

SPIRE Newsletter



July 2020



[View MUMC Online Calendar](#)

CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

Jul. 5 – first live stream worship service

Jul. 20 through 27 – Family Promise host week

Aug. 10 through 14 – Vacation Bible School

WORSHIP SERMON SPOTLIGHT

"The kingdom of God is like . . ." Pastor Sue shares five of Jesus' parables from June to August regarding His teaching on the kingdom of God. The series continues in July:

Jul. 5 – Mark 4:30-34: The Parable of the Mustard Seed

Jul. 12 – John 3:16: For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life;

Worship Covenant for Reopening Mequon United Methodist Church

See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. Isaiah 43:19

MUMC's Reopening Committee has been monitoring ongoing health directives and criteria for returning to worship during the COVID-19 pandemic. All of us want to worship together again but some in our church family have health conditions that put them at great risk if exposed to COVID-19. It is clear when people return to worship at church that our freedom to greet one another with handshakes and

Katie Jackson's favorite Bible verse

Jul. 19 – Marcia Schwager will preach

Jul. 26 – Glen Van Fossen will preach

SPECIAL MUSIC FOR WORSHIP IN JULY

Jul. 5 – the Hynsons

Jul. 12 – Lydia Hynson Park and Michelle Hynson

Jul. 19 – Penny and Sam Laferriere and Dale Parkinson

Jul. 26 – The Shuler Family

hugs, to mingle, and to sit where we choose must be restricted to protect everyone's health, at least until a vaccine proves successful.

Here is what will remain the same for those coming to the church:

- We will still enjoy greeting one another ... but from a safe distance of 6 or more feet.
- We will sit in our sanctuary, share our familiar order of worship, and pray quietly – essential to our relationship with God and each other.

- We will still enjoy beautiful music, creatively planned by our music staff, while minimizing risks of exposure to COVID-19.
- We will still be able to deliver our offerings to support God's work, but offerings will be dropped in one designated place.
- We will still be able to visit with one another after worship, but not within the building; we will go outside to visit at a distance.

Here is what will be different:

- We will register in advance our intent to attend services, to keep attendance to 30 or fewer.
- We will all wear face masks, including children aged 3 years and older.
- We will not provide nursery care or in-person Sunday school—children are welcome in worship!
- We will not congregate or stand together with friends to visit in the entry, narthex, sanctuary, or parlor.
- We will go directly to the sanctuary, be ushered to a seat in every other row, and sit 6 feet from others not from our own households; that means only two unrelated people to a pew.
- We will not have church bulletins; the order of worship will be on the screen.
- We will listen to hymns or hum along with them if we want to. We will not sing because singing causes mouth droplets to aerosolize, causing them to travel farther and stay in the air longer.
- We will not move or have physical contact during Sharing of the Peace.
- We will not be offering communion nor serving coffee and treats after services.
- We will have offering plates at sanctuary exits, where we may drop off our gifts.
- Our worship services will evolve into hybrid gatherings with some members being physically in the church while others will join virtually through the internet; we will share our worship service, live on Facebook and YouTube, with members who cannot attend in person.

STEPS BEING TAKEN IN THE CHURCH BEFORE PEOPLE RETURN TO THE BUILDING FOR WORSHIP

- Removing everything kept in pews and display cases ... bibles, hymnals, cards, pens, etc. in the vestibule, narthex, and sanctuary.
- Marking pews for sitting 6 feet apart; blocking off every other pew to be

- unavailable for seating.
- Creating frequent hand sanitizing stations in all high touch areas.
- Displaying posters depicting safe practices to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- Preparing a supply of face masks for those who forget their own.
- Adding a second lectern to the chancel area for a worship leader other than Pastor Sue.
- Cleaning and disinfecting all frequently touched surfaces, i.e., door knobs, handrails, tables, countertops, and pew backs, etc.
- Cleaning and disinfecting all restrooms.

On Days for Worship Services

- Opening windows in the sanctuary for greater ventilation; keeping fans/air conditioning on.
- Opening the front doors, which shall remain open until the service is done, weather permitting.

THINGS WORSHIPERS **MUST DO TO BE ABLE TO GATHER IN THE SANCTUARY**

PLAN AHEAD – SIGN UP ON SIGN UP GENIUS OR CALL THE OFFICE BY WEDNESDAY EACH WEEK TO REGISTER for the following Sunday if you want to worship at church rather than from home, live, on the internet.

