

Mequon United  
Methodist Church  
11011 North Oriole Lane  
Mequon, WI 53092  
262-242-4770  
www.mequonumc.org

+

the Spire

April 2018



---

**In the spirit of Easter and springtime, we focus  
on the new life God causes to sprout —  
in the world and church, in lives and hearts.**

---

**May you sprout by participating  
in these MUMC activities:**

---

- ◆ Family Promise needs volunteers and meals  
— April 8-14
- ◆ Native American Sunday — celebrate with the  
Strawberry Moon Women Singers — April 15
- ◆ Green Sunday — Earth Day — April 22  
— worship in the morning and Roadway  
Cleanup at noon
- ◆ "Mindfulness" — seminar for stress reduction  
— April 29
- ◆ LOTS of music at MUMC in April — see page 9
- ◆ Help out at VBS and Kaleidoscope Camp this  
summer — sign up now



**In July, MUMC will  
be welcoming  
Rev. Sue Lee  
as our new pastor!**

**More information  
on page 3.**

## Pastor Tim's Message



As you sit down to read this, Easter may be a few days away or have just passed. Another trip to the cross of Calvary. Another journey to the empty tomb. Another joyful day celebrated. However, Easter is not just about a day to celebrate and move on as if nothing happened, but about living a life renewed as a disciple of Jesus Christ. Easter is all about remembering the moment.

When we think about our life, very often it is divided up into moments. These moments that are short periods of time packed with meaning and importance. Think about the moments of history and where you were when you heard the news of the Pearl Harbor attack, or JFK's assassination, or when 911 happened. Because each of these moments in history have changed the course of this country and our world. Added to these historic moments are ones from our own lives. The moment when we find out about a death of a loved one, the moment we are accepted into a college of our dreams, or the moment we are married or become a parent for the first time.

These moments changed us because what came before was completely different than what happened next. As an Easter people, the empty tomb is our moment that continues to change hearts and lives because of what happens next. Where there was sorrow, now there is joy. Where there was fear, now there is courage and peace. Where there was despair, now there is hope.

Resurrection moments are happening all around us, every day. But are we open to them? Near the end of his life, an elderly Christian leader reflected on the moments of his life. He said, "When I was young, I wanted to change the world, but the world did not want to be changed. So, in discouragement, I decided to change my community; but to my disappointment, my community did not want to change. As I grew older, I decided that perhaps I could change my family, but alas I could not. Finally, at least I realized I could change myself with the help of God in my life and heart. That's the moment I realized that a change in me influenced my family, my family influenced the community, and the community began to change the world."

We are blessed with so many moments in our lives. May we be open to letting our hearts and lives be changed this day by the risen Christ as we grow deeper in our faith and let God into all the moments of our days so that a change in us can change our world.

In God's Love  
Pastor Tim

---

## Family Promise



### Volunteers are needed for April 8-14



First, thanks to all of you who participated in the last Host Week. Thanks to you who ...

- Helped to plan our last Host Week
- Contributed food
- Did the set up
- Met the trailer early on Sunday morning
- Prepared dinners
- Shared some of your time with our guest
- Stayed overnight
- Did take down

As you can see it takes a whole community to serve during Family Promise Host Week – even if we have only one guest. Thanks to each of you for your part.

**Our next Host Week is just around the corner, April 8-14. Watch for sign up sheets to be posted in MUMC narthex for the upcoming host week.**

Here are the upcoming Host Weeks. Please put these on your calendar and please, please consider continuing to help out in whatever way you can.

- April 8-14
- July 29-Aug 4
- September 16 – September 22

Currently our local Family Promise is serving just one single female in providing emergency shelter. But Family Promise continues to counsel a number of clients each week to keep them from becoming homeless.

