

# SPIRE Newsletter



November 2019

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## CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

Nov. - Gratitude journaling all month

Nov. 1 - Repairers of the Breach winter clothing collection begins

Nov. 2 - Marsh Meadow cleanup

Nov. 3 - Silver Members meeting

Nov. 4 - Family Sharing food collection ends

Nov. 14 - Reflections book group meets

Nov. 24 - Christmas Giving Tree begins

Nov. 28 - Mealsite

Dec. 1 - Repairers of the Breach winter clothing collection ends

Dec. 7 - Hanging of the Greens

Dec. 7 - Dress Rehearsal for Children's Christmas Program

Dec. 8 - Children's Christmas Program

Dec. 15 - Christmas Giving Tree ends

Dec. 22 - Christmas Cantata

Jan. 25 - Mission Outreach Dinner and Auction

## WORSHIP SERMON

Nov. 3 - Children's Sabbath

Nov. 10 - Glen Van Fossen

Nov. 17 - Marcia Schwager

Nov. 24 - Pastor Sue

Dec. 1 - Pastor Sue

## **Give thanks**

*to the Lord, for  
He is good; His love  
endures forever.*

*Psalm 107:1*



## **Meet MUMC's New Directors of Youth Ministry**

The MUMC Staff Parish Relations Committee is very pleased to announce that Jenna Burns and Patrick Curran have been hired as our Directors of Youth Ministry. They will be job sharing the part-time position.

Jenna and Patrick have grown up in our church and have been active participants in the Youth Program since they were in high school. Jenna has been on eleven mission trips all over the country starting in 2009, with trips to Lame Deer, Montana and Elizabeth City, North Carolina as the most memorable. Patrick has participated in nine mission trips with trips to Belle, West Virginia and Red Cliff, Minnesota as his favorites.

Jenna graduated from Michigan Technological University with a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering and subsequently received her MBA degree. She now works in New Berlin as a controls engineer. Patrick graduated from the University of Wisconsin – Stout with a degree in

## WORSHIP MUSIC

Nov. 3 – All church Youth

Nov. 10 – Sanctuary Choir

Nov. 17 – Men's Choir

Nov. 24 – Sanctuary Choir

Professional Communication and Emerging Media with an applied journalism concentration. He is currently living at home while working his freelance landscaping business and searching for a job.

The best way to communicate with Jenna and Patrick is via email or text. Jenna may be contacted at 262-501-7020. Patrick may be contacted at 262-212-8562. Email address to follow.

## From the Pastor

Thanksgiving Day is in a month! Even though we have Thanksgiving Day once a year, our Father in heaven loves to see us make every day into a little Thanksgiving Day: "Give thanks in all circumstances for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus" (1 Thessalonians 5:18). Yet, you may say, "How can I give thanks when I am buried with medical bills, when I have a relationship problem with my spouse or child, or when my loved one has an incurable disease? How can God expect me to give thanks in all circumstances? How can I do that? I can't!" You're right! You can't do that...alone.

Friends, giving thanks in all circumstances takes a church – brothers and sisters in Christ who have committed to follow Jesus Christ no matter what. When you can't give thanks to the Lord by yourself, your church family can do that *for* you until you can do it by yourself again. That is what our baptismal vow is all about. There is no such thing as an isolated Christian. A Christian who tries to live apart from her/his church is like a log that's been removed from the fire. Separated from the other wood, it doesn't have much of a chance to continue burning – not for long, anyway. Eventually the glow and warmth of its flame will fade. But for the logs that remain in the fire, each helps the other to burn brighter and hotter. This is true for a pastor as well since she/he has a hard time giving thanks in all circumstances from time to time.

During my walk to follow Jesus in 2019, many faithful MUMC leaders, members, and friends were there and gave thanks to the Lord for me when I had a hard time giving thanks to the Lord by myself. And they reminded me of what faithfully following the Lord was all about with their unwavering faithfulness, sacrificial giving, and heartfelt good works for Christ. So thank you for your helping me to continue to "burn" my love for Christ when I needed a gentle but strong push from my fellow followers of Christ Jesus. May our walk with the Lord be brighter and hotter as we faithfully follow Him!

Happy Thanksgiving in Christ always!

