

SPIRE Newsletter



October 2019

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CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

Oct. 5 - Marsh Meadow work day

Oct. 6 - Yee Haw

Oct. 6 - World Communion
Sunday

Oct. 12 - assemble personal
hygiene kits at Cedarburg MC

Oct. 13 - Yee Haw

Oct. 20 - Bread Sunday

Oct. 20 - Family Sharing food
collection begins

Oct. 20 - Men's choir rehearsals
begin

Oct. 27 - gratitude journals
distributed

Nov. 2 - Marsh Meadow work day

Nov. 3 - Children's Sabbath

Nov. 3 - Children's Christmas
program rehearsals begin

WORSHIP SERMON SPOTLIGHT

Oct. 6 - Questions Jesus Asked

Oct. 13 through 27 - I am a
Disciple of Christ

Oct. 13 - The Joy of Serving in
Christ

Oct. 20 - The Joy of Giving in
Christ

Oct. 7 - The Joy of Making a
Commitment in Christ

WORSHIP MUSIC

Cultivating a Grateful Heart

--an update from Breakthrough
Prayer Team member
Emily Levine

*I don't want to carry gratitude in
Seasons,*

I want to carry it in my bones,

I want it to rest on my tongue,

Like it is a language

That I never stop speaking.

--- Arielle Estoria

In November we will be inviting the congregation to start writing gratitude journals. Keeping a gratitude journal is the practice of writing down things you are grateful for on a regular basis. You can write things down daily, or weekly, but the idea is that you make it a part of your day to notice things for which you are grateful.

At one point in my life, I was struggling. I was overwhelmed with the needs of my family and constant financial hardships. Someone suggested I start a gratitude journal. My first reaction to this suggestion was disbelief, but I decided to give it a try. Every night before I went to sleep, I wrote down five things for which I was grateful. What I discovered after a few weeks was that this practice helped me feel better. Before, when I was convinced God was not there for me and everything was horrible, I found evidence that this was true. However, when I spent my day looking for five things I was grateful for, I started noticing many wonderful things. While my circumstances appeared unchanged to an outside observer, I became much more content. Some research even

October 6 – Children’s Choir
October 13 – Susan Climer
October 20 – Women’s Choir
October 27 – Sanctuary Choir



shows that gratitude journals have positive effects on your health.

The Breakthrough Prayer Team will give one blank journal (small enough to carry with you) to everyone starting on October 27. Please join us in keeping a gratitude journal!

PHILIPPIANS 4:12–13

12 I know the experience of being in need and of having more than enough; I have learned the secret to being content in any and every circumstance, whether full or hungry or whether having plenty or being poor. **13** I can endure all these things through the power of the one who gives me strength.”

From the Pastor

This year I rented one of the MUMC community garden lots, and planted various vegetables. The unusually cold weather this spring made germination difficult; nonetheless, the plants yielded an abundant harvest! It was a delightful experience for me to see the little tiny seeds be transformed into what the Creator intended.

May I tell you that we are also called to grow in faith by trusting God, which always pleases Him? Some people grow fast, some slowly, others may backslide in their path, but in the long run, we surely grow in faith by the grace of God, if we are willing to grow.

With the spirit of willingness to grow in faith, the Finance team and I have set the theme for our Stewardship Campaign 2020 as "I'm a disciple of Jesus Christ". And we invite all MUMC members and friends to join us in growth study groups and fellowships. We offer two excellent studies at three different times to accommodate your schedules as follows. We hope that you can participate in both studies!

1. “Practicing Servanthood, Finding Freedom” (Life You’ve Always Wanted by John Ortberg)
Oct. 16 (Wed.) at noon at the Huffman's (10256 N. Range Line Court, Mequon);
Oct. 16 (Wed.) at 6 pm at the Huffman's;
Oct. 17 (Thurs.) at 6 pm at Susan Caldwell's (1926 W. Hidden Reserve Ct., Mequon).
2. “Defined by Generosity” (Enough by Adam Hamilton)
Oct. 23 (Wed.) at noon at Glen Van Fossen's (12632 N. Maplecrest Lane, Mequon);
Oct. 23 (Wed.) at 6 pm at Glen Van Fossen's;
Oct. 24 (Thurs.) at 6 pm in the church parlor.

