

SPIRE Newsletter



March 2022



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CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

Mar. 2: Women's prayer meeting, 7:30 am, parlor

Mar. 2: Lent begins; Ash Wednesday worship service, 7 pm

Mar. 3: Men's prayer breakfast, 7 am, parlor

Mar. 4: World Day of Prayer

Mar. 4: Kids' Night Out, 6-8 pm

Mar. 8: Lunch Bunch; **in-person** Lenten growth group study begins, 11 am, parlor

Mar. 10: Reflections Book Group, 7 pm, parlor

Mar. 10: **Zoom** Lenten growth group study begins, 7 pm

Mar. 13: Daylight Saving Time begins

Mar. 13: blood pressure checks, 10:45 am, parlor

Mar. 20: First day of spring

Apr. 1: Kids' Night Out and Joyful Jam, 6-8 pm

Apr. 10: Palm Sunday service, 9:30 am

Apr. 10: Kids' Drive-in Movie Night, 5-8 pm

New Mask Policy Begins March 1

Preserving health and keeping MUMC members safe has been the center of many conversations since the pandemic emerged in March 2020. Masks, social distancing, and hand hygiene became common place practices. We have been conducting in-person worship and many other activities at MUMC while keeping our members/friends safe. Thanks for supporting the mitigation strategies (masking indoors and social distancing) that have been in place at MUMC.

The virus is still present. Positive COVID-19 cases and transmissions continue. On January 3, there were 19 thousand confirmed cases in Wisconsin. On February 20, there were 149 confirmed cases in Wisconsin (data source: CDC confirmed cases). During the intense Omicron surge in December and January, vaccinations and masks were the tools available to minimize transmission. The peak has passed and case numbers are down. We

Apr. 14: Maundy Thursday service, 7 pm

Apr. 15: Good Friday service, 7 pm

Apr. 17: Easter Sunday service, 9:30 am

Apr. 17: Kid's Easter egg hunt, 10:30 am

Apr. 18: Family Promise Host Week begins

WORSHIP SERMON SERIES

Know an Unknown God

Mar. 6: To an Unknown God, Acts 17:16-32

Mar. 13: Father's Heart, Luke 15:11-24

Mar. 20: In the Presence of Holy God, Isaiah 6:1-8

want to respectfully and cautiously move forward.

While mandatory mask requirements are ending, what is best for you? Personal health is a gift and a responsibility. You may want to consider the following as you make your decision to wear a mask or not:

- What are your personal health and risk factors?
- Are you at increased risk of severe illness?
- What is the vulnerability of others in your household? Are they immunocompromised?

- Are your vaccinations up-to-date?
- Are household members vaccine eligible and up-to-date?
- Will you be in close contact with people outside of your household? What is their vulnerability?
- What is your personal risk tolerance? (Some of us love roller coasters and others do not.)

Effective March 1, 2022, indoors at MUMC: Wearing a mask will be a personal decision. Masking is fully supported and will become your personal choice. Consider your personal health situation as you come for worship, gatherings, or meetings. We will maintain spacing inside the sanctuary for now.

In certain situations, such as small spaces, choirs, and other settings, as needed, you may be asked to please wear a mask to protect those around you.

We will keep you informed as we continue moving forward.

Respectfully,
Susan Solverson, RN
MUMC Parish Nurse Team

From the Pastor

The story of the cross starts on Ash Wednesday, which leads us into the 40-day journey of Lent. Maundy Thursday commemorates the Last Supper when Jesus shared the Passover meal with his disciples on the night before he was crucified. Good Friday commemorates the crucifixion and death of Jesus. The 40-day journey calls all Christians to deepen their relationship with God as they re-commit themselves to the Lord Jesus Christ by prayers, devotions, and service.

To have a more meaningful Lent, I invite the MUMC family to participate in the special services of Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday; the biannual all-church study, *Why I am a Christian* by John Lennox; and a 40-day daily devotion utilizing a Lenten daily devotion booklet entitled *Lent with the Psalms*. The

booklet is available on the table in the narthex on Sunday, February 27. Many encouraging and powerful Psalms are shared in various versions in this booklet for your daily devotion. Let's grow together in Christ during this Lenten season as we worship, study, pray, and share fellowship in Christ!

