



JOY Newsletter

February 2023

**United Methodist Church
of Whitefish Bay**

February is the shortest month, but I often experience it to be the longest. Perhaps it felt longer than it is when I was teaching because it is the month without a break between New Years and Spring Break/Easter. Perhaps I notice the skies to be grayer than other months. I also wonder if the beginning of Lent makes it feel heavier, and thus longer. I may not be the only one to think this way because several of our families take the time to be away on trips to the southern states or the southern hemisphere.

Anticipating February this year, I think it will be good to spend quality time alone to follow the spirit, but also to spend quality time with others, especially people of the faith, so as not to be left alone. I am grateful that this church offers several resources to us in this season for fellowship and spiritual strengthening. Even those on southern trips can take advantage of much of this. Look for something in this menu that may help you successfully navigate the long month and give you a time to prepare for living a new life.

- Wednesday Night Live continues with meals for the family at 5:30-6:30
- A women's retreat at the Siena Center on the 11th. Look for details.

- WNL classes continue through the 15th on the gospel of John, UM beliefs, and Toxic Charity.
- Sunday the 19th, the youth will lead all aspects of worship other than preaching.
- Ash Wednesday, the 22nd: 5:30 meal, 6:15 worship, 6:15 children's choir.
- A Lenten Devotional will be published by the 19th. Pick up your copy at church or call for one to be delivered.

There are other announcements of activities in the newsletter: activities of adoration, fellowship and mission. Don't look at them and search for excuses to say no. Check your own spiritual pulse and commit to those resources that will help you and your family get or stay spiritually fit during this time.

On a personal note, I will be getting cataracts removed this month, so I will be seeing you much better. February is a good month to get and stay physically fit as well. God bless you.

Pastor Don Francis

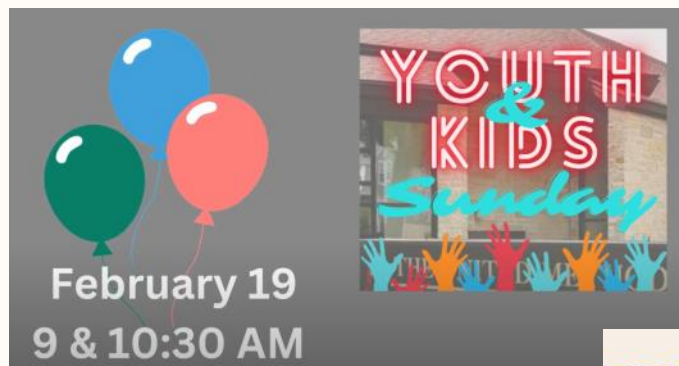
LOVE GOD, CARE FOR EACH OTHER, AND SERVE IN THE WORLD

**United Methodist Church of Whitefish Bay
819 E. Silver Spring Dr. Whitefish Bay ~ umcwfb.org ~ 414- 964-2424**

This Weekend, February 5

Read on for more information in this edition of the monthly *Joy Newsletter*.

This Sunday alone, February 5, we have an Open Door Gallery reception, and discussion about our next mission of the month for Unity of Hope. As well as sign-ups for the Souper Bowl, the Women's Retreat at the Siena Center, and the ASP mission trip. So many exciting things for all at UMCWFB.



This Month in Worship

Join our youth as they help lead the worship services at both 9 and 10:30 a.m. on **February 19.**

Reminder, email your prayers for Sunday to our new prayer@umcwfb.org email address.

During in-person worship, you may also still fill out one of the prayer cards that are found in the pews.



text or email to
prayer@umcwfb.org



Join us February 22 for dinner at 5:30 p.m. (no WNL classes).

We will gather for Ash Wednesday worship in the Sanctuary at 6:15 p.m.

WNL Classes During Lent



CHURCH & SOCIETY

The United Methodist Church

Living **FAITH** Seeking **JUSTICE** Pursuing **PEACE**



A CLIMATE SCIENTIST'S
CASE FOR **HOPE** AND **HEALING**
IN A DIVIDED WORLD

KATHARINE HAYHOE

Join us on the five **Wednesdays in March**

from 6:30-7:30 p.m. for a timely book study as part of

Wednesday Night Live. ***Saving Us: A Climate Scientist's Case for Hope and Healing in a Divided World* (Katherine Hayhoe, 2021)** is an excellent book to help us understand how our world is changing and how we can collaborate to find solutions. As Christians, we are to be faithful stewards of God's creation. The author, an award-winning climate scientist and evangelical Christian, tells us that the most important thing we can do to address climate issues is to talk about them. Please join us to learn and share together how we can make a positive difference.

