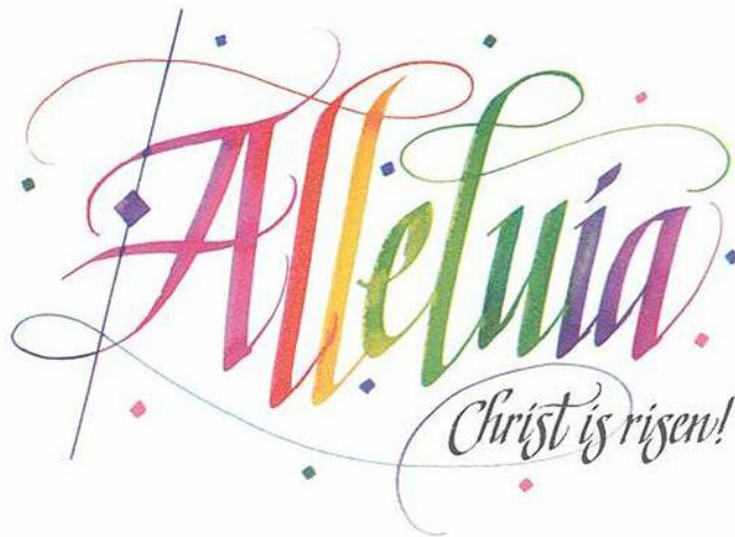


April 2020

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[View MUMC Online Calendar](#)

#### CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

Apr. 14: Zoom Bible study begins

Apr. 19 – 26: Family Promise host week

#### WORSHIP SERMON SPOTLIGHT

Mar. 29: Hebrews 13:2

Apr. 19: Romans 15:13

Apr. 26: Psalm 63

#### VIRTUAL WORSHIP SCHEDULE for Lent/Easter via Facebook, YouTube, or the MUMC website:

Apr. 5: Palm Sunday, 9:30 am

Apr. 9: Maundy Thursday, 7 pm

Apr. 10: Good Friday, 7 pm

Apr. 12: Easter, 9:30 am

## Mission News from Gordon Graner in the Dominican Republic

February 2020

Dear Friends,

Ardell and I have returned to the Dominican Republic after five months of visiting our covenant churches in the USA. Visiting covenant churches has always been an important part of our missionary life and we are grateful for all the hospitality and joy of Christian fellowship. We hope that we were able to communicate our shared mission and express to you the passion that we feel. You have sponsored our missionary life over the past 30 years. What a gift you have given us!

after being so long in the tropical heat and humidity. I got in on the comforting cold of the fall and first stage of winter that makes me feel sentimental. Later I also got a taste of driving on ice and through a snowstorm with a white-knuckle grip on the steering wheel. And finally I had some outings where I felt the sting of bitter cold while not properly dressed for the occasion. That was a painful reminder that winter can be serious, fiercely cold. But before the winter really set in we came south to the warmer climate of the DR with temperatures in the 80's on January 2, 2020.

I have made the decision to officially retire from the General Board of Global Ministries, effective September 1, 2020. However, I will continue to work with Ardell in the Dominican Republic as a volunteer. My work activity will remain much the same: hosting volunteers in mission, solar oven mission, Church Development in the DR, and writing. Ardell will continue as an official missionary with GBGM in her full capacity.

I am very grateful to all of you who have supported me over the past 31 years. Your financial support, prayers, and friendship have made this journey possible and filled my life with grace. It has been an honor and a privilege to be in covenant with you as mission partners. I hope you will continue in your missionary giving and consider shifting your support to Ardell (Advance # 10836Z). I will continue to write for our newsletters and for our website, [www.granerfamily.org](http://www.granerfamily.org), so that we may remain in touch.

We were only back five days before taking to the road for a solar oven mission event near the border of Haiti in the region of a bustling market town known as Dajabón. An UVMIM team of 12 came to us. We, the Dominican team, were only four but, together with our northern brothers and sisters, we were enough. We welcomed Marj, Karen, Ruth, Rita and Paul, Clinton, Susan, Harvey, Renae, Shirley, Gene, and Jeneyene. Gene said it best one night at the dinner table, "What a privilege it is to be with such good people!" I seconded that sentiment and added, "Mil gracias (a thousand thanks)!"

