



JOY Newsletter

March 2023

United Methodist Church
of Whitefish Bay

Lent is Spring

Lent has come upon us. *Lenten* means spring. Spring is a time of preparation, planning and planting. In the north it is also a time of building and repairing. So, it is time of hope and change, but also a time of letting go of what was. This can mean, for example, the preparation for a summer wedding and letting go of the single life. It could be planning graduation and a move to high school, college, or a career and letting go of the life of stability created by others.

In such times our mind is busy contemplating: what is it that I am leaving behind and moving toward? How will this change who I am? What challenges lie ahead, and am I ready for them? I remember moving from Delavan and my graduating class of 185 and going to the UW Madison. Mom cried, but I was happy in my ignorance. I had a strong faith background and didn't rely on others to tell me what was appropriate. The small groups I joined kept me connected: Wesley Foundation Student Association, UW concert and marching bands, the Baptist residential Community of Life and Faith. Once out of the dorms I could live with friends with the same values, important when it came to facing issues of the 60s like the draft, the war, and civil rights.

Change, new experiences, and challenging decisions don't stop coming with graduation. Career, marriage, children, illness, death in the family, loss of job, possibly discrimination, and disruption of our children's path forward can keep us on our toes throughout our lives. What in those times anchors us in the character we want to be and in choosing the path we want to follow? This for me is the pondering that goes on in the liturgical time of Lent. What is my relationship to God who created me, called me, and sustains me? What is my calling? How best do I carry it out? How do I keep myself spiritually fit and keep myself rooted in what doesn't change, but has sustained me throughout my life?

If you know of someone who is at a life transition, I hope you will invite them to explore being part of our worship, fellowship or serving community. The church community is a good place to do that kind of pondering. The people in this church are the kind of people I'd want as friends. I hope you have experienced that as well. If you have a way to make it better, for the church faces change as well, please reach out to me. Contact me at my cell: 262-617-9330, at dfrancis@umcwfb.org, or at the church office.

God bless you,
Pastor Don Francis

LOVE GOD, CARE FOR EACH OTHER, AND SERVE IN THE WORLD

United Methodist Church of Whitefish Bay
819 E. Silver Spring Dr. Whitefish Bay ~ umcwfb.org ~ 414- 964-2424

Letter from ALB & SPRT

An Important Message from the UMCWFB Accountable Leadership Board and Staff Parish Relations Team *(emailed to church members 2-26-23)*

Just over two weeks ago, our District Superintendent, Ebenezer Insor, contacted us to tell us he had identified a wonderful candidate for our senior pastor position. Since it was Ebenezer who has blessed us with the appointment of Don Francis, we knew that his choice would be well-considered.

Since that time, our Staff Parish Relations Team and Accountable Leadership Board have met with Ebenezer and his appointee, Pastor Gary Holmes, and agree that he is the right person to serve as the next senior pastor of the United Methodist Church of Whitefish Bay.

We will be sad to lose the truly inspirational leadership of Don Francis at the end of June. Don and JR have already made a remarkable, positive difference to our church in their too brief stay here. Still, we knew that Don's appointment was as an interim pastor and that the District Superintendent would, at some point, find the right person to fill the senior pastor position on a permanent basis.

On July 1, Pastor Gary Holmes, currently pastor of Sugar River United Methodist Church in Verona, will become the Senior Pastor of our church. Pastor Gary comes to us with 27 years of experience, having served as an associate pastor in Madison before successfully starting and growing a new church in Verona. He has earned degrees from UW-Whitewater, Garrett Seminary, and Asbury Seminary. He has served as chair of the Congregational Development Board in Wisconsin and been a mentor for other pastors. He is also the recipient of the Harry Denman Evangelism Award for exemplifying the Great Commission.