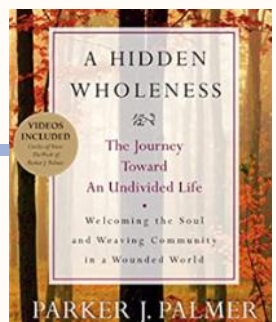
Look for the book at the library, or order from local bookstores or online vendors. We also have several books to lend out (talk to Mary Mueller or Ross Workman to borrow).

The study will be held in the chapel with zoom connection. Look for the zoom link on the church website and weekly eJoys in March. We will watch video clips and talk about content from the book. Even if you don't have time to read each week, you will still benefit from the discussion and thoughts of fellow participants.

"The future we collectively face will be forged by our own actions. We must act, with power, love, and a sound mind. Together, we can save ourselves." - Katherine Hayhoe

Discovering Your Wholeness with Pastor Don Francis

We live a divided life in a divided society. Parker Palmer guides us toward integrity. Nell Nash and Don Francis will lead this class using Palmer's book, ***A Hidden Wholeness, The Journey Toward An Undivided Life*** to approach the realm of the soul. Purchasing this book is advised but not required.



Sue Stanley's Bible Study

Sue will continue teaching her study, looking at the life of Jesus seen through the Holy Week scripture. New members are always welcome.



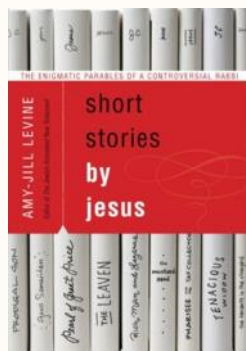
JOIN US FOR

**WEDNESDAY
NIGHT LIVE**

MEAL: 5:30 PM

CLASSES: 6:30 PM

Women's Ministries



Women Offering Worship, WOW, is 25 years strong on Thursday mornings, encouraging women of all ages on their faith journeys. Lent study ***Short Stories By Jesus: The Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi*** by Biblical scholar Amy Jill Levine begins **Thursday, February 23 at 10:15 a.m.**, following 9:30am WOW worship in the Chapel. Both WOW worship and the Lent study are available via Zoom <https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/86477695842> (9:30 a.m. worship) <https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/86828437600> (10:15 am study). For more information, contact Nell Nash, Director of Women's Ministries, at nnash@umcwfb.org or at 414-964-2424 x218

Fair Trade means that artisans are guaranteed a market and paid a fair wage in safe working environments, enabling them to feed their families and send their children to school.

Lydia's Treasure, our little mission gift shop, is filled with fair-trade, fun and missional surprises. Kenyan Kisii stone, Peruvian Chulucanas, Ecuadorian Tagua, Felted wool from Nepal, Ghana Chocolate. Thistle Farms lotions – made by women victims who became survivors, Jeff Hanson Art note cards, whose profits benefit charities world-wide – his story is remarkable. Add the gently read books and puzzles, fluffy stuffys, sparkling glass, glittering jewelry, cozy wraps, scarves and hundreds of other “fun finds” – you just never know what you're going to discover to gift a friend or yourself. Lydia's proceeds benefit three missions this year – Running Rebels, Kindred MKE, and Walnut Way Conservation Corps. Collectively, they convert brown and abandoned lots into growing green spaces, mentor inner city youth, provide leadership skills, shelter and support homeless and at-risk children, teens and adults. Every purchase, every day, supports mission in at least one way. Contact Lydia at mpaull53223@gmail.com



He knew everything about her...The woman at the well stood her ground, she didn't back away when Jesus spoke to her as He would to anyone – without judgement or hesitation. There is nothing He doesn't know about each of us. Come explore your authentic self.

Our 2023 Women's Retreat is **SATURDAY, February 11th from 9-3** at Racine's Siena Center. There are a few spots remaining for our one-day apart, led by Pat Wisialowski and Sue Stanley, worship and music leader. Contact Nell at nnash@umcwfb.org to secure your place. \$30 registration fee for the day. RSVP and payments due by **Monday, February 8.**

Men's Ministry

Habitat - 2022 Dedication & 2023 Plans



Habitat held a spiritual dedication for the house that UMCWFB volunteers (with other faith volunteers) helped to construct in 2022 at 3470 N. 2nd St.

The mother/owner and 2 of her boys expressed their appreciation and understanding of their responsibility for the house and the neighborhood - which is the goal for Habitat.

That morning, Habitat Milwaukee held a breakfast for volunteers at which three women owners to be told of their qualifying efforts, onsite participation in construction and family reactions with emotions. Our church can feel very good for helping to provide low-cost housing for deserving people.

Men's Ministry sponsors the Habitat mission for our church and the involvement opportunity for all members - as we look forward to the Habitat plans for 2023.

Watch for invitations for you to participate in

- (1) stud decorating (messages to the new owners on the 2x4s that are used to build the houses),
- (2) constructing frames for the new houses - in the Habitat warehouse,
- (3) deconstructing industrial buildings for Habitat materials/resale,
- (4) volunteering at a Habitat ReStore - and
- (5) work days on our new faith-built house (with volunteers from other churches) that will come in the spring, summer, and fall.