## MUMC will welcome new pastor in July

In late February, it was announced that Pastor Tim has accepted an appointment to the United Methodist Church at Stevens Point/Plover. On Palm Sunday it was announced that Pastor Kyung-Sook "Sue" Lee has been appointed to serve MUMC. These changes will take place at the end of June. We will be planning events to say good-bye to the O'Briens and welcome Pastor Sue. Pastor Tim's final Sunday will be June 24th. Pastor Sue's first Sunday will be July 8th.

Pastor Sue's latest assignment was in Wausau at Wesley United Methodist Church. She has also served at Evansville United Methodist Church, Community UMC in Elm Grove, Emmanuel Community UMC in Menomonee Falls, Clarno and Staver UMC in Monroe, and Beetown UMC in Beetown.

Pastor Sue grew up in Seoul, Korea. She and her husband, Chris Park have been married for 27 years. They came to Dubuque, Iowa in 1995 for Chris's continuing education. Since then they have lived in the US. They have two children, Min-Young (23 years old) and Wesley (20 years old). Min-Young works as a paralegal in Washington D.C. and Wesley is a sophomore at University of Iowa. Chris is a Korean Methodist ordained pastor and is leading a ministry for Korean adoptees and their families.

Sue was called into the ministry when she worked as an interpreter for Korean Pastors at Dubuque Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa. She ultimately graduated from Seminary there with a Master of Divinity and was ordained as an elder in full connection in 2007 within the Wisconsin Conference United Methodist Church. In 2009 she completed ACTS (Association of Chicago Theological Schools) Doctor of Ministry (D. Min.) in Preaching which is a special religion-focused advanced degree.

Pastor Sue says she loves to preach. She also lists as her strengths a love of leading and teaching Confirmation Class and small group Bible study as well as organizing and empowering laity leadership. In her leisure time Pastor Sue loves to try new recipes and enjoys gardening.

While we prepare to welcome Pastor Sue as our spiritual leader and arrange for this time of change, it is important to remember that we have much to celebrate as a close knit church family. Even though we are a fairly small sized congregation, our accomplishments working together as a cohesive congregation are impressive. Using our many skills and talents, we have achieved things like:

- We completed a successful Capital Campaign, exceeding our goal.
- We celebrate nine years of successful ministry of Sonlight Child Development Center, the fact that it is financially independent, and that it regularly touches over 50 children from our community.
- We support more than 25 Outreach projects such as the meal site, food and clothing collections, Giving Tree, delivering meals to elderly, Bread Sundays, food sort, and many more (including being a founding member and church host of Family Promise).
- Over many years, we've successfully led an extensive music program, Sunday evening programs for children and families, a well-read and welcoming women's book club, a Parish Nurse team that has presented numerous wellness programs, an annual VBS that engages many children from the church and community ... and much more.
- We have become attentive to the environment within and outside our church, established a highly admired nature area (Marsh Meadow), become a community resource for roadway cleanup, and initiated a community garden.

Yes, we have an active church to share with our new pastor!

Remember to stay tuned for information on a "farewell to the O'Briens" event and plans to welcome Pastor Sue. And please say "yes" if you are asked to assist with these gatherings!

---

Thanks to MUMC's Staff/Pastor Parish Relations Committee for their prayerful leadership through the transition from Pastor Tim to Pastor Sue. Members of the committee are Pam Layton (Chair), Janice Church, Lauren Schreiner, Marilyn Thiet, Glen Van Fossen, and Doug Zwissler.



---

*Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God." Romans 15:7*

## Native American Sunday — April 15

Native American Sunday, on April 15th, is a celebration of the gifts and contributions made by Native Americans to our society. The special offering supports Native American outreach within annual conferences across the United States and provides seminary scholarships for Native American seminary students.

This year, we have the honor of hosting Strawberry Moon Women Singers. This group of women, from various American tribes, performs songs of healing with hand-drum instruments. They will join us for our worship service and share their stories and songs with us.

