UMCWFB

CONNECT. GROW. SERVE.

NOVEMBER 2026



FAITH IN ACTION

Connect with God and others. Grow in faith, understanding and love. Serve our neighbors on Milwaukee's North Shore and beyond.

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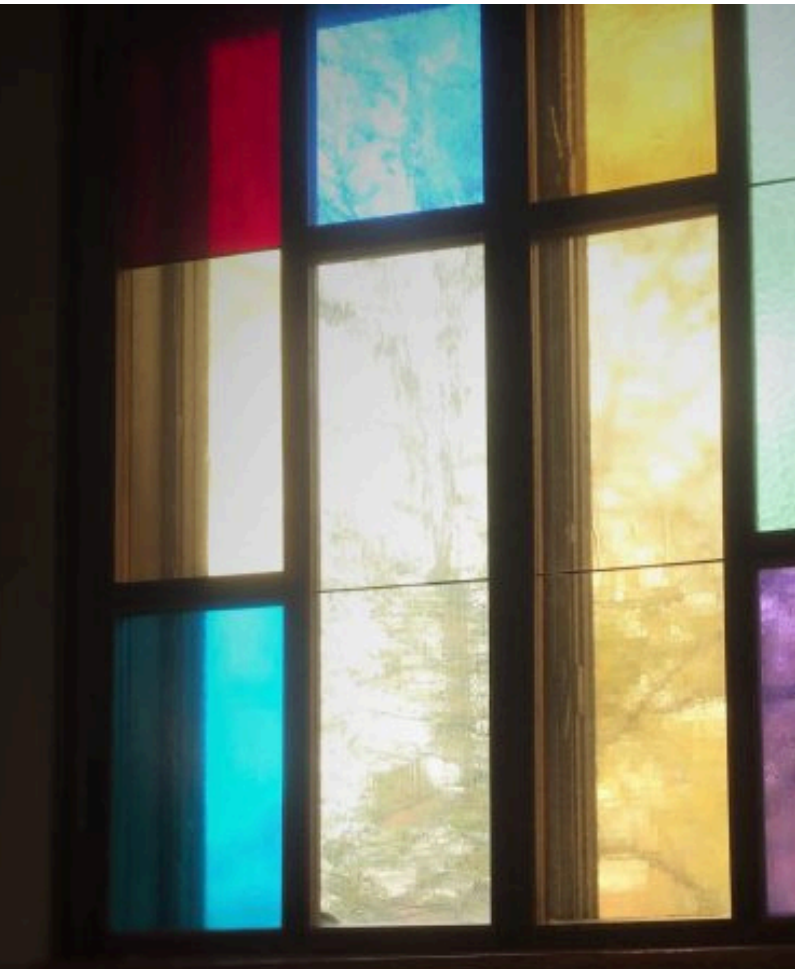
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A Season For The Journey

A Reflection From The Pastor

Dear Church Family,

November has a way of reminding us what matters most.

As the leaves fall and we gather around Thanksgiving tables, we are invited to pause—not to focus on what we wish we had more of, but to give thanks for the gifts God has already placed in our lives. Family. Friends. Faith. A church that walks with us through every season.

I have been especially grateful lately for the life of our church. Week after week I see children discovering God's love, youth growing in faith, adults encouraging one another, people serving our neighbors through outreach and missions, and countless quiet acts of kindness that often go unnoticed. These are signs of God's Spirit at work among us.

That is why I hope you'll make plans to join us on Sunday, November 22, for a very special celebration.

Thanksgiving & Consecration Sunday:
One Combined Worship Service – 10:00 a.m.

As part of our Enough: Living Well in a World That Always Wants More worship series, we will gather as one church family to give thanks for God's faithfulness and dedicate our 2027 stewardship commitments as an act of worship and trust. This is more than turning in a pledge card. It is a way of saying, together, "God, thank you for what you have given us. Help us use it to build Beloved Community."

