



JOY Newsletter

April 2023

United Methodist Church
of Whitefish Bay

It is new, again, Praise God.

Easter Time has come again! At our latitude the celebration of Jesus' resurrection coincides with the rebirth in the landscape. Without the historic tradition of celebrating Passover, I have more often thought of resurrection in the context of spring. I recognized the limitation in this after living for years in central India when the pattern of rebirth in the landscape is experienced in the June monsoons.

Spiritual resurrection can be experienced anytime of the year: for example, when one seeks or gets a new job after a layoff or gains a new friend after losing one. It could be as simple as finding energy to play with a child at the end of a tiring day. The experience of resurrection is re-enlivening. The ability to trust the promise of resurrection is a cornerstone of faithful living. Recognizing and witnessing to it is our commission.

Our church has been experiencing a resurrection after the pandemic. People of faith here have recreated the midweek fellowship, study and choir time, have reimaged hospitality at events held in the church, and recommitted themselves as the extension of Christ's love to our neighbors.

In the last three months, a dozen non-member families have attended our midweek programs,

two adults and one child have been baptized, ten new members have joined the church, a chair, secretary and treasurer have been named and two new members have been added to the leadership board, three new lay leaders have been elected, and the next pastor has been appointed to begin in July. I experience a sense of vitality throughout the week in every aspect of church life: worship, preparation for worship, education, fellowship, small group discipleship and mission.

This month we will call upon all church members to commit to funding the church's program and outreach for the year to come, with a celebration on May 7. The mental and emotional hurt people are experiencing as a result of the pandemic and the ongoing social discord make us recognize the need in our society for a vital, loving church life for our and our neighbors' families. This church in particular has long been a pillar in the denomination and our mission field.

I pray you experience new and renewed life in the coming days and gather in the Easter season to sing hallelujahs for resurrection. 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



Welcome

Are You New to UMCWFB?

Our next New Member Information Meeting will be in the Walnut Room on **Sunday, April 2, following the 10:30 a.m. service.**

Anyone interested in church membership is encouraged to attend. Contact Pat Wisialowski with questions at pwisialowski@umcwfb.org, 414-964-2424, ext. 224.

Welcome to our newest church members who were received on Sunday, March 5 at the 10:30 a.m. service: Karen Andeen, Timothy Tharp, Jill Dittrich, Elizabeth Guarisco, Josh Guarisco, Judith Pier Lybeck, Gregory Schimanski, and Tabettha Steege.



Taizé Service

Taizé Worship, April 7, 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday Worship focusing on the Seven Last Words of Christ. These are actually the seven phrases he uttered on the cross. Worship is one hour and very reflective.

Greeting, Ushering, and Coffee Servers Needed!

Worshippers new and old are all welcome to pitch in with Sunday morning hospitality.

It's a great way to get involved in worship and meet new people!

Sign Up Below to help with Sunday Hospitality
[Please click HERE to pick your date and time.](#)

Questions or concerns, please contact Pat Wisialowski, pwisialowski@umcwfb.org, 414-964-2424, ext. 224.



ASP is Sponsoring a Free Pancake Breakfast!

Join us in Fellowship Hall for a delicious pancake breakfast on **Easter Sunday, April 9, from 7:00 to 10:30 a.m.** Donations to support the Appalachia Service Project (ASP) youth mission trip will be accepted.



ASP Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

The Spaghetti Dinner is back! Join us after the Children's Musical performances for a warm and delicious spaghetti dinner! **Spaghetti dinners will be available for eat-in or carry-out on Saturday, April 22, from 6:00 until 7:00 p.m. and again on Sunday, April 23, from 11:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.** Pints of sauce will also be available for purchase. Meals are \$10 for adults and \$5 for kids (4-12). Kids under 4 are free. Please come and support the high school youth as they fundraise for their summer ASP mission trip.

Holy Week 2023

Palm Sunday, April 2 @ 9 & 10:30 AM

Maundy Thursday, April 6 @ 6:30 PM

Good Friday, April 7 @ 12 & 7 PM

Holy Saturday, April 8 @ 5 PM

Easter Sunday, April 9
6:15 AM at Klode Park
9 AM Contemporary
10:30 AM Traditional



Missions

Mission of the Month for April - Meta House

From Meta House program directors: At Meta House, our mission is to end the generational cycle of addiction by healing women and strengthening families. Established in 1963, Meta House offers comprehensive services to help women break free from their addiction, strengthen family bonds, and achieve self-sufficiency as individuals and community members. For the past 60 years, our outcomes have consistently outpaced national averages in helping women recover from substance use disorder. Meta House is not a faith-based program, but we value and respect the belief systems of all who we serve. We know that spirituality or organized religion can be a vital part of recovery for some women, and for these women we'll work collaboratively to incorporate those elements into their treatment plans. For women who do not consider religion, faith, or spirituality as important to them, we will likewise honor and respect those beliefs and build treatment plans accordingly.

