

Mequon United
Methodist Church
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Mequon, WI 53092
262-242-4770
www.mequonumc.org

+

the Spire

September 2014

NOW underway

Autumn brings the kick-off of many church activities!

- ▶ Sunday School starts September 7
- ▶ Choir rehearsals begin
- ▶ Reflections returns from a summer reading break
- ▶ Lunch Bunch starts a study on the Methodist faith
- ▶ ****New**** – a seminar on planned giving
- ▶ Needed: activity helpers during Sunday School
- ▶ Needed: Sunday night cooks

And we continue with:

- ▶ Mealsite dates in September, October, and November
- ▶ Monthly prayer breakfasts for women and men

October brings:

- ▶ Bread Sunday
- ▶ glaze pottery workshop for all ages



Rally Day Picnic

- September 7
- Celebrate the beginning of Sunday School
- All-church picnic following worship
- Hot dogs and all the trimmings
- In the church front yard

Everyone come!!

Pastor Tim's Message

As our summer comes to an end and we take those first hesitant steps into Fall, one of the stories I read recently to my kids is the ant and the grasshopper. You remember this story, right?

In a field one summer's day a Grasshopper was hopping about, chirping and singing to its heart's content. An Ant passed by, bearing along with great toil an ear of corn he was taking to the nest. "Why not come and chat with me," said the Grasshopper, "instead of toiling and moiling in that way?"

"I am helping to lay up food for the winter," said the Ant, "and recommend you to do the same."

"Why bother about winter?" said the Grasshopper; "We have got plenty of food at present." But the Ant went on its way and continued its toil.

When the winter came the Grasshopper had no food and found itself dying of hunger — while it saw the ants distributing every day corn and grain from the stores they had collected in the summer. Then the Grasshopper knew: It is best to prepare for days of need.



This is a great story to read with kids to help them think about taking a long view and not putting off until tomorrow what you can do today. However, as I read it this last time I realized it speaks to all of us in how we look at life and live out our faith. Do we take the short view or the long?

When you think about it, God's love story revealed through our scripture and Jesus Christ is a little bit of both. It spans continents, millennia and languages, surviving dynasties, revolutions and war, written on the hearts of humankind in spite of plagues, crusades and demonstrations. God's love story is also a personal one, passed from heart to heart through the fleeting seasons of each person's life.

Did you know that there is often a blank page at the end of most bound Bibles? I have always looked at that page as the place where we write our part of God's love story with our lives.

May we desire to live our flash-in-the-pan lives humbly in light of those who have come before us and those who will come after us. May the page we inhabit in the long chronicle of faith be full of love poured out. May we be unafraid to love our neighbors as ourselves in the here-and-now, still conscious that God's plans are grander and greater than our own. May we daily write our part of this greater story in how we live and love, share and laugh, pray and serve. Seeking and looking for God in every moment of our lives.

In God's Love
Pastor Tim

Outdoor Worship Service

Saturday, September 27

5:00 p.m. (Note the time change)

We have had a great time during our summer outdoor services and there is one more left. As we head into Fall, you are invited to our last outdoor worship service on **Saturday, September 27 at 5:00 p.m.** We are meeting an hour early to take advantage of more daylight.

Pastor Tim hopes you will come on out to enjoy the warmth of the fire and fellowship as we worship together. This service is very casual and prayerful through the music, readings, and devotions that we do together. Also, after we are done you can stick around to roast hot dogs, make a Smore, and continue enjoying the fellowship around the fire. Come as you are and worship with us.



United Methodist Student Day

On September 7, 2014, the Mequon United Methodist Church will take up its annual collection to support United Methodist

Student Day. Your generous gift makes it possible for students lacking the financial resources to attend the school of their choice. For some, it makes it possible for less fortunate students to attend school at all. Scholarships and loans from the United Methodist Church help students unite faith and knowledge to serve in Jesus' name. Thank you for supporting our future leaders!



Planned Giving Seminar Saturday September 20th 10:30 AM Fellowship Hall Lunch to Follow

Have you wondered how you can plan for your church's future and your future at the same time? Here is your chance to learn how.

Jean Nicholas from the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation will present a range of ideas and strategies to lower your taxes; provide an income stream from your gift; and the best way to include the church in your will.

