

SPIRE Newsletter



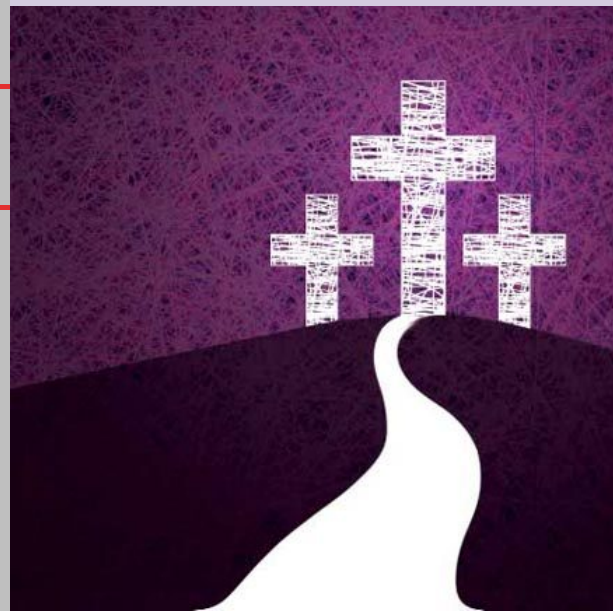
March 2020

[View MUMC Online Calendar](#)

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

CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

Mar. 1 – 1st Sunday of Lent;
Children's Ministries to create
resurrection gardens
Mar. 4 – Women's Prayer
Breakfast at 7 am
Mar. 5 – Men's Prayer Breakfast
at 7 am; Group growth study
(making sense)
Mar. 8 – 2nd Sunday of Lent
Mar. 10 – Information session/
West Bend
Mar. 12 – Group growth study
(making sense)
Mar. 15 – 3rd Sunday of Lent;
Lenten Cantata
Mar. 18 – Lenten Study (5 things)
Mar. 19 – Information session/
Waukesha
Mar. 22 – 4th Sunday of Lent
Mar. 25 – Lenten study (5 things)
Mar. 29 – 5th Sunday of Lent
Apr. 1 – Lenten study (5 things)
Apr. 4 – Information session/
Milwaukee
Apr. 5 – Palm Sunday
Apr. 9 – Maundy Thursday
service
Apr. 10 – Good Friday service
Apr. 12 – Easter Sunday
Apr. 18 – Information session/
Milton
Jun. 22 - 26 – Vacation Bible



Lenten Cantata

The Mequon United Methodist Church's Sanctuary Choir presents A Service of Shadows, A Choral Tenebrae Meditation on the Passion by Lani Smith on Sunday, March 15 at 9:30 am. The ancient Tenebrae service, from which this service is derived, dates back to the early years of the church. Coming from the Latin word meaning "shadows," Tenebrae depicts through the extinguishing of candles, and the dimming of lights in the sanctuary, the light of the disciples and the approaching crucifixion.

Join us, and invite your family and friends, for this dramatic meaningful Lenten service.

WORSHIP SERMON SPOTLIGHT

Sermon Series in March: More Than the Coat of Many Colors

During the month of March, we will dive into stories of Joseph who was one of the most amazing characters in the Bible.

Mar. 1 – Genesis 37:1-28 “But the Lord was with him”

Mar. 8 – Genesis 39:1-6 Walking through the fire

Mar. 15 – Lenten Cantata

Mar. 22 – Genesis 40:1-15 When you are sitting in a dungeon

Mar. 29 – Genesis 45:1-15: Which story do you want to tell?

WORSHIP MUSIC

Mar. 1 – Joyful Noise Choir

Mar. 8 – Shuler Family

Mar. 15 – Lenten Cantata: A Service of Shadows

Mar. 22 – Marcia Schwager

Mar. 29 – Penny Laferriere and Dale Parkinson

Lenten Study

The Lenten Study “Five Things God Uses to Grow Your Faith” by Andy Stanley starts on Weds., March 18 and continues on Weds., March 25 and Weds., April 1. Andy Stanley is a pastor, communicator, author, and the founder of North Point Ministries.