UMCWFB members have been involved with Meta House in small and large ways for many years, and we are grateful for Meta House's inclusion as April's Mission of the Month. Thank you for considering a donation to Meta House!



Books for Marvin Pratt School

There will be a box by the elevator and one 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 Loretto Steinmetz with any questions at ldsteinmetz@wi.rr.com.

It's Basket Season!

Whether for Easter or Mother's Day, Lydia's Treasure can help you fill the perfect basket with just the right gifts. Decadent chocolate, gently read books, luscious Thistle Farms products to pamper, colorful note cards, sparkling jewelry and lots of fun finds. Let us help you fill your basket while supporting fair trade and local missions: Running Rebels, Walnut Way Conservation Corps, and Kindred MKE.





CHURCH & SOCIETY

The United Methodist Church

The ***Social Principles of the United Methodist Church*** are a common set of beliefs across our different cultures and national identities that unite the church in one Wesleyan practice of faith. They represent the prayerful and earnest efforts of the General Conference to speak to issues in the contemporary world from a sound biblical and theological foundation. In many instances, the Social Principles actually urge us not only to make a difference in this world, but to make a different kind of world.

In Section 160 – the “Natural World,” we are called upon to take measures to save energy for now and for our future.

“All creation is the Lord’s and we are responsible for the ways in which we use and abuse it. Water, air, soil, minerals, energy resources, plants, animal life, and space are to be valued and conserved because they are God’s creation and not solely because they are useful to humans. God has granted us stewardship of creation.” (www.umcjustice.org)

We can decide to adapt our lifestyles to a consumption of energy that respects the limits of the planet earth. In Church & Society’s recent 5-week presentation of Katharine Hayhoe’s book,

Saving Us: A Climate Scientist’s Case for Hope and Healing in a Divided World, Hayhoe gives us the tools to engage our loved ones in discussions about how to save our future. While individual choices such as eating vegetarian, installing solar panels or going vegan helps, Hayhoe suggests that the biggest thing WE can do is to TALK about climate change. By talking about climate change, why it matters, how we can fix it, and how we can use our voices to advocate for systemic change, WE CAN save our planet. And, as Christians, we are entrusted by God to do so.

To find out more about how we can save our future, borrow a copy of Katharine Hayhoe’s book, ***Saving Us***, from our church library or use the [attached Resource list](#) from the book study. During April, you can also look for copies of the Resource List by the church office.



Love and Logic®



United Methodist Church of Whitefish Bay Esther Circle
presents

Parenting the Love and Logic Way®

Four Session Class

with

Kristal Melbye

Trainer and Parent Coach

*This class is designed to help parents grow kids'
character, compassion, and problem solving skills!*

Make parenting fun and rewarding, instead of stressful and chaotic. Get practical tools and techniques to achieve respectful, healthy relationships with your children.

Why does it work:

- Uses hope and empathy to build up the parent/child relationship
- Emphasizes respect and dignity for both children and adults
- Provides real limits in a loving way
- Teaches consequences and healthy decision making
- Specific enough that you'll have the words to say when facing real situations with your kids

This class is also great for nannies, grandparents, or any adult who loves a kid!

This parenting program is designed to give you practical skills that can be used immediately!

Dates: Fridays, April 21, April 28, May 19, May 26 from 12:30-1:30pm

Location: United Methodist Church of Whitefish Bay

Child care available, but sign up required.

Please register by contacting Jenny Fisher at jennylorethafisher@gmail.com

For any questions email Kristal Melbye at kristalmelbye@gmail.com.

Racial Diversity Team

Restorative Justice Series - April 25 and May 9

Our church will be hosting two presentations on Restorative Justice on **Tuesdays, April 25 and May 9 at 6:30 p.m.** in the Sanctuary. (See flyer on next page).

Restorative justice is a holistic form of criminal justice which focuses on accountability, rehabilitation, and reentry into society by the offender and healing for the victim or survivor and the community, rather than solely on punishment and retribution. This approach has been effective in reducing crime in other countries and is gaining popularity in the US as an alternative for certain crimes and offenders.

Our two keynote speakers are Chief Judge Mary Triggiano, Chief Judge of the Circuit Court of Milwaukee County and incoming Director of the Andrew Center of Restorative Justice at Marquette University Law School, and Janine Geske, current Director of the Andrew Center, distinguished professor of law at Marquette University Law School and former justice on the Wisconsin Supreme Court.