Sanctuary seating must be limited to 30 people, including Pastor, children, and worship leaders.

ON SUNDAY BEFORE LEAVING HOME, COMPLETE THIS HEALTH CHECK

- Do you now have, or have you had, a fever, felt feverish, or had chills within the last 24 to 48 hours? **If Yes, stay home.**
- Have you been exposed to someone who tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 14 days? **If Yes, stay home.**
- Have you traveled in the last 14 days to an area with a high incidence of COVID-19? **If Yes, stay home.**
- Have you been in a high-density environment in the last 14 days, such as senior living housing, a meat or manufacturing plant, a bar or other entertainment venue, or a social demonstration, etc.? **If Yes, stay home.**

STEPS TO FOLLOW WHEN YOU GET TO CHURCH

- Please **ARRIVE EARLY**, by 9:15 am. Seating may take longer than usual, and please don't bunch up at the entrance.
- Enter the church through the front door **ONLY**.
- Wear a face mask—**THIS IS REQUIRED TO ENTER AND TO REMAIN IN 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 often while in church.
- Proceed directly to the sanctuary. Enter the sanctuary through the center doors **ONLY** and be ushered to a seat. Seating will start from front to back as people arrive. Leaving the sanctuary will be done in reverse order, from back to front.
- When the worship service is over, people seated in pews on the left (south) side will exit through the side aisle near the windows; people seated in pews on the right (north) side will exit through the central aisle, all remembering to maintain the 6-foot distance.
- Move directly outside to visit at a safe distance.

Someday, restrictions of our movement during worship within our church will ease, and it will feel more like 'the good old days'. We all look forward to that day.

From the Pastor

After reading the Worship Covenant For Reopening MUMC, above, I suspect that you are wondering when MUMC will offer in-person worship. The short answer is that the Council will make a decision shortly after they review a recommendation presented by the Church Re-entry Team* on July 8. In the meantime, here are two things MUMC is going to do to create a more engaging worship community:

1) We will start a live stream worship on July 5 at 9:30 am. For details, please see Live Streaming Instructions, below. For live stream services, we will continue to use pre-recorded clips/audios except for Pastor's Message, other parts led by the pastor, Centering, and the Postlude.

2) We will have in-person worship available ONLY to MUMC members who don't have the internet. This will be the practice until the Council decides to fully re-open. In total, there are only seven individuals who do not have internet access. Given the low number and the physical distancing precautions that will be implemented, having in-person worship for these members will be safe.

Bishop Jung and the COVID-19 Task Team of Wisconsin Conference recommended that Wisconsin United Methodist Churches begin offering in-person worship on June 21 at the earliest. Almost all United Methodist churches in the Southeastern District have resumed worship on this day, or will do so by the beginning of July. If we do not offer in-person worship in a timely manner, it would be a disservice to our active and dedicated members. If the COVID-19 Task Team of Wisconsin Conference changes their recommendations about the opening date for in-person worship, MUMC leadership will revise our decision accordingly.

As we all know, there is not a 100% risk-free way to offer in-person worship under the reality of COVID-19. However, there is a safe way to offer it. The best way is to take all precautionary steps laid out in the Worship Covenant For Reopening MUMC (under "Steps Being Taken In The Church Before People Return To The Building For Worship".) Regarding "Things Worshipers Must Do To Be Able To Gather In The Sanctuary," the bottom line is that we, as individuals, are accountable for our collective health. Thus, we, MUMC Leadership, encourage you to take all necessary measures to gather safely, such as conducting a health screening prior to choosing to come to church and remaining physically distant (at least 6 feet apart) before, during, and after the service.

This has been a challenging time for all of us, but we have 22 – 24 people participating in weekly growth groups, which is approximately a 100% increase prior to COVID-19. The high level of participation has continued during summertime. So I'd say that we are turning lemons into lemonade! May we continue to press on to grow, love, serve, and give so that we may come out of these uncharted waters with a stronger relationship with God and one another.

In Christ,
Sue Lee

*The Church Re-entry Team consists of the Church Emergency Reporting Team

(Lay Leader, Council Chair, Trustees Chair, SPRC Chair), a representative of each ministry area (music, children, and youth), a parish nurse representative, a public health policy expert, the Online Worship Tech Team, and the Pastor.