“What adjective best characterizes your faith? Would you say it’s dynamic... genuine... flourishing? Or would elusive... stalled... ineffective describe it better? Imagine how different your outlook on life would be if you had absolute confidence that God was with you. Imagine how different you would respond to difficulties, temptations, and even good things if you knew with certainty that God was in all of it and was planning to leverage it for good. In this DVD study, Andy Stanley builds a biblical case for

five things God uses to grow BIG faith. This study is certain to spark individual reflection and small group discussion on this vital aspect of Christianity.”

- March 18: Big Faith and Practical Teaching at 11 am (Church Parlor) and at 6 pm (Parsonage, 11003 N. Oriole Ln., Mequon)
- March 25: Providential Relationship and Private Disciplines at 11 am (Church Parlor) and at 6 pm (Susan Caldwell’s home, 1926 W. Hidden Reserve Ct., Mequon)
- April 1: Personal Ministry and Pivotal Circumstances at 11 am (Church Parlor) and at 6 pm (Glen Van Fossen’s home, 12632 N. Maplecrest Ln., Mequon)

The sign-up sheet for the study is in the narthex. **Please join us!**

From the Pastor

The story of Jesus’ death on a cross makes us uncomfortable. Actually, it makes us very uncomfortable. Thus, it is tempting to jump to Easter from Christmas without hearing the gory story about the crucifixion, isn’t it? The story of the cross demands us to ask difficult questions: Why did Jesus have to die to save us? Was the cross the only way to save us? Why couldn’t God just forgive and save everyone without the death of His Son? He is the one who is the “Forgiver” anyway! These questions require us to invest our time to think about the love and the sacrifice God has shown us through the Lord Jesus Christ and His death on the cross.

Friends, there would be no resurrection and salvation without the cross. And the story of the cross starts on Ash Wednesday, which leads us into the 40-day journey of Lent. Maundy Thursday commemorates the Last Supper when Jesus shared the Passover meal with His disciples on the night before He was crucified. Good Friday commemorates the crucifixion and death of Jesus. On Palm Sunday, we crown Jesus as our King in our lives. The 40-day journey calls all Christians to deepen their relationship with Christ as they re-commit themselves to Him by reading the story of Christ Jesus, praying and providing acts of service.

So I invite the entire MUMC family to participate in the special **activities** and **services** shown below during Lent 2020 to grow together in Christ.

Activities

Mar. 1: Create Resurrection Garden!

Group Studies: Mar. 18 - Apr. 1 at 11 am and 6 pm, "Five Things God Uses to Grow Your Faith"; sign-up sheet in the narthex; details, see Lenten Study article above in this Spire edition.

30 Days Reading/Listening and Prayer for Lent: Feb. 26 - Apr. 7 (Monday - Friday); copies of the 30-day reading/listening and prayer calendar are on the table in the narthex and [a printable version](#) is available here.

Services

Feb. 26: Ash Wednesday service at 7 pm at St. Boniface Church

Mar. 15: Lenten Cantata

Apr. 5: Palm Sunday

Apr. 9: Maundy Thursday service at 7 pm at MUMC

Apr. 10: Good Friday service at 7 pm at MUMC

Apr. 12: Easter

Let's grow together this Lent in the lead-up to a glorious Easter morning!

Pastor Sue Lee

Information Sessions Scheduled

by Wisconsin Delegates to the General and Jurisdictional Conferences

Information Sessions have been scheduled throughout the Wisconsin Conference in the coming weeks. The purpose is to provide information and answer questions on what is coming before the General Conference in May 2020 and the Jurisdictional Conference in July 2020. Sessions are open to all.

