

# SPIRE Newsletter

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December 2020



[View MUMC Online Calendar](#)

## CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

**Dec. 2:** women's prayer meeting via Zoom

**Dec. 3:** men's prayer meeting via Zoom

**Dec. 7:** end donations to the Giving Tree

**Dec. 17:** digital, video, or paper "Christmas Cards" due in office for Christmas Eve service

**Dec. 27:** begin donations to Repairers of the Breach

## WORSHIP SERMON

### SPOTLIGHT

**Dec. 6:** 2nd Sunday of Advent, Children's Christmas Program

## Celebrating Advent Though Apart, We Prepare Together

We invite our MUMC family to participate in any or all of these three Advent activities as a community:

- Use the Calendar of Daily Readings and Prayers for Advent and have a bible reading time daily
- Light an advent tree, wreath, or candle nightly at 7 pm, for one hour
- Create a digital, video, or paper "Christmas Card" with a brief message to wish your MUMC Family a blessed Christmas, then send it to Office Manager Carol Bayne at [office@mequonumc.org](mailto:office@mequonumc.org)

**Dec. 13: 3rd Sunday of Advent,  
Carol Sing**  
**Dec. 20: 4th Sunday of Advent,  
Christmas Cantata**  
**Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Service 5  
pm (Please note: there will be  
only one service. You may  
access it online anytime.)**  
**Dec. 27: 1st Sunday After  
Christmas; Ephesians 3:16-19, "I  
pray that you may... grasp how  
wide and long and high and deep  
is the love of Christ...  
— Marilyn Meyer's favorite Bible  
verses**

**WORSHIP MUSIC—Welcome to  
Advent and Christmas Music!**  
**Dec. 6: Children's Program**  
**Dec. 13: Carol Sing!**  
**Dec. 20: CCC (Covid Christmas  
Cantata)**  
**Dec. 24: Sanctuary Choir;  
Christmas eve service**  
**Dec. 27: Graycie and Schuyler  
Gardner**

by  
December 17. Pictures and videos,  
please—we know everyone would  
love to see each other! (Please use  
a horizontal format for the slide  
show.) During the live streaming  
worship service on Christmas Eve,  
we will share a compilation of all  
"Christmas Cards" and you'll get to  
see your MUMC family and friends!

### **Advent Book Helps Children Prepare for Jesus**

"Over the river and through the  
woods to Grandmother's house we  
go"...but not this year. So many  
kids will not be able to be with their  
dear family and friends during  
Advent this year. Children's Ministry  
would like to help you share the joy  
of the anticipation of Jesus' birth  
with those far and near. The Advent  
book countdown adds a page to the  
story of His birth each day. If you  
are interested in receiving the  
Advent book packet or have any  
questions, please call Gayle Meyer  
at 414-840-2141 or email her at  
[childrensmin@mequonumc.org](mailto:childrensmin@mequonumc.org).

## **From the Pastor**

In a few days, we will be entering the season of Advent. Can you believe that? Since March, our lives have been interrupted by COVID-19, and many feel like their lives are on hold. Yet, regardless of our feelings, time keeps passing and in a month, ready or not, we will celebrate Christmas. How did we get here? One day at a time. It is always one day at a time, isn't it?

In fact, that is exactly how Jesus instructed us to follow him. He said, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me" (Luke 9:23). I wondered why Jesus said "daily"? Why not monthly, yearly, or once and for all? My conclusion is that we need a daily reminder of who we are and whom we are following. Otherwise, we will fall off the track, so to speak, slowly but surely.

Friends, Advent is a wonderful time to "take up our cross daily and follow Jesus." So, I invite you to utilize Daily Readings and Prayers for Advent 2020 (please click on calendar **below**) to follow Jesus daily. If we follow this calendar, we will pray of thanksgiving, intercession, or growth in faith each day. By Christmas Day, we will have read the entire Gospel of John and Philippians together though we are apart!

If you want to listen to the Bible rather than reading it, please get a free Bible for

your phone, tablet, or computer at Bible.com. You will love it! Various audio versions are available. Let's meet Jesus and find his joy as we read the Gospel of John and Philippians together this Advent!

*1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. 14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us (John 1:1-3 and 14a, NIV).*


Merry Christmas everyone!  
Pastor Sue Lee

**Click anywhere on the calendar below to view PDF version.**


**MUMC Daily Readings and Prayers for Advent 2020**

As Advent begins, join our church family in reading the Gospels of John and Philippians, saying a prayer of Thanksgiving, Intercession, or Growth in Faith each day. By Christmas Day, we will all have read the entire Gospels of John and Philippians together!

