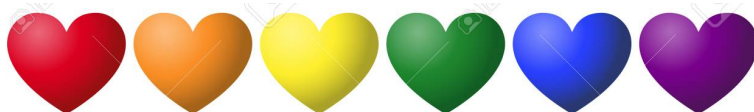


 BAY VIEW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# CONNECTIONS

OPEN HEARTS. OPEN MINDS. OPEN DOORS.™



## See You 'In' Church

Sunday worship at 9:45 am in our sanctuary

Watch online, live or later, at [www.facebook.com/BVUMC/](https://www.facebook.com/BVUMC/) or at [www.youtube.com/@bay\\_view\\_umc](https://www.youtube.com/@bay_view_umc).

## News Due 15th of Month

Newsletter deadline is always 15th of the month. Send items to [officeadmin@bayviewumc.org](mailto:officeadmin@bayviewumc.org)

### Disciples of Jesus All

**Pastor** Jerry Cho

**Office Admin** Jill Weber

**Accompanists** Stacy Eisman & Vickie Wagner

**Wesleyan Bells** Stacy Eisman

**Faith Singers** Vickie Wagner

**Treasurer** Shannon Knudson

**Financial Secretary** Linda Kreider

**Custodian** Debbie Baldwin

**Safer Sanctuary** Debbie Baldwin & Galaxy Eternick

**Loving Start Preschool** Annie Espinoza, director

### Accountable Leadership Board:

**Chair** Pamela Karg; **Vice Chair**

Diane Evans; **Secretary** Linda

Balfanz; **Lay Leader** Susan Troyer;

**Finance** Mark Humphrey; John

Liebenstein; Mary Guardalabene;

Kelly Supataraporn; **Ex Officio**

Pastor Jerry Cho

## Let Us Not Grow Weary

By Pastor Jerry Cho

As we step into February, I am reminded of the Apostle Paul's words to the Galatians: "Let us not grow weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up" (Galatians 6:9). These words hold great power as we navigate challenges together.

This past month, we witnessed heartbreaking news of wildfires raging across California, leaving many displaced and grieving. These disasters remind us of the fragility of life but also of the strength in community. Let us continue to lift in prayer those who lost homes, loved ones and livelihoods. Let us consider how to extend a hand to our brothers and sisters in need—whether donations, volunteering, or simply offering a listening ear. Acts of compassion ripple far beyond what we can see.

Here in our own community, we also find ourselves grappling with complex issues. The ongoing concerns about the deportation of undocumented immigrants weigh heavily on many hearts. These moments challenge us to reflect on Christ's call to love our neighbors as ourselves. Regardless of political differences, let us remember that each person is made in the image of God. As a church, we have the opportunity to provide a sanctuary of peace and hope for all who seek it. Let us stand as a beacon of unity, offering support and encouragement to those who may feel marginalized or fearful.

As a congregation, we are also reminded of our mission to grow together in faith and purpose. Growth requires unity, and unity requires intentional effort. This month, I encourage us to reach out to someone new—perhaps a visitor or someone you haven't connected with in a while. Building relationships strengthens the fabric of our church and prepares us to serve more effectively as the hands and feet of Christ.

February is associated with love, and how fitting it is to focus on God's boundless love for us. Let that love inspire our actions as we face challenges and opportunities. Together, we can be a source of healing, hope, and transformation in a world that so desperately needs it.

I invite you to join us in prayer and action as we navigate these pressing concerns and strive to fulfill our calling as a church. Let us lean on one another and, above all, lean on God's unfailing strength. God is with us, guiding and sustaining us every step of the way.

## Musings from the Pews

By Susan Troyer, BVUMC Lay Leader

In the past month we have been watching with shock and fears the devastating wild fires destroy so many homes, businesses, cultural venues and places of worship in the Los Angeles. We watched interviews with those affected; many expressing gratitude for still being alive in spite of having lost their homes and all possessions while others could express only the anguish of having lost what they had owned.

Seeing the footage of the destruction and hearing the voices of those who had lived there made me think about my relationship to my “things” and the place they have in my life. As it is for many of us, my home is very important to me. It is where I feel safe and it contains the accumulated possessions of a lifetime, things I love having around me:

- pieces of furniture that have been in the family for generations,
- family photos that are irreplaceable,
- the library I have lovingly put together over the years.

How would I react if that were all gone in an instant? What would I choose to take if we had to leave quickly?

One summer we were vacationing in Estes Part when there were fires close by. I remember talking with a woman who owned one of the stores in the town; she told me about packing up necessities and some treasures, ready to evacuate just in case—and how painful and scary it was to make those decisions.