The United Methodist Church recognizes that our history bears little resemblance to the reconciling love of Jesus Christ. That is why the people of The United Methodist Church, Native and non-Native, are creating a new history. Through Native American Ministries Sunday, we are able to equip and empower Native American pastors, congregations and seminary students to do what only they can do: authentically worship and serve Jesus Christ and share Christian biblical teachings from the Native perspective.

Today Native Americans, with many unique languages and cultures, honor their heritage and live as Jesus-followers, led by a rotation of primarily Native American pastors. Native American Sunday provides scholarships to seminary students, who return to their homes to minister to their communities.

Your donations to this special Sunday make our United Methodist Native American ministries possible. Thank you for supporting this reconciling and healing mission.

---

### Strawberry Moon Women Singers Wisconsin Based Women's Hand Drum Group

We are Indigenous women of the world uniting to heal through music. Founded in December 2012, Dona Yahola had the dream of starting a healing drum group with women coming together, singing, healing and praying together. Members of the group range in ages and generations, bringing together Ojibwe, Oneida, Mexica, Apache, and Maya descent, of Brasil, Texas, Mexico, and Wisconsin.



## Create your own Act of Green

With the 50th anniversary of Earth Day fast approaching in 2020, Earth Day Network is launching a series of major campaigns to catalyze and channel global collaboration for the health of our planet. This is where you come in. We need your help and your personal action. Please support Earth Day campaigns by creating your own Act of Green, and helping to reach 3 billion. On Earth Day's website, several campaigns are listed along with actions you can take. Check out the home page or click "campaigns" on the top bar.

All of Earth Day Network's campaigns, whether protecting forests, registering new voters or greening cities, help create a greener, more sustainable future. For more information, go to [www.earthday.org](http://www.earthday.org).

➔ **Join the Green Team at MUMC on Green Sunday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> to experience local projects — renewable energy and community gardens. Information will be available for both projects.**

---

## Spring Clean-up — Earth Day MUMC's Adopted Roadways

**April 22**

**Noon to completion**

**(Lunch at 11:30 AM at MUMC)**

Celebrate Earth Day this year by rolling up your sleeves and making a difference – by helping to clean up our planet. Mequon United Methodist Church is an official participant in the maintenance of God's creation, through our sponsorship of a two roadways in our community. The city provides all the equipment we need, and our filled trash bags can be left at the side of the road for crews to pick up later. Our church's name is on two permanent signs along the road.

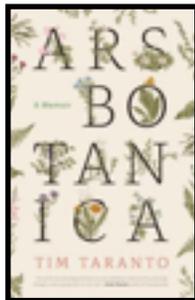
Our next date for clean-up will be **Sunday, April 22, at 12:00 PM**. Lunch will be available at the church at **11:30 AM** prior to the clean-up, so plan to join us in Fellowship Hall if you can. Otherwise, we will meet in the north parking lot of Katherine Kearney Carpenter Park. Children under 11 need to clean up in the park only (they are not allowed along the roadways), but all older children, youth and adults are encouraged to come and help out. Please sign up and plan to come for as little or as much of the clean-up as you can. See Wendy Porterfield if you have questions about the event – and sign up to be part of this important community service opportunity!

*We will be out there rain or shine, so please plan accordingly!*

## Reflections book group will Skype with book author in April

The Reflections Book Group will meet Thursday, April 12 at 7:00 PM in the Parlor. During the meeting, we will Skype with Tim Taranto, author of our April book, *Ars Botanica: A Field Guide to Loss*. Amazon.com offers this description . . .

*Written as letters to his unborn child, Tim Taranto's Ars Botanica describes the infinite pleasures of falling in love — the small discoveries of each other's otherness, the crush of desire, the frightening closeness — and the terrifying impossibility of losing someone. Through examinations of the ways in which various cultures and religions carry grief, Taranto discovers the emotional instincts that shape his own mourning. He seeks solace in the natural elements of our world, divining meaning from the Iowa fields that stretch around him, the stones he collects, the plants he discovers on walks through the woods. His letters, then, are the honest wanderings of someone earnestly seeking meaning and belonging, ultimately resulting in a field guide for love, grief, and celebrating life.*



Reflections is a women's book group that meets monthly for discussion and fellowship. New women are always welcome. Contact Barb Henneck at [bhenneck@wi.rr.com](mailto:bhenneck@wi.rr.com) for more information about the group or our April meeting.

