

SPIRE Newsletter



January 2020

2020
HAPPY NEW YEAR!

[View MUMC Online Calendar](#)

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CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

Jan. 5 – Pre-confirmation classes begin

Jan. 5 – Membership classes begin

Jan. 5 – Blood pressure checks

Jan. 12 – Family Promise host week begins

Jan. 18 – CPR training

Jan. 19 – Drive-in Movie Night

Jan. 23 – Mealsite

Jan. 25 – Mission Outreach Dinner and Auction

Jan. 30 – Mealsite

Feb. 2 – Blood pressure checks

WORSHIP SERMONS

Jan. 5 – How Can I Bless My Wife/Husband?

Jan. 12 – What Women Wish Men Knew About Women

Jan. 19 – Human Relations Day Message

Jan. 26 – What Men Wish Women Knew About Men

35th Annual Mission Outreach Dinner and Auction

Making God's Love Real

The Mission Outreach Committee invites you to join the festivities to celebrate the 35th Annual Mission Outreach Dinner and Auction on Saturday, January 25, 2020, from 5:30 – 9 pm.

This year will mark the 35th annual MUMC Mission Outreach Auction! The event will be held at the Ozaukee Country Club, 10823 N. River Rd., in Mequon and will celebrate 35 years of giving that has provided nearly \$300,000 to MUMC ministries – local, regional, national, and international non-profits to secure food, shelter, clothing, health, and welfare.

Share good food, drinks, and wonderful musical entertainment provided by Accoustic Blu – our own Penny Laferriere and Dale Parkinson. There will be great items offered at both the silent and live auctions.

Please consider donating an auction item. Past items have included sporting

Feb. 2 – How to Build a Strong Family

WORSHIP MUSIC

Jan. 5 – Special Music

Jan. 12 – Sanctuary Choir

Jan. 19 – Special Music

Jan. 26 – Men's Choir

Feb. 2 – Children's Choir

and cultural events such as trips to Brewer games or the Skylight Theatre, artwork, jewelry, and culinary treats. Please contact Rick Gattoni with your contributions and/or ideas.

The Mission Outreach Committee welcomes your help setting up, recording auction winners, checking out, or cleaning up and closing. Please contact Karen Huffman or Irene Sullivan to volunteer.

From the Pastor

Previously, I led new member classes for six years as an associate pastor. I always opened the classes with this question: "If someone asked you what life is all about using one word, what would you say?" What would you say if you were asked that question? I asked this question to about 300 people over those years. No one gave the answer that I was looking for except for one woman; one out of 300! When I asked this question, she answered calmly but confidently, "It's about relationships." By the way, her husband jokingly said, "Well, I was going to say, Packers!"

Friends, life is all about relationships; relationships with God and relationships with others. I know this is true because our Lord Jesus said that. One day Jesus was asked this question, "Teacher, which command in God's Law is the most important?" Jesus said, "'Love the Lord your God with all your passion and prayer and intelligence.' This is the most important, the first on any list. But there is a second to set alongside it: 'Love others as well as you love yourself.' These two commands are pegs; everything in God's Law and the Prophets hangs from them." (Matthew 22:37 - 40, The Message)

One of the most important relationships we have is the relationship with our loved ones, husbands, wives, parents, and children. To grow in our relationships with our loved ones and others, we will start a sermon series entitled "It is all about relationships" on January 5 for five Sundays:

Jan. 5: How Can I Bless My Wife/Husband

Jan. 12: What Women Wish Men Knew About Women

Jan. 19: Love Others As Well As You Love Yourself

Jan. 26: What Men Wish Women Knew About Men

Feb. 2: How to Build a Strong Family

Come join us and let's grow together to live the lives God intends for us to live! To complement this sermon series, eight weekly studies will be offered. Please see article immediately below for details.

