

 BAY VIEW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# CONNECTIONS

OPEN HEARTS. OPEN MINDS. OPEN DOORS.™



Sunday worship at 9:45 am in our sanctuary or watch online, live or later, at [www.facebook.com/BVUMC/](http://www.facebook.com/BVUMC/) or at [www.youtube.com/@bay\\_view\\_umc](http://www.youtube.com/@bay_view_umc).

**Disciples of Jesus Christ All**  
**Pastor** Jerry Cho  
**Office Administrator** Jill Weber  
**Accompanists** Stacy Eisman & Vickie Wagner  
**Wesleyan Bells** Stacy Eisman  
**Faith Singers** Vickie Wagner  
**Custodian** Deb Baldwin  
**Safer Sanctuaries** Deb Baldwin & Alba  
**Loving Start Preschool** Annie Espinoza, director  
**Kid's Sunday School** Kelly Supataraporn & Hannah Brylow  
**Online Ministry** Don Evans & Zachary Kitzman  
**Bread & Jam Ministry** Jan Kosanke, Joannie Stepanski & Yvonne Smith  
**Financial Secretary** Linda Kreider (Diane Evans filling in)  
**Accountable Leadership Board**  
 Chair Pamela Karg; Vice Chair & Trustee Diane Evans; Lay Leader Susan Troyer; Finance Mark Humphrey; At-Large Stacy LaPrad; Adrian Largaespada; Ron Monroe; Christy Smith; Kelly Supataraporn; Ex Officio Pastor Jerry Cho

**Got news or photos to share? A story idea?** Send them to [officeadmin@bayviewumc.org](mailto:officeadmin@bayviewumc.org).

## *January Invites Us to Begin Again*

*By Pastor Jerry Cho*

Grace and peace to you in this new year.

January invites us to pause, to breathe and to begin again. The calendar turns, but more importantly, God's mercies are renewed—"new every morning" (Lamentations 3:23). We do not enter this year alone. God goes before us, walks beside us and holds us through every joy and every uncertainty.

A new year often brings mixed feelings: hope and anticipation, but also concern, weariness or unresolved questions from the year behind us. Scripture reminds us that our faith journey is not about having all the answers, but about trusting the One who calls us forward. Jesus says, "Do not worry about tomorrow... each day has enough trouble of its own" (Matthew 6:34). One day at a time, we walk with God.

As a church, January is a season to recommit ourselves—not to perfection, but to faithfulness. Faithfulness in prayer. Faithfulness in love. Faithfulness in serving one another and our community. Small acts of kindness, quiet prayers and steady compassion are often how God does God's greatest work.

My prayer for you this year is simple:

*that you may know God's presence deeply,  
 trust God's guidance daily,  
 and experience God's peace abundantly.*

Whatever this year holds, let us walk together, grounded in Christ, open to the Spirit and confident in God's grace.



*Join Pastor Jerry's Soup & Study beginning Jan. 7 from 5:30 to 7 pm to discuss teachings from one of his favorite folk theologians Brian McLaren. Free soup. All are welcome!*

## Musings from the Pews:

By Susan Troyer, BVUMC Lay Leader

Each January, as the Christmas decorations are packed away for another year, I can't help but feel a sense of nostalgia. I relish the lights and the many St. Nicholas figures that adorn our house from the day after Thanksgiving to Jan. 6.

One of my favorites is a teddy bear Santa Claus with a very sad expression, which is the reason I ended up purchasing it at a post-Christmas sale. I couldn't help but feel sorry for him and decided he needed a home—I do tend to personify objects.



One of the reasons these decorations, lights and music are so special is precisely because they are "once-a-year." They are things we eagerly anticipate and enjoy for a limited period, not becoming "everyday" occurrences.