Sue

## Reflections Book Group

The Reflections book group will meet Thursday, November 14, at 7pm in the MUMC Parlor. Our discussion book this month is *The Invention of Wings*, by Sue Monk Kidd. Here is a brief summary from Amazon:

*Writing at the height of her narrative and imaginative gifts, Sue Monk Kidd presents a masterpiece of hope, daring, the quest for freedom, and the desire to have a voice in the world.*

*Hetty "Handful" Grimke, an urban slave in early nineteenth century Charleston, yearns for life*

*beyond the suffocating walls that enclose her within the wealthy Grimke household. The Grimke's daughter, Sarah, has known from an early age she is meant to do something large in the world, but she is hemmed in by the limits imposed on women.*

*Kidd's sweeping novel is set in motion on Sarah's eleventh birthday, when she is given ownership of ten year old Handful, who is to be her handmaid. We follow their remarkable journeys over the next thirty five years, as both strive for a life of their own, dramatically shaping each other's destinies and forming a complex relationship marked by guilt, defiance, estrangement and the uneasy ways of 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 or our November meeting.

Looking ahead . . . our Christmas party will be on Thursday, December 12. Save the date!

## Announcements

**Gratitude Journals**, passed out at the beginning of church on Sunday, October 28 and Sunday, November 3, will give each of us an opportunity to write down things for which we are grateful.

Please share some of your gratitude journaling and prayers with Pastor Sue by email or regular mail before November 20 so that she may share them with the congregation on Sunday, November 24, which is the Sunday before Thanksgiving.

**Marsh Meadow Work Day** is Saturday, November 2, from 9 am to 12 noon. There's buckthorn waiting to be removed in the Marsh Meadow. Come join us. Bring leather gloves and loppers. Call Linda Mordy at 242-8091 for more information.

**Thank you** to everyone for your prayers, thoughtful cards, and expressions of sympathy following the death of Barb's mom, Joanne. We are grateful to the congregation for your faithful prayers throughout Joanne's long and challenging illness.

Barb and Lou Henneck

**Thanksgiving Food Collection** for Family Sharing of Ozaukee County ends soon. Bring your filled grocery bag to the church before November 5.

### **Music Notes From Michelle**

**Hynson** – Rick, Ellen, Elna, and I are SO thankful for all of you who enhance our worship service with your music! Thank you!!!

We are in the beginning stages of rehearsals for the Christmas Cantata which

**A Yee-Haw Thank You** - Our fall program with our young ones was a huge success thanks to those who helped out and the amazing children who attended. They learned that GOD GIVES GOOD GIFTS (Yee-Haw!) – like baby Jesus and forgiveness. We talked about Family Promise, and how it helps women and children. Then the children, including our youngest two-year olds, worked together to make soup kits, which we will be selling on the Children's Sabbath to help Family Promise.

Our program would not have happened without Gayle Meyer, who set up everything, including the Soup Project. She was ably assisted by Skylar Chrobak, Nan Rilling and Linda Mordy. Thanks to all who made Yee-Haw possible!

### **The Mission Outreach Committee**

wishes to express its gratitude for the success of BREAD SUNDAY. On Sunday, October 20 members of our congregation baked and purchased homemade breads. Thanks to your time and talents, \$320 was collected and donated to Family Sharing of Ozaukee County! Your generosity will support the needs of residents in Ozaukee County. Thank You!

**MUMC Silver Members** – In the spirit of being a caring church, some thought is being given to creating a Silver Friendship Circle for our "silver" members. We had our first meeting, a brainstorming session, on October 13 and will have our second meeting on Sunday, November 3, at 11 am in the youth room. We hope that you will attend the meeting to offer your wisdom and ideas for this plan.

will be on Sunday, December 22. If you would like to be a part of that, you should start coming to rehearsals! All are welcome!

Join our Youth Choir/Joyful Noise! We continue to invite all youth singers to come every Sunday morning to sing! We sing during the worship service every first Sunday of the month.

**Please note early deadlines** for the next two issues of the Spire. The deadline for the December 2019 Spire will be November 23 and the deadline for the January 2020 Spire will be December 23.

**Glen Van Fossen** has a Tunturi treadmill that he will give away for free. It has an adjustable incline. Call him for more information.

If you plan to attend, please email [Pastor Sue](#)

– From Silver Friendship Circle

**Making God's Love Real** – the MUMC Mission Outreach Committee invites you to Save The Date and join the festivities to celebrate the 35th Mission Outreach Dinner & Auction on the evening of Saturday, January 25, 2020, at Ozaukee Country Club in Mequon.

Watch for upcoming details, information and a formal invitation.

## Mission Outreach Committee Report

### Sharing the Gift of Christmas with Those in Need!

#### Christmas Giving Tree An Opportunity from the Mission Outreach Committee to Support Pathfinders of Milwaukee

This year, we at MUMC, will be supporting the mission work of Pathfinders of Milwaukee. Please visit their web page at [pathfindersmke.org](http://pathfindersmke.org) to more fully understand the vast array of services they provide for youth and young adults.