South East District Sessions:

- Tuesday, March 10, 7 pm, Fifth Avenue UMC, 323 S. 5th Avenue, West Bend
- Thursday, March 19, 6 pm, First UMC, 121 Wisconsin Avenue, Waukesha
- Saturday, April 4, 1 pm, Central UMC, 639 N. 25th Street, Milwaukee
- Saturday, April 18, 9:30 am, Milton UMC, 241 Northside Drive, Milton

Summary of the Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace Through Separation

Provided here are bullet points of the Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace Through Separation, excerpted from "Diverse Leaders' Group Offers Separation Plan" by Sam Hodges on January 3, 2020, at www.umnews.org. The full article was in the February 2020 Spire.

- A diverse, 16-member group of United Methodist bishops and other leaders has offered a proposal (called Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace Through Separation) that would preserve The United Methodist Church while allowing traditionalist-minded congregations to form a new denomination. The separating group would get \$25 million in United Methodist funds and would keep its local church properties.
- The proposal — reached with the help of famed mediator Kenneth Feinberg, who

worked on the federal September 11th Victim Compensation Fund — requires approval by the 2020 General Conference.

- Given the broad, influential coalition involved — including bishops from around the global connection and advocacy group leaders often sharply at odds — the potential seems strong that the separation proposal can end or at least greatly reduce the denomination's decades-long struggle over how accepting to be of homosexuality.
- After the 2020 General Conference, set for May 5 - 15 in Minneapolis, there would be a special General Conference for the remaining denomination. "The protocol also references a plan which calls for a special general conference of the post-separation United Methodist Church. The purpose of the Special Session would be to create regional conferences, remove the current prohibitions against LGBTQ persons, and to repeal the Traditional Plan," said a press release from the negotiating group.
- An annual conference, whether in a central conference or U.S. jurisdictional conference, also could vote to affiliate with a new Methodist denomination. A vote of 20 percent or more at an annual conference session would be needed to have the disaffiliation vote, and a disaffiliation vote would have to pass by 57%. The disaffiliation vote deadline is July 1, 2021.
- The leadership body of a local church considering disaffiliation could determine a threshold of a simple majority or two-thirds for the vote on whether to separate. Decisions about disaffiliation must be made by December 31, 2024.

Announcements

Prayers for the family of Susan

Caucutt, who passed away on February 24. Please keep Allen and his family in your prayers and thoughts. Susan's service will be Saturday, March 7 at the Shorehaven, 1305 W. Wisconsin Avenue, Oconomowoc. Visitation will be at 9:30 am, and the service will follow at 10:30 am.

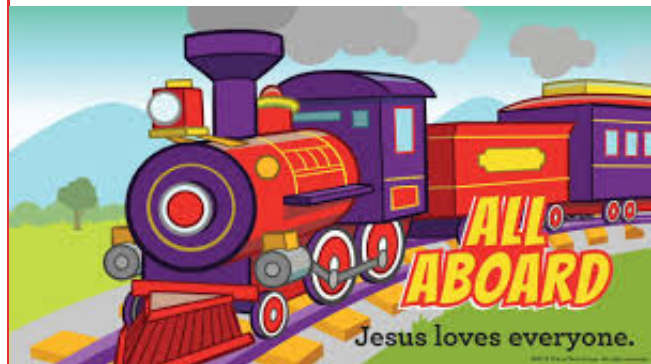
May God's sustaining Grace hold the Caucutt family tight in His comfort and presence in this difficult time.

Prayers for the family of Arlene Ettl

as it is with great sadness, but the blessed assurance in Christ, we share news of the death of long-time MUMC member Arlene Ettl. There will be a private memorial service. Your prayers for the family are appreciated.

