

# SPIRE Newsletter

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August 2019

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## CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

Aug 4 - Walking at Highland Woods  
Aug 11 - Walking at Lion's Den  
Aug 21 - Graner Dinner & Mission Report  
Sept 8 - Sanctuary Choir practice starts  
Sept 8 - Border Crisis information session  
Sept 14 - Hunger Task Force food sort/Cedarburg UMC  
Sept 15 - Youth Choir practice starts  
Sept 15 - Sunday School starts  
Oct 6 and 13 - Yee-Haw for kids

## WORSHIP SERMONS

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 9 - Waiting

## WORSHIP MUSIC

Aug 4 - Marcia Schwager  
Aug 11 - Sam Laferriere  
Aug 18 - Susan Climer and Marcia Schwager  
Aug 25 - Quattro Horns  
Sept 1 - Bill Church

## Gordon and Ardell Graner Dinner and Mission Report Wed, Aug 21 at 6 pm

The MUMC Mission Outreach Committee invites you to enjoy an evening of fellowship, food, and a presentation by Gordon Graner, the missionary MUMC supports, and his wife, Ardell.

### MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS FOR WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21

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 are required.

Reservation forms are available in each Sunday bulletin or click [here](#). Return the form along with a check in the Sunday morning collection plate or mail to:

Mequon United Methodist Church  
11011 N. Oriole Lane  
Mequon, WI 53092

Make check payable to "MUMC" with notation "Graner Dinner" and please include your name(s) and number of people attending.

Questions? Contact: Susan Yorio at [susanyorio9113@gmail.com](mailto:susanyorio9113@gmail.com) or Karen Stern at [kstern123@gmail.com](mailto:kstern123@gmail.com)

## From the Pastor

We, Christians, talk a lot about the cost of discipleship, don't we? By doing that, we may be subconsciously thinking that following Jesus is something that we have to do, and there is not much joy in it. If that is the case for you, I'd suggest thinking about the cost of non-discipleship. Yes, there is such a thing, the cost of non-discipleship. Have you ever thought about the cost of not following Jesus?

Here is the thing: everyone, Christian or not, is following something (money, power, popularity, pleasure, etc.) or someone. No one is neutral on this. If you are not following Jesus, whom or what are you following? Who or what is more worthy to follow than Jesus, who created this world in the beginning, humbled himself to become human, died on the cross, but rose from the dead to open the door to eternal life for everyone who believes in Him?

Friends, it is an honor and privilege to walk with Jesus, isn't it? You and I have been loved by Jesus to a degree that we cannot understand. And we show our love for Him by prayers, worship, sacrificial gifts, and joyful service. Is there a better way to live our lives on this side of eternity? Walking with Jesus is the best way to live the life God wants us to live. So let us faithfully follow Jesus with a joyful obedience and gratitude.

In Christ,  
Sue

## Announcements

**Thank you from Elna, Lloyd, and Eric** for the cards, prayers and wishes following the loss of Eric's husband, Doug, our beloved son-in-law. The journey ahead will be eased by the love and care you have shown.

**Gratitude from MUMC's Mission Outreach Committee.** Due to the congregation's generosity, 15 very large bags of clothing were donated to Family Sharing of Ozaukee County! Please keep cleaning your closets and we will continue to find organizations in Ozaukee and Milwaukee Counties who are in need of your donations. Thank you!

**Thank you from Nancy Gruner** to the many who expressed or mailed your good wishes for my continued health.

**Sanctuary Choir** will be starting on Sunday, September 8 at 7 pm. Plan on being there!

**Circle Your Calendar! Plan to Volunteer!**

Here are the dates that MUMC will host Family Promise families next year:

1/12 - 1/19/20

4/19 - 4/26/20

7/19 - 7/26/20

10/18 - 10/25/20

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## SUMMER WALKING PROGRAM

The Parish Nurse Ministry Team invites you join us for the final two walks of our summer walking program. We will be walking August 4 at Highland Woods in Mequon and August 11 at Lion's Den in Grafton. We will walk from 4-5 pm. Dress for the weather, wear comfortable walking shoes, and bring water for hydration. Watch emails and bulletins for directions to the parks. Contact Debbie LeRoy with any questions at 262-377-5694 or [rleroy@wi.rr.com](mailto:rleroy@wi.rr.com).

