

SPIRE Newsletter



July 2019

[View MUMC Calendar](#)

[View Printable Calendar \(PDF\)](#)

CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

July 13 - Marsh Meadow Workday

July 17 - Reflections outing

July 27 - Hunger Task Force
Food Sorting

Aug 21 - Missionary Dinner

WORSHIP SERMON SPOTLIGHT

July Theme: I Love My Church

July 7 - I love MUMC

July 14 - I'm a unifying church
member

July 21 - I pray for my church

July 28 - We are disciples of
Christ

August - September 8 Theme:
Developing Inner Strength in/
through Christ

Aug 4 - Aging

Aug 11 - Youth Mission Trip

Aug 18 - Pride

Aug 25 - Jealousy

Sept 1 - Guilt

Sept 8 - Waiting

WORSHIP MUSIC

July 7 - Philip Shuler

July 14 - Brett Hanisko

July 21 - Penny Laferriere & Dale
Parkinson

July 28 - Kaet Sisney



Welcome to the Inaugural SPIRE E-Newsletter

The MUMC Marketing Committee is excited to offer you a new monthly SPIRE E-Newsletter which will arrive via your email. The paper SPIRE as you know it is no longer going to be mailed to MUMC members. For those who are not connected to the internet, a paper version of the SPIRE E-Newsletter will be mailed to them as well as made available in the narthex.

If you have any MUMC news that you would like included in our monthly SPIRE E-Newsletter, the Sunday bulletin or the pastor's weekly email blasts, OR if someone would like to be added to the new SPIRE's email distribution list, email us at news@mequonumc.org by the 25th of the month.

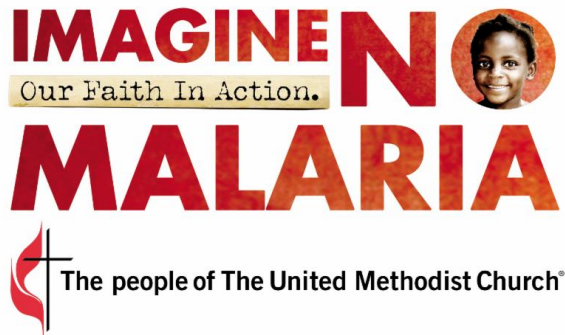
We owe a big THANK YOU to Ginger Ayres for her contributions as SPIRE editor for over 20 years! Thanks, Ginger!

We also owe a thank you to Marilyn Meyer as she takes on the job as our new SPIRE editor.

As always, we welcome any feedback as we move forward.

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR 2019 VBS MISSION PROJECT

This year VBS's Mission Project focused on keeping babies healthy. In partnership with the UMC No More Malaria project, we collected donations to prevent malaria in pregnancy by providing nets to protect expectant mothers and also new babies. The United Methodist Church has a program called Abundant Health, which includes this program. For more details, visit this [website](#).



Each day at VBS, children brought a donation and put a leaf on our "Giving Tree," a symbol of their gift to help babies in Africa. It's not too late to help. You can write a check to MUMC with "VBS Mission Project" on the memo line, and it will support this important project. Thanks for your help!

PEACE POLE PROJECT CRITTER CAMP

This year at Critter Camp, the children painted a series of Peace Poles, which were installed on the north side of the church. Bruce Stern prepared the poles, painted them with primer and base coats, worked with the children to paint them, and then installed them in our "Peace Garden." Linda Mordy coordinated the stenciling, location of the poles, and the children's work on painting and installing them. She was ably assisted by Ed Mordy, Marilyn Zwissler, Nan Rilling and Karen Huffman. Patrick Curran and Peter Gardner helped with the installation. Please stop by and pause a while in this beautiful project created by the children for our church.





VBS and CRITTER CAMP WRAP-UP

We had a wild and wonderful week at MUMC in June as we celebrated with both VBS and Critter Camp. We reached more than 40 children and youth and their families from both inside and outside our church as we explored how God is Good at VBS through Bible stories, science, crafts, food, video and games. Our youngest campers explored in our preschool Discovery Center, while our older children dove deep into challenging Bible concepts. Each afternoon, a smaller group of children explored God's Creation through the Marsh Meadow, Bible verses, music, snacks, and crafts. We enjoyed lunch outdoors, explored the beautiful trails of our on-site facility, and played happily on the playground and in the woods.

Our critters this year were bats, badgers, and opossums, and the children quickly became experts at these amazing animals. Be sure to ask them about it! Each day also included a silly camp song time, which included some old-time favorites like "Deep and Wide." Campers also worked hard on our Peace Poles, and are excited to have them installed so that the whole church can enjoy them.