We encourage you to mark your calendars for this important and enlightening series and to bring a friend.

NSSS

Exciting new classes begin in April for North Shore School for Seniors

North Shore School for Seniors (NSSS) begins its second spring term April 17. Check out the classes, then register and pay online at nss4s.org or pick up a catalog and print registration form at the church.

“Graduating” in iPhone Basics during the first term was a familiar face to many at Whitefish Bay. Jim Partleton, who this year celebrated his 101st birthday, definitely was the school’s oldest student. He’s pictured here with Roger Stafford, a NSSS board member and longtime friend of Jim.

There are 27 different courses that meet from one to four times, and start at different times from **April 17-May 9**. Topics range from *Downtown’s Art Scene* to *Making the Most of Being a Grandparent* to *Ukraine: Yesterday and Today*. All classes meet at our church and are open to all. NSSS is an adult outreach ministry of UMCWFB.



Racial Diversity Team

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE SERIES **Tuesday, April 25 and May 9 at 6:30 p.m.**

United Methodist Church of Whitefish Bay
819 E. Silver Spring Drive Register at: bit.ly/RJSeries23

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



Judge Triggiano will examine how restorative justice can rehabilitate and reintegrate offenders into society while also requiring them to accept responsibility for their actions and act to repair the harm they have caused. She will be joined by Adam Procell and Robyn Ellis who will share their personal stories.

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*

Janine Geske will discuss how restorative justice can bring healing to victims and survivors and repair relationships and communities impacted by a crime



Sponsored by:

Bay Bridge Wisconsin, United Methodist Church of Whitefish Bay, MICAH, WISDOM, EXPO, The Community, From the Same Dust, a Baha'i Group, Bay Shore Lutheran Church, Christ Church Episcopal, Congregation Sinai

United Women in Faith

We'll be "Crazy about Quilts" at May 9 luncheon

We will be learning about the world of quilts at the UWF luncheon on **May 9**. Mark your calendar now, and be ready for food AND friendship. Bring a pal and make some memories!

After a delicious lunch, UWF member Kathleen Smith will provide a brief history of the "Art of Quilting." Then, join us to celebrate Claudia Circle and the circle's long-time quilters and their accomplishments. Several special quilts will be on display for all to admire. (There might even be a game to liven things up.)

The fun begins at 11:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall, with lunch served at noon. Childcare is available from 11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m., if requested in advance. Reserve your place by registering in the office, or phone the office at 414-964-2424. See you there!

Books, books, and more books

The Reading Circle is meeting **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. Contact Sally Jipson to join the group's email list.

Join Eve's Garden Circle for beauty and fun

Do you love being outside in nature, working the soil, and sharing in fellowship? Eve's Garden Circle is a group of women who love to putter in the soil while sharing in the joys and concerns of each other's lives. Together, we toil in the earth at our church, weeding and planting, trimming and sowing in our efforts to beautify the church gardens.

We gather on the **2nd and 4th Tuesdays from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m., on the lawn at the northwest corner of the church.** (Only have an hour to spare? That's okay, too!) We ask everyone to bring along a pair of gloves, a water bottle, and your favorite tools. Lawn bags, as well as refreshments, are provided.

During the wintertime, when the earth is dormant, we go on field trips together to nurseries, Mitchell Park Domes, "Art In Bloom" at the Milwaukee Art Museum, or wherever the beauty of God's creation abounds. We especially enjoy sharing in each other's lives. If you love to toil in



the dirt and you are looking for fellowship among a group of caring women, we'd love to have you join us! ALL are welcome! Contact Eve's Garden Chair

Beth Groble at bgroble@gmail.com or Susan Stoehr at sstoehr@gmail.com to learn more.

Members include: Ruth Alt, Paula Braam, Beth Groble, Mary Lynn Han, Deb Medin, Mary Mueller, Kathy Schluter, Mary Lynn Scheuber, Susan Stoehr, Linda Stolz, Rena Szewczuga, Karin Welstead.

Men's Ministry

Habitat for Humanity restarts in April

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 for Humanity answers the housing and neighborhood needs of Milwaukee.

This year we will be part of the Harambee Faith Coalition. 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 that the faith group will build is at 3040 N. 6th St. This is a great way to get involved with our mission at UMCWFB. All are invited—bring friends!

April plans begin with:

- **Sat., April 1** build wall panels for houses in the Habitat warehouse S. of Capitol Dr.
- **Sat., April 22 and 29** erect walls for our new house on the site.
- **Early April** decorate 2x4 studs for house walls will be at the UMCWFB
early April - watch for notices..

