

UMCWFB

CONNECT. GROW. SERVE.



CARPENTER'S SHOP

VOICES OF YOUTH:
COMMUNION MILESTONES

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN
MEAL PACK EVENT

MARCH 2026

WWW.UMCWFB.ORG

Table of Contents

819 E. Silver Spring Dr.
Whitefish Bay, WI 53217

www.umcwfb.org

© 2026 United Methodist Church of Whitefish Bay

The Table

Reflection from the Pastor 03

Carpenter's Shop

Preparing for the Future 04

Faith In Action

Women in Faith 06

Notes from the SLB 07

Growing Hearts

Communion Milestones 08

Appalachia Service Project 09

A Look Ahead

Feed My Starving Children 05

Youth Choirs Present 09

ASP Fundraiser 11

North Shore School 10

For Seniors

Faith, Food, Friendship 11

Lent Small Group Study 11

March Birthday Wishes 11





A Reflection From The Pastor

Beloved Church,

March invites us into a quieter kind of preparation.

As we move toward Easter, it can be easy to focus on the rituals — the familiar hymns, the lilies, the celebration. And those matter. They shape us. They remind us who we are. But Easter is not simply an event to attend. It is a life to enter.

On Easter morning we will hear again the words from John 20:1–18, when Mary stands weeping at the tomb and hears Jesus call her name. Resurrection begins not with spectacle, but with relationship. “Mary.” And everything changes.

The resurrection of Jesus is not only a truth to believe — it is a power that reshapes how we live. If Easter is real, then fear does not get the last word. Sin does not get the last word. Death does not get the last word. Love does.

So the question for us this March is not, “What are we giving up?”

The deeper question may be, “What new rhythms are we practicing that prepare our hearts to hear our name spoken by the risen Christ?”

New rhythms of:

Slowing down in prayer. Speaking truth instead of staying silent. Extending forgiveness.

Serving someone who cannot repay us. Making room at the table.

Turning again toward Jesus when we drift.

Lent is not about spiritual performance. It is about relationship. It is about aligning our daily lives with the grace we proclaim on Easter morning.

We are becoming Beloved Community — connecting, growing, and serving in the way of Christ. That doesn’t happen accidentally. It happens through small, faithful rhythms that form us over time.

Resurrection is coming.

Let’s prepare not only our sanctuary — but our hearts.

Grace and peace,

The Carpenter's Shop

Caring for Children, Preparing for the Future

Since 1989, The Carpenter's Shop has been a thriving ministry to our community, offering a church-sponsored Christian day care where young hearts and minds work, play, and grow together. Each child is given the opportunity to develop cognitively, socially, physically, and emotionally to the fullest. The curriculum and daily activities are designed to nurture the whole child, with opportunities for spiritual growth woven throughout—teaching Christian values, gathering for weekly chapel, participating in summer Vacation Bible School, and engaging with Bible stories and other special Christian programs.

As a ministry that has faithfully served families for more than three decades, it is essential that the spaces supporting this work remain safe, functional, and welcoming. Over the past year, we have experienced significant service calls related to the existing 20+ year-old ductless HVAC system on the south side of the building. The system now requires full replacement, creating both a necessity and an opportunity: while the daycare operations are temporarily displaced from the ground floor, we are able to undertake meaningful updates to better support the program for years to come.

The \$300,000 scope of work will include installation of a new HVAC system funded by our Foundation, along with new flooring, counters, storage cabinets, an additional classroom sink, and fresh painting funded by two generous members of our congregation. The Trustees are leading the engineering specifications in collaboration with our contractor, Butters-Fetting, on the HVAC replacement, while Monica Bessette, Director of The Carpenter's Shop, and her staff are guiding aesthetic improvements to ensure the environment aligns with the needs of a fully functional daycare operation.

This three-month project—scheduled to conclude in August in preparation for the September church calendar—will follow state daycare regulations and our Safe Sanctuary policy. During construction, classrooms will be temporarily relocated to the first floor (Walnut Room and Chapel) and the second floor. We will continue communicating updates and working closely with all stakeholders to provide appropriate accommodations and maintain safe, accessible operations throughout the process.

Thank you for your continued patience, flexibility, and support as we invest in these renovations and in the future of this important ministry.

