



JOY Newsletter

January 2024

United Methodist Church
of Whitefish Bay

A Life Worth Living Well!

I am so grateful for the blessings that God has poured upon our faith community this last year. I know what you are thinking, "Wow, we were appointed the best pastor in the world this last year." Now, more honestly, the dedication of the staff and leadership as well as the faithful service of the congregation has sparked amazing demonstrations of new life and meaningful impact upon the mission and ministry areas of our church.

Most recently, the spiritual growth of the 100 participants in our Wednesday Night Faith, Food, and Friendship program; nearly 70 women at the wonderful celebration of the United Women in Faith Christmas Luncheon; and the missional and social justice focus of Christmas with a Conscience...to name a few. Furthermore, the Christmas Extravaganza, Shine On! This event included some 100 participants and over 600 in attendance. It was awe inspiring from the 50 children who spoke and sang to the narrators, choir, bells, and orchestra that shared a message of hope and purpose communicated in the Christmas story. Don't forget the live animals.

These and other aspects of our congregational life, bring God-honoring momentum into an exciting new year in 2024. Our winter worship theme starting on January 7th is called, "A Life Worth Living Well." I came up with this unique idea of focusing on our lives individually and as a faith community to be healthier and more intentionally meaningful in the new year. I hope we can "resolve" to do this together. Then we move into February and Lent with a focus on an exciting journey into a Spiritual Pathway.

We will evaluate and explore our wellness at a level of connecting, growing, and serving with God and others. The hope is that the faith community will be in Lenten small groups that will allow us to reflect upon our lives and faith. The purpose of the groups will be upon a church-wide focus on what a spiritual pathway is and can be.

Finally, I would mention the on-going work to discern how we move forward with our facility needs. The trustees, staff and ministry leaders have been in prayerful conversation around how to provide building upgrades that facilitate enhanced fellowship and worship experiences as well as provide a warm and welcoming atmosphere for our guests. There will be open congregational meetings and a feasibility study to help the congregation to discern what will honor God and support most the mission and vision of the church. Please join me in praying for the church that God would be honored, and the people be blessed. I pray this coming year will be one of living into a God-sized dream, that even though we may stumble, the Lord will renew our strength, not to just get by, but to soar on wings like eagles and run without growing weary. I feel so blessed to journey through life and faith with you.

In The Newness of Christ,
Pastor Gary

*Even youths grow tired and weary,
and young men stumble and fall;
but those who hope in the Lord
will renew their strength.
They will soar on wings like eagles;
they will run and not grow weary,
they will walk and not be faint.
Isaiah 40:30-31 (NIV)*

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

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

Winter Sermon Series A Year of Living Well Heart-Soul-Mind-Strength

Join Us Weekly in Worship
Saturdays @ 5pm
Sundays @ 9am and 10:30am



Wednesday Night
Faith, Food, and Friendship
Weekly starting Jan. 10
5-7pm

Dinner 5-6pm
\$10 adults, kids eat free
Faith-Focused Classes
Kids Choir and Activities

AMAH! AND THE NIGHT VISITORS



January 12 and 13 | 7pm

January 14 | 2:30pm

Admission
\$25 Adults
\$15 ages 12 and under

United Methodist Church of Whitefish Bay
819 E Silver Spring Dr. Whitefish Bay Wi 53217

Tickets available at
WWW.BREWCITYOPERA.COM



DON'T MISS THIS!

Friday Night Blind is an Award-Winning Film -
A Warm, Quirky, Inspiring Story of Three Visually Impaired Bowling Friends
and the Way They Roll....

The Milwaukee Beer Barrels Blind Bowling League is an
eclectic mix of visually impaired and sighted bowlers with a simple focus:
Making friends, having fun, taking life one frame at a time.

*"I left with a greater awareness of my friends & neighbors who live with disabilities,
plus the desire to seek out similar organizations in my hometown that may need support."*

—Wisconsin Film Festival

Saturday, January 20, 4pm - 15-minute film, followed by Talk-Back with Director Scott Krahn
Free will offering - United Methodist Church of Whitefish Bay

DON'T MISS THIS!

