

SPIRE Newsletter



October 2020



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CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

Oct. 3 – Marsh Meadow Cleanup

Oct. 4 – World Communion
Sunday

Oct. 11 – Bread Sunday

Oct. 18 – Welcoming New
Members

Oct. 25 – Children's Sabbath
Sunday; Thanksgiving Food
Collection begins

Nov. 7 – 2020 Charge Conference

Nov. 14 – Marsh Meadow
Cleanup

WORSHIP SERMON SPOTLIGHT

Oct. 4 – Jeremiah 19:10-15, *When
you are in exile.*

Oct. 11 – Joshua 24:15, *"But as
for me and my household, we
will serve the Lord."* Jean Paulus'
favorite Bible verse

Oct. 18 – James 3:1-12, *The*

Upcoming Outreach Ministries

Bread Sunday is October 11

Did you know that nearly half of the individuals served by the Family Sharing Food Pantry of Ozaukee County are under the age of 18? Over 42,000 pounds of food are distributed to more than 600 households per month and, with COVID-19, local residents with food insecurities are on the rise.

How can you help? With a generous donation to Family Sharing on October 11 for Bread Sunday. This year, rather than purchasing a loaf of bread or a plate of cookies, please make a contribution by check or online and receive a link to the MUMC Recipe Drop Box. We will add new treasured recipes throughout the

words of the wise.

Oct. 25 – Children's Sabbath

WORSHIP MUSIC

Oct. 4 – The Shulers and the Hynsons with Elna Hickson

Oct. 11 – Lydia Hynson Park on cello

Oct. 18 – Marcia Schwager on clarinet

Oct. 25 – Wonderful young people from MUMC for Children's Sabbath

Nov. 1 – Dale and Penny Parkinson

holiday season. You may wish to add some of your own! No computer? No problem! The Outreach Committee will make arrangements to print recipes for you. Let Carol Bayne or Karen Huffman know you've made a contribution and would like to be added to our print list. Bread Suda y is an option on the online giving list. Or, mail in or leave a check (in the metal box outside the office), payable to MUMC. Be sure to include Bread Sunday on the memo line. All proceeds go to the Family Sharing food pantry with our Thanksgiving Food collection which begins October 25.

Thanksgiving Food Collection "Trunk or Treat for Turkey Day"

Starts October 25

The Mission Outreach Committee will be collecting specific food items on Sunday, October 25 and Sunday, November 1 after church, from 10:30 am - 11:30 am, for MUMC's annual Thanksgiving Food Collection for Family Sharing of Ozaukee County. 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. Leave your donations on the bench (or floor) inside the front door. Please remember to follow the required safety and sanitation procedures when entering our church.

This is the list of nonperishable items (packaged/boxed or canned) requested by Family Sharing for the Thanksgiving holiday:

- 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, contact Susan Yorio by phone at: 262-853-3933 or by email.

Shawl Ministry Starts Now Knitting Scarves, Hats, and Mittens

As the weather turns cooler, 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. 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 follow the church protocol, including masking 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

Some of MUMC's growth groups had a 40-day Upper Room Morning Devotion in the spring, and Tuesday Upper Room Devotion in the summer. As I read the devotions of many Christians from all over the world, I noticed that there was a recurring theme in those devotions. It seems like more than 50% of them were about worry or anxiety.

Today, it seems like our anxiety level is higher than ever with COVID-19, racial injustice, and the upcoming election. But the Bible says, "Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life."(Proverbs 4:23).

Friends, what was the very first word from the risen Christ to the disciples who were like frightened mice? Yes, it was "peace". He said, "Peace be with you!" After showing them his hands and side, he said again, "Peace be with you!" A week later, Jesus came to them again, and stood among them and said the exact same words, "Peace be with you!" What do these words tell us? Friends, our Lord wants his followers, you and me, to have the peace of God, which passes all human understanding in our hearts.

The Apostle Paul told how to obtain the peace of God in our hearts: " 6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:6-7). What is the antidote to anxiety according to the Apostle Paul? Prayer and petition, with thanksgiving. This is so counter-intuitive, isn't it? But isn't it true that if we are anxious about something constantly, we usually complain or become bitter, which eventually blinds us to see the blessings God has given us in our lives? That's why the attitude of gratitude is the remedy to anxiety.