In Christ,
Sue Lee

Eight-Week Growth Group Study **"Making Love Last a Lifetime"**

In February and March we will conduct an eight-week long growth group study entitled

"Making Love Last a Lifetime!" The dates and times will be decided by the participants' consensus. This study is intended for single people as well as for married couples. If you are single, this study can prepare you to have a successful relationship. If you are married, this study can help you grow in your relationship with your spouse so that you can experience the marriage God intends. But most importantly, through this study, you can learn insights from the Bible that will help you make love last a lifetime.

1. Venus and Mars in the Beginning
2. What Women Wish Men Knew About Women
3. What Men Wish Women Knew About Men
4. After the Honeymoon Is Over
5. The Habits of Unhealthy Marriages
6. God's Plan for Sexual Intimacy
7. The Ministry and Meaning of Faithfulness
8. Making Love Last a Lifetime



The study is based on a video series and book authored by the Reverend Adam Hamilton. He is the pastor of the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kansas. Come and explore topics rarely discussed in the church. As part of the event, we will be making an extra effort to invite members of the surrounding community to participate. Invite your friends and neighbors to this study!

If you are planning to participate in this study or have questions, please contact [Pastor Sue](#).

Announcements

Our Next Family Promise Host Week is coming up: January 12 – 19. Please mark your calendar.

If you want to be really organized, here are our host weeks for the year 2020: January 12 – 19; April 19 – 26; July 19 – 26; and October 18 – 25.

A huge thanks to all of you who volunteered to host, cook, clean, set up, tear down, launder, and much more for our November Family Promise Host Week. Thank you!

Pre-confirmation classes will be offered in Pastor Sue's office on Jan. 5 and 29 at 10:45 – 11:00 am.

New Member Classes will be offered in Pastor Sue's office on January 5, 19, and February 2 at 11 – 11:45 am. The classes will cover:

Jan. 5: What is the Church, and why do I have to care?

Jan. 19: What does it mean to "marry" Jesus through Mequon UMC? and
Feb. 2: Mequon UMC Membership Covenant.

The classes are required in order to join MUMC. If you are planning to participate, please contact [Pastor Sue](#).

Calling All Men for Men's Choir

A Note of Thanks From the Gardner Family

MUMC was always a second family to all of us, and Peg loved helping the children of the church grow in their faith. We have so many wonderful memories of family programs, Christmas pageants, and Vacation Bible School/Critter Camp adventures. Thank you for all your help and support with putting together her memorial service, and for checking in with and caring for our family both before and after her death. We are so fortunate to have you in our lives. Thanks again for everything!

Love,
The Gardner Family

Drive-In Movie

Night – Join us for a drive-in movie in our fellowship hall on



Sunday, January 19 from 4 – 6 pm. Enjoy traditional concession foods while sitting in one of our "cars". We will be watching the always funny movie "The Shaggy DA". Fun for the whole family! Drive-in Movie Night is sponsored by Children's Ministry with the support of the MUMC Youth Group.

What a wonderful celebration we had on Sunday, December 22! The house of the Lord was full for the Glory of God! Thank you for inviting your family, friends, and those who need to be connected or

Rehearse:

Jan. 5 at 6 – 7 pm

Jan. 12 at 6 – 7 pm

Jan. 19 at 6 – 7 pm

SING January 26 at 9:30 am!!!

Calling All Women for Women's Choir

Rehearse:

Jan. 19 at 7 – 8 pm (note: different time)

Jan. 26 at 6 – 7 pm

(Feb. 2 – *no rehearsal*)

Feb. 9 at 6 – 7 pm

SING February 16 at 9:30 am!!!

On behalf of the Parish Nurses

Team, Susan Solverson is offering CPR training, called Friends and Family, on Saturday, January 18 at 9 am in the Fellowship Hall. There will be video and manikin training. This is not a certification course. If you have questions or are interested in attending, please call or text Susan Solverson at 414-559-4699.

reconnected with the Lord to the Christmas Cantata! I trust your invitation was a gentle but strong reminder of God's love for them and who they are and could be in Christ.

