



JOY Newsletter

August 2023

United Methodist Church
of Whitefish Bay

Wanting To Start Strong

I recently started work at a new location... well, you may have already known that. My last new position took place 18 years ago, so I was excited about the opportunity, while prayerfully reflecting on the challenges I would be facing. I did some research on keys to starting strong in a new organization. In one article it was recommended that in the first week one should make an enthusiastic introduction, make a friend, and ask plenty of questions. Much of this comes naturally for me. In fact, these recommended actions tend to be some of my ministry strengths.

I have so enjoyed getting to meet new folks over the last few weeks. Spending time with gifted and faithful leaders from the wonderful Staff (paid and unpaid), Accountable Leadership Board, various ministry teams, and small groups. I must admit, it has been a lot of fun for me. I enjoy watching folks share their gifts to honor God and bless others. I enjoy sitting with a bunch of men reflecting upon the scriptures and their lives on an early Wednesday morning. I put up with having to connect with members of the church while playing 9 holes of golf... someone has to do it. I get to greet a few of the women's Bible study groups that offer me words of encouragement and support.

I hope I will be the kind of Pastor who is enthusiastic about my faith and serving in this church, while excited about meeting folks, and

authentically developing relationships. In the process I will be asking questions about who you are, how you are doing, and what is most important to you...I share this now, so you have time to reflect on your answers. Oh, I do plan to take these relationship building actions past the first week, for they will always be important characteristics for me as your pastor. I may not always get things right, but I pray by the grace of God, I will return to these foundational characteristics of serving as a faithful pastor. I truly believe that these characteristics are foundational to being a beloved community of faith. 1 Peter 4:8 reminds us that, even when we fall short, love will help us find a way.

“Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins.”

Maybe in the next newsletter I can share what I learned from the article about the recommendations for starting strong in the second week. Until then, reflect on the questions, “Who am I?”, “How am I?”, and “What is important to me?”.

Look forward to connecting with you soon!

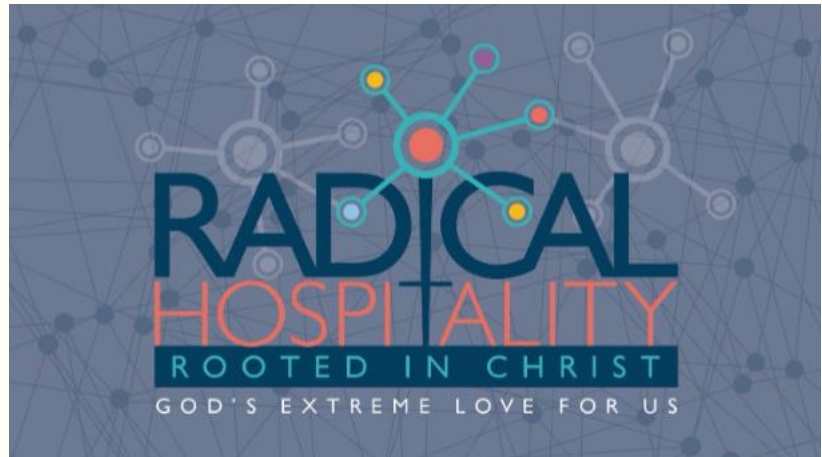
Blessings In Christ,
Pastor Gary

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

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

Our Faith Series for August will cover the many aspects of Radical Hospitality.

Make sure you read on for details of our upcoming Fall Picnic and Fall Programming for all ages.



Find new opportunities to welcome those you know and love into our community.

Taizé Worship Schedule Updates!

Mark your Calendars!

August 4, 7:00 p.m.

September 1 - No Taizé

September 29, 7:00 p.m.

October 6, - No Taizé



Taizé Worship is quiet, meditative, consisting of candles, dim lighting, simple music, quiet, scripture and prayer.

The first Taizé services originated in the ecumenical Christian community of Taizé in France. In that tradition, our Taizé services include spoken, sung, and silent prayers, meditative music, a time of silence, and an opportunity for individual prayer and anointing with holy oil.

For more info on the Taizé worldwide practice: <https://www.taize.fr/en>

For information on our church practice, contact Sue Stanley: ssstanley@umcwf.org

Blood Drive at Church - Thursday, August 10

Our next blood drive is Thursday, August 10 from 2 - 7 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.



Blood cannot be manufactured; it can only come from volunteer donors. Please consider donating on August 10 if you are able. It only takes about an hour (only about 10 minutes with a needle in your arm!); and there are free snacks and juice when you're done.

