

# SPIRE Newsletter



August 2020

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## CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

Aug. 9 – In-person worship resumes  
Aug. 10 - 14 – Vacation Bible School

## WORSHIP SERMON SPOTLIGHT

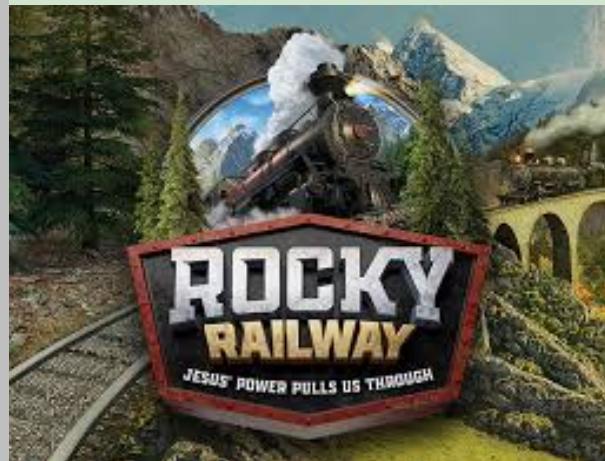
Aug. 2 – The Parable of the Weeds, Matthew 13:24-30  
Aug. 9 – The Parables of the Hidden Treasure & The Pearl, Matthew 13:44-46  
Aug. 16 – VBS Sunday  
Aug. 23 – Numbers 6:24-26 (Nan Rilling's favorite Bible verse)  
“The Lord bless and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.”  
Aug. 30 – Sermon by Glen Van Fossen

## WORSHIP MUSIC

Thank you to all the wonderful musicians who have enhanced our worship services so far this summer. We really do have THE BEST!

Aug. 2 – Kaet Sisney  
Aug. 9 – The Shuler Family  
Aug. 16 – Marcia Schwager  
Aug. 23 – The Hynsons  
Aug. 30 – The Shuler Family

## All Aboard for Vacation Bible School



Choo-choo! The Vacation Bible School (VBS) Rocky Railway is scheduled for **Monday, August 10 - Friday, August 14**. The "train" will be leaving the station at 9 am each day and returning at 12 noon. We will be following the Safe Opening Guidelines. We will also provide alternatives for those families that are concerned about gathering. Please email Gayle Meyer at [childrensmin@mequonumc.org](mailto:childrensmin@mequonumc.org) for registration information.

We are offering youth and adults the opportunity to share the joy of impacting the lives of our church children by helping out. Leading a

group not your thing? There are many other ways to get involved. Contact Gayle Meyer by phone at 414-840-2141 or per above email.

We need a few supplies for VBS: empty wide mouth plastic bottles with lids, similar to Gatorade 12 oz. size, and empty metal coffee cans. Please drop off the items in the Children's Ministry office, or call or email Gayle – she will pick them up.

It costs about \$35 per child to buy the supplies for VBS. Children's Ministries would like to offer you the chance to sponsor a child's trip. Donations of any amount can be made through the MUMC website (select "Vacation Bible School"), or by check mailed to the church office. Thank you for helping to get our train running.

## From the Pastor

We celebrated Mother's Day in May and honored fathers and all father-figures in June. As a way "to practice what we preached" in May and June, I believe that we need to do something tangible to honor our parents.

No parent is perfect. We parents know that! And parents, guess what? Our secret is out! Our children know that we are not perfect. Yet, any moms who went through the valley of the shadow of death to bring their child into this world, and any dads who dedicate and commit their life to bring goodness and security into their child's life deserve to be honored by their children. So, please join me to do one simple thing to honor our parents in the month of August.

Let's honor our parents by simply saying these three words: I love you. There are no more powerful words that can enter a parent's heart than the three little words uttered by their children. You know, when we were kids, we said those three words a lot but as we get older, we become more "sophisticated." We quit hugging our moms and dads, especially in public. We outgrow our inclination to express love to them.

There is a bumper sticker that says, "Have you hugged your kid today?" For the month of August, how about asking this question to ourselves everyday, "Have you hugged your mom/dad today?" Or "Have you said I love you to your mom/dad today?" If your answer is no, please do not let the sun go down without hugging them or telling them that you love them. Of course, we can practice this beyond August. In fact, let us make it a lifestyle to honor our parents.