Pastor Sue

Gratitude for the 2019 Christmas Giving Tree

– The Mission Outreach Committee thanks each of you for an extremely successful Christmas Giving Tree mission for Pathfinders of Milwaukee! Fifty at-risk or in-crisis youth and young adults were provided Christmas gifts from you, our very generous MUMC congregation. In addition, several individuals donated monetary gifts for this very worthwhile organization.

Pathfinders' mission includes four core initiatives: 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!

Monthly Youth Group Yodel

In December, a variety of technological advances were made to improve the quality of life in the youth room. Thanks to the generous donations from the Trustees, we were able to purchase a TV for youth group movie nights and some carpets to help make the room more comfy. Stay tuned as we begin painting and other beautification processes in the coming weeks. We also raised \$450 for the upcoming mission trip to Rochester, NY. Thank you to everyone who bought cookies at the Christmas Cantata. We appreciate all your support!



The youth will be helping to facilitate the drive-in movie theater on January 19 from 4 – 6 pm. Plan on a fun night of festivities and family fun at MUMC. Invite your friends to this wonderful social gathering. Also in January, there will be a Kopps and Khrist field trip to our favorite burger and ice cream joint this side of the Mississippi. Youth stay tuned!

Youth profile of the month: Andrew Carter

Andrew, a 17-year-old, Homestead high school senior, has gone on two mission trips with the MUMC youth group. In his free time Andrew enjoys playing with his dog June and eating Kopps burgers. Most recently he was captain of the cross country team. He is now investing his athletic talent into swimming. The youth group plans on supporting him in upcoming meets.

Fun fact: the word "set" has over 100 definitions.

Volunteers

Greeters

Jan. 5 – Doug & Shelley Burnes
Jan. 12 – Jim & Pam Layton
Jan. 19 – Jeff & Marie Widder
Jan. 26 – Dennis & Kim Waters
Feb. 2 – Wendy Porterfield family

Coffee Hosts

Jan. 5 – Penny Laferriere & Dale Parkinson
Jan. 12 – Kristen Trout & Susan Caldwell
Jan. 19 – Kathy Morgen & Sandy Christensen
Jan. 26 – John & Susan Climer
Feb. 2 – Darwin & Cindy Shaurette

Ushers

Jan. 5 – Ann Miller & **Volunteer Needed**
Jan. 12 – **Volunteers Needed**
Jan. 19 – Susan Caldwell & **Volunteer Needed**
Jan. 26 – Connie Pukaite & **Volunteer Needed**
Feb. 2 – Ann Miller & **Volunteer Needed**

Liturgists

Jan. 5 – Connie Pukaite
Jan. 12 – **Volunteer Needed**
Jan. 19 – **Volunteer Needed**
Jan. 26 – **Volunteer Needed**
Feb. 2 – Connie Pukaite

Flowers

Jan. 5 – **Volunteer Needed**
Jan. 12 – **Volunteer Needed**
Jan. 19 – **Volunteer Needed**
Jan. 26 – **Volunteer Needed**
Feb. 2 – **Volunteer Needed**



Lunch Bunch Study Continues

Lunch Bunch started a new weekly study, Invitation to John: A Short-Term Disciple Bible Study, on December 10, offered in eleven sessions.

These life-changing courses are ideal for busy people who are unable to commit to longer studies. These studies embody the same trusted scholarship as the Disciple foundational studies and include the same core activities: independent reading, weekly small groups, and video presentations by scholars. Participants for this Invitation to John do not have to have an in-depth knowledge of the Bible to enjoy and benefit from participation. Reading just two chapters of John a week, they will discover the life altering stories that will invite them to follow Christ as true disciples.

The author, Robert D. Kysar, Bandy Professor Emeritus of Preaching and New Testament, Candler School of Theology, is a noted scholar on the Gospel of John. He has authored numerous articles and books, including a revised edition of John: The Maverick Gospel; Preaching John; and most recently Voyages With John: Charting the Fourth Gospel.