Plan to volunteer to share the satisfaction and fellowship.

Contact Dick Steinmetz to aid in upcoming projects and for more information at rsteinmetz@wi.rr.com.

United Women in Faith (UWF)

United Women in Faith's February Focus of the month is **Rachel Circle, a group of 25 women who come together the third Wednesday of the month** in the afternoon for spirituality and fellowship. We work in the fall on Holiday Fair projects, supply cookies once a month for St. Vincent's Meal Program, fix lunches for MacCanon Brown, & provide a rose on the altar for the family who is having a baptism. In addition when not working on church mission projects, we have book reviews or potlucks with social time together.



Join us for great reads and discussions!

Deborah Reading Circle always meets the first **Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m.** Join us **Tuesday, February 7, at 7 p.m.** on Zoom to discuss *Mountain Beyond Mountain: The Quest of Dr. Paul Farmer* by Tracy Kidder and a month later on **Tuesday, March 7, at 7:00 p.m.** when members will meet in person to discuss *The Last Bookshop in London* by Madeline Martin.

Continue reading on the following pages for more opportunities.



United Women in Faith Reading Program

Do you love to read? Do you like to nourish your soul, strengthen your understanding, and better equip yourself for God's work? Then, why not join the Reading Program and commit to one of the reading plans. The basic plan involves reading one book in each of five categories and regular reading of the Response Magazine (publication of UWF).

Book Categories

- Education for Mission
- Leadership Development
- Nurturing for Community
- Social Action
- Spiritual Growth



The national UWF chooses new books each year, and books from the last five years are included in the program. **All the information is online** at uwfaith.org/read. **Or visit the church library** when the office is open (ask for the key) and look for the UWF shelf with a binder of the reading lists, some books to borrow, and issues of the Response Magazine. Many books on the list are at the public library or available through local bookstores or online.

Sign up for the program on the clipboard in the church library and use the checklist to sign books in and out. If you purchase books, consider donating them to the UWF Reading Program for others to use when you are finished. Encourage women you know to read the same book and talk about it. Ask others for recommendations.

Completion forms are available in the binder and can be turned in to the Reading Program Secretary, Mary Mueller, by August 31. She'll get them to our district person before the statewide UWF conference. If you have questions, contact Mary at mjmueller.uef@gmail.com.

"It cannot be that the people should grow in grace unless they give themselves to reading. A reading people will be a knowing people." - John Wesley

Time is running out to order some delicious soup for the *Souper Bowl*!

For a great price of \$10, you can help missions supported by the United Women in Faith and have a great treat for the BIG GAME on Feb. 12. \$10 buys a fabulous quart of homemade soup.

Orders will be taken after services through **THIS Sunday, Feb. 5** for pickup after services on **Feb. 12**. (Pickup also can be made after **Feb. 11** service with advance arrangements). Order online or ask questions by emailing suekdaugherty@gmail.com.



For every two quarts ordered, a can of soup will be donated to missions.

Who could resist the following options?

Matzo Ball

Enjoy this savory, simple, satisfying chicken broth with two large homemade matzo balls. Ingredients: unbleached wheat flour, eggs, vegetable oil, salt, pepper, diced carrots and celery, chicken stock.

Curried Red Lentil

Hearty in all ways, the flavors in this thick lentil soup are sure to please. Ingredients: olive oil, onions, carrots, garlic, curry powder, fresh ginger, Cayenne pepper, vegetable broth, red lentils, diced tomatoes, apple. *Vegetarian and Gluten free.*

Better than Neil Bubke's French Onion (A 2022 Favorite)

A perfect winter comfort soup. Add the attached homemade croutons and secret cheeses and ENJOY! Simply made with unsalted butter, yellow onions, flour, beef broth, dry white wine, salt, and pepper.

Instant Creamy Potato (A United Women in Faith Holiday Fair Classic)

Convenient and delicious; combine ½ cup of this special dry mix into a mug or bowl with 1 cup boiling water. Stir well. Let stand to thicken for 3 minutes and be happily filled. Great with added cheese.

Southwest Chicken (Back for the fourth season by popular demand)

The Southwest comes to your table with this chili style soup filled with warm spices, shredded chicken and a variety of beans. Enhance with your own crunchy tortillas 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.

Mission

The February Mission of the Month is Unity in Hope School, Pakistan

The school is located in a slum designated for Christians. Pakistan is an Islamic state and 98% of its inhabitants identify as Muslim. The remaining 2% (mostly Christian) receive no education or support in any way. The school is in an area with no running water, no trash removal, no electrical grid, no schools, and very limited employment opportunities. Unity in Hope School is the only Christian school in the area of approximately 50,000 Christians.