Peace in Christ,  
Pastor Sue

## In-Person Worship Resumes August 9 at Mequon United Methodist Church

MUMC's Reopening Committee has been monitoring ongoing health directives and criteria for returning to worship during the COVID-19 pandemic. **In-person worship, restricted to 30 persons, will resume on August 9, 2020.**

For those desiring to participate in in-person worship resuming on August 9, 2020:

- do register in advance your intent to attend services, to keep attendance to 30 or fewer; see specifics below;

- do wear a face mask, including children aged 3 years and older;
- children are welcome in worship as there will be no nursery care or in-person Sunday School;
- do not congregate or visit together with friends in the entry, narthex, sanctuary, or parlor;
- do go directly to the sanctuary, be ushered to a seat in every other row, and sit 6 feet from others not from your own household; that means only two unrelated people to a pew;
- the order of worship will be on the screen; there will be no paper bulletins.
- do listen to hymns or hum along with them if you want to; there will be no singing because singing causes droplets from mouths to aerosolize, causing them to travel farther and stay in the air longer;
- do not move or have physical contact during Sharing of the Peace;
- there will be no communion, and no coffee and treats after services;
- offering plates will be located at sanctuary exits; they will no longer be passed during the service; and
- our worship services will be hybrid gatherings, with some members being physically in the church while others will join virtually on Facebook and YouTube.

During in-person worship services, the windows in the sanctuary will be opened, if possible, for greater ventilation, the fans and air conditioners will be kept on, and the front doors will remain open until the service is done, weather permitting.

## THINGS WORSHIPERS MUST DO TO PARTICIPATE IN IN-PERSON WORSHIP SERVICES

- plan ahead: by 5 pm on Wednesday, sign up on Signup Genius or call the office to register for the following Sunday; sanctuary seating will be limited to 30 people, including Pastor, children and worship leaders;
- complete the screening questions that will be emailed to you on Thursday and return the completed questions to the church office by no later than 12 noon on Saturday; the screening questions are: 1) Do you now have, or have you had, a fever, felt feverish, or had chills within the last 24 to 48 hours? 2) Have you been exposed to someone who tested positive with COVID-19 in the last 14 days? 3) Have you traveled in the last 14 days to an area with a high incidence of COVID-19? and 5) Have you been in a high-density environment, such as a senior living facility, a meat or manufacturing plant, bar or other entertainment venue, or a social demonstration? If you answered "yes" to any of the five questions, you should stay home and not attend an in-person church service.

## STEPS TO FOLLOW WHEN YOU GET TO CHURCH

- arrive early, by 9:15 am; seating may take longer than usual; please do not bunch up at the entrance;
- enter the church through the front door only;
- wear a face mask at all times while in the church building—this is required to enter and remain in the church;
- remain 6 feet away from people who don't live in your household, even when you are outdoors;
- use hand sanitizer upon entering, and use it often while in church;
- proceed directly to the sanctuary; enter through the center doors only, and be ushered to a seat; seating will start from front to back as people arrive; and will start from back to front as people depart, at the end of the service;
- when worship is over, people seated in pews to the left (south) side will exit

through the side aisle near the windows; people in pews on the right (north) side will exit through the center aisle, all while remaining 6 feet away from people who do not live in your household; and

- move directly outside to visit at a safe distance.

## Announcements



**Thank you MUMC Family!** Last week, Pastor Sue invited our members to pray for Mark Spooner for 10 minutes a day for 21 days. Within days, all prayer time slots were filled. We began praying for Mark on Monday, July 13, and we will continue to pray for him each Monday through Saturday until August 5. The next step for a cure for Mark's Acute Myeloid Leukemia is a bone marrow

transplant. This includes multiple steps: 1) find a perfect donor; 2) his/her willingness to donate; 3) successful surgery; and 4) Mark's body's adapting to the transplant. Whether you have signed up for a time slot or not, please include him in your prayers!

**Please join us** weekly through August 25 (on Zoom) for our Tuesday Upper Room Devotion Gathering, from 11 am to noon. At each gathering, we read one of the Upper Room Devotions, share reflections, and encourage one another to continue to grow in Christ. If you are interested in joining the gathering, please let Pastor Sue know so she may send you a Zoom invitation.

**Hunger Task Force needs our help!** With COVID-19 putting a strain on the food supply, Hunger Task Force is working overtime to get sustenance to those in need. They are providing stock boxes to seniors, children, and families. They are also buying the food for the boxes and supporting Wisconsin dairy farmers by purchasing local milk. MUMC Mission Outreach has donated \$500 to help them buy food. If you would like to help, their email is [www.hungertaskforce.org](http://www.hungertaskforce.org).

**With summer half over** it is time to start planning for Sunday School. We will be keeping an eye on COVID-19, but we are planning on Sunday School in one form or another. We are looking to add to our Sunday School teacher pool. It is a wonderful way to brighten your life by impacting the lives of our littlest ones. The lessons are planned and easy to follow. It is only about one Sunday a month and is a guaranteed good time! If you are interested please let Gayle Meyer know by phone at 414-840-2141 or by email at [childrensmin@mequonumc.org](mailto:childrensmin@mequonumc.org).