Plan on attending this session, maybe learn something new, and enjoy the lunch that will follow.

Call Brian Thiet at 414-226-8003 to reserve your spot.

Reflections book group resumes reading and discussing

The Reflections Book Group will resume meeting on Thursday, September 11th. We are a women's book discussion group that meets monthly on the second Thursday evening of each month September through May. New women are always welcome!

Our September discussion book is *A Tale for the Time Being*, by Ruth Ozeki. Amazon.com offers this description:

In Tokyo, sixteen-year-old Nao has decided there's only one escape from her aching loneliness and her classmates' bullying. But before she ends it all, Nao first plans to document the life of her great grandmother, a Buddhist nun who's lived more than a century. A diary is Nao's only solace—and will touch lives in ways she can scarcely imagine. Across the Pacific, we meet Ruth, a novelist living on a remote island who discovers a collection of artifacts washed ashore in a Hello Kitty lunchbox—possibly debris from the devastating 2011 tsunami. As the mystery of its contents unfolds, Ruth is pulled into the past, into Nao's drama and her unknown fate, and forward into her own future.



Full of Ozeki's signature humor and deeply engaged with the relationship between writer and reader, past and present, fact and fiction, quantum physics, history, and myth, *A Tale for the Time Being* is a brilliantly inventive, beguiling story of our shared humanity and the search for home.

Join us on September 11th at 7:00 PM in the Parlor for discussion and fellowship! Contact Barb Henneck at 238-0707 or bhenneck@wi.rr.com for more information on the group.



Rally Day Picnic Sunday, September 7 Right after church

We are once again kicking off the start of our church year with an all-church Rally Day on Sunday, September 7, immediately following the worship service. This year's event will be a picnic in front of the church, and we are hoping everyone will plan to come to celebrate the return of our Sunday School classes, our choir programs, the Lunch Bunch, our youth group, Reflections, Family Promise, and all of the wonderful ways that we connect with one another in Christ. Audra will be our master chef, so all you have to do is plan to join us. We will plan to have information available on all of our programs, so it is a great time to bring a friend!

If you would be willing to help out with our Rally Day by assisting with tent set-up, tables, cooking or clean-up, please contact Peg at mumckidstuff@gmail.com, or give the church office a call at 262-242-4770. The tent is MUCH easier to put up with the help of many strong hands, so your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

Mealsite — September 25 Need servers and food items

Needed:

- Desserts (brownies, bar cookies, cakes, cupcakes, etc.)
- Fresh fruit — "hold in hand" items like bananas, apples, pears, clementines, etc. (Note: past experience at the mealsite shows us that all fruit is appreciated but bananas bring special delight)
- Servers carpool from MUMC, leaving at 4:30 PM, return around 6:30 PM

Sign up sheet for servers and food is on the Outreach Bulletin Board near the front door at MUMC.

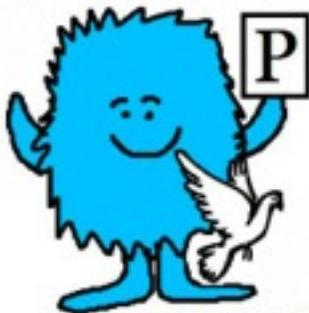
Next mealsite dates:

- October 30
- November 27 (Thanksgiving Dinner at noon for mealsite guests)

Sunday School starts September 7!

Children and youth are welcome!
Adult help with activities is needed!

The Beatitudes



Matthew 5:9 Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.



Matthew 5:8 Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

Matthew 5:4 Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.



Matthew 5:5 Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.



Matthew 5:6 Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.



Matthew 5:3 Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5:10 Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.



Matthew 5:7 Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

Church House Collection ©

Seeds of Faith – September Spiritual Formation for Children

Sunday School starts September 7 this year, and we will be distributing Bibles and dedicating our teachers that morning. Following the children's time we will head downstairs for the first lesson of our Beatitudes unit, which promises to be a lot of fun. Here's a sneak preview of what children can look forward to:

On September 7, we will be playing a GIANT board game led by teachers Jeff Widder and Gayle Meyer. The players will be the game pieces as we roll huge dice and move around a board as big as a room.