The school's mission is to provide basic needs assistance, and education assisting students to break the cycle of poverty.

\$250 provides food, clean water, uniforms, backpacks, and tuition for one child for a year.

Please join us at **11:45 a.m. on February 5** to learn more about the school from Allen Ruppel, President of the school.



UMCWFB Knitters

Pictured here are Marvin Pratt school students who received some of the hats and scarves donated by the knitting circle. We hope the joy the students have in wearing them equals the joy the knitters surely had in making them.

Mission

Mission At Home

The third Saturday in January was a mission trip alllllll the way to our church building. It was also a fellowship gathering that we have not had since before covid, where there were reports that it was “FUN”. Thanks to all of you who took the time to help.



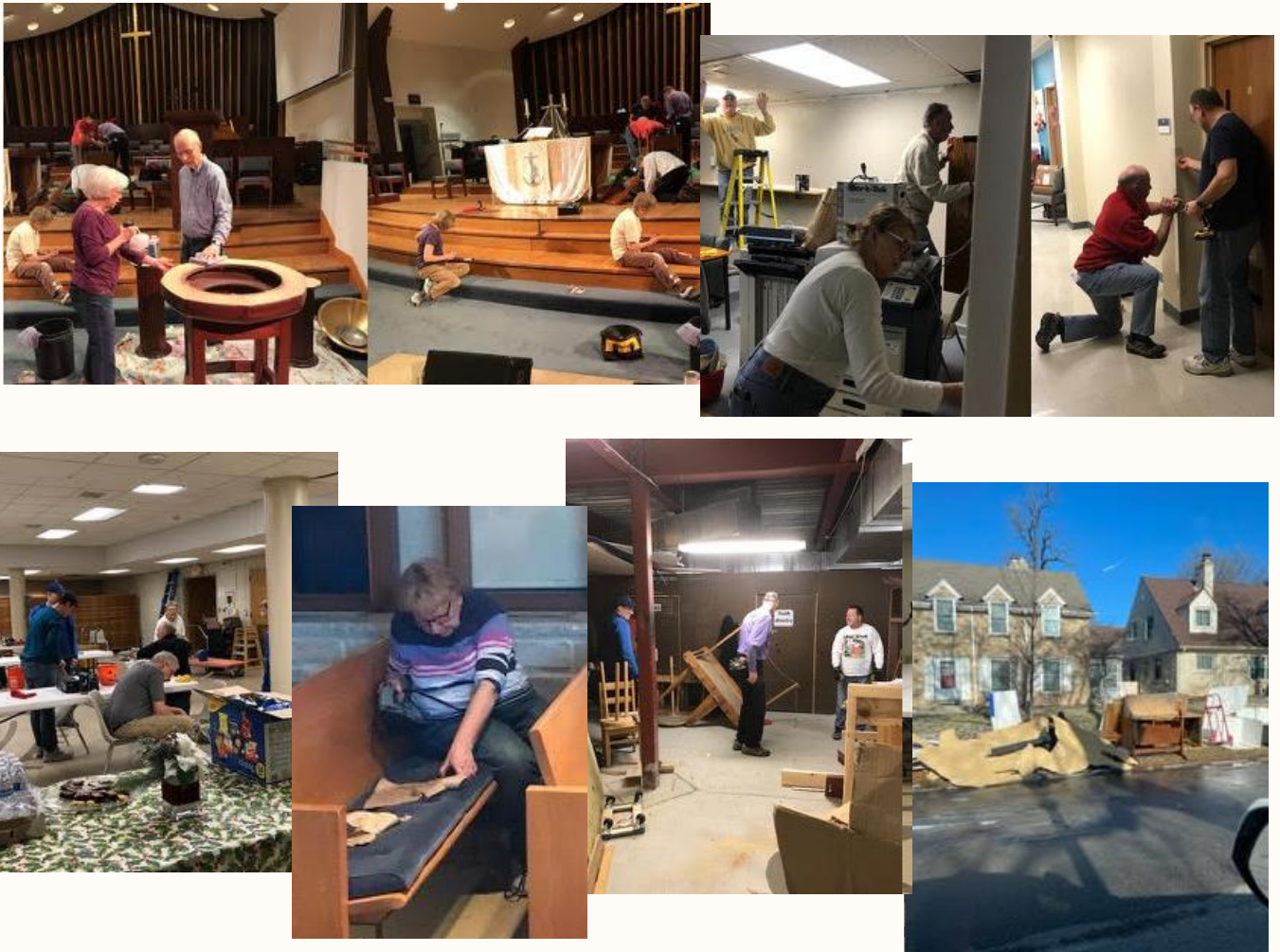
Mission

Mission At Home *continued*

The results of Mission At Home can be found around the building - from the basement to the second floor. In the Sanctuary, the baptismal font is refreshed, the chairs are repaired, the cushions in the pews are free of wax/dirt, and the stair edge scratches are gone.