The construction will go on into the summer and fall as we partner and share the house construction with the volunteers from other local faith communities.

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

Looking forward to seeing you at our house construction site.

Another way to volunteer with Habitat as an alternative to construction is by helping at the Habitat ReStore(s) (retail store). Let Don or Dick know you are interested in the ReStore.

WOW

Women Offering Worship

Twenty-five years of Women's Ministries on Thursday mornings. Worship with us for lay-led, mid-week, faith-lift at 9:30 a.m. in the Chapel through the month of April. Watch for our summer book study to begin in May! Contact Nell Nash, director of Women's Ministries, for more information at nnash@umcwfb.org.

Notes from the Board

The ALB met on March 21, 2023, with Brady Henderson, Don Behrens, Mike Stoehr, Lori Aeschbacher, Craig Walker, Tom Van Cleave, John Frunceck, Nancy Anderson, and Jenny Fisher in attendance, as well as Pastor Don Francis and Pam Vaughan from the staff. Guests included Laurie Jeffery, Dick Steinmetz, Beth Groble, and Kathy Schluter. We are grateful for the patience of all attendees as we struggled with intermittent internet problems.

We welcomed Samantha Gundrum as a new member of ALB after the Board unanimously approved her application. Samantha is a longtime member of our congregation who comes from a family of clergy and church leaders. Samantha has been active with children's and musical programming as well as other missions in our church, and we are excited to bring her onboard. Welcome, Samantha!

Being the Church in the Post-Pandemic World

After Tom opened the meeting with prayer and last month's minutes were approved, Pastor Don continued our devotional examination of engagement and growth in a post-pandemic church. We reviewed the demographics for people living in a 1-mile and 3-mile radius of the church. We discussed what people in this demographic want/need from a church and how we could provide that for them. It was noted that people tend to join a program prior to joining a church.

Also from Pastor Don, Liz Casciato, having become a member of UMCWFB, has now been approved as a Certified Lay Servant. All groups participating in the church are encouraged to put an emphasis on hospitality.

The Children's Musical/ASP Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser will be held the weekend of **April 22-23**. This will coincide with our Stewardship campaign.

Charge Conference will be held on **Monday, May 8**. Tom Van Cleave has volunteered to help put materials together for this.

The WNL team is considering catered meals for next year. This would reduce the Kitchen Expenses. The Missions team will be notified that they need to consider alternative ideas for purchasing the food needed for meal programs.

Financial Update

Pam reported we are slightly in the black (\$14k) through 8 months of the fiscal year. There are 5 Sundays in April which may add to this surplus.

Stewardship Campaign

Dick Jones, Jenny Fisher, and Mike Stoehr will give testimonials during the 4-week-long Stewardship campaign beginning April 16. There will be just one service on Consecration Sunday, May 7, with refreshments to follow. Pam reported that we need a target of at least \$780k in pledges to cover next year's budget. We need to clearly communicate to the congregation where we currently stand, where/how we want to grow and what it will take to get there –

Notes

dream big but explain what the dreams are. The Stewardship Team is working on developing a narrative budget approach to communicate how the budget works through the telling of impactful stories.