On September 14, the children will watch some movies about the Beatitudes as they munch on freshly-popped popcorn. That day will also be the inauguration day of our Boomwhacker Beatitudes Band, as we explore the Bible verses through music and fun.

On September 21, Kari Slater will lead our students as they prepare desserts to go to the church mealsite that week, and also make a rocky craft to remind them of their Bible verses.

On September 28, Linda Mordy will help us explore the "bee" side of the Beatitudes as we learn more about God's creation inside and out. Children will have a chance to make mason bee houses and learn about how bees communicate through dance.

It's a series of lessons NOT TO BE MISSED, so plan to come and BRING YOUR FRIENDS as we learn about blessings and the Sermon on the Mount.

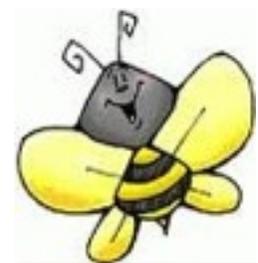
Blessed are those who help!

Our Beatitudes unit is a busy one, and we would be very grateful for some extra hands. Our teachers could use assistance with the game on September 7, but we are in particular need of extra hands as the children work with wood, drills and nails to make their bee houses, in the kitchen to cook desserts, and in the art room crafting with paint. Popcorn help on both the 14th and 21st would be terrific, as would musical help with our Boomwhacker Band.

No special skills are required, just a Beatitude Attitude! Please see Peg if you can help.

HIGH SCHOOL students please note –

Your class will meet on September 7 and 21, so please consider helping out on the weeks you do not have class.



**Please "bee"
a helper!!**

ADULT SPIRITUAL FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES

Lunch Bunch

Returning on Tuesday, September 9th

Bible Study – 11:00 a.m.

Lunch – 12:00 noon

The Lunch Bunch will be returning for the Fall with a delicious meal including homemade soup and our Bible study. We will be starting with a study called – *Revival: Faith As Wesley Lived It*.

What makes us unique as Methodists compared to other denominations? The short answer is, John Wesley. This Anglican priest and Oxford professor, who began preaching a faith that started a new movement and revitalized Christianity throughout the British Isles and America.

In this study we will discuss and look at Wesley's life and faith that continues to speak to us today. Through the DVD portion of our study we will travel throughout England to see the places where John Wesley lived, preached, and inspired a people to passionately live out their faith. Pastor Tim hopes you will come on out for this time of feeding our bodies and our souls.

Come as you are able – you are welcome anytime, every time!



**Lunch Bunch
resumes
September 9
with study and
soup luncheon**

Women's Prayer Breakfast

Wednesday, September 3rd

Women of all ages are invited to gather at 7:00 a.m. on **Wednesday, September 3rd** for a simple breakfast, Bible study, and prayer. We conclude our time together with open Communion. Our breakfast lasts only an hour, so it is the perfect way to start your day and begin the month.



**Prayer
Breakfast**

Men's Prayer Breakfast

Thursday, September 4th

Men of all ages are invited to gather at 7:00 a.m. on **Thursday, September 4th** for a simple breakfast, Bible study, and prayer. We conclude our time together with open Communion. Our breakfast lasts only an hour, so it is the perfect way to start your day and begin the month.



Tai chi class welcomes new participants

A twice-a-week tai chi class is led by Jacquie Yedinak at MUMC. The classes are on Mondays and Fridays at 11:00 AM in Fellowship Hall. Each session lasts about 50 minutes. The first 30-35 minutes are spent doing a series of exercises that work on every joint in the body and improve balance, along with practicing deep breathing. The end of the session is an easy-to-follow tai chi routine.



Research suggests that tai chi can help minimize chronic pain, lower blood pressure, and sharpen concentration. In addition, a short Breath Prayer is said during deep breathing that helps each person become more aware of the Holy Spirit.

Please feel free to join the tai chi group at any time. If you have questions, call Jacquie Yedinak at 262-416-8888.

Prayer Chain

Pastor Tim invites anyone to join ... and pray

Do you know that our church has an active prayer chain? Every week by phone or e-mail the prayers that are written on the welcome cards from worship (or those submitted during the week) are shared with a group of people who commit to hold those people and their situations in prayer. Pastor Tim is constantly hearing about how this vital prayer ministry has touched people, giving them hope, comfort and peace. If you would like to join the prayer chain and broaden your own prayer life, please talk with Pastor Tim (242-4770).

