

SPIRE Newsletter



January 2021



Happy New Year

[View MUMC Online Calendar](#)

CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

- Jan. 1: New Year's Day
- Jan. 6: Women's prayer meeting via Zoom
- Jan. 7: Men's prayer meeting via Zoom
- Jan. 7: New group study starts Thursday session
- Jan. 10: Repairers of the Breach Clothing Collection ends
- Jan. 12: New group study starts Tuesday session
- Feb. 17: Ash Wednesday; Lent begins

WORSHIP SERMON

SPOTLIGHT

Jan. 3: Philippians 1:3-11, Joy is a Choice

From the Education Committee

New Growth Group "Anxious for Nothing" Starts Soon

We can all agree that 2020 has been a very challenging year, filled with anxiety. So the Education Committee has decided that MUMC's next group study will be "Anxious for Nothing." It deals with finding calm in a chaotic world. It is a 5-week study, offered twice each session, Thursday mornings at 11 am and Tuesday evenings at 7 pm.

The first sessions will be Thursday, January 7 and Tuesday, January 12. Each session will last one hour.

Jan. 10: Philippians 2:1-11, Imitating Christ's Humility
Jan. 17: Philippians 2:12-18, Work Out your Salvation with Fear and Trembling
Jan. 24: Glen Van Fossen will preach
Jan. 31: Hebrews 13:16, Mike Debbink's favorite Bible verse

WORSHIP MUSIC

Jan. 3: Rick and Michelle Hynson
Jan. 10: Ellen Shuler, Rick and Michelle Hynson, and Kristin Traut
Jan. 17: Penny and Dale Parkinson and Sam Laferriere
Jan. 24: Women's Ensemble
Jan. 31: Men's Quartet

This study is based on the book *Anxious for Nothing* by Max Lucado. You will need to buy the book, which can be purchased on Amazon or Christian Books. We will be doing the study via Zoom. If you are interested in participating, contact Pastor Sue so she can send you a Zoom invitation; let her know whether you want to attend the Thursday morning or Tuesday evening session.

Recently Completed Group Study was a Hit!

We just completed our study on "I Said This You Heard That." It was a great study based on Ephesians 4:29, "Do not let any unwholesome

talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen." Temperaments are our innate wiring from God. We learned about our unique temperaments and how each of our temperaments has strengths and weaknesses. We had fun learning about our strengths and had a few laughs about the weaknesses of each of our temperaments. We had 19 participants in our study and enjoyed getting to know each other better.

If you were unable to attend this study, but are interested in it, please let Pastor Sue know and she can offer it again in the future.

Some comments from participants are as follows:

"We learned a great deal about ourselves and how to interact with others"

"This was a great study. The participants were all wonderful. If you did not get the feel of all the temperaments—that's me—you always have the workbook to refer to."

"The subject matter was timely and relevant. I learned some interesting things about myself and others that will be helpful in communicating with others in a faith-inspired way."

"The study 'I Said This and You Heard That' couldn't have been more appropriate for the times we are going through. They say communication makes the world go round and what we say and how we say it is so very important. We learned what our innate temperament is or what we are naturally predisposed to. It was amazing how I was pegged, it was right on. We discovered our strengths and weaknesses. I learned a great deal, so much so that I am buying the books for my children. I highly recommend that more of our church family sign up for this six-week course."

"If you are looking to improve your relationships, and communicate with others in a Godlier manner, this is the class for you. I was sure I knew who I am, because of age and experiences, not true; the more layers you unfold the more of you, you don't know. This is a non-threatening class that widens your lens of yourself to

make you a more authentic person to better serve God and others. Thank you Jean and Ross for initiating this class, a most enjoyable one. I am all set for the next one.”

From the Pastor

Once I asked a question to a 92 years-old man, a member of my previous church. He had a very successful career and a great family. People said, “He is filthy rich.” It seemed like he had everything most people spend their entire lives chasing after. My question to him was, “If you can ask for one thing, anything to God, right now, what would that be?” Without any pause, hesitation, or speculation, immediately he answered, “Peace. I want peace in my heart!”