There will be a sign-up board for the growth study groups in the narthex area. We believe that it takes brothers and sisters in Christ to become a growing and faithful disciple of Jesus Christ. So let’s grow together in Christ during the Stewardship Campaign this year!

In Christ,

Letter of Concern from MUMC Office

Dear MUMC Family,

It has come to our attention at the Church Office that Pastor Sue's email pastor@mequonumc.org has been compromised. We are taking all steps to make sure that the situation is taken care of and doesn't transfer to other computers.

But as a result you might have received an email asking an odd request from her, such as purchasing gift certificates, or performing some other financial task. Please do not act on any request without talking to the Church Office or Pastor Sue directly. Pastor Sue would not ask you to purchase anything or change your donation habits or anything like that.

If you do get a suspicious email or text, please call the Church Office at 262-242-4770 or Pastor Sue at 608-228-0066 and we will let you know what you should do.

If you have any questions or concerns, please talk to Laurie or DeWayna in the Church Office.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

DeWayna Cherrington
Office Manager
MUMC
262-242-4770

Announcements

Thank you to all who generously donated school supplies to the Milwaukee School of Languages (Peg Gardner's school). The supplies have already been distributed to eager hands, and are at work in our classrooms. This is a particular blessing for our special education students, who often are without needed essentials. Thank you so much for your gifts to these special children, and thanks to Pam Layton for coordinating the gathering.

The choirs at MUMC are off to a great start! All of you are welcome to join us at any time!

Join Our Youth Choir/Joyful Noise!

We continue to invite all youth singers to come every Sunday morning to sing! We rehearse from 9 - 9:25 am in the Music Room. We sing every first Sunday of the month during the worship service.

Calling All Singing Men!!!

Men's Choir rehearsals begin in October.

October 20: 6 – 7 pm

October 27: 6 – 7 pm

(no rehearsal on November 3)

November 10: 6 – 7 pm

World Communion Sunday, the first Sunday in October, is celebrated by many Christian denominations around the world to promote Christian unity and Christian cooperation. This year's Special Sunday collection will be held on October 6. In the United Methodist Church, proceeds provide scholarships and in-service training to U.S. racial and ethnic students and international students at both undergraduate and graduate levels.

Marsh Meadow Work Days are

Saturday, October 5 and November 2, from 9 am - 12 noon. There is buckthorn to be removed in the Marsh Meadow. Come join us! Bring leather gloves, loppers, a hat, and bug spray. Call Linda Mordy at 242-8091 for more information.

Thank you to the MUMC Family for the love and support shown to Randy and me after my Dad's passing. Your cards, phone calls, and hugs helped us get through this difficult time. --Debbie Leroy

Over cake and coffee and tears and hugs, Herb and Ginger Ayres said goodbye to MUMC after worship on September 15. But they also say that goodbye is just for now and ask the

November 17: SING!!!

Calling All Singing Women!!!

Women's Choir rehearsal continues in October.

October 6: 6-7 pm

October 20: SING!!!

Pre-Confirmation Program for 6th and 7th graders is being offered by MUMC starting in October. The program is mainly consisted of three components: 1) Christian Education; 2) Christian Fellowship; and 3) Summer Camp in 2020 and 2021 at one of the Wisconsin UMC Conference Camp Sites. If you have any questions on this program, please contact [Pastor Sue](#).

congregation to stay in touch and to feel free to visit them in their new home in the Minneapolis area. On a side note, for all those who have asked (and those who haven't), Ginger promises to always be a Packers fan and shun those horned helmet football pretenders!

Contact them at ayres5511@gmail.com (a new email address), or 5300 Oak Grove Parkway #308, Brooklyn Park, MN 55443. Call or text Ginger at 262-385-7356 or Herb at 414-688-8290.

They pass along these wishes: "Blessings to our MUMC family, may you always prosper, and may you be well. We will miss you."