On Thursday, our Critter Campers journeyed to Riveredge Nature Center for further explorations, and a new appreciation of the wonders of God's world through geocaching and hunting for treasure. That was followed by an all-church dinner, where families new to our church as well as familiar faces enjoyed community in food and fellowship.

There were amazing helpers on board to make all of this happen (please see the Thank-Yous in the bulletin), and many others who donated both essential funding as well as yummy food and recyclables to make our program happen. Thank you to everyone who made this exciting week possible. You have created memories that the children will never forget, and witnessed God's Love to them in so many ways as we went forth and spread the word among Jesus' youngest disciples!

From the Pastor

Win Arn, a consultant to churches, did a survey. He surveyed members of nearly a thousand churches asking the question, "Why does the church exist?" Eighty-nine percent of those surveyed said, 'The church's purpose is to take care of my family's and my needs.' For many, the role of the pastor is simply to keep the sheep who are already in the "pen" happy and not lose too many of them. Only 11% said the right answer (what Jesus said.)

Now, some of you are thinking, "What is wrong with caring for the needs of the members?" Nothing is wrong with that, except, it is not the purpose of the church, but it

is part of process of achieving the purpose. When a process becomes the ultimate purpose, we have a problem, a big problem. So, what is the purpose of the church?

This is what Jesus said. We call it the Great Commission. "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." (Matthew 28:18-20). This is the purpose of Christ's church. This is the reason why we (the church) are here.

Here is a very interesting thing about the survey. The pastors of the same churches were asked the same question. The results were exactly opposite. Of the pastors surveyed, 90% said the right answer and 10% said it was to care for the needs of the members. Why do you think the congregations and the pastors had the different understanding on the purpose of the church?

I'd say, most likely lack of communication. We need to communicate on this matter, being painfully specific if we need to. To have better communication with our congregation, our church leaders and I will share a new sermon series entitled, "I Love MUMC" in July. (Please see summer preaching calendar above).

As I see what is happening within our denomination, I truly believe that it's time to remember who we are as Jesus' church. It's time to remember that Christ's church is not just one of our human-made organizations. It's time to reclaim that Mequon UMC is an ark of salvation for all in this community and beyond.

Through this new sermon series, our church leaders and I will share what it means to be disciples of Jesus Christ, so that we, MUMC may faithfully, courageously, and vigorously focus on the purpose of the church not only during challenging times but all the time. Come join us!

In Christ,
Sue Lee

Parish Nurses Walking Program

The Parish Nurse Ministry Team invites you to join in our 6-week summer walking program. We will be walking Sundays, July 7 to August 11 from 4-5 pm. We will be exploring different parks and nature preserves in Ozaukee County. Whether you are an experienced walker or want to begin a walking program this opportunity is for you! All parks have level walking paths and several have stairs or side trails as an option for those who want more challenge. We invite individuals, families and friends to join us and commit to improving your health and well-being.



Walking Schedule:

July 7: Mequon Nature Preserve

July 14: Concordia University-Mequon

July 21: Virmond Park-Mequon

July 28: Bratt Woods Natural Area-Grafton

August 4: Highland Woods-Mequon

August 11: Lion's Den Gorge Nature Preserve-Grafton

Each week an email will go out to the congregation with location and

directions to the site. There will also be information in the Sunday bulletins. You are welcome to join us for one walk or all six. Wear comfortable, supportive walking shoes and dress for the weather. Don't forget to bring water to stay hydrated. If you have any questions, please contact [Debbie LeRoy](#) at 262-377-5694.

Announcements

THANK YOU

Doug and I want to thank everyone for their cards and sympathy for my brother, Marshall, who died on June 7th in Brisbane, Australia. My sister-in-law, Alana, is also deeply touched and is grateful for our continued prayers.

Marilyn and Doug Zwissler

WANT TO RECEIVE THE NEW E-NEWSLETTER? . .

If you know of anyone (children, spouses, parents, neighbors, your work email, etc.) who would like to be added to our email list to receive the e-newsletter, please contact the [office](#). You or they may unsubscribe from it at any time.

NEW MEMBER CLASSES

New member classes will be held on three consecutive Sundays, July 14, July 21, and July 28, at 11 am in Pastor Sue's office.

NEW SAFE

We have a new safe in our MUMC office. So now it's super easy to leave your offering envelope (or other valuable or private information) in a secure way. This will also make it easier for ushers to secure the offering envelopes. Just pull down on the handle and drop in your envelope. Be sure to note if you are making a donation what you are donating to - regular offering or some other donation.

