



JOY Newsletter

September 2023

United Methodist Church
of Whitefish Bay

Staying Strong

Last month I shared my hope to start strong as the Pastor of this wonderful church. I wanted to be enthusiastic, make friends, and ask plenty of questions. So far, so good. I continue to receive gracious support and I thank God for the blessing of serving this amazing church. The next focus is upon staying strong in month two...I try to keep it all manageable.

Some of the wisdom for starting strong recommend visualizing success and developing good habits. Our church is well on its way towards refining the mission and vision for the church. I am grateful for a mission to "Love God, care for each other, and serve the world." It is a description of a process for growing deeper in our faith. I am seeing how important it is for this church to love God in many ways, including worship. In fact, the love for God shows up in caring for each other as well as serving in the world.

Recorded in Luke 10, Jesus responds to the expert of the law's question, "Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus shares that the greatest commandment to love God, and your neighbor as yourself. Like any good lawyer, he has a follow question for clarification, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus responds with the parable of the good Samaritan. (Luke 10:30-37). You know I have

to say it, Jesus identifies the Samaritan (someone despised by the Jews) to demonstrate a radical, and I mean radical, act of hospitality. Offering medication, room and board is above and beyond what might be expected.

For Jesus, loving God is intimately connected with how we treat others...our family, our friends, our neighbors, our classmates, our co-workers, and even the stranger. What a natural lead into the second aspect of our mission, to care for each other and thirdly, to serve in the world. We are getting close to our fall Welcome Picnic on Sunday, September 10 following the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Please prayerfully consider who you may invite to an event of fun, food, special music, and fellowship. I concrete way to fulfill Christ's call to love our neighbor.

Not only does this help us clarify our mission and vision for the church, but it can lead us to form good habits of radical hospitality. Not only do our guest get an opportunity to experience a more profound demonstration of God's love, but they also receive the hospitality of a faith community that I think is amazing.

Staying Strong 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

Message from ALB: Good News and Moving Forward

Greetings from the Accountable Leadership Board (ALB). We hope you find this quarterly update helpful as we renew our commitment to be followers of Jesus Christ who Love God, Care for Each Other, and Serve in the World.

At our April 15 Leadership Discernment Meeting, we locked onto three words that we believe can help revitalize our church: Invitational, Relational, and Missional. These words defined broad areas of focus for our church and helped identify six specific actions to begin our recommitment. We are measuring their progress over the next months as building blocks for our next phase of “Visioning” which we are targeting early next year. You heard some of these actions described in Pastor Gary’s August sermon series on Radical Hospitality. Another key highlight is our first TRIAD event (outreach approach to reach into the local community and build relationships) with the “Fall Picnic” on September 10.

We want to thank the Stewardship Committee for a successful campaign where at the July 18 ALB meeting, the 2024 budget was approved with an increase of \$100,000 or approximately 10% Year over Year. The Stewardship campaign results saw an increase in total pledges from the prior year along with 33 first-time pledges. UMCWFB is making an investment for the future with a new staff position labeled “Director of Congregational Growth and Community Engagement” in pursuit of our mission statement that brings new energy and enthusiasm. We believe we are positioned to have a strong year.

If you want more details on ALB’s recent activities, please read on for more information.

The six actions focus on:

- Be a Relational church by revitalizing Small Groups Fellowship to build relationships;
- Encourage deeper spiritual growth and connect people to a ministry based on spiritual gifts;
- Develop a spiritual community Discipleship Framework;
- Ensure effective Marketing strategies and processes are in place to reach targeted populations;
- Be courageous in moving towards a Reconciling Church that confirms our current orientation and welcomes everyone;
- Use a TRIAD outreach framework centered on a big event with the goal of developing personal relationships with new visitors;
- Establish a culture of Radical Hospitality that is intentional, engaging and connects guests and new visitors to all aspects of our church.

As noted in the August eJOY newsletter, Pastor Gary Holmes began a sermon series on Radical Hospitality. He notes that UMCWFB is a place that focuses on caring for others and being a welcoming congregation to all, without exception. Look around and ask yourself, are there opportunities at UMCWFB to enhance our welcoming / caring image to guests that aligns with our core values along with a family place to gather for fellowship and to connect with others?