Thank you MUMC

— I want to thank the members of Mequon United Methodist Church again for your support of the bake sale that helped fund my trip to India in October. It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience to be able to go with the Global Autism Project. The trip itself was amazing, with visits to the Taj Mahal and immersing ourselves in the Indian culture. The learning for our members of the Global Autism Project and the teachers of the India Schools was beneficial for both. The treatment of autism is a constant learning process, and the exchange of culture and experience will help me throughout my career as a Board Certified Behavior Analyst. I am always going to remember



All Aboard! The Children's Ministries would like to invite the congregation to a fun-filled week June 22 – 26, 9 am – 12 noon. The theme for our Vacation Bible School will be trains, and it will be a great opportunity for children to learn and grow in God's love. It will also be a great time for you to channel your inner child and join us as a helper. There are many ways to help from small to big. Be prepared to end each day with a smile and a heart full of joy!

Please check the table next to the coat room in the narthex for news of General Conference (May 5 – 15, 2020). You can also get more news at umnews.org about the United Methodist Church worldwide.

"My Verse for 2020" Please sign your name to find out your prayer buddy in 2020! 75 out of 82 scripture verse cards have been chosen, but there are only 54 names on the "Standing on the Promise of God in 2020" clip board. Without signing your name on the clip board, you and your partner can't find out who your prayer buddy is! You may ask her/him how you can pray for them, and

what I learned, and remember this experience for my lifetime.

Sincerely,
Samantha McKee McLaughlin
(Nancy Gruner's granddaughter)

"My Favorite Bible Verse" is a new feature coming soon to the Spire. Please submit your favorite Bible verse and tell why it's your favorite and/or how it became your favorite. Submit in writing to the office or email to news@mequonumc.org.

include them in your prayers as you pray for your loved ones. Let's pray together as we stand on the promises of God in 2020!

MUMC community gardens is now taking applications. If you are interested in gardening in our community gardens this year, please submit a registration form, which is available on the community garden link on the MUMC website.

Monthly Youth Group Yodel

In February, the youth came out to support Kaet Sisney in her major role in the play *Big Fish* at Homestead High School. Kaet and the rest of the cast did a wonderful job and, if you didn't get a chance to see it, you sure missed out! We had an impromptu Kopps and Khrist meeting with a skeleton crew of youth but still had some wonderful conversation about current news in the church. In Sunday school, we discussed overarching Methodist politics with the upcoming vote on LGBTQ+ rights in the church. It was very informative and helped the youth to understand what was taking place. It is important to keep the youth informed! They have a voice too!

Upcoming events in the next month include painting and decorating bird houses for our annual bird house auction that will take place in the coming weeks. Get your checkbooks ready to help support the youth group with your purchase of one (or more) of the unique bird houses created by the most artistically talented youth group this side of the Mississippi.

Youth Profile of the Month: Devin Curran

Devin Curran has been a member of MUMC since the day he was born. His first mission trip was to Middleton, Ohio in 2017. While there he dubbed himself D-zel after his love for diesel trucks and the legend was born. A staple on Rufio's Angels (our MUMC youth basketball team that plays at basketball tournaments we organize at the camps we attend), each year D-zel leads the team with most shots attempted, least shots made, and least assists by about triple the next person. We really couldn't win games without him! In his free time Devin is an active Lindenwood 4-H member and plays for Homestead on their Volleyball and Track & Field teams. The youth look forward to supporting him in his upcoming track season where he will be pole vaulting past the competition.

Fun Fact: Canada is south of Detroit

Group Growth Study Continues

Our February/March Growth Group Study, **Making Sense of the Bible**, continues, hosted by members of our new Social Justice Team, using material guides produced by Pastor Adam Hamilton. This DVD study is designed for group discussion.

"Wondrously accessible, Hamilton combines good scholarship with a light touch and exhibits his wise, generous pastoral heart. Hamilton does not let us forget that he bears witness to the gospel, and the result is discussion that permits readers to think again and faithfully about the Bible." Walter Brueggeman, Columbia Theological Seminary.

Mar. 5: Violence, Suffering, and Other Troubling Issues

Mar. 12: Wrestling with Issues of Sexuality and Relationships

To accommodate your busy schedule, each session will be offered on Thursdays at 12 noon and 6 pm. Both sessions will be held in the parlor at MUMC. If you have any questions, contact Pastor Sue or Connie Pukaite. **Please join us!**

New Ministry Being Started

Attention knitters experienced and new!

