

SPIRE Newsletter



November 2020



[View MUMC Online Calendar](#)

CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

Nov. 1: Trunk or Treat
Thanksgiving food collection
Nov. 1: deadline for Youth Ministries to receive college addresses for care packages
Nov. 1: All Saints' Day
Nov. 14: Marsh Meadow Cleanup
Nov. 15: veterans recognized during worship service
Nov. 16: begin donations to Christmas Giving Tree
Nov. 17: new Bible study begins, featuring John Stott
Nov. 24: 5 pm deadline for donating food for Meal Site's Thanksgiving meal
Nov. 24: Spire deadline for Dec. 2020 edition
Dec. 7: end donations to Christmas Giving Tree
Dec. 24: Spire deadline for Jan. 2021 edition

Holiday Ministries

"Trunk or Treat" for Turkey Day for Family Sharing

The Mission Outreach Committee is hoping for enthusiastic participation for its second round of the "Trunk or Treat" Thanksgiving Food Collection for Family Sharing of Ozaukee County. They will be collecting specific food items on **Sunday, November 1** after church, from 10:30 am — 11:30 am. Simply drive up in front of the church and pop your trunk. Members of the Mission Outreach Committee will unload your food donations and, in return, reward you with a treat! Food donations can also be dropped off at church during the week prior to November 1. Leave your donations on or near the bench inside the front door. Please remember to follow the required

WORSHIP SERMON SPOTLIGHT

Nov. 1: All Saints' Day, James 4:13-17

Nov. 8: Luke 12:35-48, Connie Pukaite's favorite Bible verse (Luke 12:48)

Nov. 15: 1 Peter 4:8-11, Marcia Schwager will preach

Nov. 22: Commitment Sunday, Philippians 4:10-20

Nov. 29: 1st Sunday of Advent, Isaiah 64:1-9

WORSHIP MUSIC

Nov. 1: Dale & Penny Parkinson

Nov. 8: Kaet Sisney

Nov. 15: Men's Quartet

Nov. 22: Women's Group

Nov. 29: Ellen Shuler & Elna Hickson

safety and sanitation procedures when entering our church.

This is the list of nonperishable packaged, boxed, or canned items requested by Family Sharing:

Boxed Stuffing Mix

Canned Cranberry Sauce

Canned Green Beans

Canned Cream of Mushroom Soup

Freeze-Dried Fried Onions

Canned Turkey or Chicken Gravy

Boxed Instant Mashed Potatoes

Canned Pumpkin for Pies

Canned Apple Pie Filling

Boxed Pie Crust Mix

Food donations will be delivered to Family Sharing the morning of Monday, November 2. Thank you for helping serve the needs of low-income, elderly, and disabled residents of Ozaukee County. If you have questions, email [Susan Yorio](mailto:Susan.Yorio) or phone her, 262-853-3933.

Mission Outreach's Thanksgiving Meal Site

This year, the Meal Site will serve their Thanksgiving meal on Wednesday, November 25, 2020. The Meal Site will be closed on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 26. Due to COVID-19, MUMC's part in this year's Thanksgiving meal will be limited to providing food for the Meal Site.

We will not be preparing food on-site or serving food on-site.

This year, there will be no sign-up sheet like we have used in the past. If you would like to participate, the following is a very specific list of food being requested:

Cooked Meat, either turkey or ham:

Turkey

- one whole turkey or two turkey breasts
- cooked then sliced and packed into gallon Ziploc bags
- any multiple of this quantity is acceptable (two whole turkeys or four turkey breasts, for e.g.)
- place the Ziploc bags in the church freezer by no later than **5 pm on Tuesday, November 24**

Ham

- one ham
- cooked then sliced and packed into gallon Ziploc bags
- any multiple of this quantity is acceptable (two hams, for e.g.)
- place the Ziploc bags in the church freezer by no later than **5 pm on**



Tuesday, November 24

Food Staples/Non-perishables:

- stuffing mix, such as Stove Top, 2 boxes, 10 servings per box
- chicken broth, 2 cans (6 cups per can) or 3 boxes (4 cups per box)
- powdered gravy mix, enough to make 1 gallon
- instant mashed potatoes, 1 large box
- any multiple of these quantities is acceptable
- place items on the bench inside the front door of the church by no later than **5 pm on Tuesday, November 24**

Desserts:

- cookies or bars, nothing sticky or gooey
- place 3 cookies or 2 bars in small Ziploc bags
- any number of bags is acceptable
- place the Ziploc bags on the bench inside the front door of the church by no later than **5 pm on Tuesday, November 24**

Call Irene Sullivan if you have questions, 414-418-3832 (cell) or 262-242-3832 (home).

