



# JOY Newsletter

February 2025

United Methodist Church  
of Whitefish Bay

## Dear Beloved Community,

As we step into February, the month often associated with love, it's a fitting time to reflect on the rhythm of our lives and the love that shapes it. Are you feeling overwhelmed, hurried, or spiritually drained? Perhaps the pace of life has left you longing for a deeper sense of joy and wellness. In our new worship series, *Keeping Pace*, we'll explore how to align our lives with God's intent for us: a pace set by love and faithfulness.

Jesus offers us this promise in John 10:10: "The thief enters only to steal, kill, and destroy. I came so that they could have life—indeed, so that they could live life to the fullest." What a powerful reminder that God desires a life of fullness for us—a life not stolen by busyness or distractions but centered in joy and spiritual wellness.

Throughout this series, we'll look at the challenges that steal our peace and the ways we can reclaim the abundant life Jesus promises. Together, we will consider:

- How to find rest in God's presence when the world demands more than we can give.
- How to make space for what truly matters: relationships, service, and worship.
- How to keep pace with God's love, trusting in His timing and direction.

This journey will encourage and challenge us to live intentionally, seeking God's rhythms for our lives. Whether you're navigating work, family, relationships, or personal struggles, there is hope in Christ's invitation to a life of fullness.

As we prepare our hearts for this series, take a moment to ask yourself: *What is stealing my joy and spiritual wellness? Where might God be calling me to slow down, breathe, and trust in His love?*

We look forward to gathering with you in worship and community as we journey together toward a more intentional, abundant life in Christ. Let's encourage one another to keep pace with the One who leads us in love and faithfulness.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Gary

## Upcoming Highlights

- *Worship Series: Keeping Pace* begins February 4th. Join us each Sunday as we discover how to align our lives with God's rhythm.
- Lenten Series Preview – Stay tuned for our upcoming series during Lent, focusing on the Gospel of John. Hoping for all members and friends of our church to get connected and grow in our understanding of Jesus during our all church small group study series.

We hope to see you in worship and at our February events! May this month be one of renewed joy, faithfulness, and spiritual wellness.

# Missions

## Christmas With a Conscience Event 2024 - Thank YOU!

Thank you for making our Christmas with a Conscience event a huge success! Because of your generous donations, we were able to raise \$27,400 which will be used to help 6 organizations around our community and the world. Participating organizations included:

- Rooted & Rising
- Northcott Neighborhood House
- Habitat for Humanity
- MacCanon Brown Homeless Sanctuary
- Hunger Task Force
- Feed My Starving Children meal packing event

Thank you for all your generous donations and living out our commitment to service.



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## 2nd Annual Fundraising Gala to Support MacCanon Brown Homeless Sanctuary

Celebrate the transformative work of the MacCanon Brown Homeless Sanctuary at the **Transforming Lives Gala, Saturday, March 1** at the Hilton Milwaukee. Enjoy an elegant evening of inspiration and connection, all while making a meaningful difference in the lives of those in need. Bring your friends and be part of a life-changing cause!

For tickets visit [Transforming Lives Gala](#) or scan the QR Code below.



When signing up, indicate if you wish to be seated with members of UMCWFB.



# Missions

## Meal Programs Serve the Poor and Homeless of Milwaukee

The designated Mission of the Month for February is our church's meal programs. What better for our church to respond to Jesus's message in Mathew 25 verse 35 where he says "for I was hungry and you fed me and I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink. The "I" in his quote referred to our less fortunate brethren living amongst us.

Our church volunteers at 5 different meal programs in the area. All cooking is done in our church kitchen and all serving is done on site. The programs are one of the many ministries under the leadership of the Mission Committee.

On the first Monday of each month we serve the meal at **St. Ben's** church on 9<sup>th</sup> and State St. St. Ben's feeds around 150 people each night. Jim Schacht is leading this program. He can be reached at [jameschacht@hotmail.com](mailto:jameschacht@hotmail.com).

On the second Thursday of each month we cook and serve the meal at the **Guest House** on 13<sup>th</sup> and Juneau Ave. We serve about 65 meals each night. Tom Van Cleave is leading this program. He can be reached at [tvanceave@ameritech.net](mailto:tvanceave@ameritech.net).