### Looking ahead . . . .

Our May book will be *10% Happier: How I Tamed the Voice in My Head, Reduced Stress Without Losing My Edge, and Found Self-Help That Actually Works – A True Story*, by Dan Harris.

## Sunday School substitute teachers needed

Our spring Sunday School schedule has some gaps in it, and Peg is hoping some of you might consider taking on a week or two as a substitute teacher. We have user-friendly curriculum available for you to use, but if you are not comfortable with that, you are welcome to show a movie. Just let Peg know and she will get one ready for you.

The dates without a teacher scheduled are April 8 (Resurrection Power) and April 29 (Fruit of the Spirit - Peace). Would any of these work for you?

Please let Peg know ([mumckidstuff@gmail.com](mailto:mumckidstuff@gmail.com)). Thank you for prayerfully considering it.



## Mindfulness — dealing with life's difficulties

**Sunday April 29  
11:00 AM-12:00 noon  
At MUMC**

The MUMC Parish Nurse Team is sponsoring an education session on mindfulness presented by Dr. Paul Norton on Sunday April 29, 2018 from 11:00 AM - 12:00 noon. Dr. Norton will speak about what mindfulness is, how it differs from our habitual way of thinking. He will present the theory and practice of mindfulness and discuss its use in everyday life including dealing with difficulties.

Dr. Norton is the guiding instructor of the Mindfulness Community of Milwaukee. He does mindfulness teaching in a variety of settings, including schools, prisons, and for various groups at Milwaukee Mindfulness Center. He is certified to teach Mindfulness-based Stress Reduction, as well as various other modes of meditation and awareness practice.

## Music in worship

April 1 – EASTER!

Sanctuary Choir with Sam Laferriere on trumpet

April 8 – Marcia Schwager — clarinet

April 15 – Paul Gronquist — cello

April 22 – Sanctuary Choir

April 29 – Handbell Choir!!!

May 6 – Youth Choir

### ★ Join the Handbell Choir!

Ellen Shuler is still accepting eager folks who want to participate in the Handbell Choir on April 29. All ages are welcome! If you are interested, contact Ellen at [shulers4@sbcglobal.net](mailto:shulers4@sbcglobal.net)



**Easter is the soul's first taste of spring.**

—Richelle Goodrich

## ADULT SPIRITUAL FORMATION

### Lunch Bunch —

**Bible Study – 11:00 AM**  
**Lunch – 12:00 noon**

Come join us for our new study as we explore the Kingdom of God. Jesus spoke about the kingdom of God more than any other topic. We will look at what this term really means in the Bible and for us today in our world. Come for our study and lively discussion. After our study we have lunch together which includes homemade soup each week. Come as you are able — you are welcome anytime, every time.

**NEW STUDY**  
**"The Kingdom of God"**

### Prayer Breakfasts ....

#### Women's Prayer Breakfast —

Wednesday, April 4  
Wednesday, May 2

#### Men's Prayer Breakfast —

Thursday, April 5  
Thursday, May 3



All ages are invited to gather at 7:00 AM 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.

### Mealsite — thanks for TWO meals

MUMC folks assisted at two mealsites in March. As the Spire goes to print, we know that 102 guests were served on March 22. Thanks to everyone who helped serve and to everyone who brought desserts or fruit for the meals.

The Outreach Team is pleased that MUMC continues to help at a mealsite. We have been doing this at various mealsites for over 20 years. The guests at all those meals, plus the two this month, express their gratitude.



