

— September 2025 —

Monthly Newsletter

From the United Methodist Church of Whitefish Bay



Our Family Ministry Director, Kristal, asks the youth to share their summer “Highs, Lows, and Buffalos” (a UMCWFB Youth Tradition) at the Youth Beach Party. More pics on Page 5.

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September and October Mission Focus

Our mission focus designated giving for the first part of September will go to the American Red Cross. These funds will support those in the Milwaukee area affected by recent flooding.

For the remainder of September and October our mission donations will go to both Rooted and Rising and the Hunger Task Force.

Rooted and Rising is an organization focusing in the Washington Park area of Milwaukee. They support housing, early childhood education, neighborhood engagement, and operate a Hunger Task Force food center.

The Hunger Task Force is Milwaukee's free and local food bank and Wisconsin's leading anti-hunger organization.

Please consider supporting these organizations with your donations.

We are exploring volunteer service opportunities including flood clean up activities, and delivering hygiene and/or clean up kits. Contact Don Lybeck (mdonlybeck@sbcglobal.net) if interested.

Listen for the Spirit in One Another

A Letter From Pastor Gary Holmes

Dear Beloved Community,

We are living in a time when our nation—and even the Church—is deeply divided. Moral and social issues dominate our headlines, our conversations, and, too often, our relationships. Many of us would prefer to keep “politics” out of the church, but the reality is that our faith does not allow us to ignore the suffering of God’s children or the way our nation treats people, both here at home and around the world.

At the heart of our faith is the conviction that **every human being is a beloved child of God**. To live faithfully into this belief, we must learn how to engage in meaningful dialogue with one another—even when we disagree. Building Beloved Community is not about avoiding difficult conversations; it is about entering them with **openness, humility, and love**, trusting that the Holy Spirit is at work among us. As members of Christ’s body, we are called to fulfill our vows by accepting the freedom and power God gives us to **resist evil, injustice, and oppression** in whatever forms they present themselves.

Listening—truly listening—is a spiritual practice. It means slowing down our responses so that we can hear not only another person’s words but also their heart. It means making space for the

Spirit to speak through voices we may not expect. It means honoring God by the way we listen and learn from one another, especially when we see things differently.

Beloved Community is not about ease or uniformity. It is about discovering unity in **Christ** that is deeper than our divisions, and welcoming diversity as a gift rather than a threat. This is hard, holy work—but it is also the path Jesus calls us to walk together.

As we enter this next season of ministry, my prayer is that we would courageously choose listening over labeling, dialogue over distance, love over fear, and peace with justice for all over comfort. May we trust the Spirit to lead us deeper into the way of Jesus as we seek to become the Beloved Community God has called us to be.

With you on the journey,
Pastor Gary



He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

- Micah 6:8 -

Community Reflection



UMC Sailing on Lake Michigan

UMC Church Members meet at McKinley Marina on August 24th for a fun day of Sailing on Lake Michigan.

The skies were clear and the seas calm with a steady west wind! Thanks to all who could join!



A Busy Month for the Gray Guys

In early August, the Men's Ministry Gray Guys cleared the conference room next to Pastor Gary's office by moving furniture to the chapel so that the floor could be carpeted. The morning included donating and disposing of some office furniture. The next day, Gray Guys removed wood facing in the chapel. In late August, the Gray Guys returned the conference room furniture plus helped with the reopening of Lydia's by returning furniture from and second floor and reinstalling shelves in the store area off the Narthex. It was a busy month!



Community Reflection

Youth Beach Party



The Youth Beach Party at Klode Beach on August 14 was so much fun! Over twenty youth spent a beautiful summer afternoon playing games, swimming, snacking, and connecting with friends.



Discovery Commons Donation

Barb George, director of sales for Discovery Commons North Shore, and Ross Segal, executive director of the Glendale senior living center, recently presented a ceremonial \$580 check to Roger Stafford, board member of North Shore School for Seniors. Discovery Commons North Shore chose NSS4S as recipient of proceeds from Discovery Commons' Summer Extravaganza Fundraiser. This generous contribution will significantly help NSSS, which is currently registering seniors for Fall 2025 classes that begin Sept. 15 & 16.



Lydia's Treasures is Back

Lydia's Treasure is BACK September 14th! New look, new fun finds, new fair trade, new cards, new mission focus. Open Sunday mornings, Monday and Tuesday during North Shore School for Seniors classes, Wednesday evenings, and special events. We have missed you and can't wait to welcome you BACK to your favorite little mission store! Our September – December mission focus is Feed My Starving Children mobile pack event this spring.