The satirical story "Christmas Not Just Once a Year" by Heinrich Böll is a humorous yet poignant tale. There are many layers of social criticism in the story, but on the surface, the plot revolves around a family who endured the hardships of war and its deprivations. Finally, they were able to once again have a Christmas tree and the other trappings of the celebration. However, when it came time to dismantle the tree, the mother of the family lost touch with reality and became hysterical. The only way to calm her was to celebrate Christmas—every day. As time passed, this tradition gradually lost its significance for all the family members, except for the mother. They eventually hired actors to stand in for them, and the celebration had become meaningless.

Of course, this is an extreme perspective. We all recognize that the true spirit of Christmas lies not in the decorations and other trappings, but in the enduring presence of joy and anticipation within us at all times. The actual celebration, however, is that special event that occurs once a year. As I pack away the St. Nicholas figures and tree ornaments, I can't help but feel a sense of anticipation for the new year and the exciting possibilities that lie ahead.

Wishing you a joyous and fulfilling New Year!

## January, February Liturgists

Every Sunday, many help Pastor Jerry move through worship, including liturgists who read prayers, share responsive selections, encourage us to give ourselves to benefit others.

Liturgists pick which Sunday works best for them, and others can do Children's Time, if they prefer.

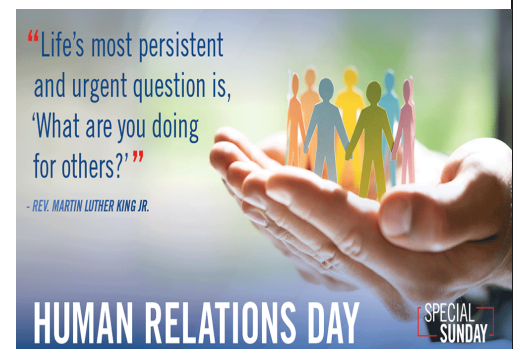
Volunteer to be a liturgist. Or do just Children's Time. All are appreciated.

### January

4 - Christy Smith (Kids Pam Karg)  
11 - Susan Troyer  
18 - Rodge Taylor (Kids Mark Humphrey)  
25 - Cindy Cho

### February

1 - Diane Evans  
8 - Mark Humphrey  
15 - Pam Karg  
22 - Paul Warkaske (Kids Diane Evans)



## UMC Committed to All

The United Methodist Church is committed to human relations through its Social Principles that support justice, dignity and the "beloved community" inspired by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Church members actively funds programs for racial equity, community development and at-risk youth via Human Relations Day because all people are created in God's image and deserve to flourish.

## ALB to Meet Jan. 12

All welcome to Accountable Leadership Board meetings always held second Monday of the month at 6 pm. It combines administrative council, board of trustees, finance and staff-parish relations to give oversight, direction and purpose to our ministries and outreach.

Jan. 12 agenda highlights:

Welcome new members & reorganize roles referencing spiritual gifts

Required annually: Affirm trustee, financial signature authorizations

Cookie Walk & Christmas Eve giving to Bay View Community Center

Analyze 2026 financial projections & hiring accountant

Discuss property water lines



*Final reminder to join in with Christ Church UCC to stock food boxes at Hunger Task Force Jan. 7 from 9 am to noon. Sign up in our Gathering Space or contact Diane Evans [dbevans2@me.com](mailto:dbevans2@me.com). Carpooling available.*

### NEEDED

*Reliable person to shovel church sidewalks when there's under 2" of snowfall. Talk to Diane Evans please.*

## Change is Happening Right Here

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

Sometimes it feels as if nothing changes. We look around and assume we are standing still. And yet, when we step back, a broader view reveals change unfolding all around us—and within us, in both small and significant ways.

Nearly two years ago, our Accountable Leadership Board began that wider view by joining the statewide class *How to Reach and Welcome New People* and by using MissionInsites to better understand who we are and the community in which we live. The following month, we spent a full day in strategic planning with statewide United Methodist staff, confirming what many of us sensed: it was time to clarify our direction. Weeks later, with the guidance of Kevin Solomon from Common Ground, we organized congregational listening sessions that helped us hear one another more deeply. From that work, the ALB discerned priorities and shaped a three- to five-year strategic plan. Meanwhile, Pastor Jerry and I completed a 10-month United Methodist series on church growth, sharing with ALB the lessons learned and how we might guide our continued growth—in faith and in numbers.