-SLB, Trustees and Carpenter's Shop



Feed My Starving Children Meal Pack Event

Registration opens March 15th

As we draw near to the Feed My Starving Children meal packing event, to be held April 30th - May 2nd at Portal Industries in Grafton, we invite you to set aside time that weekend to join us in this meaningful service opportunity. This is a special year as our church will surpass a combined total of 1 million meals packed in the years of participation. A testament to our long-term vision of fighting world hunger!

Anyone can volunteer - it's easy and fun, with roles for all ages to participate. We pack four ingredients (rice, soy, veggies with essential vitamins and minerals) into sealed plastic bags, and then into boxes ready to ship. Roles include scooper, bagger, weigher, sealer and boxer. Volunteers who prefer to sit can label bags.

Available Shifts Include:

Thursday April 30th: 6:00pm - 8:00pm
Friday May 1st: 10:00am - 12:00pm
 1:00pm - 3:00pm
Saturday May 2nd: 9:00am - 11:00am
 12:00pm - 2:00pm
 3:30pm - 4:30pm

Registration Opens March 15th

Options to register:

Online Registration: [FMSC Registration](#)
 please note, link will not work until March 15th

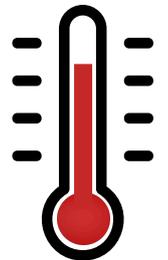
You may also register directly with the FMSC Planning Team, who will have a table located in the Narthex after Worship services beginning March 15th

We still need to raise \$8k to reach our \$30k funding goal!

Donate today with the QR code or check to UMCWFB, marked for FMSC.



Venmo: @UMCWFB



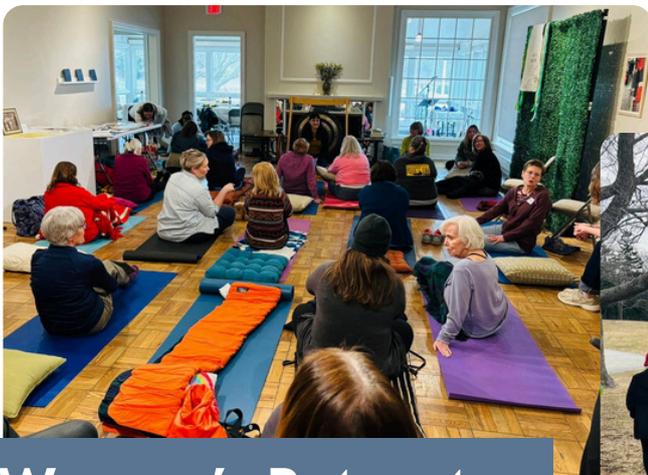


Souper Bowl Wins!

Members of United Women in Faith (UWF) send a heartfelt thank-you to their church family for the remarkable support of this year's Souper Bowl fundraiser. We sold a record 327 quarts of soup and 60 mini-loaves of bread.

After deducting expenses, UWF raised over \$3,000, which will go to missions supported by the group. UWF also sends thanks to the dedicated teams of cooks and bakers, along with all who helped with planning, publicity, selling and distribution of soups

Congregation members Jim and Cathy Lathrop are examples of enthusiastic customers. "We support Souper Bowl Sunday for several reasons. First and foremost, the group's efforts raise funds for mission projects, and that work deserve support," says Jim. "Secondly, I think we bought seven quarts this year because the soups are so handy to store in the freezer for use as a quick meal"



Women's Retreat at Lynden Sculpture Garden

More than 30 women of all ages gathered at Lynden Sculpture Garden in River Hills for a daylong retreat at the end of February sponsored by Women's Ministry. The theme of the retreat was "Recharge and Reflect". The special day away included worship, devotion, spiritual music, two different types of meditation, crafting, delicious food and joyful fellowship. We were blessed to enjoy meaningful time together in a beautiful local setting.

We extend thanks to all who attended, and to our gifted program leaders. For more information about our Women's Ministry Program, please contact [Jenny Fisher](#).



Faith In Action

Notes from the Board

Servant Leadership Board Focus Area for 2026:

Two areas of focus within our Spiritual Journey Pathway model were discussed at the February meeting as needing leadership to help our congregation use their spiritual gifts, talents and financial resources to be a servant of God and to live as a witness to others. If you are interested in volunteering your leadership skills for the following, please contact Pastor Gary.