The ALB believes these are exciting times at UMCWFB to make investments towards our mission statement of growing each of us and our church as disciples who

Love God, Care for Each Other, and Serve in the World.

If you have questions or comments, please send them to tvancleave@ameritech.net.

Tom Van Cleave, Craig Walker, Don Behrens, Nancy Anderson, Lori Aeschbacher, Chelsea Montague, Jeff McClellan, Hui Zhang, Samantha Gundrum

Prayer Walk from UMCWFB or around your neighborhood, Wednesday, Sept. 6, at 6 p.m.



United Methodist Church of Whitefish Bay

Don't be anxious about anything; rather, bring up all of your requests to God in your prayers and petitions, along with giving thanks. Then the peace of God that exceeds all understanding will keep your hearts and minds safe in Christ Jesus.

~ Philippians 4:6-7 (CEB)

**Special Church-Wide Prayer Walk at church or in your neighborhood, Wednesday, Sept. 6 @ 6 PM
With a special focus on the success of our Fall Welcome Picnic- Sept 10th at 11:30 AM**

If you're taking a walk, consider prayer walking! (If walking is difficult, pray where you are) This is a type of intercessory prayer that involves walking to or near a particular place while praying. As you walk, pray for what is important to you, and include the needs of others.

Possible approach:

Begin by asking God to give you insight into the needs of others as you walk by their home.

Praying with your eyes closed is not recommended while walking. ;-)

Look around as you pray...open your eyes to what God is doing and can do.

Pray for people's connection with God, health, and wellbeing, while offering a blessing for their lives and home.

Pray that UMCWFB will be instruments of Christ's redeeming love, with a hospitality that welcomes all, a nurturing community that is safe and empowering, and a passion to bring peace with justice to every one of God's children.

**Special church-wide Prayer Walk at church or in your neighborhood,
Wednesday, Sept. 6, at 6 p.m.**

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

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





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



Love and Logic®



United Methodist Church of Whitefish Bay
presents

Parenting the Love and Logic Way® **Five 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: Wednesdays, September 13 - October 11, 2023

Time: 6:00-7:00pm

Location: United Methodist Church of Whitefish Bay

Childcare available

For any questions email Jenny Fisher at jennylorethafisher@gmail.com
or Kristal Melbye at kristalmelbye@gmail.com.

September Series: **Won't You Be My Neighbor**

Sept. 9/10: **Won't You Be My Neighbor: It's You I Like**

Sept. 16/17: **Won't You Be My Neighbor: I'm Taking Care of You**

Sept. 23/24: **Won't You Be My Neighbor: The Mad That You Feel**

9-30/Oct. 1: **Won't You Be My Neighbor: How Big Is Your Neighborhood?**
(World Communion Sunday)

Worship Series Starting on September 9th & 10th

**WON'T YOU
BE MY
NEIGHBOR?**

Week 1: It's You I Like

Taizé Worship Schedule Updates!

Mark your Calendars!

September 1 - No Taizé

September 29, 7:00 p.m.

October 6 - No Taizé

November 3, 7:00 p.m.

December 1, 7:00 p.m.



Taizé is usually held the first Friday of each month. Due to family conflicts, the schedule is as above. We look forward to returning to the monthly schedule in November.

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>

Saturday Worship Events

September 2, Larry Roou will join us on the organ

September 9, Ice Cream Social, following worship
If you can't make the Sunday picnic, come on Saturday!

For information on our church practice, contact Sue Stanley: sstanley@umcwfb.org



Coming to UMC of WFB! Leading Worship Lay Servant Class

Read more here: [A Certified Lay Speaker required class](#)

Are you interested in learning more about United Methodist Worship?
Pastor Gary Holmes will be offering a Leading Worship Lay Servant Class later this fall.
It's open to anyone in the Wisconsin Conference of the
United Methodist Church, including you!

This course focuses on the ministry of the lay servant who either regularly or occasionally leads a group, class, organization, or congregation in worship.
The course is grounded in the classic patterns of Christian worship
and includes opportunities to create and practice elements of worship together.

