

JOY Newsletter

December 2022

United Methodist Church of Whitefish Bay

December is a time that for teachers, Students, and church people can be overwhelming. Since many of us are included, I pray for good decisions, time for rest, wise eating, and ways we can remember ourselves and demonstrate for others the love of God. Society will have attractions to draw us in to shop, party, and watch and play games. There will be home decorations, school concerts, light shows, and special seasonal productions, postal deadlines, semester exams, family meals and gatherings, and special baking. Some may also have longer work hours or second jobs. Though it is always a joyous time, it can be exhausting.

The church would be amiss if it didn't offer a number of ways for people to remember the life story that gives profound and purposeful meaning. It is the story of God who created us in love, who visited us in Jesus to completely teach and exemplify that love and invite us to share fully in it. That story is for me the organizing principle around which I plan and live my life and evaluate and make my choices.

At our church there will be a St. Nick's Kid's party on the 7th, a fabulous Christmas musical, "Believe Again" on the 17th,

a service of the longest night on the 21st, a series of Christmas Eve worship services on the 24th, and Christmas Sunday worship on the 25th. Wednesday Night Live meals, choirs and classes will be held on the 7th and 14th and caroling in the community on the 21st. You can find the calendar elsewhere in this newsletter. In addition, there are avenues our people have organized to express God's love in mission giving and service, including the Tree of Love in the Narthex, and Christmas with a Conscience. Everyone won't do everything, but everything will be preciously prepared as if it was the only event someone was able to attend. The glue for your month and a gift of stillness for a neighbor or friend may be the Advent Devotional "Believe" written by members of our church.

If you are feeling alone or for some reason down in this season when others are feeling particularly joyful, reach out to me or the church and let's share time together on phone or in person. Jesus came to visit us. We can offer that for each other.

May you experience the blessing of the coming of God's love in Christ.

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

Faith



On a chilly December day, a family of guardian angels look down on earth and see that their people are struggling. Gloria, the grandmother of all the angels, understands why--the pandemic, wars, economic uncertainty, and overloaded schedules. These challenges have pulled some people away from God. How can the guardian angels help bring them back to the Lord? Vera, one of the youngest guardian angels, has a plan that will help the lost and suffering believe again!

Join us in this family friendly musical that captures the true miracle of Christmas. Children, adults, live animals, and a professional orchestra combine to create a nativity destined to inspire. Come and find the joy, peace, and hope that only the divine provides.



Christmas Cookies Needed!

When you are making your special Christmas cookies can you please make an extra dozen or two for our BELIEVE AGAIN CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA on Saturday, December 17, at 3:00p.m. Just let Pat Wisialowski know - pwisialowski@umcwfb.org, 414-964-2424, ext. 224. Thank you in advance!

Ushers & Greeters are needed as well on the 17th to make our guests feel welcome.

Contact Pat if you are able to help out the day of the show.



Faith

December 18 after the 10:30 a.m. worship service, Pastor Don & Pat will have an informal discussion on becoming a member.

A New Member formal class is set for Sunday, January 22, after the 10:30 a.m. service in the Walnut Room.

Please share this information with anyone who is interested in formally joining the church. Pat Wisialowski pwisialowski@umcwfb.org.

Help brighten the holidays for our homebound members by delivering poinsettias

The plants can be picked up at church on **Sunday, December 11**. Let Pat Wisialowski know you can help with delivering one or two! Thank you in advance. pwisialowski@umcwfb.org, 414-964-2424, ext. 224.

7 St. Nick's Kids Party at 5 PM 17 Christmas Musical *Believe Again*, 3 PM Celebrate with music and a live nativity

21 Service of the Longest Night, 5 PM

Grieving during the holidays





24 Christmas Eve Services

- 2 PM Communion and Hymns
- 4 PM Family Service with Nativity Tableau
- 6 PM Contemporary Service
- 8 PM Traditional service

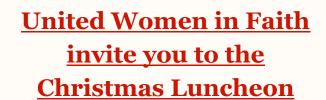
25 Christmas Day Service at 10:30 AM



Taizé Worship: Come for some quiet meditation after the holiday rush.

January 6, 2023, 7:00 p.m. will include a renewal service on the Day of Epiphany! Contact Sue Stanley for more information, sstanley@umcwfb.org.





"Unwrapping the Joys of Christmas"

Come share love, laughter and fellowship that will warm your heart this Christmas season.

Tuesday, December 13
at 11:30 a.m.
At The United Methodist Church of WFB
in the Fellowship Hall

Cost is \$10 to be paid on the day of the luncheon Sign up at the church office or call the church at 414-964-2424

*Childcare is provided
*If you would like childcare, please sign up by 12/6/22



Holiday Fair delights all

For the second year, the revised Holiday Fair was a great success. Many thanks to the organizers, food contributors and bakers, cashiers, publicists, and money managers, set up/clean-up crews and shoppers. Total amount raised was \$8,000!