We were counting on the arrival of an oven shipment to have enough to distribute at three new sites. After working at the towns of Partido, Sabaneta, and Cabrera, we took orders for about 200 ovens but only had 70 ovens available. At all three towns we had to do a drawing to see who would get the 23 ovens now and who would wait until the new shipment arrived. The drawing created an atmosphere of excitement. When the names of the winners were announced there were shrieks, applause, and laughter. One woman even claimed that in her morning devotions God had given her a word from the Bible about winning something. She literally jumped up and down and shouted for joy.

We had a number of retired teachers on the team, one by the name of Ruth. I could tell she was a smart teacher by all the questions she asked me — questions that I could not answer properly. My answers were peppered with, "I'm not sure..." or "probably..." or "it could be that..." Ruth called me to account, "You live here, how come you don't know the answers to my questions?" So I said, "OK listen, ask me a really hard question about the USA and if I can answer it then you have to stop pestering me. Agreed?" She agreed. She thought for a while and came up with this question, "In the USA how many persons per year are struck by lightning while on a hayride?" Luckily she had asked a question that was within my sphere of knowledge as I happen to be an expert on hayrides. I answered with authority, "Three!" Ruth's jaw dropped and she said, "I cannot believe you knew that!"

Thank you very much for your gift of \$2,500 for missionary support!

Gordon

## From the Pastor

What was the first word the risen Christ said to the frightened disciples? Yes! It was "peace". Jesus said, "Peace be with you!" He didn't mean any peace but the peace He had mentioned to His disciples at their last meal. On the night before He was crucified, Jesus said to His fearful and anxious disciples, "I leave with you; *my peace* I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

What is the defining characteristic of Jesus' peace? The Apostle Paul described this type of peace in Philippians 4:6 – 7. "6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with *thanksgiving*, present your requests to God. 7 And *the peace of God*, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Friends, the peace of God transcends our human understanding. Humanly speaking, in the midst of overwhelming storms, we are to be fearful and anxious, but with the presence of Christ in us, we can have His peace and dwell in it, like staying in the eye of the storms. We're living in anxious times walking on an uncharted road. But our Lord wants His followers, you and me, to claim and dwell in His peace, not because there are no storms in our lives, but, despite the storms, knowing and acknowledging His never-failing presence with us. And He blesses us to live in the reality of God, whose presence delivers us from all our fear and anxiety even though we walk through the valley of the shadow of death. This never-failing presence of God is what Easter is all about.

Believers, our Lord Jesus is risen and we are Easter people. So do not be anxious about anything, but claim His peace in your life *day by day, or moment by moment if you need to*, and dwell in it today, tomorrow, and always.

Peace of the Lord be with you!

Sue Lee

## Announcements

**MUMC Leadership and Staff** have decided to extend the church closure until April 13 due to the current situation. We will communicate with you if there is any change in this decision.

We will continue to "gather together" in Jesus' name on Sundays (9:30 am), Maundy Thursday (7 pm) and Good Friday (7 pm) online. Starting on March 29, we will add children's time, youth message, and special music (all are video versions) to our online worship.

So come join us in worship! You will be blessed by our gathering.

**Don't miss the music!** Our deepest appreciation to Rick & Michelle Hynson, Ellen Shuler, and Elna Hickson, who are continuing to uplift our hearts with music for our virtual services!

Michelle shares: It's amazing what a difference it makes to have music in worship. Did you ever imagine what a movie would sound like without the music in the background? Next time you watch one, just turn it off for a few minutes, and you will

**Pastor Sue** will start a new sermon series based on Bible verses submitted by church members to the Spire for the new feature, "My Favorite Bible Verse":

March 29: Hebrews 13:2, Wendy Porterfield  
April 19: Romans 15:13, Glen Van Fossen  
April 26: Psalm 63, Marilyn Zwissler

Once a month, starting in May, Pastor Sue will share the message based on a MUMC member's favorite Bible verse.

So please submit your verse, tell why it's your favorite and what it means to you, and Pastor Sue may share it with the congregation in her weekly sermon! Please submit to the church by letter or [church email](#).

**We thank God for Marilyn Zwissler** who has offered her expertise to make our temporary online worship possible for our MUMC Family.

**Thank you to our Connection Team** who has helped us to stay connected during this challenging time! Team members are Susan Caldwell, Nancy Gruner, Katie

understand!