Mission Outreach Committee's Christmas Giving Tree to Support Pathfinders of Milwaukee

This year, we at MUMC will once again support the mission work of Pathfinders of Milwaukee by sharing the "gift of Christmas" with those in need. Please visit their website at pathfindersmke.org to more fully understand the vast array of services they provide for youth and young adults.

Due to the current conditions and concerns occurring with COVID-19, the Mission Outreach Committee will be protecting the members of our congregation. Therefore, we are asking members to provide monetary donations and Mission Outreach Committee members will do the shopping. A donation amount of your choice is welcome and we are grateful for any amount you give to this worthy organization and the young clients they serve.

Last year the average donation amount was \$40 per MUMC members who donated. Your generosity allowed us to provide gifts for 50 youth and young adults supported by Pathfinders of Milwaukee. This equated to MUMC members providing gifts at a total value of approximately \$2,000!! Amazing!

Instructions:

Starting **Monday, November 16** donations can be given on-line or by check. For online donations, go to the church website, click on Donate, then click on Make An Online Donation, then choose Christmas Giving Tree in the drop-down box. For monetary donations, please make checks payable to MUMC with "Giving Tree" in the notation line. Leave your check in the secure box outside of the church office or mail to MUMC, 11011 N. Oriole Lane, Mequon, WI 53092.

In order to allow time for the Mission Outreach Committee members to shop and have gifts ready for Pathfinders for Christmas giving, we would appreciate receiving your donations by **Monday, December 7**.

Questions? Telephone Karen Stern at 262-227-7811 or Susan Yorio at 262-853-3933.

Smile and know you just made Christmas brighter for a Milwaukee area youth or young adult! Thank You and Merry Christmas!

Shawl Ministry

As the weather turns colder, the knitters of our MUMC Shawl Ministry are invited to create warm scarves, hats, and mittens for Family Promise and others in need. Marie Widder has been busy putting together kits for our knitters and has just delivered many new kits to make scarves, hats, and mittens. Each kit contains a pattern and enough yarn to create either one scarf, one hat for an adult or child, or one pair of mittens for an adult or child. Kits are assembled so that knitters can choose projects that are the best fit with their knitting skills. Kits are available in the church office now, Monday-Thursday, 9 am —1 pm.



Please call ahead and mask up! When you've completed your project, you can place it in the box provided in the office. Thank you for contributing your time and talent to this important ministry!

From the Pastor

"Days may slow, but months are fast." How true it is! Now, we are heading toward the month of Thanksgiving. Last month, I invited you all to remind yourselves of blessings in your life daily by using the "My Daily Gratitude Reminder" in the morning for three months: October, November and December. Some of you may say, "What is My Daily Gratitude Reminder?" Well, I understand that you have not done it yet. But no worries! You still have two months to participate and November is just a perfect time to do that. My Daily Gratitude Reminder (please see below) is a simple form to be filled out as you reflect on God's blessings in your life.

Since November is a perfect month to express our gratitude to our loved ones, I also encourage you to make an acrostic poem with their names to express your love and gratitude to and for them. Here is mine for my sister Yoon:

You are my beloved sister.

Oh, how blessed I am to have you as my sister, who is also my fellow Christian following Christ!

O my Lord, may you put a

New song in her mouth every day so that many will see it and trust you.

Happy Thanksgiving everyone!

With a grateful heart,
Pastor Sue Lee

Click [here](#) to download or print My Daily Gratitude Reminder.

My Daily Gratitude Reminder

God's Goodness to Me— From A to Z

Fill in the blanks to remind you of the blessings in your life as you read them each morning before you start your day!

(October 1, 2020– December 31, 2020)

SPIRITUAL	MATERIAL (fill in)	RELATIONAL (fill in names)
I'm thankful for you, Lord, that you are ...		
Are always with me	Air	
Bless me with your presence		
Calm my anxious heart		Church Family
D		
E		
F	Food	
G		
Hear my prayers Heal my hurts Help me grow everyday		
I		
J		

K		
L		
M	Music	
N		
O		
P		
Q		
R		
S	Sunlight	Small Group
T		
U		
V		
W		
eXpress your love for me		
Y		
Z		

Announcements

MUMC will be remembering those who have passed away over the past year during worship on All Saints' Day, November 1.