When: **Thursdays, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m., October 19 - November 16**

Where: United Methodist Church of Whitefish Bay, 819 E. Silver Spring Dr.,

Phone: 414-962-2424

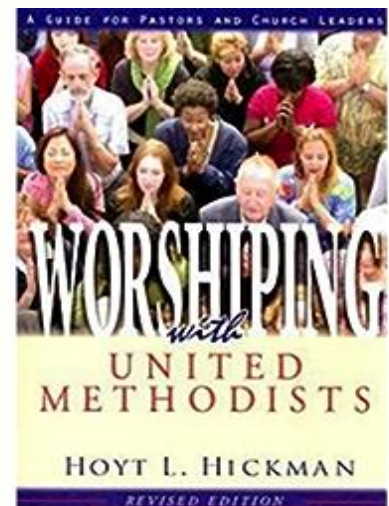
Email: gholmes@umcwfb.org

Contact: Pastor Gary Holmes

Register by: October 19, 2023 (sooner is better)
All classes are taught IN PERSON.

Participants must purchase their own book.

Book: *Worshiping with United Methodists* by Hoyt L. Hickman,
revised edition available via
[The Upper Room Store & Resource Library -
Worshiping with United Methodists.](#)



Yulin Hsi Scholarship

In 2015, longtime member Clarice Chow generously donated money in memory of her parents to be used for scholarships. Education was very important to her father so Clarice wanted to help high school seniors who had been active in our church with a \$1,000 scholarship. Leah Gaffney is this year's winner. Leah participated in Sunday School, church camp, VBS, ASP, choir, musicals, pumpkin sales, meal programs, etc. In addition, Leah is a National Merit Scholar, AP Scholar, on honor roll, and has received many other honors. She will be attending University of Minnesota and will be studying linguistics and technical writing.

Previous winners were as follows:

2015	3 Unknown winners
2016	Nicholas Hutch Anna Kateck
2017	Ellie Henley Alison Stube
2018	Jacob Patrick David Potter Michel Apoyo Mwanza
2019	Claire Wunderlich Christopher Hastings
2020	Michelle Markuson Molly Milia Amelia Zentner
2021	Emily (Emme) Henley Phoebe Kopecki
2022	Sarah Jones Emily Junk
2023	Leah Gaffney



There is one more scholarship available for next year.
If anyone wants information on how you, too, could fund scholarships in this way,
please contact anyone on the Foundation Committee.
Congratulations Leah!

Ministry

United Women in Faith

Reading group kicks off new session

It's so exciting to begin our list of book selections for 2023-24!

Deborah Reading Circle meets at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 5

for the discussion of *West with Giraffes* by Lynda Rutledge.

This first meeting of the year will be held in the Walnut Room at church. Join us as we discuss this novel, inspired by the incredible true story of two *giraffes* who made headlines and won the hearts of Depression-era America. For more info, contact Sally Jipson swjip@hotmail.com.



Learn more about our small groups at the fall luncheon

In United Women in Faith (UWF), our small groups are called "Circles." They are designed to provide opportunities for friendship, ministry, and spiritual growth. Many Circles focus on a shared interest such as quilting or books, while others may meet primarily for fellowship and support. You can learn much more about our UWF Circles at the Fall Luncheon on

Tuesday, Sept. 12. Please plan to join us!

Save the date for Holiday Fair

We hope you've been focusing your creative talents on creating great items for the Holiday Fair. It's September! Now is the time to mark your calendar and invite your friends to join you at the Holiday Fair on **Saturday, Nov. 11.** All funds raised go to UWF supported missions.

WOW

Women Offering Worship (WOW)

Be a part of a morning for women with 26 years of faith-filled worship and study. Women Offering Worship, WOW for short, meets in the chapel for mid-week 30 minute worship at **9:30 a.m. each Thursday beginning September 14** followed by a welcome continental breakfast. Two great studies begin the following Thursday, September 21 at 10:15am. Choose between JOB from the IMMERSION Bible Studies by Lee A Schott or Barbara Brown Taylor's LEAVING CHURCH. We can't wait to welcome you to this vibrant component of Women's Ministry! For more information, contact Nell Nash, Director of Women's Ministry nnash@umcwfb.org 414-964-2424 X 208

Women's MOVIE NIGHT!