So, I invite all MUMC family and friends to remind yourselves of blessings in your life daily by using the "My Daily Gratitude Reminder" in the morning before you start your day for the next three months: October, November, and December. "What is My Daily Gratitude Reminder" you say? It is a simple form that we will send you

during the last week of September so that you may fill it out as you reflect on God's blessings in your life. It is a great activity that you can do with your family and friends. Whatever you put in the form will be your daily gratitude reminder. I suggest leaving the reminder by your bedside. In the morning when you open your eyes, pick it up and read it quietly or aloud to remind yourselves of the blessings in your life. I trust that starting your day with this special time will lead you to experience God's faithfulness of His promise: "The peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

In Christ,
Sue Lee

Announcements

Let's Offer Words of Encouragement to Mark and his wife Kelly Spooner following Mark's bone marrow transplant. They both could use some words of encouragement during this anxious time, as his body adapts to the transplant. Cards can be sent to the Spooners at 12629 N. Meadow Circle E., Mequon, WI 53092.

Our condolences to Glen Van Fossen and his family in the loss of his sister, Barbara. Please keep them in your prayers and thoughts so they may be comforted by God's presence and the hope in Christ as they walk through this valley.

A new growth group study, "I Said This, You Heard That", started in late September. The group study is meeting weekly through November 4, either on Tuesday mornings at 11 am or on Wednesday evenings at 7 pm, via Zoom.

Marsh Meadow Cleanup on Saturday, October 3 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, a hat, and some bug spray. Call Linda Mordy for more information, 242-8091. **A second Marsh Meadow Cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, November 14 from 9 am—1 pm.** This second session was originally scheduled for November 7 but changed to November 14 due to a conflict.

World Communion is Sunday, October 4. Your gift on United Methodist World Communion Sunday enriches Christianity around the world. It empowers a diverse mix of national and international ethnic young adults to make a global impact for Christ. Please give generously!

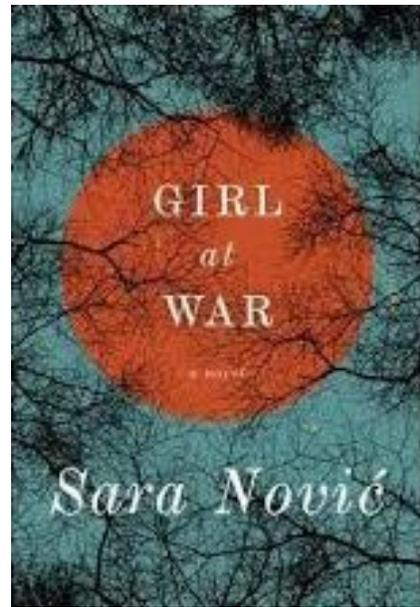
A big "thank you" to all who have enhanced our worship services this past summer and in September with their contributions of music and song.

Blood Pressure Screenings are on hold for the time being. The Parish Nurse Team members are holding you in their thoughts and prayers for safe, healthy days. They look forward to resuming BP screenings as soon as it's safe for everyone.

The Reflections book group is continuing to meet via Zoom for the foreseeable future. Our next meeting is **Thursday, October 8 at 7 pm**. Our discussion book is *Girl at War: A Novel*, by Sara Novic.

Amazon.com offers this summary:

Zagreb, 1991. Ana Jurić is a carefree ten-year-old, living with her family in a small apartment in Croatia's capital. But that year, civil war breaks out across Yugoslavia, splintering Ana's idyllic childhood. Daily life is altered by food rations and air raid drills, and soccer matches are replaced by sniper fire. Neighbors grow suspicious of one another, and Ana's sense of safety starts to fray. When the war arrives at her doorstep, Ana must find her way in a dangerous world. . . Moving back and forth through time, Girl at War is an honest, generous, brilliantly written novel that illuminates how history shapes the individual. Sara Novic fearlessly shows the impact of war on one young girl—and its legacy on all of us.



Reflections is a women's book group that meets monthly for discussion and fellowship. New women are always welcome. Contact [Barb Henneck](#) by email for more information about the group or to request an invitation to the October Zoom meeting.

Looking ahead . . . our November discussion book will be *Maybe You Should Talk to Someone* by Lori Gottlieb.