Music Notes



A note from Michelle Hynson:

Didn't we have a beautiful summer of Music in Worship? Thank you to all those who participated! Rick and I are looking forward to continuing with meaningful music in worship with our September calendar.



**Calling all choir members
and potential new ones!!!!**

**MEN'S CHOIR and
SANCTUARY CHOIR**

both begin on September 7!!!

See you there!

Music in worship:

Sept. 7 – WIRED! + Kerry Saver,

Penny Laferriere, and Ellen Shuler

Sept. 14 – Sanctuary Choir

Sept. 21 – THE High School Choir

Sept. 28 – Men's Choir

Oct. 5 – WIRED! + Sanctuary Choir

October 5 — come to MUMC for all of these events

Imagine...

Wouldn't it be nice to live in a world where everyone had enough to eat each day? It's a lovely thought, but we have a lot of work ahead, so let's get started!

If you would like to help the Outreach Team work toward that dream while reaping rewards for yourself, please join us for *Bread Sunday, October 5*. Take on the challenge of baking bread, muffins, rolls, coffee cakes or any other mouth-watering creations to help fight hunger in our community. Bring your baked specialties to the Bread Sunday table before the service. After the service, meet back at the table to purchase a special treat or make a calorie free donation. The proceeds of this mission project will go to Hunger Task Force.

**Bread Sunday
October 5
Bake! Buy!
Donate!
Support this mission!**

By taking part, some of the benefits you will reap include: taking on a baking challenge and succeeding, enjoying the aroma of fresh baked goods in your home and feeling warmth in your heart knowing you took the time to make a difference.

**World Communion Sunday
October 5th**

On October 5th, MUMC will be observing World Communion Sunday. The special offering collected for this day helps students who historically have not had resources to make higher education possible. Nelson Mandela said, "Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world." This is your opportunity to provide undergraduate and graduate scholarships for US racial- and ethnic-minority students and international students so they can become the world-changers God created them to be.



glaze Family Glass Workshop

On Sunday, October 5, at 4:00 PM, everyone is invited to come to a glass crafting workshop hosted by Kari Slater from *glaze*. There will be projects appropriate for all skills and all ages, with a wide variety of materials available for purchase.

Dinner for everyone will follow the workshop. If you can help out with the dinner, please contact Audra O'Brien.

Pre-registration is requested so that we are sure to have enough materials – and food – for everyone. Please sign up in the narthex and plan to join us!



**Flu Clinic
October 5
After morning worship
Sponsored by
MUMC Parish Nurse Team**

Calling all Cooks!

The kitchen is about to open at MUMC for our children's Sunday evening programming! We need cooks or teams of cooks who are willing to provide a meal for about thirty-five people, most of whom are children and youth, at 5:30 PM on the following dates:



- October 5 (this is the date of our Glaze Glass-Crafting Workshop, so there may be a few more people for dinner)
- October 12
- October 19
- November 2
- November 9
- November 16
- November 23
- December 6 (Brunch for Hanging of the Greens at 9:00 AM)

We ask that all meals be free of nuts due to severe allergies in our church family. A small amount of a gluten-free alternative is also a nice addition, but the entire meal does not have to be gluten-free (we also keep gluten-free options available in our freezer). Volunteers are responsible for set-up and clean-up as well, so a team of volunteers is especially nice. Please see Audra O'Brien if you can help out in any capacity.



Coming this Fall to MUMC

The Great Tomb Raid

This October, children are invited to join us for an exploration of Biblical characters and ancient tombs. Join Indiana Jane as she explores the secrets of ancient Biblical tombs through games, science, music and more. Collect all five Tomb Raider cards as you dig deeper into the stories of God's Power! The program will take place Sunday Nights at 4:00 PM on October 12 and 19, with dinner following. Our Sonlight Preschoolers will explore on Wednesday Mornings at 9:30 AM - October 15 and 22.

Gayle Meyer will be leading our adventures, and could use your help. If you are available for one or more of our program dates, please consider helping out by leading one of our simple games. Full details are available from Peg.