*Prayer of Thanksgiving*  
*Prayer of Intercession*  
*Prayer for Growth in Faith*



Would you like to listen to the Bible in its various versions? Already installed on over 410 million unique devices all over the world, the Bible App offers a free Bible experience for smartphones, tablets, and online at Bible.com. Get a free Bible for your phone, tablet or computer!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
November 29 John 1 <i>Thanksgiving for daily readings and prayers for Advent</i>	30 John 2 Healing of the nation	December 1 John 3 <i>To experience God's presence and power real</i>	2 John 4 <i>Thanksgiving for the gifts of family and friends</i>	3 John 5 Mark Spooner: for full restoration of his health	4 John 6 <i>That those who don't know the Lord may meet the Lord</i>	5 John 7 <i>Thanksgiving for being God's child through Jesus Christ</i>
6 John 8 Unity of the nation	7 John 9 <i>Courage to "get out of the boat" to grow in faith</i>	8 John 10 <i>Thank you, Jesus, for coming to this world to save me</i>	9 John 11 Allen Caucutt: Strength and Joy in Christ	10 John 12 <i>Opportunity to serve others</i>	11 John 13 <i>Thanksgiving for the day to love, serve and forgive</i>	12 John 14 <i>Courage to ask forgiveness to mend relationships</i>
13 John 15 Malcolm Creighton: Strength and Joy in Christ	14 John 16 <i>The Lord is my Shepherd, I lack nothing [Psalm 23:1]</i>	15 John 17 <i>Faith to forgive, with God's help, to keep peace in my heart</i>	16 John 18 Melissa Mordy: Strength and Joy in Christ	17 John 19 <i>Thanksgiving for God's provision: 3 meals a day</i>	18 John 20 <i>Those I will invite to the Christmas Cantata</i>	19 John 21 Those who are dealing with health concerns
20 Philippians 1: 1-11 <i>Thanksgiving for church family who follow Jesus with me</i>	21 Phil 1: 12-26 <i>Those I will invite to Christmas Eve Worship Service</i>	22 Phil 2: 1-11 MUMC leaders and staff	23 Phil 2: 12-30 <i>Thanksgiving for MUMC volunteers; blessings upon them</i>	24 Phil 3 <i>Faith and freedom to be the person God wants me to be</i>	25 Phil 4 <i>Praise the Lord for Emmanuel</i>	

## Outreach Ministries

### Giving Tree for Pathfinders

This year, the MUMC Mission Outreach Committee will once again support the mission work of Pathfinders of Milwaukee. Please visit their website at [pathfindersmke.org](http://pathfindersmke.org) to more fully understand the vast array of services they provide for youth and young adults.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Outreach Committee will be protecting the members of our congregation. Therefore, we are asking members to provide monetary donations only. Outreach Committee members will do the shopping. A donation of any amount is welcome! We would appreciate receiving donations by **Monday, December 7** to allow the Mission Outreach Committee members time to shop and have gifts ready for Pathfinders for Christmas giving. Donations can be made online ([www.mequonumc.org](http://www.mequonumc.org), click on Donate, click on Make An Online Donation, then choose Christmas Giving Tree in the drop-down box) or by check (please make check payable to MUMC with "Giving Tree" in the notation line). You can mail your check or leave it in the locked box outside the church office.

Last year the average donation was \$40. Your generosity allowed us to provide gifts for 50 youth and young adults supported by Pathfinders of Milwaukee. This

means MUMC members provided gifts totaling approximately \$2000!! Amazing!

Questions? Contact Karen Stern, 262-227-7811, or Susan Yorio, 262-853-3933.

Smile and know you just made Christmas brighter for a Milwaukee area youth or young adult! Thank you and Merry Christmas!

## **Repairers of the Breach Clothing Collection**

**December 27, 2020 - January 10, 2021**

We are proud to support Repairers of Breach again this winter. This organization is doing so much to help homeless men and women in Milwaukee. Since we began partnering with them seven years ago, we have seen this ministry grow to include not only a daytime shelter, but also a medical clinic, a learning center, job seeking assistance, an art therapy studio, shower and laundry facilities, and a meal site.

This year we are collecting new underwear, socks, thermal underwear, gloves, winter hats and scarves for adults. Large sizes are especially needed. We are not collecting used clothing because of COVID-19. However, if your items are cleaned and packaged Repairers would be more than happy to have them. Bring your items to church and put them on the bench in the entrance. Mission Outreach will deliver donations once a week.