I suspect that many people want to have the type of joy that does not depend on what is going on in their lives. Most of us want to have both joy and peace in our hearts. As part of our Advent journey, MUMC read the epistle of Philippians together. The letter from Apostle Paul is packed with principles on how to have and keep joy and peace in our lives. So, in January, we will begin a new sermon series entitled "How to Have and Keep Joy and Peace in our Lives."

Come and join us for worship to grow together in Christ!

Sue Lee

Mequon United Methodist Church Membership Covenant

“As members of this congregation, will you faithfully participate in its ministries by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service, and your witness?”
(Baptismal Covenant, UMH 38, paragraph 15)

As a member of Mequon United Methodist Church,

- Prayers: I will set aside a time daily for devotions and prayer. I will pray for my church, its ministry and church leaders.
- Presence: I will strive to attend weekly worship services and growth group studies to grow in faith.
- Gifts: I will honor God by giving my income with the goal of tithing.
- Service: I will give my talents and service to make God’s love real to others in my church and beyond church walls.
- Witness: I will be a unifying church member by acting with love toward other members, by engaging my conversations about my church in a positive way, and by inviting those who don’t have their church home to my church.

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With God’s help, I commit myself to follow Jesus Christ as I faithfully participate in the ministries of Mequon United Methodist Church by my prayers, my presence, my gifts, my service, and my witness.

Announcements

January Sermon Series

As a part of our Advent journey, MUMC read the book of Philippians together. In

January, Pastor Sue begins a new sermon series entitled "How to Have and Keep Joy and Peace in Our Lives," also based on the book of Philippians.

"My Favorite Bible Verse" Sermon Series Continues

Please share your favorite Bible verse with the MUMC family by submitting it to the Spire newsletter. Pastor Sue's sermon series based on the favorite Bible verses of MUMC members continues on January 31, with Mike Debbink's favorite Bible verse, Hebrews 13:16: "And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices, God is pleased."

Thank you to all who helped make our Advent and Christmas season brighter through music in worship! It really is teamwork, and Rick and I couldn't have done it without our dedicated music teammates Ellen Shuler and Elna Hickson, and our wonderful audio-visual helpers, Marilyn Zwissler and Dave Traut, and, of course, Pastor Sue.

I'm always looking for new ways to enhance our worship services with great musical offerings during this difficult time, so if you would like to help, please let me know!

Thankfully,
Michelle Hynson

Finance Chair Mike Debbink wants to extend a heartfelt thank you to the MUMC congregation. Our recent Stewardship Campaign for 2021 was well supported. We had approximately 50% of the pledgers raising their gifts for 2021. We will, even with those generous pledges, still have a budget that is only able to make a payment of 77% of our apportionment. Our covenant with the United Methodist Church requires a payment of 100% so all of your help will be needed in achieving that goal. May God bless you and keep you safe and well in 2021.

Thank you for joining us for MUMC's annual Christmas Cantata on Sunday, December 20, 2020, where we heard traditional carols as well as new treasures! Special thanks to the following members for their musical gifts, time, and talent: Ellen Shuler, Ethan Shuler, Michelle Hynson, Rick Hynson, Elna Hickson, Keyboard, and Dain Shuler, Narrator.

Susan Yorio from Mission Outreach wants to extend a "thank you" to Karen Stern for her assistance with orders and shopping for the Giving Tree project this Christmas season.

New Password! If you would like to access our church directory online, please call the office to get the new password.

Pick up your January/February Upper Room devotional today! If you can't pick up your copy, contact the office and we'll mail a copy to you. Please indicate if you prefer large or small format.

Reflections Book Group

The Reflections Book Group will start the new year with a Zoom meeting on Thursday, January 14 at 7 pm. Our discussion book for January is *The Dutch House: A Novel*, by Ann Patchett.

Amazon offers this description: *At the end of the Second World War, Cyril Conroy combines luck and a single canny investment to begin an enormous real estate empire, propelling his family from poverty to enormous wealth. His first order of business is to buy the Dutch House ... Meant as a surprise for his wife, the house sets in motion the undoing of everyone he loves. The story is told by Cyril's son Danny, as he and his older sister, the brilliantly acerbic and self-assured Maeve, are exiled from the house where they grew up by their stepmother. The two wealthy siblings are thrown back into the poverty their parents had escaped from and find that all they have to count on is one another... Set over the course of five decades, The Dutch House is a dark fairy tale about two smart people who cannot overcome their past.... Throughout their lives they return to the well-worn story of what they've lost with humor and rage. But when at last they're forced to confront the people who left them behind, the relationship between an indulged brother and his ever-protective sister is finally tested.*



Reflections is a women's book group that meets monthly for discussion and fellowship. Contact Barb Henneck to request an invitation to the January Zoom meeting or to learn more about the group. New women are always welcome.