Along this journey of learning and listening, we welcomed new voices. Last year, Kelly Supataraporn and Adrian Largaespada joined ALB. This month, we welcome Stacy LaPrad, Ron Monroe and Christy Smith to our nine-member board, alongside Pastor as an ex-officio member. Each brings distinct gifts to the community God is shaping right here among us.

Change is happening—quietly, faithfully and purposefully. We are becoming more centered on relationships, deepening existing connections while building new ones. We remain grounded in our strategic plan, guided by a steady calling: to ensure that God's glory shines through us. And that calling does not change.



Northern Illinois & Wisconsin Episcopal Area Bishop Dan Schwerin will worship with us April 19 at 9:45 am. Invite family & friends for this special time!

## LaPrad, Monroe, Smith Join Accountable Leadership Board

Three new people assumed positions on our Accountable Leadership Board (ALB) Jan. 1. The three were each elected to their first three-year term by members attending the rescheduled Charge Conference (local church annual meeting) Dec. 2. ALB combines administrative council, board of trustees, finance and staff-parish relations to give oversight, direction and purpose to our ministries and outreach.

*By Stacy LaPrad*

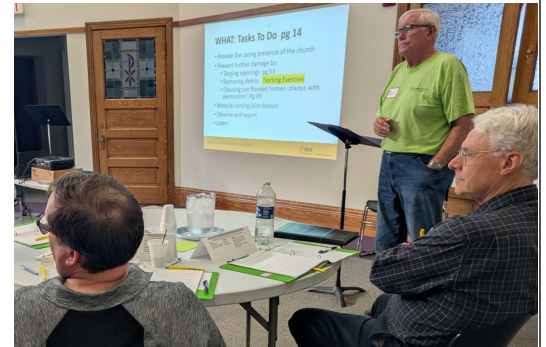
I've been a member of BVUMC for just over 10 years. I grew up in northern Wisconsin (Eagle River area) and moved to Southeast Wisconsin after college. I currently live in Shorewood with my two cats and work (from home) as an associate director of global warranty for Johnson Controls. I'm a widow and last year lost my husband Joe to leukemia after 10 wonderful years together. I'd like to serve on the ALB because I'm familiar with the role, having served when the board was first formed. I believe my skills and experience can contribute to guiding our congregation into a vibrant future. It would be an honor to represent and support our church community through this role.



*Stacy hosted Share a View this past fall*

*By Ron Monroe*

I was born and raised on a Fairbury, Ill., farm. I and my wife Sharon both graduated from the University of Illinois College of Agriculture and spent almost 10 years serving with the United Methodist Board of Missions in Algeria and Zaire (now Congo). I worked on hog and grain farms and then became a pastor's spouse, finding work as Sharon served four churches in the Illinois Great Rivers Conference. After retirement, I became active in UMCOR disaster response, serving as an ERT volunteer, ERT trainer and as conference disaster response coordinator. Sharon and I moved to Milwaukee in 2024 to be near our daughter Tricia's family. We have two other children—Bob in Seattle (two grandsons) and Kristy in Watseka, Ill. I am interested in serving because I take seriously the pledge when joining: To support the church with my prayers, my presence, my gifts, and my service.



*Ron led Disaster Response training in Waukesha*

*By Christy Smith*

My husband Michael and I celebrated our 35th wedding anniversary in December. We have many nieces and nephews; many, many grand nieces and nephews; and now several great grand nieces. I recently retired as chief financial officer for a large non-profit agency and am working very part-time in an advisory role. Both my husband and I are active in veterans' affairs having served in American Legion leader posts. Since joining BVUMC, I've slowly become more involved in activities including Faith Singers, Bread and Jam, liturgist and Worship Team. At this point, I feel I can use my experience and business training to contribute in a positive manner to the ALB.



