

SPIRE Newsletter



September 2020

[View MUMC Online Calendar](#)

CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

Sept. 6 – Communion Sunday resumes at MUMC
Sept. 7 – Church office closed in observance of Labor Day
Sept. 13 – Rally Day; Sunday School year begins
Sept. 30 – "I Said This, You Heard That" Bible study begins

WORSHIP SERMON SPOTLIGHT

Sept. 6 – Jeremiah 1:1-10, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."
Sept. 13 – Jeremiah 7:1 - 7
Sept. 20 – Jeremiah 12:1 - 5
Sept. 27 – Youth Mission Sunday
Oct. 4 – Jeremiah 19:10 - 15

WORSHIP MUSIC

Sept. 6 – Penny Laferriere and Dale Parkinson
Sept. 13 – Rick and Michelle Hynson
Sept. 20 – Kerry Saver
Sept. 27 – Special Music

UMCOR Relief Sought in Several Places Around the World

UMCOR Offering Help in Beirut

A blast that killed hundreds and injured another 5,000, to date, has also left an estimated 300,000 displaced from their homes in Beirut. Longtime ministry partners that live and work in Lebanon are being offered assistance by UMCOR to help meet the most immediate and basic needs of those affected by the explosion.

UMCOR Providing Aid in Hawaii and US Gulf Coast

Hurricane Douglas has ripped across Hawaii. Tropical Storm Hanna has brought heavy rain to the U.S. Gulf Coast, and Tropical Storm Isaias has caused damage in the American Southeast. The 2020 hurricane season is well underway with a record-setting number of early and large storms impacting communities already strained by the coronavirus pandemic. Please help

UMCOR respond to the urgent requests it receives from those in need of relief.

UMCOR Asks for Your Help Today

Right now, we are all being tested for our



ability to recover quickly from difficult conditions because 2020 has delivered one challenge after another: floods, tornadoes, tropical storms, hurricanes, wildfires, earthquakes, a deadly viral pandemic, economic instability and hardship. And the hurricane season has started earlier than normal, threatening the safety of many just as they are limiting exposure outside their homes.

UMCOR is providing assistance to people impacted by natural disasters of all kinds but the pandemic and related economic conditions have led to a significant decrease in gifts that limits our ability to help those who need it most, when they need it most.

For 80 years, faithful friends such as you have helped people recover from the impact of disasters of all kinds, including storms and pandemics. Please give to UMCOR to be there for people impacted by disasters. Please consider a gift today to respond to this and other disasters around the world. You can donate by check, or online at www.mequonumc.org .

From the Pastor

We all know this song, “Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall. Humpty Dumpty had a great fall. All the King’s horses and all the King’s men couldn’t put Humpty Dumpty together again.” Our story is in this song. We are all Humpty Dumpty. Yes, the song is right. All the King’s horses and all the King’s men can’t put us together again. But Jesus can!



On the night in which Jesus gave himself up for us, he invited his disciples/us to his Table to be put together again and celebrate the blessed assurance we have in Him. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples and said, “Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples and said, “Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” (United Methodist Hymnal)

Christ himself instituted the Table—and the gathering of the people of God at the Table of the Lord has been crucial in the church’s life. Perhaps not a single day has passed since the first birthday of the church without Christians somewhere on this planet gathering at the Table of our Lord.

We were not able to have our monthly Lord’s Table for the last five months due to COVID-19 but we will resume the celebration starting on Sunday, September 6 with pre-filled communion elements (see above). After sanitizing the surface of the kits, they will be placed on the designated seats in the sanctuary before the first Sunday of each month. For those who worship through the live stream at home, I invite you to prepare a loaf of bread and juice for you and your family to join in the celebration. We will celebrate the Lord’s Table in the sanctuary and at home together.

I’m really looking forward to celebrating the Grace of God at the Lord’s Table with

you soon.

In Christ,
Sue Lee

Announcements

A big, heartfelt “thank you” to everyone who contributed their talent and hard work to make Vacation Bible School (VBS) 2020 a success! We couldn't have done it without each and every one of you!

And a very special thank you to our amazing audio/video team of Dave Traut and Marilyn Zwissler. Without their talent, our online VBS would have been impossible.

We give a big “thank you” to Gayle Meyer for her loving and strong leadership for our children's ministries!

We received wonderful, joyous news from Mark Spooner that a bone marrow donor with his exact HLA (Human Leukocyte Antigen) typing was found through the National Bone Marrow Registry. He was admitted to Froedtert Hospital on August 26 to begin chemotherapy and will receive his bone marrow transplant on September 1. Praise the Lord and thank you for your prayers for Mark! He is sending his sincere thanks and gratitude to you all for praying for him. He will need a year to gain full immunity, so continued prayers for his healing are very much appreciated.