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month we cook and serve two meal programs.. We feed about 100 meals at **MacCanon Brown's Homeless Sanctuary** at 18<sup>th</sup> and Locust St. John Frunceck is leading this program. He can be reached at [jfrunceck@gmail.com](mailto:jfrunceck@gmail.com). On the same night we feed about 100 people at the **St. Vincent's** program on 2<sup>nd</sup> and Clarke St. Terri McClellan is leading this program. She can be reached at [tсмcclellan@gmail.com](mailto:tсмcclellan@gmail.com).

On the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of the month from January through October we serve the meal at the **Milwaukee Rescue Mission** on 19<sup>th</sup> and Kilbourn. There we serve about 100 meals to the residents of the Joy House and their Safe Harbor programs. Lori Aeschbacher is leading this program. She can be reached at [loriaeschbacher@sbcglobal.net](mailto:loriaeschbacher@sbcglobal.net).





## Register now for North Shore School for Seniors Spring Session

North Shore School for Seniors (NSSS) organizers are planning exciting classes for the Spring 2025 Session. Registration begins Feb. 1. Classes meet Monday or Tuesday at our church.

Class info and online registration is at [nss4s.org](http://nss4s.org) and catalogs are available for pickup at the church on Feb. 1. The Spring Session is (Term 1) Monday, March 10 -Tuesday, April 1 and (Term 2) Monday, April 14 -Tuesday, May 6. There are no classes April 7 and 8.

New classes for the spring include "Senior Fitness," "Bob Dylan," "History of the New Deal," "From Egg to Silk in Milwaukee," "Spring Garden Wake-up," "The Civil War: Why It Matters," "Wide World of Sports: Mavericks, Pioneers & Trailblazers," and "Wildlife Photography."

Among returning favorites are "Downsizing," "Apple iPhone Photography," "Knitting," "Write Your Own Obituary," "Meditation," and "Native American Wisdom."

Email questions to [nssbxt@gmail.com](mailto:nssbxt@gmail.com) or phone (414) 292-0960. Classes are open to all. NSSS is an adult outreach program of UMCWB.



*Catalogues now available online  
& printed copies outside the church office*

# Events

*Last  
chance  
to order..*



*before  
Sunday!*

## **First Down Cheesy Winter Chowder**

This favorite *kicked off* our original Souper Bowl. Tackle a bowl of our cream base soup loaded with vegetables and cheese, it's a sure winner. Ingredients: Vegetable broth, milk, Clear Jel to thicken, onions, carrots, corn, potatoes, butter, salt, pepper and cheddar cheese. Gluten Free and Vegetarian

## **Extra Point Curried Red Lentil**

The flavors in this thick lentil soup are sure to be a crowd pleaser. Ingredients: olive oil, onions, carrots, garlic, curry powder, fresh ginger, Cayenne pepper, vegetable broth, red lentils, diced tomatoes, apple. Gluten Free and Vegetarian

## **Field Goal French Onion**

*(Appearing for a winning 4th season)*

Please your team with this classic comfort soup. Add the attached homemade croutons and secret cheeses and you'll come out on top. Ingredients: unsalted butter, yellow onions, flour, beef broth, dry white wine, salt, and pepper.

## **Safety Instant Creamy Potato**

*(A United Women in Faith Holiday Fair Classic)*

Convenient and delicious at anytime. Combine this secret recipe powdered mix into a mug or bowl with boiling water. Stir well. Let stand to thicken for 3 minutes and enjoy. Pass on the worry for refrigeration or expiration date. This soup is a sure bet for your home kitchen. Great with your own added cheese.