MUMC is starting a prayer shawl ministry. If you are a knitter, or want to become one, please join us. There is something inherently special about receiving a prayer shawl with love and reflective prayer in the stitches!

If you are a current knitter, please feel free to pick up a prayer shawl kit starting on Sunday, March 8. Sign your name next to the kit number. Pick up needles if you don't have any at home. Inside the kit are the directions and prayers. When the shawl is completed, bring back the shawl in the numbered bag, check off your name, and grab another kit as you are ready. It's that simple!

If you want to become a knitter, please join us the second Monday of every month, beginning March 9, from 7 – 8 pm in the parlor. We'll help you get started with casting on, and the knit and purl stitches. Knitters wanting to get together with others and/or help new knitters are welcome as well! There will be another option coming in spring.

Questions? Please contact [Marie Widder](#) by email or call her at 262-751-1052.



Volunteers

Greeters

Mar. 1 – Kevin & Sarah Cooper
Mar. 8 – Emily Levine & Lauren Schreiner
Mar. 15 – Brent & Marilyn Meyer
Mar. 22 – Doug & Marilyn Zwissler
Mar. 29 – Anne Bingham & Jean Schwerdt
Apr. 5 – Bruce & Karen Stern

Coffee Hosts

Mar. 1 – Ann Miller
Mar. 8 – Doug & Marilyn Zwissler
Mar. 15 – Nan Rilling & Susan Caldwell
Mar. 22 – Connie Pukaite & Kari Slater
Mar. 29 – Katie Jackson & Lauren Schreiner
Apr. 5 – Wendy Porterfield & Marcia Schwager

Ushers

Mar. 1 – Karen Huffman & **Volunteer Needed**
Mar. 8 – Susan Caldwell & Glen Van Fossen
Mar. 15 – Ann Miller & Mike Debbink
Mar. 22 – Rick Gattoni & Sandy Christensen

Liturgists

Mar. 1 – Joel Huffman
Mar. 8 – **Volunteer Needed**
Mar. 15 – **Volunteer Needed**
Mar. 22 – **Volunteer Needed**
Mar. 29 – **Volunteer Needed**
Apr. 5 – **Volunteer Needed**

Flowers

Mar. 1 – Connie Pukaite
Mar. 8 – Doug & Marilyn Zwissler
Mar. 15 – Ann Miller
Mar. 22 – **Volunteer Needed**
Mar. 29 – **Volunteer Needed**
Apr. 5 – **Volunteer Needed**

Mar. 29 – Kevin Cooper & Sandy Christensen
Apr. 5 – Kay Schroeder & Pat Dillon



Reflections Book Group

The Reflections book group will meet Thursday, March 12 at 7 pm in the church parlor. Our March discussion book will be *The Girl with Seven Names: A North Korean Defector's Story* by Hyeonseo Lee.

Amazon.com offers this description: *An extraordinary insight into life under one of the world's most ruthless and secretive dictatorships – and the story of one woman's terrifying struggle to avoid capture/repatriation and guide her family to freedom. As a child growing up in North Korea, Hyeonseo Lee was one of millions trapped by a secretive and brutal communist regime. Her home on the border with China gave her some exposure to the world beyond the confines of the Hermit Kingdom and, as the famine of the 1990s struck, she began to wonder, question, and to realize that she had been brainwashed her entire life. Given the repression, poverty, and starvation she witnessed, surely her country could not be, as she had been told "the best on the planet"? At age seventeen, she decided to escape North Korea. She could not have imagined that it would be twelve years before she was reunited with her family.*

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 April discussion book will be *The Only Woman in the Room* by Marie Benedict.