**Friday Night Blind is an Award-Winning Film,
a Warm, Quirky, Inspiring Story of
Three Visually Impaired Bowling Friends and the Way They Roll....**



It's another Friday night at Burnham Bowl.
Strikes, spares, gutter balls, trash talking and victory dancing.
The group making all the noise isn't just another bowling league.
**The Milwaukee Beer Barrels Blind Bowling League is an
eclectic mix of visually impaired and sighted bowlers with a simple focus:
*Making friends, having fun, taking life one frame at a time.***

*"The directors strike a perfect balance between scenes in Rhonda, Judy, and Sandy's homes sharing life stories, and the razzing, good-natured banter at Burnham Bowl in West Allis as members of a blind bowling league. **Their positivity is infectious!** I left with a greater awareness of my friends & neighbors who live with disabilities, plus the desire to seek out similar organizations in my hometown that may need support."*

—Wisconsin Film Festival

4 pm Saturday January 20th, 2024

15-minute film, followed by Talk-Back with the Director

Appropriate for school age and up (some mild cuss words)

Free will offering

United Methodist Church of Whitefish Bay

Giving WARMS THE HEART

DONATE BLOOD

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF WHITEFISH BAY BLOOD DRIVE!

DONATE AND RECEIVE: Donate blood and be entered for a chance to win an SUV!* -PLUS- As a thank you, all attempting donors will receive an Admirals code to redeem for one FREE ticket to any home game in January or February.

**Thursday
January
4**

TIME: 2pm-7pm



LOCATION: United Methodist Church of
Whitefish Bay - Fellowship Hall
819 E Silver Spring Drive

APPOINTMENTS ARE ENCOURAGED: Use the QR code or link below to secure your spot.



tinyurl.com/UMCBD124



ON DAY OF DONATION: Valid form of ID needed that displays date of birth. We accept drivers license, state issued ID, or donor card.

Support the MacCanon Brown Homeless Sanctuary

The MacCanon Brown Center is a daytime sanctuary and multi-resource facility for homeless and at-risk individuals in the most economically challenged neighborhoods in Milwaukee. According to their website, it is "a place to be, belong and become within a transformational solidarity community--interfaith, nonpartisan, intercultural, and noncanonical--a racially and economically diverse family of hope."

Our church has supported this facility in many ways since its inception--by volunteering for their meal program, by tutoring, by serving on their Board, by helping in the gardens and by cleaning up the neighborhood. Sister MacCanon Brown is a real force of nature and has lofty goals to redevelop an old five story factory into a safe and welcoming place where people in need can be served in many ways--a warm place to shelter, through clothing and food, by providing education and social services support, and basic health care. Most importantly, this is a place where everyone is treated with respect and surrounded in God's love.

The MacCanon Brown Center is planning their first Annual Gala to raise operating funds and we hope that some members of our congregation will be called to attend--as a way to celebrate this ministry and to support the work and facility. Or, please consider supporting them through volunteering or donations on their website (mbsanctuary.org).

If you are interested in attending the Gala at the Hilton on March 2nd or have questions, please email Ross Workman at rworkman1953@gmail.com.



Events

“Shine On!” Christmas Music Outreach Event Brings Hundreds of Community Members to our Church to Celebrate the Christmas Season!

“Shine On”, our musical Christmas outreach event, brought several hundred community members into our church to celebrate the true meaning of the season. We listened to beautiful festive music provided by multiple choirs and a full orchestra, enjoyed watching adorable angels and star actors, watched the nativity story and were reminded to put our faith in action this holiday season!! We are so grateful to all the people who participated in the show, created the beautiful, artistic set, managed the sound, lights and technology, organized the costumes, provided hospitality to guests, managed the live animals and everyone else who contributed to make this amazing Christmas community outreach event such a huge success! We are especially thankful to Neil Bubke for his creativity, talent, passion, vision and coordination to make this production such an awe-inspiring spiritual event.



United Women in Faith

Funds raised go to support UWF programs and mission

Orders for soups will be accepted at church during the three weekends before delivery – Jan. 20-21, Jan. 27-28 and Feb. 3-4.

To order online through Feb. 4, contact suekdaugherty@gmail.com.

Cost of soup quarts will be \$10.
Cash, check and Venmo will be accepted.

Watch for updates on the flavor of soups that will be offered.
They are sure to be delicious and tempting for every palate!



Christmas Luncheon highlights “Joys of Christmas”

Holiday cheer filled Fellowship Hall on Dec. 12 for the UWF Christmas Luncheon.

Volunteers included a fabulous kitchen crew, hard-working hostesses that put together beautiful table settings and served their guests, and Neil Bubke’s musical (and (photographic) talents.

Several ladies shared personal memories prompted by the “Joys of Christmas” and Pastor Gary shared the love of the season.



Register Feb. 1 for North Shore School for Seniors spring session

North Shore School for Seniors (NSSS) organizers are planning exciting classes for the spring 2024 session. Registration begins Feb. 1. Classes meet Monday or Tuesday at our church on the second floor, except for exercise classes which are held in Fellowship Hall.

