

AUGUST Newsletter

A Season of Grace and Renewal

Dear Friends,

Summer has always felt like a sacred pause—an invitation to breathe a little deeper, to soak in the beauty of God's creation, and to reflect on the rhythms of grace that sustain us. Whether it's time spent vacationing in the Rockies, on the water, or simply enjoying a slower morning, summer reminds us that rest is not a luxury—it's a gift from God.

This summer also marks a meaningful moment in the life of our church: the near completion of the Narthex renovation. What a joy it is to see this space being renewed! The Narthex has always been more than just a hallway—it's our threshold of welcome, a place of connection, conversation, and community. My prayer is that this newly updated space will continue to be a symbol of hospitality, reflecting the warmth and openness of our congregation.

As we look toward August, I'm excited to share that I'll be beginning a new worship series titled "Forgiveness: The Way of Grace." This 5-week journey will take us deep into the heart of Christian forgiveness—starting with God's abundant grace and extending outward to others, to ourselves, and to the ways we live our lives.

Forgiveness is not always easy, but it is central to the way of Jesus. In a world that often prizes retaliation or avoidance, Christ invites us into a path of mercy, restoration, and healing. This series will explore what it means to forgive not just as a spiritual practice, but as a way of life—one that opens us to freedom, peace, and grace.

I hope you'll join us for this journey in August, whether in person or online. You won't want to miss Sunday, August 17th... what we are calling Bluegrass Sunday. And until then, may the rest of your summer be filled with moments of beauty, joy, and rest.

"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls." Matthew 11:28-29, NRSV

Grace and peace,



Gary Holmes
Senior Pastor



BELOVED COMMUNITY

Summer Staff Updates

Our Staff Parish Relations Team (SPRT) has been busy this summer filling staffing roles that help us continue to build a beloved community.

Welcoming New and Expanded Roles

Pastor Claudia Deede, our new **Director of Care & Visitation**, was introduced to the congregation on Sunday, July 27. A retired Methodist minister, she will work part-time connecting with church members who are unable to attend church due to illness.

Scott Longden, our worship technology technician, is expanding his part-time role to become our full-time **Director of Technology**. Scott has taken over some administrative duties from Tabetha Steege, who moved to Texas, and he adds responsibility for leading the strategic use of technology to build a beloved community.

Departures

Steffen Cave, our Director of Service and Communication, has submitted his resignation to pursue other opportunities. SPRT will work with Pastor Gary to review the role and develop a new job description now that Scott has assumed some of the communication responsibilities.

Supporting Our Leadership

To help Pastor Gary manage his full plate of responsibilities, **Betsy Hoylman** will temporarily expand her role as chair of SPRT and spend several hours each week as a volunteer “people manager” assisting staff with role clarity, collaboration, and managing workloads.

Questions?

If you have questions about these changes, please email elizabethhoylman@gmail.com.

BELOVED COMMUNITY

Welcome to our new Pastor of Care & Visitation Claudia Deede

Greetings!

My name is Claudia Deede. My journey to this place has been an adventure! I heard my first call to ministry when I was twelve years old, but it took until I was fifty-eight to answer! I grew up Presbyterian and joined the UMC in 1976 when my husband and I moved to Menomonee Falls. The persistence of God's call on my life never diminished and I am blessed that a clergy person from my home church encouraged me to answer that call. I graduated from Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary in 2008 and was ordained an Elder in 2011. My ministry as a clergy person began in 2005 when I was appointed to serve Emmanuel Community UMC in Menomonee Falls. I moved to Sussex UMC in 2012. My husband, John, passed in 2014 and I was moved to Shawano & Red River UMC's in 2016 where I served until mandatory retirement in 2020. Moving to Tomah, I began ministry as a hospice chaplain and did that until May 2022. In September of 2022 I was asked to serve as the full-time pastor at Tomah: First UMC where I served until June 30 of this year.