And if the office is closed remember there is a locked "mailbox" right outside the door in the hall.

PRAYER CHAIN

We are redesigning the email contact list used for our email prayer group. If you would like to receive prayer updates from Pastor Sue, please contact her at pastor@mequonumc.org. She will create a group that can share timely updates in order to encourage us to pray for one another in times of need.

Marsh Meadow Workday Saturday, July 13, 2019 9 am to Noon

There are a few teasel that need to be found and dug. We will also be cutting buckthorn and maybe taking down some dead ash trees. Bring a shovel, cross-cut clippers if you have them, loppers, and leather gloves. Snacks and water will be provided. Call Linda Mordy at 262-242-8091 for additional information.

MID-SUMMER REFLECTIONS OUTING Wednesday, July 17 6pm

The Reflections Book Group will dine out on Wednesday, July 17. We will meet at the

church at 6 pm to carpool to Bacchanera Enoteca, and then we'll head over to Beans & Barley for supper. Please RSVP to [Barb Henneck](#) or on our Facebook event page by July 15 if you plan to attend.

Looking ahead . . . our September discussion book will be *The Clockmaker's Daughter* by Kate Morton.

JULY VOLUNTEERS

COFFEE HOSTS

July 7 - Kay Schroeder / Anne Bingham
July 14 - Bruce & Karen Stern
July 21 - Cheryl Bair & VOLUNTEER
NEEDED
July 28 - Mike & Chris Debbink

LITURGISTS

July 7 - Sandra Christensen
July 14 - VOLUNTEER NEEDED
July 21 - Barb Henneck
July 28 - VOLUNTEER NEEDED

FLOWERS

July 7 - Susan Caldwell
July 14 - Ross & Jean Paulus
July 21 - Brent & Marilyn Meyer
July 28 - VOLUNTEER NEEDED

GREETERS

July 7 - Dave & Diane Bedran
July 14 - Scott & Susan Solverson
July 21 - Bruce & Karen Stern
July 28 - John & Susan Climer

USHERS

July 7 - Jeff & Lynda Stephany
July 14 - Connie Pukaite / Rick Gattoni
July 21 - Joe & Eileen Hill
July 28 - Ann Miller / VOLUNTEER NEEDED



10th Annual Hunger Task Force Volunteer Food Sort Day and Food Drive

Food Drive Starts Sunday, June 30

Food Sort Day is Saturday, July 27

9 AM to 12 Noon

We're going to the Hunger Task Force warehouse to sort food on Saturday, July 27 from 9 am to 12 noon. In preparation for our volunteer day, we host a food drive, so we can take our donations and sort them while we are at the warehouse. All the food donations that are collected at Summerfest and Milwaukee summer events are also available for sorting. Starting on Sunday, June 30, look for the extra Hunger Task Force food donation boxes at the church entrance and in the narthex. We will collect donations right up to July 27. Last year, we took 300 pounds of food. Let's beat that record this time!

On Saturday, July 27, we'll meet at church at 8 am to pack up the food donations and carpool to the warehouse. You will be greeted with bagels, coffee, and water when you arrive. Then we will get to work to sort food and pack boxes that will be distributed to meal sites, food pantries, senior centers, and children's summer lunch programs throughout Southeast Wisconsin. Last year, we sorted 13 containers of food weighing 1000 lbs. each.

Invite your friends to join us! Everyone 12 years old and over is welcome. Look for the sign-up sheet on the Mission Outreach bulletin board. Our MUMC Youth, with Olivia Peters, and members of our Boy Scout troop will be there. Volunteers from the Cedarburg Methodist Church are joining us again this year, too. The activity requires lifting, twisting, bending, and being on your feet for three-hours (with a short break half-way through). Be sure to wear closed-toe shoes. No sandals are allowed. And long pants are better than shorts, although

the choice is up to you.

We need 25 volunteers, so be sure to sign-up. Look for the sign-up sheets on the Mission Outreach bulletin board at the end of June.

Location: Hunger Task Force Warehouse, 201 S. Hawley Court, Milwaukee, WI 53214 from 9 am to 12 pm.

Contact [Doug and Marilyn Zwissler](#) for more information. For more information about Hunger Task Force, see their website: <http://www.hungertaskforce.org>.

Join Our Missionaries for Dinner and Presentation

MUMC Mission Outreach Committee invites you to SAVE THE DATE: WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21, 2019

Enjoy an evening of fellowship and food and a presentation by Gordon and Ardell Graner, the missionary MUMC supports. This event will be held at our church and will begin at 6 pm. A catered dinner of sandwiches, salads, desserts, and beverages will be provided at a suggested donation of \$10 per person. Reservations will be required.