We will try to add music to our online worship services as best we can while still being safe in our homes. We hope that you stay safe, and enjoy/pray with us!

**The United Methodist Church General Conference**, scheduled for May 5 – 15, 2020, has been postponed until 2021. You can continue to get updates online at [www.umnews.org](http://www.umnews.org).

**The St. Vincent de Paul meal site** dining area is closed due to the current health crisis. But to continue to meet people's needs, prepackaged meals will be distributed to those who need food, instead of serving meals at the site. Our church baking team will continue to provide cookies for the meal service.

Jackson, Emily Levine, Ann Miller, Glen Van Fossen and Pastor Sue.

**Welcome Back Carol!** MUMC's Office Manager Carol Bayne is back in the (virtual) office, working from home during this worldwide health crisis. She is able to access the office email from home, and to reply to your emails.

Carol says, "I have missed you all, and have missed being at the office. My surgery went very well, and the recovery is coming along. Thank you for your prayers — they mean the world to me! I look forward to seeing everyone again when we are on the other side of this crisis. Until then, I am happy to work with you online, by phone, or through email."

## Family Promise

Pam Layton reports that our next Family Promise Host week is April 19 — 26.

Due to COVID-19 and the Safer At Home order, **we will not be hosting overnight at MUMC**. However there are families participating in the program; currently there are two individual single women who are staying at the Family Promise Day Center. It is quite possible that two additional families will become part of the program but will be residing in motels. Our hope is that we can feed these folks during our host week. Please be thinking of some creative ways to accommodate everyone in this trying time and we will keep you posted as we know more about the participants and if there are any special dietary needs.

Thank you for all that you do for these people who are in real need of our support right now.



## Bible Study on Zoom Meetings

Pastor Sue is still offering the Bible study that was originally scheduled for March, "Five Things God Uses to Grow our Faith," through Zoom Meetings. It will begin in mid-April, 2020. The study will be offered on Tuesdays, in the morning from 11 am - noon and in the evening from 6 - 7 pm.

The six topics covered will be:

- April 14: BIG Faith
- April 21: Practical Teaching
- April 28: Providential Relationships
- May 5: Private Disciplines
- May 12: Personal Ministry
- May 19: Pivotal Circumstances



Zoom is a very user-friendly app. You will need to download the app, and then you will need a smart phone, Ipad tablet, Android tablet, or computer to participate in the Zoom Meetings Bible study. Pastor Sue will send you an invitation a few minutes before each meeting is to begin. Click on the invitation, and it will take you to the Zoom site, where you can "Join Meeting"— it's that simple!

## ***"My Favorite Bible Verse"***

### **Spire's New Monthly Feature**

**Wendy Porterfield's** favorite Bible verse is Hebrews 13:2 ESV (English Standard Version).

She shared the following story: "I received a Ladies Who Lead award from the Cedarburg Chamber of Commerce on February 18, 2020. The award was in the category Restaurant/Hospitality, a field in which I have worked for 35 years as the Innkeeper at the Washington House Inn. In my acceptance speech at a luncheon I closed with my favorite Bible verse. I am happy to share it here. It is Hebrews 13:2:

**'Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it.'**

This verse is very dear to me. It can be applied everywhere to anyone. I have tried to teach my children this by example and service."

Thank you for sharing, Wendy, and congratulations on your award!

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**Glen Van Fossen's** favorite Bible verse is Romans 15:13 ESV.

Before deciding, he shared that whatever verse he chose as his favorite, it would have to be about joy.

Roman's 15:13:

**"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope."**

Thank you for sharing, Glen. We need joy and peace and hope, especially in these times.

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**Marilyn Zwissler's** favorite Bible verse is Psalm 63 KJV (Kings James Version).

She shared the following story: "This request was a difficult one for me. I have so many favorite Bible verses. The following is one that I use in meditation; it is one of those I know well. I grew up with the King James Version and still prefer it.

Psalm 63:

**'O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is;  
2 To see thy power and thy glory, so as I have seen thee in the sanctuary.  
3 Because thy loving kindness is better than life, my lips shall praise thee.  
4 Thus will I bless thee while I live: I will lift up my hands in thy name.'**

By the way, my great-grandmother had most of the Psalms memorized and could recite them. This is one I remember hearing from her."