I have two grown children (Krysta and Matthew), three grandsons (Jevon, Seth, and Tallen), a granddaughter-in-love (Callie – married to Jevon) and two great-grandchildren (Lynley June and John Thomas). I live in Menomonee Falls in a 100+ year old home and am excited to be "back home" and close to my whole family! I have a long "call story" that I would love to share – proof that God does not give up on us! I am excited to be part of the ministry team as Pastor of Care and Visitation at the United Methodist Church of Whitefish Bay.

Blessings and grace,

Pastor Claudia Deede

414-964-2424 extension 233
cdeede@umcwfb.org



MISSION FOCUS

TEXAS FLOOD RELIEF THROUGH UMCOR

The Mission Team recently decided that mission of the month will now be called "mission focus." The Team will no longer select a different mission partner each month. Often we will focus on a mission partner for a two month period. In addition, to being the recipient of the designated offerings, this focus will help us offer one or more service opportunities. We hope to offer one or more service opportunities each month. We hope that families will be able to work together in a similar manner to the Feed My Starving Children packing event. Stay tuned for further information.

Texas flood relief through UMCOR will be our August mission focus and designated offering. Many lives and homes were lost in this unprecedented disaster. UMCOR is working to rebuild housing and support affected families. Please support this effort with your donations.

**Give to Mission of the Month
via Venmo – Scan QR Code!**



Our church can be so proud of our Marvin Pratt Tutoring Ministry . . . starting its THIRTY-FOURTH YEAR working with the children, ages K-4 thru 5th grades. The school starts on September 2nd, but we won't begin working with the children until the week of September 29th. We are starting late in September because we won't know the gym, art, or music schedules till then. Also the teachers need time to get to know their students in order to see which ones are in need of the extra tutoring.

Our kickoff coffee in the Walnut Room will be on Wednesday, September 24th when you will receive your folders with all the school information and your schedules. We work with the children Monday thru Friday, either in the morning between 9 - 11:30 or in the afternoon from 12:30 - 2p.m. You can let me know your preference as to time and day you are able to tutor as well as what grade level you prefer.

For anyone new who is interested in our UMCWFB Marvin Pratt Tutoring Ministry, please call Loretto Steinmetz at 414/550-2957 or email her at ldsteinmetz@wi.rr.com for more information.

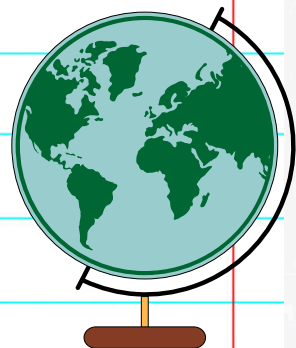
In addition, in the past, we have collected supplies in August for those students in need. Those items are:

SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

(collection box outside Walnut Room)



- Plastic supply box or pencil pouch
- Washable white glue, 8 oz bottle
- Glue sticks
- Wide rule spiral notebooks, 70 pages
- Pocket folders to match notebooks
- Wide rule theme paper (200 pages) stick
- Red, blue, black pens
- Highlighters, different colors
- 8 ct washable markers
- Low odor dry erase markers
- 12" ruler (with inches/cm)
- 24 ct crayons
- 24 ct colored pencils
- Large pink eraser
- Ear buds
- Kleenex



Lydia's may be closed during construction, but we are not sitting by idle! New fair trade items have been purchased, lots of fun finds have been collected, and fresh greeting cards are waiting!

Our BEST news is that at the completion of our 2024-2025 fiscal year, we were able to give more to our mission recipients than last year. Next Door Foundation, Just One More Ministry and UMCWFB operating budget/chapel fund *each received checks for \$3000*. As exciting as that is, our timely donation to JOMM was DOUBLED because of a community donor who offered to match up to \$50,000.

Our mission focus to finish 2025 will be our Feed My Starving Children mobile pack event in spring. We are excited about the plans for our renovated space. We can't wait to welcome you back with all the things you love about Lydia's Treasure. Please hang on to any fabulous donations you have for the shop – we will be back before you know it! Questions – contact Mary Paull mpaull53223@gmail.com

LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF PEACE, HOPE, AND RECONCILIATION



Starting in August, our congregation will conclude Sunday services by lighting the Candle of Peace, Hope, and Reconciliation. This ceremony, approved by our Servant Leader Board and Pastor, offers a powerful way to express our commitment to God's all-inclusive love.