Saturday, September 30th at 6 p.m., on the front lawn weather permitting. Bring your favorite friend, or several, a chair or a blanket and enjoy the show with other women. There will be popcorn, laughter, and new friendships shared. Invite your friends and neighbors to experience a warm welcome, a great movie and the fun of the evening.

Men's Ministry Early Fall Events

Please mark your calendar for these September and October Men's Ministry events. We look forward to you joining men of our church as we share time in fellowship. All men are welcome as well to invite their others to our events, including visitors, to the Welcome Picnic after our 10:30 Sunday Worship on Sept. 10.

Lake Michigan Sailing – Thursday, Sept. 14

Join Men's Ministry for a sailing adventure on Milwaukee Bay!

On Thursday, September 14, 2:45 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. the group will be sailing on Lake Michigan (for weather questions that day - call Tom Groble 414-916-9404).

Your RSVP is needed by Monday, Sept. 11 for a good count!

Asking for a prompt arrival by 2:45 p.m. at McKinley Marina South Docks - located on E. Lagoon Dr. adjacent to the Kite Store. Drive to "Gift of Wings"- park in the lot or on Lagoon Dr. (see map). We will gather at the fence/ middle gate (adjacent guard shack) by 2:45 p.m. in order to be let into the South Docks by a boat Captain. Note: Should you get delayed in your drive to the docks, call Tom Groble so arrangements can be made among the boat departures.

The sail is hosted by Captains Tom Groble, Jeff McClellan, Bob Batchelder, and John Krezoski. They will cook brats at the dock after the sail (bring a camp chair for more convenient sitting). Beverages will also be served; a contribution of \$10 will be appreciated for drinks, food, etc.

We appreciate the afternoon hours for the sail may not accommodate those who have other commitments in the afternoon and evening hours. The Captains have offered to arrange for a sail on another evening. Please let us know if that interests you in order to talk about dates.

Thanks to The Captains of UMCWFB!

Please let Tom Groble (tom.groble@gmail.com) or Dick Steinmetz (rsteinmetz@wi.rr.com) know that you will be there. We welcome visitors who joined us at the UMCWFB picnic on Sunday, September 10.





Habitat Volunteers – Saturday, Sept. 23

Our church has the opportunity to build and raise those constructed frame walls for a new house in the King Park Neighborhood. We are looking for 8 volunteers from the church - women and men - for our mission, Habitat.

We have room for up to 8 volunteers from UMCWFB and the Harambee faith Coalition. Please join us if you can. If you are not able to work, framing is quite physical, we are still short of completing our \$5,000 pledge to purchase lumber. Contact Don Lybeck to help mdonlybeck@sbcglobal.net

Thank you to all the church members who have been volunteers for Habitat.

Men's Ministry Golf – Saturday, October 7

Save Saturday, Oct. 7 for the Men's Ministry return to the MEE KWON golf outing in the morning - tee times start at 10 a.m. Play 9 holes so that we can have the award ceremony (no pressure with scramble format) while lunch is consumed - and still have a good part of the day remaining for family and other activities. Let Don Lybeck (mdonlybeck@sbcglobal.net) know that you will play.



Pickleball – Saturday, October 14

Plan to come to the Oaks of Shorewood (3900 N Estabrook Pky.) to play pickleball from 1 to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 14 with a gathering at Corner Bakery Café (1305 E. Capitol Dr.) starting at noon for lunch. Please let Mike Rupp (mjrrmr@gmail.com) know you will be there.

Breakfast with Pastor Gary Holmes – Saturday, October 21

A Saturday morning continental breakfast in Fellowship Hall with Pastor Gary Holmes will be served on Oct. 21 with fellowship starting at 7 a.m., breakfast at 7:30 a.m. and our program at 8 a.m. Don't miss this opportunity to ask Pastor Gary your questions about our church and plans for the future, Pastor Gary's background that brought him to Whitefish Bay, plus other questions you have for him.



The morning breakfast is an opportunity for fellowship with men of the church while leaving most of Saturday for your family and weekend activities. Please let Dick Steinmetz (rsteinmetz@wi.rr.com) know you will be joining.

