



JOY Newsletter

July 2023

United Methodist Church
of Whitefish Bay

Meet Pastor Gary Holmes

Rev. Gary Holmes, who becomes senior pastor of the United Methodist Church of Whitefish Bay on July 9, has ties to the Milwaukee metro area. He once led tours of one of the city's major landmarks.

After the Milton, Wis. native earned an associate degree in electronic engineering, he worked for Allen-Bradley (now Rockwell Automation) on Milwaukee's south side. "And, yes, I did give tours of the famous clock tower," says Pastor Holmes.

During the year working for Allen-Bradley in Milwaukee and in Flint, Mich., Pastor Holmes "felt a real calling to become a pastor."

The youngest of five children, Pastor Holmes' father and grandfather were United Methodist clergy. He also traces his "relationship with God through Jesus Christ" to middle school when he attended a United Methodist Lay Renewal event.

Drawn to the ministry after working as an engineer, he returned to Wisconsin from Michigan. He then attended UW-Whitewater, where he earned his Bachelor of Science degree in 1987 and met his future wife, Lori, while attending campus ministry.

Pastor Holmes received his Master of Divinity degree in 1990. His first appointment was at Whitewater UMC.

In 1996, Pastor Holmes was appointed to Asbury Methodist Church in Madison, where he served until being appointed in 2005 as founding pastor to launch Sugar River United Methodist Church. He then earned his Doctor of Ministry Degree in 2008.

During his 18-year tenure, Sugar River United Methodist Church, the suburban Madison church grew to 250 members, with a staff of eight. The church website describes a mission to "Connect, Grow, and Serve in our relationships with God and others."

"It is not easy leaving a church that I have served and loved for 18 years," says Pastor Holmes. "But I am excited to become a part of the UMC of Whitefish Bay, a church that is known for its commitment to share the love of Christ with all people through service and outreach."

Pastor Holmes and his wife, Lori Holmes, have four grown children. The couple will be living at the new Lydell Apartments near Bayshore, and Pastor Holmes "looks forward to walking to work."

In Whitefish Bay, Pastor Holmes succeeds Rev. Don Francis, who has been serving as interim minister. For information on a reception for Pastor Holmes, visit umcwfb.org.

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

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



Join us during worship on the 8th and 9th for Faith, Fellowship, and Feasting with Pastor Gary and Lori Holmes!

Join us after 9 & 10:30 worship for light offerings: finger sandwiches, fruit, veggies, and desserts!
Contact [Nell Nash](#) if you are able to bring a dessert to share.

For 5 p.m. Saturday worshippers, there will be a salad potluck!
Contact [Sue Stanley](#) for more info.

If you have been away for a while or are looking for a good time to check out UMCWFB and bring a friend, this is the weekend! All are invited to worship, celebrate, and meet Pastor Gary & Lori Holmes!



We're looking for candidates for two UMCWFB staff positions. Please pass these job descriptions along to those who may be interested.

Click on the links below to view the job postings.
Contact Don Behrens at dnbehr@sbcglobal.net with your resume to apply.

Posted 6/26/2023

[Director of Food Ministry](#) & [Director of Congregational Growth and Community Engagement](#)

Taizé Worship - Friday, July 7, 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

This meditative prayer service will, this month, focus on prayers for our nation and the world.



Thank you for the PIES!

A HUGE 'thank you' to everyone who donated a pie and desserts for Pastor Don and JR's Appreciation Reception.

Your delicious treats were enjoyed by everyone.
Thank YOU!

Thank You

Joyous Reception Honors Pastor Don and JR

The June 25 reception honoring the ministry of Pastor Don and his wife, JR, was filled with a crowd of well-wishers. Attendees voiced thanks for their spirit-filled presence and nurturing of the UMCWFB faith community. The multi-generational group ranged from kids returning from Camp Lucerne to Pastor Don's 101-year-old mom. Thanks to the many pie bakers who supplied an abundance of sweet treats making this special day was made even more memorable.



Letters for ASP Participants

On **July 15**, 30 youth and adults will head to Knott County, KY to work on homes as part of **Appalachia Service Project**. It is a tradition that family members, friends, and members of our church community write letters to those who are on ASP. We give the letters to participants midweek as it's a great time to receive some love from home. These letters are always so appreciated by everyone!