Please plan to join us for the fun!

Team Chairs and staff ...

How do you tell everyone about events and activities that are coming up?

➔ **Here's a new tool for you!!!**

The MUMC Marketing Team is focusing on the information about our events that we need to tell each other and tell the wider outside community. Once we know that we have something to broadcast, how do we get this information out to the appropriate audience? What options are best — the local newspaper, Facebook, the Spire, Sunday bulletin, an email blast??



To that end, we've been working on a way to make it easier for committees / teams to disseminate information. Now we want to help you! Here's a training to show you what tools we have developed to make all of this easier for you.

"Get out the word" training

Monday, September 29 ~ 6:30 PM

- If you have a laptop or tablet, bring it along. We will connect using the church wifi to give you hands-on practice with the tools that have been developed for you.
- Who should come? Anyone who needs to get out the word about events or activities. If more than one committee member does this, then all should come.

Fair Trade Coffee thanks

Since last Spring, MUMC has moved in a positive direction to help coffee farmers earn a fair income for their coffee production. We started serving only Fair Trade coffee at MUMC during our Sunday fellowship time after morning worship and at all meal events where coffee is made and served at MUMC.

On the second Sunday of each month you may donate to our Fair Trade project. This coffee costs just a little bit more than we were paying for "store-bought" coffee. So, once a month during our after-worship coffee time, there will be an empty coffee can for your spare change. These Fair Trade donation Sundays have been a success, meaning that the funds you gave have helped balance our church budget for coffee purchases. Thanks to everyone who donated.

We will continue to offer the opportunity to donate on each second Sunday. Also, you are encouraged to purchase Fair Trade coffee, tea, and chocolate. Products are available each Sunday from the Fair Trade Marketplace set up in the narthex.

Flavors of the month!

A variety of Fair Trade products are available for purchase at MUMC, through a table set up in the narthex or in the Children's Ministries Office. These products not only taste wonderful, but purchasing them helps sustain small farmers all over the world. There are 5 varieties of coffee, 8 varieties of tea, and 8 choices of chocolate bars. Coffee and tea is available in regular and decaf options.

Here are some suggestions to try for this month:

Cozy Cup Decaf Coffee

Full City Roast. Cozy up with this sparkly and light decaf blend that has notes of honey and caramel, and a lingering chocolate aftertaste.

Aroma: toasty, vanilla, malt
 Flavor: honey, sweet, caramel
 Mouthfeel: soft & smooth
 Acidity: sparkly & light
 Aftertaste: prolonged, chocolate

Organic Chai Tea

With an inviting flavor of ginger, cardamom, and cloves, you can serve Organic Chai in the traditional manner sweetened and with milk, or try it on its own.

Aroma: baked apple, cinnamon, clove, ginger, black pepper
 Flavor: spicy black pepper, ginger root, sweet, aromatic clove, caramelized sugar

Organic Dark Chocolate Caramel Crunch with Sea Salt (55% Cacao)

Here's the bar to satisfy both your sweet and salty cravings. Crunchy caramel bits serve as the perfect complement to mouthwatering sea salt crystals and bring out the complex flavors of the smooth, fruity chocolate. Soy- and gluten-free.



The Joy of United Methodists' Connectedness

Within the church we often develop our own language. In our church this has come to be known as "Methodist speak." Maybe you have heard words like Quadrennium, Episcopacy, Annual Conference, or Connectional and wondered what people are talking about. While these words can sometimes be confusing there is one word we use above all others that causes the most confusion: apportionments.

For many people apportionments are seen as a tax, forced giving, and a fee we have to pay to be a part of the larger church. All these ways of thinking about apportionments couldn't be further from the truth.

So, What ARE Apportionments? What DO they do anyway? And, WHY should they be important to us and our local church when we have so much to do locally with our dollars?

Each year Apportioned Funds

- support missionaries who build and staff schools, work as doctors in remote areas of the world, and provide specialized training in computers and sustainable agriculture
- support the work of our mission agencies in responding and providing long term support to those effected by natural disasters
- create new places for people to worship and renew existing congregations to be missionary outposts to their local communities
- support universities and seminaries in their vision of developing leaders who can effectively lead the church forward with our Gospel message.