Lenten Special Worship Services:

Ash Wednesday, March 2, 7 pm

Palm Sunday, April 10, 9:30 am

Maundy Thursday, April 14, 7 pm

Good Friday, April 15, 7 pm

Easter Sunday, April 17, 9:30 am



In Christ,
Pastor Sue Lee

New Lenten Growth Group Study Begins

Education Committee Chair Jean Paulus announces the first of two all-church studies to be offered this year. The first study will be offered during Lent and the second study will be offered in the fall.

The Lenten study is called *Why I Am A Christian* based on a presentation by John Lennox. The study will run for four weeks with each session lasting for one hour. There will be a 15-minute video followed by a group discussion. No book is required.

The study will be offered twice a week for everyone's convenience. The dates and times for the study are:

Week One

- Tuesday, March 8 at 11 am, in person at the church
- Thursday, March 10 at 7 pm, via Zoom

Week Two

- Tuesday, March 15 at 11 am, in person at the church
- Thursday, March 17 at 7 pm, via Zoom

Week Three

- Tuesday, March 22 at 11 am, in person at the church
- Thursday, March 24 at 7 pm, via Zoom

Week Four

- Tuesday, March 29 at 11 am, in person at the church
- Thursday, March 31 at 7 pm, via Zoom

John Lennox is a retired professor from the University of Oxford. He describes himself as a mathematician, philosopher, and Christian apologist (a defender of Christianity).

There is a signup sheet in the narthex. If you have any questions, please contact Jean at 262- 502-0512 or at tango2nite@wi.rr.com.

Announcements

Walk Through Lent with the Psalms

Please pick up your copy of *Walking Through Lent with the Psalms* Lent can be

the time when you decide to let go of old habits and develop a more joyful Christ-filled way of living. Join your MUMC family in this journey of reflection, meditation, and praise. Pick up your copy in the narthex. Be sure to sign the sheet so we know you've received your copy.

Joyful Jam will be held at a new time on monthly Fridays along with the Children's Ministries Kids' Night Out events. Look for news about the next Joyful Jam in the [News from Children's Ministries](#) article directly below. Our Minister of Music Deanna Gibeau thanks you and hopes to see you then!

Please mark your calendars for our 2022 Family Promise Host Weeks when MUMC provides evening meals for homeless shelter guests from Monday through Friday. You don't need to cook a whole meal. We're happy to coordinate with others who are willing to contribute a portion of a meal. Please contact Pam Layton at playton90@gmail.com or Connie Pukaite at pukaite@sbcglobal.net.

Host Weeks are Monday through Friday; evening meals to be delivered by 5 pm: April 18 – 22, June 13 – 17, August 8 – 12, October 3 – 7, and November 28 – December 2.

If you are going to be a Coffee Host after church on Sundays, here is what you need to know!

Coffee is being served in Fellowship Hall at the present time because of COVID. Both decaf and regular coffee, as well as cream and sugar, are provided by the church. You may provide one or two munchies, in single portions, to go with the coffee. Also bring a gallon of light-colored juice.



You can start the coffee before you come into the sanctuary. If church is half filled, make only one carafe of both regular and decaf. If church is filled, make two carafes of each. Instructions for making coffee are on the inside of the white cupboard doors above the coffee maker. The instructions are easy to follow.

While the coffee is being made, you can put out the coffee cups, juice cups, and food on the counter that faces Fellowship Hall. Small plates and napkins are in the closet to the right as you leave the kitchen. Sugar is in the cupboard by the coffee, and creamer pods are in the refrigerator.

Please clean up before you leave. Make sure everything is put away and the coffee carafes are washed out. Questions? Contact Ann Miller at 262-242-3490.

News from Children's Ministries

Kids' Night Out: Friday, March 4 and Friday, April 1

Children's Ministries would like to celebrate the children's birthdays monthly during our Friday Kids' Night Out events. No presents. Just fun. Friends and adults are invited too. We will begin each night with singing, followed by a potluck-style dinner, cake, and games.

Since we are just starting our birthday celebrations in March, we would like to catch up and also celebrate those whose birthdays were in January and February

on March 4.

So, join us Friday, March 4, from 6 – 8 pm for a fun Kids' Night Out (adults too). In addition, we will be celebrating Gabby Anderson's birthday. She would like to invite all to come help her celebrate. We will have a dinner, music, games, and CAKE!



We would like to begin joining our Joyful Jam to the Kids' Night Out to add to the fun, starting Friday, April 1, from 6 – 8 pm.