**Our ministry continues!** MUMC needs you more than ever! Please consider making your donation online. It's simple, safe and secure, and will maintain our church and keep it ready for your return. Simply go to our church website, [www.mequonumc.org](http://www.mequonumc.org), click on the words "DONATE ONLINE NOW!", and follow the prompts. Questions? Contact Karen Huffman, Treasurer, at 262-957-6273, or our Accountant Laurie Rausch at [finance@mequonumc.org](mailto:finance@mequonumc.org).

**Jim Layton**, our Community Gardens Coordinator, reports that MUMC's neighbor Susan Nakas took home some

community garden produce recently. Susan said her 91 year old mother loves the beets, especially the leaves. Our community gardens are producing extremely well this year. Thus far we have distributed more than 130 pounds of produce. This month we will have green beans, cucumbers, and tomatoes. If you cannot make it to the gardens at noon on Sunday, just let Jim know and he will set aside some produce for you in the church refrigerator.



## Family Promise News

Thank you to those who donated supplies and financial assistance during our July host week. Family Promise continues to assist families in housing crises in a variety of ways. Just since March 13 Family Promise has provided emergency shelter to 48 individuals (16 males and 32 females). By comparison during the same time period in 2019, 19 individuals (8 males and 11 females) were part of the emergency shelter program. These numbers certainly reflect the impact that COVID-19 has had on the homeless population in Ozaukee County. You have done so much including food and supply drives, the meal program, and providing support to staff and shelter guests. Thank you!

In addition, some of you may have heard about the \$25 million that Governor Evers set aside for rent assistance to help households who have been affected by COVID-19. Family Promise has contracted with the Social Development Commission to administer the program in Ozaukee and Washington Counties. This has been a big help to families in crisis.

Despite uncertainty about where kids will be going to school this fall, Family Promise is part of a large Back to School Fair for kids in need to access school supplies. The fair is scheduled for Thursday, August 20 at Parkside Community United Church of Christ in Saukville and for Friday, August 21 at Lumen Christi Catholic Church in Mequon. Registration just opened and already over 100 kids have been signed up. The need is great.

In addition to donations of supplies, the coalition of service agencies is seeking volunteers to work at the fair on August 20 and 21 or to help sort donated supplies on August 17 and 18. If you would like to volunteer to work, please let Pam Layton know and she will forward to you sign-up information once it is finalized. If you want to donate supplies, see flyer **below** for drop-off locations, or contact Pam Layton.

# OZAUKEE COUNTY BACK TO SCHOOL FAIR SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

Helping Students in Need During the Pandemic

We are collecting  
school supplies  
July 20 - August 14

## NEEDED:

Binders  
Colored Pencils  
Crayons  
Folders  
Kleenex  
Markers  
Pencils  
Pens  
Pencil box/bag  
Rulers



**Need More Information? Call Mark (262) 689-8591**

DROP SUPPLIES OFF DURING BUSINESS HOURS AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS IN OZAUKEE COUNTY:

FAMILY PROMISES OF OZAUKEE COUNTY | KETTLE MORaine YMCA - FEITH FAMILY BRANCH

KOHLER CREDIT UNION | PORT WASHINGTON STATE BANK



## Ozaukee County Family Sharing Announces New Program

Ozaukee County Family Sharing announces "Community-Comes-Together", a new program. For many of us, the income we counted on just a few months ago has drastically changed, making it more of a struggle to pay the bills than it was at the beginning of the year. Family Sharing is here to help!

As a non-profit agency dedicated to supporting our community, we are honored to

announce our “Community-Comes-Together” program. Designed to help during this challenging time, it is a simple and confidential way to get some temporary assistance. If you are finding yourself with a lack of income, instead of going without or buying groceries on credit, let us help! As other organizations in our community are coming together to help, such as banks offering low interest rate loans or utility companies offering deferred payments, Family Sharing is here to help our neighbors in Ozaukee County.

Contact us to schedule a confidential grocery pickup at 262-377-0634, ext. 101.



I had only ordinary capacity but extraordinary persistency.

~ Maria Mitchell

### Maria Mitchell (August 1, 1818 – June 28, 1889)

Quaker, first professional female astronomer in America, educator, mathematician, professor, supported the anti-slavery movement, allowed non-white children to attend her school

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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Office Hours: Mon-Thurs 9am-1pm  
/ Closed Fridays

Sunday Schedule

9:30am Worship Service

10:30am Fellowship