Pastor Gary has asked us to relay to the congregation his excitement about becoming part of our congregation. Specifically, he has said: "What a blessing to share the next chapter in my life and ministry with such a wonderful church, known in the Wisconsin Annual Conference as a leader in vital ministry and mission. Please pray for a God-honoring transition for my wife, Lori and I, as we look forward to being with you, and know that you are in our thoughts and prayers as well. 'The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.' (Gal. 6:18)"

Over these next four months, we will receive the continued blessing of Pastor Don's leadership and prepare our hearts for a new chapter in the life of our church with Pastor Gary. During this time, there will be more information to come, as well as opportunities to honor and celebrate Pastor Don's ministry as he prepares to take the next steps in his journey and we prepare to take the next steps in ours.

Yours in Faith,

Don Behrens, Chairperson
Staff Parish Relations Team

Brady Henderson, Chairperson
Accountable Leadership Board



UMCOR — Mission of the Month

The mission team has chosen the United Methodist Committee on Overseas Relief (UMCOR) to be the March Mission of the Month. **March 19th is UMCOR Sunday** in United Methodist Churches across the country. With the recent earthquakes in Turkey and Syria, plus the ongoing war in Ukraine, this is a timely Mission of the Month. Donations in any amount will be well used and greatly appreciated.

Books for Marvin Pratt School

There will be a box in the Narthex for new or gently-used books, K-4 thru 5th grades, for Marvin Pratt students. We like to give each student in May a book to take home for the summer.

Please contact Marti Kriefall with any questions at RKriefall@wi.rr.com.

Thank you all for your generosity, Loretto Steinmetz.



A Call for Teddy Bears on March 12

We have an opportunity to expand our ministry with MacCanon Brown Homeless Sanctuary. MBHS, in partnership with Children's Hospital of Wisconsin, is providing lead screening at the Sanctuary at no cost to young children living in the 53206-zip code and beyond. Bringing this service to the community where people live is monumental, and we can be part of the mission by giving a child a bear to hold while having a finger stick, and then taking take the new bear friend home.



If you wish to participate, please bring new or gently-used bears and place them at the end of the pew, to be blessed and collected **March 12**. Thank you. Contact Sharon Garrett with any questions at 414-559-6501

Racial Diversity Events

Learn about Our Invisible Prison System through Art

Hebrews 13:1-3. Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters.....Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.



Join us at the “Art Against the Odds: Wisconsin Prison Art Exhibit” for a free, docent led tour at MIAD to focus on the many incarcerated individuals who turn to art to survive.

<https://www.artagainsttheodds/> This first of its kind project generates visibility for this invisible population, bringing a sense of humanity to the carceral system through painting, sculpture, Knitting, and beadwork. The exhibition is divided into six thematic sections that look at different aspects of art that is made in confinement. It is powerful. Your eyes will be opened.

We'll meet at, or carpool to, MIAD, 273 E. Erie St., Milwaukee, at **10 a.m., Saturday, March 4**, for the tour. For those who are interested, we will have an option to discuss and react to the exhibit afterwards over coffee or lunch. Metered or free street parking can be found on N. Milwaukee St., Corcoran St. and

N. Jackson Sts. or \$4.50 for 3 hours at 328 E. Erie parking lot. RSVP and questions to Jean Erickson, jeanerickson213@gmail.com, 414-962-8920 or to Beth Groble, bgroble@gmail.com, 414-916-9405

Save the Date — A Two-Part Series on Restorative Justice

April 25 and May 9 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. in our Sanctuary

Chief Judge Mary Triggiano and former Wisconsin Supreme Court Judge Janine Geske will discuss what restorative justice is and how it helps rehabilitate the perpetrator, heal the survivor, and bring the community back together.