Drive-in Movie Night: Sunday, April 10 from 5 – 8 pm

What could be more fun than an indoor drive-in movie? Not much! Join us on Sunday, April 10, from 5 – 8 pm. Enjoy a drive-in style dinner while watching a movie from a 'car'. Stay tuned for more information. RSVP to childrensmin@mequonumc.org.

Lent has begun and Easter is soon

Children's Ministries would like to invite all to join us on Easter Sunday, April 17 at 10:30 am for a joyous celebration of the resurrection of Jesus. Fun will include an Easter egg hunt, games, and fellowship. Bring your neighbors, family, and friends. It is a time to celebrate!

Reflections Book Group

MARCH REFLECTIONS

The Reflections Book Group will meet on Thursday, March 10. We begin at 7 pm in the parlor. Our March discussion book is *Sparks Like Stars* by Nadia Hashimi.

Amazon.com offers this summary:

Kabul, 1978: ...Sitara Zamani lives a privileged life in Afghanistan's thriving cosmopolitan capital. The 1970's are a time of remarkable promise under the leadership of people like Sardar Daoud, Afghanistan's progressive president, and Sitara's beloved father, his right-hand man. But the ten-year-old Sitara's world is shattered when communists stage a coup, assassinating the president and Sitara's entire family. Only she survives. Smuggled out of the palace by a guard named Shair, Sitara finds her way to the home of a female American diplomat, who adopts her and raises her in America. In her new country ... Sitara (now named Aryana) throws herself into her studies, eventually becoming a renowned surgeon ... New York, 2008: Thirty years after that fatal night in Kabul, Aryana's world is rocked again when an elderly patient appears in her examination room ... It is Shair, the soldier who saved her, yet may have murdered her entire family. ... Aryana embarks on a quest that takes her back to Kabul—a battleground between the corrupt government and the fundamentalist Taliban—and through shadowy memories of the world she loved and lost.

Bold, illuminating, heartbreaking, yet hopeful, *Sparks Like Stars* is a story of home—of America and Afghanistan, tragedy and survival, reinvention and remembrance, told in Nadia Hashimi's singular voice.

Reflections is a women's book group that meets monthly for discussion and fellowship. New women are always welcome. Contact Barb Henneck at

Mission Outreach Auction Results

Dear MUMC and Friends,

You did it again! As 1 Thessalonians 5:18 says, "Give thanks in all circumstances: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." As we near the end of our official annual fundraising period, MUMC's Mission Outreach Committee wants to pause and THANK YOU, our congregation and friends, for your wonderful support.

Our theme this year is "Speak From Your Heart" which you have certainly done. To date, you have contributed nearly \$15,000 through the silent auction and your direct donations. Thanks to you, we will be able to continue to support organizations that provide food, shelter, clothing, care, and advocacy for those in need in our community.

We have many people on our list. First, "thank you" to the auction winners – we hope you enjoy your prizes as you support our mission! Also, "thank you" to the donors of those items, whose generosity helped make this year fun:

- Katie Jackson, winner: a day at Crystal Lake, donated by Marcia and Jeff Schwager
- Anonymous (you know who you are!), winner: Bucks tickets, donated by Pat Stapelkamp
- Rick and Patty Gattoni, winner: Brewers tickets, donated by Glen Van Fossen
- Alberta Whitaker, winner: wine basket, donated by Susan and Fran Yorio
- LaShawn Hickinan and Alberta Whitaker, winners: margarita baskets, donated by Reflections Book Group
- Karen and Joel Huffman, and Anonymous, winners: DeLonghi coffee/cappuccino makers, donated by Pat Stapelkamp
- Ireene Sullivan (and Rover), winner: parking space #1
- Marcia Schwager, winner: parking space #2
- Sandy Christiansen, winner: parking space #3

We also want to acknowledge and thank those who gave to Outreach directly by "raising their paddle." This has been so important to continuing our work:

Susan Caldwell	Susan Krause	Sue & Scott Solverson
Shirley Campbell	Pam & Jim Layton	Pat Stapelkamp
Malcom Creighton	Pastor Sue Lee	Ireene Sullivan
Bonnie Davis	Marilyn & Brent Meyer	Glen Van Fossen
Chris & Mike Debbink	Ann Miller	Judy Vogel
Karen & Joel Huffman	Linda & Ed Mordy	Kim & Dennis Waters
Evelyn & George Hughes	Jean & Ross Paulus	Whiskers' Friend
Michelle & Rick Hynson	Connie Pukaite	Marilyn & Doug Zwissler
Katie Jackson	Marcia & Jeff Schwager	

As the quote goes, "A grateful heart is a magnet for miracles." From the bottom of our hearts to yours, THANK YOU! We are truly grateful to all of you for helping to Make God's Love Real.