Lydia's Treasure - UMCWFB Mission Gift Shop

Lydia's Treasure
A Mission Supporting Store

Every purchase, every day, supports mission in at least one way in Lydia's Treasure. Our little mission gift shop is filled with fair trade, Thistle Farms, gently read books, puzzles and games, thoughtful greeting cards and lots of fun finds. Expanded hours for fall begin **September 18 – Monday & Tuesday 9:30-3, Wednesday 5-7:30, Saturday 4:30-6, Sunday 10-12.** We are thrilled to be supporting **Just One More**, a food recovery ministry, **CAGE Community Agriculture Growing Experience**, an inner city mentoring and make-a-difference mission and **Camp Hometown Heroes**, a program of healing for fallen first responder/military families.

Thank you to UMCWFB from Marvin Pratt Elementary School for the 13 bags of school supplies that were delivered - the result of your generous donations.



Update on Marvin Pratt

Many thanks to our members who donated so generously to our collection for supplies for the students at Marvin Pratt. The teachers and the students thank you!

Good news about our Tutoring Ministry at UMCWFB. Marvin Pratt School (MPS) is now one of 5,600 world-wide schools in 159 countries as an IBWS (International Baccalaureate World School). This accreditation took three years by their staff to prepare for qualification to bring a program that seeks to develop well-rounded, caring, knowledgeable and self-motivated students in a school that has an international reputation for excellence and quality. Our tutors will be working with students who are on the path to developing a sense of the world around them and their responsibility to it. Below are the "Profiles" which they will be incorporating in their teaching. We now have 20 tutors starting to work with the children after Labor Day, and they will be incorporating these profiles in their teaching. If you want to know more about this program, you can go online to "Marvin Pratt IB" or call Loretto Steinmetz, Facilitator for the Learn to Succeed Tutoring Program, 414-550-2957.



Mission of the Month Updates for 2023

The Mission Team would like everyone to know recent amounts donated in support of our many mission partners.

January - University Christian Ministries - \$500

February - Unity in Hope School - \$715

March - UMCOR - \$1,478

April - Meta House - \$815

May - Inner City Meal Programs - \$708

June - Habitat for Humanity - \$840

July - Peace Learning Center - \$4,092

Thank you for your generous support.

The Mission Team hopes you will join us in celebrating your mission support.

Please contact Don at mdonlybeck@sbcglobal.net to find out more about any of our mission partners, or to volunteer time on-site.

Support for Maui - UMCOR

We will gladly accept monetary donations designated for Maui.

UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) is helping with emergency relief, food, shelter, clothing, first aid water. They will continue to assist with long-term recovery and restoration.

Please designate any gifts to "UMCOR - Maui".
Thank you from the Mission Team.



Mission of the Month for September

In September, our donations will go to Feed My Starving Children (FMSC). FMSC is a Christian nonprofit that coordinates the packaging and distribution of culturally appropriate meals to people in developing nations. Our donations fund the meal ingredients.

Volunteers hand-pack the meals. Meals are donated to FMSC food partners around the world, where kids are fed and lives are saved. *Looks for food pack event details this spring!*

Join the Young Professionals Group



Come join the Young Professionals group and enjoy making new friends! Recent adventures were to Estabrook Beer Garden, a sail on Lake Michigan, and most recently, a Brewery tour and beer tasting at Third Space Brewing. Looking ahead we're excited to learn how to play pickleball, kayak the Milwaukee River, hike in local county parks and so much more, while enjoying making new friends and growing in our faith together. Interested in joining our active group? Contact Beth Groble at bgroble@gmail.com for more information and to find out about our next adventure.



Register now for North Shore School for Seniors!

No matter how old we are, September always makes us want to buy new notebooks and head into a classroom. You can do that at North Shore School for Seniors (NSSS), where there are 50+ diverse classes for fall 2023.

