



# *JOY Newsletter*

January 2025

United Methodist Church  
of Whitefish Bay

Dear Beloved Community,

Happy New Year! As we step into 2025, I invite you to embrace this year as a time of intentional care—for our faith, for one another, and for the world around us. This focus on care aligns beautifully with our church's vision of building God's Beloved Community. Together, we can deepen our relationships with God and each other, becoming a people who connect, grow, and serve with purpose and love.

## **A Journey of Faith and Care**

At the heart of our discipleship is the Spiritual Journey Pathway, which invites us to:

- **Connect:** Join in meaningful worship that draws us closer to God and each other.
- **Grow:** Engage in opportunities to understand our faith more deeply.
- **Serve:** Live out our faith through acts of love and service in the world.

This pathway is not just a process but a way of life that nurtures our spirit and equips us to embody the care Christ calls us to show. As we begin this year, consider how you might take your next step on this journey. Whether you're new to this pathway or familiar with its rhythms, there's always something more God can reveal as we seek to grow together.

## **Spiritual Journey Pathway Class**

To help guide us, I'll be leading a six-week class on the Spiritual Journey Pathway, starting January 15 during Wednesday Night Faith, Food, and Friendship at 6 p.m. This class is designed to:

- Explore what it means to connect, grow, and serve in our daily lives.
- Reflect on the unique ways God is working in your faith journey.
- Offer practical tools and encouragement for living as part of God's Beloved Community.

Even if you joined this class last year, I encourage you to consider taking it again. Each season of life brings fresh insights, and this class can be a source of renewal and strength for your faith and life. It's a wonderful opportunity to recommit to God's call and to build deeper connections within our congregation.

## **Building a Beloved Community Together**

As we move into this new year, let us strive to be a church that embodies care in all we do. Whether it's through worship, small groups, outreach, social justice advocacy, or simply the kindness we show each other, every act of care helps build the Beloved Community we envision. Together, we can create a space where all are welcomed, supported, and encouraged to grow in Christ's love.

Let's make 2025 a year of faith, love, and care. I can't wait to see how God will work through us to bless our church, our community, and our world.

With love and hope,

Gary Holmes  
Senior Pastor

# Missions

## January Mission of the Month – ASP Hurricane Helene Relief

In September, Hurricane Helene caused widespread catastrophic damage and numerous fatalities across the Southeastern United States, including parts of Appalachia. Appalachia Service Project (ASP) is committed to repairing or replacing at least 200 homes for families that were impacted by the storm. Their love for this region shows in their commitment to its long-term recovery.



Less than one month after Hurricane Helene, three homes were under construction for local families – one was dedicated on December 19. ASP's goal is to have at least five families in new homes by Easter—*if not sooner!*

Loose-change offerings and other donations collected during the month of January will support ASP's effort in their support for this region.

---

## Save the Date! 2nd Annual Fundraising Gala to support MacCanon Brown Homeless Sanctuary

**Saturday, March 1** at the Milwaukee Hilton City Center

*\*\*More details coming soon*

*Let's fill a table or two again from our church!*



## A Call for Tutors for Marvin Pratt School

Because some of our regular tutors are traveling the next couple of months, we could use additional tutors to replace them. We work with the children in reading and/or math, ages K3 through 5th grades, once a week for 1 - 2 hours. Volunteer hours are Monday through Friday, whichever day or time works for you. Please call Loretto Steinmetz for more information at 414-550-2957.



# Events

## **Blood Drive: Thursday, January 16, 2 -7 p.m.**

Start the New Year off right by giving the gift of life! That's what you can do by donating just one pint of blood.

**Our next blood drive at church is on  
Thursday, January 16, from 2:00-7:00 p.m.  
in Fellowship Hall.**



Appointments are encouraged (but walk-ins can usually be accommodated). You can make an appointment by calling or texting Jim Schacht any time before the blood drive at 414-332-2834. Or you can make an appointment online at the Versiti Blood Center website: [versiti.org](https://www.versiti.org).

New donors are always welcome. The donation process from the time you arrive to the time you leave takes about an hour, but the actual donation time is only about 10 minutes. And there are free snacks and juice when you're done! If you have never donated and want to learn more about it, please give Jim a call.

---

## **North Shore School for Seniors**

### **Mark your calendar to register Feb. 1 for North Shore School for Seniors**

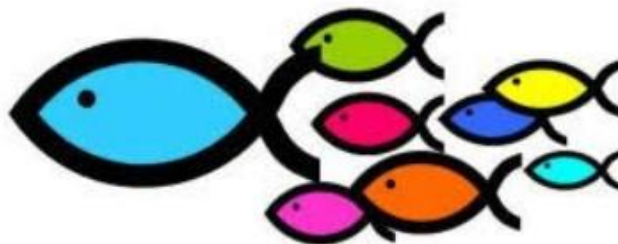
North Shore School for Seniors (NSSS) organizers are planning exciting classes for the Spring 2025 Session. Registration begins Feb. 1. Classes meet Monday or Tuesday at our church on the second floor, except for exercise classes which are held in Fellowship Hall.

Class info and online registration will be **posted Feb. 1** at [nss4s.org](https://nss4s.org) and catalogs will be available for pickup at the church, also 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.

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 the United Methodist Church of Whitefish Bay.







## Youth Mission Trip 2025

Our next adventure with Appalachia Service Project will be from July 12-20 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 Kristal Melbye ([kmelbye@umcwfb.org](mailto:kmelbye@umcwfb.org)) know if you have interest in going or have questions about the trip. We will reserve a spot for you!