Upcoming Mission Outreach Events

Personal Item Collection and Assembly for the Tucson United Methodist Churches

Mission Outreach continues to collect personal items and donations for the Tucson United Methodist "Inn," which is providing shelter and support to immigrants released into the United States by ICE. To support this project please bring the following items to church by Sunday, October 6, 2019. We are also collecting dollars for other toiletry items. Look for the big jar on the table above the bins.

Items needed are:

- New bathroom hand towels and washcloths
- Combs
- Bars of 3 – 4 oz soap
- One Gallon Zip-lock bags

Plan to come help us assemble the kits at the Cedarburg Methodist Church on Saturday, October 12 from 9 am – 12 pm. The address is W68N563 Evergreen Blvd., Cedarburg, WI 53012. Contact [Marilyn Zwissler](#) for more information.

Bread Sunday! Bake AND Buy!!!! Sunday, October 20

When autumn arrives, MUMC begins preparing for ways we can lift up Thanksgiving for others. The Mission Outreach Committee is beginning the Thanksgiving season and the start of the Thanksgiving food collection for Ozaukee County Family Sharing with Bread Sunday on Sunday, October 20, 2019. Bread Sunday is an annual MUMC tradition. We donate the funds raised from the sale of these breads to Ozaukee County Family Sharing, allowing us to support our local community and Ozaukee County individuals who are in need.

Please bake a loaf or two of bread and bring your delicious, wrapped breads to church on Sunday, October 20. Mission Outreach Committee members will display the breads and collect the donations. In addition to baking and donating your breads, we also encourage you to purchase a loaf or two to take home for your enjoyment. Favorite bread flavors include Zucchini, Apple Nut, Banana, Pumpkin and Cinnamon Streusel. Muffins are also appreciated. A few gluten free loaves would also be welcome for those who are on restricted diets.

The MUMC Mission Outreach Committee thanks you for your generosity!

Thanksgiving Food Collection

Please pick up an empty grocery bag on Bread Sunday so you can fill it with Thanksgiving food items listed on the outside of the bag. These food donations will support Ozaukee County Family Sharing.

The Mission Outreach Committee will be distributing bags on Sunday, October 20, 2019 for our annual Thanksgiving food collection for Family Sharing of Ozaukee County. Attached to each bag will be a list of items that are especially needed by Family Sharing for the Thanksgiving holiday; however, any donation is welcome.

Return your filled grocery bag to the church on Sunday, October 27 or Sunday, November 3, or anytime during the week. Family Sharing will be picking up the donated food on Tuesday, November 5.

Thank you for helping to serve the needs of low-income, elderly, and disabled residents of Ozaukee County. If you have questions, contact [Susan Yorio](mailto:Susan.Yorio@ozaukee.org) (262-853-3933)..

Winter Clothing Drive For Repairers of the Breach

In conjunction with the Thanksgiving food drive, Mission Outreach will begin collecting winter clothing and new underwear for Repairers of the Breach. This organization, located on Vliet Street in Milwaukee, provides daytime shelter for homeless men and women. They have a warm gathering room, a café, learning center, and medical clinic for those who find themselves living on the streets. Repairers of the Breach fills the gap between places that provide shelter only at night and the need for someplace to go during the daytime. The staff and volunteers help with skill development, job placement, healthcare, and rehousing.

Check your closets for good used hats, gloves, sweaters, and coats and bring them to church to donate to our Winter Clothing Collection. New underwear and socks are also needed.

Here is a list of items to donate:

- Hats & gloves
- Sweaters and Fleece clothing
- Winter coats
- New socks and slippers
- New underwear in sizes M to XXXL for men and women

The collection boxes will be at the church entrance by the bulletin boards and in the Narthex. Mission Outreach will take the clothing to Repairer's of the Breach as the boxes fill up. Thank you for helping people stay warm this winter! Contact [Marilyn Zwissler](mailto:Marilyn.Zwissler@ozaukee.org) for more information.