This is what our apportioned giving is all about – sharing a portion of our blessings to make God's love real all around our world. In faithfully sharing our portion we were able to pay our full apportionments in 2013 and make a tremendous difference. We know that as a church community we can do this again in 2014. For this year, however, our budget only includes paying ½ of \$34,000 which is our total apportionments.. This was done to balance our budget. So, we are asking for your help in making up the difference and allowing us to meet our obligation to the larger church. We know, that as a lump sum this is a large amount, but when it is broken down and we each do our part it becomes a manageable amount where we can rise to the challenge

Please mail your gift marked for "apportioned giving" to the church office or put it in the offering plate on Sunday morning.

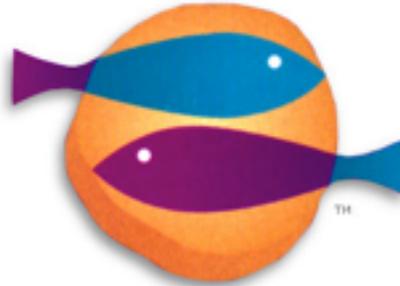
As you give your portion, remember that your gift is more than money. It is fresh water, medicine, books, seeds, and building supplies. As well

as, the opportunity for us to be connected in making God's love real around our community, our nation, and our world.

Your Finance Team:

Scott Reed Pappy Draughon Jean Storer
 Connie Pukaite Pam Layton Glen Van Fossen
 Cheryl Clark Ed Mordy Doug Zwissler
 Kay Schroeder Marcia Schwager
 Pastor Tim O'Brien

Sharing God's Gifts



Liturgists needed!!!

Can you read?

Good ... then we need YOU!!!

We have a great group of liturgists in our church. However, we would welcome having more people become liturgists. The liturgist's responsibilities during Sunday morning worship include reading the call to worship, leading the opening prayer, inviting the congregation to share the Peace of Christ, and reading the new testament. Liturgists who help on any first Sunday also participate in serving communion. Time commitment is infrequent -- usually once every 3 or 4 months.

This is an easy and rewarding way to serve MUMC on Sunday mornings. If you are interested, call Marilyn Cullinan at 262-242-1876 or Pastor Tim at 262-242-4770.



Ebola Hemorrhagic Fever

Ebola is a severe, often fatal, viral hemorrhagic fever. The first Ebola virus was detected in 1976 in what is now the Democratic Republic of Congo. Since then, outbreaks have appeared sporadically. The current outbreak is the biggest and most complex Ebola outbreak ever documented.

Ebola has an abrupt onset of symptoms similar to many other illnesses, including fever, chills, weakness, and body aches. Such gastrointestinal symptoms as vomiting and diarrhea are common, and in approximately 45% of cases there is hemorrhaging (serious internal and external bleeding).

The current outbreak in West Africa is centered in the countries of Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea. At least 12 cases have been reported in Nigeria. As of August 15, 2014, there have been 2127 confirmed and suspected Ebola cases in these 4 countries and 1145 suspected case deaths.

In most Ebola outbreaks, healthcare workers are at risk for infection when strict personal safety precautions or sharps management procedures are not followed. Ebola is transmitted through direct contact with body fluids from infected patients (including but not limited to blood, sweat, feces, urine, vomitus, and semen), and so avoiding contact with these materials is important. Protective measures known as standard, contact, and droplet

precautions are considered sufficient protection against transmission; these include gloves, gowns, face-mask, and eye protection (mask, face shield) for personnel providing routine care. In general, symptomatic patients are infectious and can transmit Ebola virus, so the period of infectivity is related to the duration of symptoms and will vary from patient to patient.

The risk to the US general population of contracting Ebola virus infection is exceedingly low. There is a risk for Ebola to be introduced to the United States by an infected traveler from Africa. If that were to happen, widespread transmission in the United States is highly unlikely owing to our systematic use of strict and standard infection control precautions in healthcare settings, although a cluster of cases is possible if patients are not quickly isolated. Community spread is unlikely because of differences in cultural practices, including how community and family members handle their dead.