Painting occurred in the basement, Narthex ramps, plus several second-floor rooms. Over 20 wall corners have protective molding (more to come) while ceiling tiles were replaced throughout. Ceiling light covers were also replaced. The catacombs in the basement were reorganized with much cut up and more thrown out (see the last picture of trash on Glen). The tables and chairs in Fellowship Hall, and elsewhere, were cleaned while the Prop room was organized. All with breakfast and lunch.

So many, many thanks to those of you who volunteered with a smile - pictured below.
Missing: Roger Stafford, Mike Rupp, Ross Workman, Nancy Batchelder, Bob Batchelder, Karen Swartzberg, Jean Erickson and Neil Bubke (taking the picture).





Children and Youth Sunday - February 19

Kids are taking over! **During the 9 and 10:30 a.m. services of February 19**, youth and children will be taking charge of the service. There is no Sunday School or Confirmation that weekend. Instead, kids will be running the service:



- Greeting
- Ushering
- Acolytes
- Reading Scripture
- A Special Video Message for Adults
- Praying
- Music

This is a great opportunity for kids to serve and lead! Contact Pastor Andrew or Mr. Neil if you are interested!

SAVE THE DATES REGISTRATIONS AVAILABLE ON FEBRUARY 19!

Children's Musical | Noah's Ark | April 21

How did Noah survive 40 days with all those animals? Did he have to separate the lions from the gazelles? Were the elephants afraid of the mice? Why did he save the mosquitos!!?
Our children's spring musical may not answer these questions, but we promise a fun exploration of the story that concludes with an amazing promise!

Rehearsals are in progress each Wednesday evening!
Join us on **Sunday, April 21 at 9 and 10:30 a.m.!**



Youth

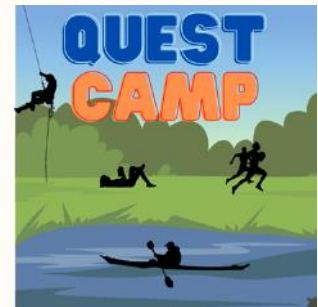


Lake Lucerne Camp | Kids Ages 7-11 | June 18-21

Howdy Pardners! We want to kick off the summer with our children's camp at Lake Lucerne. Kids will have the opportunity to learn about our creator while surrounded by creation. This camp is designed especially for us and is an amazing way for our congregation to love and lead our kids through story, worship, and recreation. We are looking for volunteers to make this a great experience and welcome camp veterans and newbies alike!

Youth Quest Camp | Grade 6-12 | June 25-30

Quest is a remarkable, ridiculously fun, re-imagined way for youth groups and youth leaders to experience God, encounter Christ, grow closer as a group, and refocus! This program is designed to equip and train youth and their adult leaders for ministry in their church and community. This camp is designed for kids middle and high school youth and is located at Green Lake Conference Center.



Appalachia Service Project | High School | July 15-23

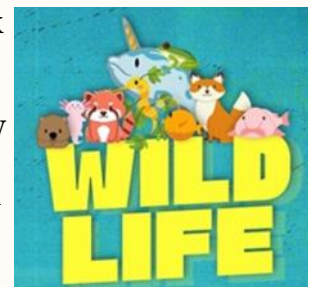


Save the date! Our next adventure with Appalachia Service Project will be from July 15-23, 2023, so mark your calendars. ASP is open to all current 8th graders through current high school seniors. We also need adult and youth leaders to accompany us on the trip. This is a great opportunity for adults and kids to have an experience they can share for a lifetime.

If interested, join us **February 5 at 11:45 a.m.** in the Youth Room.

Vacation Bible School | PreK - 4th Grade | July 30-August 4

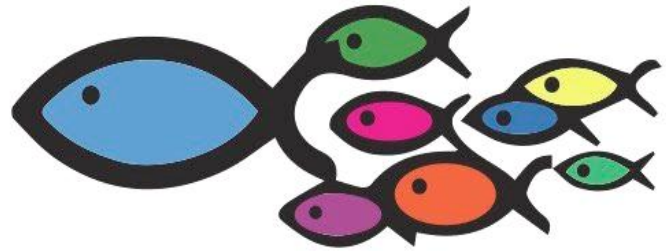
Think about the weirdest animals you know. What noise does an armadillo make? Is an axolotl really smiling? Are glass frogs made of real glass? Is a wombat a type of bat? It's wild that God helps each animal grow and thrive... and us, too! Wild Life is 4-day adventure where kids discover how special they are to God and how wild it is that they can share their story, use their gifts, spend time with God, and spend time with others. This will be a **four-day VBS, Monday through Thursday 9 -11:30 a.m., with a family celebration on Friday evening at 6 p.m.!**



Questions? Contact Pastor Andrew:
ajones@umcwfb.org | 314-691-7378

Register now for spring North Shore School for Seniors classes!