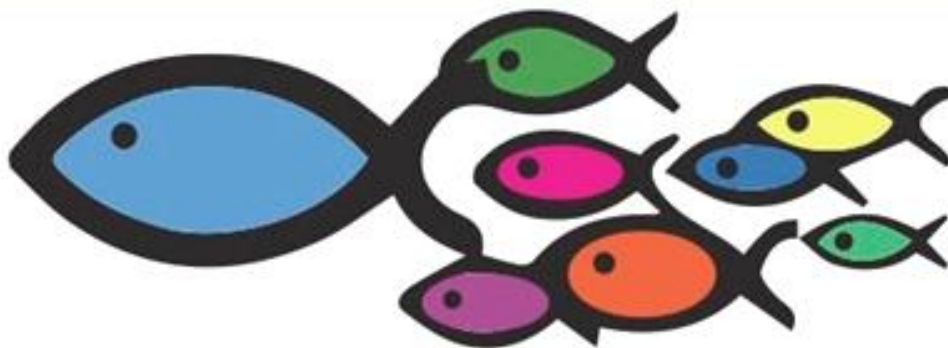
Explore Indian cooking, Milwaukee's leadership in fresh water, Wisconsin's autumn birds, travel tips, drawing, the last 70 years of comedy, tai chi – and much more. Church members heading up classes include Don Behrens (jazz history and jazz singers), Pastor Andrew (history of comic books) and Roger Stafford (vice presidents and first ladies who made their mark).

We'll laugh, learn and meet new friends!

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.
Fall 2023 catalogs also are available for pick-up at the church office.
Email questions to nssbxt@gmail.com or phone (414) 292-0960.

NSSS is an adult outreach program of our church, launched more than 25 years ago. The school is dedicated to improving mind and spirit through learning and friendship and attracts seniors from Milwaukee to Grafton.



Racial Diversity Happenings

“We All Belong” Campaign

On August 3, MICAHA launched the “We All Belong” campaign. The campaign’s three-fold purpose is to protect democracy, reject “christian” nationalism and build the Beloved Community. The launch was attended by almost 100 Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist and Unitarian religious leaders in Milwaukee and will continue through the 2024 presidential election.

For those unfamiliar with "christian" nationalism, it is a political ideology that merges Christian and American identities, claiming that only Christians can be real Americans and only people who hold a particular set of political beliefs can be true Christians. It would make Christianity the national religion, allowing "christian" nationalists to define “true” Christianity, impose their beliefs on others and claim favored status. Christian nationalism often overlaps with and provides cover for white supremacy, racial and gender subjugation and religious intolerance.

We believe that "christian" nationalism is a distortion of Christianity and a threat to democracy. It places fear of others and power for a few over the love and acceptance of all that Jesus preached and the democratic ideals that undergird our democracy. We see the influence of "christian" nationalism in the increasing number of hate crimes against Blacks, Jews, Asians, immigrants and LGBTQ+ people. We see it in the firing of teachers who teach lessons deemed too controversial, the dismantling of DEI programs, and the banning of books from school libraries. We saw it recently in the attempt by armed self-proclaimed Neo-Nazis to intimidate and disrupt Pride Fest in Watertown, WI.

In contrast, our democracy is based on freedom, equality and opportunity for everyone and Beloved Community – Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s name for God’s kingdom – embodies Jesus’ teaching to love, accept, respect, serve, build up and stand with our neighbors, regardless of their race, religion, gender, or socioeconomic status. Beloved Community is a society where diversity, including diversity of thought, and honest and respectful dialogue are valued and supported, rather than feared and suppressed. While we recognize and expect that reasonable people will differ on individual issues, we believe that no single issue is more important than the preservation of our democracy and religious freedom and the building of God’s Beloved Community.

Here are links to learn more about the “We All Belong” Campaign and an interview describing the campaign.

[Click here to read more about the campaign.](#)

<https://www.wpr.org/milwaukee-faith-leaders-speak-out-against-christian-nationalism>

Our church is a member of MICAHA. Kathy Schluter is part of the “We All Belong” planning team and several members of the Racial Diversity Team attended the launch. We invite you to join us! Feel free to contact Kathy at kschluter505@gmail.com if you have questions or would like to know more.

Housing Segregation Seminar

If you missed the excellent Habitat for Humanity seminar on Housing Segregation at Solomon Community Temple in May, you can catch it on **September 27 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Bay Shore Lutheran Church** at 1200 E. Hampton Rd.

The event is organized by Bay Bridge and our church is a co-sponsor.

Reserve your spot [HERE](#).