Youth Group Yodel!! The Youth Ministry will be sending college care packages in November. They are in search of addresses for college kids! They hope to relieve the stress and anxiety of being in school in the midst of a pandemic, with a care package around finals time. These college kids can be friends or family as everyone deserves some love right now, so let's show them our MUMC love!

Please send college students' addresses by November 1 to Youth Co-Directors Jenna and Patrick at mequonumcyouth@gmail.com.

A second Marsh Meadow Cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, November 14 from 9 am—1 pm. There's buckthorn waiting to be removed in the Marsh Meadow! Come join us for a much-needed project that will get you outdoors in nature, in a safe and socially-distanced way. Bring your mask, leather gloves, loppers or pruners, and a hat. Call Linda Mordy, 242-8091, for more information.

MUMC will be honoring our veterans during worship on November 15. Please submit names of veterans to be recognized by contacting the church office as soon as possible.

Michelle and Rick Hynson, Ellen Shuler, and Elna Hickson are so thankful to have the wonderful help of so many of our congregants who have stepped forward to enhance our worship services with special music!

The Men's Quartet will perform during worship on November 15. Quartet members are Andrew Widder, Jeff Widder, Rick Hynson, and Ethan Shuler, with Elna Hickson on piano.

The Women's Group will perform during worship on November 22. Group members are Kristin Traut, Ellen Shuler, Fausta Urboniene, Vytene Urbonaite, Jenna Burns, and Michell Hynson, with Elna Hickson on piano.

Dale Parkinson reports that he and Penny Laferriere were married on Friday, September 25, 2020, at a small ceremony at the Milwaukee venue 'The Braise' by long time friend, Rev. Susan Smith (ret.). The flowers on the altar at worship on September 27 came from their wedding, and were locally grown fall-themed arrangements from a small flower shop in Wauwatosa. Congratulations Dale and Penny!

Coming to Sunday Worship? Let Us Know By Thursday! If you plan to attend Sunday worship in person, please contact the office by phone at 262-242-4770 or email at office@mequonumc.org by Thursday. We'll send you an email with health screening questions to answer. Please let Pastor Sue know your answers by noon Saturday.

Important Reminder: If you test positive for COVID-19 and you have worshiped at MUMC within three weeks from the date of the positive test result, please inform the pastor immediately to avoid spreading the virus unknowingly. Your name will be kept confidential. The pastor will inform other worshipers to get a COVID-19 test.

Spire deadlines for the holidays are one day earlier than normal, as follows: Tuesday, November 24 for the December 2020 Spire and Thursday, December 24 for the January 2021 Spire.

Thank You Notes

Dear MUMC Congregation,
Thank you for the sympathy cards and notes I received after the loss of my mother. It was such a comfort to hear from members of the MUMC family. Thank you for thinking of me.
Sincerely,
Nan Rilling



Thank you so much for the beautiful cards that included memorable notes and pictures, phone calls, and a delicious apple pie from Glen the "Pie King", and cookies from the Cookie Designer, Pastor Sue. All of your efforts made my 90th birthday celebration one that I will always cherish and remember.
Hugs and Love,
Joan Buschman

Thanks to all of you for your cards and calls about my sister Barb's passing. It is very comforting to hear from our church family. We had a good celebration of Barb's life in Iowa.
Glen Van Fossen

Thank you for your cards, calls, and comforting words on my mother-in-law's passing. Chris and I appreciate your kindness very much.
Chris Park and Pastor Sue Lee.

Family Promise Thanks You

Heartfelt thanks to the many MUMC family members who helped with Family Promise recently. Although the families could not stay in our church, we provided 17 meals on Monday evening, and they were deeply appreciated. Although our week has ended, the need continues. Monetary donations to Family Promise are always appreciated, as they support the motel room costs as well as additional food costs incurred for preparation of meals.

New Bible Study Starting in November

The Tuesday Lunch Bunch starts a new multiple-week study of Acts by John Stott on Tuesday, November 17, 2020, at 11 am. The study will be repeated on Tuesdays at 7 pm, also starting on November 17.

“The Spirit moved in dramatic ways in the early church. The gospel was preached, thousands were added to their number, many were healed, and the good news about Jesus was spread across continents. Covering the exciting action of the Spirit in the years just following Jesus' life on earth, this study will open your eyes to the Spirit's power in the past *and* present and help you apply the riches of Scripture to your own life. John Stott is one of the world's leading and most loved Bible teachers and preachers. In this guide you can explore Scripture under his guidance, enhancing your own in-depth study with insights gained from his years of immersion in God's Word.” *Acts: Seeing the Spirit at Work*

The title of the book is *Acts: Seeing the Spirit at Work* (John Stott Bible Studies). You can purchase the book from Amazon or Christianbook.com. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Sue at pastor@mequonumc.org.