Year-round Generosity: nurtures a culture of gratitude and generosity by encouraging us to focus on God as the source of strength, where giving frees us from the bondage that money can have over our lives.

Year-round Congregational Development: A process to help members identify, develop, deploy and evaluate Christian spiritual leadership and serve throughout the year. Fundamentally, based on their spiritual gifts, to find their calling within our church ministries and key committees.

Finance Update: Our 6-month interim period ending in December 2025 showed a drop in member pledge income primarily due to a change from fiscal to a calendar year. January results show a solid start to the new year.

Hospitality Requests: *There is an urgent need for ushers and greeters, especially the 9:00am worship service. Please contact Nelda Mngoja to volunteer.*

Please join us

All-Church Meeting
Sunday March 8th
following the 10:30am worship service.



Communion Milestones

Our 3rd–5th graders just completed a meaningful Communion Milestones Program, spending several weeks learning about the meaning and importance of Communion.

Under the guidance of our children's ministry leader Kirsten, students explored the history and meaning of Communion and asked thoughtful questions about this important sacrament. One especially meaningful part of the program was the involvement of our youth, who served as mentors and helpers, building relationships and supporting the younger students in their learning.

Pastor Claudia also helped the children learn how to participate in Communion with confidence and understanding so they could share in this sacrament with the congregation in the most meaningful way.



It has been a joy to see our children grow in knowledge and faith, and to witness the connections formed between younger children and youth

Serving with Love: Youth Care for Members



Our youth found a meaningful way to serve members of our congregation who are unable to leave their homes. Over the past few weeks, they have been creating handcrafted tote bags and bookmarks for these valued members of our church family. The tote bag, filled with a book and the handmade bookmarks, will be delivered to these members of our church community.



Youth Leadership at Appalachia Service Project

Three of our youth — Luke Melbye, Nina Milia, and Liam Hobbs — recently attended the Appalachia Service Project Youth Leadership Summit in Virginia which a grant from our Foundations and Memorials Committee helped fund. During the summit, they learned about servant leadership, teamwork, and what it means to serve others through hands-on ministry. They had the opportunity to connect with youth from other churches and deepen their understanding of the mission

After returning home, Luke, Nina, and Liam shared what they learned with the rest of our ASP youth team at our most recent meeting. Their leadership prepares and inspires the group for their summer service trip.

Liam said, "ASP for me is a place that makes me feel truly appreciated. I would heavily recommend people going on this trip."

Nina explained, "The Youth Leadership Summit helped me grow as a leader by teaching me how to advocate for myself and others." And Luke said, "I learned how to be more open with others and that people will love you for who you are." I'm excited to spread this love that I felt into my community."

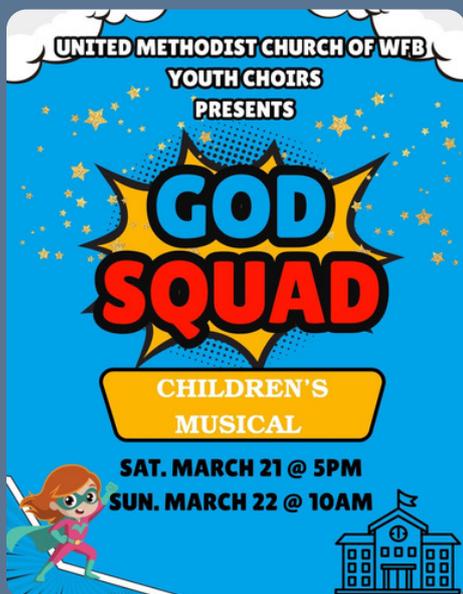
We are proud of these youths for stepping into leadership role and helping guide our group as we prepare to serve.



Adult Leader Needed for Appalachia Service Project Trip

We are still looking for one additional adult leader to join us for our Appalachia Service Project trip this summer who will play an essential role in supporting our youth, helping ensure a safe and meaningful experience, and building relationships that last long after the trip is over.

This week-long trip provides an opportunity to serve families in need while growing in faith and community together. Leaders do not need construction experience — just a willingness to support youth and be part of the team. For more information, please reach out to [Kristal Melbye](#).



UMCWFB Youth Choirs Present 'God Squad'

Join us for a fresh new action-packed, faith-based musical for all ages that teaches valuable lessons from the Bible in a fun, superhero-themed adventure against modern-day temptations.