Session titles and Scriptures:

1. Come and See (John 1 – 2)
2. How Is It Possible? (John 3 – 4)
3. Taste for Yourself (John 5 – 6)
4. To Believe or Not to Believe (John 7 – 8)
5. Are We Blind? (John 9 – 10)
6. I Couldn't Believe My Eyes! (John 11 – 12)
7. Would You Believe It? (John 13 – 14)
8. What Time Is It? (John 15 – 16)
9. Look Out! (John 17 – 18)
10. Believing Without Seeing (John 19 – 20)



Reflections Book Group

The Reflections Book Group will begin a new reading year with a discussion of *The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane*, by Lisa See. Our meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 9, at 7 pm in the MUMC Parlor.

Amazon.com offers this description . . .

In their remote mountain village, Li-yan and her family align their lives around the seasons and the farming of tea. For the Akha people, ensconced in ritual and routine, life goes on as it has for generations—until a stranger appears at the village gate in a jeep, the first automobile any of the villagers has ever seen.

The stranger's arrival marks the first entrance of the modern world in the lives of the Akha people. Slowly, Li-yan, one of the few educated girls on her mountain, begins to reject the customs that shaped her early life. When she has a baby out of wedlock—conceived with a man her parents consider a poor choice—she rejects the tradition that would compel her to give the child over to be killed, and instead leaves her, wrapped in a blanket with a tea cake tucked in its folds, near an orphanage in a nearby city.

As Li-yan comes into herself, leaving her insular village for an education, a business, and city life, her daughter, Haley, is raised in California by loving adoptive parents. Despite her privileged childhood, Haley wonders about her origins. Across the ocean Li-yan longs for her lost daughter. Over the course of years, each searches for meaning in the study of Pu'er, the tea that has shaped their family's destiny for centuries.

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 February book is *Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End* by Atul Gawande.

Administrative Council News

Dear Mequon United Methodist Church Family,

Our purpose, as Christians, is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world – the Great Commission our Lord gave his followers and the mission of the United Methodist Church, as a reconciling church in this community and beyond.

We, the Council, believe that it is pivotal for every member to know our church history, specifically: 1) how MUMC became a reconciling church, and 2) how we have defined a reconciling church for MUMC. What follows is the information that answers those questions. Please take time to read it and talk with Pastor Sue, Glen Van Fossen (Lay Leader) or Joel Huffman (Chair of the Council) if you have any questions.

In Christ,
The Mequon United Methodist Church Council

We, the Mequon United Methodist Church, are a Reconciling Congregation. How did we become so?

In the fall of 2010, a group of 16 volunteers began investigating the process for MUMC to become a Reconciling Congregation. Over a period of about ten months, we undertook a variety of activities to explore, inform, and involve the congregation in this decision. These included three discussion sessions led by Pastor Tim O'Brien: 1) in March 2011, from a video by Adam Hamilton, *Confronting the Controversies: Biblical Perspectives on Tough Issues*, looking at homosexuality theologically, personally, morally, and faithfully; 2) in April 2011, using the film *For the Bible Tells Me So*, which looked at the heart-wrenching ramifications of choices by five Christian families who tried to reconcile their faith with having gay sons or daughters; and 3) Pastor Tim spoke about acceptance, diversity, and racial hospitality in a series of sermons.

Resources were made available on LGBT and other diversity issues, including books for children and teens. Monthly reports were given at MUMC's Church Council with discussion about inclusion of a variety of challenged and marginalized peoples. Frequent articles were in the Spire with a FAQ page of the congregation's most-asked questions and updates were placed in weekly bulletins. Team members, identified by wearing rainbow pins, were available each Sunday for one-on-one dialogue and questions.

In the end, on May 23, 2011, the Church Council voted unanimously for MUMC to become a Reconciling Congregation and to adopt our Welcoming Statement:

"Mequon United Methodist Church is a Reconciling Congregation. Mequon United Methodist Church affirms that all people are created in God's image and are of sacred worth. We affirm Jesus' example of love without reservation and we sacredly promise to deal compassionately and justly with one another. Therefore, this inclusive and nurturing community of faith openly invites and welcomes persons of every age, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, physical or mental ability, ethnic origin, socioeconomic status, marital status – any and all diversities – as full participants in the life and work of this reconciling community."

