


 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;

Tom Knudson; Kelly Supataraporn;

**Ex Officio** Pastor Jerry Cho

## See, I am Doing a New Thing

*By Pastor Jerry Cho*

As we stand at the threshold of a new year, I am reminded of the words from Isaiah 43:19: "See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland." These words are a powerful reminder that our God is always at work, even in the most unexpected places and seasons of our lives.

January is a time of reflection and renewal. It is an opportunity to look back on the blessings and challenges of the past year and to look ahead with hope and faith. As we set goals and make plans for 2025, let us also resolve to deepen our relationship with God, trusting in His guidance and provision for the journey ahead.

In this season, I encourage you to spend time in prayer and Scripture, seeking God's direction for your life. Ask Him to reveal the "new thing" He is doing in and through you. Perhaps He is calling you to step out in faith in a new ministry, to reconcile a broken relationship, or to grow in your understanding of His Word. Whatever it may be, trust that His plans for you are good and filled with purpose.

As a church, we have much to look forward to in the coming year. From opportunities to serve our community, to times of worship and fellowship, I am excited to see how God will use us to be His hands and feet. Let us commit to walking this journey together, supporting and encouraging one another as we grow in faith and love.

May this new year be a time of fresh beginnings and renewed hope for each of you. Remember, no matter what lies ahead, God is with us, making a way and providing streams in the desert. Let us step into 2025 with hearts full of gratitude and expectation for all that He will do.

Blessings to you and your family,

## Musings from the Pews

By Susan Troyer, BVUMC Lay Leader

On page 517 in our United Methodist Hymnal is *By Gracious Powers*, a wonderful text with which to start the new year. Or each day, for that matter. The poem is sometimes titled “New Year 1945.” The author was German theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer, and he wrote the poem while in a Gestapo prison; he had been arrested in April 1943. It was smuggled out in a letter to his mother dated December 28, 1944, and included in the volume of papers and letters first published in Germany in 1951 and in an English translation in 1953.

Our hymnal version was translated by Fred Pratt Green in 1972. What he uses as the first stanza is actually the last verse in the original poem. Bonhoeffer’s first stanza reads: *By faithful, quiet powers of good surrounded so wondrously consoled and sheltered here—I wish to live these days with you in spirit and with you enter into a new year.* (*Letters and Papers from Prison*, Fortress Press, 1984).

Several years ago, I came across a painting by the artist/priest Sieger Köder. The painting is titled “Angels Are Carrying You” and depicts two large hands holding and protecting a number of children. For me, that is an illustration of being sheltered by gracious powers.

*By gracious powers  
so wonderfully sheltered,  
and confidently waiting  
come what may,  
we know that God is with us  
night and morning,  
and never fails  
to greet us each new day.*  
Dietrich Bonhoeffer “*Angels  
Are Carrying You.*” Written in  
a Gestapo prison 1944.  
Sieger Köder

*[God’s] huge outstretched arms  
protect you—under them you’re  
perfectly safe; his arms fend off  
all harm.*

*Fear nothing. He ordered his  
angels to guard you wherever you  
go. If you stumble, they’ll catch you;  
their job is to keep you from falling.*

*You’ll walk unharmed.* (Selected verses from Psalm 91, *The Message*)



## January Liturgists

Every Sunday, many people help Pastor Jerry move through the service—greeters, ushers, musicians, children's time leaders and liturgists.

A liturgist assists by reading prayers, sharing responsive selections, announcing hymns, encouraging us to give ourselves to others through our church. Liturgists can select which Sunday works best for their schedule.

January liturgists are:

5 Pamela Karg  
12 Cindy Cho  
19 Rodge Taylor  
26 Christy Schultz

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

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



## January is a time for snow— and winter camp!

We're continuing our tradition of holding fun, frolicking and fellowship at winter camp being held at Camp Lucerne near Neskoro Jan. 17-19.

Costs are \$50 per child (age 17 and under) and \$150 per adult. The fees have been discounted, thanks to fundraisers held since last year. Fees include lodging (each room has two twin beds) for two nights as well as four meals.

Sign up for the cabin you want on the sheets pinned to the bulletin board near the elevator in the Gathering Space.

## ALB to Meet Jan. 13

Our Accountable Leadership Board (ALB) meets the second Monday of every month. All are welcome to attend.

This streamlined ALB model combines administrative council, board of trustees, and finance and staff-parish relations committees so it, with the pastor and staff, can give oversight, direction and purpose to our ministries.