A good number of years ago in a church group we were given an exercise called the “refugee game.” We were told we had a very short period of time to leave our homes and needed to select ten items to take with us. As the “game” progressed, we had to get rid of these items one by one until only one was left. It was a sobering experience. I don’t remember what items I chose but I do still have the index card where our daughter—who was probably then about 10 or 11—listed the things she would take, and at the end the books, the games and other prized possessions of a little girl were gone. The last thing left on her list was her puppy. Life is more important than things.

*Personal care items and non-perishable food donations always welcomed for our Free Little Food Pantry on Clement Ave.*

“I was hungry and you gave me something to eat.”

Matthew 25:35



## February Liturgists

Every Sunday, many people help Pastor Jerry move through the service, including a liturgist who assists by reading prayers, sharing responsive selections, announcing hymns, encouraging us to give ourselves to resources to benefit others through our programs and ministries.

Liturgists select which Sunday works best for their schedule, and they can ask others to do the Children's Time if they prefer not to do it.

Volunteer to be a liturgist. Or do just Children's Time with a short message for our kids during each worship.

February liturgists are:

- 2 Joy Foster Steckler
- 9 Mary Guardalabene
- 16 Diane Evans
- 23 Pamela Karg

Learn more by contacting Diane Evans at [dbevans2@me.com](mailto:dbevans2@me.com) or after worship.



*All 4th through 6th graders at Grant Middle School sent big "high fives" to us. Besides collecting mittens and gloves, we used a portion of the \$1,173 collected in our Christmas offering to buy pairs for everyone. The balance of the offering was sent to Rooted & Rising-Washington Park for its children's programming.*

## ALB to Meet Feb. 10

All are welcome to our Accountable Leadership Board (ALB) meeting the second Monday of each month. ALB combines administrative council, board of trustees, and finance and staff-parish relations to give oversight, direction and purpose to our ministries.

Our Feb. 10 agenda highlights:

Discuss budget and a part-time pastor

Affirm our policy on diversity and inclusion of all

Elect trustee representative/facilities team chair

Biblical aspects of mentoring

## It Comes Back to Our Church

*By Pamela J. Karg, Accountable Leadership Board Chair*

In Sunday discussions on missions this month, we've touched on United Methodists' Social Gospel of feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, tending the sick and incarcerated, welcoming the stranger, protecting Earth and advocating for justice. History repeats itself today as social safety nets are paused or shredded, leaving too many people vulnerable and scared. Even those preaching God's unconditional love and mercy are scorned.

That's our cue to step up our presence so people know we are a safe, accepting community where all are seen, heard, fed, clothed, free to be who they are. And a calming place to escape the brutality going on.

If you know people who are afraid or in need or who are angry but don't know what to do, invite them in. As we continue down this geopolitical path, it comes back to churches like us to reaffirm our Social Gospel encapsulated in the Methodist credo attributed to founder John Wesley: "Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can."

We'll discuss current events at our Accountable Leadership Board meeting next week to determine what more we should do as well as affirm our policy of diversity and inclusion of all.

## *We're Preparing for Lent and Easter*



Our Faith Singers and Wesleyan Bells are already preparing selections for Easter April 20. Before Easter, there's Lent and ways for everyone to prepare their hearts and minds..

The community is invited to a free pancake supper on Shrove Tuesday, March 4, from 4 to 6 pm in our dining room. Volunteer to help or just show up to eat. Signup in the Gathering Space.

On Ash Wednesday, March 5, participate in a community potluck at Christ Church UCC at 5:45 pm. An ecumenical choir practice begins at 6 pm, and ecumenical worship starts at 7.

"The Message of Jesus," a book and DVD by Adam Hamilton is the focus of Bible study March 12-April 16, starting at 5:30 pm with soup. Pastor Jerry will lead the class in our Gathering Space.

Forms will be in bulletins and weekly emails to order flowers so Kitty Schaefer (photo) can adorn our sanctuary.

Ecumenical worship for Maundy Thursday, April 17, is hosted by Tippecanoe Presbyterian at 7 pm.

Good Friday will be an ecumenical service at Unity Evangelical Lutheran starting at 7 pm.

Our Easter worship, April 20, will begin in our sanctuary and online at 9:45 am. Our Faith Singers and Wesleyan Bells, along with other musicians, will be prepared to celebrate Christ's triumph over death.

## What to Do if ICE Agents Arrive at Our Place of Worship

Use this checklist to ensure your faith community responds effectively, legally, and compassionately if U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents – or law enforcement officers who may work with ICE – arrive. Train staff and volunteers on these steps to ensure everyone is prepared.

### PREPARE BEFORE ICE ARRIVES

- Establish a response team** with assigned roles (e.g., spokesperson, legal liaison, recorder).
- Train all staff and volunteers** on legal rights, protocols, and de-escalation techniques.
- Learn the difference** between an administrative and judicial warrant.
- Partner with legal counsel** and immigrant advocacy organizations for support.
- Designate public and private areas** within the building and clearly communicate these boundaries to staff.

