Rosemary Schroeder
- 16th - Annemarie Case, Jackie Stackhouse, Ayike Asiki
- 17th - Amelia Zentner, Chelsea Montague
- 20th - A'diye Asiki
- 21st - Fred Ehle, Mandy Kliber
- 22nd - Mike Lindfors, Nolan Feix
- 24th - Adelaide Schaetzke
- 25th - Jim Armstrong, Devri Lybeck, Kathy Conole
- 26th - Martha Spankus, Marie Sander, Bruce Markuson, Drew Knab, Bill Kenning
- 27th - Jim Thomson
- 29th - Deborah Ridley Kern, Linda Stolz, Ann Markuson, Tom Van Cleave
- 30th - Eileen Dean, Dan Murphy, Isabelle Haecker, Chris Lybeck



God Squad Children's Musical

On March 21 and 22, our three youth choirs performed the children's musical, "God Squad!" for hundreds of guests, family members, neighbors, friends and church members.

The story was about two girls battling with issues common for youth in this culture—social media, bullying, peer pressure, and selfishness. Through the guidance of the "God Squad" (a team of superheroes who represent Christian values), the two girls are guided back to their true identities valued in love, righteousness, and Biblical truth.

We are so grateful to all of the youth, their families and many volunteers who made this fun show possible. We couldn't do it without you! We are especially grateful to Jon and Karin Welstead, our volunteer set designers and creators. Jon and Karin have been faithful, hardworking and tireless set visionaries for our church theater productions for more than a decade!

We are also grateful to Scott Longden for all of his work with the professional sound and light technology that helped make our show so engaging, fun to watch and easy to hear!



Prop Making

Behind the scenes, our youth and children contributed their talents by creating props for the set. Their creativity, talent, and hard work led to an incredible production!



Seder Experience



Our youth group had an incredible experience as we shared a Seder meal together!

A Seder is the traditional Jewish meal that tells the story of God freeing the Israelites from slavery during Passover. As we walked through the symbols, prayers, and foods, we learned about another culture and faith tradition that is deeply connected to our own.

It was especially powerful to remember that this is the kind of meal Jesus was celebrating with his disciples at the Last Supper. The bread, the cup, the storytelling, the remembering—so many parts of the Seder help us understand that moment in a deeper way.

Our youth asked great questions, tried new foods, and discovered how faith traditions connect across history. It was meaningful, eye-opening, and honestly a lot of fun.

PARENTS' NIGHT OUT
APPALACIA SERVICE PROJECT FUNDRAISER

Go out for an adult night out while your kids enjoy pizza, yoga, games, and fun with friends!

Cost for dinner and childcare: \$20/first kid, \$15/additional kid(s)

Friday, April 24, 2026
5:30 - 8:00pm
UMCWFB Fellowship Hall

CONTACT KRISTAL MELBYE
 414-331-7611

Parents Night Out is coming up on April 24th from 5:30-8:00pm and will support our Appalachia Service Project mission trip!

If you're looking for a fun evening for both you and your kids while supporting our youth, we would love to have your children join us.

Register Here:
Parents' Night Out Fundraiser

Tree of Life Preschool

Tree of Life Christian Preschool is now registering for the 2026-2027 year. Open spots are available in both the Toddler and Preschool Rooms. Further information can be found here:

Tree of Life Preschool Website



treeoflifepreschool.org
 414-964-8733
 karinau010@gmail.com

NOW REGISTERING FOR 2026-2027

- Starts at age 3
- Open spots in our:
 - Toddler Room (MWF) &
 - Preschool Room (T/TH)
- 8:45-11:30 & follows WFB school schedule

Visit our website for FAQs, Registration Forms and more, or contact Kari Nau, preschool Director



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of Whitefish Bay

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Connecting, Growing, and Serving*

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