Our Jan. 13 agenda highlights:

Welcome new members Kelly Supataraporn and Tom Knudson

2024 budget review and update on 2025 pledges and budget

Spiritual time on the biblical qualities of leaders & development time focusing on using those qualities to continue to grow our ministries and outreach programs.

*Help stock food boxes!*

**Jan. 10**  
**9 am - Noon**

Hunger Task Force  
5000 W Electric Ave, West  
Milwaukee

*Sign-up sheet in Gathering  
Space! Meet in church  
parking at 8:25 to carpool.*

*We'll go to lunch  
afterwards to celebrate our  
hard work!*

## Now What?

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

In a rush to get our speaker out the door before a forecasted storm hit along his route home to western Michigan, the 10-month Institute for Congregational Development ended Dec 11. Now what, I wondered.

Standing in our denomination's Sun Prairie office, I thought there would be more than a closing prayer. Clouds parting? A light to follow? After all, just over a dozen people spent more time together than your average bowling team to learn from visionary speakers on growing some 20 churches they represented. (Only Pastor Jerry and Pastor Jerome of Green Bay each represented one church; all other pastors serve two or three local churches.)

On reflection, the lesson was that changes to grow are a slow, steady process.

After all, churches are institutions like any other. They can think they have a greater calling, yet every institution is powered by passionate people. In my mind, it's like my mother and I on our first-ever sailboat ride last summer: a series of little steps to change course so we not plunge into Lake Michigan.

This new year, we want more little steps as we continue our 2024 priority of expanding activities that can help us grow. Here's what ALB sees:

> Projects/ministries must do at least two outreach activities. We need to get out of our bubbles to share our Good News (and good projects), whether that's at an AA meeting in our dining room or with the resident council at Lincoln Court Apartments. We cannot hide our message under a basket or among ourselves. Communication is power, invitational and personal.

> Every leader must work with their team to identify and mentor the next leader. After all, Jesus mentored 12 people to continue God's work. We can mentor at least one to share the passion we feel for washing others' feet. To help, ALB members (who also need someone to replace them in managing our church) will serve as liaisons or resources in building skills and depth.

> Projects/ministries must plan no less than 60 days before events. The leader must share basic information with our office for inclusion on the calendar and in communication. That basic info is: What (pancake supper); who to contact (Pam Karg); when and where (Shrove Tuesday, 4-6 pm, dining room); why (build community, feed hungry); and how (meal is free).

Let's continue creating disciples for Jesus who put love into action for all.



*After 50 years of directing children's Christmas programs, Jo Bierer retires.*

## Jo's Final Kids Christmas Program

Fifty years ago, Jo Bierer couldn't sleep the night before the first children's Christmas program she was directing.

"I was so nervous. I didn't know if I would make it," she recalled quietly to a few gathered around her during our monthly women's breakfast. "But this is going to be my last," Jo let slip.

We couldn't let the occasion slip by, though. At the end of the Sunday program during worship, Bierer was presented a small token of the congregation's appreciation for her years of dedicated service teaching our children about Jesus.

However, you're not going to believe the story behind this year's play, shared her daughter, Anna, after the Sunday performance. Just hours after that breakfast conversation, Jo and family members were in a car accident. "We didn't know if she was going to feel OK to make it today," Anna said after the Dec. 15 worship, which went off without any hitches and captured everyone's hearts.

Jo is stepping back from Sunday school and the children's Christmas program. She has mentored new teachers Hannah Brylow, Kelly Supataraporn and Katy Murphy for our children's ministries.

## Technology Upgrades Enhance Our Worship

Just before Christmas, technology failures were handled quickly, thanks to our Technology Team of Don Evans and Zachary Kitzman.

A new hand-held microphone replaced an older one. It matches one replaced earlier in 2024, thanks to an anonymous donation. The microphones are multi-directional, meaning our kids, for example, don't need to hold it right up to their mouths to be heard.

After the headset microphone broke, our Tech Team found two new ones so both worship leaders can use them hands-free.

The new equipment has been installed and was used during our Jan. 5 Epiphany worship.

In addition, a new camera is being installed to enhance watching for at-home worshipers. Currently, we have one camera in the back of the church that gives people one view of in-person worshipers and then zooms in to capture speakers. The new camera will be mounted in front so at-home worshipers can also see others worshipers.