Honoring Victims of Injustice

A Concerns Box is now in our sanctuary. We invite you to submit forms naming specific victims of injustice, oppression, and neglect worldwide. Each week, we will acknowledge these individuals, embodying our belief that God's love can overcome all divisions.

An Inspiring Legacy

This candle ceremony has deep roots in the anti-apartheid movement in South Africa. Many Methodist Churches there lit a candle wrapped in barbed wire for victims of violence, praying for them by name and for victimizers. This powerful witness fostered non-violence, integrated their congregations, and significantly contributed to ending apartheid and establishing South Africa's first interracial democracy.

A Call to Action Today

More than 50 United Methodist Churches in the U.S. have recently adopted this ceremony, recognizing the escalating violence and division in our world. By opening our hearts to all whom God loves, we can transform hopelessness and fear into shared experiences of peace, hope, and reconciliation. We may not have all the answers, but by witnessing to God's expansive love, we can help bring light into the world that darkness cannot overcome.

YOUTH

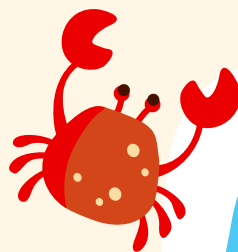
Earlier this month, a group of ten youth and five adult leaders traveled to West Virginia for a nine day trip to participate in the Appalachia Service Project, working on home repair and community connection. They worked in two teams. One group worked on installing J channels, under-skirting, and siding on a mobile home, while the other team took on interior projects—installing cupboards, trim, flooring, and also painting.

Throughout the week, our youth showed up each day with hard work, great attitudes, and a spirit of service. The adults were truly inspirational, guiding and encouraging the group every step of the way. Beyond the physical labor, the trip was filled with meaningful connections—with the homeowners they served and with each other. They returned not only with sore muscles but with full hearts and a deeper sense of what it means to serve as the hands and feet of Christ.

Thank you to everyone who supported this trip with prayers, donations, and encouragement!



**YOUTH
BEACH
PARTY**
KLODE BEACH



AUGUST 14, 2025

1:00–4:00

RSVP to Kristal
kmelbye@umcwfb.com



MEN'S MINISTRY



Sailing on Lake Michigan

Date: Sunday, August 24 2:00pm

Rain Date: Saturday, August 30th 2:00pm

All Church Members are welcome! Captains Groble, Krezoski and Batchelder will provide their boats for the adventure. More details to follow.

Please contact Tom Groble at tom.groble@gmail.com if you are interested in joining!

See you on Lake Michigan!



Gray Guys' July Work Day

The projects included: Removing and loading the last two pews in the Sanctuary, preparing the Chapel for painting and its make over, fixing the womens' restroom door on the first floor so it works - along with deciding on how and when for future projects. **Mark your calendar for Tuesday August 26 when Gray Guys (inviting the women of the church) are scheduled to put the Narthex back together. SEE YOU THERE!**



Chinooks Baseball with Family Ministry

In early July, close to 30 church members of all ages found their way to the Chinooks college all star team playing at Kapco Park at Concordia University. We gathered in the third base bleachers. Some younger fans with their parents and grandparents slowly migrated to the first base line and the young ones facilities. There was good conversation and sharing. **We look forward with more events joining several Ministries.**

Chinooks scored more runs than the Madison Mallards!



UPCOMING EVENTS

SUMMER YOGA!

TUESDAYS AT KLODE PARK

AUGUST 5 & 19 10AM

Supervision of children provided at playground;
picnic potluck following yoga

PICNIC IN THE PARK



FRIDAY, AUG. 22

Klode Park Beer Garden

Join others from our faith community to socialize and
stay connected during the summer months!!

Pack a picnic dinner or buy from the Food Truck!

United Women in Faith
Salad Luncheon
Tuesday, September 9th
11:30am



United Methodist Church of Whitefish Bay
819 E Silver Spring Dr

Healing Seminar

*With Healing Educator
Jacquelyn Oliveira, M.A.*



Sunday, August 24th 1:00-4:30pm, Walnut Room

Beyond Death: What Do We Know?