MUMC Ministries During the Pandemic

by Connie Pukaite

It hardly seems possible that it has been nine months since our MUMC church family has been able to gather as a whole on Sunday mornings for worship, or as ministry groups in our beautiful church. The good news about that is our church family has remained healthy. The sad part is, we really miss being together; but as I have reflected on God's expectations of us to all be in ministry to the world around us, I am astounded at how much we, collectively, have accomplished—each of us working alone but adding our part to a whole much bigger than ourselves. Let me count some of the ways for you ...

Since March, MUMC children, youth, and adult **volunteers** have:

- Collected and contributed food to local food banks for people impacted by the pandemic
- Collected and contributed gently used clothing and household goods for people in need
- Grown and shared fresh vegetables with neighbors and food banks
- Helped to serve children at Vacation Bible School under safe-distancing and other new restrictions to show that God's love is real

- Made and contributed to meals, provided books and more for three times as many homeless adults and children as usual in Family Promise's shelter program
- Knitted mittens, scarves, hats, shawls, and lap blankets for children, adults, and elders who will need them come winter
- Reached out to residents confined to Newcastle Retirement Community during this pandemic, giving them opportunity to knit as part of MUMC's ministry
- Continued to support the Milwaukee meal site that serves hundreds of children and adults who need to be fed every week
- Worked to mow MUMC's lawns every week, and to remove weeds, dead trees, and brush to keep our Marsh Meadow, church, and parsonage looking good
- Built and painted a new storage shed for tools to support MUMC's Community Gardens Ministry
- Repainted, refurnished, and decorated the Youth Room in the church
- Repainted and reorganized the Children's Library and Choir Rehearsal Room in the church
- Provided household supplies and firewood to heat a home for struggling clients-in-need

In addition, Trustees (**who are also volunteers**) have organized, scheduled, and supervised many projects to improve MUMC's buildings and grounds for the safety and comfort of all who enter and use our space for ministries, including the projects below:

- Parsonage: Insulated the Radon Exhaust System piping in garage
- Parsonage: Cleaned, patched, and sealed the garage floor
- Parsonage: Replaced old, failing appliances (stove, washer, dryer)
- Installed a new sink in Rm 101 for Sonlight classes
- Repaired Plumbing (toilet/sump pump vent at back entrance/sewer; the smell is gone)
- Replaced all fluorescent lighting with LED lighting (fulfilled a **Capital Campaign Promise**)
- Installed a new electrical outlet at front church entry for TV monitor
- Installed new TV monitors in the entry and narthex
- Replaced elevator carpeting
- Improved storage in furnace room and sump pump room with shelves and hooks
- Installed dedicated electrical outlet in pump room for iron filters
- Added iron filter system to eliminate arsenic in the water (fulfilled a **Capital Campaign Promise**)
- Replaced ceiling fans in the sanctuary for improved air flow
- Removed dead ash trees from north lot line along parking lot
- Expanded Community Gardens
- Repainted the hallways in the education wings and the entry doors
- Added live-streaming camera to sanctuary for hybrid worship
- Emergency repair of elevator performed
- Replaced MUMC signs on Mequon Road with new signs

AND, we welcomed a new member family of four – Mia, David, Luca, and Lex Coulter.

So, take heart. We are still a church family. We are still doing God's work. We will be together again ... all in God's time. Be patient and stay well.

MUMC's 2021 Stewardship Campaign

by Mike Debbink

In looking for some inspiration on what to write about regarding the upcoming MUMC 2021 Stewardship Campaign, I found it in the title of a book by Pastor Adam Hamilton on giving and stewardship, *Enough: Discovering Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity*.

This book title says it all. It was written before the pandemic but it speaks to us now more than ever. The pandemic has taught many of us to discover more simplicity than previously had been in our lives. No Brewers, Bucks, or Packer games, no concerts, no eating out, no vacations, and the list goes on and on. But maybe we have experienced more walks in the woods, time to read that book that was gathering dust, time for cooking, gardening, fishing, camping, and maybe just exercising more regularly than before.

Simplicity can be a joy. Many people find that the simplicity in their lives that was forced on them because of the pandemic has left them in a better place financially. Who could have imagined that at the start of the year? Others are not so fortunate. That is where we can pair being generous with that new-found simplicity in our lives to experience the joy of helping others. The money raised by the Mequon United Methodist Church through your pledged and non-pledged giving goes to helping many individuals and organizations who are making a difference in people's lives, not only locally, but statewide, nationally, and around the globe.