Live Streaming Instructions

from Jenna Burns, Youth Ministries Co-director

MUMC will be starting to live stream our services on July 5. On Sunday, July 5 you will be able to watch along with the rest of the congregation! One of our platforms we will be using is YouTube Live, which works just like YouTube. It will be on our MUMC Facebook page and on our YouTube page as it has been every Sunday. If accessing from our Facebook, click on the YouTube link and it will take you to the live stream. If accessing from YouTube, go to YouTube.com. **No account is needed**; simply search for MUMC Services, which is the same page that all of our services reside on. On the “home” tab it will indicate which live stream is going on currently; click that video and you'll be in! Since it is a live stream, it will not start until we start the video from the church at 9:30 am.

There will also be a live chat! While you are watching, feel free to appropriately comment and others watching the stream can respond back to you.

If you are unable to join the live stream at 9:30 am, you can access the service at any time; after the service, we will save and upload the service so you can watch at your own convenience.

If you would like to test out the waters before we get started, go to Yellow Brick Cinema - Relaxing Music's YouTube page; they currently have a couple of live streams.

Family Promise News

Family Promise Host Week is July 20 — 27

Ways You Can Help

- We will be serving dinner on Monday, July 20. If you would like to prepare something for that dinner, contact Pam Layton. This will be a team project. We will be serving approximately 15 people. Serving containers will be provided.
- Monetary donation to Family Promise to support the motel room costs as well as additional food costs incurred for preparation of meals at Crossroads.
- Donations of individually bottled servings of juices or water. Wrapped individual servings of snacks (granola bars, nuts, fruit roll-ups).
- Donation of gas cards to major gas stations or gift cards to mass merchandise stores or supermarkets. The participants do get grocery credits but must use for food.
- Donation of hand soap in pump dispensers (bar soap supplied by motel is appreciated and used but can get drying).
- Donation of feminine products – a current need.

If you want to help out in any of the above ways or possibly ones we haven't mentioned, please get in touch with Pam Layton, Connie Pukaite, or the Family Promise Office.

Family Promise of Ozaukee County
136 W. Grand Avenue
Port Washington, WI 53074
Phone: 262-268-2723
Fax: 262-268-2716
Website: www.familypromiseoz.org



Family Promise Update

Family Promise is continuing to serve homeless families in Ozaukee County in ways we might never have dreamed of. Currently there are 10 families in the emergency shelter program. They are all staying at the Chalet Motel. There are 6 singles and 4 families. Fortunately, Kathleen Fisher, the CEO of Family Promise, along with other Family Promise leaders, including our own Connie Pukaite, have applied for and been awarded a variety of grants and gifts to keep Family Promise able to offer emergency shelter to so many more families than usual. Since the churches are not open Family Promise is underwriting the cost of the motel rooms and the cost of the meals. Currently Crossroads Presbyterian Church personnel have been purchasing and preparing meals for our guests Monday through Thursday plus a sack lunch meal for Friday. Family Promise is paying a per head fee for these meals. The families are on their own for the weekend meals. Effective the first of June churches are being asked to prepare the meals for Monday night dinner only.

Good News! Family Promise of Ozaukee County is partnering with Milwaukee County's Social Development Commission to assist with the launch of the Wisconsin Rental Assistance Program (WRAP). This program will help eligible renters pay rent owed or obtain a security deposit for housing. Family Promise of Ozaukee County will disperse funds in Ozaukee and Washington Counties while the Social Development Commission will assist residents in Milwaukee County. This program helps to keep families in their homes and not in emergency shelters.

More Good News! One of our guests gave birth to a baby, found affordable housing, and was the recipient of a donated baby crib and other baby equipment. Two families have been accepted into the Rapid Rehousing program.

Vacation Bible School News

Choo-choo! Vacation Bible School's Rocky Railway is scheduled for Monday, August 10 through 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 who are concerned about gathering. Please email Gayle Meyer at 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 at 414-840-2141 or by

email per above.

Also, Children's Ministry needs a few supplies for VBS: empty wide mouth plastic bottles with lids, similar to Gatorade (12 ounce size) and empty metal coffee cans. Please drop off the items in the Children's Ministry office (following church office reopening protocol, below) or contact Gayle and she will pick them up.