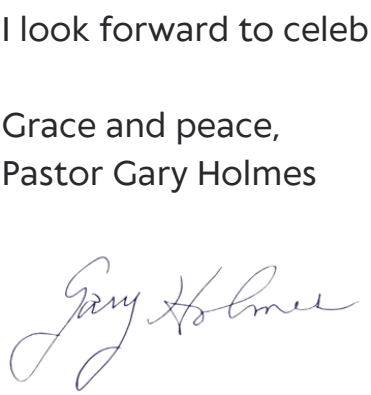
Following worship, we'll continue the celebration with a brunch in Fellowship Hall. I hope you'll stay, share a meal, reconnect with friends, meet someone new, and enjoy the blessing of being together.

As we look toward 2027, we know we face real challenges. With the end of COVID-era PPP support and changes in our congregation over recent years, we are working to reduce expenditures while focusing on church growth and new opportunities to connect people with Christ and one another. I believe we can face this future with confidence—not because everything is easy, but because God has been faithful before, is faithful now, and will continue to guide us.

Ecclesiastes reminds us that the deepest longing of the human heart is not for more things, but for God. And when we gather as one church family around worship, gratitude, generosity, and the table of fellowship, we discover something beautiful: what God has given us is enough to move our faith forward together.

I look forward to celebrating with you on November 22.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Gary Holmes











A PLACE TO CONNECT, GROW, AND SERVE

Women's Ministries



Women's Ministry at United Methodist Church of Whitefish Bay offers something for everyone, with opportunities for fellowship, deepening faith, service and learning. Fun also is part of the Women's Ministry experience, so come join in!

Through the efforts of staff and congregation members, the scope of Women's Ministry has grown, responding to the needs of those in our church and beyond.

The UMCWFB chapter of United Women in Faith (UWF) is part of a national organization with a 150-year legacy of global and local mission work and giving, in keeping with the vision and goals of the church. There is a Board of Directors and eight "Circles" or small groups that meet monthly and vary in focus.

Staff members Claudia Deede, Pastor of Congregational Care, cdeede@umcwfb.org, leads WOW, while Jenny Fisher, Director of Growth and Outreach, jfisher@umcwfb.org, directs the Women's Ministry program, and is the board liaison for United Women in Faith. Another friendly face you'll see is Jodi Houge, UWF president, jhouge60@gmail.com. Women of all ages are welcome and encouraged to participate.

Circle Small Groups

A Place To Belong







Lifelong friendships are made as Circle members meet to quilt, knit, garden, discuss that month's book, get "crafty" or commiserate over the challenges of parenting toddlers.There also is a national UWF reading program, with readers choosing a book from each of five categories. (These books usually are available at public libraries.)








United Women In Faith

Supporting Missions

UWF holds three yearly luncheons and fundraises for missions through the Holiday Fair, Poinsettia Sale, Souper Bowl and Spring Flower Sale. A separate appeal to individual members donates funds to the wide-ranging missions of the national organization. Through donations and fundraisers, our UWF chapter raises almost $20,000 annually for missions. Again in 2025-26, the group was recognized as a Five-Star Giving Unit by donating to the following Five Channels of Mission Giving.

As past supporters of the Walnut Room and Bride's/Family Room, UWF's members have redecorated and refurbished, even spending personal funds and wielding paintbrushes when necessary. (Don't miss the wall of wedding portraits that the team collected and framed for the Bride's/Family Room.)



Nell Nash

Longtime Women's Ministry Director Nell Nash retired in 2025, and was known for the always-open door to her office and her willingness to be interrupted for a heart-to-heart. A bookcase held shawls ready to comfort those in need. Another Nell signature was the wall of crosses in her office.

As a retirement tribute, money was donated by those she impacted to commission a stained glass cross for the chapel's altar.

Lydia's Treasure



Lydia's Treasure is the mission shop in the church, filled with fair trade, fun finds, books, greeting cards, and more. A team of church members, led by Mary Paull, keep the shop looking fabulous and have a great time doing it. All funds raised go to missions.

Social Events

Keeping Our Community Connected





Many people first participate in Women's Ministry through special events. Open to all, these include a Forest Bath, Spiritual Yoga, Women's Retreat, and a Wine/Charcuterie Night. Ideas for new events are always welcome!