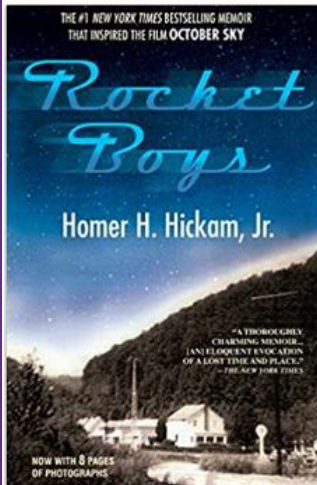


April 25 – “Restorative Justice – Rehabilitating the Offender”
with Judge Mary Triggiano
Chief Judge of the Milwaukee County Circuit Court

May 9 – “Restorative Justice – Healing the Survivor and Community”
with Janine Geske Director of the Andrew Center of Restorative Justice
and Distinguished Professor of Law at Marquette University Law School



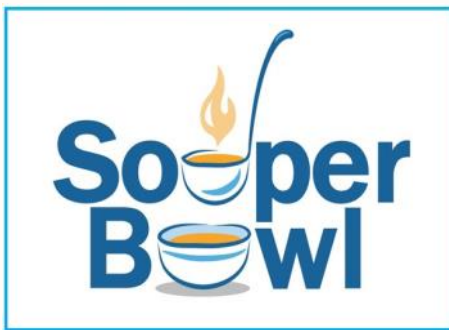
United Women in Faith



Books, Books, and More Books

The Reading Circle is meeting **March 7** to discuss *The Last Bookshop in London* by Madeline Martin and then **April 4** for *Rocket Boys* by Homer H. Hickman.

Personal Librarian by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray will be discussed **May 2**, and *Save Me the Plums* by Ruth Reichel is set for **June 6**. Meetings are always the first Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. Sally Jipson is looking for member suggestions for the 2023-24 reading list. Contact her at swjip@hotmail.com to suggest books. That's also the email to get on the group's email list.



Souper Bowl is a Super Success!

Hearty thanks to our church family for your Souper Bowl support. Because of your generosity, 254 quarts of soup and 40 mini loaves of bread were sold. After deducting expenses, UWF raised \$1,830 which will go to missions supported by UWF. One can of soup was donated to the food pantries at MacCanon Brown Homeless Sanctuary for every two quarts sold, for a total of 127 donated cans. God bless the soup teams and all who enjoyed their efforts!

Save the Date for May Luncheon

All will be thinking spring at the UWF luncheon on **May 9**. Mark your calendar now, and be ready for food AND fun. Bring a pal and share the fellowship!



United Women in Faith

Greetings from Judith Circle!

We are a bunch of fun ladies who meet the **last Thursday afternoon of the month** in members' homes. Occasionally we'll meet at church as we're the circle known for the jams and jellies at the Holiday Fair. We'd love to have any volunteers in the fall when we make the jams in the church kitchen!

Some members of Judith have been together for over 20 years and some members are very new. While we generally make items sold at the Holiday Fair, we recently put together activity bags for younger children who are in the worship service the whole time on Sundays or are here for special events. Please join us! For information on Judith Circle, contact Nancy Batchelder at 414-412-9169.



Circuit Caregivers' Prayer Breakfast

Caregivers, here is an opportunity to find support with others who are walking the road you are walking this Lenten season.

St. James UMC Women in Faith are inviting you to a Caregivers' Prayer breakfast.

Saturday, March 25, 2023, 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Washington Park Senior Center, 4420 W. Vliet St.

RSVP by Monday, March 6 to
Muriel O. Smith-Gross, UWF Chairperson
imgrossey@gmail.com (preferred)
414-213-6066

Muriel needs to know your name, if you are bringing your care recipient, and your contact information: email and phone please.

The St. James UMC wants to provide you with a spiritually supportive breakfast.

Men's Ministry

Men's Breakfast Saturday - March 25

Yes, we are having a Men's Ministry Saturday morning meeting in March! Join us on Saturday the 25th for a Continental Breakfast with the new Director of the University Christian Ministry (UCM), Aaron Shoppa.

UCM is one of several spiritual groups on the UWM campus with a mission to provide a spiritual home for students and faculty as well as a resource for the administration.

Support comes from several denominations (Baptist, Episcopal, Presbyterian, UCC, and Methodist) with our church being involved and providing support for many years.

Plan to be there for fellowship at 7 a.m. and breakfast at 7:30 a.m. Come with your questions that can include helping answer where spirituality is on today's campus.