# Youth Choir

**Calling all young singers - Everyone invited!  
We are getting ready to make music starting in September!**

Please mark your calendars for September 15 at 9:00 AM - our first rehearsal! We will meet Sunday mornings to prepare to praise God through music. The schedule of services at which we will sing is below. We hope to see you!

October 6 - Sing at service  
November 3 - Sing at service  
December 8 - Christmas Pageant  
February 2 - Sing at service  
March 1 - Sing at service  
April 5 - Sing at service  
May 3 - Sing at service



## Volunteers

	Aug 4	Aug 11	Aug 18
<b>Greeters</b>	Marilyn Thiet Ruth Janusiewicz	Bush & Joan Buschman	Darwin & Cindy Shaurette
<b>Coffee Hosts</b>	Scott & Susan Solverson	Randy LeRoy	Jim & Gayle Meyer
<b>Ushers</b>	Volunteers Needed	Rick Gattoni Volunteer Needed	Connie Pukaite Volunteer Needed
<b>Liturgists</b>	Connie Pukaite	Volunteer Needed	Rick Hynson
<b>Flowers</b>	Malcolm & Nancy Creighton	Rick & Pat Gattoni	Doug & Marilyn Zwissler

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	Aug 25	Sept 1
<b>Greeters</b>	Brent & Marilyn Meyer	Randy LeRoy
<b>Coffee Hosts</b>	Ellen Shuler	David Gruettner
<b>Ushers</b>	Ann Miller Volunteer Needed	Kay Schroeder Volunteer Needed
<b>Liturgists</b>	Glen Van Fossen	Connie Pukaite
<b>Flowers</b>	Connie Pukaite	Volunteer Needed



## USHER SIGN-UPS

We need to complete our usher sign-ups for the rest of the Summer and into Fall as we start

our busy program season.

If you are available, and if you have not already signed up, please do so on Signup Genius or call Sandy Christensen, 262-243-5116, or contact her at [dustycity@hotmail.com](mailto:dustycity@hotmail.com) to find a date. Sandy will be randomly assigning folks dates if she does not hear from enough of you to fill the schedule.

**We have also had a slight change to your duties. We are now asking the ushers to actually place the offering in the safe each Sunday before you leave.** There should always be a manila envelope with the bulletins for that date. Please place the offering in the envelope. (Please do not include the attendance cards as the Welcoming Connections Team needs to look through those.) Then place the manila envelope into the drawer of the new safe. It is in the same location in the office. You do not need a combination or to open the safe. Just pull open the mailbox-like slot and drop in the envelope. This will alleviate the times when we have had the offering setting on a desk, unsecured, until Monday morning. Thank you for taking on this additional small task.

Thank you for this important service to your church family.

## Youth Ministries Update



### EXPLORE HOW GOD CONNECTS TO EVERYDAY LIFE – CHILDREN’S SPIRITUAL FORMATION THIS FALL

This fall in our Spiritual Formation classes, children will be learning how they can be like God as they go through living every day. Lessons focus on a Bible story, with a meaningful connection to activities and experiences common to children’s lives. All children in preschool through fifth grade are invited to participate each Sunday.

On the first Sunday of the month – our MUMC Family Sundays – the children’s choir will sing, and then during the sermon time children will go to Children’s Church to explore the day’s message in a kid-friendly, hands-on way. On the rest of the Sundays every month, we will have Spiritual Formation classes in the room off Fellowship Hall.

Come, and bring a friend! Classes start September 15.



### SADDLE UP FOR FUN THIS FALL! October 6 and 13

Children and their families are invited to join us for two Sundays this fall as we explore God’s Greatest Gift in a rip-roaring adventure called Yee-Haw! This VBS-like program will take place on Sundays, October 6 and 13, right after church. It will include songs, crafts, Bible stories, service projects and snacks, and will last from 10:30-Noon.