Katie Jackson, Mission Outreach Ministries Chair
and the Mission Outreach Ministries Team:

Pastor Sue Lee
Jenna Burns
Lisa Gorski
Joel Huffman

Karen Huffman
Jim Layton
Karen Stern
Ireene Sullivan

Kim Waters
Marie Widder
Susan Yorio
Marilyn Zwissler

A Letter from Bishop Jung Regarding the Boy Scouts of America Bankruptcy

February 14, 2022

Siblings in Christ,

Greetings in the abundant hope we have in Jesus. I would begin with gratitude for your faithfulness in our effort to respond with restorative justice and healing in the Boy Scouts of America bankruptcy matter. We have kept the harm of children at the center of our response that we might live as a repentant community, and one attentive to our stewardship of children, youth, and vulnerable adults. I write today to share an update from United Methodist Communications, Office of Public Information:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 14, 2022

United Methodists extend BSA charters through June 2022

"United Methodist leaders have reached an agreement with the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) to extend existing UMC-sponsored scouting charters through June 30, 2022, to provide for uninterrupted ministry with young people through scouting. The charters were previously extended to March 31, 2022, as legal proceedings continue in the BSA's bankruptcy case, particularly as the trial for confirmation has now been postponed until March 9, 2022. Churches do not need to take any action to extend their current organizational relationship with the BSA until June 30, 2022.

Organizational leaders are working together to develop a long-term solution regarding the church's relationship with scouting as they plan for new 'Association' agreements that will help to improve the program and safety of scouting for future generations of young people.

While no action is required at this time regarding charter renewal, churches are to move forward with the annual membership renewal process for all youth and adults who participate in scouting programs. Charter renewal and membership renewal are distinct processes. Charter renewal focuses on the organization-to-organization relationship, while membership renewal involves the relationship between individual scouts and volunteers and the BSA.

Annual membership renewal is a vital step in allowing scouting to continue, as maintaining active membership registrations for all scouts and volunteers is critical to ensuring that scouts and volunteers are covered by BSA's insurance, that volunteers meet training and safety standards, and that both youth and volunteers continue to receive communications.

All scout units and local councils should complete membership renewals by

February 20 if possible, and no later than February 28. Local council representatives are available to support the process so that scouting activities can continue without interruption.”

From the Episcopal Office:

To summarize the above: We advise that no church sign a new charter. Existing charters are extended until June 30, 2022, by agreement with the BSA. The UMC is working on a new ‘Association’ agreement to replace charters. This is expected to be completed prior to March 31, 2022. Annual Membership renewals should be completed by February 28. Discreet scouting events can be hosted with the Facilities Use Agreement.

Our work to repair harm continues and will continue in the power and love we know as Christ. Thank you for your attention to the nurture of relational integrity that makes Christ known.

Peace,
Bishop Hee-Soo Jung, PhD.
Wisconsin Conference

From the Wisconsin UM Foundation

Blessed to be a Blessing March 2022

In their book, *The Generosity Challenge*, Kristine Miller and Scott McKenzie share the results of a 2017 Barna Group study on prayer called *Silent and Solo: How Americans Pray*. The study found that 79% of American adults have prayed in the last three months. What was the content of those prayers?

- Gratitude and thanksgiving – 62%
- The needs of family and community – 61%
- Personal guidance in crisis – 49%
- My health and wellness – 47%
- Confession and forgiveness – 43%
- Things I suddenly feel compelled to pray about – 43%
- Safety in my daily tasks or travel – 41%
- A sense of peace – 37%
- Blessings for meals – 37%
- Specific requests for others – 34%
- Several others at lesser percentages

First, let me note that I love that gratitude and thanksgiving top the list of prayer subjects. Part of spiritual, emotional, and mental wellness can be found in gratitude practices. Miller and McKenzie do point out that something important is missing from this list, however. There is no mention of listening to God, no mention of asking “God, what do you want me to do, how do you want me to live?” These questions, for us as individuals and for our churches, are a key part of our stewardship practices. Our faith teaches us that God gives us good things for a purpose that is greater than satisfying our own needs and desires. We are blessed to be a blessing. It is important for our prayers of gratitude to be followed by an openness to the movement of God’s Spirit. May God grant you the courage to ask, “Lord, what can I do in gratitude for all you have already done for me?”