Children's Ministries

Yee Haw on in for Fun This Fall

October 6 and 13 – 10:30 am - Noon

Children and their families are invited to join us for two Sundays this month as we explore God's Greatest Gift in a rip-roaring western adventure called Yee-Haw! This VBS-like program will take place on Sundays, October 6 and 13, right after church. It will include songs, crafts, Bible stories, service projects and snacks, and will last from 10:30 am - Noon. It is the perfect way to connect summer fun with Christmas preparations, in a family-friendly way. Bring a friend! All children in preschool through middle school are invited to attend, and parents may stay and participate or enjoy a longer coffee fellowship. Helpers and snack providers would be very much appreciated!

Children's Sabbath – November 3

Sponsored by the Children's Defense Fund, the National Observance of Children's Sabbath Celebration is a way for faith communities to celebrate children as sacred gifts of the Divine, and provides the opportunity for houses of worship to renew and live out their moral responsibility to care, protect and advocate for all children.

The 2019 National Observance of Children's Sabbath Celebration this year is called "Uniting Hearts and Voices to End Child Poverty." For more than 25 years, people of faith across the religious spectrum have been uniting through the Children's Sabbath in shared concern for the problems children and families endure and shared conviction that each of our great religious traditions calls us to acts of love and justice -- especially for those who are young,

impooverished, vulnerable, marginalized, and excluded. They also share the commitment to responding with action (on the Children's Sabbath weekend and throughout the year) to reach out and speak up for justice to improve the lives of children.

This important worship service cannot take place without the involvement of our children and youth, who will lead us that morning. If your child or youth would be willing to help out in this important way, please contact Peg at mumckidstuff@gmail.com or 262-242-4770 ASAP. Readers are asked to arrive at 8 am on November 3 to practice before the Youth and Children's Choir rehearsals.

It has been an especially difficult time lately for children in our world and, therefore, Marion Wright Edelman, founder of the Children's Defense Fund, has offered this prayer for those most vulnerable among us:

O God, help our children to feel love and appreciation for all Your gifts of life. Grant each of them a passion for peace and justice. Kindness for those who are weak and needy and sad and afraid. Courage to stand up for right and to struggle against wrong. Friendship and kinship with all who share the world You have created. Grant our children faith to open the door of their souls wide to life and love as You intend. Protect them against the worms of hate and the weasels of selfishness and envy. Help our children to sing their own songs and to hear and respect the songs of others in the spheres of our earth's firmament. Dear God, help us to live what we preach so that we may be worthy of our children's respect. Amen.



MUMC

Children's Christmas

Program 2019

"O Come to the Manger"
Rehearsals Start November 3,
After Church

This year's program is a simple one, designed to match the skills and interests of our young families, while still offering solos and reading challenges for those who would like them. It will feature speaking parts for young actors, non-speaking parts for those who prefer them, and Christmas songs for all to sing. Everyone is welcome! We will rehearse right after the children have their coffee hour snacks, and go until about 11:30 am each Sunday in November (except Thanksgiving weekend). On Saturday, December 7, we will have breakfast at 8:30 am, help with the Hanging of the Greens, and then do our dress rehearsal from 9:30 - 11:30 am.

Our Children's Christmas Program schedule is:

Sunday, November 3: rehearsal 10:45 - 11:30 am

Sunday, November 10: rehearsal 10:45 - 11:30 am

Sunday, November 17: rehearsal 10:45 - 11:30 am

Sunday, November 24: rehearsal 10:45 - 11:30 am

Sunday, December 1: No Rehearsal – Thanksgiving Weekend

Saturday, December 7: breakfast at 8:30 am; dress rehearsal 9:30 - 11:30 am

Sunday, December 8: CHILDRENS' CHRISTMAS PROGRAM presentation at 9:30 am during worship service

Helpers and food donations for breakfast and the dress rehearsal would be very much appreciated. Thank you!