On Sunday, November 24, the Giving Tree will go up in the Narthex decorated with “gift tags” for specific items representing 50 individuals.

Instructions:

- Choose one or more tags from the Giving Tree. Each tag will include an item or items requested.
- Each tag has an intended purchase value of approximately \$40.
- Find the corresponding tag number on the sheet provided, and write your name and phone number.
- Do not gift wrap any items.
- Use one plastic bag per tag, per item(s). Firmly secure the tag to the plastic bag.
- Return gift item(s) to MUMC by Sunday, December 15.
- Mark the sheet confirming the return delivery of your item(s), making our accounting easier.
- Smile and know you just made someone's Christmas a little bit brighter!

Additionally, Gift Cards and monetary donations will be gladly accepted. Please make checks payable to MUMC with “Giving Tree” in the notation. Look for the envelopes provided on the table.

Questions? Contact [Karen Stern](#), phone 262-227-7811, or [Susan Yorio](#), phone 262-853-3933.

Thank You and Merry Christmas!!

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**Winter Clothing Collection**  
**An Opportunity from the Mission Outreach**

## Committee to Support Repairers of the Breach

Remember to check your closets for good used hats, gloves, sweaters, and coats and bring them to church to donate to our Winter Clothing Collection for Repairers of the Breach. Repairers also needs new underwear for adults. The collection bins are in the church entrance and in the narthex. As they fill up, Mission Outreach will deliver the clothing throughout November. The Winter Clothing Collection ends December 1, 2019.



This organization provides daytime shelter, warm meals, medical care, art therapy, and job and services counseling for homeless men and women in Milwaukee. It is the only place where homeless people can go during the day.

Needed items are: hats and gloves for all ages; sweaters and fleece clothing; snowsuits for children; winter coats for all ages; new socks and slippers; and new underwear in large adult sizes.

Thank you for helping people stay warm this winter!

Contact Marilyn Zwissler for more information.

## Lunch Bunch Study Continues

*Christianity and World Religions by Adam Hamilton*

The Lunch Bunch Study, *Christianity and World Religions*, started on October 29 and continues through December 3, 2019. "In these informative video presentations, Adam Hamilton deals openly and honestly with questions people ask about other religions, including why we should believe the claims of Christianity over those of other faiths. As part of the presentations, he interviews a religious leader from each tradition. He treats the world religions with great respect, recognizing the unique contributions of each. He closes by distilling the essential beliefs of Christianity, in light of the other religious beliefs that have been presented." (*Christianity and World Religions*)

Nov. 5: Hinduism  
Nov. 12: Buddhism  
Nov. 19: Islam  
Nov. 26: Judaism  
Dec. 3: Christianity

Participants need to purchase the book (\$15) "*Christianity and World Religions: Wrestling with Questions People Ask*" by Adam Hamilton.

## Children's Ministries



### CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

#### "A LITTLE LOOK AT CHRISTMAS"

We are excited to begin rehearsals for our Christmas program this year – "A Little Look at Christmas." Our little ones will be singing and sharing the joy of the Good News

on **Sunday, December 8, at 9:30 am in worship.** Rehearsals take place after church each

Sunday in November, with the exception of Thanksgiving weekend (when many families are out of town). The rehearsals will last about an hour.

Sunday morning choir practice from 9 - 9:30 am will be on hiatus (no rehearsals) until January.

The Dress Rehearsal for our program will take place on Saturday, December 7, starting at 9:30 am and ending at 11:30 am. Families are invited to help with the Hanging of the Greens – decorating the church for Christmas – which starts at 9 am that morning. Snacks will be available.

Helpers would be welcome at all rehearsals and especially the Dress Rehearsal. Please see Peg if you can help!

**SERRV & EARN**  
DO A WORLD OF GOOD



## **SERRV SALE** **Sundays in December**

Our church's traditions include a simple sale of crafts from around the world, held in the parlor after Sunday worship services in December. It is a gathering space of Christmas warmth for the families of MUMC, but it also supports artisans all around the world. This year's sale will have a different twist, with the opportunity for MUMC families to order directly from the SERRV catalog as well as from the merchandise tables. This expands shopping options and convenience.

Helpers are needed! We will be setting up following the Children's Dress Rehearsal on Saturday, December 7. If someone would lead this portion of it, set up could begin as early as 10 am. Otherwise full set up will start about noon. Each of the weeks will require packing up the merchandise after Fellowship time, so helpers would be appreciated then (set up will be before church – at about 9 am).