Deborah Circle cookie exchange & book swap Dec. 6

Deborah Circle plans a book-themed cookie exchange and a "fun read" book swap on Dec. 6 in the Walnut Room. Attendees also will bring two dozen cookies or treats to share. Cookies that are themed around the group's 2022-'23 books will add to the holiday fun!

Members are looking forward to the 2023 book line-up! **Jan. 3**, the book is *Lincoln Highway* by Amor Towles. **Feb. 7**, the book is *Mountains Beyond Mountains: The Quest* of *Dr. Paul Farmer*, *A Man Who Would Cure the World* by Tracy Kidde.

Souper Bowl Sale is back!

Plan now to treat your football fans when the Big Game happens on **Feb 12, 2023**. There will be great soup flavors to choose from, and profits support missions.

Men's Ministry

Habitat for Humanity - Friday, December 9

We have a volunteer work day on **Friday**, **Dec. 9**, **8** a.m. to **3** p.m. at 3283 N 5th St. Our project is to put down flooring though out the house. This is your opportunity to learn a new skill with on-site training plus have a good fellowship experience.

Please let Don Lybeck (<u>mdonlybeck@sbcglobal.net</u>) know that you can be there. He will help you register if you are not familiar with the process. See you there.



December Volunteers for Christmas Event Construction

Men's Ministry provides construction/set-up volunteers for our Christmas events that this year include building a Nativity Shed plus setting up for the "Believe Again" Christmas Extravaganza.

Thanks to all who helped build the new shed for the outside nativity. We also invite you to assist with set-up on **Monday**, **Dec. 12 at 9 a.m.**, for the Christmas Extravaganza.

Please let Dick Steinmetz (<u>rsteinmetz@wi.rr.com</u>) know that you can help with one or both projects.

Marquette Basketball - Saturday, January 7 at Fiserv Forum - 1 p.m.

Again this year we will have tickets in the student section (when the students are at home) for a very reasonable cost when the Eagles play Georgetown. Please let Don Lybeck (mdonlybeck@sbcglobal.net) or Dick Steinmetz (rsteinmetz@wi.rr.com) know you (and how many guests) plan to attend so that tickets can be purchased for distribution to you.





Mission at Home - Saturday, January 21, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Men's' Ministry sponsors this volunteer opportunity for all Members of the church to take time out for repairing and maintaining the church building and our houses. We will have projects for youth and adults. So please let Dick Steinmetz (rsteinmetz@wi.rr.com know you and who else with you will be there. Continental breakfast and lunch will be provided.

November tour of Press Club -A Great Time Had by All

Roger Stafford, past president, welcomed us to the Milwaukee Press Club with stories and history going back 2 centuries. We were surrounded on the walls by over 1200 original signatures of visiting dignitaries from those centuries. It was a good time for fellowship and learning.



Outreach

Christmas with a Conscience 2022

Thank you for a successful Christmas with a Conscience event and your generous donations. Donations will continue to be accepted throughout the month of December. If you would still like to contribute, please send a check to church with CWAC and the organization(s) of your choice in the memo. These are lasting and meaningful gifts that benefit worthy organizations locally and around the world.

Participating organizations are:

- United Methodist Children's Services
- Northcott Neighborhood House
- Habitat for Humanity
- MacCanon Brown Homeless Sanctuary
- UMCOR
- United Nations World Food Program
- Feed My Starving Children Spring 2024 Meal Packing Event



All the children's gifts have been selected for donation - thank you! We DO still have gift cards reserved for purchase.

Using this link: bit.ly/TreeOfLove22 purchase 1 or more \$25 gift certificates by clicking on the "Sign Up" box located at the end of the sign-up list. The next screen will allow you to enter the quantity. You may mail also mail in a check addressed to UMCWFB. with "Tree of Love" in the memo. If you pay in person, use the envelopes marked "Tree of Love" from church office counter. Put the envelope into the drop-box slot located to the left of the office. Thank you for all your support.



From the Racial Diversity Committee Group Event - Black Diaspora Symphony Orchestra Concert

Central United Methodist Church invites you to join us for a concert of the Black Diaspora Symphony Orchestra on **December 18, 4 – 6 p.m.**, at 639 N. 25th St., (Wisconsin Ave.), Milwaukee 53233.

The mission of the Black String Triage Ensemble is to use Black music and art to address pain, foster healing, promote love, call for justice, and guard against hopelessness for those in medical trauma. TheBlackStringTriageEnsemble.org; BlackStringTriageEnsemble.org; <a href="mailto:BlackStringTriage

Outreach

Meal Programs Coordinator

The Mission Committee is looking for a volunteer to oversee our 6 meal programs starting this coming January. Our present coordinator, John Wierschem, has decided to leave this position at the end of this year after serving almost 20 years. Presently, 4 of the 6 programs have individual coordinators.