Midwest Missions Sends Disaster Relief to Milwaukee After Flooding

In May UMCWFB packed 100 kits for Midwest Mission (MM). Some of these kits may have recently come back to help our neighbors in need. In addition to the hygiene kits, MM sent over 1,800 flood clean up kits to our area. Each clean up kit cost \$75.

The mission team has approved \$1,500 from the mission budget to replace a few of those kits.

In early October we plan to get 500 more kits, both hygiene and student kits. We plan to have a packing event later in the month.

The Marvin Pratt School Supply Drive Benefitted 14 Elementary Classrooms

A huge thank you from the teachers and parents at Marvin Pratt for the generous donations of school supplies for the children starting school September 2nd! We delivered 14 bags (2 for each grade) with requested items for the children. God bless you for your generosity!



— Looking Ahead —

With the start of the fall comes the start of our 2025/26 programming, including the restarting of Wednesday Faith, Food, and Friendship, which will be weekly from 5:00-8:30 pm starting September 10. Check out the blurbs below to see what else there is to look forward to.





**WEDNESDAY NIGHT
FAITH-FOOD-FRIENDSHIP
WEEKLY STARTING SEPT. 10**

5:00-6:00 pm	Chef Catered Dinner \$10 Adults/Kids eat free
5:45-7:00 pm	Kid's Choir and Children's Activities
6:00-7:00 pm	Adult Faith Classes
7:00-8:30 pm	Adult Chancel Choir Rehearsal

ALL ARE WELCOME!!

819 E. SILVER SPRING DR.
WWW.UMCWFB.ORG

Wednesday Night Faith, Food and Friendship starts up again for the season on September 10th!

We are thrilled to offer another season of our weekly **Wednesday Night Faith, Food and Friendship**! All the fun begins on **September 10th**. The meal will be prepared by our new **Chef Gretchen Kniffin** and will be served from **5-6pm**. The meal cost is \$10 for adults; kids and first-time guests eat for free!

Are you interested in leading a faith-focused class on Wednesday nights? Contact Jenny Fisher (jfisher@umcwfb.org).

We hope you will make our Wednesday night tradition part of your schedule in the coming school year!



UNITED METHODIST CHURCH of Whitefish Bay

Youth Choirs

Rehearsals Wednesday Nights
starting September 10
Participation in Worship once a month
Christmas Program & Children's Musical

K4-2ND GRADE 5:45-6:15PM
Basement Choir Room

6:20-6:55PM 3RD-5TH GRADE
Sanctuary

6TH-12TH GRADE 5:30-6:15PM
Sanctuary

FOR MORE INFO
CONTACT NEIL BUBKE
(NBUBKE@UMCWFB.ORG)

Youth Choir Rehearsals

Do you know kids and youth who love to sing and are interested in participating in one of our Youth Choirs? We are excited to announce we will be offering three different choirs for children of all different ages—Kindergarten through high school! Our rehearsals will be on Wednesday nights as a part of our **Faith, Food, and Friendship** program.

Contact Neil Bubke (NBubke@umcwfb.org) for more information or to get involved!

Women Offering Worship

Make your Thursdays a WOW kind of day. WOW – women of all ages praising, praying and singing together in women-led worship. WOW – three great new faith-based studies in small, community building groups. WOW – fresh look in the chapel. WOW – brunch to meet new friends, nourish our bodies after inspiring worship that nourishes our spirits. WOW – Women Offering Worship – 28 years of faith-lifts! Make YOUR Thursdays WOW – beginning September 18th at 9:30am in the chapel followed by free continental brunch. New studies begin September 25 at 10:15am. Please contact Pastor Claudia Deede (cdeede@umcwfb.org) for more on how YOU can make Thursdays a WOW kind of day.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF WHITEFISH BAY

WOMEN offering WORSHIP

WOMEN-LED WORSHIP
THURSDAYS
9:30-10:15AM
CHAPEL

FAITH CLASSES
10:15-11:30AM

QUESTIONS?
PLEASE CONTACT
PASTOR CLAUDIA DEEDE
(CDEEDE@UMCWFB.ORG)

2025/26 Event Schedule

All women are welcome!