### WHEN ICE AGENTS ARRIVE

- Your trained spokesperson** should approach the agents respectfully to de-escalate tensions.
- Ask for identification** (name, badge number, and agency affiliation).
- Request a warrant** then verify that it is signed by a judge (not just an ICE official) and specifies the name(s) of the individual(s) and area(s) to be searched.
- Verbally deny access** to private areas – politely but firmly – unless a judicial warrant explicitly permits entry.

Go to [ACLU-WI.org/Warrant](https://www.aclu-wi.org/Warrant) to view examples of a judicial warrant and administrative warrant.

### KEY CONSIDERATIONS DURING THIS PROCESS

**Do not obstruct agents**  
Avoid actions that could be interpreted as interfering. Never provide false information.

**Ensure privacy**  
Protect the confidentiality of individuals and do not share personal information.

**Document everything**  
Log all communications and actions taken during the incident.

**Maintain composure**  
Respond with compassion and dignity, reflecting your community's values.

### WARRANT TYPES

**Judicial warrant**  
**VALID** – If the warrant is signed by a Judge or Magistrate Judge, review it carefully and consult legal counsel before granting access.

**Administrative warrant**  
**NOT VALID** – If the warrant is signed by an officer, director, or anyone else other than a judge, politely explain that ICE cannot enter private areas without a judicial warrant.

## EMERGENCY CONTACTS

### Legal counsel

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### Immigrant advocacy partner

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### Local media contact

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### Response team leader

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### Spokesperson

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### Recorder

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## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

ACLUWI



ACLU-WI.org/KYR

## DURING THE ENCOUNTER

- Remain calm** and try to de-escalate despite being harassed or intimidated. Do not run or resist.
- Inform affected individuals of their rights** to remain silent, to decline to answer questions without a lawyer, and to sign nothing without legal advice.
- Contact your legal counsel** immediately for guidance.
- Activate your response team** for coordination, inform senior leadership, and alert local immigrant advocacy organizations and community networks.
- Avoid providing any information** to ICE about individuals unless legally required.
- Document details of the interaction** including date, time, and location, names and badge numbers of agents, and any documents presented or actions taken.
- Take photos or videos** without interfering with agents.

## AFTER ICE LEAVES

- Support affected individuals** by offering emotional, spiritual, and legal support to anyone targeted.
- Connect immigration attorneys** or legal aid organizations with affected individuals.
- Provide a safe space** for those impacted to recover and regroup.
- Debrief with staff and volunteers** to review the incident and identify areas for improvement.
- Update the response plan** based on lessons learned.
- Share the incident** (with consent) with the congregation and trusted media to raise awareness.
- Mobilize advocacy efforts** for immigrant rights and policy change.

### PREPARE FOR POSSIBLE ARREST

People at risk of arrest should **memorize the phone numbers** of their family and lawyer. They should also share their **immigration number** (“A Number”) with their family to help them find each other. It’s important to **make emergency plans** if they have children or take medication.

**This is not intended as legal advice. Please seek your own legal counsel.**



# Come Roll with Rooted & Rising!



## 2nd Annual Bowling Fundraiser

**\$50 Registration for:**  
Bowling, pizza and wings, and good times with friends new and old! Register individually, as a pair, or a team of 4-5 and win prizes for top bowling teams and individuals. Non-bowlers (\$20 registration) are also most welcome. Please join us to help support *Rooted & Rising's* mission!

**Thursday, February 27th, 2025  
@ 4:30-7:00 pm - Highland Lanes**

- Highland Lanes; 5830 W. Vliet St., Milwaukee, WI 53208
- Please email [info@rootedandrisingwp.org](mailto:info@rootedandrisingwp.org) to register!



## FEBRUARY Free Meals

Sundays, 2:30 – 3:30 pm

- 2 – Carry out Bag Lunch
- 9 – Carry out Bag Lunch
- 16 – Carry out Bag Lunch
- 23 – Hot Meal in Dining Room



Volunteer servers always welcome by calling church office 414-744-4036!

*Make, assemble and hand out bag lunches (sandwich, snacks, fruit, bottled water and Chef's Choice such as soup, spaghetti or mac & cheese); set up tables; cook; serve; or clean up. Talk to Yvonne Smith after worship or email Jan Kosanke directly at [jekosanke@yahoo.com](mailto:jekosanke@yahoo.com) to volunteer.*

## Finding *Common Ground*

At a late January Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee (HACM) board meeting, new HACM Finance Director Brad Leak reported that HACM had illegally transferred \$2.8 million from its Section 8 programs to cover payroll and other costs and, now, HACM must act swiftly in order to avoid bankruptcy.