Looking ahead . . . our February discussion book will be *The Story of Arthur Truluv: A Novel* by Elizabeth Berg.

"Thank You" from Mission Outreach Committee

MUMC's Mission Outreach Committee wants to extend their extreme gratitude to YOU, the Mequon United Methodist Church congregation, for donations totaling \$2,230.00 for the Christmas Giving Tree mission for Pathfinders of Milwaukee! With your donations they were able to purchase Pathfinders' entire wish list and more!

Items donated were given to individual Pathfinder clients and are also being enjoyed by the youth and young adults at Pathfinders' facility. The list of gifts MUMC donated included multiples of the following items: cozy blankets, board games, basketballs, earbuds, Bluetooth speakers, Amazon gift cards, Sally's Beauty Supply gift cards, and Neroli Salon gift cards. Pathfinders picked up the donations on Monday, December 14. They were SO grateful! We also provided gift bags and tissue paper which allowed Pathfinders to wrap gifts for individual clients.

Pathfinders' mission includes four core initiatives for Milwaukee youth and young adults: Housing & Shelter, Education, Family Engagement, and Youth Empowerment. Your kindness and care for these young individuals is greatly appreciated! THANK YOU for making a positive difference in the lives of others!

Children's Ministry Update

Wait a minute! MUMC Children's church mouse Whiskers has his own YouTube channel? WOW! Now you can access all of the Children's Time lessons from MUMC's Sunday worship services

with Whiskers and Ms. Gayle through this link,



<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpyRcJSwL5klgwTOBoriacg>, or through the Mequon United Methodist Church website under the Children's Ministry page. Feel free to share it with other families. A special thanks to Marilyn Zwissler for her hard work on the channel.

Happy New Year,
Gayle Meyer

Watch MUMC's Recorded Worship Services

All of our worship services are being video recorded and are available to be viewed either during the worship service (live streaming) or for up to a year after the worship service has been completed from the church web site. Our YouTube channel retains the recordings going forward.

Here are three different ways to watch the live stream of the worship service as it is taking place:

1. Click on the link in the email sent to you the morning of the worship service.
2. Go to the church web site Home page at <http://www.mequonumc.org>. Click on either the YouTube link or the Watch MUMC Service Live! button.
3. Go to YouTube.com in your browser and search for Mequon United Methodist Church. On the MUMC page, click on the video which shows LIVE in the lower right corner.

Here are two different ways to watch services after they have been recorded:

1. Go to the church web site Home page at <http://www.mequonumc.org>. Click on either the Recorded Worship Services link on the Home page or hover the cursor over "Sunday Worship" in the top menu and then click on the "Recorded Worship Services" in the drop-down menu. On the "Recorded Worship Services" page, the most recent service's video is open at the top of the page. If you would like to view a past service, scroll down to the month of the service and select which Sunday's service you would like to view. This link will take you to that Sunday's video on our YouTube channel. The "Recorded Worship Services" links are rolled over every year to the current link.
2. Go to YouTube.com in your browser and search for Mequon United Methodist Church. On the MUMC page, click on the video which you would like to view. All recorded services are retained on our YouTube channel.

Christian Symbol of the Month

January

Steeple: Steeples are a remnant of Gothic church architecture of the Middle Ages, marked by high open spaces and pointed arches that direct one's attention heavenward. Nowadays a steeple atop a church small or large serves the same function. Typically topped with a cross, it designates a Christian house of worship. Steeples sometimes double as bell towers, sending a call to worship out high above the surrounding land.



The time is
always right
to do what
is right.

~ Martin Luther King Jr.



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Disclaimer: Editor reserves the right to edit content.

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/ Closed Fridays

Sunday Schedule
9:30am Worship Service
10:30am Fellowship

www.mequonumc.org