Please consider writing letters for those on ASP. Please include the participant's **first and last names**, as we have several who have the same first name.

Letters can be dropped off at church by Friday, July 14.

If you want a list of those going, please email loriaesbacher@sbcglobal.net.

Summer Family Connections

Go to events.bay-family.com for RSVPs and details!

July 7th at 10AM for moms and kids

Esther circle meet-up | Maslowski Park, Glendale | RSVP online

July 9 for everyone

Welcome reception for Pastor Gary Holmes

July 10 at 1PM for kids and families

Swimming | Schulz Aquatic Park

July 15-23 for youth

Appalachia Service Project

July 31-August 3 for kids and volunteers

Vacation Bible School | \$50 - Register by July 10

August 3 at 6:45 PM for everyone

Lakeshore Chinooks v. Green Bay Rockers

\$10 Gen Adm, VBS kids are free with Parent | RSVP online

See the full list and register at events.bay-family.com

Racial Diversity Happenings

Juneteenth Day

Jean Erickson and Kathy Schluter attended the Juneteenth Day festivities on June 19. From the 3-hour parade to the myriad booths of food, clothes, jewelry and information along several blocks of Martin Luther King Drive, it was a big party with lots of friendly people. We loved the pointed humor of the t-shirt "Free-ish since 1865". To those who felt they would not be welcome or would feel out of place, we can say that we felt right at home. We hope more of you will join us next year and experience the fun and energy of Juneteenth Day.

The Threat of White Christian Nationalism

There are several events coming up that relate to White Christian Nationalism (WCN). WCN has been identified as one of the greatest threats facing America and Christianity today. We urge you to understand what it is and how it would change our country. MICAHA is planning a pro-democracy/anti-"Christian" nationalism rally on **August 3** and a group called Right to the City Alliance is sponsoring eight free monthly webinars about it called **Fascism 101 (the third webinar is on July 27)**.

You can register for the remaining webinars at <https://bit.ly/3MBzxYe>.

Save the Date for Fall!

Join us on **Sunday, September 10th after our 10:30am worship service** to celebrate a new season of spiritual growth, serving in our community, and fellowship!!

Enjoy delicious food, music, fun activities for the whole family, and learn about the mission and ministry programs our church offers.

Questions? Contact Tom Groble at tom.groble@gmail.com.



United Women in Faith (UWF)

Deborah Reading Circle - The Reading List is Set!

Deborah Reading Circle has just completed a successful year of shared reading and fellowship. Each year this diverse group of women who love to read, chooses 9-10 books to read and discuss. We gather for dessert, devotions, and discussion **every first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.** We have utilized Zoom to continue to meet during the Covid concerns and are now meeting in person. Look for some collections from last year's list at the Bazaar in November. Volunteers provide our monthly discussion leadership and conversation is lively and informative. We have nominated and voted on the list that follows to be our chosen focus for next year, beginning in September. Many titles are available as audio books and many members read ahead during the summer months. This is an incredible group of ladies with vast interests and knowledge. It is truly a thought-provoking evening together each month. Join us in fellowship and conversation about these books:

<i>West With Giraffes</i> by Lynda Rutledge	Sept. 5
<i>To Speak for the Trees</i> by Diana Beresford-Kroger	Oct. 3
<i>The Making of Biblical Womanhood</i> by Beth Allison Barr	Nov. 5
<i>Ida B. The Queen</i> by Michelle Duster	Jan. 2, 2024
<i>These Precious Days</i> by Anne Patchette	Feb. 6
<i>Together: The Healing Power of Connection</i> by Vivek H. Murthy	Mar. 5
<i>Four Winds</i> by Kristen Hannah	Apr. 2
<i>A Place Called Home</i> by David Ambrose	May 2
<i>The Night Watchman</i> by Louise Erdrich	June 4

Contact Sally Jipson at swjip@hotmail.com, with any questions.





Please give your child a "Busy Bag" made by the Judith Circle for during Church Services.

These bags have two purposes.

ONE, to help keep kids engaged during worship services if not in Sunday School or Nursery.

TWO, to help save offering envelopes and prayer cards from being used as coloring pages. These items are much more fun!