CDC (Center for Disease Control) advises against nonessential travel to Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone, and to take extra precautions if traveling to Nigeria, because such travel represents the primary risk for exposures to Americans. Two infected American healthcare workers serving as volunteers in Liberia have been brought to the United States for treatment, but there is no risk for Ebola virus within the community or

hospital setting, because these patients are being managed in strict isolation.

There is currently no significant risk for exposure to Ebola virus within the United States. The CDC remains vigilant for potential travel-acquired cases.

The best way to protect Americans is to control the outbreak at its source, in Africa. According to CDC Director Dr. Tom Frieden, "We do know how to stop Ebola. It's old-fashioned, plain and simple public health: Find the patients, make sure they get treated, find their contacts, track them, educate people, do infection control at the hospitals...do them really well and Ebola goes away."

Source:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) www.cdc.gov

*This information is shared
by the MUMC
Parish Nurse Team.*



Pastor Tim accepts the challenge!

On August 24th, Pastor Tim accepted the ice bucket challenge from the MUMC Youth. On behalf of the youth, Patrick Curran dumped the ice water. Donations were accepted that will be passed on for ALS research. Pastor Tim was later seen wrapped in a blanket, muttering, "I'm cold!"

Please consider "paying forward" Pastor Tim's deed. Give to ALS or one of the many other foundations that accept funds to further research into treatment for dreadful diseases.



Sonlight Scoop September 2014

Sonlight Child Development Center, established by and operated as a ministry of Mequon United Methodist Church, is open to children from infant through 5 years old, including K2, K3, and K4 programs.

Sonlight Center has had a fun and eventful summer, sharing in outdoor play, games, swimming, etc. We have also enjoyed hiking the wonderful Butterfly Marsh paths, looking for wildlife and flowers and mushrooms and ants and bugs! Of course, some of the bugs landed on us and had a bite for lunch...but that didn't slow us up much!



Our Fourth of July parade and party was a great hit, with many parents arriving to watch their children march in the parade. Snacks were served on the playground after, and the parents hung around and got to know with each other.

Mrs. Linda has met with the children as "Nature Lady" every month, as well as our weekly Computer Tots program. Music took a summer break, but Mrs. Twila is ready to begin again on September 11. We are sad to say farewell to some of our students, but several new children have just begun!

Kathy and Sue



To the MUMC Congregation,

The Lewis family would like to sincerely thank the Mequon Methodist church members for your gratitude shown during my beloved sister Gloria's illness followed by her death. Your cards, thoughts, prayers and kind expression meant a great deal my family.

As you may have known, Gloria's health was comprised for much of her life due to heart issues. For much of her life Gloria endured numerous surgeries to repair her heart valves. Despite her pain, Gloria always maintained a positive outlook on life and a strong faith in God.

It was Gloria's faith that allowed her to continue to grow in love, in hope, in trust, and forgiveness. These selfless attributes helped to shape her purpose in life of servant hood.

Gloria enjoyed preparing and serving Sunday dinner for friends and family. Gloria also served as our Grand Niece Ariyah's guardian and role model for nine years.

We are grateful for your friendship and for all your kind words and support during this difficult time.

Sincerely,
Katie Jackson

With sympathy

MUMC extends sincere prayers of condolence to the family of Jean Old who passed away on August 13. Jean moved to Mequon in her retirement and found her church home at MUMC. She lived at Newcastle Place. Her memorial service was performed in the chapel there by Pastor Tim.

My Father's World - by Ginger Ayres

I've been giving out some marbles lately — imaginary ones, not real ones. We recently saw a comedian whose schtick equated marbles with being stupid, idiotic, or having a lack of common sense. In his mind, he would silently assign a marble to someone when they did something foolish.

Here's an example. You are driving in moderate traffic on a city street. An idiot attempting to get ahead swerves in and out, left lane, right lane, between cars, nearly causing a crash. Then he, you, and the other drivers all end up stopped together at the same red light. Idiot. Give him a silent marble.

Here's an oft-repeated story from my family. About a hundred years ago my grandparents had a Model A car (google it if you don't know what that is). Grandma scrubbed and polished every inch of that car to an immaculate state. While driving along, Grandpa turned to the side to spit his chewing tobacco outside. Splat! Right onto Grandma's crystal clean *invisible* car window. Hey, Grandpa, have a marble. (And I have a gigantic bag of marbles for anyone who is still using chewing tobacco.)