Any help is appreciated – from a few minutes to an hour or two. Please see Peg if you can help.

## **Youth Ministry Happenings**

Here is what is happening with your friendly neighborhood youth group!

This is what we did in October:

Oct. 2 - Kopps and Khrist youth group dinner excursion

Oct. 12 - Community UMC in Cedarburg, MUMC, and Grand Avenue MC in Port Washington dignity kit assembly for Tucson, AZ

Oct. 13 - Sunday School & lunch @ Cafe Hollander afterwards

Oct. 31 - Mealsite @ 4:30 pm

This is our schedule for November:

Nov. 2 - Marsh Meadow Cleanup

Nov. 3 - Sunday School & lunch @ Chancery afterwards

Nov. 8 - Kopps and Khrist youth group dinner excursion

Nov. 24 - Sunday School & lunch @ Prime Minister afterwards

Nov. 28 - Mealsite @ 4:30 pm

We are looking for more youth to join the group. Tell your friends! The more the merrier.

## Volunteers

### Greeters

Nov. 3 - Nan Rilling & Judy Vogel  
Nov. 10 - Sandy Christensen & Marilyn Thiet  
Nov. 17 - Jack Spooner & Harry Wallace  
Nov. 24 - Fran & Susan Yorio  
Dec. 1 - Joel & Karen Huffman

### Coffee Hosts

Nov. 3 - Jean Schwerdt & Ann Miller  
Nov. 10 - Ned & Mary Sisney  
Nov. 17 - Doug & Shelley Burns  
Nov. 24 - John & Nancy Kirtley  
Dec. 1 - Ireene Sullivan & Cindy Gallun

### Ushers

Nov. 3 - Sandy Christensen & Ruth Janusiewicz  
Nov. 10 - **Volunteers Needed**  
Nov. 17 - Kay Schroeder & **Volunteer Needed**  
Nov. 24 - Ann Miller & **Volunteer Needed**  
Dec. 1 - Connie Pukaite & **Volunteer Needed**

### Liturgists

Nov. 3 - **Volunteer Needed**  
Nov. 10 - Connie Pukaite  
Nov. 17 - **Volunteer Needed**  
Nov. 24 - Marcia Schwager  
Dec. 1 - **Volunteer Needed**

### Flowers

Nov. 3 - **Volunteer Needed**  
Nov. 10 - **Volunteer Needed**  
Nov. 17 - Doug & Marilyn Zwissler  
Nov. 24 - Malcolm & Nancy Creighton  
Dec. 1 - Ann Miller



## Community Garden Wrap Up

Jim Layton reports that our community garden really took shape this past summer. We had ten active plots that produced more than 100 pounds of produce. Our crops went to our local food pantries, church members, and neighbors.

The real story for 2019 was our growth over last year. The garden showed its value as a community outreach to neighbors and the community. It started at our outreach fund raiser last February when we raised \$1,200 for our outreach program by offering a garden and gardener. And we thank Connie Pukaite and Doug and Shelley Burns for participating in this gardening experiment. We also want to recognize Ed Mordy for helping us establish Ed's Berry Patch with gooseberries and raspberries. Our outreach continued when neighbors, like Bob and Lori Dominiczak, joined our community garden. Many of our gardens benefited with the planting of extra plants the Dominiczaks shared.

But all good stories have a villain and ours was the load of soil we purchased from a local company. For some reason, the garden blend was not right with very little phosphorus and a high pH which resulted in poor plant growth. By the time we had the soil tested it was a little too late for this year; our production could have been twice as much. The problem has now been corrected with UW Extension's recommendations and a nice winter mulch of organic compost. And we are praying for more garden plots and gardeners next year. Plus, this fall we will establish the Byron Jackson Memorial Garden with a stone plaque. The garden will be planted with Byron's favorite plants – hot peppers – and will be a fall service project for our Boy Scout Troop 865.

Our goal for next year is to add eight more plots and involve more of our neighbors while producing more than 500 pounds of produce.

A big thank you to everyone who helped with our MUMC Community Gardens.

# Office Manager Employment Opportunity

The Staff Parish Relations Committee is still looking for just the right person to fill the position of Office Manager. 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 operations 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:

- 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
- Strong organization and communication skills
- High degree of competence with computers, internet and software programs, including Microsoft Office software (Word, Excel, Publisher)
- Committed to a high level of accuracy in all work
- Able to greet and be the front line contact for the church, providing a friendly and competent atmosphere

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

## Updates from the Hills and Ayreses

Pastor Sue wanted to share two notes she recently received—one from the Hills and the other from the Ayreses:

October 14, 2019

Hi Pastor Sue,

Just a note to let you know that we arrived safely and are settled into our lake condo. We are officially residents of Virginia and are meeting a lot of people who have relocated here recently from Michigan, Minnesota, and Illinois.