Your main functions would be to work with these individual coordinators when necessary, possibly lead the one or both of the programs that don't have individual coordinators and to insure there is funding available for the 4 programs for which we provide the food.

Please contact John Wierschem at <u>jiwiers@sbcglobal.net</u> or at 414-238-7989 if you are interested in discussing this further.

Lydia's Treasure is SEVEN years old!

Help us celebrate this week as we mark 7 years of offering fair trade, missional businesses and all those fun finds! In our seven years, we have given over \$49,000 to over 20 different missions. Stop by Wednesday 5:30-7:30 p.m., Saturday before and after worship and Sunday before and after 10:30 worship or by appointment. Contact Lydia at mpaull@wi.rr.com. If you have paper handled shopping or gift bags, please consider "recycling" them at Lydia. Just drop them off at the door any time. Thank you for all your donations, your purchases and your support of Lydia and our three fund recipients Kindred MKE, Running Rebels and Walnut Way Conservation Corps.

Thanksgiving Food Drive Success!

Thank you for your generous donations and making this year's Thanksgiving Food Drive a success! The folks at Northcott Neighborhood House are so grateful to you for helping them make Thanksgiving more special for those in need.



Lydia's Treasure



Troop 400 would like to say "thanks!"

To all who were able to support our wreath sale. Thanks to the church also, for opening your space for our meetings and activities!



Hey Friends,

Lots of things are coming up for December! There is lots to do before the holidays arrive, are YOU ready? Don't forget to prepare your heart and spirit with worship and devotion... our new Advent "Believe" devotional will help!!

Dec

7

Supper with St. Nick Meal: \$5 kids/\$10 adults 5:15-6:30 PM

Join us in the Fellowship Hall for an evening with St. Nick! We will enjoy dinner together and have some table activities for kids until our special guest arrives. Each child will get a gift from St. Nick.



RSVP for Supper with St. Nick!



Dec 17

RSVP for
Supper
with
Caroling!

Dec 21

FAMILY CAROLING FUN

5:30-7:30 PM

(PIZZA DINNER BEFORE | COOKIES FOLLOWING)





Dec 24





Acolytes

Acolytes have long been a tradition in the Methodist liturgical practice. Generally, acolytes are young people (typically ages 9-18), trained to assist the clergy. The primary duty of an Acolyte is to carry into the worship service the "Light of Christ". We are looking for young people to bear the light during the seasons of Advent and Lent.





ASP 2023! Save the Date!

Our next adventure with Appalachia Service Project will be from July 15-23, 2023 so mark your calendars. ASP is open to all current 8th graders through current high school seniors. We also need adult and youth leaders to accompany us on the trip. This is a great opportunity for adults and kids to have an experience they can share for a lifetime.

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



ASP Summer Staff Wanted

Are you looking for employment this summer that is both fun and rewarding? ASP (Appalachia Service Project) is hiring passionate, dedicated, hard-working young adults to serve on their summer staff, running ASP's volunteer hosting program in over 25 locations each year. To qualify, you must be at least 18 years old and 1 year removed from high school by May 2023. If interested, go to https://asphome.org/summerstaff/ to learn more.



If you have any questions or would like to get involved in serving or volunteering please contact me at ajones@umcwfb.org.

With Hope,

Pastor Andrew



Notes from the Board

At our last ALB meeting, we discussed the importance of church leaders being spiritually grounded. Those are leaders who look to God for guidance instead of only themselves, serve humbly and mentor other leaders. The mission of our church is to grow followers (disciples) of Jesus who love God, care for each other and serve in the world. We often shorten it to Love/Care/Serve but the most important part of our mission is actually growing disciples of Jesus. To do that we need leaders who are mature disciple-making disciples. Our church, community and world need such leaders.

Pastor Don called out the need for leaders and resources in our own Circuit 4 where the other churches are struggling with either no pastor or no building and few remaining members. On November 29 the church hosted a joint Charge Conference for the inner city churches in Circuit 4 - Central, Summerfield, New St. James, Fe Hispanic and Solomon's Community Temple.

Pastor's Report

We created our own Advent Devotional Booklet this year and are distributing it to the community as well as the congregation.

Wednesday Night Live typically has over 80 people at dinner, 40 kids in choir and three classes. Foundations and Memorials is funding free meals for 30 kids for 29 weeks. Seventeen have joined Pastor Don's Lay Servant class. Since there is no funding in the budget for the salaries of the staff who cook and wash dishes for WNL, ALB will need to decide this month whether and how WNL can continue in 2023.