Apportionment News

Wisconsin Annual Conference Apportionment Changes — July 2019

In June 2019, the Wisconsin Annual Conference passed an action item that changed our Conference policy on General Conference apportionments and changed the way that our Annual Conference receives apportionments. Previously, our local churches were apportioned a single amount to support our Conference Budget. Beginning in July 2019, our local churches will be apportioned in three categories:

- 1) General Conference Apportionments — 25.1% of 2020 budget;
- 2) Jurisdictional Conference Apportionments — 0.2% of 2020 budget; and
- 3) Wisconsin Conference Apportionments — 74.7% of 2020 budget.

Mequon UMC has the ability to designate to which category our apportionment receipts get applied. The Finance Committee and Administrative Council have determined that the Wisconsin Conference Apportionment will be allocated to until it is fully paid with any remaining dollars going to the other two categories.

To see what ministries are supported in each category you can go to the following addresses:
General Conference Apportionments: <http://www.umc.org/how-we-serve/apportioned-funds>

Jurisdictional Conference Apportionments: <https://www.ncjumc.org/>

Wisconsin Conference Apportionments: <https://www.wisconsinumc.org/ministries/worship-witness/finance/conference-budget>

What Are Apportionments?

From our earliest days as Methodists and members of the Evangelical Association, we have been taught to be faithful stewards of God's grace. Jacob Albright and John Wesley preached that the work of every man and woman was to care for God's creation. Both men went so far as to say that there is no one alive for whom we do not have responsibility. Our ministry and compassion is spread to the ends of the earth. Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Individuals can do very little to transform the world. Sole congregations can do little more. Even whole Annual Conferences are inadequate to make a major difference. But twelve million United Methodists worldwide, each making a contribution, each giving sacrificially to the larger church? There is very little that twelve million committed Christians cannot accomplish. And to pay our apportionments in full costs less than two dollars per person per week. Less than \$100 a year. We have the potential of placing over \$1.1 billion dollars into God's work in the world each and every year, with very little personal cost or sacrifice. Two dollars a week? To serve millions of people and save millions of lives? To spread the good news of Jesus Christ to the entire planet? To feed the hungry and house the homeless? To clothe the naked and heal the sick? To visit prisoners and raise healthy children? To instill hope through kindness, compassion, justice, and love?

Two dollars seems a small price to pay to transform the world, yet that is all that is asked by The United Methodist Church. It is helpful to remember Paul's words to the church at Corinth: I do not mean that there should be relief for others and pressure on you, but it is a question of a fair balance between your present abundance and their need, so that their abundance may be for your need, in order that there may be a fair balance (II Corinthians 8:13-14).

We don't ask any individual to go into poverty, nor do we expect any local church to suffer financially. But it is the vision of The United Methodist Church that each member of each congregation will make a commitment to fully fund the apportionments. If each member takes seriously her or his commitment, then it will be a simple matter to hold the church accountable. Churches should never feel forced or coerced to pay apportionments. When faithful Christians understand the good that is done and the benefits received, they choose to pay apportionments with joy and pride. We need to help one another understand the great good that we accomplish through our apportionment giving.

What exactly are apportionments, and where did the concept come from? Turning to the 2012 edition of our Book of Discipline, we find a wordy explanation in ¶247.14: As soon as practicable after the session of annual conference, each district superintendent or designated agent shall notify each local church in the district what amounts have been apportioned to it for World Service, conference benevolences and other general Church, jurisdictional, and annual conference funds. In preparation for and at the charge conference, it shall be the responsibility of the district superintendent, the pastor, and the lay member(s) of the annual conference and/or the church lay leader(s) to interpret to each charge conference the importance of these apportioned funds, explaining the causes supported by each of them and their place in the total program of the Church. The World Service Fund is basic in the financial program of The United Methodist Church. World Service on apportionment represents the minimum needs for the mission and ministry of the Church. Conference benevolences represent the minimum needs for mission and ministry in the annual conference. Payment in full of these apportionments by local churches is the first benevolent responsibility of the church.