Class info and online registration is at nss4s.org and catalogs are available for pickup at the church on Feb. 1. The spring session is (Term 1) Monday, March 4-Tuesday, March 26 and (Term 2) Monday, April 8-Tuesday, April 30. There are no classes April 1 and 2.

New classes planned for spring include

Traveling to Exotic Locations: Uganda and Tanzania;
The History, Impact and Importance of the United Nations;
Let's Root for Trees: Their Biology and Importance;
Making Colorful Baskets with Beads and
America's Hidden Family: Thomas Jefferson and Sally Hemings.

Email questions to nssbxt@gmail.com or phone (414) 292-0960. Classes are open to all. NSSS is an adult outreach program of the United Methodist Church of Whitefish Bay.



Men's Ministry

Thanks for the Musical, "Shine On," Stage Scenery and Nativity Shed

Given 11 days between Dec. 9 and Dec. 20, the Men's Ministry assembled and disassembled the set for the musical Shine On (with Scouts help carrying) while keeping the Sanctuary stage clear for 2 worship services. That involved 3 work sessions plus clearing/reassembling the stage the night after the musical - including resetting and relighting the Christmas Tree into the 2nd hour after the musical was completed.

New to the set was the Star Tower to the left of the stage - another of the set constructions by our woodsmith, Dick Jones.

That same group was responsible for the setup and takedown of the Nativity Shed in the Narthex.

So many thanks to the men of Men's Ministry who provided the musical scenery and the Nativity Shed.



Men's Ministry Events in January 2024



Marquette Basketball - Saturday, January 6, at 2 p.m.

Again this year Men's Ministry provides a chance to see Marquette Basketball during the student vacation when tickets have been reduced. This year we are going to see the 11-0 Women's team since the Nationally Ranked Marquette men play a Nationally Ranked team which results in no reduced tickets.

The Marquette women are themselves Nationally Ranked 18th with outstanding play including a team 3pt shooting percent of .424 lead by one player shooting 3's at a .588 clip - plus a team FG percent of .508. The Sat., Jan. 6 game is against Xavier at the Al McGuire Center. Don Lybeck (mdonlybeck@sbcglobal.net) has negotiated a great \$5 ticket price for reserved seats. This is your chance to enjoy good basketball with friends and fellowship.

Please let Don Lybeck know you plan to join us on Jan. 6.

This invitation is **open to all church members** - so let Don know soon.

Men's Ministry

Mission at Home – Saturday, January 20, from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Once again Men's Ministry is sponsoring **Mission at Home** when the congregation has the opportunity to help with repairs and maintenance of our church building on a January Saturday -with an 8:30 a.m. continental breakfast and lunch provided for fellowship and relaxation. **But for starters, we need you - the men of the church - to step forward and volunteer to be here on Saturday, Jan. 20, from 9 a.m. (8:30) to 3 p.m. (if possible).**

The projects range from the catacombs to the second floor and include painting (Danbury entrance, halls, rooms), cleaning (Sanctuary cushions/walls, windows), repairing (corners, knobs), cleaning kitchen cabinets, organizing/securing catacombs.

We look to men and women and youth to help. Please check your schedule and plan to be there - **with confirmation to Dick Steinmetz** (rsteinmetz@wi.rr.com). It is very important to know who will be there for project planning purposes!!!

Mission at Home is a great time for fellowship and feeling good about what we can do together for our own church. See you there.



Groups

Interested in meeting other young professionals?

Are you 21 or older? Join us for fun and fellowship monthly.

This month we'll be meeting at Amorphic Beer in Riverwest. In the past we've met at Estabrook Biergarten, Third Space Brewing, Game Night in Mequon, Sailing and more. Bring along a friend or come alone and make new friendships. All are welcome! RSVP to Beth Groble at bgroble@gmail.com.

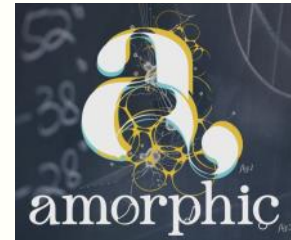
Join Young Professionals at Amorphic Beer

amorphicbeer.com

Thursday - January, 11th, 6:30PM - ??

Nerd Bingo at 7:00PM

RSVP to Beth Groble at bgroble@gmail.com
or text 414-916-9405 for more info.



Are You a Younger Professional and Interested in ways to get involved in our Faith Community?