Appointments are highly encouraged.

You can make an appointment by calling or texting

Jim Schacht any time before the blood drive at 414-332-2834. Or you can sign up at the church office counter. Or sign up online at bit.ly/umcowfb81023.

New donors are always welcome!

If you've never donated before and want to talk about possibly donating, please give Jim a call.

Lydia's Treasure - Thank You!

THANK YOU for your incredible support Lydia's Treasure. Our little mission gift shop had its best year ever as we shared \$12,000 evenly with ours 2022-2023 missions; Running Rebels, Kindred MKE, Walnut Way Conservation Corps and the UMCWFB operating budget. Along with our chosen missions, your purchase of fair-trade items, survivor produced Thistle Farms, and philanthropic artist created note cards, the impact of our sales are felt around the world. We are excited to introduce our 2023-2024 fiscal year missions and thank you for supporting them with prayers and purchases this coming year.



Just One More Ministry - <https://www.jomministry.org/about> This local group rescues and repackages prepared food, meat, groceries, fresh produce, and bakery from numerous Milwaukee suppliers and redistributing it to over 90 Greater Milwaukee inner city churches, food pantries, and organizations serving the homeless, poor, women, children, elderly and veterans is what this local group does.

Andre Lee Ellis & CAGE - <https://thecagemke.com/> Community, Agriculture, Growing, Experiences. Located on 13th and Reservoir, mentoring and gardening go hand in hand. Young Black youth are encouraged to come and work the gardens, growing their character while they grow good food, to share with the neighborhood. When gardening season is over, the mentoring continues with the 500 Black Tuxedos event in January.

Camp Hometown Heroes - <https://www.camphometownheroes.org/> This program focuses on free week-long summer camp of healing for children of fallen military, first responder and families who have experienced similar loss. Along with healing time, they promote leadership development, service opportunities to train and inspire a new generation of leaders.



Companion Ministry for our Homebound

We invite you to prayerfully consider how you might benefit from being a companion to a member who is no longer able to physically come to church.

Build a friendship with an occasional phone call, a card in the mail, prayers, perhaps even a short personal visit every now and then.

If you or a loved one is in need of a companion, let us know that as well. We will match up companions as volunteers permit.

Contact Pat Wisialowski 414-964-2424 x224 pwisialowski@umcwfb.org or Tink Thomson tinkthom@gmail.com to get involved.



“Learn to Succeed” Tutors

Calling out to all tutors for Marvin Pratt School beginning, September 5, 2023.

Please email Loretto Steinmetz at ldsteinmetz@wi.rr.com if you are interested in working with children in grades K-4 thru 5th in reading or math.

You can pick the day and time, morning or afternoon, which fits in with your schedule. For more information, call her at 414-550-2957.

Lots of exciting options for fall at North Shore School for Seniors



North Shore School for Seniors

North Shore School for Seniors (NSSS) offers 50+ diverse classes for fall 2023. That's the most options since the school's post-Covid reboot. Explore exercise, arts, local topics, languages and history. Our own Pastor Andrew is offering a class on the colorful history of comic books – what fun!

The fall session is Sept. 18 – Oct. 10 (first term) and Oct. 23 – Nov. 14 (second term). (There are no classes Oct. 16 & 17.) Classes meet Monday and Tuesday at our church, United Methodist Church of Whitefish Bay. Courses meet from one to eight times, and start at various times throughout the session.

Class information and online registration is available at nss4s.org beginning Aug. 1. Fall 2023 catalogs also will be available Aug. 1 for pick-up at the church office. Email questions to nssbxt@gmail.com or phone (414) 292-0960.

The mission of the NSSS is improving mind and spirit through learning and friendship. The North Shore School for Seniors is an adult outreach program of UMCWFB.

School Supplies Needed for Marvin Pratt

There will be a box in the church Narthex (main lobby) for these items.

- Plastic supply box or pencil pouch
- Washable white glue, 8 oz. bottle
- Glue sticks
- Crayons, 24 ct.
- Colored pencils, 24 ct.
- No. 2 pencils, 20ct. standard yellow
- Pink large rectangular eraser
- Red, Blue, or Black pens
- Highlighters, different colors
- Washable markers, 8 ct.
- Low odor dry erase markers
- 12 " ruler (with inches/cm)
- Pocket folders to match notebooks
- Spiral notebooks, (70 pages) -
 - wide rule (same colors as notebooks)
- Theme paper, wide rule, 200 pages
- Ear Buds
- Box Kleenex



What is the gift card program? It is fundraising while you shop!