During this year's upcoming Stewardship Campaign please prayerfully consider increasing your support to MUMC so we can continue the good works we've done and will continue to do, bringing joy to others who are served by our church here and around the world.

Mike Debbink and the Finance Committee

Reflections Book Group

The Reflections Book Group will hold its November Zoom meeting on Thursday, November 12, beginning at 7 pm. Our discussion book this month is *Maybe You Should Talk to Someone* by Lisa Gottlieb.

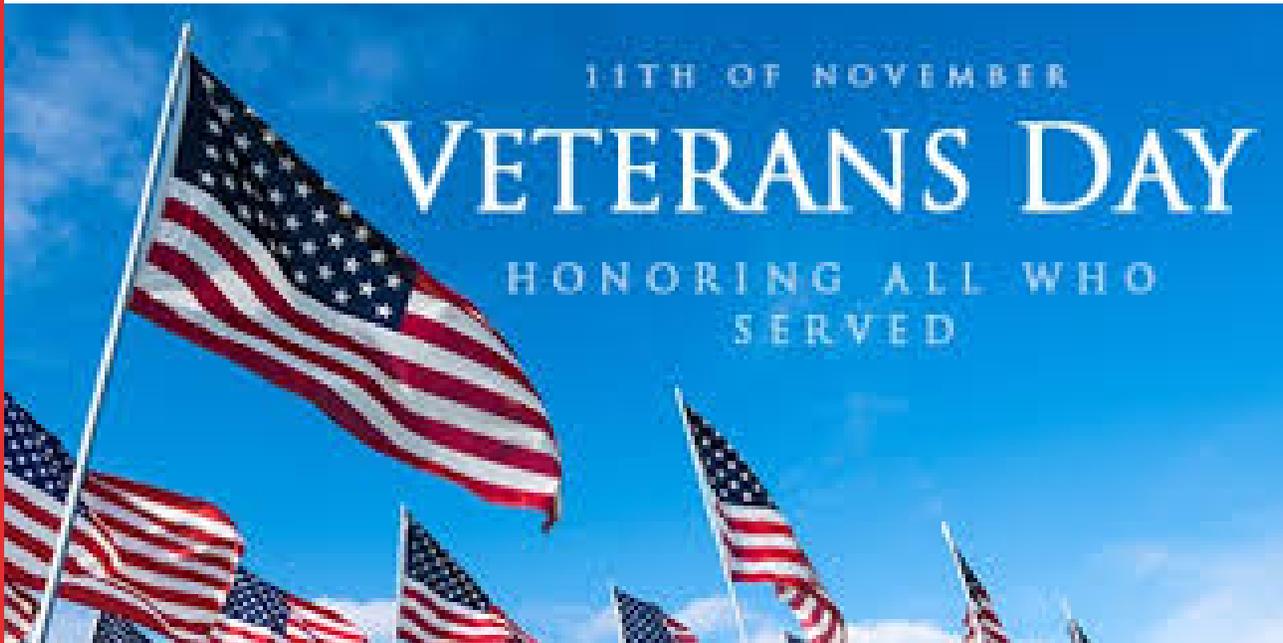
From [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com): One day, Lori Gottlieb is a therapist who helps patients in her Los Angeles practice. The next, a crisis causes her world to come crashing down. Enter Wendell, the quirky but seasoned therapist in whose office she suddenly lands. With his balding head, cardigan, and khakis, he seems to have come straight from Therapist Central Casting. Yet he will turn out to be anything but. As Gottlieb explores the inner chambers of her patients' lives, she finds that the questions they are struggling with are the very ones she is now bringing to Wendell. With startling wisdom and humor, Gottlieb invites us into her world as both clinician and patient, examining the truths and fictions we tell ourselves and others as we teeter on the tightrope between love and desire, meaning and mortality, guilt and redemption, terror and courage, hope and change.

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 or to request an invitation to the November Zoom

"My Favorite Bible Verse"

Marilyn Meyer's favorite Bible verses are Ephesians 3:16-19 (NIV). These verses fill me with such joy every time I read them. They perfectly capture the enormity of God's love for each one of us.

16 I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, 18 may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, 19 and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.



Deadline for SPIRE copy: the 25th of the month prior to publication's edition. Send copy to news@mequonumc.org to be included in the monthly SPIRE or the weekly Sunday bulletins.

Disclaimer: Editor reserves the right to edit content.

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

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

Sunday Schedule

9:30am Worship Service

10:30am Fellowship