## **Touchdown Southwest Chicken**

*(Back for the 6th season by popular demand)*

The Southwest comes to your game day table with this chili style soup filled with warm spices, shredded chicken and a variety of beans. Enhance with your own crunchy tortilla chips or shredded cheese as toppers. Ingredients: Shredded chicken, pinto beans, white kidney beans, black beans, corn, green chilies, tomatoes, taco seasoning, Ranch dressing powder, and chicken bouillon. Now Gluten Free

**Still a competitive price of \$10 per quart**

*Cash, Venmo, or check payable to United Women in Faith (UWF)*

Orders taken Sunday Jan. 19 - Feb. 2 near the church office after worship services or online to

[suekdaugherty@gmail.com](mailto:suekdaugherty@gmail.com)

Your order will be confirmed via email. Text Sue at 414-510-2923 any questions. We don't want to drop the ball 🏈

**Pick-up on Souper Bowl Sunday – February 9, 2025**

**After worship services, 10am-noon, Fellowship Hall on the lower level**

**United Methodist Church, 819 E. Silver Spring Dr., WFB**

**Notify Sue Daugherty via order form or email for alternate pick-up if needed.**

*All profits benefit the programs and missions supported by the UMC WFB United Women in Faith*



# Events

## Wednesday Night Faith, Food, and Friendship

Thank you to all of the people in our faith community who joined us for our Board Game Night to kick off a new season of Wednesday Night Faith, Food, and Friendship in January! It was lots of fun for people of all ages! We are also excited to have new faith classes offered. The Wednesday night classes include **“How to be an Ally”**, led by local non-profit “Courage MKE”, **“Spiritual Journey Pathway”**, led by Pastor Gary Holmes and a **Bible Study on Sermon on the Mount**. In February, we are thrilled that Dan and Chelsea Montague will lead a book study on the **5 Love Languages** by Gary Chapman.

Our youth choirs have been hard at work rehearsing for our Spring Children’s Musical, “Oh, Jonah!”, which is based on the Bible story *Jonah and the Whale*. Rehearsals continue on Wednesday nights from 5:45-7pm. Performances are on **Saturday, March 15, at 5 p.m. and Sunday, March 16, at 10 a.m.** For questions about Faith, Food, and Friendship, please contact Jenny Fisher ([jfisher@umcwfb.org](mailto:jfisher@umcwfb.org)).



United Methodist Church of Whitefish Bay  
Youth Choir Presents  
**“OH, JONAH!”**  
**SATURDAY, MARCH 15, 5PM**  
**SUNDAY, MARCH 16, 10AM**



819 E. Silver Spring Dr.  
Admission is FREE.

**We will be offering New Member Information Sessions  
on Sunday, February 16, at 11:30 a.m. and  
Wednesday, February 26, at 6 p.m.**



UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH OF  
WHITEFISH BAY

## **NEW MEMBER INFORMATION SESSIONS**

**SUN. FEB. 16 @ 11:30 AM  
WED. FEB. 26 @ 6 PM  
WALNUT ROOM**

**RSVP: JENNY FISHER  
([JFISHER@UMCWFB.ORG](mailto:jfisher@umcwfb.org))**



# Women's Ministry

**Ladies – don't wait! Our Women's Ministry winter retreat;  
"A Listening Heart – Love in the Stillness of Winter,"  
is just a few days away!**

Siena Center is a beautiful and serene place for a gathering of friends to spend a day of self-care, spiritual growth, and rejuvenation.

Contact Nell at [nnash@umcwfb.org](mailto:nnash@umcwfb.org) TODAY to sign up!  
Lunch is included with your \$35 registration fee.



**A LISTENING HEART**  
LOVE IN THE STILLNESS OF WINTER

**UMCWFB WOMEN'S RETREAT**

**Saturday, February 15, 2025**  
**9:00-3:00**

**Siena Retreat Center in Racine**

**A day to find stillness and  
renewal through worship, yoga,  
massage, forest bathing,  
(immersing ourselves in nature and connecting with God)  
crafting, and fellowship**

**Cost: \$35**

**To register or for questions,  
email Nell at [nnash@umcwfb.org](mailto:nnash@umcwfb.org)**

**More details will be emailed to registrants**

Pay with cash or  
check to the office  
or venmo here:





## **Save the Date for our summer camp for 3-8th graders! Camp Lucerne is June 15-18.**

We need at least 12 adult volunteers to make camp safe and fun for our campers!  
Contact Samantha Gundrum if you are interested in volunteering on our camping adventure!  
Have fun and grow in your faith and friendships surrounded by God's abundant creation!  
([samhong22@gmail.com](mailto:samhong22@gmail.com)).