From the Wisconsin Conference

Editor's Note: Since the beginning of the pandemic, the Cabinet of the Wisconsin Conference has posted a devotion, called a Reflection, to their website, at first daily, now weekly. Each Reflection is well written and thought-provoking; below, two recent posts.

Weekly Devotion for January 31, 2022, by Dan Schwerin: A Reflection on Luke 5:1-11

Jesus directs Simon to fish in the deep water. There is a difference between shore fishing and deep fishing. Let's be honest: deep fishing entails a risk of drowning. The nets are heavy, and the weight can suddenly shift in ways that can take us overboard. Deep water is where we reach the end of our mortal abilities. Deep water makes one turn and reckon where to find help.

In Psalm 104:25-26, we are reminded that deep water has long represented chaos. Leviathan is the name the psalm gives to the monsters we associate with deep water, the sort we saw in our closets or under our beds as a kid. We didn't catch their names, but we knew the vulnerability they revealed and still reveal to us.

COVID-19 has felt like deep water as have the systems that continue racism. John Dominic Crossan explains that there was a tax placed on fisherman in the time of Jesus. He suggests that the fisherman left their nets for Jesus but also to bear witness against unjust systems. Maybe we would love to enjoy a discipleship that has nothing to do with politics or systemic change. Maybe we would love to live out a comfortable green Jell-O discipleship, but Jesus calls us to go deeper. Our mission is in the deep water.

I remember when Nancy Moffatt was perfecting her cabinet address many years ago. Our conversation was not directly added to the address, but she recognized the fear we have of conflict, decline, and the disappearance of church vitality. She used the image of the harbor and implored us not to stay in the harbors. So here we are: our mission waits in the deep water, as does amazement with the catch. Radical inclusion and racial justice are not just slogans for a quadrennium, these are the waters of soulful work, risk, growth--and we will need each other to fish well. Deep water is where your theology changes. Deep water is where you ask for help. Deep water makes you turn and reckon if others are there to help. Let's help each other and find the amazement that reveals Christ.

Weekly Devotion for February 7, 2022, by Forrest Wells

We are in the lectionary season of Ordinary Time, sometimes called Common Time. Outside of the grand Christian seasons of Advent/Christmas and Lent/Easter is mostly Ordinary Time. I like this lectionary season of Ordinary Time because it is a true reflection that life is mostly lived not on the mountain height of celebrating great events but is lived in ordinary ways. The wedding is a celebration, but the marriage takes work. A birth of a child carries much joy, but then the work of raising that precious baby to adulthood begins and life has changed. A new job comes along or a new opportunity and excitement builds and then the day-to-day sweat in the trenches of life takes place. Ordinary Time. We suffer through illness,

disease, grief, loneliness, and hardship of many kinds in this Ordinary Time.

I'm actually glad that most of the year of scripture reading through the lectionary is in this season of Ordinary Time because that is the way we spend most of our lives. Plus, it is a great reminder that God chooses to work through ordinary people in extraordinary ways.

In Matthew 17:1-8 and in two other Gospels, the Transfiguration of Jesus is recorded. Something incredible happens as Peter, James, and John went up the mountain with Jesus. It is written that Jesus' face was transfigured, his face shone like the sun, and there appeared with him Moses and Elijah. The three disciples were terrified! Then they went from terror to bewilderment to eventually exhilaration. In another gospel, Peter spoke up and said maybe we should build a structure and just stay here. But Jesus essentially says, don't be afraid, get up, we can't stay on the mountain, there is work to do. Ordinary Time.

I have often fallen into the trap of trying to manufacture the next grand mountaintop experience. Whether a special event for the local church or training for clergy or a vacation adventure, I want people to feel exhilarated about life, about God, about the relationships we share together. Yet the real stuff of life, the real difference we make, is usually in the day-to-day work and activities that we experience with family, friends, co-workers, and the community of faith. It is the ordinariness of life that gives such great meaning to the mountaintop experiences that we do have. So, when we get those opportunities for celebration of the stages of life, enjoy and give thanks for the gift of God's presence through it all!