*Christy and Michael volunteer at Bread and Jam*



## Learn How to Help in a Disaster

The Wisconsin United Methodist Church offers disaster response training, primarily through its Early Response Team (ERT) program, training volunteers to provide immediate, compassionate aid like cleanup, tarping, and emotional support with upcoming training Jan. 10 at Brown Deer UMC. Register at <https://tinyurl.com/yumnkcurk>

The 8 am to 4 pm training, often in partnership with United Methodist Committee on Relief, ensures volunteers help effectively and safely.

You can also contribute by assembling UMCOR relief kits with coordination through Midwest Mission Distribution Center, Pawnee, Ill.

For long-term recovery, Volunteers in Mission teams provide support. To learn more about VIM, teams and service across the United States or abroad, go to <https://umvim.org/>



God of the ages, you have blessed us with another year.

Help us to make room for the blessings that are in store for us in the coming months.

May we be open to learn the right lessons, even if they hurt a little.

Help us to be patient so that we won't miss divine opportunities.

Show us how to be fulfilled without material possessions, so that we will not miss what it means to be a blessed people.

Enable us to be a blessing so you will recognize us as the ones who gave you bread when you were hungry, drink when you were thirsty, and clothes when you were naked.

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Adaptation of a prayer by the Rev. Kevin B. Smalls

Open. Healthy. Open. Mindfully. Open. Hearts.  
The people of The United Methodist Church®



# PANCAKES

Come together, share a simple meal, rest weary bones and recharge.

Everyone is welcome!

Bring family, friends, co-workers and neighbors!

FEBRUARY 17 ~ 4-7 PM

PANCAKES, SYRUP, SAUSAGE, FRUIT,  
BERRIES & WHIPPED CREAM,  
BEVERAGES

Bay View United Methodist Church  
2772 S Kinnickinnic Ave  
Enter from Pryor St door





# JANUARY Free Meals

Sundays 2:30 – 3:30 pm



Bay View  
United Methodist Church  
2772 Kinnickinnic Ave  
(crossroads of KK, Pryor & Clement)  
Enter thru Clement door

**4 – Bagged Lunch\***

**11 – Bagged Lunch\***

**18 – Bagged Lunch\***

**25 – Hot Meal served in Dining Room**

*\*Sandwich, snacks, fruit, bottled water & Chef's Choice (soup, mac & cheese, casserole, stir fry etc.)*

**Free to everyone, no reason needed. Volunteer to help at 414-744-4036.**

Always accepting donated bottled water, granola bars, fruit/pudding/Jello cups for bag lunches!



*It was a festive pizza party during Bread and Jam's last hot meal in 2025 when volunteers from Grace Lutheran, 28th and Oklahoma, served. (Grace Lutheran also donated ingredients and turkeys for the Nov. 30 Thanksgiving meal served despite the snowstorm that cancelled church that morning.) If you're involved with a group looking for ways to serve the community, talk to Jan Kosanke (back, far right) about scheduling your group. Take care of everything, or just take care of serving and cleaning up. Hot meals are served the last Sunday of each month. All other Sundays also need volunteers to make sandwiches and a Chef's Choice dish (spaghetti, mac & cheese, soup, etc.); pack lunches; and hand them out.*

## Free Food Sources

### BV Comunity Center Pantry\*

Monday and Wednesday: 4-6 pm.

Saturday: 11 am-1:30 pm.

\*Doors open 15 minutes before.

### BVUMC Meal & Pantry

Little Food Pantry on Clement: 24/7.

Meals: Bagged lunches Sundays 2:30-2:30 pm. Sit-down meal last Sunday each month.

### Immaculate Conception Meal

Last Saturday of Month: 12-1 pm, carryouts allowed.

### Milwaukee Co. Senior Meals:

12 sites (Wilson Park Senior Center, Kelly Senior Center, Muslim Community & Health Center, etc), and 3 restaurants for people 60+. \$3 suggested (not required.)