North Shore School for Seniors (NSSS) offers 40 classes for the spring terms, including many NEW topics. Participants can stretch their muscles and minds, while meeting others AND having fun. All classes meet at United Methodist Church of Whitefish Bay.



The spring session is **Monday, March 6-Tuesday, March 28** (Term 1) and **Monday, April 17-Tuesday, May 9** (Term 2). "Motion Monday" classes are Tai Chi, Zumba Gold, Chair Yoga, and Meditation. On Tuesday, classes cover a vast range of topics. Classes meet from one to eight times, depending on the subject matter. On Monday, the school is open from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. and on Tuesdays, the school is open from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Fees are \$10 per class session. For example, one-week classes are \$10 and eight-week classes are \$80.

Registration began February 1 and is ongoing. The best way to register and pay is online at nss4s.org. Paper Spring 2023 catalogs and registration forms also are available at the church. Registration forms and payment can be mailed in or are accepted at the church office. Email questions to nssbxt@gmail.com or phone the NSSS office at (414) 292-0960.

Love history? Explore *Indian Boarding Schools, Ukraine: Yesterday and Today, Jazz Singers, China, and Funeral Practices Across Cultures.*

Want to learn a new skill? Study *Beekeeping, Basic Drawing, Conversational French, and Quilting.*

Wondering about local treasures? Delve into *America's Black Holocaust Museum, Pabst Mansion, Lake Park, Migratory Birds, Waterways and Saving the Great Lakes, and Wisconsin's Underground Railroad.*

Need help with life changes? Examine *Options for Senior Living and Tips for Handling Big Decisions.*

Registrations will be honored on a first-come, first-served basis. There also will be in-person registration the first day of a class, if that class is not filled.

Depending on current CDC guidelines, face masks may be required for those attending classes. Other measures for the safety of all may be implemented.

The mission of the North Shore School for Seniors is improving mind and spirit through learning and friendship. The school is an adult outreach ministry of United Methodist Church of Whitefish Bay. Classes are open to all. Lydia's Treasure Mission Gift Shop will be open during class times.

Racial Diversity Team

Bringing Our Youth Home!

A marathon meeting of the City of Milwaukee's Zoning Committee on January 10th gave a 5-0 approval of a new youth correctional rehab facility to be built at 7930 W. Clinton St. (Remember the old DOT auto emissions facility?). Why am I telling you this?

Because it is one of the last steps on a long journey since fall, 2021, by our church as a member of MICAHA, and the Chaney Center board to bring our children home to Milwaukee from the Lincoln Hills/Copper Falls detention center which is 4 hours away and has an abusive history.

And what is the Chaney Center you may ask? It is a successful pre-release center at 30th and Fond du Lac which enables 100 men who are within 6-18 months of their release to connect with jobs, to line up housing and to reconnect with family and community for a successful reentry reducing recidivism. The DOC, State Department of Corrections, was going to raze the Chaney Center in order to build the youth rehabilitation facility!!

MICAHA and the Chaney board worked behind the scenes and publicly, with weekly informational picketing at Chaney since fall, 2021, to keep Chaney open and build a new youth facility. Just to let you know, the youth facility will house 32 youth which is recommended by research for positive outcomes. The Wisconsin DOC has committed to replacing punitive approaches with restorative justice programming including trauma-informed care, therapeutic, recreational, educational treatment programming. It is based on the Missouri model.

<https://www.aecf.org/resources/the-missouri-model>.

You can be grateful as a resident of Wisconsin for this change in direction.

The Zoning meeting was the last of many steps MICAHA has actively involved itself which allowed for public comment. There is one more approval needed at the Milwaukee Common Council meeting on January 17th which we hope and anticipate there may be a final approval to go forward. That allows for both the Chaney Center and the youth rehab facility to exist. *The Milwaukee Common Council approved the zoning change 9 to 2 with one abstention. Now onto the state for next steps.*

Continue to support the good work MICAHA is doing. These are youth who have demonstrated seriously flawed thinking and behavior patterns. But they are youth, whose brains and thought patterns are still forming. And they are our youth, for whom we are all responsible. We believe there are no throw-away youth. Every person is redeemable.

Jean Erickson for the Racial Diversity Team



Communications

Meet the New Marketing & Communications Team

The Marketing & Communications Team was formed last September to focus on expanding our church outreach and improving our internal and external communications. We believe our church has a great story to tell and our community has people who want to hear it; we just need to be more intentional and strategic about how we communicate it.

Our team members are: Anne Eversfield, Jenny Fisher, Beth Groble, Laurie Jeffery, Pastor Andrew Jones, Betsy Hoylman, Georgia Lindfors, Kathy Schluter (chair), Beth Stafford, Tom Van Cleave, and Kathy Walker. Several of our members are communication and public relations professionals.