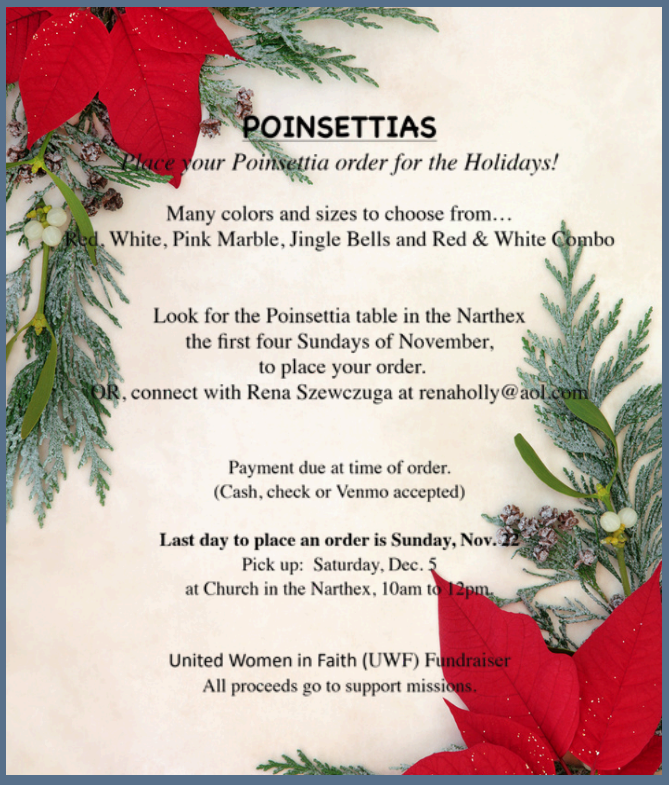
Women Offering Worship

Women Offering Worship (WOW) offers a midweek "break" for worship, fellowship and study on Thursday mornings. After a chapel service, participants can choose from a book or Bible study – sessions that are lively as well as challenging.



UPCOMING WAYS TO SUPPORT WOMEN'S MINISTRIES





Esther Circle Forest Bath





One of our United Women in Faith Small Groups, Esther Circle, experienced a “Forest Bath”, which is a guided mediative nature walk, at Audubon Nature Center in the middle of October.

The Forest Bath was led by Kristy Afdahl, and is a beloved annual tradition for the group. To immerse oneself in nature and really focus on God’s beautiful creation is a gift we love to experience every Fall.

The Forest Bath was followed by lunch together at Larry’s Market in Brown Deer. A Winter Forest Bath will be included in the Women’s Ministry Retreat, which happens in February.



Women’s Ministry Wine and Charcuterie Night

More than 30 women gathered to socialize and enjoy delicious food and drink at the beautiful home of Kristy Afdahl towards the end of the month. Our Women’s Ministry Wine and Charcuterie night has become an annual tradition where ladies of all ages spend time connecting and enjoying time together. Big thanks to Kristy Afdahl for hosting, and for everyone who brought food and drink to share!

UMCWFB Missions Team

MOSAIC mission covenant



On Oct. 11 the Mission Committee sponsored a Midwest Mission packing event in the narthex. Church members and friends of church members packed 750 Student Kits consisting of notebooks, a ruler, crayons, colored pencils, pencils, an eraser and a pencil sharpener all put into a cloth bag. The will be delivered worldwide.

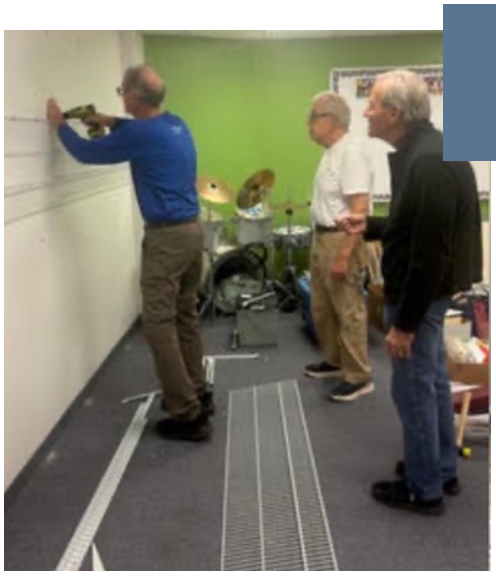
This event satisfies our commitment to becoming a Mosaic Covenant Church by performing a “National Advance Project” which is one of the 7 categories we need to fulfill.