Reflections Book Group

October Reflections

The Reflections Book Group will meet Thursday, October 10 at 7 pm in the Parlor. Our October discussion book is *The Nest*, by Cynthia D'Aprix Sweeney. Amazon.com offers this summary:

Every family has its problems. But even among the most troubled, the Plumb family stands out as spectacularly dysfunctional. Years of simmering tensions finally reach a breaking point on an unseasonably cold afternoon in New York City as Melody, Beatrice, and Jack Plumb gather to confront their charismatic and reckless older brother, Leo, freshly released from rehab. Months earlier, an inebriated Leo got behind the wheel of a car with a nineteen-year-old waitress as his passenger. The ensuing accident has endangered the Plumbs' joint trust fund, "The Nest," which they are months away from finally receiving. Meant by their deceased father to be a modest mid-life supplement, the Plumb siblings have watched The Nest's value soar along with the stock market and have been counting on the money to solve a number of self-inflicted problems. ...

This is a story about the power of family, the possibilities of friendship, the ways we depend upon one another and the ways we let one another down. In this tender, entertaining, and deftly written debut, Sweeney brings a remarkable cast of characters to life to illuminate what money does to relationships, what happens to our ambitions over the course of time, and the fraught yet unbreakable ties we share with those we love.

Reflections is a women's book group that meets monthly for discussion and fellowship. New women are always welcome. Contact [Barb Henneck](#) for more information about the group.

Looking ahead . . . our November discussion book will be *The Invention of Wings*, by Sue Monk Kidd.

Volunteers

Greeters

October 6 - Ann Miller & Volunteer Needed
October 13 - Bruce & Beth Carter
October 20 - Dave & Penny Gruettner & Mission Outreach
October 27 - Tim & Laura Bireley
November 3 - Nan Rilling & Judy Vogel

Coffee Hosts

October 6 - Scott & Sheryl Reed
October 13 - Katie Jackson & Nancy Gruner
October 20 - Doug & Jennie Bertolino & Mission Outreach
October 27 - Lisa Gorski & Kay Shroeder
November 3 - Jean Schwerdt & Ann Miller

Ushers

October 6 - Ross & Jean Paulus
October 13 - Jeff and Lynda Stephany
October 20 - Connie Pukaite & Mission Outreach
October 27 - Susan Caldwell & Ann Miller
November 3 - Sandy Christensen & Volunteer Needed

Liturgists

October 6 - Volunteer Needed
October 13 - Connie Pukaite
October 20 - Mission Outreach
October 27 - Volunteer Needed
November 3 - Volunteer Needed

Flowers

October 6 - Glen Van Fossen
October 13 - Doug & Marilyn Zwissler
October 20 - Sandy Christensen
October 27 - Volunteer Needed
November 3 - Volunteer Needed



Employment Opportunities

Youth Director

As we say "Thanks for leading our youth" to Olivia Peters, your Staff Parish Relations Committee has begun the process of recruiting new leadership for our youth. The person/s we are looking for will develop and coordinate a well-rounded, faith-centered youth ministry including spiritual formation, mission/service ministry, and social activities that affirm the United Methodist Church within the life and vision of MUMC. If you would like to learn more about the Youth Director position or would consider serving as support to our Youth Director, please contact Pam Layton or any SPRC team member.

Office Manager

We are sad to share with you that our awesome Office Manager, DeWayna Cherrington, is going to be leaving us. Her husband, Jeff, has a job that includes a fair amount of travel and she wants to be able to join him more frequently as well as do some other travel. In fact she has a couple of trips coming up in the near future. She will also be spending more time with her mother and mother-in-law, who both live out of state.

DeWayna has added her amazing talents to the Office Manager position so it will not be an easy position to fill. However, our congregation has come through in the past with some wonderful referrals so the Staff Parish Relations Committee is hopeful that you will search your list of contacts and help us find just the right person. If you know someone who can make a computer sing and dance, create bulletins, talk to the copier, and answer phones with a friendly smile, we would love to talk with them.

The Office Manager is the front line of the church and must project pleasant and professional communication skills. This person will work approximately 16 hours per week (M-Th, 9 am – 1 pm) managing the operation of the office and providing office support to the Pastor, staff, and church teams. This includes creating bulletins, maintaining orderly and accessible church files, ordering and maintaining office supplies and equipment, handling various forms of communication for the church (phone, mail, email), updating website content and facilitating other online systems including the online master calendar.