Download menus and sites at <https://tinyurl.com/3dp873tv>.

### St. Veronica's Pantry

Wednesday: 4-6 pm.

First and Third Saturday: 9-11 am

### St. Vincent de Paul Pantry at St. Veronica's

First and Third Thursdays 1-7 pm

### TrickleBee's Cafe

4424 W. North Ave. Vegan. Pay what you can. Wednesday-Saturday, 11 am-2 pm.

### Unity Lutheran Meal & Pantry

Bagged lunches second & fourth Wednesday 5:30-6:30 pm; hot meal first & third Wednesday 5:30-6:30 pm. Food Pantry and Clothes Closet: Wednesdays 5-6 pm.



# January 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Dry January Bill Payne	2	3 Tyhesha Shumpert  10:30a Women's AA, childcare
4  9:45a Worship - Communion, Wesleyan Bells   2:30p Bread & Jam	5  9a Take down Christmas decorations   7p Alcoholics Anonymous	6  Epiphany Armenian Apostolic Christmas	7  Orthodox Christmas 9:15a Meditation 10:15a Bible Study  5:30p Soup & Study 5:30p Unity Lutheran free community meal	8    6p Wesleyan Bells 7:15p Faith Singers	9  Brenda Gebhardt	10  Don Evans 8a Disaster Response Training, Brown Deer UMC 9a Women's Breakfast, Castillo's 10:30a Women's AA, childcare
11  9:45a Worship - Faith Singers  10:45 Kids Sunday school 2:30p Bread & Jam	12    6p Accountable Leadership Board 7p Alcoholics Anonymous	13  Korean American Day	14  9:15a Meditation 10:15a Bible Study   5:30p Soup & Study	15  Phyllis Ditch   6p Wesleyan Bells 7:15p Faith Singers	16    Winter Camp, Lucerne Lake, Neshkoro	17  10:30a Women's AA, childcare available  Winter Camp, Lucerne Lake, Neshkoro
18  Gwen Erdman Winter Camp 9:45a - HUMAN RELATIONS DAY 11a - Sunday school 2:30p Bread & Jam	19  Brynn Weinstock Martin Luthern King Jr. Day  7p Alcoholics Anonymous	20	21  9:15a Meditation 10:15a Bible Study  5:30p Soup & Study 5:30p Unity Lutheran free community meal	22    6p Wesleyan Bells 7:15p Faith Singers	23	24  Jan Kosanke 9a Men's Breakfast, Castillo's, Cudahy 10:30a Women's AA, childcare available
25  9:45a Worship - Faith Singers   2:30a Bread & Jam hot meal in dining room	26    7p Alcoholics Anonymous	27	28  Sue Neiderheiser 9:15a Meditation 10:15a Bible Study	29  Pablo Calix Lunar New Year   6p Wesleyan Bells 7:15p Faith Singers	30	31  Luis Torres  10:30a Women's AA, childcare available 12-1p Immaculate Conception free community meal

# 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)

Scan with your smart phone for different ways to give to the ministries!



☰ Hope is here. ♥ Love is here. 🤝 Family is here.

Visit us!

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

## Your support funds ministries of advocacy and community engagement

57%

of your donation funds the community developer's program

33%

of your donation funds rehabilitation programs

10%

of your donation funds United Methodist Voluntary Services

## HUMAN RELATIONS DAY



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.  
The people of The United Methodist Church\*

## UMC 2026 Special Sundays

The United Methodist Church has several Special Sundays in 2026, with key dates including:

- Human Relations Day on Jan. 18
- UMCOR Sunday on March 15
- Native American Sunday on April 19
- Peace with Justice Sunday on May 31
- World Communion Sunday on Oct. 4

Some congregations also observe:

- Golden Cross Sunday on May 10
- United Methodist Student Sunday on Nov. 29

All are designed to focus worship and giving towards specific ministries, with resources available from [ResourceUMC.org](http://ResourceUMC.org) and [UMC.org](http://UMC.org).