Apportionment News

March — Let There Be Peace On Earth

Apportionments as a Witness for Peace

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God" (Matthew 5:9). It is within our power to be peacemakers, and to be called children of God. Seeds of disharmony, mistrust, injustice and inequality surround us, and the fruits of greed, lust, envy, selfishness and hate exist in abundance. It isn't difficult to find a desperate, crying need for peace. For United Methodists to commit to being peacemakers, it will require an immense amount of time, energy, resources and spirit. Peacemaking



equals world-changing. But this is the work of Christian disciples — the transformation of the world. Alone, one person can do little to bring much peace to the world. In small clusters and communities, we might see better results, but to bring about true change, the entire body of Christ must mobilize to make peace. Our apportionments are our best tool for the mission and ministry of peacemaking.

What undermines peace in the world? Some of the key factors are ignorance, poverty, over-population, greed, prejudice, and the threats of war, disease, hunger, and violence. Economic injustice, racial inequality, tribal imperialism, and insatiable avarice are toxic influences, poisoning the global well, leaving millions living in fear and want. Our Christian scriptures are rife with instructions and admonitions on how we should treat one another. “Who is my neighbor?” is an eternal question. Our answer is fairly straightforward and simple: if God created him or her, then he or she is our neighbor! And it is our privilege and obligation to live in peace with every one of God’s blessed children. But who are we responsible for? Surely we cannot be expected to care for everyone everywhere! Again, alone or in the small group of our local congregation, we can do very little, care for very few. But we are a connectional church, and through our shared giving and collective contributions, there are very few places on earth we cannot reach and very few lives we cannot touch and improve.

One key apportioned fund of The United Methodist Church is the World Service Fund. This money prepares and trains clergy worldwide, as well as missionaries, lay servants, doctors and nurses, counselors, and community organizers. This money provides the foundation and infrastructure for the work of our General Board of Global Ministries and funds a large number of programs in our Central Conferences. It allows us to do children’s and youth ministry around the globe. It makes sure that our United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is prepared and able to be among the first responders to a wide variety of natural and human-caused disasters. The hungry are fed, the sick are healed and cared for, the homeless are given shelter, and the hopeless are given hope. All because of the few dollars we share through our apportionments.

“We Can’t Afford Our Apportionments”?

A familiar refrain in the United Methodist Church is that our apportionment costs are too high and prohibitive. Couldn’t we do more if we kept the money ourselves and spent it closer to home? The simple and quick answer to that is “No”. Let’s say a person puts one dollar in the collection plate on a Sunday morning. What actually happens to that dollar – how much goes to pay apportionments, and how much gets used locally? First, eighty-four cents (\$.84) of every dollar stays right in the church where it is given. For the average United Methodist Church, half of that amount pays salaries and benefits, a quarter pays insurance, building, and maintenance costs, 15% covers programs, equipment, and ministry expenses, 7% goes to administrative and material costs, and 3% goes to missions. If apportionments stayed in the local church, there is little evidence that it would be spent on missions. Of the remaining sixteen cents (\$.16), approximately 80% stays in the annual conference – paying for conference programs and staff, district superintendents, and specialized missions and ministries. Two cents (\$.02) goes to general church apportionments, and a penny (\$.01) goes to Advance Specials, Special Sunday offerings, and other miscellaneous funds.