Apportionments are a combination of funds needed to provide the minimum level of financial support for the mission and ministry of The United Methodist Church as a denomination, plus the funds needed to provide the minimum level of mission and ministry support within the annual conference, plus additional general Church, jurisdictional, and annual conference commitments (generally short-term fiscal needs to offset deficits or provide for special needs).

Note that payment in full is identified as the first financial priority of a local church, and that it is the responsibility of the district superintendent, the pastor, the lay member(s) to annual conference, and the lay leader to explain apportionments and educate the congregation as to their value and importance. Why is this viewed as our top financial priority? Because were we to pay our apportionments in full each year — at all levels of the denomination — literally millions of people worldwide would be fed, housed, clothed, healed, strengthened, educated, redeemed, restored, and invited into eternal salvation through the love and grace of Jesus

Christ . . . millions who otherwise may be lost physically and spiritually.

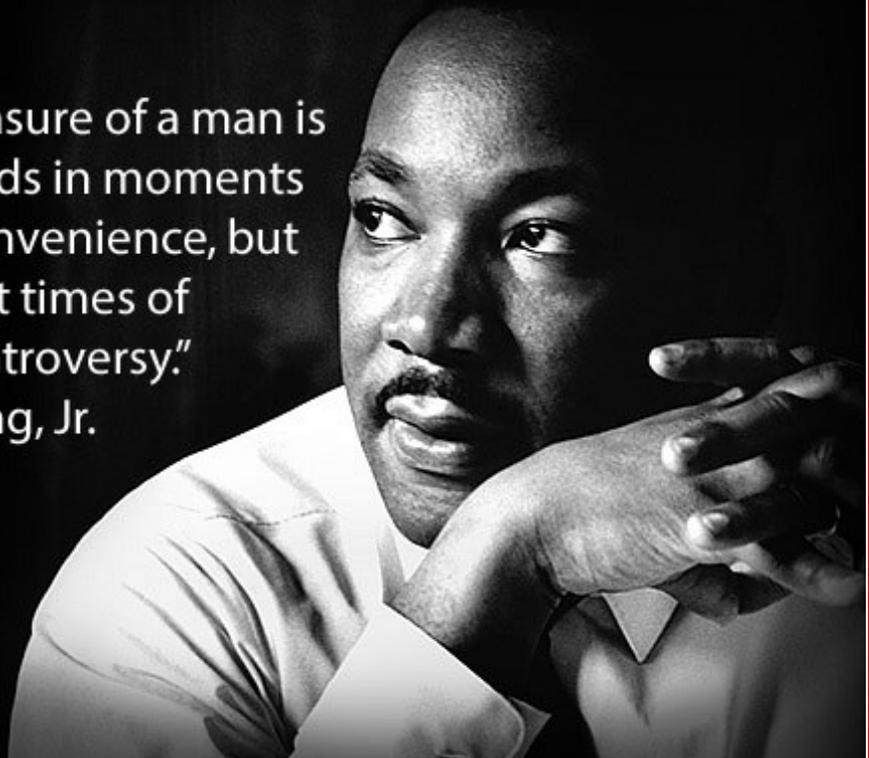
Revelation 21:1 – 5

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away." And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true."

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

1. Do you believe that God will "make all things new" at some undisclosed time in the future, or do you believe that God works through the power of the Holy Spirit to redeem and make things new in our day? What is the basis of your belief?
2. How do you think we might participate in this redeeming and restorative work where "mourning and crying and pain will be no more"?
3. How great an impact on the healing and re-creation of the world can our church have alone? What is required for a real and lasting "transformation of the world," into the "new Jerusalem"?

**"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy."
- Martin Luther King, Jr.**



Deadline for SPIRE copy: the 25th of the month prior to publication's edition. Send copy to 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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Director of Children's Ministries TBD
Youth Directors [Jenna Burns and Patrick Curran](#)
Sonlight CDC Director [Sue Lyon](#)
Webmaster [Marcia Schwager](#)

/ Closed Fridays

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

www.mequonumc.org