Greeters Needed—Our MUMC Family misses your smiling face! Would you consider volunteering to record a video greeting for the beginning of our live stream worship service? You, or you and your family, can make a video of your greeting at home, when it's convenient for you, then upload it to the shared worship service file for that weekend. If you'd like to be a greeter, just let Pastor Sue know.

A New Program Year Begins at MUMC despite the COVID-19 pandemic. Please check that your team's current planning information is correct in the office. When are you meeting? Are you meeting virtually? Who is in your group? Do you have their current contact information? And do you have minutes that should be stored in the shared files in the office? The continuity of your work is important! Please let the office help you.

If you test positive for COVID-19 and you have worshiped at MUMC within three (3) weeks from the date of the positive test result, please inform Pastor Sue immediately to avoid spreading the virus unknowingly. Your name will be kept confidential. Pastor will inform other worshipers to get a COVID-19 test.

Reflections Book Club Update

The Reflections Book Group will begin its 2020-21 season, as well as resume monthly meetings, in September, via Zoom for the time being. We meet Thursday, September 10 at 7 pm. Our discussion book will be *Where the Crawdads Sing*, by Delia Owens.

Amazon.com offers this summary: *For years, rumors of the "Marsh Girl" have haunted Barkley Cove, a quiet town on the North Carolina coast. So in late 1969,*

when handsome Chase Andrews is found dead, the locals immediately suspect Kya Clark, the so-called Marsh Girl. But Kya is not what they say. Sensitive and intelligent, she has survived for years alone in the marsh that she calls home, finding friends in the gulls, and lessons in the sand. Then the time comes when she yearns to be touched and loved. When two young men from town become intrigued by her wild beauty, Kya opens herself to a new life--until the unthinkable happens.

Where the Crawdads Sing is at once an exquisite ode to the natural world, a heartbreaking coming-of-age story, and a surprising tale of possible murder. Owens reminds us that we are forever shaped by the children we once were, and that we are all subject to the beautiful and violent secrets that nature keeps.

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 receive a Zoom invitation for the September meeting.

Looking ahead: our October book will be *Girl at War: A Novel* by Sara Novic.

Giving to MUMC is easy as 1-2-3

MUMC is now using the Vanco Payment Solutions Give+ Church app. Click [here](#) to learn more about this free program.

Adult Education Ministry News

Exciting New Bible Study Coming in September Entitled "I Said This, You Heard That"

This study is based on Ephesians 4:29, "Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen."

If you have ever engaged your mouth before you engaged your brain, this study is for you. We have all said the wrong thing, or the right thing in the wrong way, and regretted it. Our unique wiring affects what we say, how we listen, and how others hear us. This six-week study includes a video session and a group discussion and lasts about an hour per session. The study will be conducted via Zoom on Wednesday evenings at 7 pm beginning September 30 and ending November 4.

You will need to purchase a workbook that includes a 40-question assessment to determine your communication style. We will then learn how to improve our communication skills. The workbook costs \$19.60, which you can order online.

If you are interested in participating in this study, please let Pastor Sue know so that she can send you a Zoom invitation. If you have any questions concerning this study, please feel free to email [Jean Paulus](#) or phone her at 262-502-0512.

Recently Completed "Making Love Last a Lifetime" Bible Study

After the recent completion of an 8-week study called "Making Love Last a Lifetime", Jean Paulus, Adult Education Ministries Chair, shares a few comments

from some of the participants:

We enjoyed the program and getting to know the participants better. We had a good age range and a variety of families. That made the discussions fun and interesting. We are fans of Adam Hamilton, who has an excellent way of balancing current lifestyles with the Bible. I especially appreciated the God-centered perspectives, which are left out in our society. The study helped bring us back to God's word about the marriage commitment. Did it answer all of our questions? No, but it gave us a platform to explore those issues further. —Marilyn Zwissler

Ross and I really enjoyed the class. We had a great group and very interesting discussions. The fact that God made men and women uniquely different is part of God's plan. When we invite God into our marriage we are stronger and better able to minister to each other and to others. This was a wonderful enlightening study. I would recommend this study to young people about to be married as well as couples who have been married and loved each other for a long time. —Jean Paulus

I enjoyed the "Making Love Last a Lifetime" study. It confirmed and reinforced for me that I must always cherish my husband, protect our marriage relationship, and honor our wedding vows--and that all of the "hard work" of marriage is worth it because it is pleasing to and honors God. —Marilyn Meyer

If you missed this study and are interested in participating the next time it is offered, please contact Pastor Sue. If enough people are interested, the study will be repeated at a later date.