On December 3. Scott Carlson, Director of Congregational Development for the Wisconsin Conference, will lead a 2-hour workshop for ministry leaders.

Strategic Plan Update

We will be recruiting about 20 people to serve on a committee to review and refresh the Strategic Plan next year. If you have an interest in serving on the Strategic Planning Committee, please contact Kathy Schluter or Brady Henderson.

Nominating Committee

We do not currently have a Nominating Committee. The SPRT has volunteered to serve as the Nominating Committee until a committee can be formed. The SPRT team will consist of two ALB members and 2 non-ALB members. Jenny Fisher agreed to serve from ALB. As per the Discipline, Pastor Don chairs the committee. The Nominating Committee needs to recruit 1-3 Lay Leaders and additional members of ALB.

Most committees would impose a 3-year term for members to inject new blood into the committees and avoid silos. ALB allows two consecutive 3-year terms and the longer terms enable ALB members to better learn their roles and the issues.

Trustees Report

New Trustee Tom Van Cleave has agreed to oversee the two houses on Glen. He is putting together a prioritized list of repairs that are needed and expects to start them this summer. The Properties Capital Fund is set aside for maintenance of the houses.

Notes

Current Projects

The audit of the first floor of the church was completed in November with several needed improvements identified.

A Mission at Home is scheduled for next January 21.

The Village has informed Trustees that the Village has limits on outdoor signage and the church probably exceeds them. Because the church borders two streets, it is allowed two signs. However, the church at times has several more. The Village has not required us to remove temporary signs at this point.

Narthex Update

The listening sessions on the Narthex renovation gave consistent feedback about certain plan elements. A revised plan, including the projected cost, is expected in January. The plan will include flooring, lighting, signage, painting, more seating and better use of the office area. It will not move or change Lydia's Treasure except to improve the front. We will need to raise some of the cost and may need to do the project in phases.

Now that we have a new roof, we are exploring the possibility of adding solar panels. Installation of solar panels would be eligible for certain government subsidies and would reduce our energy costs and our carbon footprint. We are working with church member John Daugherty on this project.

Technology Report

We have received bids from two contractors for our Livestream issues. They take different approaches, but both would require a dedicated internet line, reconfiguration of the sound booth electric and learning a new system. We received bids that range from \$16,000 to \$51,000. The tech team expects to bring a bid solution recommendation that would provide a lifespan for the next 8-10 years.

We are considering purchasing a new phone system. The contract for the existing system will expire this year and an upgrade is needed. The cost would be \$7000 and would be paid by the Foundation or the Capital Fund.

Another technology need is the integration of our Shelby administration system with our website. We have reserved \$13,000 from the first PPP grant for this upgrade.

Financial Update

The operating budget went from a surplus of \$9,374 in September to a deficit of \$4,819 in October. This swing is due to certain expenses coming due.

The Capital Fund stood at \$57,004 and the Properties Capital Funds at \$213,507. The Future Fund balance is \$91,620.

Our next meeting of the ALB will be held on **Tuesday**, **December 20**, **at 6:30 p.m.** in the Wesley Room. A Zoom option will be provided. All are welcome.

Birthdays for December

Elizabeth	Hoylman	12/01	Larry	Dean	12/15
Jonathan	Ebert	12/01	Samantha	Hentzen	12/15
Greg	Swanberg	12/01	Joelyn	Wunderlich	12/17
Mary Lynn	Han	12/02	James	Greenlee	12/18
James	Jeffery	12/02	Nancy	Rice	12/18
Kaitlyn Grace	Annin	12/02	Miles	Abel	12/18
Geraldine	Wind	12/03	Susan	Ebersohl	12/20
Douglas	Blegen	12/05	Robert	Balmer	12/21
Za'Marion	Moore	12/05	Jack	Kremer	12/22
Carolyn	Curran	12/06	Za'Marionna	Moore	12/22
Monica	Bessette	12/06	Oliver	Hatch	12/24
Kathryn	Melbye	12/08	Chris	Peterson	12/25
Jane	Heidemann	12/09	Natalie	Lawler	12/25
Daniel	Abel	12/09	J. Marshall	Chetlain	12/26
John	Abram	12/10	Mark	Dietz	12/27
Tim	Van Volkinburg	12/10	Kevin	Scheu	12/27
Jon	Welstead	12/11	John	Boor	12/28
Lauren	Trimble	12/11	Rosalind	Henderson	12/28
J.T.	Hudy	12/13	Robert	Sander	12/29
Frank	Herzberg	12/13	Grace	Modrinski	12/29
Don	Behrens	12/14	Frances	Stuebe	12/29
Craig	Carey	12/15	Carol	Walker	12/31