**Next mealsite dates:**  
**May 24 and May 31**

### HOLD THE DATE!

### Hunger Task Force Food Sort

Saturday, June 2

Details will be coming next month



### Sonlight is hiring!

Sonlight continues to look for caring and qualified teachers and has posted ads in several locations. If you know of anyone who might be interested in a teaching position or know of a location where you or we can place the ad, please contact Sue or Marie at Sonlight.

### Summer School Teacher Assistant for Sonlight

Looking for a summer job? Sonlight Child Development Center, at MUMC needs assistance with their summer program (June thru August) that offers lots of activities such as, arts, crafts, cooking, field trips, etc. for a group size of approximately 7-10 children from 6 thru 10 years of age.

Responsibilities would include planning activities for them Monday – Friday from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM for approximately 12 weeks from June thru August. Credentials would include a teaching certification in Early Childhood and other training, such as, CPR to meet some of the requirements of our daycare license *or teaching certificate for children 1<sup>st</sup> thru 4<sup>th</sup> grade*. We offer field trips so you must be insurable with a safe driving record and valid driver's license.

If you love working with great kids with lots of energy, this could be the job for you. We offer a competitive wage with some scheduling flexibility. Please contact Sue Lyon at [sue@sonlightcdc.org](mailto:sue@sonlightcdc.org) or at 262-242-4771 for more information.

### Childcare Teacher (Full and Part-time)

Sonlight Child Development Center at MUMC has full- and part-time teacher positions available. If you appreciate the energy of working with children (infants-5 years old) in a pleasant and small work environment where you will make a difference, we want to hear from you.

Experience and early childhood credentials would include: Early Childhood 1, Infant and Toddler Care, CPR Training, Shaken Baby Syndrome, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, and Child Abuse & Neglect.

We offer a competitive wage with some benefits and a **signing bonus** based on experience and placement.

If you are interested, please send your resume to [sue@sonlightcdc.org](mailto:sue@sonlightcdc.org) or to Sonlight, 11011 N. Oriole Lane, Mequon, WI 53092. Info on the center can be found at [www.sonlightcdc.org](http://www.sonlightcdc.org).





**June 18-21  
Noon-4:00 PM**

This summer elementary-aged children will once again have the opportunity to explore each day following VBS as we dive into the arts and science through daily hands-on activities. Each day will start with lunch, and then we'll create individual and group magic through nature, music, painting, sculpting and science experiments.

Our service project will be the creation of a giant outdoor wind chime, which we will add to our Marsh Meadow Music Makers — our colorful xylophone, trash can drum and cymbal, and ice cream tub drums.

On Thursday we will travel to the Riveredge Nature Center to explore art in nature, followed by an all-church dinner for the whole family.

Please sign up TODAY so we can order materials! Registration forms are available in the narthex or from the MUMC website.

### **We need your help!**

In order to make our children's programs possible, we need the help of many volunteers. Many hands make light work, and your hands are just what we need. Please consider volunteering to work with children from our church and community for one day, two days, or more, helping them to experience God's love first hand as you share yours. Please see Peg if you can help in any way with any of our camps. We need adults of ANY age (seniors, we need you too!) as well as teens of all ages to lead our crews and building projects. No helpers = no programs. We can't do it without you!



### **Supplies needed for Kaleidoscope Kids Camp ... please check your closets and basement!**

- Large and small tin cans
- Wooden spoons
- Painted and unpainted beads
- Milk bottle caps (colorful if possible)
- Clean canning jars – or any clean glass jars



**VBS 2018  
June 18-22  
9:00 AM - Noon**



Please join us as we celebrate summer with this year's VBS! Our theme is *Shipwrecked: Rescued by Jesus*, so lots of tropical fun is in store!

- **Preschoolers through fifth graders** are invited to join our program.
- **Middle and High School students** are needed to be our crew leaders and helpers.
- **Infants and toddlers** are invited to participate with their parents and our Sonlight young ones every day at 9:30 for our special Dad, Mom and Me Music.

Please sign up today! Sign-up forms are available in the narthex and on the MUMC website.