Announcements

Pastor Sue will be out of the office from July 13 – 26. For Sunday worship, Marcia Schwager will preach the sermon on July 19 and Glen Van Fossen will preach the sermon on July 26. In Pastor's absence, emergency pastoral care will be provided by Pastor Don Greer of Community United Methodist Church, Cedarburg. He may be reached at his church office at 262-277-3832 or at his parsonage at 262-375-0762.

Continued prayers for Malcolm and Ross Creighton for God's comfort and peace as they grieve the loss of Nancy Creighton on June 3.

Please pray for Herb Ayres as his doctors look into causes and treatments for new symptoms and for Ginger Ayres for the strength and peace for each day.

Join Our Summer Growth Group! Are you looking for a growth group gathering this summer? Please join us every Tuesday for our Upper Room Devotion Gathering, at 11 am – 12 noon, now through August 25. We will read one of the Upper Room Devotions and 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 that she may send you a Zoom invitation.

Free Breakfast and Lunch for Children 18 Years and Under This Summer – Ozaukee Family Sharing and Saukville Food Pantry are now accepting registrations from families in Ozaukee County who need access to breakfast and lunch items. Registration opened Monday, June 22, 2020. Families who qualify must have loss of income due to COVID-19 or qualify for free or reduced-cost lunch. Register ahead at: Saukville Food Pantry, 166 W. Dekora St., Saukville (to register, visit saukvillefoodpantry.org or call 262-689-8591) or Family Sharing, 1002 Overland Court, Grafton (to register, call 262-377-0634, x102.)

What are you doing this Summer? Even though MUMC is not open yet, there are still many opportunities to volunteer, and your help is needed as much as ever. You could volunteer to serve as a reader for our virtual worship service, recording the Gospel reading in your own home. You could mow the lawn, pull some weeds, help build a set for VBS (August 10 -14), or help with Family Promise (July 20 - 27), Or call the office and let us know you are available! We are called to serve. How can you make God's love real this summer?

Prayer Shawl Ministry Update—MUMC knitters have been hard at work. We now have over 20 shawls that can be delivered by Pastor Sue! Since opening up of the church is in progress, we will not be meeting on the second Monday of the month until we re-evaluate in September.

If you would still like to make a shawl, there are now kits located in the narthex at church. Please follow the church office reopening protocol (see below) when coming to the church to pick up a kit or to drop off a finished shawl. Thank you to all

who have helped, including several residents of Newcastle Place.

Bruce Stern reports on the status of MUMC's new garden shed that he and **Tom Ellis** are building. He says on June 20 that all siding, soffits, and trim are done; the roof is 60% complete; and they need to build a ramp, a door stoop, and shelves; caulk and paint; install gutters; and order the overhead door.



Marilyn Meyer is MUMC's new delegate to the Annual Conference. Thanks to Randy LeRoy for his dedication as a delegate for the past two years.

From the LeRoys

It is with heavy hearts that we say goodbye to our MUMC family. We have been members for over 30 years and will miss all the friendships that we have made during that time. We will be moving to Illinois to be closer to our kids and grandkids during the summer and will spend the winters at our new home in Arizona. We hope that you will keep in touch and visit us in Illinois or Arizona!

Our new addresses:
2692 Stone Circle #102
Geneva, IL 60134

5864 S. Vegas
Mesa, AZ 85212

Email: randal.leroy02@gmail.com
Debbie cell: 262-302-2142
Randy cell: 262-302-2141

Randy and Debbie LeRoy



The MUMC Parish Nurse Ministry began 10 years ago as a vision of Glen VanFossen and a commitment of a group of nurses in the congregation. We have provided programs and Spire articles on health and safety, regular blood pressure checks with individualized education, contacts with the congregation including phone calls, home visits, and hospital visits, as well as CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) and AED (automated external defibrillator) training. Our program is unique because it is comprised of registered nurses, retired nurses, and ancillary support who volunteer their time to promote the wellness of the congregation.

Randy and I will be moving to Illinois to be closer to our kids and grandkids during the summer months and will be spending the winters in our new home in Arizona. I am happy to announce the Parish Nurse Ministry will continue under the leadership of Sue Solverson. Sue has been a part of our ministry team since the beginning

and I value her professionalism and commitment to our mission. I know the congregation will support Sue and the rest of the Parish Nurse Ministry Team (Lisa Connors, Sandy Christensen, Nancy Gruner, Mary Sisney, and Kathy Morgan).