All children in preschool through middle school are invited to attend, and parents may stay and participate or enjoy a longer coffee fellowship. Helpers and snack providers would be very much appreciated! Stay tuned for more details in the September Spire.

# VBS and CRITTER CAMP THANK YOU'S

Our VBS and Critter Camp served 45 children and youth this year in a wild and wonderful week of growing together in Christ. This would not have been possible without the incredible assistance of many amazing helpers, who are listed below. We are especially grateful for Gayle Meyer, our VBS Director and Preschool Coordinator, Graycie Gardner, our VBS music director and Critter Camp leader, Bruce Stern and Linda Mordy, who crafted and led our Critter Camp Service Project, Kathy Sullivan, our Critter Camp art director, and Shelley Burns, our shopper and chef extraordinaire. Thanks to EVERYONE who worked so hard that incredible week!

Gayle Meyer (VBS Director/Preschool)  
Graycie Gardner (Music/Critter Camp)  
Ardis Burke (Bible Stories)  
Shelley Burns (Dinner/Shopping)  
Bruce Stern (Critter Camp/clean-up)  
Linda Mordy (Critter Camp/prep/clean-up)  
Kathy Sullivan (Critter Camp)  
Pat Gattoni (Imagination Station)  
Jenn Bertolino (Imagination Station)  
Wendy Porterfield (Games/prep)  
Patrick Curran (Games)  
Pam Layton (VBS Snacks)  
Susan Yorio (VBS Snacks)  
Ruth Janusiewicz (VBS snacks)  
Nan Rilling (VBS/Critter Camp/prep)  
Skylar Chrobak (VBS Preschool)  
Nikolai Gardner (VBS Preschool)  
Karen Huffman (Registration/Critter Camp)  
Peter Gardner (VBS A/V)  
Pastor Sue Lee (Video/Missions)

Marilyn Zwissler (Critter Camp/prep)  
Ed Mordy (Critter Camp)  
Karen Stern (Preschool helper)  
Emily (SCDC Kangaroos)  
Abby (SCDC Froggies)  
Judy (SCDC Bunnies)  
Schuyler Gardner Pietz (Sunday Music)  
Susan Caldwell (set up)  
Eileen Hill (prep)  
Ann Miller (Critter Camp prep/snacks)  
Beth Carter (Dinner)  
Jim Meyer (Set and Classroom Clean Up)  
Youth  
McKenzie Gruner (VBS crew leader)  
Jadynn Gruner (VBS crew leader)  
Devin Curran (VBS crew leader/Pharaoh)  
Andrew Carter (VBS crew leader/Critter Camp leader)  
Sydney Bertolino (VBS/Critter Camp helper)  
Charlie Nowak (VBS/Critter Camp helper)

## Border Crisis Informational Session

What can we do about the humanitarian crisis on our southern border?  
Come find out on Sunday, September 8, 2019, right after church.

Do you feel helpless as you watch the news of the human crisis at our southern border? Yes, there are ways to help. Please join us to learn what United Methodist Churches, UMCOR, and others are doing to care for people caught in the migrant crisis on our southern border. It is faith communities who are responding to the call to "Care for the Children of God." Members of our congregation joined with Cedarburg United Methodist Church to explore our feelings about what is happening to people, sharing our resources, discussing what we need to know, and what we can do. Our Ozaukee County churches are coming together to work toward helping our sister communities on the border reach out with God's love to alleviate the suffering that is occurring.

This is a matter of faith, not politics. Some of the solutions we discussed include praying for the families caught at the border and for those who are trying to help them; finding out more by setting up informational sessions with an immigration lawyer and others who are working with migrants and immigration law; partnering with churches who are on the front lines at the border; preparing humanitarian supplies for UMCOR, which distributes them to six churches running shelters at the border; and contacting our representatives and letting them know that we are concerned and paying attention to this crisis.