Registration for campers starts soon!



**CAMP LUCERNE**  
**"TRUE NORTH: TRUST JESUS  
IN A WILD WORLD"**  
**JUNE 15-18, 2025**

**GRADES 3-8**  
Grow in your Faith  
and Friendships with us  
at Camp this Summer!!



## Widow's Support and Fellowship

Contact Susan Stoehr if you are interested in being a part of this new group at [sstoehr@gmail.com](mailto:sstoehr@gmail.com).



## Another call for tutors for Marvin Pratt School

Because some of our men and women tutors are traveling the next couple months, we need tutors for K-5, 3rd, & 4th grade classes. We work with the children in reading and/or math, once a week for 1 - 2 hours, Monday thru Friday, whichever day or time works for you. Please call Loretto Steinmetz for more information at 414-550-2957 or email her at [ldsteinmetz@wi.rr.com](mailto:ldsteinmetz@wi.rr.com).

## Cleaning out closets and letting things go? Consider donating those cast-offs to Lydia's Treasure before you head to Goodwill!

We LOVE gently used books, puzzles, jewelry (even if it's missing a stone or broken clasp), accessories, knick knacks and fun finds! Contact Mary Paull [mpaull53223@gmail.com](mailto:mpaull53223@gmail.com) with questions and the best time to bring in treasures – that we will lovingly display and turn into BIG donations for our two missions: Just One More Ministry, feeding the underserved with rescued food, and Next Door Foundation, supporting families and early education with services and books.





## The Danger of Certainty

“Certainty is the great enemy of unity. Certainty is the deadly enemy of tolerance.” This profound statement is a quote by the archbishop of the conclave in the book and movie of the same name.

Certainty - of our own views, piety, and value or of another's worth - closes our minds and hardens our hearts. It gives us license to judge, exclude and oppress people who look or act differently from us or who have different cultures, beliefs or life experiences. We stop being open to God, we reject grace, and we stop loving.

Throughout history we have seen the atrocities this kind of certainty has spawned - from the religious persecution of the Inquisition and the continual subjugation and abuse of women to the genocide of indigenous people, the enslavement and marginalization of African Americans and the systematic extermination of millions of Jews. The certainty that these people were inferior (even subhuman) and/or evil was manufactured and normalized by those in power to increase their power and wealth and then accepted by others out of fear, ignorance or greed.

We are seeing this certainty manifest itself again today in our treatment of immigrant and LGBTQ+ communities. Both groups have been subject to degrading lies and stereotypes that would have us believe immigrants are criminals who take our jobs and eat our cats and dogs and LGBTQ+ persons are sexual deviants who violate God's natural laws and corrupt our children. In fact, they are none of these things. They are simply vulnerable groups who are convenient scapegoats for the powerful and easy targets for discrimination, hate and violence.

The Bible tells us that all people are made in God's image and all are loved by God - that includes immigrants and LGBTQ+ persons. Our God is big enough to embody male and female, black and white, immigrant and citizen, gay and straight, trans and cis. Rather than judge, stereotype and demean, God has called us to love them as neighbors and share with them the Good News of God's saving mercy and grace.

I Corinthians 13 says love is patient and kind, is not proud or self-seeking, keeps no record of wrongs, always protects, trusts, and hopes. This radical love does not hate, exclude and oppress. It opens its arms and makes room for all people, perspectives and experiences. It challenges us to see the child of God in everyone. It eschews certainty for compassionate ambiguity. Without this humble and courageous love, the scripture says nothing we do will ever be worthy in God's eyes.

Romans 12:2 admonishes us to “not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind”. What would the world look like if we gave our certainties to God and allowed Him to transform our hearts and minds so we could love unconditionally? If we encountered an immigrant, would we seek to understand their struggles and dreams rather than denigrate them. If we met an LGBTQ+ or trans person and felt uncomfortable with their sexuality or confused by their pronouns, would we try to get to know them rather than shun them. Would we stand with them against the hate, injustice, oppression and violence they endure every day?