NSS4S

North Shore School for Seniors revs up for fall session

North Shore School for Seniors (NSSS) organizers are planning 50-plus exciting classes for the 2023-24 terms. This is a huge increase over the number of classes offered during the last academic year! The **first term of the fall session is Sept. 18 & 19 - Oct. 9 & 10.** There are *no classes Oct. 16 & 17.*

The **second term is Oct. 23 & 24 - Nov. 13 & 14.** All classes meet at our church, UMCWFB.

The online nss4s.org and print Fall 2023 schedule and registration will be available **beginning August 1.**

Email questions to nssbxt@gmail.com or phone 414-292-0960.



North Shore School for Seniors

Community



A Great Capuchin Walk!

Cynthia Boock, Hannah Smoak, Judy Lybeck, and Steve Scheil participated in the Capuchin Walk for the Hungry at Polish Fest. The walk's proceeds help support St. Ben's which has one of the meal programs that our church supports.

Men's Ministry

Habitat Construction Volunteers

Dry walling: **Saturday, July 15: 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

Interior painting: **Saturday, August 5: 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

Both dates are at our 3040 N. 6th St. Habitat Harambee House that we are building with our Solomon UMC and Lutheran School coalition.

Men, women, and youth are welcome to volunteer. Contact Don Lybeck at mdonlybeck@sbcglobal.net to volunteer and receive further instruction.

Remember - Habitat is the leading provider of affordable homes in Milwaukee since 1959. Habitat is our mission that you can be a part.



Men's Ministry Supports Vacation Bible School (VBS)

Monday, July 31 to Thursday, August 3: 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. each day

Again, this year, we want to invite men from our church to be involved with **VBS**. VBS this year is focused on animals and Wildlife. Whatever time you have available, there is a spot for you to be involved as much you want to be - for an hour, a day, or longer. The kids love having you there. Mark your calendar for that week - **PLUS**

Thursday night we go to Kapco field with families to see the GB Rockers play the Lakeshore Chinooks.

All VBS families, volunteers, and anyone else from our church family & friends are invited. It's a great way to end the week.

Please let Dick Steinmetz (rsteinmetz@wi.rr.com) or Pastor Andrew (ajones@umcwfb.org) know you are interested in attending. It really is special.



The Peace Learning Center is our UMCWFB July Mission of the Month

All loose change collected during July will go towards this mission. Checks may also be made out to the church with "Peace Learning Center" in the memo.

The Peace Learning Center of Milwaukee's mission is to be a catalyst in our community for nonviolent conflict management and respect for self, others, and the environment.

PLC is a community educational resource that offers training in non-violent conflict resolution and healthy communication. We offer highly interactive and personalized curricula for all ages. Through a combination of cooperative games, role play, small group study, and discussion participants learn to:

- actively listen to one another
- share their points of view
- express how they feel about a situation
- work together to find a "win-win" solution to move forward peacefully.



We empower students with concrete social-emotional tools and strategies they can use throughout their lives to better communicate with others and solve their own conflicts constructively. Classroom climates are improved, and teachers gain instructional time.

Upcoming Habitat Work Dates & Giving



Please register for either Saturday, July 15, to install drywall, **or Saturday, August 5,** to do interior painting. The work will be on the Harambee Faith Coalition house on North 6th Street.

Although June was Habitat mission of the month, we still need cash donations to meet our pledge to raise \$5,000 to purchase lumber and supplies.

You may donate to Habitat anytime during the year, please list "Habitat" in the memo line of your check.

Thank you, and please join us for work and/or raising funds.



It's the little things, the smallest kindness...

...come be a part of the
**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.