One of our first efforts last year was developing a flyer listing upcoming fall events and publicizing key invitational events on outside banners. We expect to continue developing flyers for each season.

We also drafted Communication Guidelines to help make our internal and external communications more consistent and effective. The Guidelines discuss content, tone, and voice. These Guidelines have been distributed to ministry leaders and are available in the church office. Members of our team will be happy to discuss the Guidelines as needed and will also assist Anne Eversfield in reviewing articles submitted for publication.

Now we are beginning a significant project to make improvements to our website, including adding a photo library of events, a more complete calendar and list of ministries and events, and a secure member directory. Those of you who lead ministries will be asked to “own” the content for your ministry area and to submit content for your webpage to Georgia Lindfors at georgiamavrinac@gmail.com, hopefully using the Communication Guidelines. Georgia and Anne Eversfield will input your content onto the website. We encourage you to peruse the website and send your questions, comments or suggestions to Georgia or Anne.

Soon we will also begin sending postcards to new residents of Whitefish Bay welcoming them to our community and inviting them to visit our church.

We have just scratched the surface. There is much more we can do and we are excited about the many opportunities to tell people about our church and its ministries!



Notes from the Board

At the January ALB meeting, we were blessed by the news that the Foundation Committee had approved \$46,000 to make much needed upgrades to the A/V and livestream systems. This will help us maintain and expand our growing online ministry and remove mounting technical challenges to providing higher quality worship and streaming.

As Pastor Don later reported to the Board, we appear to be averaging over 90 people per week worshipping with us online. In-person attendance is also rising, albeit slowly, and all four Christmas Eve services were well attended, averaging 162 people at each.

New Leadership Roles

This was Brady Henderson's first meeting serving as Chair of ALB following Kathy Schluter's 7 years of service. Lori Aeschbacher is now graciously serving as ALB Secretary and Nancy Anderson as Treasurer.

As the SPRT has been working to catch-up the work of nominations for lay leadership positions, we now have Jeff McClellan, Jenny Fisher, and Beth Groble as Lay Leaders, and Kathy Schluter, and Tony Mortellaro as lay delegates to Annual Conference.

Tom Van Cleave was approved to serve as Vice-Chair of Trustees.

Pastor's Report

In addition to rising worship attendance on Sundays, WNL is offering 3 new classes and a Lenten devotional booklet is in the works. Thanks go to Dick Steinmetz for all the work he has put in to coordinate Mission at Home on January 21. Thanks to all who will be attending the "How to Reach & Welcome New People" seminar on February 4th in Oak Creek, and Tom Van Cleave for organizing and donating our registration for this event.

Branding and Marcom Committee Update

Digital surveys are being developed and will be sent to people active on email to collect thoughts on a variety of issues relating to the church. The surveys may vary slightly in length and content based on participation, with the goal to collect as many opinions as possible.

A flyer and banners are planned for Lent and Easter to communicate what's happening around the church. Communications guidelines are being developed and will be sent to the ministry leaders. A Welcome/Invitational postcard is being developed to send to new residents in the area. Georgia Lindfors and Kathy Walker are working with the Shelby platform for website improvements and customization. A motion was approved to allow up to \$2500 to be spent for these changes.

Trustees

New signage concerning accessibility is starting to be installed. Work packages on the houses have been put together. These identify items that need attention. The team is looking into what work needs to be done at the Danbury entrance as well as putting together preliminary plans for the Narthex, which could include reworking the coffee area, signage, new flooring and lighting, and reshuffling some areas for better flow. The plan is to have a detailed Narthex design by the end of March with general Q&A sessions to be held. These sessions will include topics like what should all be included in a Capital Campaign.

Financial Update

Thanks to a strong December, the operating budget increased from -\$25,770 in November to \$60,450 in December. While nice to be positive, the surplus wasn't as large as it was this time last year. The Capital Fund is at \$56,704 and Properties Capital Funds stood at \$213,507. The Future Fund balance was unchanged at \$91,620.

A team will be formed to develop a plan for the Stewardship campaign and Consecration Sunday to be held on May 7th.