To learn about all the services Repairers of the Breach provides to those in the most need in our community, go to their website at <https://www.repairers.org/>

The motto of Repairers of the Breach: *Unleash generosity. Generosity gives everyone the power to make positive change in the lives of others and is a fundamental value everyone can act on.*

For more information contact Marilyn Zwissler.

## **"Trunk or Treat" was a huge success**

Thank you from the Mission Outreach Committee and Family Sharing of Ozaukee County whose Mission Statement is: "Helping serve the needs of low-income, elderly, and disabled residents of Ozaukee County."

As a congregation, MUMC members gathered and donated 65 very full bags of non-perishable Thanksgiving food items and 15 very large bags of clothing to Family Sharing of Ozaukee County! Your generosity is greatly appreciated by our Ozaukee County residents. Much gratitude!

## **Sobering Facts from Family Promise of Ozaukee County**

Since March 13, 2020, Family Promise of Ozaukee County has provided emergency shelter to 52 homeless households (100 people - 60 adults and 40 children).

During the same time period in 2019, Family Promise provided shelter to 14 homeless households (35 people - 18 adults and 17 children).

Emergency shelter is not the only service Family Promise provides. Since March

13, 2020, the ministry has been able to prevent homelessness for 691 households by accessing government resources and providing rent assistance to keep people from losing their homes.

Let us be thankful for MUMC's Family Promise ministry, and our opportunity to volunteer and support our Ozaukee County Interfaith Network serving our neighbors who are at risk or are homeless. Our next opportunity to help directly will be during Christmas week and the week after. Contact Pam Layton or Connie Pukaite if you would like to help.

## Reflections Book Group

The Reflections book group will celebrate Christmas virtually on Thursday, December 10. Our Zoom party will begin at 7 pm. No book discussion, just an opportunity to socialize and celebrate this special time of year together. Please email [Barb Henneck](mailto:Barb.Henneck) for more information about the group or to request a Zoom invitation to the December gathering.

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

## Monthly Youth Group Yodel

Calling all cookie lovers! Are you still looking to get award-winning MUMC Youth Group Christmas cookies? Or are you looking to deliver these fantastic cookies to a local friend? You're in luck!

The MUMC Youth Group will be taking orders for their Annual Cookie Sale from December 1 – 20. You can request a type of cookie (please no difficult recipes) or you can request an assortment plate, similar to what they normally sell.



They will deliver cookies, hands-free, to you or local friends! Send them an email at [mequonumcyouth@gmail.com](mailto:mequonumcyouth@gmail.com) if you would like to order some cookies for your holiday season! All orders are donation-based and will go towards the MUMC Youth Group.

## Announcements

**You are still welcome to join** Lunch Bunch's new study of The Book of Acts by John Stott on Tuesdays at 11 am via Zoom. The title of the book is *Acts: Seeing the Spirit at Work* (John Stott Bible Studies). You can purchase the book on [Christianbook.com](http://Christianbook.com) or Amazon. This is a long-running study that started November 24. If you have questions, or would like a Zoom meeting invitation, please contact Pastor Sue at [pastor@mequonumc.org](mailto:pastor@mequonumc.org).

**Invite family and friends** to our live streaming worship services in December as we pray and worship together in Christ! Please note that there will be only **one**

service on Christmas Eve, which will be live streamed and which you may access online at anytime.

**Join our MUMC children** on Sunday, December 6 during our virtual worship service as they present their Christmas Program. They will “sweetly sing o’er the plains” as they remind us of the “joy to the world” and to “let every heart prepare Him room.” You don’t want to miss it!

**Pastor Sue encourages MUMC members** to come to virtual worship at 9:30 am and “share the peace” with our MUMC family. It has been a long and lonely year; we are all missing the fellowship of worshiping together. Pastor encourages us to develop a habit of “coming” to our live streaming worship service at 9:30 each Sunday morning—for the warmth of our loving community—and invites us to use the “chat” feature and share Christ’s peace with our MUMC family.

**Michelle Hynson** reports that the music staff is putting music together in every way they know how in this time of COVID-19! Thanks to all who helped with music for MUMC’s November worship services.

**Great News from Mark Spooner!** Pastor Sue received this wonderful update from Mark: *All the signs for my renewed health are here. The doc says after a bone marrow biopsy a couple weeks ago that 99% of the bone marrow I have is my donor’s marrow and there were no signs of leukemia! The levels of white and red blood cells continue to rise, along with my platelet counts.* This is great news, indeed!