We have a long list of retailers that you can use for your everyday purchases. The church earns money with each card purchased. Stop by the counter on Sunday mornings for a card or order what you need and pick it up the following week. By simply planning ahead, the average family can easily earn an extra \$12-15 a week for the church. Combined with others in the program, this modest number adds up quickly. A hearty thank you goes out to the group of people who use the program regularly! *Gift Card Program, - Raise Right*

MacCanon Brown Homeless Sanctuary i(MBHS) is the designated Mission of the Month for August.

Loose coins, bills and checks placed in an envelope marked MBHS can be dropped off on Sunday or mailed to the church office. MBHS is a multi-resource center that provides a toolkit of resources for the people in the 53206 zip code area.



MACCANON BROWN HOMELESS SANCTUARY, INC.

Some of the resources include food, clothing, hygiene items; bagged lunches and hot meals; lead testing; tutoring.

Appalachia Service Project (ASP) 2023

Another successful ASP trip!

21 youth and 8 adults traveled to Knott County, Kentucky to work on homes damaged in the July 2022 flood, to make them Warmer, Safer and Drier.

It was a great trip where we all learned new skills, formed new friendships, and created a greater sense of the importance of helping others. Our theme for the week, "Love Strong", embraced the need to love others as we love ourselves.

Thank you to our church family who made this trip possible with your prayers and support.

We're looking forward to ASP 2024!



Camp Lucerne

We had an amazing time with an incredible group of nearly 50 campers and adult volunteers from our UMCWFB community at Camp Lucerne in June! The weather was perfect, the worship was inspiring, the games were fun, the camp food was delicious and the Holy Spirit was with us the whole time!!

Our theme was “Taking God’s Love to New Frontiers”, which had a fun western twist. Inspired by our theme, the kids learned how to line-dance, do archery, navigate a low-ropes course and play the classic game of Horseshoes. Campers learned many songs at lakeside and campfire worship, including a special country western-style tune with twang called “Jesus is my Hero”. Campers also created many special art projects, including a personalized key chain, tie-dyed bandanas and lacing yarn around popsicle sticks to make a “God’s Eye”. God provided the perfect weather for beach and lake activities. Campers got to cool off in the water every afternoon with swimming, canoeing and kayaking. We were thrilled to see the kids form special relationships in their cabin groups and participate in fun activities together.

Thanks be to God for a safe, joyful and faith-building camp experience for the children of our community!! We especially appreciate all the families that trusted us with their kids and the adult volunteers who provided so much support, enthusiasm, guidance and agape love. We can’t wait to return to Camp Lucerne in June next summer!



United Women in Faith

Esther Circle welcomes moms of small children

Esther Circle is a small group composed 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's Children and Family Ministry and Children's Choir Programs.

Esther Circle was created in September of 2022 to meet the relational needs of young mothers in our faith community who wanted a place to connect with other moms, support each other and make connections. Last year, we worked on monthly programming that was faith-based and enjoyable for our members.

We did Bible studies, greeting card crafting for veterans and church homebound members, a meditative nature hike at Audubon Nature Center, a Christmas luncheon, "adopted" a church family for Christmas gift giving and a spiritual yoga practice.

We also provided support for the Children's Musical, Noah's Ark, and other fun and fulfilling activities. One of our Esther Circle sisters, Kristal Melbye, led a 4-week Love and Logic Parenting Class that was attended by mothers and grandparents from our church, Tree of Life parents, and mothers from the surrounding community. In July, members of Esther Circle gathered for a park playdate, breakfast and prayer time to stay connected during the busy summer-time.

We are thrilled to continue to lead Esther Circle for the second year. Our first meeting of the new season will be on Friday, Sept. 8 from 12:30-2pm in the Walnut Room. Our monthly meetings are the second Friday of the month (Sept.-May) from 12:30-2pm. The meeting location varies depending on the meeting topic or program. If you are a mother with young children in our community of faith, we hope you will consider joining Esther Circle!



You can find out more information about Esther Circle by attending the United Women in Faith Fall Luncheon on Sept. 12 or by contacting

Chelsea Montague
(starchels@gmail.com)

or Jenny Fisher
(jennylorethafisher@gmail.com).

Members of Esther Circle enjoyed a meditative nature hike at Audubon Nature Center last fall.