RSVP forms will be provided in each Sunday bulletin beginning Sunday, July 7. Or download the RSVP form [here](#).

Questions? Contact: [Susan Yorio](#) or [Karen Stern](#)

Bishop Forms a Wisconsin Option Task Force Wisconsin UMC Conference News Article June 3, 2019

In response to the recent General Conference and Judicial Council rulings in February and April, respectively, Bishop Hee-Soo Jung is assembling a team of clergy and laity leadership from across the Wisconsin Conference to envision a Wisconsin way forward – a Wisconsin Option to the calls for separation on both the traditional and progressive sides of our theological spectrum. Rev. Dan Schwerin, lead pastor of First United Methodist Church in Waukesha and chair of our Conference Committee on the Episcopacy, will facilitate the task force in partnership with Bishop Jung. Other members of the task force are Forrest Wells, Chet Ward, Lisa Wink, Jenny Arneson, Sheri Graeber, Esther Fahm, Kate Jones (secretary), Don Greer, Lisa Jones, Jonah Overton, Jack Stubbs, and Karen Dischler.

The purpose of the task force is to help clarify and refocus the identity of the Wisconsin Conference with a missional focus, and inclusive foundation, and a “grace margin” process that allows clergy and laity from across the Conference to share their thoughts and responses. The Wisconsin Option builds upon the Wesleyan General Rules to “do no harm, do all the good we can, and to attend together to the ordinances of God.” We commit to help leaders and congregations across the Conference live out these General Rules in tangible and transformative ways.

In a time of deep emotional and spiritual division and disagreement, the leadership of the Wisconsin Conference is seeking a healing, collaborative, and sustainable alternative that can be a witness to the Conference, the denomination, and the world that the reconciling grace and power of God is greater than any human dividing walls. This is a journey we invite the whole Conference to make together.

2019 Wisconsin Annual Conference Report June 14 - 16, 2019

Randy LeRoy - MUMC Lay Representative

Conference Theme - Wilderness

Much time spent on expressing feelings that our church is in a period of significant disarray and uncertainty. My observations – Our WI Conference is not united. Some churches are supporting the Traditional Plan and many churches are supporting the One Church Plan. Emotions came to head on Saturday afternoon with some LGBTQ+ people expressing perceptions of being bullied and intimidated by other conference participants during the conference. I did not personally observe any bullying and felt disappointed and sad if those confrontations did occur.

Current Church Status:

- 2018 WI membership down 4% from 2017
- Overall Lead Pastor salaries up 3%, Church staff salary 0% change
- Overall Income down 1.7% -
 - A lot of churches showed an increase in income due to an increase in rental income generated by renting out church space during the week.
- Thirty new ministries have been started within the last seven years in Wisconsin.
 - Three have been started within the last year:
 - Korean Fellowship in Eau Claire,
 - Madison Wellspring Hispanic, and
 - Hispanic Ministry in Arcadia/Whitehall.

MUMC was recognized for paying 100% of Apportionments in 2018.

Disaster Response Team support is needed to address flooding in Wisconsin.

Expect to have a financial plan available in August for any church that wishes to disaffiliate with United Methodist Church.

Peter Miano from New England area shared bible studies on Saturday and Sunday.

Key Points:

- The bible has been used as a tool to advance own agenda, sometimes in harmful ways.
- If bible interpretation leads to human suffering that interpretation is faulty. The bible is not intended to inflict harm or pain on anyone.
- We need to take the bible seriously.
 - First put it into the original context,
 - then apply it to our own context.
 - Read bible with humility.
 - Be open to learning - love one another - Agreement is not the goal.
- Five Keys that unlock all the secrets of the bible:
 - All scripture is meant to be understood;
 - No scripture was written to be understood by us - we were not the target audience, first century Mediterranean's were the intended audience;
 - All scripture comes to us in a heavily modified form - all translation is interpretive;
 - If you want to understand the bible, you first have to understand the world of the bible.