*The guys keeping us heard and online every week: Zachary Kitzman (left) and Don Evans.*





## A Charming Night

It was "charming" when Amber Weise and her mom led a December craft night that captured changing interests and people (a need identified in our 2024 Listening Sessions.) People not always able to attend our monthly afternoon Crafter's Fellowship came out to let their creativity soar.



*Term limits required Janette Colson (center) to step down from our Accountable Leadership Board. (People can serve up to two three-year terms.) She worked for years with our facilities team that included Bob Schaefer, Richard Kumbier, Rodge Taylor, Peter Krempel, and now Tom Knudson*

## Colson Thanked for Service

Over a decade of tireless work on our Accountable Leadership Board (ALB), Jan Colson stepped down with the start of 2025 and was appreciated Jan. 5.

She started on our board of trustees (BoT) when the late Jean Larsen chaired it. Colson continued after our congregation reorganized BoT, administrative council, and staff-parish relations and finance committees into ALB. She has been responsible for our building and property, and worked with our facilities team to keep all in good repair, safe and meeting codes, and looking good.



Our facilities team included Colson; Bob Schaefer; Richard Kumbier; Rodge Taylor; Peter Krempel; and now Tom Knudson, elected at our annual meeting to ALB. "It's these people who really know how to do the work to keep everything going, and they've saved us thousands of dollars through their dedicated service," Colson noted.

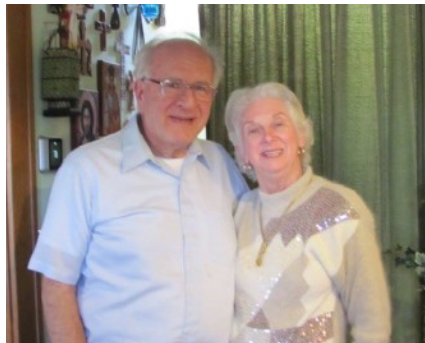
Jan was presented a specially commissioned piece of pottery created by member Diane Evans.

## Members Help People Everywhere

It's cold outside, yet many benefit from the warm generosity of our members, either through our own ministries and outreach or other formal and informal channels.

Throughout the holiday season, we've been collecting mittens and gloves for 4th to 6th graders at Grant Middle School. You can still drop them off in the Gathering Space before member Judie Liebenstein takes them to students at her school.

Richard and Jan Kumbier regularly collect clothing, shoes and even medical equipment that get redistributed across our city and region. Jan sometimes needs people to help with mending, so talk to her if you can donate your talent.



Another helping hand comes from member Peter Krempel, who has driven around the country hauling supplies and doing repairs for people dealing with the aftermath of disasters between grandpa duties!



After hearing Tippecanoe Presbyterian Pastor Trish talk about its Divine Intervention (DI) warming shelter at our worship, member Ellen Tucker

got involved. When the all-volunteer shelter remained open during the holidays so guests weren't on the streets, Tucker spent time visiting with people. She is one of a couple of our members donating time or items, such as the recent call for new pillows, to the program. DI needs new or gently used L to XXL sweatpants. Donate in person at 125 W Saveland Ave. (use the First Street door) or call the church at 414-481-4680. You can also buy on its Amazon Wishlist at <https://a.co/4eQGzau>.



**JANUARY**  
**Free Meals**  
Sundays, 2:30 – 3:30 pm

**5 – Bagged Lunch**

**12 – Bagged Lunch**

**19 – Bagged Lunch**

**26 – Hot meal served in Dining Room**

Totally free community meal to anyone who wants one for any reason.



We need new volunteers for our weekly free community meal. Donate an hour or two every month or every quarter.

In 2024, our program served:

- o 915 bag lunches
- o 424 hot meals

Our Bread and Jam meal, started in 1996, is for anyone who wants to commune with others over a delicious meal prepared by our volunteers, some of whom are only involved with this program and not members of our church.

All are always welcome for the free meal. It is not dependent on income, age, living conditions or any other judgment.

Volunteers make, assemble and hand out bag lunches (sandwich, snacks, fruit, bottled water and Chef's Choice such as soup, spaghetti or mac & cheese); and set up tables, cook, serve a hot meal the last Sunday of each month and clean up.

Talk to Yvonne Smith to give your time.