Thank you for sharing, Marilyn. Your great-grandmother continues to be a wonderful inspiration in your life all these years later.

**UMCOR News**

**Still Accepting Donations**

For 80 years, the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) has responded to crises and humanitarian needs worldwide, promptly and with compassion. UMCOR's work includes humanitarian and disaster relief, sustainable development, and global health.



Although UMCOR Sunday was March 22, you can still donate either on the MUMC website by clicking the DONATE link and following the prompts or by sending a check to the church. Your generosity is much appreciated!

## Mequon Cares Program

The Mequon Police Department is proud to have a program called Mequon Cares. This program is designed to assist the many Mequon residents who live alone and are not in daily contact with relatives or friends and may have an accident or become ill.

Anyone who enrolls in the Mequon Cares program is known as an "enrolled resident".

The program is designed to have the enrolled resident call the Mequon Police Department at (262) 242-3500 **every day before noon**. If the enrolled resident forgets to call, the dispatcher will attempt to reach that enrolled resident by telephone. If they get no answer, the dispatcher will send a police officer to check on the enrolled resident's well-being.

If the Mequon Police Department cannot make contact with the enrolled resident, as a last resort, they will force entry into the home in an attempt to check on the well-being of the enrolled resident. It is very important that the enrolled resident lets the Mequon Police Department know if they will be out of their residence for any length of time for any reason, including vacations and hospitalizations.

The service is free and confidential for any resident of the City of Mequon.

To enroll, call the department at (262) 242-3500 and ask to speak to a clerk to sign up for the Mequon Cares program over the phone.

## Prayer Shawl Ministry Update

Attention all knitters!

The MUMC Prayer Shawl Ministry got off to a flying start in March, with more than 20 shawl kits picked up, and 7 knitters gathering for the first meeting in the Parlor. Although the ministry will have to be administered a little differently over the next few months because of the coronavirus pandemic, it will remain active. If you are a knitter, or want to become one, please join us.

If you have completed a shawl and are ready to pick up another kit, please email [Marie Widder](mailto:Marie.Widder@mumc.org) or call/text her cell phone at 262-751-1052. Together, you and Marie can determine the most convenient way to make the exchange in this era of social distancing, either by you dropping off the shawl and picking up another kit on Marie's front porch or by Marie making the exchange on your front porch.

Inside each kit are the knitting directions and prayers. Due to the current closure of the church, the Monday evening knitting sessions have been canceled for the time being. When the building reopens, you'll be notified when the knitting sessions resume. They will occur on the second Monday of the month in the Parlor.

Questions? Please contact Marie Widder by email or at her cell phone number above.

# Reflections Book Group

As of the Spire deadline, the Reflections book group is still working on a plan for our April meeting. Like all groups that meet at the church, we are looking for ways to adhere to the new Safer at Home order, but still provide the opportunity for Christian fellowship and social engagement for our group. One alternative we are considering is pushing our reading list back by a month and continuing on into June for our final meeting of the year. Another possibility is to utilize Zoom to keep our meeting on its scheduled date. Once a decision is made, we will share our plan with the congregation through Pastor Sue's weekly emails.

In the meantime . . . our planned April discussion book is *The Only Woman in the Room*, by Marie Benedict. Amazon.com offers this description: *She possessed a stunning beauty. She also possessed a stunning mind. Could the world handle both? Her beauty almost certainly saved her from the rising Nazi party and led to marriage with an Austrian arms dealer. Underestimated in everything else, she overheard the Third Reich's plans while at her husband's side, understanding more than anyone would guess. She devised a plan to flee in disguise from their castle, and the whirlwind escape landed her in Hollywood. She became Hedy Lamarr, screen star. But she kept a secret more shocking than her heritage or her marriage: she was a scientist. And she knew a few secrets about the enemy. She had an idea that might help the country fight the Nazis...if anyone would listen to her.*

*A powerful novel based on the incredible true story of the glamour icon and scientist whose groundbreaking invention revolutionized modern communication, The Only Woman in the Room is a masterpiece.*

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 scheduled May book is *Simplicity of Cider*, by Amy E. Reichert.

## New Online Option For the Giving of Tithes and Offerings

Our ministry continues! Your faithful support of MUMC is needed more than ever.