Qualifications:

Must possess a strong and growing faith that will affirm the United Methodist Church, its theology, and its practices;

Must be able to work independently and maintain a high level of confidentiality;

Must have strong organizational and communication skills;

Must have a high degree of competency with computers, the internet, and software programs, including Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, Publisher);

Must be committed to a high level of accuracy in all work; and

Must be able to greet and be the front line contact for the church, providing a friendly and competent atmosphere.

Interested candidates may send a resume or questions to [Pam Layton](#).

A Chocolate Cake Recipe Devoured by the Lunch Bunch!

Recently Pastor Sue brought a chocolate cake to the Lunch Bunch to rave reviews! Those attending loved it and wanted the recipe, which Pastor Sue shares here:

From the *Joy of Baking*.

Simple Chocolate Cake:

2 cups (400 grams) granulated white sugar

1 3/4 cups (245 grams) all-purpose flour

3/4 cup (75 grams) unsweetened cocoa powder
(natural or Dutch-processed)

1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder

1 1/2 teaspoons baking soda

1/2 teaspoon salt

2 large eggs

1 cup (240 ml) warm water or coffee

1 cup (240 ml) milk

1/2 cup (120 ml) corn, vegetable, safflower, or canola oil

1 1/2 teaspoons pure vanilla extract



Chocolate Frosting:

6 ounces (180 grams) semi-sweet or bittersweet chocolate, coarsely chopped

1 cup (226 grams) unsalted butter, at room temperature
2 cups (230 grams) confectioners sugar, sifted
1 1/2 teaspoons pure vanilla extract

For the Cake: Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (180 degrees C) and place oven rack in the center of the oven. Butter, or spray with a nonstick vegetable spray, two - 9 inch (23 cm) cake pans. Then line the bottoms of the pans with parchment paper.

In a large bowl whisk together the sugar, flour, cocoa powder, baking powder, baking soda, and salt. In another large bowl, whisk together the eggs, water (or coffee), milk, oil, and vanilla extract. Add the wet ingredients to the dry ingredients and stir, or whisk, until combined. (The batter will be quite thin.)

Evenly divide the batter between the two pans and bake for about 27 - 32 minutes or until a toothpick inserted into the center of the cake just comes out clean. Remove from the oven and let cool on a wire rack for 10 minutes. Then remove the cakes from their pans and cool completely on a greased wire rack before frosting.

For the Frosting: Melt the chocolate in a heatproof bowl placed over a saucepan of simmering water. Remove from heat and let cool to room temperature.

In the bowl of your electric mixer, or with a hand mixer, beat the butter until smooth and creamy (about 1 minute). Add the sugar and beat until it is light and fluffy (about 2 minutes). Beat in the vanilla extract. Add the chocolate and beat on low speed until incorporated. Increase the speed to medium-high and beat until frosting is smooth and glossy (about 2 -3 minutes).
Serves about 12.

Apportionment News

October – For All The Saints

The Tradition of “Giving to God”

Some people object to the phrase “giving back to God.” They claim that God has nothing to do with it — our giving is to churches or programs or projects or organizations, but not to God. But the concept of “giving to God” is as old as our Judeo-Christian roots. Central to the Jewish and Christian faiths is the concept that all things come to us from God; God has entrusted creation into our stewardship; and we are not owners, but merely managers of God’s abundance. From this center, all giving is an act of gratitude. Our giving is a token indication of how we feel about God, how we feel about God’s creation, and our desire to honor and glorify God.

Theologically, giving is not a choice we make but an aspect of who we are. We don’t give or not give; we are either generous or stingy, sacrificial or selfish — we are faithful in our stewardship or not. Also, giving historically is a corporate act and not simply an individual decision. Giving is for the good of all and for the benefit of all. We are now and have always been a giving people.

A Mighty Cloud of Witnesses

A few annual conferences balk at paying their apportionments, feeling they could do a better job if they could keep all the money themselves. A significant number of local churches complain that apportionment giving is unfair or onerous. Some individuals, usually who do not understand apportionments or what they do, claim that the church should not be “forced” to pay apportionments. However, the vast majority of the people calling themselves United Methodists are excited by their giving and proud of all that is done in the name of Jesus Christ through apportionments.