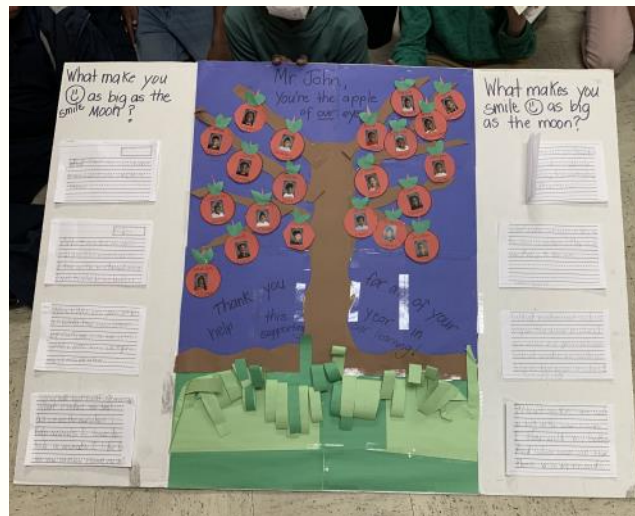
Build a friendship with an occasional phone call, a card in the mail, prayers, perhaps even a short personal visit every now and then...that's it! Your friendship and caring conversation are all that is asked.

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.

Many Smiling Faces at Marvin Pratt Elementary School

John Widdifield, one of UMC's tutors at Marvin Pratt, received a surprise from the 3rd-grade class in which he tutors. His sister wrote a book about emotions called *What Makes You Smile As Big As the Moon*. John shared this with the teacher and as a surprise, she had the kids write "what makes them smile as big as the moon". She attached their notes to a large poster that they presented to John on the last day of tutoring. Very special.



Church in Society invites you to join

Plastic Free July



Let's continue momentum from our climate book study this year. You can be a part of a global movement, started in 2011 in Australia, that has become an annual event in over 150 countries. During July, increase your awareness of plastic waste, especially single-use plastic, and challenge yourself and others to make changes to create a cleaner world. Recycling is not enough, as so much plastic is not recycled or cannot be recycled. A recent article in *The Atlantic* noted that the U.S. in 2021 had a recycling rate of only 5% for post-consumer plastic waste.

Go to the website, plasticfreejuly.org for more information and to sign up to receive weekly tips by email during July. You will be encouraged to commit to changes for a day, week, month, or all year like:

- Avoid single-use plastic packaging
- Target take-away items (Top 4: bags, bottles, straws, and coffee cups)

Only you can choose what convenience you are willing to give up for the sake of future generations.

- Change your lunch and picnic habits to no disposables,
- Buy beverages in cans or bottles only
- Try eco-products like laundry detergent sheets and shampoo bars (no more liquid in plastic bottles)
- Use paper grocery bags to line garbage containers (use bread bags for wet trash)
- At events you host, commit to only cans and glass bottles in the cooler; use real silverware, plates, and cloth napkins.
- Bring your own coffee cup to church. Your example will influence others to be more climate friendly.



The best way to change a habit is to start. Being part of Plastic Free July can help you to find alternatives that can become lasting new habits. You can commit to being a better environmental steward of the earth God created for all of us.

New Church Library News

We would like to invite you to join a new Church Library Team, a growing committee interested in re-thinking and re-establishing the Christian resources and the role of the church Library for the use of the entire congregation, members and friends of all ages.

If you are interested in helping to create a new direction for the church library, we invite you to our meeting to be held on **Thursday, July 13, at 11:30 a.m.** in the Church Library.

Please contact: Nell Nash, nnash@umcwfb.org or Cassie Carey, madresan@aol.com to let them know you plan to attend.

Possibilities we are considering are:

- Define a purpose for the library, who will be the targeted audience?
- Create a welcome space for members and friends to find materials to help enrich their Christian study, spiritual growth and holistic health.
- New open library hours, use of the library for special events, current location of library.
- Provide new educational resources that align with the many committees and services to support the members, study groups and teachers, a social hub of information for the congregation.
- Create a Tiny Library in the Buxton Memorial Garden.
- Outreach to groups, members through reading programs, books on display.



If you have ideas for the Church Library, join the team!



You do not need to have library experience.

We look forward to hearing from you!



Notes from the Board

On June 20, the Accountable Leadership Board met for the regular June meeting. In attendance were ALB members Don Behrens, Lori Aeschbacher, Tom Van Cleave, Jenny Fisher, Chelsea Montague, Hui Zhang, Samantha Gundrum, as well as Pastor Don Francis, Pam Vaughan, Nell Nash, Laurie Jeffery, and Dick Steinmetz.

Opening Prayer and Consent Agenda

After Tom opened the meeting with prayer, ALB approved the May meeting minutes and Trustees report.