HOUSING, RACE & EQUITY WORKSHOP

EXPLORING THE PAST & BUILDING AN EQUITABLE FUTURE IN MILWAUKEE

SIGN UP HERE!

Through the examination of primary sources & data maps, we will gain a better understanding of how intentional institutional choices resulted in segregated housing in the greater Milwaukee area. We will also make a commitment to affordable housing and learn practical ways to take informed action.

SEPTEMBER 27
6:30 – 8:30 PM

AT BAYSHORE LUTHERAN
1200 E HAMPTON RD



Keeping Our Kids **Safe** at Schools
R a l l y !

Raise Your Voice!
Sunday, September 10

Gather at 12:30pm.
Speeches and Short March to Follow.

It's back-to-school time and it's time we back common sense gun safety laws to protect our kids!
Parents, grandparents, relatives, teachers, students — we all have a stake in this issue.

Hold Elected Officials Accountable!

- **HEAR** from WAVE, Moms Demand Action, Brady, State Senator LaTonya Johnson, and Students.
- **VOLUNTEER** Turn your concern into action.
- **BE VISIBLE** Join our short march up North Ave. to Murray Ave.



Rally Against Gun Violence - September 10 at 12:30 p.m.

There will be a rally and march against gun violence at the North Point Water Tower Park on Sunday, September 10. The rally will be held at 12:30 pm and the march will begin at 1 pm. The goal of the rally is to call attention to bills currently before our legislature to adopt common sense gun safety standards. The event is hosted by Grassroots North Shore, WAVE, Moms Demand Action and the Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence.

Read more [HERE](#).

Where



Corner of North Ave and Terrace Ave.

Event Sponsors



We had an amazing week at the beginning of August with more than 60 kids who participated in our safari-themed “Wild Life” Vacation Bible School!

We played fun active outdoor games, did creative crafts and sang joyful songs. Kids also learned about the wonderful unique gifts God gives us, Jesus’s endless and deep love for children and the importance of spending time with God and each other.

We are so blessed and grateful for all of the youth and adult volunteers that made our week so special and successful! We are looking forward to another fun week of VBS next summer!



Notes from the Board

On August 15th, the Accountable Leadership Board met for the regular August meeting. In attendance were ALB members Don Behrens, Nancy Anderson, Craig Walker, Jeff McClellan, Tom Van Cleave, Chelsea Montague, Hui Zhang, as well as Pastor Gary Holmes, Nell Nash, Jean Erickson, Laurie Jeffery, Kathy Schluter and Dick Steinmetz.

Opening Prayer and Consent Agenda

Tom Van Cleave opened the meeting with a prayer and reflection on Matthew 17:14-20 that was read by all attendees.

As noted in the Trustees report, Tom highlighted that over the past two months, there has been significant rainfall that has led to flooding at the Northeast ramp into the church. This is the number one priority for the Board of Trustees to investigate options for diverting rainwater away from the building and/or designing an approach that encompasses a “Green” solution. This is a complex project with 3 phases – design, construction and funding that will require congregational awareness and support.

ALB approved the July meeting minutes and Trustees report.

Mission Statement and Core Values / Leadership Team Actions

The Mission Statement and Core Values were read aloud by all attendees as a reminder of the foundational elements on how to move our church forward.

The six actions from the April 15 Leadership Discernment meeting were listed with the next update meeting focusing on the key activities and deliverables to be scheduled in September. Tom noted that these programs will be foundational building blocks for our upcoming Visioning workshop to be held sometime in the spring. Beginning last month with Fall Picnic, future monthly ALB agenda will focus on one of the six key actions to provide a forum for Q&As. ALB was challenged to be a body through their calling for God – how can they serve others while continuing to grow their faith. Further discussions centered on a way to track our growth (attendance at worship and groups, financial updates, mission involvement, etc.) and also to identify the metrics (Dashboard of success) to better understand whether we are achieving our goals.

Message from ALB Communications

As mentioned at the July ALB meeting, a quarterly ALB communication to the congregation is needed on relevant matters around UMCWFB. That communication could be an All-Church meeting or a newsletter distribution including mail, email, bulletin inserts, and website. For the summer communication, Tom drafted a message titled “Good News and Moving Forward” and asked for feedback with a newsletter publication targeted after Labor Day.