This seminar invites us to reflect more deeply on the mystery and reality involved in death, dying and evidence of the afterlife. Topics include deathbed visions, life review, near death experiences, the second body and after-death communication. A religious spiritual perspective is used to better understand the Spirit realm and more fully appreciate spiritual transformation and faith as we grow in our eternal journey.

Email welcome@umcwfb.org to register!

North Shore School for Seniors Learning, Fun, and Friendship!

Fall Classes Term One

Mon & Tues, Sept 15 & 16 – Mon & Tues, Oct 6 & 7

Fall Classes Term Two

Mon & Tues, Oct 20 & 21 – Mon & Tues, Nov 10 & 11

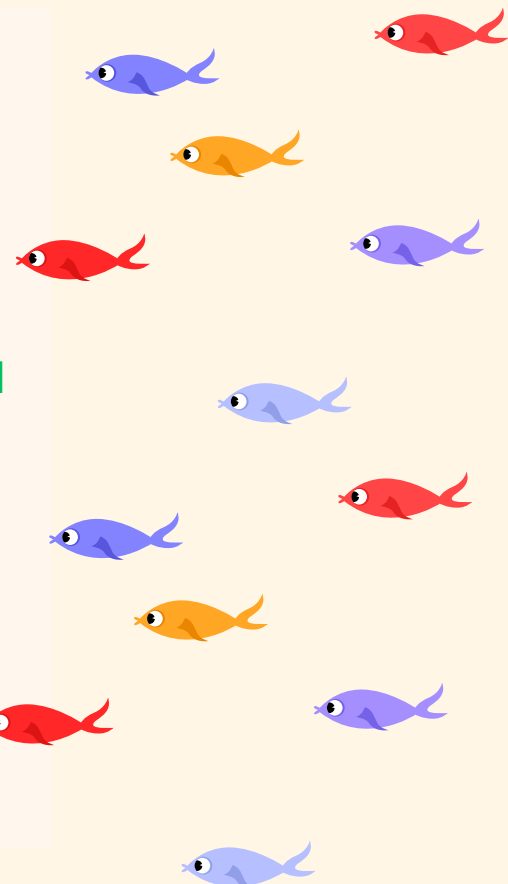
Classes held Mondays and Tuesdays for 4 weeks sessions.

nss4s.org

For info and registration

**Catalogues available at
United Methodist Church of Whitefish Bay**

(414) 292-0960



August Birthdays

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THUR | FRI | SAT |
|--|--|---|--|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| | | | | | 1 Shirley Westphal | 2 Don Sherman Diane Dettinger Finley Hill |
| 3 Isabelle Donovan | 4 Payton Goudreau | 5 Linda Laatsh- Lybeck Anne Temple | 6 Carol Kuxhause Joe VandenPlas | 7 Dave Paull Skylar Willis | 8 Cody Kaiser | 9 Abbie Kaiser |
| 10 Loretto Steinmetz Michelle Markuson | 11 Marilyn Stanley | 12 Damina Freeman | 13 Nicole Kitchen | 14 Lara Perry | 15 Dina Bunke Linda Korducki Kathy Schluter John Potter | 16 |
| 17 Kristal Melbye David Sook | 18 Lora Miller | 19 | 20 Tracy Ebert Emily Stolz Eric Milia | 21 Emily Yunk | 22 Kate Hermes Jeff Schaetzke | 23 |
| 24 Chris Dadaian Mark Mitchell | 25 Sandy Broehm Lori Henley | 26 David Haecker | 27 Gail Hinson Holly Jefferson Barbara Curran | 28 | 29 Caryn Blegen Carol Rymer Julie Whitney | 30 Todd Hatch Lena Passolt Jayanth Suthan |
| 31 Robin Mosleth Erin Norris | | | | | | |

SAVE THE DATE

United Methodist Church of Whitefish Bay

FALL WELCOME PICNIC

Sunday, September 7

11:30am - 1pm

Church Lawn

819 E. Silver Spring Dr.

**Food, games,
music, fun!**