***United Women in Faith (UWF)
Fall Luncheon***

***A Perfect Time to Come Together
September 12 at 11:30 a.m.
In Fellowship Hall***

**Join us for a wonderful social gathering and program,
learn about our small interest groups or “Circles,”
and enjoy a lovely lunch prepared by Claudia Circle.**

**The luncheon and program will be \$10 per person
Childcare is available.**

Sign up at the church office, or call Anne at 414-964-2424



UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF WHITEFISH BAY

FALL WELCOME PICNIC

Sunday, Sept. 10 • 11:30am - 1 pm
Church Lawn

Food
Games
Music



Fun for
all
ages!

Join us to celebrate a new season of spiritual growth, serving in our community and friendship! Enjoy delicious food, joyful music, and fun games for kids. Learn about our church's mission and ministry programs.

We are a vibrant church that Loves God, Cares for Each Other and Serves in the World.

819 E. Silver Spring Drive, Whitefish Bay

www.umcwfb.org

Questions? Contact Jenny Fisher at jfisher@umcwfb.org



FAITH•FOOD• FRIENDSHIP

**WEDNESDAY
NIGHTS
STARTING
SEPT. 13**



ALL ARE WELCOME

**JOIN US FOR A DELICIOUS MEAL, FAITH ENRICHING
PROGRAMMING AND FELLOWSHIP FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY**

United Methodist Church of Whitefish Bay (819 E. Silver Spring Drive)

EVENING SCHEDULE

5-6pm-Dinner is served in Fellowship Hall (basement of church)

(\$10 for adults and kids eat free (donations accepted))

6-7pm-Children's Choir Rehearsal, Children's Ministry Activities,
and Faith-Based Adult Classes

7-8:30pm-Adult Chancel Choir Rehearsal

FALL ADULT CLASS OFFERINGS

Book Study of Adam Hamilton's Book:

Unafraid: Living with Courage and Hope in Uncertain Times

led by Senior Pastor Gary Holmes

Christian Parenting Love and Logic Class led by Kristal Melbye

"Something About The Bible: Book of Acts" led by Sue Stanley

CONTACT US: www.umcwfb.org * jfisher@umcwfb.org

LOVE GOD * CARE FOR EACH OTHER *SERVE IN THE WORLD

Notes from the Board

On July 18, the Accountable Leadership Board met for the regular July meeting. In attendance were ALB members Don Behrens, Nancy Anderson, Craig Walker, Jeff McClellan, Tom Van Cleave, Chelsea Montague, Hui Zhang, Samantha Gundrum, as well as Pastor Gary Holmes, Pam Vaughan, Nell Nash, Laurie Jeffery, Tom Groble, Kathy Schluter and Dick Steinmetz.

Opening Prayer and Consent Agenda

Tom Van Cleave opened the meeting with prayer and a personal faith testimony of how UMCWFB clergy and members have mentored and supported him with his calling that has led to board representation and attending the Institute of Congregational Development 10-month class with Beth Groble.

He stated that it is important to conduct ALB meetings not only with governance in mind but to message our church culture, facilitate spiritual growth and cast a vision of what it means to be a creative & passionate church that focuses on our mission statement. On future ALB meetings, he asked that a board member provide their testimonial that will help ground everyone in attendance of where they are towards our mission statement of assisting people to become deeply committed followers of Jesus Christ who **Love God, Care for Each Other, and Serve in the World.**

ALB approved the June meeting minutes and Trustees report.

Devotion and Pastor's Report

Pastor Gary led a devotion on Mark 2 1-5 focusing on "Healing and Forgiveness". He asked the question, "Who do you know that would be willing to call on you for help at any time". Hui Zhang, board member, shared his experience throughout his many moves through medical school, internship, and residency of finding that "2am friend". Someone you can call at 2am when you need help. Pastor Gary asked, "Do you have a 2am friend? Are you a 2am friend"? Pastor Gary reminded us of our mission statement: **Love God, Care for each other, Serve in the World.**

Gary brought up the idea of ALB doing a book study.

Two books he was looking at were as follows:

- *The Only Necessary Thing: Living a Prayerful Life* by Henri Nouwen
- *Disciple Like Jesus* by Phil Maynard and Eddie Pipkin

The idea was tabled until a future meeting.

In addition, Pastor Gary shared his experiences over the first two weeks at UMCWFB of getting to know staff, ministry leaders and members along with attending various meetings.

Financial 2023 & Budget 2024 updates

Pam Vaughan reported that 2023 financial year ended \$11,600 in the black. This was great news due to a disciplined budget management mindset from Pastor Don, staff and ministry leaders, costs were kept down. In addition, our apportionment payment was paid in full.