Children's Ministries Update

Rocky Railway Vacation Bible School

Rocky Railway VBS proved that Jesus' power pulls us through. We had a great week of sharing God's love and Jesus' power. Our church children participated through in-person and live streaming formats. A very special thank you to Dave Traut and Marilyn Zwissler, who made each day possible with their amazing audio and video talent and commitment. Without them, we could not have reached as many children. Thank you, also, to the many who helped to make the week a huge success with their hands-on involvement. They include: Skylar Chrobak, Sara Cooper, Devin Curran, Graycie Gardner, Nikolai Gardner, Pat Gattoni, Karen Huffman, Pastor Sue Lee, Jim Meyer, Ann Miller, Charlie Nowak, Charlie Penner, Kristin Traut, and the MUMC Youth.



We also were again

blessed with the Gardner family. Graycie and Nikolai were expert actors in our morning skits. The family was given a quilt made from VBS and Critter Camp tee shirts from past years that were led so tirelessly by Peg Gardner. She was missed greatly this year but was with us in spirit.



Sunday School

Fall is approaching and the school year begins again. So does our Sunday School. We will begin our year on September 13 with an exciting Rally Event. All are invited. Stay tuned for more details. Our year will start with online gatherings and lessons. We will transition to in-person Sunday School when it is safely possible. You can register for Sunday School by visiting the MUMC website or by emailing [Gayle Meyer](#).

We are also excited that we still have the opportunity for a few more to share the joy of our children's love for Jesus by teaching Sunday School one Sunday a month. Lessons are planned. No supplies needed, just your love to share the message of God to others.

For more information on Sunday School or teaching Sunday School, please contact [Gayle Meyer](#)

"My Favorite Bible Verse"

Jean Paulus' favorite Bible verse is Joshua 24:15 (New International Version). She said when she was growing up, while other kids were skipping church on Sundays to do "fun" things like going to the beach or the movies, her Dad always told her and her brother that as long as they lived under his roof they were going to church on Sunday morning. Her Dad's strong faith was a major influence in her life.

15 But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.

Thank you Jean for sharing this verse, which says so much in so few words, and has to be on just about everyone's list of Top 10 Favorite Bible Verses.

In-Person Worship Protocol

Welcome Home! In-person Worship Has Resumed!

The MUMC Reopening Team has worked diligently to prepare the church for social distancing protocols and establishing guidelines for in-person worship. Their work has paid off! We are now offering in-person worship services once again.

Please read the following guidelines carefully and familiarize yourself with the protocols. Your safety is our first priority. All services will continue to be live streamed as well, for those who prefer to participate in the worship service at

home.

THINGS WORSHIPERS MUST DO TO BE ABLE TO GATHER IN THE SANCTUARY

Call (262-242-4770) or email (office@mequonumc.org) the church office by Wednesday each week to register for in-person worship.

Complete the following five health-screening questions on Saturday and email the results to Pastor Sue at pastor@mequonumc.org by noon on Saturday to confirm your completion of the screening with "No" answers to all questions:

- Have you tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 14 days? If Yes, stay home.
- Have you had a fever, felt feverish, or had chills in the last 24-48 hours? If Yes, stay home.
- Have you been with anyone who tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 14 days? If Yes, stay home.
- Have you traveled in the last 14 days to an area with a high incidence of COVID-19? If Yes, stay home.
- Have you been in a high-density environment, such as senior housing, a meat or manufacturing plant, bar or other entertainment venue, or a social demonstration, etc.? If Yes, stay home.

On Sunday before leaving home: If you feel feverish or have chills, stay home.

STEPS TO FOLLOW WHEN YOU GET TO CHURCH

- Please arrive early, by 9:15 am. Seating may take longer than usual. Please don't bunch up at the entrance. Stay 6 feet apart.
- Enter the church ONLY through the front doors or the wheelchair entrance leading directly to the elevator.
- Wear a face mask—this is required to enter and to remain in church.
- Remain 6 feet away from people who don't live in your household, even when you are outdoors.
- Use hand sanitizer upon entering, and often while in church.
- Proceed directly to the sanctuary. Enter the sanctuary through the center doors ONLY and be ushered to a seat. Seating will start from front to back as people arrive. Leaving the sanctuary will be done in reverse order, from back to front.
- When the worship service is over, people seated in pews on the left (south) side will exit through the side aisle near the windows; people seated in pews on the right (north) side will exit through the central aisle, all while maintaining a 6-foot distance.
- Move directly outside to visit at a safe distance.



Autumn Begins September 22, 2020

Happy Autumn!

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

Sunday Schedule

9:30am Worship Service

10:30am Fellowship

www.mequonumc.org