Habitat for Humanity

Habitat is a partner mission between Men's Ministry and the Mission Team that has become more and more a part of us as we learn about how Habitat answers the housing and neighborhood needs of Milwaukee.

This year we will be part of the Harambee Faith Coalition. (The Harambee area is south of Capital Dr. on the east side).

Partners will include Solomon Temple UMC and St. Marcus School - both in the Harambee area - as we look for other church faith partners. Our house to build is at 3040 N. 6th St. - This is a great way to get involved with mission at UMCWFB. All are invited. Bring friends!

Present planned dates:

- **Sat., April 1** we build wall panels for the houses in the Habitat warehouse S. of Capital Dr.
- **Sat., April 22 and 29** we erect the walls for our new house on the site.
- Decorating the **2x4 studs** for the walls will be at the church in late **March or early April**.

The construction will go on as we partner and share these projects with the volunteers from the other faith local faith communities involved.

Let us know if you would like to join the team of UMCWFB volunteers by emailing Don Lybeck at mdonlybeck@sbcglobal.net or Dick Steinmetz at rsteinmetz@wi.rr.com.

We're looking forward to seeing you at our house site.

Please note:

A volunteer alternative to construction projects with Habitat is helping at the Habitat ReStore (retail store).

Interested? Let us know.



Women's Ministry



Siena Retreat Center was the setting for our women's retreat in early February. Led by Pat Wisialowski and Sue Stanley, 23 multi-generational women soaked in the peace and beauty of a day away, the focus of which was to be our authentic selves. "To be authentic, we must cultivate the courage to be imperfect—and vulnerable." Brené Brown Stay tuned for our next day away!

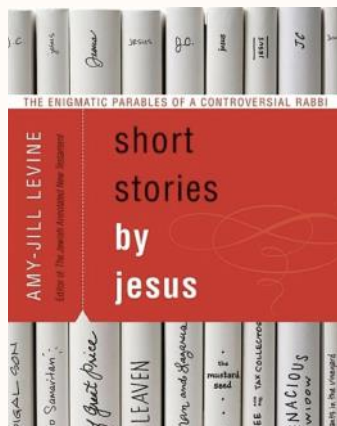


Welcome Back NSS4S!

Lydia's Treasure will be Open Mondays & Tuesdays 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., as well as Wednesday evenings,

Saturdays before and after worship, and Sunday mornings. Pop in for baskets full of Easter items, decadent chocolates, thoughtful greeting cards, luscious Thistle Farms, colorful Fair Trade, and tons of fun finds. Every purchase, every day, supports mission in at least one way! Our three benefactors this year are Walnut Way Conservation Corps, Project Kindred MKE, and Running Rebels. Check them out here:

<https://runningrebels.org/> <https://projectkindredmke.org/> <https://www.walnutway.org/>



Thursday mornings are for women here.

Worship in the Chapel or via Zoom at 9:30, study *Short Stories by Jesus*, an Amy Jill Levine book in the Wesley Room or via Zoom at 10:15. Great discussions and insights, wonderful Christian sisterhood filled with love, laughter and caring. Contact Nell for more details nnash@umcwfb.org

Zoom into WOW worship:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86477695842>

Zoom into Short Stories class:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86828437600>

family LENT RESOURCES



During Lent we want to offer some resources that will help you and your kids cultivate a deep faith connection. These activities and questions will be connected to our weekly Bible stories during lent. These will coincide with family rhythm cues!



Morning Time: Set the tone for each day by coaching and encouraging kids!

Drive Time: Listening and talking about what interests them!



Meal Time: Have real intentional conversations about the things you value.