During the meeting HACM Board Chair Charlotte Hayslett praised Common Ground CG), "Thank you for that bullhorn," she said. "Had it not been for you giving voice to the voiceless, people still would've been in place doing what they were doing."

BVUMC was a founding CG member in 2008. The congregation re-committed in 2024 and used CG's expertise to guide congregation-wide Listening Sessions.

"We're proud of CG and its tireless efforts to improve our community for all," said Pamela Karg, chair of the church's ALB. "We look forward to strengthening our relationship."

Here are upcoming events you can attend:

- HACM Board Meeting, Feb. 12, 4 pm, City Hall, 200 E Wells St., Room 301-B. CG needs our support to continue being present with tenants at HACM board meetings.

- Core Team Summit & Potluck, Feb. 24, 6-7:30 pm, location TBD. Join CG to celebrate its HACM and Get Out the Vote (GOTV) successes and find out what's next: Housing, Workforce Development, Environmental Justice, Predatory Towing, Southside Organizing, Jury Diversity

- CG University: Introductory Leadership Training; March 10, 17 and 24; 5:30-8:30 pm. Why and how we organize. How we take effective public action. A lite dinner will be provided. Attendance at all three sessions is strongly encouraged. Free to member groups, \$95 for non-members. RSVP by March 4 at <https://tinyurl.com/wsuj5zts>

# February 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 10:30a Women's AA, childcare
2 9:45a Worship 10:45 Kids Sunday school & Mission Discussion 2:30p Bread & Jam	3 Debbie Bernal, Valanee Schmitz, Michael Smith birthdays	4	5 9:15a Meditation 10:15a Bible Study  5:30-7p Soup & Bible Study	6 Muriel Blackwood, Stacy LaPrad birthdays  6p Wesleyan Bells 7:15p Faith Singers	7	8 9a Women's Breakfast, Castillo's, Cudahy  10:30a Women's AA, childcare
9 Dorothy Cigale birthday 9:45a Worship - 10:45 Kids Sunday school & Mission Discussion 2:30p Bread & Jam	10 6p Accountable Leadership Board 7p Alcoholics Anonymous	11	12 9:15a Meditation 10:15a Bible Study <b>1:30-2:20p Parkinsons Support Group, St. Ann Center</b> 5:30-7p Soup & Bible Study	13 6p Wesleyan Bells 7:15p Faith Singers	14	15 Bob & Kitty Schaefer birthdays  10:30a Women's AA, childcare available
16 9:45a Worship 10:45 Kids Sunday school & Mission Discussion 2:30p Bread & Jam	17 7p Alcoholics Anonymous	18 Paul Warkaske birthday 3:30p Crafter's Fellowship	19 9:15a Meditation 10:15a Bible Study <b>2:30-4p, Memory Cafe, Kelly Center, Warnimont Park</b> 5:30-7p Soup & Bible Study	20 6p Wesleyan Bells 7:15p Faith Singers	21	22 9a Men's Breakfast, Castillo's, Cudahy  10:30a Women's AA, childcare available
23 9:45a Worship 10:5 Kids Sunday school & Mission Discussion 2:30-3:30p Bread & Jam free community meal in dining room	24 6p Worship Committee 7p Alcoholics Anonymous	25	26 Nancy Grzesiak birthday 9:15a Meditation 10:15a Bible Study 5:30-7p Soup & Bible Study	27 Ben Greenberg birthday  6p Wesleyan Bells 7:15p Faith Singers	28	

# Bay View United Methodist Church

2772 S. Kinnickinnic Avenue  
Milwaukee, WI 53207

Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 9 am-Noon  
Phone: 414-744-4036  
Email: [officeadmin@bayviewumc.org](mailto:officeadmin@bayviewumc.org)

## Pastor Jerry Cho

Phone or Text: 920-373-3081 (available 24/7)  
Office Hours: Monday & Tuesday, 9 am-Noon; Thursday, 8-11 am  
Email: [pastorjerry@bayviewumc.org](mailto:pastorjerry@bayviewumc.org)

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phone for different  
ways to give to the  
ministries!



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[WWW.BAYVIEWUMC.ORG](http://WWW.BAYVIEWUMC.ORG)



## *Volunteers Fill Hunger Task Force Boxes for Seniors*

Members of our congregation and Christ UCC Church joined together in January to stock boxes at Hunger Task Force in West Milwaukee. The collaborative team, along with first-time volunteers from Mead & Hunt, stocked 400 boxes.

About 10,000 boxes of food are distributed monthly to low-income or disabled seniors across eastern Wisconsin. The two churches normally get together about every quarter to stock boxes, Hunger Task Force reports its full through summer!

Look for the next opportunity to join this ministry in fall.