Gracious God I am thankful that you are Immanuel throughout the entire year. You are with us in the high points of celebration and in the low points of discouragement you are with us. Thank you for blessing the ordinary days with your extraordinary love. Amen

Soul Food by Bishop Jung

Soul Food: Godly Grief and Deep Change

“For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation.” (2 Corinthians 7:10 NRSV)

There is a long way to wholeness taken through suffering or loss. It is the spiritual geography of proclamation that once passed through wilderness. When we sense such maps are before us, we often wonder if there is another way. Deep into a pandemic we have much to reckon with: grief, the reminders of unequal health outcomes for persons of color, and the strains of homeschooling, to name a few.

Many of us would prefer to practice a faith that did not ask us to face godly sorrow. Yet faith without honest reckoning does not equip us for the long haul, or for a harvest of personal and social holiness.

In his book *The Color of Compromise: The Truth about the American Church's Complicity in Racism*, Jemar Tisby asserts that there are benefits to having a sobering conversation with your doctor, as well as getting honest with the Great Physician. Tisby writes: “The goal of this book is not guilt. The purpose of tracing Christian complicity with racism is not to show white believers how bad they are. It is simply a fact of American history that white leaders and laity made decisions to

maintain the racist status quo. Even though the purpose of this work is not to call out any particular racial group, these words may cause some grief, but grief can be good.” (p. 22) At that point Tisby takes us to Paul’s words born of rough patches with the Corinthians: “For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation.” (2 Corinthians 7:10) For Paul, there is a pain that God participates in that brings metanoia. In personal terms, this is a genuine acknowledgment of complicity with harm, coupled with the humble, but strong, resolve to change one’s behavior. In corporate terms, our psalms of lament teach us that there are times that shared suffering is the road to “letting go of former things,” as Isaiah terms them, so that we have room in our hands to grasp God’s new thing.

Faith without reckoning hurt, harm, loss, more than that—theology without crucifixion—risks being reduced to happy talk, and the nurturance of a false self. Without capacity for being a suffering fellowship, there are too few voices among us that can help mature disciples across their times of pain.

In the Fall of 2019, the Wisconsin Conference began to advance Radical Inclusion and Racial Justice as our continuous mission and ministry direction. Our Anti-Racism Task Force and the Bishop’s Task Force are working together to explore how we can build beloved community together in the Wisconsin Conference. I will ask you to pray and consider study and reflection on Radical Inclusion and Racial Justice. Bryan Stevenson’s ‘Four Pillars to Change the World’ may be a helpful map. His four principles to create change are:

1. Move toward pain, injury, and harm—it is impossible to address or improve a situation by avoiding it.
2. Create space for the narratives of integrity and truth while resisting narratives of fear and division/othering—the less we know about others, the less we value them.
3. Be willing to be discomforted to be faithful witnesses—remember that our discipleship is obedience to God and gospel, not comfort and security. Disciples are sent, often to places they would not ordinarily choose to go!
4. Live as people of relentless hope—believe the best about others instead of the worst. Live toward a potential for good rather than an avoidance of assumed bad.

I would invite you to practice three specific requests in your life of faith:

1. Engage the work personally through prayerful introspection, vulnerability, and discernment for your own journey of transformation.
2. Listen to stories of pain within your context and share your broader anti-racism work with your colleagues.
3. Integrate the sacred work of anti-racism into everyday ministry engagement and leadership.

Paul was able to say, “Now I rejoice, not because you were grieved, but because your grief led to repentance.” (2 Corinthians 7:9) I pray that the Wisconsin Conference would experience metanoia that brings salvation and newness. May God’s Spirit draw us closer to God and to each other. Know that I am praying for you. Peace to you.

Bishop Hee-Soo Jung, PhD
Wisconsin Conference

Christian Symbol of the Month

40

In Scripture, this number often indicates a time of trial or testing, or simply marks significance. It rained 40 days and nights during the Flood. Israel wandered in the wilderness for 40 years. Jesus fasted for 40 days and was with the disciples for 40 days between his resurrection and ascension. The Christian church has long observed 40 days of Lent (not counting Sundays).

One Last Thing . . .

The Prayer of St. Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace; where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood, as to understand; to be loved, as to love; for it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

—St. Francis of Assisi, Italy, 13th century

Deadline for SPIRE copy: the 25th of the month prior to publication's edition. Send copy to news@mequonumc.org to be included in the monthly SPIRE or the weekly Sunday bulletins.

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/ Closed Fridays

Sunday Schedule

9:30am Worship Service

10:30am Fellowship

www.mequonumc.org