Here's an ALS ice bucket challenge gone awry. The plan is for the ice water recipient to stand on the ground right near the house while dumper-person dumps a BIG bucket of ice water from the edge of the roof. No one remembers that the edge of a roof is the eave trough. Do you see this one coming? Dumper-person with bucket goes right to the edge. The eave trough gives way. Bucket, water, and ice all clunk on dumpee's head. Dumper barely saves self from falling off roof. What do you think — give them at least 3 or 4 marbles???

In the grocery store checkout line, I directly handed the clerk my reusable bags. She asked me if I wanted paper or plastic. I just paused and let her hold my bags while she thought about what

she had said — while I gave her a silent marble. We both had a good laugh.

How about a selfie? You sat down to read this Spire. The doorbell rings.

You turn quickly, only to knock over the glass of iced tea sitting at your elbow. You knew it was there. Good grief. Give yourself a marble.

So look around and give out some marbles. If you see the idiot driver that I mentioned, giving a mental marble may help dissolve your anger. Giving marbles

for foolish actions may just make us all realize our shortcomings and flaws and quirks ... so we have a chuckle and life goes on.

Does Jesus give marbles?

Look at the story of Zacchaeus. He was a disliked disturbing little man. He cheated and stole from his own people. He was a sinner. He climbed up a tree so he could see Jesus. People probably looked up at him in that tree, saw an idiot who thought he had a right to see Jesus, and assigned him some of those imaginary marbles. Jesus looked up and saw a sinner to be forgiven.

So, no, Jesus doesn't give marbles. Jesus gives forgiveness. There is a huge difference between these pretend marbles we give out and the forgiveness that Jesus gives. In fact, there is a huge difference between the limited view we have of each other and the all-encompassing view that Jesus has of each of us. We treat each other with our many human foibles. We see an action that looks foolish and assign marbles. Jesus always sees the bigger picture. He forgives our errors and blunders and transgressions and misdeeds — something as small as a mistaken word, and many things much larger.

Go ahead — give away some imaginary human-marbles for those many foolish human things we do. But remember to turn to Jesus for the forgiveness that only he can give.



True heroes

We live in a world in which we need to share responsibility. It's easy to say, "It's not my child, not my community, not my world, not my problem." Then there are those who see the need and respond. I consider those people my heroes.

—Fred Rogers, Presbyterian minister and "hero" of *Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood*

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9:30 AM: Worship Service

First Sunday - Family Sunday
(no Sunday School)

9:45 AM: Sunday School

10:30 AM: Fellowship for all

Everyone is welcome!

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September 7

- ◆ Sunday School begins
- ◆ All-church Picnic

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The slurry walls of life

As horrific as 9/11 was, it could've been even worse if not for a 30-year-old engineering feat. Reaching some 70 feet underground, a 3-foot-thick concrete structure called a "slurry wall" surrounded the base of the World Trade Center complex. Designed to prevent the Hudson River from flooding the basement, this wall prevented New York's subway system from flooding and countless additional people from dying on September 11, 2001.



A slurry wall is constructed by pouring a thick, goopy mixture of powdered clay and water into a deep, narrow trench. The solution coats the sides, preventing water and soil from collapsing the trench. Pipes are then inserted through the slurry, and concrete is pumped into the trench, pushing the slurry up and out. At the WTC, the concrete formed such a strong wall that even two airplanes and the falling towers didn't fracture it. Part of the slurry wall still stands at the 9/11 Memorial site, a symbol of resilience.

Sometimes God uses life's "slurry" to make us stronger than we ever thought possible. We might wish something yucky hadn't happened – until we discover it was part of what sustained us, making us resilient and enabling us to rise out of destruction and death to awe-inspiring new life.

Showing some spine

Because of a back injury, a teacher had to wear a plaster cast around his upper body. It fit under his shirt and wasn't noticeable at all. On the first day of school, still wearing the cast, he walked confidently into a classroom full of rowdy students.

After giving a lecture and assignment, the teacher opened the window and busied himself at his desk. When a strong breeze made his tie flap, he grabbed his stapler and stapled the tie to his chest. Needless to say, the teacher had no trouble with discipline that year.