**SHROVE TUESDAY**  
**PANCAKE SUPPER**

**March 4**

**4-6 pm**

**Dining Room - FREE**

**Sign up today to help!**



# January 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2 Loving Start Preschool classes resume	3	4 10:30a Women's AA, childcare
5 9:45a Worship - Epiphany 10:45 Kids Sunday school resumes 2:30p Bread & Jam	6	7 6p Grief Support Group, Gathering Space	8 9 Unhanging of our Christmas decorations 10:15a Bible Study - our 2 Advent groups will meet together to finish their study	9 Brenda Gebhardt birthday 6p Wesleyan Bells 7:15p Faith Singers	10 Don Evans birthday 9-Noon, Hunger Task Force stocking	11 9a Women's Breakfast, Castillo's, Cudahy 10:30a Women's AA, childcare
12 9:45a Worship - First Sunday after Epiphany, Baptism of Our Lord 10:45 Kids Sunday school 2:30p Bread & Jam	13 6p Accountable Leadership Board 7p Alcoholics Anonymous	14 6p Grief Support Group, Gathering Space	15 Phyllis Ditch birthday 9:15a Meditation 10:15a Bible Study <b>2:30-4p, Memory Cafe, Kelly Center, Warnimont Park</b>	16 6p Wesleyan Bells 7:15p Faith Singers	17 <b>WINTER CAMP</b>	18 Gwen Erdman birthday 10:30a Women's AA, childcare available <b>WINTER CAMP</b>
19 Bryn Weinstock birthday 9:45a Worship, Second after Epiphany 10:45 Kids Sunday school <b>WINTER CAMP</b> 2:30p Bread & Jam	20 Martin Lither King Jr. Holiday - church office is open 7p Alcoholics Anonymous	21 3:30p Crafter's Fellowship 6p Grief Support Group, Gathering Space	22 9:15a Meditation 10:15a Bible Study	23 6p Wesleyan Bells 7:15p Faith Singers	24 Jan Kosanke birthday	25 9a Men's Breakfast, Castillo's, Cudahy 10:30a Women's AA, childcare available
26 9:45a Worship, Third after Epiphany 10:45 Kids Sunday school 2:30-3:30p Bread & Jam free community hot mea	27 6p Worship Committee 7p Alcoholics Anonymous	28 Sue Neiderheiser birthday	29 Pablo Calix birthday 9:15a Meditation 10:15a Bible Study	30 6p Wesleyan Bells 7:15p Faith Singers	31 Luis Torres birthday	

# Bay View United Methodist Church

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## Pastor Jerry Cho

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

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ways to give to the  
ministries!



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## Cookies, Angels and Christmas Eve Thank You

Organizer Kitty Schaefer reports 17 people baked 352 dozen cookies and treats for our annual Community Cookie Walk Dec. 8. That's an average of about 21 dozen each! Sales totaled just over \$2,000.

About 10 percent stays at church while the balance is going to support Northcott House <https://northcotthouse.org/> and the Bay View Community Center <https://bayviewcenter.org/>. Schaefer explains that she talks to a few of the bakers to decide where the proceeds are donated annually.

Meanwhile, Kelly Heipel and Jan Kosanke, the daughter-mother team that organized our Secret Angel Shoppe Dec. 14, report 53 children walked with our volunteers to fill Christmas lists. Thanks go out to everyone who donated time and talent for the day's events as well as items for the sale.

Worship Team chair Diane Evans says, "Thank you to all the musicians and church leaders who created and participated in our beautiful, joyous Christmas Eve worship. When you see these people, thank them for their service to God and our community."

**Leaders:** Pastor Jerry and Judie Liebenstein. **Musicians:** Stacy Eisman, Vickie Wagner, John Liebenstein, Jan Liebenstein, Kitty Schaefer, Sally Warkaske, Peg Humphrey, Mark Humphrey, Richard Harvey, Rodge Taylor, Will Bachar, Christy Smith, Kirsten Decker, Ellen Tucker, Linda Kreider, Laura Brietzke, Sally Parente, Laurie Horne, Pam Karg, Katrina Schultz, Patty Thompson and Mary Lou Rice. **Ushers:** Greg Decker, Muriel Blackwood, Jan Colson and Sharon Hacker. **Technology team:** Don Evans, Zachary Kitzman, and Aiden Evans.

If you weren't able to attend, watch on our Facebook or YouTube pages [www.facebook.com/bayviewunitedmethochist](http://www.facebook.com/bayviewunitedmethochist) or [www.youtube.com/@bay\\_view\\_umc](http://www.youtube.com/@bay_view_umc)