Our boat is in the water and Joe fishes from the docks in the morning. The weather is cooling down now, was in the high 90's first ten days here. Leaves are turning—beautiful reds and oranges. We have gone to two Methodist churches—a small country one, and one about the size of MUMC with many programs/ministries. Joe enjoys his new community band. I am blessed to have my father visit us this week—he is 93 today and looks/feels great.

Thank you for all your guidance and

Dear Pastor Sue and MUMC,

I'm writing this to you with my very special pen!!! Thanks so much for recognizing my many years as Spire editor.

However, as I've often said, the success of the Spire is due fully to the many activities happening at MUMC and to the dedication of many people who lead those activities. Without a vibrant church, there would be no need for a newsletter.

We're getting settled here in Minnesota. The boxes were emptied fairly quickly but now we need to organize a bit better. Thank goodness for a storage unit to stash all the "what do we do with this" items!!!

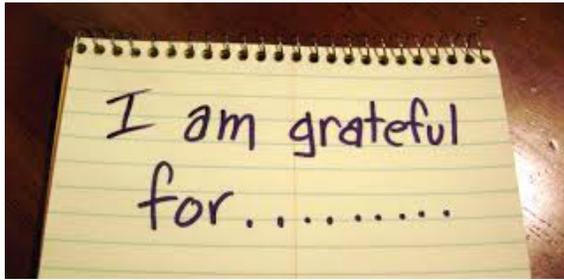
Again, thank you for my pen. And thank you for the certificate of appreciation which I will cherish as I remember all of our years at MUMC.

friendship over our time together. Take care and we will keep in touch.

Fondly,  
Ginger

Eileen and Joe

## Apportionment News



### November—Thanksgiving

#### Developing an Attitude of Gratitude

This is the season to reflect on all the ways we are blessed and give thanks to God. If we will take the time, we will be overwhelmed by all the things we have to be grateful for.

We give thanks that we have a safe place to live — thousands in Wisconsin do not. We give thanks for our daily bread and a full stomach — tens of thousands in Wisconsin cannot. We give thanks for adequate health care — services tens of thousands in our state lack. We give thanks for friends and family — thousands are separated from loved ones. We give thanks for a church home where we belong — thousands feel rejected and judged. We give thanks for transportation that can bring us all together — thousands are stranded. We give thanks for all our stuff — our toys and gadgets and luxuries that bring enjoyment to our lives. We give thanks for all the forms of entertainment we enjoy. We give thanks for the feelings of comfort, security, warmth, joy and promise in the future.

We have so much to be thankful for — and Paul reminds us in scripture that God does not call us to give it all up, but to share the wealth — to spread those blessings that bring comfort and joy. Our apportionment giving is a very simple and easy method of sharing good things — not just at Thanksgiving, but throughout the entire year.

It is right and good that we give thanks — indeed, we have been blessed. And one of the greatest blessings we have received is the opportunity to be a blessing to others. Thanks be to God.

#### Hands and Heart, Mind and Spirit

Volunteers in Mission (and International Volunteers in Mission) send thousands of men, women, and young people around the globe to offer hands-on ministry and support. The Wisconsin Conference hosts multiple trips across the United States and around the world to connect the gifts and skills of United Methodists with human needs of housing, healing, and wholeness. Lives are changed — not only those who are served but those who serve as well.

There is no greater learning experience than leaving the comforts and security of our daily lives to enter into the needs and challenges of other people in other places. Volunteers in Mission provide opportunities not just to do mission projects, but to build relationships and put faith into action. This truly is discipleship that leads to transformation. No one serves as a Volunteer in Mission and remains unchanged.

Apportionments fund the structures and overhead costs that make Volunteers in Mission possible, as well as providing crucial funding within each annual conference to support national and international trips. Through our giving, we are able to minister “to the ends of the earth.”

**II Corinthians 9:6-12**

The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. As it is written, He scatters abroad, He gives to the poor. His righteousness endures for ever.”

He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God.

#### **Questions for Reflection and Study**

1. What are the things you are most thankful for in your life? What have you done for others that might make them thankful?
2. How aware are the people in our congregation of things we have to be thankful for that others in our world lack?
3. What might change in our thinking and in our world if part of our vision of “making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world” was to “give every woman, man, and child something to be thankful for”?



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

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