**YOUTH EVENTS 2025**

**JAN/FEB**

**JAN 12 ASP INFO MEETING**  
YOUTH ROOM, 11:45 - 12:30

**CONFIRMATION CLASS WITH PASTOR GARY**  
YOUTH ROOM, 5:30-7:00 **JAN 19**

**JAN 26 PARENT SUMMIT**  
YOUTH ROOM, 11:45-12:45

**ATTEND CONGREGATION SHALOM TO VISIT ANOTHER FAITH COMMUNITY**  
7630 N. SANTA MONICA BLVD, 5:45-7:45 **FEB 7**

**FEB 16 CONFIRMATION CLASS**  
YOUTH ROOM, 5:30-7:00

**MORE INFO: KMELBYE@UMCWFB.ORG**

## United Methodist Women in Faith

### UWF Souper Bowl VI

Playoff season is around the corner, and so is UWF's Souper Bowl fundraiser. Get ready to make your picks from our fan favorites line-up of soups – Southwest Chicken, Cheesy Winter Chowder, French Onion, Curried Red Lentil, and Instant Creamy Potato.



**Orders will be taken January 19 – February 2, Sundays after worship services and by email to [suekdaugherty@gmail.com](mailto:suekdaugherty@gmail.com)**

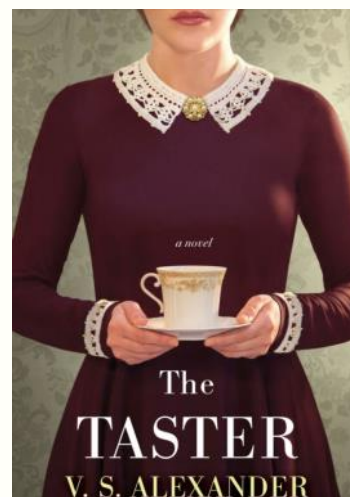
Soup pick up is on **Sunday, February 9**, all ready for the big game. You can't beat our competitive \$10 cost! Missions and programs designated by UWF will be the winners (with your support) again this year.

### Book group kicks off new year Jan. 7

Deborah Circle, the reading group of United Women in Faith, **meets on January 7** to discuss *The Taster* by **V.S. Alexander**. On February 4, the group will explore *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus

**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).





## UWF Christmas Luncheon highlights ‘Christmas Delights’

Women shared personal and biblical “Christmas Delights” on December 10 at the annual UWF Christmas Luncheon. Fellowship Hall was filled with the joyful sounds of friendliness, festive decorations, tables beautifully decorated by ten creative hostesses, delicious food, and Holiday Fair offerings. Sue Stanley delighted all with her musical talents and led those present in sing-alongs of carols.





# Women's Ministry

## Women Offering Worship launches into two new studies on Thursday, January 9

Get your faith-lift with inspiring worship at 9:30 a.m. in the Chapel followed by Philip Yancy's *What's So Amazing About Grace* study in the Wesley Room (or via Zoom) and Immersion Bible Study book of *Mark* in the Walnut Room. Both classes begin at 10:15 a.m. Contact Nell Nash [nnash@umcwfb.org](mailto:nnash@umcwfb.org) for more info, or come as you are able on January 9!



Women Offering Worship

## Church Events

### Journey to Bethlehem brought countless smiles and an overwhelming sense of joy to the 330 "travelers" who experienced it.

Many thanks to all of you who gave so much time and energy to bring this colossal event to life. There aren't many churches in our area that share events of this magnitude. How wonderful it is to be part of a faith community that is so alive!



### Many hands make light the work!

Don't miss the next opportunity to laugh, meet, chat and have fun while you help complete a task around church.

Early January dates for taking down Christmas decorations and organizing the costumes following Journey to Bethlehem, helping with Wednesday evening Faith, Food and Friendships are just a few of the many weekly and occasional opportunities to serve and lend a hand in your faith community. Contact Mary Paull for more information! [Mpaull53223@gmail.com](mailto:Mpaull53223@gmail.com)



## *Birthdays for January*

Jacob	Donovan	1/01	Norva	McCutcheon	1/19
Steve	Jefferson	1/01	Judith	Pier Lybeck	1/19
Jean	Hidde	1/03	Cynthia	Boock	1/20
Dan	Pagel	1/03	Erik	Haglund	1/20
Sue	Mortellaro	1/03	Peter	Van Volkinburg	1/20
Karin Bloom	Welstead	1/04	Joann	Cochran	1/21
Daniel	Montague	1/04	Linda	Mazumdar	1/21
John	Daugherty	1/05	David	Melbye	1/21
Keralyn	Bolliger	1/06	Susan	Patrick	1/22
Stephen	Scheil	1/06	Annette	Buor	1/22
Peter T.	McMahon	1/06	Paul	Jacobson	1/23
Kathy	Thomson	1/07	Mary	LaFrombois	1/23
Peggy	Mulligan	1/07	Jennie	Plaster	1/23
Jenna	Kunde	1/07	Christine	Martin	1/23
Steve	Mortonson	1/09	Lois	Kailhofer	1/24
Roger	Stafford	1/10	Daniel	Morse	1/25
Aaron	Gorham	1/10	Martha	Kriefall	1/26
Elizabeth	Casciato Guarisco	1/10	Taylor	Kuczynski	1/26
Katherine	Thomson	1/11	Joan	Robertson	1/27
Craig	Walker	1/12	Chris	Kitchen	1/27
Teresa	McClellan	1/13	Lori	Aeschbacher	1/29
John	Krezoski	1/15	Claire	Starling	1/29
Jacquelyn	Oliveira	1/15	Jenny	Fisher	1/30
Crystal	Stinemates	1/16			