Are you making your stewardship or capital campaign pledges electronically? If not, isn't this a fabulous time to try it? Over a dozen congregants already do so on a regular basis. It is simple, safe, and secure, and will keep our church warm and ready for your return. Simply go to our [church website](#), click on the words DONATE ONLINE NOW! and follow the prompts. Select your fund and make a one time payment or recurring donation in any amount using your credit card (earn points) or by entering your bank information (nixing credit card fees).

Note that no one in the office or at our merchant provider has access to your confidential information, but we can confirm the amount set up for receipt or received, to provide you with a little peace of mind.

New day, new normal, new you! Questions? Don't hesitate to telephone Karen Huffman, Treasurer, at 262-957-6273, or email [Laurie Rausch](#), Church Accountant.

## News From Children's Ministries

Director Gayle Meyer

Easter is a very important day and we aren't going to let the coronavirus keep us from celebrating and rejoicing in the good news of the resurrection of Jesus!

All Aboard for Vacation Bible School! We are looking for more engineers and train riders for our fun-filled VBS. Our train is scheduled for a mountain of fun June 22 - 26, from 9 am - Noon. We

Children's Ministries will be dropping off surprise packages at the doorsteps of our children. If you have anyone whom you would like to receive a package of activities, crafts, and more, please email [Gayle Meyer](mailto:Gayle.Meyer).



will learn that Jesus' power pulls us through as we ride the Rocky Railway.

For more information and to register, check our website or email [Gayle Meyer](mailto:Gayle.Meyer).

The **date may be adjusted** to keep us all safe. We will keep you posted. Choo Choo!

## Monthly Youth Group Yodel

Youth Ministries Co-directors Jenna Burns & Patrick Curran

Due to COVID-19, the youth held off on all gatherings in March in order to protect our loved ones. It was sad to not be able to spend time together but it is in the best interests of everyone. We did however begin individually painting our bird houses that will be available by online auction in April. The bird house sale proceeds will help fund the annual mission trip we have planned in July to Rochester, NY. We have been in contact with Group Mission Trips and, as of right now, the trip is still on!

The Youth Group Birdhouse Auction scheduled for Sunday, April 5 and Sunday, April 12 at the church has gone virtual! These handmade, hand-painted birdhouses will be auctioned on the MUMC Facebook page instead—just place a bid by commenting on the photo of the birdhouse you want. If you do not have access to Facebook and want to bid, please email [Patrick Curran](mailto:Patrick.Curran) or telephone him at 262-212-8562. All proceeds from the sale will support the Youth Group Mission Trip this summer.

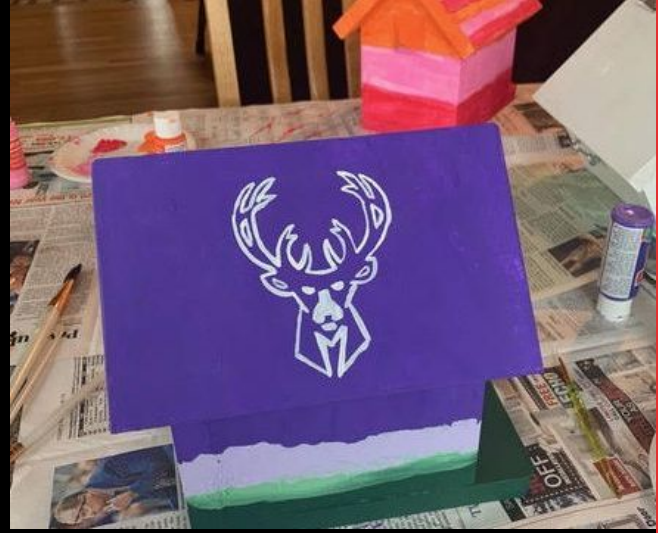
We will keep the youth updated on meetings in the future, but we are adhering to the federal and state regulations on socializing.

Below you can find a preview of some of the birdhouses (14 in total) that will be available for auction. As you can see they are all unique and creative works of art that will provide both their residents and investors a massive return on their investments. MUMC really has quite a few creative youth.

Fun Fact: There are about 10,000 different species of birds found on Earth at this point.