The 2024 budget was presented and approved by ALB showing an increase of \$100,000 or approximately 10% Year over Year. UMCWFB is making an investment for the future in pursuit of our mission statement with new energy and enthusiasm. Pledges for 2024 are \$710,000 which is an 8% increase from the prior year. We are positioned to have a strong year. Finally, Pam mentioned that monies from the designated fund accounts that no longer have a purpose have been redirected to a new fund based on input from that stakeholder.

ALB Agenda

Tom VC stated that based on a United Methodist workshop labelled “How to take ALB to the Next Level”, a strong message conveyed was to ensure that outreach events and programs in pursuit of our mission statement is a key focus along with governance & administration for our board members. Therefore, our current and future agenda items will highlight that view.

Fall Welcome Picnic

From the April 15th Leadership workshop, a key action led by Tom Grobel was to develop a TRIAD framework approach incorporating radical hospitality with the goal of developing a personal relationship with new visitors, inviting them back through follow-up events (Wednesday Night Faith Food and Friendship) and finally, connecting them into an area of our church or worshipping with us.

That vision has led to our first TRIAD event planned for September 10 labelled “Fall Welcome Picnic”. He reported on the progress of this event focusing on Invitational, Relational and Missional. Save the date cards are being prepared. For first-time visitors, there will be a welcome table to get a meal ticket and write down contact information along with a designated table showcasing UMCWFB’s strong focus on mission and ministries.

The committee has many volunteers assigned to various tasks and is very organized with communication tools and a detailed picnic layout. They have requested \$2,300 from the Foundation to support the event. If you have an interest in being a volunteer for this event, please contact Tom Groble, Beth Groble or Jenny Fisher.

Gary’s sermon series in August will be on Welcoming New Members which will align with the Fall Welcome Picnic.

Marketing & Communications

Kathy Schluter presented to the ALB that the purpose of the Marketing and Communications Committee is to support, facilitate and contribute to the development of strategies, resources and processes that will market and communicate our compelling vision to our congregation and community. Fundamentally, to ensure consistent use of brand; improved targeted communication using effective resources; establish processes for coordination of stakeholders; and build a strategy to promote our church with enhanced visibility within the community.

She showed marketing materials and mix of channel activities that included: A creative invitational postcard is being mailed to people who are new to the area in the last 3 months; the web-site is being updated; yard signs and banners are being prepared for the Fall Welcome Picnic; as well as, updating Church Brochure materials.

Finally, the Marketing and Communications Committee has prepared guidelines to use relating to communicating an event or program. They are very open to suggestions and willing to help with marketing and communicating an event as needed.

Tom VC stated that the ALB is planning to start scheduling quarterly All-Church Meetings to improve input and communication.

Closing Prayer and Plans for Next Meeting

Chelsea Montague closed the meeting with a prayer.

Our next meeting will be held on **Tuesday, August 15**, with the closed session beginning at 6:30 pm in the Wesley Room for ALB members, and General session will begin around 7:00pm where all are welcome. A Zoom option will be provided. All are welcome.



Birthdays for August

Diane	Dettinger	8/02	Emily	Stolz	8/20
Finley	Hill	8/02	Tracy	Ebert	8/20
Payton	Goudreau	8/04	Eric	Milia	8/20
Linda	Laatsch-Lybeck	8/05	Kathryn	Yunk	8/21
Carol	Kuxhause	8/06	Jeff	Schaetzke	8/22
Joseph	VandenPlas	8/06	Katherine	Hermes	8/22
Dave	Paull	8/07	Jan	Pritzl	8/23
Loretto	Steinmetz	8/10	Christopher L	Dadaian	8/24
Michelle	Markuson	8/10	Sandra	Broehm	8/25
Marilyn	Stanley	8/11	Lori	Henley	8/25
Nicole	Kitchen	8/13	David Russell	Haecker	8/26
Lara	Perry	8/14	Holly	Jefferson	8/27
John	Potter	8/15	Barbara D.	Curran	8/27
Kathleen	Schluter	8/15	Caryn	Blegen	8/29
Linda	Korducki	8/15	Julie	Whitney	8/29
Dina	Bunke	8/15	Mary	Reeves	8/29
David	Sook	8/17	Jayanth (Jay)	Suthan	8/30
Kristal	Melbye	8/17	Robin	Mosleth	8/31
Lora	Miller	8/18	Erin	Norris	8/31