Wishing you all health and happiness,
Debbie LeRoy

Church Office Reopening Protocol

The MUMC Administration Council Team determined that the church office would reopen on Monday, June 8. Office Manager Carol Bayne will be in for regular office hours, Monday through Thursday, 9 am to 1 pm. Please call the office in advance if you plan to visit the church so that we may plan accordingly. The following protocols must be observed. **PLEASE FOLLOW THESE REQUIRED PROTOCOLS TO PROTECT US ALL.**

Staff will be available Monday through Thursday from 9 am to 1 pm. Only one visitor at a time may be allowed in the Church Office, Pastor Sue's Office, or the Children's Ministry Office. An appointment is required. If you don't have an appointment, please call the church office, 262-242-4770. Please enter through the Main Front Doors Only, and proceed to the Church Office for church business. Every person entering the church **MUST:**

- Wear a face mask
- Keep a physical distance of at least 6 feet from others
- Use hand sanitizer upon entering (dispenser available)

These protocols will be posted both on the front door of the church and on the doors of each office.

Apportionment Appeal

2020 Apportionment Appeal

We've all missed seeing one another and being together in worship at Mequon United Methodist Church during the last couple of months of this pandemic felt around the world. And we've missed having opportunities to be active in ministry with each other ... but, our staying at home has kept us healthy and safe. Yet many people in our community, in Wisconsin, throughout our country, and around the globe have not been as fortunate. They desperately need the ministries of our United Methodist Church and we can assure that those people in distress get help to sustain them by sharing our own good fortunes through our church apportionments.

You recently received a letter from our Finance Team, regarding MUMC's 2020 Apportionment Appeal. The first step in appreciating apportionments and the ministry they make possible is to understand what they are:

- Mercy
- Compassion
- Justice
- Accountability
- Hope

Apportionments are not a “church tax”, nor are they “membership dues” or a “disciplinary obligation.” They are a gift and an opportunity. They are the means by which even the smallest church may magnify and increase its ministry potential, and the largest churches may



multiply the blessings and impact they provide. Each dollar given to fund the apportionments of the United Methodist Church undergoes the miracle of the loaves and fishes—they multiply to serve and satisfy those who hunger and are in need around the world. Apportionments are an investment in building the realm of God and spreading the good news of Jesus Christ. Lives are changed, faith is shared, and hope is raised. By our giving, we participate in the saving of lives as well as souls.

We ask that you prayerfully consider responding to this year’s apportionment appeal with suggested gifts of \$150 per person or \$500 per family. We know this is not possible for everyone. Some will be able to give more and that extra will be a gift on behalf of those who cannot.

Please donate online under member apportionments or send a check to the church indicating 2020 Apportionment Appeal.

In God’s Abundant Grace and Love,
Your Finance Team

Pastor Sue Lee, Mike Debbink, Karen Huffman, Glen Van Fossen, Connie Pukaite, Mary Sisney, Joel Huffman, and Kay Schroeder

Letter From the Bishop

Time for Revolutionary Change

Listen, you that are deaf; and you that are blind, look up and see! Who is blind but my servant, or deaf like my messenger whom I send? Who is blind like my dedicated one, or blind like the servant of the Lord? He sees many things, but does not observe them; his ears are open, but he does not hear. (Isaiah 42:18-20)

Good people of Jesus Christ, it is time for us to acknowledge and confront our racism and the systems and structures we have created that continue to perpetuate injustice, inequality, and violence. It is not enough for each individual to say, “my heart breaks for the families of victims of violence against black, brown, and Asian people.” This is a starting point, but it does nothing to bring about change. When we do this, we become God’s dedicated ones who are deaf and blind.

I could say that recent events have raised our awareness, but the recent incidents with Ahmaud Arbery, George Floyd, and Breonna Taylor are just the most recent in decades and centuries in this country. The pandemic has taken an inordinate toll on black and brown communities, because our systems foster continued poverty

and marginalization of racial ethnic minorities. We cannot simply voice regret and concern; the time has come for The United Methodist Church to work together for justice for our black family members – all children of God.

Black Lives Matter became a slogan that “those people” used to voice their anger, hurt, and displeasure. No, the truth of black lives matter emerged because story after story and incident after incident showed that it is not safe to be a black person in our twenty-first century reality. No one should have to worry that they will be stopped due to the color of their skin. No one should worry that they will be beaten, attacked, or killed because they “fit a profile.” Young black people should not have to be told “not to run, not to make eye contact, not to approach white people,” and their parents should not have to live in fear whenever their children leave home.