**The Outreach Committee thanks everyone** for their generosity in donating food to Meal Site for their Thanksgiving meal. Ireene Sullivan reports that MUMC’s response was overwhelming. Thank you for all of the turkey, ham, and fixings for a truly memorable Thanksgiving feast.

**2021 Stewardship Campaign** – If you have returned your 2021 pledge card, we thank you! If you have not already done so, please return your pledge of support “Commitment Card” as soon as possible. There are several ways to send in your pledge. You can:

- mail your card to the church office
- place your card in the locked box outside the church office door
- send your card via email to [finance@mequonumc.org](mailto:finance@mequonumc.org)
- access a commitment card at the church website, [www.mequonumc.org](http://www.mequonumc.org)

Thank you for your commitment to our church,  
Mike Debbink and the Finance Committee

## Legacy Fund

The following are gifts given to Mequon United Methodist Church in memory of those who have joined the Lord from January 1, 2018 – November 1, 2020:

2018—In memory of:

Jim Caldwell: Pastor’s office furniture and LED lights in the sanctuary

Ruth Groth: landscaping (front of church)

Janice Church: Green Team

Jayne Micheln: adult growth group materials

Ruth Peters: monetary gift

2019—In memory of:

Stan Janusiewicz: listening devices

Carmeta Jackson Estate: undesignated

James Morien: undesignated

Peg Randall Gardner: undesignated

2020—In memory of:

Susan Caucutt: undesignated

Nancy Creighton: undesignated

In memory of the faithful who have gone before us: The reconstructed Memorial Board in the parlor.

Thank you for the memorial gifts to MUMC! Our loved ones continue to live on with us through these gifts.

The MUMC Trustees

## **2020 Wisconsin Annual Conference Summary**

### **Conference Theme "Imagine Wisconsin Anew"**

The 2020 Wisconsin Annual Conference Session was held virtually on Saturday, October 24, 2020 from 9 am to 5:30 pm. This year's Annual Conference Session was held via ZOOM Webinar as the COVID-19 pandemic made it both unwise and unsafe to gather together in person. The Conference used the services of GNTV Media Ministry, a United Methodist-Related Media Services Company from Macon, Georgia, as the host for the ZOOM Webinar.

Pastor Sue Lee and Marilyn Meyer "attended" from MUMC.

Summary of Resolutions Passed:

- Authorizing a Virtual Annual Conference Session
- To Adopt Session Rules and Procedures, including Setting the Bar, Roll Call, Agenda, and Schedule
- On the election of Conference Treasurer and Conference Secretary
- Consent Agenda, including a) Camp Promotion, b) Youth Ministries Sunday, c) United Methodist Women's Sunday, d) Facilitating the work of the Nominations Committee for the remainder of the 2020-2021 Annual Conference Year, e) Relating to Rental/Housing Allowances for Retired or Disabled Clergy Persons of the Wisconsin Annual Conference, f) Model Covenant of Affiliation between VMP and the Wisconsin Conference of The United Methodist Church, g) Relationship Statement Development Process and Guidelines for Expectations between Sheboygan Senior Community and the Wisconsin Conference of the United Methodist Church, h) Covenant of Affiliation between United Methodist Children's Services of Wisconsin, Inc., and the Wisconsin Conference of the United Methodist Church, and i) Model Covenant of Affiliation between Evergreen Retirement Community, Inc, and the Wisconsin Conference of The United Methodist Church
- Joint Board Resolutions Related to Clergy Compensation, including a) Adopting Past Service Annuity Rate for 2021, and b) Setting Minimum Compensation for 2021
- Disaffiliation Agreement Pursuant to Paragraph 2553

- Affirming the Discontinuance/Closing of Local Churches, including a) Discontinuance of the The United Methodist Church of Alma, located in Alma, Wisconsin, b) Closing of the Emerald United Methodist Church, located in St. Croix County, Wisconsin, and c) Discontinuance of the Brandon United Methodist Church, Brandon, WI, and
- 2021 Proposed Conference Budget

## Christian Symbol of the Month

### December

Advent Wreath—The Advent wreath is a symbol of watchfulness and increasing joy as we anticipate Jesus' birth. The wreath's circular shape symbolizes eternity, or life without end. The candles remind us that Jesus is the Light of the World—he brought light and life to a dark world (see John 1:4-5). On each of the four Sundays of Advent, we light a new candle. As the light grows, so do our hope and joy.



**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.**

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

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

Sunday Schedule

9:30am Worship Service

10:30am Fellowship