To find out more come join us on Sunday, September 8 right after church.

Here are some internet sources that will give you more information:

A Sunday of Solidarity for Suffering Children, United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR);  
UMCOR: Migrants Seeking Asylum (Video); UMCOR's Sunday of Solidarity for Suffering Children 2019, California-Pacific Conference; Can Nothing Good Come From the Border? Facebook Post by John Fanesil who serves at The Border Church, a binational church that shares communion each Sunday across the United States/Mexico border.

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## **Hunger Task Force Thanks You** **And so do the hungry people throughout Milwaukee**

A special "Thank You" to everyone who took time out of their busy Saturday on July 27 to help sort food donations at Hunger Task Force. Thank you also to everyone who donated healthy food, especially baby food and Enfamil, for us to take on our sort day.

Because of you children dependent on school lunch programs still had lunch, senior citizens had food for a decent meal, food pantries had what they needed to supply families with healthy food, and meal sites, like ours at St. Vincent de Paul, were able to feed the families who came through their doors.

Did you miss this opportunity? There is another chance! Save Saturday, September 14 from 9 am to 12 noon to join with the Cedarburg United Methodist Church on their food sorting day at Hunger Task Force.

Contact Marilyn Zwissler for more information.

## **Assisted Listening System Installed**

Through the generous memorials in honor of Stan Janusiewicz, MUMC has installed an assisted listening system that will boost the volume of the sound coming through the microphone system in the sanctuary. Congregation members can check out the devices from the sound board technician each Sunday prior to worship.

There are two types of headsets:

1. Over the ear with a hook that goes behind your ear and a speaker portion that rests on the outer part of the ear, and
2. A loop that has no ear piece that hangs over your neck and works with your own hearing aid. Your hearing aid must have a t-coil in order for this one to be helpful to you.

The headset (either type 1 or 2) needs to be plugged into the receiver, which is a small box with an on/off switch that can be clipped to your clothing or put in a pocket. The receiver needs to be turned on with good batteries installed. When it is on, there should be a green light. The dial controls the volume coming through the headset. Place the headset on your ear, turn the receiver on and set your volume. Everything that is coming through the microphone system should be enhanced. If you have difficulty with the system, please check with the person on the sound board that day. They must have raised the antenna and turned on our microphone system and sound board.

We are thankful for Ruth and Stan's commitment to our congregation and deeply appreciate this lovely gift in Stan's memory.

## **Thank You Herb and Ginger**

How do you say goodbye to long time active and beloved members of MUMC? Herb and Ginger Ayres will soon move to the Minneapolis area when their senior living apartment becomes available and to be near their son, Peter, and his wife.

Herb has been on nearly every available committee, including Admin Council chair and

Marketing Committee. He helped start the Green Team and, as Lay Speaker, preached many times when needed.

Ginger had an amazing run as Spire editor for 24 years. We all know about the quality of this publication. She also sat on the Admin Council and the Marketing Committee, and is a member of the Women's Prayer Breakfast and Lunch Bunch Bible study.

So we won't say goodbye, but say thanks for all you have done for MUMC and God Bless. Enjoy this new phase of your lives and keep in touch.

## Sonlight Spotlight



Sonlight has had a fun-filled, active month, starting with our annual Red, White, and Blue Celebration. There have been many outside water days, since the weather has been so nice and warm. The school age kids have been able to go to the pools in the area, and the younger ones have been splashing around behind the church. The staff is so excited that the grasses are green



and healthy so the kids can move freely in the playground area. Eyes were filled with wonder as Ms. Linda released butterflies after they awakened from their chrysalis stage. There was even a visit from Ms. Kim and her Amazing Animals. Students were able to touch and hold some of these furry friends, or watch the larger ones scoot about on the floor.

## Information and Support for Caregivers from the Aging and Disability Resource Center of Ozaukee County

Are you providing care for someone else and finding that you have more questions than answers and wondering where to turn? The Caregiver Connection of Ozaukee County hosts monthly presentations on topics and issues that caregivers have expressed concerns about.