# Church & Society

When we say Beloved Community includes all, that means the immigrant and the LGBTQ+ individual as well as our friends and family. If we struggle to accept them, we understand the failing is not theirs but our own and it is our responsibility to confront and overcome the entrenched biases, fears and judgments that keep us from loving as Jesus did.

Beloved Community must start within us. We cannot build a better world if we are not willing to become better ourselves. We must do the hard work of growing past the lies and false certainties the world wants us to believe. We must have the courage to stand up for our God and our faith and with the marginalized and oppressed. Only then can we offer the same unconditional grace and love to others that God has so freely given to us. Only then can we truly become Beloved Community.

Church & Society Committee of the United Methodist Church of Whitefish Bay

*"Black excellence is not a trend; it is a legacy."*

## MICAH Black History Celebration

**Thursday,  
February  
27th 2025  
Doors open  
at 5:30pm**



<https://bit.ly/MICAHBHM25>

**Canaan Baptist Church, Beecham Outreach Center  
2964 N. 11th St., Milwaukee, WI 53206**

**Cost: \$50.00 12 and up,  
Children 5-11-\$25.00**



**Moderator: Mr. DeYounte L. Ramsey, Program  
Specialist Enrichment & Greek Life  
UW - Whitewater**

**Young Adult Leaders Panel  
Lawrence Brooks, Chanese Knox, Kejuane Jennings &  
LaResha Love**

**Click Below to Register.**

**or copy & paste the following to your browser**

**<https://bit.ly/MICAHBHM25>**



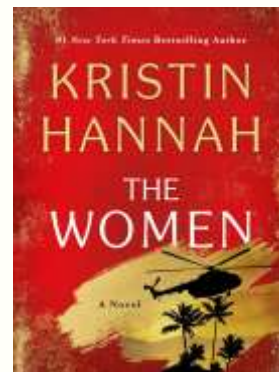


## United Women in Faith

### Book group warms up February with fellowship

Deborah Circle, the reading group of United Women in Faith, meets on **Tuesday, February 4**, to discuss *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus. On **March 4**, the group will explore *The Women* by Kristin Hannah

The group meets every first Tuesday of the month in the Walnut Room at 7 p.m. Meetings include a devotion, discussion guided by a member, and a delicious dessert. For more information and to get on the email list, contact Sally Jipson at [swjip@hotmail.com](mailto:swjip@hotmail.com).



### Don't forget to pick up your Souper Bowl soup

If you ordered soup for the Big Game, don't forget to pick up your pre-ordered soup on Sunday, Feb. 9, 10am – 12pm. New this year! Soup will be distributed in Fellowship Hall on the lower level of church. And remember – All profits benefit the programs and missions supported by the United Women in Faith.

## Men's Ministry

### January - Marquette vs. Georgetown

It was a competitive game between two Big East teams. We had all ages at the game for a great evening of basketball and fellowship in the student seats at Fiserv Forum. Plan to join us next year for another Marquette game.



# Men's Ministry

**February 1, 2025 - Saturday – Habitat for Humanity, 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

Join volunteers from other churches to finish a 2024 “Building on Faith” sponsored home. We have been a part of the Habitat 2024 success with 32 new homes built and 27 children moved into new homes. Now let Don Lybeck ([mdonlybeck@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mdonlybeck@sbcglobal.net)) know you can help with this completion project.



**Saturday, March 8 - Habitat Building Frames In Their Warehouse - Morning Shift 8-11:30 a.m. and afternoon shift 12 -3 p.m.**

With the beginning of each year Habitat starts house construction inside their warehouse by building prefab wall frames. The frames will be used throughout the year for new houses. This is a unique Habitat volunteer experience that you can sign up now with Don Lybeck ([mdonlybeck@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mdonlybeck@sbcglobal.net)) or Tom Groble ([tom.groble@gmail.com](mailto:tom.groble@gmail.com)). See you there.





# Notes from the Board

On January 21, the Servant Leadership Board (formerly Accountable Leadership Board) met for the regular monthly meeting. In attendance were SLB members: Tom Van Cleave, Lori Aeschbacher, Don Behrens, Hui Zhang, Craig Walker, Chelsea Montague, Jeff McClellan and Tom Groble. Also in attendance were Pastor Gary Holmes, Erin Norris, Nell Nash, Laurie Jeffery, Kathy Schluter, Sam Swartzberg and Dick Steinmetz.