Community Gardens Update

MUMC's Growing Outreach ... One tomato at a time

Our community gardens are proving to be the perfect outreach program for MUMC. Jim Layton, Community Gardens Coordinator, reports that more than 100 individuals have enjoyed produce from our outreach gardens! Hopefully, you had an opportunity to enjoy one of the heirloom tomatoes or one of our three varieties of beans that were offered at our free Sunday farmer's market this summer.

The two outreach gardens produced more than 600 pounds of fresh organic food to area residents, including Family Promise and the Saukville Community Food Pantry. If the seven other family plots produced another 600 pounds, our gardens contributed more than 1,200 pounds of fresh organic food to area residents.

We also have several bushels of hot peppers from the Byron Jackson Memorial garden which Katie Jackson and members of our youth group have volunteered to process into sauce.

A big thank you to all who are supporting the gardens. Together, we are Making God's Love Real.

"My Favorite Bible Verse"

Connie Pukaite's favorite Bible verse is Luke 12:48 (NIV). She said this verse

means to her that as she's been blessed with talents, wealth, knowledge, and time, it is expected that she use these blessings to benefit others.

. . . From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.

Thank you Connie for sharing such a beautiful verse. We have all been given much, which God requires us to use to glorify Him and to benefit others.

UMCOR Responds to Record Hurricane Season Stands With Survivors Of Wind, Fire, and Rain

For only the second time in history, the 2020 Atlantic hurricane season is so intense that the U.S. National Hurricane Center has resorted to naming new storms using letters from the Greek alphabet. It is only September, and Hurricane Beta is already upon the Gulf of Mexico.

The intense 2020 Atlantic hurricane season and massive wildfires out West coincide with an historic pandemic and a coronavirus-fueled global recession. COVID-19 is complicating rescue and recovery efforts. Vulnerable men, women, and children need your help more than ever. Survivors of natural and man-made disasters stand to lose their homes and their health, their livelihoods, and their loved ones. But with your help they will not lose hope. Please give.

From Bishop Jung

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strange.

Romans 12:9-13

This year has been difficult in so many ways. We have been tested, afflicted, frustrated, separated, masked, sprayed, disconnected, and disinfected until we want to pull our hair out, shouting, "Enough!" In so many ways, it has almost been too much.

But through it all, I must admit, I am overwhelmed and deeply impressed by your faithfulness. The generosity, giving, sacrifice, and commitment of our laity and clergy across the Wisconsin Conference has never been greater. Your support of critical ministries has been unflagging and dedicated. We have seen a very small drop in our connectional giving, allowing us to continue to support key ministries. We have been able to keep our financial commitments to Harbor House Shelter, United Methodist Children's Services, and Northcott Neighborhood House. We have been able to provide crucial resourcing to our Camps at Pine Lake and Lucerne and to support our campus ministries. We have met our denominational commitments to the very best of our abilities, and this is at the Conference level. Congregations have provided amazing ministries in their communities, continuing to worship in creative and virtual ways. Support of feeding, shelter, and crisis intervention ministries has continued unabated. Though we have not been able to engage in hands-on mission experiences this year as a Conference, many local

church groups have participated in providing essential services across the state.

I need to commend you all on your abundant generosity and your sacrificial giving of time and talent in addition to financial resources. I especially want to thank the clergy and laity who have participated in peaceful demonstrations and protests across the state. I want everyone to be aware of the pastoral and spiritual aid given by our leaders to protesters, law enforcement, business owners, and residents, in Kenosha and other cities, towns, and communities around the state. The pandemic has caused us to be more cautious and considerate of others, preventing us from gathering in our sanctuaries, but it in no way has slowed the faithfulness of Wisconsin United Methodists. My beautiful people, I am so proud of you!

It is a testimony to our deep faith that we continue to give and serve in difficult times. I pray for the day when the virus will pass, the quest for equitable justice might be achieved, and we can gather together to raise our voices in worship and praise. I hope this day comes soon, but I know that in the meantime our churches will continue to witness to the goodness, the love, and the abundant generosity of our God. Thanks be to God, and thanks be to all of you.

Bishop Hee-Soo Jung
September 15, 2020



The secret of happiness is to
count your blessings while
others are adding up their
troubles.

~ William Penn

(October 14, 1644 — July 30, 1718) London-born Quaker, imprisoned in England because of his faith, advocated for religious freedom, real estate developer, established Pennsylvania, founded Philadelphia, fathered 16 children

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

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