Each month The Caregiver Journey session covers different subjects:

- Thursday, August 15: Hands on Caregiving--How to make each day safer and easier
- Thursday, September 19: Changing the Ending--Understanding Palliative Care, Hospice, and Funeral Preplanning

All sessions are from 1 – 3 pm at the Columbia St. Mary's Center at the Ozaukee County Fairgrounds, W67 N866 Washington Avenue, Cedarburg.

A separate engagement activity is provided onsite for your loved one while you attend the presentation. Please let them know when you register if your loved one will be attending with you.

Please register by calling the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) at 262-284-8120 or visit the Caregiver Connection website at [www.ozccc.org](http://www.ozccc.org) and click on the "News and Events" tab.

If these sessions do not fit into your schedule and you have questions about these or other caregiver issues, feel free to call the ADRC and a staff member will assist you.

## From the Bishop

### *Soul Food* What You Tolerate, You Embrace

“But now you must get rid of all such things—anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.” Colossians 3:8, 12-17

There is a Coptic phrase that translates pretty closely, “What you tolerate, you embrace.” This is used in both positive and negative ways. In the positive case, it means that when we are tolerant of differences, of changes, of new ideas, of other cultures, we will come to accept and even embrace them. When we are patient and non-judgmental, everyone benefits. However, there is a negative side which is offered as a caution. When we are tolerant of hateful, arrogant, hurtful things – like racism, sexism, homophobia, and xenophobia – we can come to embrace these ideas and actions as acceptable and normal. As Christians, we must be ever mindful and watchful for these behaviors and stand up against them. Racist, sexist, exclusionary and hostile behaviors are not acceptable. And this charge to oppose such behaviors crosses all lines of theology, politics, culture, and creed. Bad behavior is bad behavior, and when we witness it, we should name it for what it is.

I have great respect and regard for the position of the president of the United States, regardless of the party he (or perhaps, one day, she) represents. I have been shocked and dismayed by racist and sexist comments made by our current president. It does not matter what party is in power, no one has the right to tell United States citizens, “Why don’t they go back and help fix the totally broken and crime infested places from which they came.” Let me be clear, the president of the United States has the right to disagree with, and even criticize, those who make comments about how the country is being run. But to attack, to demean, to disrespect, and to deny their citizenship is unacceptable. It sets a standard that cannot be tolerated – for to tolerate it is to embrace it.

We can do better. We must do better. We must be better. And we need to call our leaders – of every party and political perspective – to exemplify the kind of behavior that befits a civilized and healthy society. While there is a separation of church and state, there are still some basic tenets of common decency and respect that people of any faith, or no faith, can share. Most of us are taught from childhood to be kind, to share, to refrain from hitting, to not call people names, to be respectful of the feelings of others. We have a basic grasp of what to do and what not to do. Being kind, considerate, patient, loving, helpful, and tolerant are all signs of maturity. Few people rank bullying, being abusive, being disrespectful, insulting, or intentionally hurtful as mature behaviors. We all know better. And as a people who follow a savior who instructs us to “Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect,” (Matthew 5:48) we cannot be tolerant of such things as racism and sexism, regardless of the source.

I invite us to pray for our president and our politicians. Our government leaders are not in a good place when it comes to treating one another with respect. Our culture has become tolerant of many of the behaviors Jesus and Paul warned against. There is much angry, malicious, abusive, and slanderous language used by our political leaders. And as our leaders lead, so do we often follow their example. But let us offer a different way, a better way. Let us turn aside wrath and malice and slander and abuse. Let us call for a new rhetoric and a new language – a language of grace and peace and hope and compassion and



love. Take time to let your representatives – at all levels – know you are watching and listening. Let them know when they do well but hold them to account when they abuse their position and engage in hateful, hurtful, and damaging talk and behavior. In time, as we become more tolerant of each other, perhaps we will embrace a gospel vision of kindness and love for all.