Bed Time: Reflect on the day and develop intimacy with kids and with God through prayer.



lent.bay-family.com

Summer with the Bay



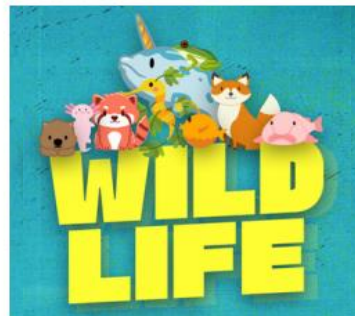
Lake Lucerne Camp
Kids Ages 7-11
June 18-21

Youth Quest Camp
Grade 6-12
June 25-30



ASP Mission Trip
High School
July 15-23

Vacation Bible School
PreK - 4th Grade
July 31-August 4



Register at <http://events.bay-family.com/>
For more information on youth, children, and
family events, contact Pastor Andrew

Notes from the Board

Perhaps the most important item addressed by ALB this past month has been our role in the Conference approval process for our next Senior Pastor, Gary Jones, who will join us in July. While all of us are sad that we will be losing the inspirational leadership and fellowship of Pastor Don and JR at the end of June, we are confident that Pastor Gary will come to us with great experience and an open heart.

After a recommendation was made by the SPRT, ALB unanimously voted to accept the appointment at a special meeting on February 23, which was required by the Conference to be kept confidential until a public announcement could be made. The decision was then announced on Sunday, February 26, in concert with Pastor Gary's current church, Sugar River UMC of Verona.

The appointment of Pastor Gary was not the only business for the month, however, and so several other things were addressed at the regular February ALB meeting on February 21.

Being the Church in a Post-Pandemic World

Led by Pastor Don, we discussed Chapter 10 of *Being the Church in a Post-Pandemic World*, focusing on tough conversations and decisions that churches must go through. We acknowledged some that our church is experiencing now, including Branding, Capital Campaigns, Narthex remodel, social injustice issues, declining membership, and creating conversations on issues like abortion. We had a good conversation around who should be the person/people to address these issues/hard questions? When? How? These are struggles that go beyond our church and could have a strong community outreach.

Addressing Goals and Evaluations for Staff

Pastor Don reported that staff will be writing SMART goals to be completed by June 1st followed by an evaluation for SPRT to use for consideration in salary increases and possible staff composition.

Wednesday Night Live (WNL)

WNL meal attendance was down slightly for the winter session which ended on Feb. 15th. Two classes are scheduled for the next session which will begin February 29 and conclude May 24. We are reaching new prospects for membership through WNL and membership orientation but have lost a few due to death.

Growing in Service and Ministry

16 members from our church attended a day-long event on Outreach, Hospitality and Grant Application given by the Wisconsin Conference at Oak Creek UMC.

Six people have completed the course requirements for Certified Lay Servant: Barb Armstrong, Liz Casciato, Bill Crise, Beth Groble, Tom Groble, and Tom Van Cleave. A motion was made, seconded and approved to recommend these members as Certified Lay Servants. It was noted that Liz is not currently a member of our church, but has completed the necessary work to be approved once she is or seek approval from another congregation where she is a member.

Planning for Ministries Workshop(s)

Tom and Beth Groble are now involved in a year-long training called the Institute for Congregational Development that is very action and results oriented. They are developing ways to spread the impact of this training among other ministry leaders. Tom explained that the training he and Beth are attending is a 10 month class with learnings and new approaches for how to meet our Mission statement. We will receive new updates from them every month. The classes are filled with brainstorming sessions and exercises geared toward moving the church forward. WNL could be a good vehicle to use a concept called Triad to reach the community with a strong message to those seeking joy and hope. Next steps are to hold a feedback session then a 1-day workshop where additional monthly planning will be done so that the ICD content and experience can be shared with others in our church.

Notes

Stewardship Campaign

A team consisting of Nancy Anderson, Pam Vaughn, Craig Walker, Mike Stoehr and Pastor Don has been formed to lead our Stewardship Campaign. It will take place on the four Sundays following Easter ending on May 7th. There will be speakers sharing their faith journey on the first 3 Sundays with just one service at 10:30 a.m. on Consecration Sunday, May 7th. This will be a pledge commitment only with consideration for a Capital Campaign and Time/Talent Assessment around Rally Day in the Fall.