Performances Dates:
 Saturday, March 21st 5pm
 Sunday, March 22nd 10am

Admission is free and open to the public. All are welcome! Questions, please contact [Jenny Fisher](#)

PARENTS' NIGHT OUT

APPALACIA SERVICE PROJECT FUNDRAISER

Go out for an adult night out while your kids enjoy pizza, yoga, games, and fun with friends!

Cost for dinner and childcare: \$20/first kid, \$15/additional kid(s)

-  **Friday, April 24, 2026**
-  **5:30 - 8:00pm**
-  **UMCWFB Fellowship Hall**

CONTACT KRISTAL MELBYE
414-331-7611



North Shore School for Seniors *Spring Session begins March 15th*

New classes include The Art of the Blog, Strength for Life, Tools for Relaxation, Artificial Intelligence, Great Lakes Maritime History, Human Dignity – a Blessing or a Trap?, History of the First World War, Town Hall on the Economy, Prokofiev and Shostakovich: Powerhouse Composers, and Ten Reasons Why We Believe Lies.

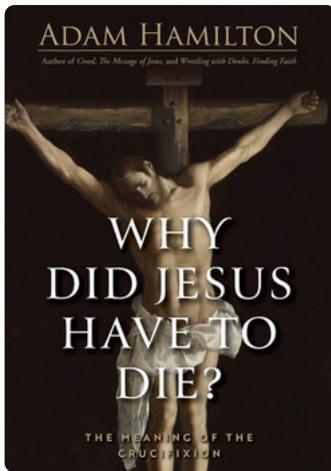
Online registration is at nss4s.org and catalogs with registration forms are available at the church. Email questions to nssbxt@gmail.com or phone (414) 292-0960. Classes are open to all! NSSS is an adult outreach program of our church.



*“Registration is going great for the spring session of North Shore School for Seniors,” says **Roger Stafford**. “It’s unusual for us to have good student numbers in almost every class this early.”*

Faith, Food, & Friendship

Join us for Faith, Food, & Friendship on Wednesday evenings. All are welcome to enjoy a delicious community meal - just \$10 for adults and kids eat free! First-time guests are welcome to eat free of charge as well. Following the meal, the faith classes shown below, kids choir rehearsals, and youth classes will take place. This is an excellent opportunity to invite friends from the community to experience the warmth of UMCWFB.



Lent Small Group Study

This Lent, our church will gather for an all-church small group study of Pastor Adam Hamilton's new book, *Why Did Jesus Have to Die?* We'll meet each week leading up to Holy Week, we invite both participants and group leaders to take part. Leaders will be provided with the book, discussion guide, and DVD, and simply choose a weekly time to facilitate conversation. A sign-up board will be available in the Narthex. Our hope is to engage at least 150 people in meaningful small-group connection this Lent season.

March Birthday Wishes

1st - Will Bublitz, Amanda Speed, Beth Stafford

2nd - Raylene Greenlee, Cynthia Stuckey

3rd - Jennifer Sanders

4th - Russell LaFrombois, John Widdifield

5th - Barbara Abraham, Lynette Mortonson, Randy Nash

6th - Rin Kenning

7th - Timothy Andeen, Nancy Schacht, Tanner Toll

9th - Brooke Evelyn Speed, Ethan Zentner

10th - Del Szewczuga, Rena Szewczuga

12th - Dorothy Case

15th - Katie Daniels, Karen Seward, Mel Vance

16th - Michel Mpoyo Mwanza

17th - Thea Kuczynski, Nancy Trimble

18th - Kathleen Weber

19th - George Tharp

20th - Suzan Daugherty, Karen Helms Ward

21st - Judith Ann Baltzley, Bonnie Barr

23rd - Jenny Chou, Richard Lundell

24th - Sandra Workman

26th - Timothy Tharp, Thomas Weber, Claire Wunderlich

27th - Cindi Criss, Gail Koenke

28th - Hui Zhang

29th - Marcia Olen, Nelda Mngoja, Taylor Zhang

30th - Charles Abram, John Waeltz

31st - Andrea Seidler, Darlene Vranek



UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
of Whitefish Bay

*Becoming a Beloved Community by
Connecting, Growing, and Serving*

WWW.UMCWFB.ORG