Devotion and Pastor's Report

Pastor Don reflected on key themes from the February 4th workshop, hosted by WI Conference, titled "How to Reach & Welcome New People". A focus area centered on how a church can create a "culture of hospitality" where every person, every Sunday, is intentional about developing relationships and making connections with their guests.

Pastor Don highlighted from a summary list that a church needs a well-trained and dedicated hospitality team. This led to a discussion on providing guidelines on a card to practice a consistent, welcoming atmosphere. It was noted that Beth Groble is currently managing our visitors and hospitality program.

Staff-Parish Relations Team Update

Jenny Fisher reported that plans for Pastor Don and JR's Farewell reception on Sunday, June 25th following the 10:30 worship service are in place. Beth Groble has been recruiting people to bake pies which is Don's dessert choice.

Pastor Gary's Welcome Reception is being planned for Sunday, July 9th following the 10:30 worship service, that will include sandwiches, veggie/fruit trays, and donated baked goods. A banner and press release announcing Pastor Gary's arrival to the congregation and the local community are in the works. A gentle reminder to wear your name tag to facilitate introductions.

Finally, a Fall Welcome Picnic is being planned for Sunday, September 10th following the 10:30 worship service. A "Save the Date" card is being created to be sent to the congregation and the local community. An important item is that this will be our first TRIAD Big Splash Event or an opportunity to invite and make connections to the local community. A special thanks to Beth and Tom Groble and everyone on the planning committee.

Financial and Stewardship Report

Financial Secretary Pam Vaughan reported that May year-to-date we are currently in the black around \$19,000 and are on track to close the year in the black.

Continued from previous page.

The Stewardship campaign is winding down with a path to finalizing the budget that will be updated at the July ALB meeting.

If you have not yet turned in your pledge, please send yours in or complete the form online on the church website.

Leadership Project Update

Tom Van Cleave reported that he continues to meet on progress updates with each of the five organizers representing their team's action from the April 15th workshop. A key point at this juncture is to ensure that we continue to obtain material and guidance that is tailored to our church on how to reach our local community needs and nurture a faith supportive structure for all. Tom noted that the next step of defining the key activities is important and should not be rushed since the deliverables will lead us into our Visioning phase. Based on progress updates, it was decided to postpone the June meeting and meet again on July 20th.

Closing Prayer and Plans for Next Meeting

Samantha closed the meeting with a prayer.

Our next meeting will be held on **Tuesday, July 18** with the closed session beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Wesley Room for ALB members, and General session will begin around **7:00 p.m.** where all are welcome. A Zoom option will be provided.

All are welcome.





Birthdays for July

Mary	Mueller	07/01	Bob	Scheelk	07/14
Allison	Feix	07/01	Andrew	Nerbun	07/14
Kevin	McMahon	07/02	Linda	Serrano	07/15
Kate	Owusu-Ayim	07/02	Bret	Nerbun	07/15
Jane	Meade	07/02	Linda	Lalicata	07/15
John	Wierschem	07/03	Andrew	Joeckel	07/16
Nancy	Bolender	07/03	Kory	Douglass	07/18
Tom	Ebert	07/04	Matthew	Fisher	07/18
Kathryn	Yunk	07/04	Lea	Rayman	07/20
Barb	Armstrong	07/05	Pamela	Vaughan	07/22
Lynn	Bennett	07/05	Daniel	Whitney	07/22
Mary	Scheuber	07/05	Ann	Pier	07/22
Julie	Harding	07/06	August	Mortellaro	07/23
Beth	MacNeil	07/07	Ed	Harris	07/24
Elizabeth	Koch	07/08	Madeleine	Modrinski	07/24
Lauren	Toll	07/08	Karen	Haedt	07/25
Molly	Milia	07/08	Carl	Trimble	07/26
Nancy	Batchelder	07/09	Jerome	McCutcheon	07/27
Tom	Webster	07/10	Susan	Westergard	07/28
Ben	Wunderlich	07/11	Alison	Melbye	07/28
Cole	Zastava	07/11	Lucas	Melbye	07/28
Cynthia	Abel	07/11	Susan	Krezoski	07/29
Madison	Huber	07/11	Ann	Yurkowitz	07/29
Nicholas	Gorham	07/12	Julie	Hapeman	07/31
Catherine	Lathrop	07/14			