Financial Update

Pam reported a slow January, but that is typical. Income from Pledges lags last year, but non-Pledge contributions are strong. YTD Expenses are similar to last year's. The Capital Fund is at \$60,381 and Properties Capital Funds is at \$211,833. The Future Fund balance was unchanged at \$91,620. Pam noted that we lost \$135K in pledges due to recent moves and deaths. We need to continue the conversation about the Meal Programs budget and future funding for WNL kids meals, so that we can integrate these into a sustainable budget.

Staff-Parish Relations Team Update

As Pastor Don also mentioned in his report, SPRT discussed the 60+ areas of ministries supported by our church that were plotted across the program staff in the interest of filling the gaps. A good rule of thumb is for 60% of a church's budget to be spent on staffing – we're currently at 57%. We need to look at WNL and develop a staff person – or team – to manage it.

Trustees Report

Tom distributed his report highlighting a wireless phone monitoring system which replaced 3 analog phone lines resulting in a cost savings, repairs needed to the Danbury entrance, and flooring that needs maintenance. A special thank you was extended to Dick Steinmetz for leading the very successful Mission at Home event and the weeks of preparation he put into it prior to the event ensuring that the 35+ volunteers were able to address the needs around the church.

Solar Power Proposal and Feedback

We received a proposal for a capital outlay of \$80k for solar power roof installation. It's estimated to result in \$6000 annual cost savings resulting in a payback of 13 years. This does not include any benefits gained from goodwill/branding. A funding discussion questioned if this is the best fit for our Future Funds or is the Future Funds better spent somewhere else? Concerns were also raised around funding via a Capital Campaign or putting in the budget. A Q&A session will be scheduled with the congregation to help understand where this project fits into our priorities, how it correlates with other projects and the best method for funding.

Next Meeting

ALB's next meeting will be held on **Tuesday, March 21, at 7:00 p.m.**, with the closed session





Birthdays for March

Will	Bublitz	03/01	Clare	Aeschbacher	03/20
Stephanie	Kliber	03/01	Theodore	Balmer	03/20
Beth	Stafford	03/01	Suzan	Daugherty	03/20
Amanda	Speed	03/01	Karen Helms	Ward	03/20
Raylene	Greenlee	03/02	Kristin S.	Seidler	03/20
Cynthia	Stuckey	03/02	Bonnie	Barr	03/21
Jennifer	Sanders	03/03	Dale	Snider	03/21
Russell	LaFrombois	03/04	Samuel	Fruncek	03/21
John	Widdifield	03/04	Judith Ann	Baltzley	03/21
Jenevieve Leigh Yuhang Patrick		03/04	Jenny	Chou	03/23
Barbara	Abraham	03/05	Kay	Nye	03/23
Randy	Nash	03/05	Richard	Lundell	03/23
Lynette	Mortonson	03/05	Sandra	Workman	03/24
Virginia	Johnson	03/06	Angela	Wendling	03/24
Robert	Loots	03/06	Allswell	Buor	03/24
Natassja	Sook	03/06	Jennifer	Breese	03/26
Nancy	Schacht	03/07	Thomas	Weber	03/26
Judy	Perkins	03/09	Claire	Wunderlich	03/26
Ethan	Zentner	03/09	Carol	Christensen	03/26
Brooke Evelyn	Speed	03/09	Gail	Koenke	03/27
Elizabeth	Harrison	03/09	Virginia	Wagner	03/28
Del	Szewczuga	03/10	Drew	Nerbun	03/28
Rena	Szewczuga	03/10	Hui	Zhang	03/28
Michael	Perry	03/11	Marcia	Olen	03/29
Dorothy	Case	03/12	Scott	Kurtz	03/29
Jacob	Patrick	03/13	Nelda	Mngoja	03/29
Kate	Strelow	03/13	Violet	Peterson	03/29
Katie	Daniels	03/15	Taylor	Zhang	03/29
Karen	Seward	03/15	John	Waeltz	03/30
Jack	Middleton	03/16	Eric	Thompson	03/30
Michel Mpoyo	Mwanza	03/16	Charles	Abram	03/30
Nancy	Trimble	03/17	Darlene	Vranek	03/31
Kathleen	Weber	03/18	Andrea	Seidler	03/31