Adjustments to ALB Meetings & Structure

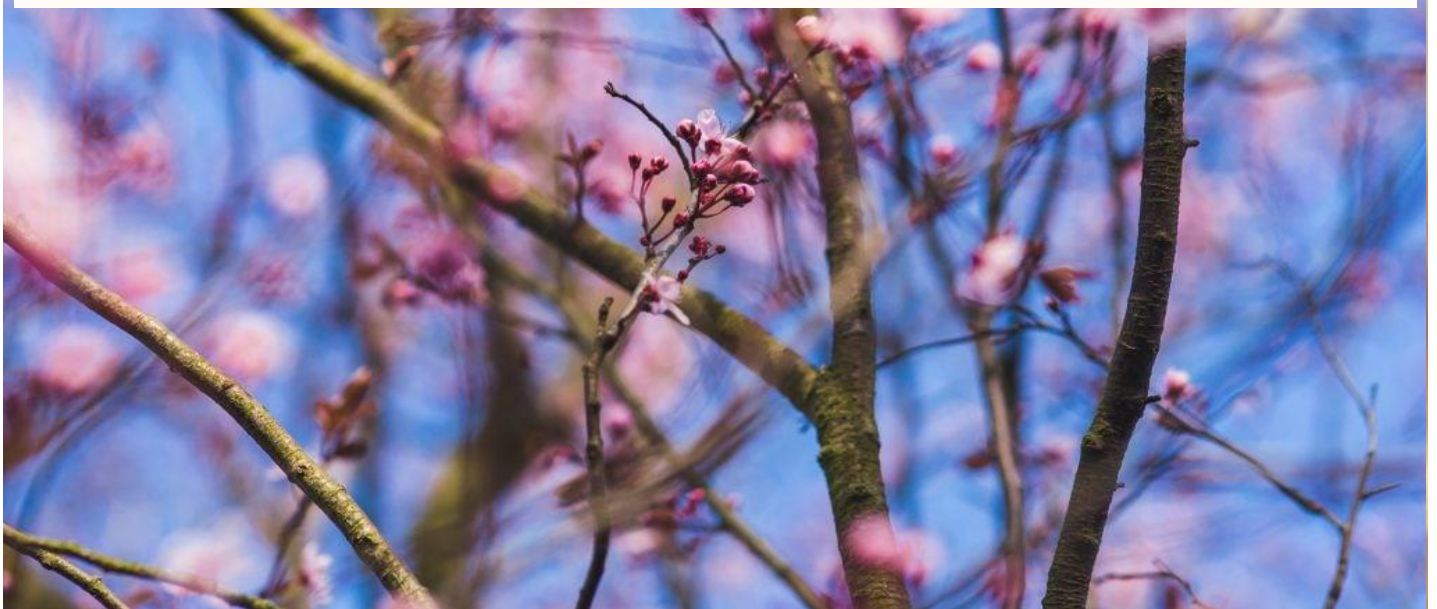
Several changes were approved for future ALB meetings which include, hold the closed session at 6:30 with the general meeting starting at 7 p.m., preapprove items not needing discussion (like meeting minutes), assign time periods for each agenda item and send out information pertaining to agenda topics prior to the meeting. We hope these will help meetings become shorter and more accessible to a broader set of members.

Facilities Use Policy

We have identified a need for a consistent policy and process for groups using the building. This project is in the early stages with more to follow.

Our next ALB meeting will be held on
Tuesday, February 21, at 7 p.m. in the Wesley Room.
Note the time change from 6:30 p.m.

A zoom option will be provided.
All are welcome.





Birthdays for February

Leah J.	Gaffney	02/01	Catherine	Marx	02/15
John	Douglass	02/02	Mark	Huber	02/15
Ellie	Jacobson	02/04	Carleen	Robertson	02/16
Cameron	Goudreau	02/04	Loren	StreLOW	02/17
Henrietta	Owusu-Ayim	02/04	Christian	Zastava	02/18
Ava	Balmer	02/04	Jeffrey	Gorsuch	02/19
Elizabeth	Rymer	02/04	David	Sanders	02/19
Eileen	Swanberg	02/04	Amelia	Zastava	02/19
Sarah	Laszewski	02/05	Roanne	Barnes	02/20
Wendy	Pribbanow	02/06	Ria	Buor	02/20
Lucy	Norris	02/06	Ellen	Redeker	02/21
Emily	Hoylman	02/08	Eva	Whitney	02/21
Mary	Dietz	02/08	Dane	Miller	02/22
Annemarie	Melbye	02/09	Karen	A'Rowan	02/24
Nancy	O'Toole	02/10	Jacob	Mortellaro	02/24
Douglas	Brown	02/11	Zachary	Berg	02/24
Kathy	Walker	02/11	Madeleine	Hastings	02/25
Lois	Goldberg	02/12	Dawn	Ahrens	02/25
Joseph M.	McMahon	02/12	Donna	Chiappetta	02/25
John	Fruncek	02/12	Sophia	Veierstahler	02/25
Richard	Barnes	02/13	Chris	Pagenkop	02/26
William	Crise	02/13	Niki	Kremer	02/26
Jean	Erickson	02/13	Alex	Trebatoski	02/28
Natalie	Hatch	02/14	William	Mulligan	02/28
Michael	Martin	02/14	Bob	Perry	02/28
Miguel	Potter	02/14	Virginia E.	Mike	02/29
Kristen	Zhang	02/14			