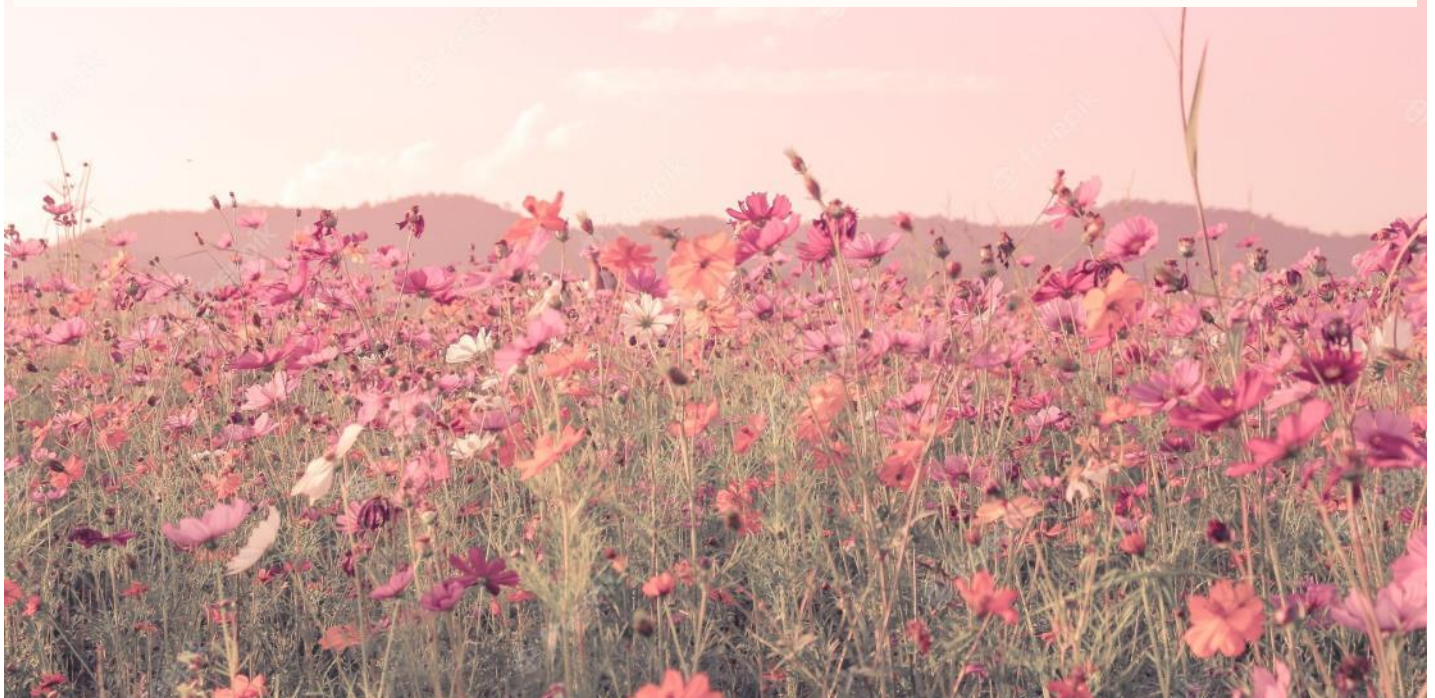
Trustees

We continue to deal with water leaks. Vendors are assessing the potential causes/solutions to the issues. Thanks to Laurie Jeffery for cleanups. The carpet in Room 225 has been replaced. Various other projects regarding the Danbury entrance and improvements to the 816 and 820 houses have been reviewed by Trustees.

April Ministries Workshop

Tom Van Cleave reported that invitations will go out to around 40 people for the UMCWFB Leadership Workshop which will be held on **Saturday, April 15, from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.** Incoming pastor, Gary Holmes, will facilitate the event. This workshop will be an assessment of where we are today and another workshop, yet to be scheduled, will tackle visioning - where we want to go.

The ALB's next meeting will be held on **Tuesday, April 18**, with the closed session beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Wesley Room. General session will begin around 7:00 p.m. A Zoom option will be provided. All are welcome.





Birthdays for April

Joan	Modrinski	04/01	John	Sook	04/20
Laurie	Geisel	04/01	Laura	Whitney	04/20
Priscilla	Buck	04/02	Fredric	Ehle	04/21
Christine	Gaffney	04/02	Mandy	Kliber	04/21
Susan	Abram	04/03	Alana	Blegen	04/22
Joshua	Guarisco	04/03	Mike	Lindfors	04/22
Marjorie	Hogan	04/04	Nolan	Feix	04/22
Karen	Swartzberg	04/04	Adelaide	Schaetzke	04/24
Kathryn	Voelz	04/05	Jim	Armstrong	04/25
Nancy	Lizdas	04/05	Brooke	Vogt	04/25
Jennifer	Patrick	04/06	Amelia	Hicks	04/25
Charles	Tharp	04/06	Marie	Sander	04/26
Anne	Ehle	04/09	June	Berry	04/26
Beth	Groble	04/09	Bruce	Markuson	04/26
Junise	Clark	04/10	William	Matt	04/27
David	Dettinger	04/11	James	Thomson	04/27
Jennifer	Provancher	04/11	Deborah Ridley	Kern	04/28
Jack Bryan	Schultz	04/11	Linda	Stolz	04/28
Judy	Linsley	04/12	Gary	Summers	04/28
Rega	Plaster	04/12	Ann	Markuson	04/28
Tom	Groble	04/14	Tom	Van Cleave	04/28
Gregory	Schimanski	04/14	Bill	Jeselun	04/29
Rosemary	Schroeder	04/15	Jason	Kliber	04/29
Annemarie	Case	04/16	Eileen	Dean	04/30
Jackie	Stackhouse	04/16	Kathy	Widdifield	04/30
Amelia	Zentner	04/17	Bryan	Schultz	04/30
Chelsea	Montague	04/17	Dan	Murphy	04/30
			Isabelle Dorothy	Haecker	04/30