This is not the will of God! This is not acceptable to people who have been baptized into the spiritual community committed to building God’s holy realm on the earth. We need to work for justice. We need to crusade for peace. We need to speak up, speak out, and stand with our black brothers and sisters. We need to embrace our brown brothers and sisters as members of our family. We need to reassure our Asian siblings that they belong. We need to welcome those of every hue and color as acceptable, beloved, gifted, and blessed. This cannot simply be a nice concept and a good intention. The day has come to commit our mission work to the peace and justice work of our General Board of Church and Society. It is now time to communicate to our state and federal leaders that racial justice is our highest need, our highest priority.

We must divorce racial justice from a misguided sense that this is a “political” issue, and that we should not be involved. This is a human rights issue. Moreover, it is a Christian witness for the world. We must open ourselves to be the prophetic voice of God, to allow God’s message of mercy, justice, humility, peace, and unity to be heard loud and clear. In this time of pandemic anxiety, we should do nothing to contribute to people’s pain and suffering, but should do all in our power to offer healing and hope.

If you cannot walk in peaceful protest, you can still write letters, make phone calls, send emails, and vote. When possible, we should rally around our ethnic communities and work to clean up, restore, and rebuild in solidarity and partnership. It is time to make our heartfelt passion concrete. We are not called to sit by and watch God’s children be abused and killed. The time has come for revolutionary change. Our core values as Christians include the affirmation of all life, the glory and goodness of God’s creation, and the very real truth that God is love. As we live into our future, we will transcend our vision to confront “institutional racism,” so that together we might eliminate not only the outward and visible signs, but might allow the healing spirit of God to transform the inward and spiritual sickness.

Grace and Peace,
Bishop Hee-Soo Jung

Apportionment News

July — Giving Back the Life We Owe

Where Does All That Money Go?

Too many people misunderstand where apportionment money goes. Thus far, we

have looked at the global and denominational reach of apportionment giving. But the vast majority of apportioned funds stay within the annual conference where the local church is located. For all those who feel we could do a better job with our mission giving if we spent it locally, well, good news! We do. Conference apportionments pay the salaries of the men and women who organize, develop, and promote a plan for living our mission and performing our ministry. We offer to the local church and each community those ministries, programs, and projects that individual congregations cannot manage alone. Conference camps and retreat programs, campus ministries, mission projects, new congregational development, social justice opportunities, celebration events, archive and history preservation, and a host of other services are paid for by all of our local churches to benefit everyone. Health and welfare ministries that offer healing, counseling, safety, training & education, assisted living, disaster relief, food, and clothing receive critically important support. When we don't give, they suffer — and the people they serve suffer most.

In Wisconsin, our apportionments fund fifteen health and welfare ministries. We fund two camps and dozens of camp programs. We help fund nine campus ministries — many life-changing. We support ministries that fight domestic violence, racism, sexism, economic injustice, alcoholism, gambling, drug abuse, educational inequality, and bullying. We train laity and clergy leadership for ministry, as well as church planters, social workers, cross cultural and multicultural leaders, and chaplains. We support efforts to combat hunger, homelessness, mental illness, and violence. We champion and support efforts to defend the elderly, the disabled and challenged, the marginalized, and the oppressed. We educate and advocate for immigration justice, the elimination of institutional racism and sexism, and community organizing. Through our apportionment giving, the state of Wisconsin is transformed in meaningful and positive ways.

Each of the ministries we provide and support translates to pennies a day per member. Over eight hundred ministries are supported locally, conference-wide, nation-wide, and globally through United Methodist giving. The cost per member per week to fully fund our apportionments is about \$1.80. For less than a cup of coffee at the local coffee shop, or a value meal at the local fast food restaurant, each of us can support more than eight hundred expressions of Christian love, mercy, kindness, justice, and compassion. This is where our money goes.

Connected Through Our Giving

Tim, a middle schooler, gets a ten-dollar-a-week allowance. Tim loves video games, root beer, Magic the Gathering card game, and tormenting his two younger sisters. Tim heard that for \$2.00 a week poor people could be fed, receive medical attention, have decent clothes and find a place to live. Tim asked his pastor if he could give \$2.00 each week to apportionments. Tim was told that he could give \$2.00 a week to the church, but there was no guarantee that the money would all go to apportionments. Tim's response? "Why not?"