## Don't Let This Happen to You! Plan Your Estate Giving Today

A few years ago, K. inherited shares of stock from the estate of a family friend. All the paperwork was completed by the estate lawyers and K. received notice when the shares had been transferred to her name. When her church was in the process of a building campaign, K. entered on her pledge card that she had stock she would like to redeem in order to pay her pledge. No one from the finance committee or church office contacted her to help her gift the stock to the church!

She didn't know who to contact in the secular world either so she left the stock invested. Years later she read in her church newsletter that the Wisconsin U.M. Foundation could process gifts of stock, which meant she could avoid paying capital gains taxes. She also could avoid paying a selling fee or commission. She was amazed! By following the Foundation's simple procedure, she could actually make a larger gift to her church than if she had sold the gift of stock herself and written a check to the church for the proceeds.

In 2015, the Foundation assisted 112 people in giving \$878,000 in stock gifts to different churches and ministries. By making these gifts through the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation, these individuals made sure that 100% of the proceeds from the sale were used for ministry.

For more information on how you can make a gift of appreciated stock to your favorite church or United Methodist ministry, please find the most current securities processing form on our website at <http://www.wumf.org/assets/ProcessingStockGifts.pdf>. Be sure to call us or send us a copy of the form so that we can process your gift as quickly as possible.

Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation  
750 Windsor Street Ste 305  
Sun Prairie, WI 53590  
1-888-903-9863 or [wumf@wumf.org](mailto:wumf@wumf.org)

## Apportionment Monthly Update

### Partners in Ministry

Apportionments are a partnership agreement that connects individual Christians with congregations, congregations with conferences, conferences with the general church, and the general church with the global body of Christ. The reputation of the United Methodist Church, United Methodist Women, and the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) are so widely respected that a host of other denominations and social service agencies contribute money to our mission and ministry.

Synergy (where the outcome is greater than the sum of the parts) occurs each time we give to and through apportionments. But it is vitally important to remember that the apportionments represent the MINIMUM amount of money to fund global and conference ministries. The goal of each local church and every annual conference should not be just 100% apportionment payment, but a systematic "second-mile" giving plan to multiply and extend the reach and impact of the United Methodist Church.

For some, this seems unrealistic. Financial planning in many congregations, and even in many conferences, is an exercise in making ends meet and dealing with deficits. It is difficult to

promote “stretch goals” and exceptional generosity. Yet, this is simply part of our Christian faith. John Wesley taught that tithing was the “minimum” standard of giving for faithful Christians. In the time of Jesus, it was expected that people would not only give tithes (the first-fruits of all produce), but also gifts (to support the leadership of the spiritual community), offerings (special gifts given to honor God and support the community of faith), and alms (gifts given specifically to care for the poor, the widows, the orphans, and strangers passing through). Throughout the history of both the Jewish and Christian faiths — as expounded in the Hebrew and Christian scriptures — giving is a central part of the “job” of serving God.

In modern culture in the United States, people tend to be very selective in ways they give money. At the same time that charitable giving in North America has hit an all-time high, giving to organized religion and mainline churches is failing to keep pace. People want to know exactly what they get for their charitable giving. Many churches (and annual conferences) do a fairly poor job telling the story to help people know exactly what they get for the money they put in the offering plate. When people feel good about what happens for their giving, they tend to give more.

### **Giving Help, Giving Hope, Giving Life**

Harbor House Crisis Shelters in Superior, Wisconsin is a very real, very tangible response to caring for the poor and marginalized and housing the homeless. Its main focus on homeless women and families provides a critically important ministry in the far northwest corner of Wisconsin. One woman shared that she was on the brink of suicide, ready to abandon her two children, seeing no possible future for herself and her family. A friend connected her to Harbor House as a last resort.

Harbor House provided food and lodging, access to child care, job training and employment support, giving her not only a way forward, but hope and renewed faith. This story is repeated hundreds of times, made possible through the kindness and commitment of United Methodists throughout our conference. Through matching funds and alternative revenue sources, the miracle of multiplication occurs. For every dollar given through our apportionments, \$2–\$3 actually makes it to Harbor House. When we fail to fund our apportionments in full, the implications for life-giving ministries like Harbor House can be devastating.