Over 100 years of research shows that when people understand apportionment giving they are fully committed to making sure apportionments get paid in full. We do not lack resources; we lack understanding. In 1946, 44% of a local church’s total budget went to missions and mission work. By 2006, this amount fell to 4%, and that includes full payment of apportionments. For churches not paying apportionments, less than 2% of the annual budget goes to missions. The most significant change in this 60-year period is that churches provided fewer and fewer social services, and the government provided more and more. This is the reason some people confuse apportionments with a “church tax” — they forget (or are

ignorant of) our history. Education, healthcare, senior care, child care, prison rehabilitation, and feeding and clothing ministries were central to the Christian outreach of most churches. In the church, giving was promoted and explained as a communal act. The congregation pulled together to raise the funds needed to do ministry. It was assumed that those who had more would give more — time and effort as well as money. Giving was something we did together.

Today, giving is generally viewed as a personal and private thing — what we give is between us and God and it is nobody else's business. This very much changes the dynamic of giving as a spiritual act of the community of faith to an optional act of the individual. We are surrounded by a mighty cloud of witnesses — faithful men and women throughout the centuries who have given generously to honor God and to do the work of the body of Christ in the world. No one is expected to do it alone, but everyone is expected to do something. Apportionments make it possible for everyone to make a significant contribution to the transformation of the world— for less than \$2 a week.

Investing in Our Future

Tens of thousands of women, children, and families living in the greater Milwaukee area are served by the United Methodist Children's Services of Milwaukee. Offering child care, transitional living, and family resources to help people help themselves, UM Children's Services is a center of hope, help, and possibility. Thousands of children receive nurture and support that they otherwise would lack, laying a foundational love of learning, community, and mutual respect.

UM Children's Services does more than care for physical needs — it strives to honor and protect the dignity of all people, working with them instead of merely doing good things for them. Through our apportionment giving, United Methodists across the Wisconsin Conference participate in these critically important ministries. Our faithful giving means that lives are changed, and the world is transformed. Through this work, we invest in the future — supporting children and their families in the name of Jesus Christ.

II Corinthians 8:8 - 15

I do not say this as a command, but I am testing the genuineness of your love against the earnestness of others. For you know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich.

And in this matter I am giving my advice: it is appropriate for you who began last year not only to do something but even to desire to do something—now finish doing it, so that your eagerness may be matched by completing it according to your means. For if the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has—not according to what one does not have.

I do not mean that there should be relief for others and pressure on you, but it is a question of a fair balance between your present abundance and their need, so that their abundance may be for your need, in order that there may be a fair balance. As it is written, "The one who had much did not have too much, and the one who had little did not have too little."

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

1. What are some of the reasons people give generously, joyfully, and sacrificially?
2. What are some of the reasons people offer to explain why they don't give, can't give, or don't want to give?
3. What might change in our churches if instead of asking "can we or can't we?" (for example, pay apportionments...) we made our standard approach "how can we?"



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.

Disclaimer: Editor reserves the right to edit content.

SPIRE Editor: [Marilyn Meyer](#)

Calendar: [DeWayna Cherrington](#)

Mailing Assistants: Shirley Campbell, Susan Caldwell, Sandy Christensen, Chris Debbink, Barb Henneck, Ann Miller

Pastor [Sue Lee](#)

Office Manager [Dewayna Cherrington](#)

Finance Manager [Karen Huffman](#)

Ministers of Music [Rick & Michelle Hynson](#)

Organist [Elna Hickson](#)

Youth & Children's Choirs Director [Ellen Shuler](#)

Director of Children's Ministries [Peg Randall Gardner](#)

Youth Director TBD

Sonlight CDC Director [Sue Lyon](#)

Webmaster [Marcia Schwager](#)

MUMC Office 262-242-4770

MUMC Office Email:

office@mequonumc.org

Office Hours: Mon-Thurs 9am-1pm

/ Closed Fridays

Sunday Schedule

9:30am Worship Service

10:30am Fellowship