## Apportionment News

### April — God Is Our Salvation!

#### With All Our Heart and Soul and Mind and Strength

For many, the concept of salvation is purely a matter of what God does for us — through faith we receive eternal life. This is one vision of salvation offered in our scriptures, but it is fairly simplistic and one-dimensional. There is a danger in spiritualizing such an important concept. Salvation is not a spiritual “get out of jail free” card that we can redeem at some appropriate time in the future. The saving work of God through Jesus Christ is a holistic process that is constantly occurring. It is a transformation that involves body, mind and spirit — the whole person is “saved.” In the physical realm, salvation demands adequate food, shelter, healthcare, education, clothing, and security. For the mind, salvation includes stimulation, challenge, engagement, nurture, and development. For the spirit, salvation sets us on a path to oneness with God and unity in the body of Christ. It is an experience of “the now and the not yet” — new each day and extending forever into the future.

The work of personal salvation demands a deep level of commitment and sacrifice. It places the work and will of God ahead of each individual’s own needs and desires. The work of communal salvation is a lesson in synergy—each individual connects with the larger group offering gifts, knowledge, experience, talents, and passions in such a way that the total is greater than the sum of the parts. The work of global salvation is ongoing, immense, and never-ending. We are called to be faithful stewards together to transform the world. Gifted individuals knit together as the body of Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit to extend God’s grace to everyone on the planet.

Apportionments are a critically vital way we engage in the work of God’s salvation. Through our giving, the good news of Jesus Christ is not only proclaimed, but modeled, mentored, nurtured, and shared around the globe. We could not be in such important and impactful work were it not for the faithful, sacrificial giving of individuals, congregations, and conferences throughout The United Methodist Church. What we give is not just a nice thing; it is a matter of life and death for millions. And beyond that, it is a matter of salvation in body, mind, and spirit.

#### Africa University

One grand example of saving grace in The United Methodist Church is Africa University. In the 1980s, leaders from around the world lamented that missionary work and short-term mission projects were not making the impact needed to save lives in Africa. So many young men and women escaped hardship to attend colleges and universities elsewhere, so that many of the best and brightest hearts and minds were lost to Africa forever. The question was raised, “What if there were a university in Africa to prepare leaders for Africa?”

The obstacles to such a vision and dream seemed insurmountable, but through the financial and human resources of The United Methodist Church, the dream became a reality within a

decade. Today, Africa University educates and trains leaders in healthcare and medicine, agriculture and natural sciences, education, economics and management, leadership, theology, and governance. Lives are transformed in body, mind and spirit — transforming the world and offering salvation to a whole generation of young people. No one individual could have made this happen. No one church. No one conference. But together as The United Methodist Church, we offer a global witness to what can be accomplished when everyone does their part.

We cannot do everything, but we can do just about anything we put our hearts and minds to. It is not resources we lack, but faith and imagination. When the vision is big enough and compelling enough, the financial resources appear. The reason we struggle to pay our apportionments is not that we lack adequate funds; it is that we are ignorant of the amazing grace and wonderful work our apportionments make possible.

Prayerfully consider what it would mean in your congregation to make apportionments the top priority — that which we pay in full first, rather than waiting to see what we can afford.

### **Matthew 19:16-26**

Then someone came to him and said, “Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?” And he said to him, “Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only one who is good. If you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments.” He said to him, “Which ones?” And Jesus said, “You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; Honor your father and mother; also, You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” The young man said to him, “I have kept all these; what do I still lack?” Jesus said to him, “If you wish to be perfect, go, sell your possessions, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.” When the young man heard this word, he went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Truly I tell you, it will be hard for a rich person to enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.” When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astounded and said, “Then who can be saved?” But Jesus looked at them and said, “For mortals it is impossible, but for God all things are possible.”

### **Questions for Reflection and Discussion**

1. What does it mean to you to receive salvation?
2. To whom does God extend salvation? (Who can be saved?) What is our role and responsibility in extending God’s invitation to inherit eternal life?
3. In what ways are we God’s partners in the work of salvation? What resources are necessary to proclaim salvation to the ends of the earth?



**John Muir (April 21, 1838 – December 24, 1914)**  
**Scottish-American naturalist, author, environmental philosopher**

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**Disclaimer: Editor reserves the right to edit content.**

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Sunday Schedule

9:30am Worship Service

10:30am Fellowship

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