Women Offering Worship Every Thursday at 9:30am
United Women in Faith (UWF) hosts small groups

SEPTEMBER 9 Fall Salad Buffet Lunch sponsored by UWF
Featured speaker, Author Linda Dindzans

OCTOBER Wine and Charcuterie Night

NOVEMBER 8 9:30am-1:30pm UWF Holiday Fair

DECEMBER 9 Christmas Lunch sponsored by UWF

JANUARY Sound Bath Music Meditation

FEBRUARY 21 Women's Retreat

MARCH Make It Take It Art Night

APRIL Self-Defense Class

MAY 12 Spring Lunch sponsored by UWF

FOR QUESTIONS ABOUT WOMEN'S MINISTRIES,
CONTACT JENNY FISHER (JFISHER@UMCWFB.ORG)
PASTOR CLAUDIA DEEDE (CDEEDE@UMCWFB.ORG)

Women's Ministry 2025/26 Event Schedule

All women in our faith community are invited to participate in our monthly Women's Ministry events! Check out the Weekly Connection for more information about events!

Children's Programming

In addition to our KICKstart Sunday School program on Sunday mornings, we have great opportunities for our children to join us on Wednesday nights starting September 10. Come for dinner and then let your kids stay for choir and more KICKstart programming.



SUNDAY (10:30-11:30am)

K4-5th
Children's Moment during service @ 10:30
KICKstart immediately following in 221

WEDNESDAY (5:45-6:55pm)

K4-2nd
CHOIR 5:45-6:15pm in Basement Choir Room
KICKstart 6:20-6:55pm in 221

3rd - 5th
KICKstart 5:45-6:15pm in 221
CHOIR 6:20-6:55pm in Sanctuary

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
of Whitefish Bay
YOUTH PROGRAM
GRADES 6 - 12

SUNDAY (10:00-11:30am)

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL
10:30-11:30

PANCAKES & CONNECTION
10:00-10:30

WEDNESDAY (5:30-7:00pm)

YOUTH CHOIR
5:30-6:15

YOUTH GROUP
6:15-7:00

Youth Programming

Our Youth Sunday School starts Sunday, September 7 and our Wednesday night programming starts that Wednesday, September 10. We hope our youth will join us on Sunday mornings at 10:00 for Pancakes and Connection with Sunday School following at 10:30. And we hope to see them on Wednesdays for dinner at 5:00, and choir and youth group after that.



Classes Start in September for North Shore School for Seniors

Registration is ongoing for the North Shore School for Seniors (NSS4S) 2025 fall session, with classes starting Sept. 15. Classes meet during the day on Monday or Tuesday at our church.

Class info and online registration is at nss4s.org and catalogs are available for pickup at the church. The 2025 fall session (Term 1) begins Monday and Tuesday, Sept. 15 & 16, through Monday and Tuesday, Oct. 6 & 7. Term 2 begins Monday and Tuesday, Oct. 20 & 21, through Monday and Tuesday, Nov. 10 & 11. There are no classes Oct. 13 & 14. Fees are \$10 per class meeting.

Course topics cover history, languages, arts & crafts, local interest, exercise and more. Popular instructors will be back to repeat favorite classes and there are exciting new topics to explore.

New classes include Mahjong Practice, How to Find Trustworthy News, All About Hummingbirds, Happiness: What It Is and How We Grow It, History of Burlesque, Responding to Climate Change: Approaching the Future with Hope and Action, and The Assault on the U.S. Constitution and Amendments.

Other new offerings include Town Hall on the Economy, 1968: The Year that Changed the World, Mysticism Then and Now, WWII in the Pacific, Amazing Animal Habitats, The Civil War Through Biography, and Appraisal Basics for Art Lovers

Email questions to nssbxt@gmail.com or phone (414) 292-0960. All are welcome! NSSS is an adult outreach program of our church.



Free Barre and Yoga Classes

We had an amazing summer of outdoor yoga at Klode Park! Thank you to all who joined us for yoga and our potluck picnics! We enjoyed time together moving our bodies, centering our minds and nourishing our souls!

We are thrilled to continue offering free Barre and Yoga classes at church starting in September on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 9am! Questions? Contact Kristal Melbye (kmelbye@umcwfb.org). All are welcome!



FREE BARRE & YOGA CLASSES

WHAT IS BARRE?

Barre combines ballet-inspired movements, Pilates, yoga, and strength training. It's a low-impact workout that tones and sculpts muscles. No prior experience is needed. We offer adaptations for all fitness levels.

QUESTIONS?

KMELBYE@UMCWFB.ORG

NO CLASSES SEPT 1, OCT 2, NOV 27

STARTING SEPTEMBER

- BARRE - MON 9AM - CHAPEL
- YOGA - TUE 9 AM - CHAPEL
- BARRE - THURS 9AM - FELLOWSHIP HALL

ALL ARE WELCOME

NO REGISTRATION NECESSARY JUST COME!

Fall Welcome Picnic

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!



Opportunity to Become a Lay Servant

There is an exciting opportunity being offered to the UMC South East District in Wisconsin. The district has been blessed with a number of instructors willing to teach some of the Lay Servant Ministries courses.