### **Matthew 25:31- 46**

When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, “Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.”

Then the righteous will answer him, “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?” And the king will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.”

Then he will say to those at his left hand, “You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.”

Then they also will answer, “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?” Then he will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.”

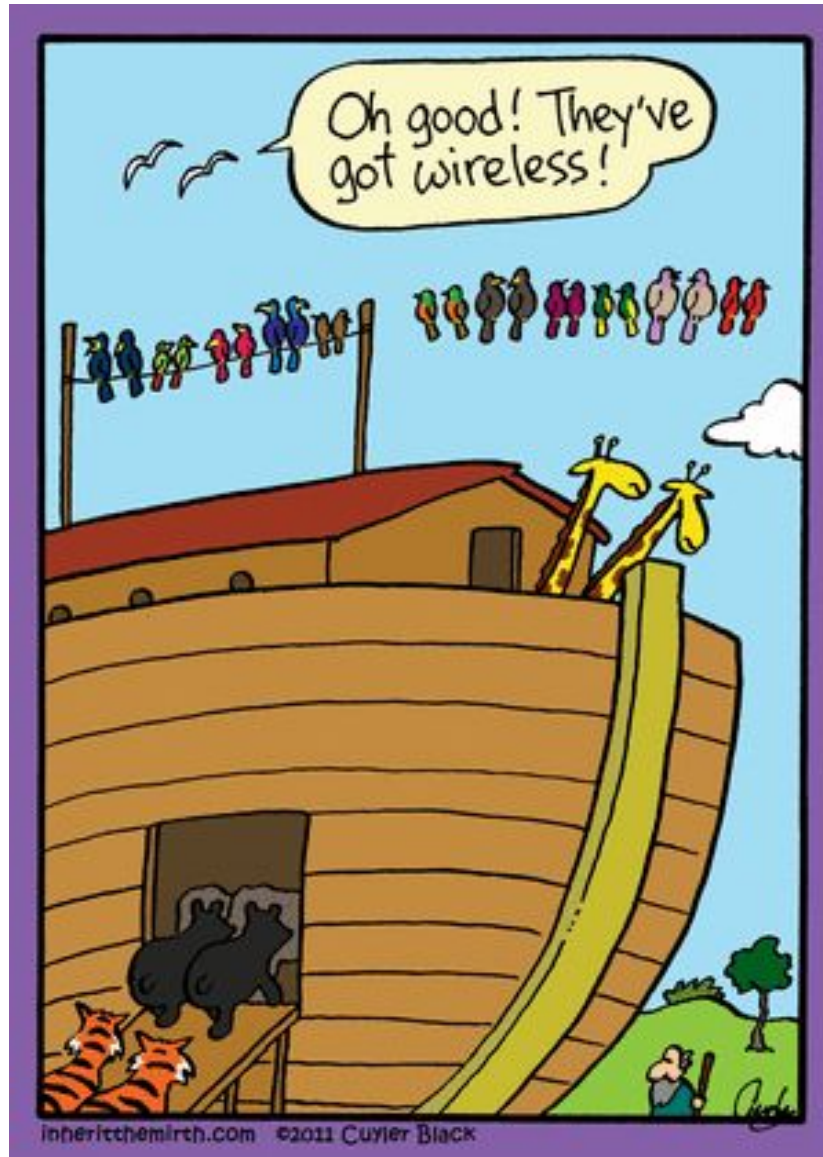
And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.

### **Questions for Reflection and Discussion**

1. Who are the “least of these” in our immediate community? Who are the least of these in the

United States? Who are the least of these around the planet? How can we serve the Christ in the least of these around the world?

2. What are the reasons, excuses, explanations, and rationalizations we use to justify not doing more to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, visit the sick and the prisoner, or welcome the stranger? How do apportionments address these reasons, excuses, explanations, and rationalizations?



[www.mequonumc.org](http://www.mequonumc.org)