HUGE SHOUT OUT to our **Young Professionals** for serving in various ways in our faith community: Josh Guarisco, Sarah Laszewski, Tabetha Steege and Greg Shimanski who performed in the recent production of SHINE ON. Tabetha for directing the Children's Choir in Shine On! and also being a Stage manager. Kelsey Long for baking cookies and greeting at SHINE ON, Nicholas Hatch for working on the set for SHINE ON and "Hanging of the Greens!" Kelsey Long and Ava Armstrong for volunteering at our Family Outreach event: ADVENTure. Liz Guarisco for leading us in worship, and offering the sermon! on Sunday, Nov 26th. And, thanks to Liz and Lora Haines for both currently leading separate Bible Studies at our FFF on Wednesday nights. (Consider stopping by for dinner at 5:00 and joining one of their classes!!) Thanks also to Liz, Tabetha, Greg, Josh, Eshan Debak, Sarah, Jenny and so many more young talented singers and musicians for singing and performing in our Chancel Choir for Sunday worship services. Josh and Lora Averbeck for coordinating a night of gift wrapping at Northcott Neighborhood House. Ava and Kelsey for offering hospitality on Sunday mornings by greeting our guests and members. Check out the "Opportunities to SERVE and make a difference flyer" in this month's JOY or let us know how YOU would like to volunteer! Contact Beth at bgroble@gmail.com.

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
of Whitefish Bay

bay family MINISTRY

WINTER FUN



Youth Bowling
@ Bayshore



Family Ice Skating
@ The Pettit



Youth Group &
Sunday School
10:30 AM on
Sundays

SUMMER '24 SAVE THE DATE



Lake Lucerne Camp
Kids Ages 7-11
June 16-19

Youth Quest Camp
Grade 6-12
June 23-28



Group Mission Trip
Nashville
High School
July 20-27



Vacation Bible
School
PreK - 4th Grade
August 5-8



For more information on youth, children, and family events, contact
Pastor Andrew: ajones@umcwfb.org

events.bay-family.com

Family Adventure

We had an amazing time at our “Advent-ure” event hosted by our Youth and Family Ministry Program on Saturday! Families sang Christmas songs, created advent-themed crafts, and listened to the nativity story told from the perspective of the animals!

We loved spending special time with our faith community families and providing them with the tools to share meaningful experiences together during Advent season.



Each month, kids will:

- Connect with a service/mission group
- Grow in their understanding of needs
- Serve others with their gifts

January: Creation Care
(pets supplies and seed pods)

February: Encouraging Others
(making cards for homebound/soldiers, blessing bags)

March: Giving Up
(how not doing something helps others - Lenten practice)

April/May: Feeding Others
(sandwich making, musical break, FMSC)



Youth

GMT 2024! Save the Date!

Our next youth mission trip will be in **Nashville July 20-27, 2024** so mark your calendars. This year we are partnering with an organization called Group Mission Trips. When you volunteer with Group Mission Trips, you'll have the opportunity to engage in meaningful service projects that have a lasting impact on residents and communities around the area. GMT is open to all current 8th graders through current high school seniors. We also need adult leaders to accompany us on the trip.



Please let Lori Aeschbacher (loriaeschbacher@sbcglobal.net) or Pastor Andrew know if you have interest in going or have questions about the trip. We will reserve a spot for you!

Mission “Thank You”

Christmas With a Conscience Event 2023

Thank you for making our Christmas with a Conscience event a huge success! Because of your generous donations, we were able to help 7 organizations around our community and the world – a final tally will be reported soon. Participating organizations included:

- Rooted & Rising
- Northcott Neighborhood House
- Habitat for Humanity
- MacCanon Brown Homeless Sanctuary
- Hunger Task Force
- Feed My Starving Children meal packing event
- Peace Learning Center

Thank you for all your generous donations and living out our mission to Love God, Care for Each Other, and Serve in the World.

Tree of Love

The Mission Committee wishes to thank all of you who made this year's event a great success by either purchasing a gift(s) and/or purchasing Walmart gift cards. You have made Christmas a little happier for 81 children at the “Next Door Foundation.” We needed to take two trips in order to deliver all of them. The 100 Walmart cards were given to “Rooted and Rising Washington Park” (formerly the United Methodist Children's Services) for each of their families to be received at their annual Christmas party.

The picture shows just a small portion of the presents we took to N.D. F. Pictured is Melissa Hodzinski who coordinates the gift giving program for over 900 children and 80 families.



A fresh new semester of Women's Ministry on Thursday mornings begins January 11th!