If you are interested in serving as a lay servant or speaker for the church, please consider joining the hybrid i(n person and online) class that will meet the requirements for Lay Servant and partial requirements to be a Certified Lay Speaker. The contents of both the Basic Lay Servant and Advanced Class on Preaching will be covered. Class will meet twice. The dates are September 13 and September 27.

More information and sign ups can be found on the Wisconsin Conference of the UMC website under Laity, Laity Training.

<https://www.wisconsinumc.org/upcoming-trainings>

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Happy Birthdays

September 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 Gary Holmes	2 Jill Dittrich	3 Diana DelRosso Nancy B. Maier	4 Robert Kriefall Terrence Patrick George Bennett Logan Balmer Connie Shumba	5 Clarice Chou	6 Alyson Berning Jeremy Schaetzke
7	8 William Barrett	9 Joan Joyce Jeff McClellan Cheryl Sapinski Za'Niyah Moore-Hicks	10 Nolan Dadaian	11	12 John Hoylman	13
14 Matthew Groose Harriet Tharp	15 Richard Yurkowitz	16	17 Paula Braam	18 Daniel Yunk Lyle Potter	19 Madeline Bunke	20 James Lathrop Kate Halliburto
21 Holly Morse	22 Larry Plaster	23 Elayne Waeltz Addison Fisher	24 Dennis Daniels	25 Patricia Vanden Tess Ebert Cindy Strelow	26 Gayle Harris Christine Annin Jessa Alderman	27 Lora Haines
28	29 Ross Workman Denise Potter Amy Dodge Justin Owusu-Ayim	30 Diana Scheelk Rebecca Pipkorn Karen Andeen				

“Be still, and know that I am God.” Psalm 46:10

I'm sitting outside on my back porch on a beautiful Saturday afternoon. The tinkling of wind chimes, the sounds of nearby traffic and voices in the distance give me a sense of peace and calm. I am still.

My mother-in-law is dying. She's been fighting cancer for the last 6 months and she's worn out and ready to let go. She wants to go on her terms, which isn't necessarily easy for the family to accept, but at the age of 93 I believe that is her right. I pray that when my time comes I can have the grace to do the same.

Leaving the staff of this church after nearly 27 years is like a little death for me. Through the ups and downs and all arounds I have made this place my second home. I have watched people come and go, laughed and cried on a daily basis, and tried to be a faithful servant.

But as Christians we believe in life after death - in fact a more glorious life, where there is no more pain, no more suffering. While I don't know yet what God might be calling me to do in this next chapter of my life I feel certain that I will be led in the path in which I should go.

It has been my honor and privilege to work alongside you. I am grateful for the relationships - whether they were years in the making or simply a blink in time. I will always remember Pastor Dick Jones handing me a written job description for a Volunteer Coordinator position back in 1998 and saying "just think about it." (You can blame him.)

Finally, on a lighter note, some of you oldies like me may remember the hit movie Dirty Dancing from 1987 and the song that topped the charts for weeks and won the Academy award for best original song. I leave you with these words.. I've had...the time of my life....and I owe it all to You.

Thank you friends,

Nell Nash



UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF WHITEFISH BAY

WEDNESDAY NIGHT FAITH•FOOD•FRIENDSHIP SCHEDULE



5:00-6:00 pm Chef-Prepared Dinner - \$10 adults

All kids and first time guests eat free!

Fellowship Hall (Church Basement)

5:45-6:55 pm Kid's Choir and Children's Activities

Infants/Toddlers: Nursery (2nd Floor)

Kindergarten - 2nd Grade: Kid's Choir (Basement Choir Room) - 5:45-6:15 pm
KICKStart (crafts/games) (Room 221) - 6:15-6:55 pm

Grades 3 - 5: KICKStart (crafts/games) (Room 221) - 5:45-6:15 pm
Kid's Choir (Sanctuary) - 6:15-6:55 pm

Grades 6 - 12: Youth Praise Team (Sanctuary) - 5:30-6:10 pm
Youth Group (Youth Room 2nd Floor) - 6:15-7:00 pm

6:00-6:55 pm Adult Faith Classes - Starting September 10

Book Study: "Seeing Gray in a World of Black and White" by Adam Hamilton
led by Pastor Gary Holmes and Pastor Claudia Deede (Chapel)

Parenting Workshop: "Creating Your Family Vision and Values"
led by Kim Garman (Walnut Room)

Bible Study: Book of Ephesians led by Pastor Mel Vance (Room 220)

7:00-8:30 pm Adult Chancel Choir - Sanctuary