Devotion and Pastor’s Report

Pastor Gary focused on Romans 12:9-13 (Common English Bible). Coincidentally it was the scripture read at Chelsea’s wedding. After reading it aloud, people commented on the words or phrases that most spoke to them and the kind of community of faith that was described in the passage. We were all asked to see the church through the eyes of a visitor.

Pastor Gary remarked on the support he is receiving from the staff, leadership, and congregation. His major areas of focus include the seven areas of church systems, discerning the facility needs with a path to move forward and reviewing Pastor Don's goals around discipleship and leadership.

SPRT Updates

Don Behrens stated that a Staff Appreciation luncheon will be held on September 6th at 11am.

No candidates have been received for the Director of Food Ministry position. We may need to find a temporary solution until this role is filled. Jenny Fisher has been unanimously approved by the SPRT and ALB for the position of Director of Congregational Growth and Community Engagement – congratulation Jenny!

It was noted that with Gary's vacation schedule, we will need someone to preach around 8 Sundays per year.

Financial Report

Based on July Operating Financials for period one, we are off to a good start to the year. A key driver was pledge contributions that resulted in a favorable monthly budget position of \$46,901.

Small Group Fellowship

As noted earlier, action owners from the Leadership Discernment Team will give updates on a regular basis to the ALB. This month Chelsea reported on Small Group Fellowship with the objective: "Be a Relational Church by revitalizing small groups fellowship to build relationships, encourage deeper spiritual growth and connect people to a ministry based on spiritual gifts". The action team is creating a list of small groups fellowship that currently exist and asking for input on future groups. Next steps and deliverables include identifying facilitators, revitalizing materials to guide facilitators and sharing with the congregation the importance of small groups fellowship to spiritual enrichment.

Outreach Vision

Jenny Fisher gave a summary of her involvement with the church and pointed out that the church has wonderful programming but lacks the organizational strategy and proper resources to promote the ministries and programs to the greater community. In her new role, Jenny will help to serve as outreach to the community and will work with the Marketing and Communications Team to promote these events strategically and effectively. She will also work with the Hospitality Team on visitor follow-up after worship and events and organize information sessions for people who are interested in membership. Jenny is excited to share her passion and professional experience to help re-energize our faith community through outreach.

Closing Prayer and Plans for Next Meeting

Chelsea Montague closed the meeting with a prayer.

Our next meeting will be held on **Tuesday, September 19**, with the closed session beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Wesley Room for ALB members, and the General session will begin around 7:00 p.m. where all are welcome. A Zoom option will be provided. All are welcome.



Birthdays for September

Jill	Dittrich	9/02	Daniel	Yunk	9/18
Diana	DelRosso	9/03	Lyle	Potter	9/18
Nancy B.	Maier	9/03	Madeline	Bunke	9/19
Robert	Kriefall	9/04	James	Lathrop	9/20
Terrence	Patrick	9/04	Holly	Morse	9/21
George	Bennett	9/04	Larry	Plaster	9/22
Logan Theodore	Balmer	9/04	Elayne	Waeltz	9/23
Clarice	Chou	9/05	Dennis	Daniels	9/24
Darlene	Earl	9/05	Patricia	Vanden Plas	9/25
Alyson Waeltz	Berning	9/06	Madeline - Tess	Ebert	9/25
Jeremy	Schaetzke	9/06	Sarah	Wilson	9/25
William	Barrett	9/08	Cindy	Strelow	9/25
Joan	Joyce	9/09	Gayle	Harris	9/26
Jeff	McClellan	9/09	Christine	Annin	9/26
Cheryl	Sapinski	9/09	David	Piggins	9/26
Nolan Linton	Dadaian	9/10	Ross	Workman	9/29
John	Hoylman	9/12	Denise	Potter	9/29
Matthew	Groose	9/14	Amy	Dodge	9/29
Harriet	Tharp	9/14	Justin	Owusu-Ayim	9/29
Richard	Yurkowitz	9/15	Diana	Scheelk	9/30
Paula	Braam	9/17	Rebecca	Pipkorn	9/30
			Karen	Andeen	9/30