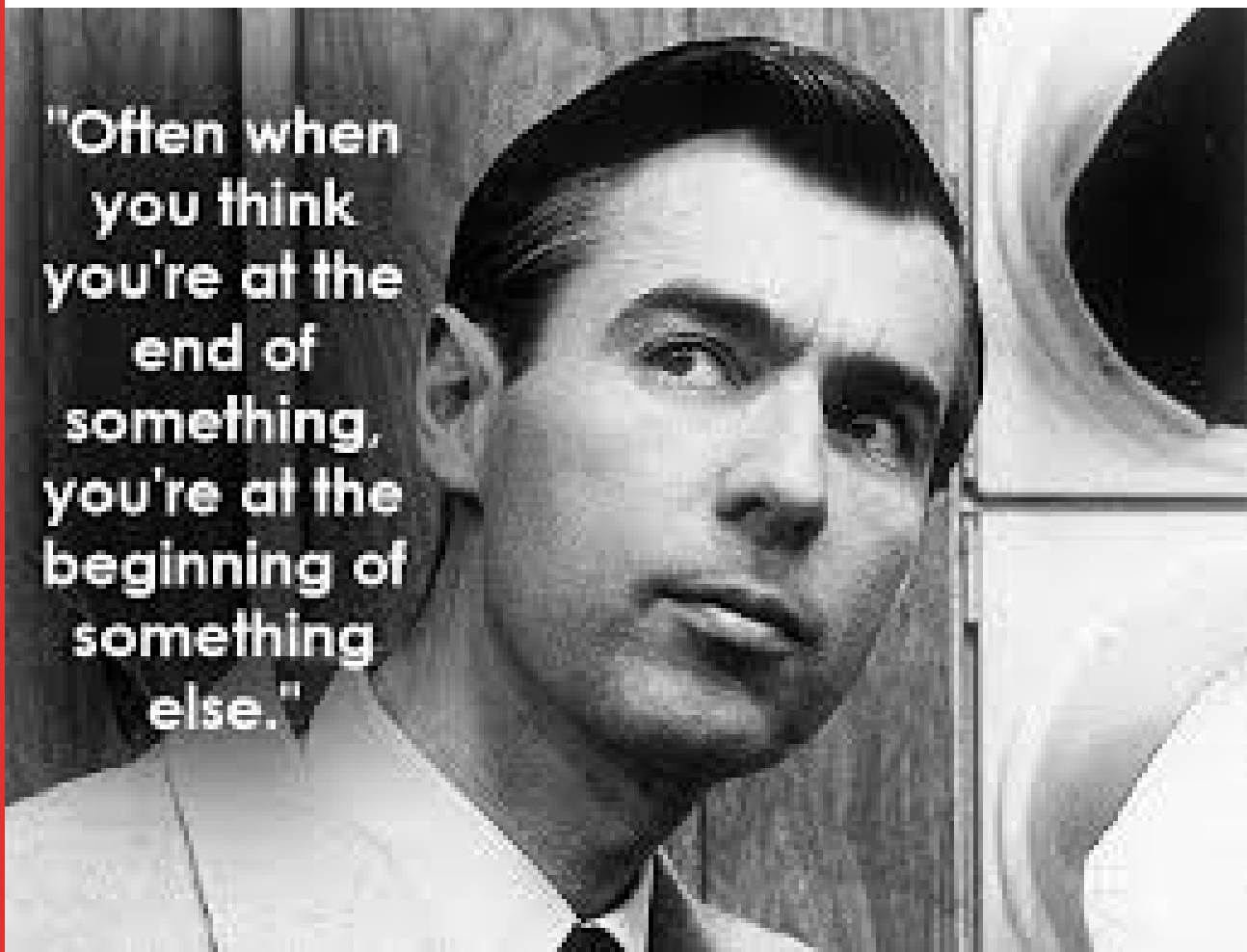
John 14:22-31

Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, “Lord, how is it that you will reveal yourself to us, and not to the world?” Jesus answered him, “Those who love me will keep my

word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me." "I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. You heard me say to you, 'I am going away, and I am coming to you.' If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe. I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no power over me; but I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father."

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

1. What does it mean to you to have "the peace of Christ"?
2. What is our responsibility to be peacemakers— to share the peace of Christ with others? How far can we extend the peace of Christ – individually, congregationally, connectionally?
3. What are some of the factors that undermine peace? What can we, as the body of Christ, do to challenge and confront the forces that undermine and destroy peace?



Fred Rogers March 20, 1928 - February 27, 2003

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.

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/ Closed Fridays

Sunday Schedule

9:30am Worship Service

10:30am Fellowship

www.mequonumc.org