## **Opening Prayer and Consent Agenda**

Tom Van Cleave opened the meeting in prayer reflecting our Vision Statement of “Building a Beloved Community”.

The November meeting minutes were approved as written.

## **Devotion and Pastor’s Report:**

Rev Gary Holmes presented a devotional exercise and readings from 1 Peter 4:10 “Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.”

Through questions, he asked us to reflect on our unique gifts and talents on how God is calling us to serve this year and how we can encourage others to find a calling within the church.

## **Vision Statement and Storyline (Action: Building a Beloved Community):**

Kathy Schluter presented an update on one of our four Vision actions highlighting several actions that have been taken to date including: sermons on Beloved Community, articles in eJOY, Wed night classes and a recent preacher swap with Zao UMC. There was discussion on the congregation’s perception of what Beloved Community means and how it translates into our church identity.

Materials in the form of flyers, banners, bookmarks and stickers were shown to be displayed inside and outside the church as reminders of our church identity.

## **Hospitality Update:**

Beth Groble presented quarterly worship attendance, new members and new guests that show a slight uptick over the past year. On engagement, the new members that joined in June and Nov 2024 have found a calling within the church by attending or participating in various activities, events, programs, classes and small groups.

There was a request for SLB members to connect with returning guests each Sunday to be relational and identify church programs / activities that can meet their needs.

## **Financials:**

Erin Norris presented the financial position for six months highlighting that income and expenses are on track.

## **Capital Campaign:**

Tom VC presented an update on our three-month Capital Campaign highlighting that we accomplished our pledge goal with a current total of \$1.031M. He mentioned that he expects 5 to 10 additional pledges. Several members requested their pledge be used for additional seating in the Narthex that was not in the original Capital Campaign scope.

# Notes

On projects, we have completed five projects – Fellowship Hall, Sanctuary Lighting, NE Ramp, IT connectivity and Chapel seating. There are two primary outstanding projects – Sanctuary Sound and Narthex. Based on discussions with Business Manager and Finance Committee on identified funding, the SLB approved a motion to move forward with Sanctuary Sound in Feb/March and Narthex lobby & Office Space in May – Sep projects. Note: Create an opening to Fellowship Hall from Narthex is under a cost review. Furthermore, the Board recommended that the Capital Campaign update be communicated to the congregation on January 27<sup>th</sup>.

## **Misc:**

Tom Groble conveyed that the church calendar will be changed from our current fiscal year ending in June to a calendar year ending in December that coincides with our Conference. The Board will present that change at the March All-Church Meeting.

The SLB recognized Lori Aeschbacher faithful service on the Board as she has fulfilled her 3-year commitment.

**Closing Prayer:** Rev. Gary Holmes closed the meeting with prayer.

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







## *Birthdays for February*

Leah J.	Gaffney	2/01	Natalie	Hatch	2/14
John	Douglass	2/02	Michael	Martin	2/14
Ellie	Jacobson	2/04	Kristen	Zhang	2/14
Cameron	Goudreau	2/04	Catherine	Marx	2/15
Elizabeth	Rymer	2/04	Mark	Huber	2/15
Sarah	Laszewski	2/05	Loren	StreLOW	2/17
Wendy	Pribbanow	2/06	Jeffrey	Gorsuch	2/19
Annemarie	Melbye	2/09	David	Sanders	2/19
Nancy	O'Toole	2/10	Roanne	Barnes	2/20
Douglas	Brown	2/11	Ellen	Redeker	2/21
Kathy	Walker	2/11	Eva	Whitney	2/21
Lois	Goldberg	2/12	Dane	Miller	2/22
John	Fruncek	2/12	Karen	A'Rowan	2/24
Neil	Bubke	2/12	Jacob	Mortellaro	2/24
Richard	Barnes	2/13	Zachary	Berg	2/24
William	Crise	2/13	Donna	Chiappetta	2/25
Jean	Erickson	2/13	Sophia	Veierstahler	2/25
			Chris	Pagenkop	2/26
			William	Mulligan	2/28
			Bob	Perry	2/28