2020 Annual Conference Delegates elected:

Lay Representatives to General Conference

Lisa King - Wisconsin Dells-Delton UMC

Ravi Roelfs - River Falls UMC

Jessica Gobel - Onalaska UMC

Lay North Central Jurisdictional Conference

Lisa Jones - Brown Deer UMC

Donald Cramer - Central UMC Milwaukee

John Lawson - Gethsemane UMC Pewaukee

Clergy Delegates to General Conference

Rev. Jennifer M. Arneson - Sun Prairie UMC

Rev. Dan Schwerin - First UMC Waukesha

Rev. Krysta Deede - First UMC Tomah

Clergy North Center Jurisdictional Conference
Rev. Allie Scott - Family Church UMC Neenah
Rev. Kate Croskery Jones - District Superintendent North West District
Rev. Jeremy Deaner - New Richmond UMC

Lay Reserve

Lynn Messner - Salem Eldorado UMC Fond du Lac
Marie Severing - Cargill UMC Janesville
Meredith Spors - Cargill UMC Janesville
Judy Vasby - UMC Cambridge

Clergy Reserve

Rev. Scott Carlson - District Superintendent South West District
Rev. Kevin Dembinski - Marinette, Peshtigo and Harmony UMC's
Rev. Joan Frost - Faith UMC Westfield and Calgary UMC Coloma
Rev. Clarissa Martinelli - Fifth Ave UMC West Bend

Approved 2020 Wisconsin Annual Conference proposed budget.

Summary of Major Resolutions Passed:

- Pastor minimum compensation increased 3% to \$42,966.
- Conference Strategy Board name changed to New Ministries Strategy Board.
- The Launch Out Fund-raising campaign was paused to allow the events of the past year to be processed and addressed. The conference remains committed to the long-term goals of the campaign and it will be reinstated when the time is right.
- Wisconsin Annual Conference will not spend any conference funds on trials and/or legislative action related to “self-avowed, practicing homosexuals” or “for clergy who officiate at weddings for couples regardless of gender of the partners”.
- The Conference Treasurer will notify local churches annually of their share of apportionments separated into three categories: 1) General Conference Apportionments, 2) Jurisdictional Conference Apportionments, and 3) Wisconsin Conference Apportionments. Local churches submitting apportionment payments shall indicate on remittances how much is designated for the various conferences. The Conference Treasurer shall pay General Conference Apportionments within thirty days of receipt of funds so designated. This policy shall go into effect July 1, 2019 – Needs to go through Judicial review prior to implementation
- Approved Conference and District Safe Sanctuary policy that is similar to Safe Sanctuary policies in place in local churches.
- Wisconsin Annual Conference rejects the decision of the 2019 General Conference to pass the Traditional Plan and apologizes for the harm that it has caused LGBTQ+ persons, their families, and the body of Christ. “We affirm that all persons are individuals of sacred worth, created in the image of God” but we also assert and affirm that no human being is incompatible with Christian teaching.
- All clergy will be required to attend a conference-sponsored training on eradicating racism every quadrennium.
- Sent two petitions to 2020 General Conference requesting removing verbiage from the Methodist Book of Discipline including “heterosexual” from the definition of marriage and removing “practices declared by The United Methodist Church to be incompatible with Christian teachings, including but not limited to being a self-avowed practicing homosexual; or conducting ceremonies which celebrate homosexual unions; or performing same sex wedding ceremonies”.

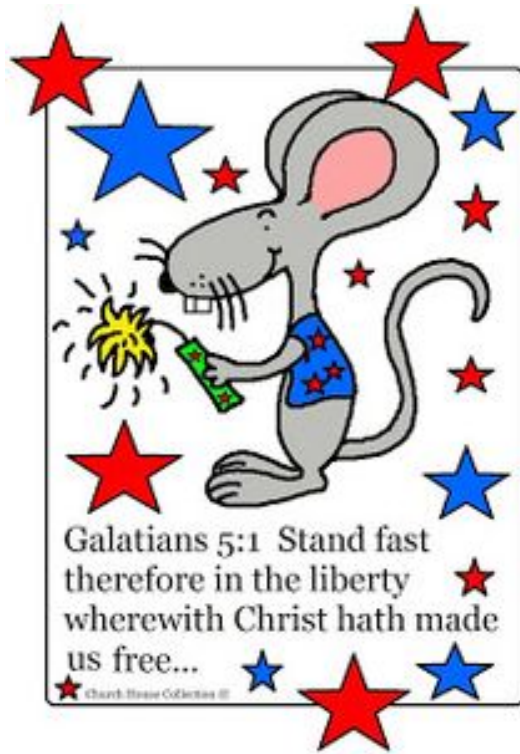
Celebrations:

Rev. Claire Mathers Douglas was ordained as a Full Elder of the Wisconsin Conference on 6/16/19 and recently was married to Corey Douglas.

Closed conference with Global Ministries 200 Year Celebration

Four priorities:

- Missionaries
 - Disaster Response and Recovery
 - Evangelism
 - Global Health
-



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