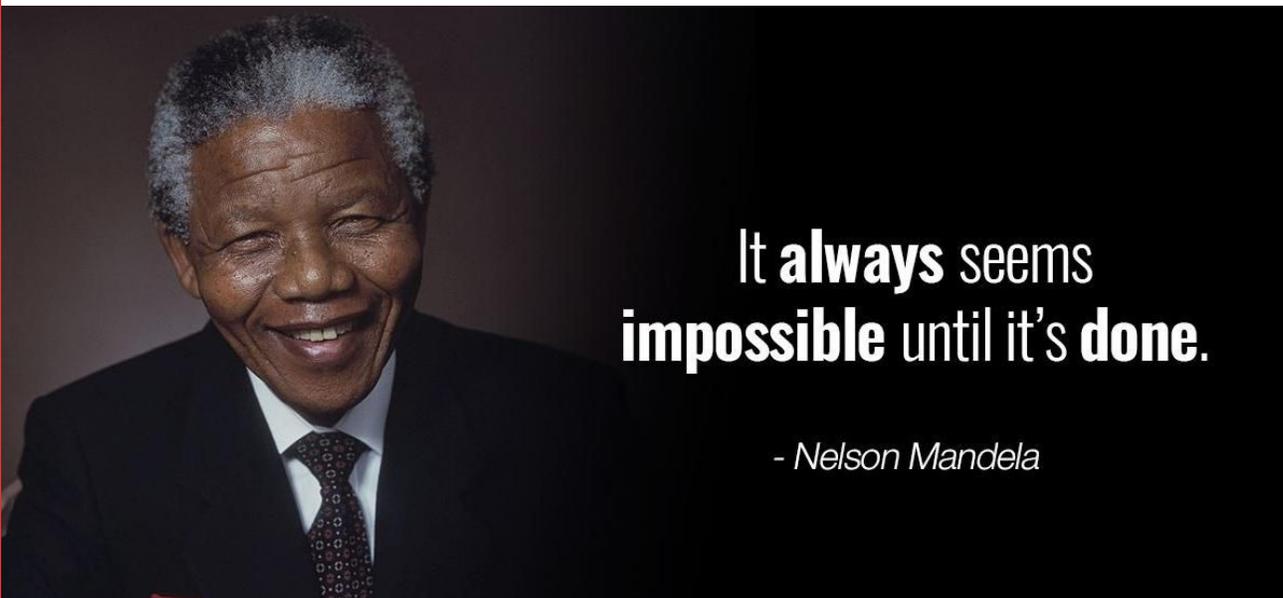
Why can't every church make the decision to pay 100% or more of their apportionments? There is no better missional investment available. The money given to pay conference apportionments makes a world of difference. When our members decide that paying apportionments is a top priority for themselves personally, we should do everything in our power to make sure the money goes where it is intended. No other charitable option can claim a greater return on investment than that offered through The United Methodist Church.

Philippians 2:1-11

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, Therefore God who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

1. What does it mean to you to view The United Methodist Church as a global communion? What changes when we include the whole planet in the definition of “our” church?
2. What does it mean to you when you hear Paul’s words, “Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus”?
3. What does it mean for our congregations when we are instructed to “look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others”? Who do you think “others” means?
4. Envision a world where people share the same heart and mind, and we live together in one accord. What does that look like? What can we do to help make it happen?



Nelson Mandela (July 18, 1918 - December 5, 2013)

Imprisoned for 27 years, anti-apartheid hero, South Africa's first democratically elected President, Nobel Peace Prize laureate, Presidential Medal of Freedom recipient, philanthropist

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Ministers of Music [Rick & Michelle Hynson](#)

Organist [Elna Hickson](#)

Youth & Children's Choirs Director [Ellen Shuler](#)

Director of Children's Ministries [Gayle Meyer](#)

Youth Directors [Jenna Burns and Patrick Curran](#)

Sonlight CDC Director [Sue Lyon](#)

Webmaster [Marcia Schwager](#)

MUMC Office 262-242-4770

MUMC Office Email:

office@mequonumc.org

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

Sunday Schedule

9:30am Worship Service

10:30am Fellowship

www.mequonumc.org