Inspiring praise and prayer worship at 9:30 in the chapel and via Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81008292611> Meeting ID: 810 0829 2611.

Two NEW classes begin at 10:15 in the Walnut and Wesley Rooms (one via Zoom)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88949811901> Meeting ID: 889 4981 1901

Women Offering Worship, WOW, is home to women from all over the North Shore denominations. This is from Jodi, who was invited by a friend. *"Before finding WOW, I had prayed and asked God to help me find a community of Christian women, where I could fit in and feel safe sharing my thoughts and learning more about Christianity. God has truly delivered, I am surrounded by the most encouraging and uplifting women at UMC. I have been welcomed into this group of amazing ladies and made to feel so special and valued. These ladies are truly living out their faith, praying for one another and supporting each other through all of life's ups and downs. I am so very blessed to be part of this group, to be welcomed so warmly, and to be loved on so unconditionally."* Make the resolution in 2024 to give yourself a faith-lift every Thursday and be welcomed. Contact Nell Nash for more information nnash@umcwfb.org 414-964-2424 x218

Grateful thanks to Todd, Natalie and Nicholas Hatch, Mary Mueller, and Glen Harris for the Advent trees and decorations set up, Sanctuary tree set up and take down. To Nelda Mngoja for shepherding the Christmas poinsettias. What a fabulous small but mighty team. To Boy Scout Troop 400 for the beautiful wreaths and once again to our generous donor of the spectacular Sanctuary Christmas Tree. Bless your disciple's hearts and hands.

Lydia's

Lydia's Treasure says "thank you" for the incredible holiday season.

Your donations, purchases and support mean that we can be a beacon in the darkness for **Camp HomeTown Heroes** – supporting families of fallen military and first responders, **Andre' Lee Ellis' CAGE – Community, Agriculture, Growing, Experience** – mentoring and teaching young inner city youth in leadership, sustainable growing and community and **Just One More Ministry** – located in Glendale, they rescue food from restaurants, grocery stores and others to feed the hungry and underserved in Milwaukee. Our January hours will be Wednesday evenings 5-7:30, Saturday and Sunday before and after worship. We will be open all three performances of Amahl and the Night Visitors. New things every week.

Glass canning jars, lids and rings! If you bought some at the Holiday Fair or have jelly, pint and quart jars you no longer need, they are vital to so many things for the November Holiday Fair. Rings and lids APPRECIATED. Recycle them with Judith Circle for next year's Holiday Fair. Leave them in the marked box by the first floor elevator. Thank you!



Birthdays for January

Jacob	Donovan	1/01	Crystal	Stinemates	1/16
Steve	Jefferson	1/01	Helen	Proffit	1/17
Jean	Hidde	1/03	Alexander G.	Boehm	1/17
Sue	Mortellaro	1/03	Norva	McCutcheon	1/19
Karin Bloom	Welstead	1/04	Judith	Pier Lybeck	1/19
Daniel	Montague	1/04	Cynthia	Boock	1/20
John	Daugherty	1/05	Erik	Haglund	1/20
Keralyn	Bolliger	1/06	Peter	Van Volkinburg	1/20
Stephen	Scheil	1/06	Joann	Cochran	1/21
Peter T	McMahon	1/06	Linda	Mazumdar	1/21
Kathy	Thomson	1/07	David	Melbye	1/21
Peggy	Mulligan	1/07	Susan	Patrick	1/22
Jennifer	Kunde	1/07	Annette	Buor	1/22
Steve	Mortonson	1/09	Paul	Jacobson	1/23
Connor	Trimble	1/09	Mary	LaFrombois	1/23
Diane	Wais	1/10	Jennie	Plaster	1/23
Roger	Stafford	1/10	Christine	Martin	1/23
Jeffrey	Ballentine	1/10	Sarahnetta G.	Mike	1/23
Aaron	Gorham	1/10	Lois	Kailhofer	1/24
Elizabeth	Casciato Guarisco	1/10	Sadie	Sauter	1/24
Katherine	Thomson	1/11	Daniel	Morse	1/25
Richard	Jones	1/12	Elizabeth	Freuck	1/26
Craig	Walker	1/12	Martha	Kriefall	1/26
Alex	Rinehart	1/12	Joan	Robertson	1/27
Teresa	McClellan	1/13	Chris	Kitchen	1/27
John	Krezoski	1/15	Jackson V.	Speed	1/28
Jacquelyn	Oliveira	1/15	Lori	Aeschbacher	1/29
			Claire	Starling	1/29
			Mary Myers	Read	1/30
			Jenny	Fisher	1/30