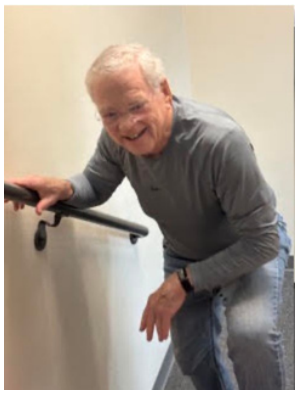
We wish to thank all of the volunteers who helped us make our goal.





Grey Guys
Caring for the church and one another








Sidewalk Sale





There was a chill and a thrill in the air at the UMCWFB Sidewalk Sale. More than 50 volunteers came together to serve up an extra large helping of Fall Fun! We sold $1,600 in baked goods, pumpkins, and miscellaneous treasures. Many thanks to the setup crew, the takedown crew, the story tellers, the face painter, the bakers, the musicians, and all who hosted a table. What a gift to our community you are!







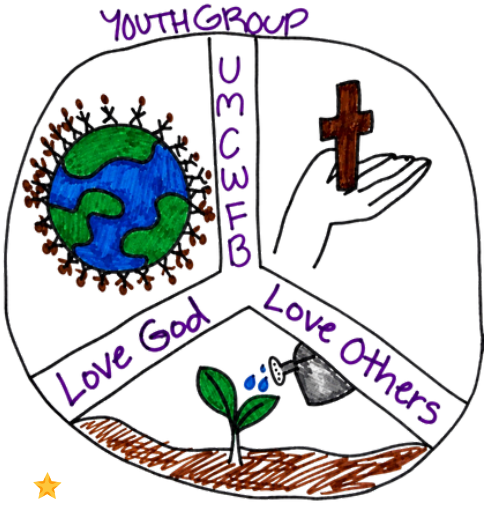
NEW Youth Logo!

Our youth have a new logo—designed by one of their own!

The youth all brainstormed together to decide what they valued in our program and what should go into our logo. Then we had a contest to compile those ideas into a graphic and all the youth voted.

Congratulations to Charlotte, whose artwork won the competition. Her design celebrates connection, growth, and service.

Get excited to see this logo on soon to arrive youth sweatshirts.



Voices of Youth

Confirmation Forest Bath Walk

Our confirmation students and youth had beautiful weather as they headed into nature at Doctor's Park for a forest bathing experience—a chance to slow down, surround ourselves with God's creation, and be present. Walking slowly, putting away phones, and spending close to an hour without talking was new and, at times, challenging. But the kids took on the challenge. At the end of the walk, they had time to be still and meditate and pray.

When we had time for reflection, many of them shared that the experience was something they valued. It was a meaningful reminder of what we can discover when we make room for stillness.









"Be still and know that I am God." Psalm 46:10

Light The Way

We are celebrating two months in our newly renovated space! Parents and visitors continue to comment on the calm environment, joyful energy from the staff and how wonderful it is to have all of the classrooms in the same area.

We are grateful everyday for the amazing gift that is this renovation.





NOVEMBER BIRTHDAY WISHES

1st - John Serrano, David Kuczynski

2nd - Roxanne Plapp, Alec Lindfors, Nathan Berg

4th - Sheila Hendrix

5th - Scott Siebert, Za'Laya Moore

6th - C.J. Neville

7th - Ariel Geiger

9th - Pat Kissinger, Don Lybeck, Shavez Hicks

10th - Lindsay Vanden Plas, Leni Siker

11th - Sharon Garrett, Christie Wrenn, Dick Steinmetz, Riley Murphy, Lizzie Lybeck-Smoak, Ansel Bubb

12th - Colin Han, Dan Linsley, Scott Wunderlich, Phoebe Kotecki Crass, Isaac Ashun

13th - Teagan Miller

14th - Ann Rowoldt, Becca Clark

16th - Nari Haig, Todd Stuebe

17th - Julie McMahon, Hannah Lybeck-Smoak

19th - Annette Thomas, Andy Carey

20th - Judy Pelton, Jack Korducki

21st - Vee Jefferson

23rd - Sean Gaffney

24th - Savannah Potter, Bonnie Henderson

28th - David Hahn

29th - Jan Hahn, Chris Elizer



UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
of Whitefish Bay

Becoming a Beloved Community by Connecting, Growing, and Serving

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