*Thanks for helpers —  
and more helpers needed!*

Thanks to all of our volunteers who have stepped up to lead our adventure stations. We couldn't do it without you! We can still use more adults to help with our crews, our activity stations, our kitchen and our children with special needs.

### **SE Wisconsin VIM — April 15-21**

#### ***Cleaning and rebuilding after floods***

Coming in April, **Wisconsin Volunteers in Mission** will be responding to the flooding last summer of the Fox River in Racine and Kenosha counties-- and the damage done to homes in that area. Volunteers are encouraged to participate in this week of cleaning, painting and rebuilding. Disaster Response co-chair and co-leader of this trip Lynnette Jordan has been working with area persons to set up local sites.

Registration for the week is \$150; send this amount with your registration (available at [wisconsinumc.org/outreach](http://wisconsinumc.org/outreach) and service/volunteers in mission/formsand reports/registrationform) to co-leader Gail Burgess, 6510-203rd Avenue, Bristol, WI 53104 (262-945-8578). Participants will be staying at Salem UMC in Kenosha County. Funds from UMCOR will be available to help those in need. If you are unable to participate all five days, please plan to work AT LEAST three days. More information will be available after registration.



**Anyone who says  
sunshine brings  
happiness never  
danced in the rain.**

## Autism: it's not just a childhood condition

by Emily Levine, Executive Director, Autism Society of Southeastern Wisconsin  
[You will recognize Emily's name as an engaged member of the MUMC congregation!]

As the parent of a 30 year old man who has autism spectrum disorder (ASD), it has long been frustrating to me that 99% of research dollars and attention is focused on children with autism. Early intervention is extremely important, and can definitely improve functioning later in life. But it is also important to remember that we spend most of our lives as adults, and ASD is a life-long condition.

Recent research out of Drexel University in Pennsylvania (Roux A.M. et. al. 2017) showed troubling conclusions about adult outcomes. They looked at over 3500 adults living in 31 states, who are receiving state services. Finding and keeping a job is hard for many people with ASD. Navigating the social dynamics of the workplace, coping with sensory overload, organizing and completing tasks, and communicating with coworkers may be challenging. Key findings of the 2017 report:

- **Paid, community-based employment was the least common outcome for adults with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Only 14% held a job for pay in the community.**



- Over half (54%) participated in an unpaid activity in a facility (where most other workers had disabilities).
- One-fourth (27%) had no work or day activities, in either community-based or facility-based settings.
- Half (49%) live with parents or another family member.

There is progress being made. A nation-wide program, Project Search, helps people with ASD and other developmental disabilities try out competitive jobs in the marketplace with support. In the

greater Milwaukee area, there are Project Search sites at several hospitals, the zoo, and the airport.

Housing and employment continue to be areas where improvement is needed, so that our communities are inclusive for all God's children.

For more information, contact the Autism Society, 414-988-1260, [info@assew.org](mailto:info@assew.org)

For Project Search information, contact Easter Seals, 262-953-2206.

---

[This information is shared with MUMC by the Parish Nurse Team.]

## Trustees report ... repair, replace, remove

God certainly works in mysterious ways! Last year, when Trustees were working to define our church's capital needs before launching the 2017 Campaign, we thought we had predicted pretty well all the things that would need attention over the next several years. We helped set a goal for the Capital Campaign; and then YOU, our church members, made pledges that exceeded that goal. Little did *we* know then, that MUMC would have need for the "extra" donations almost immediately! **God provided!**

Within the last month, the big commercial freezer in the church kitchen stopped working and had to be replaced within a day to preserve frozen food supplies. Trustees had predicted the freezer would need to be replaced ... just didn't expect it so soon. NOT predicted was the necessity to replace the commercial dishwasher as well ... that died the same week as the freezer!



Then, we all received the unexpected news that our beloved Pastor and his family have been asked by our Wisconsin Bishop to accept a new pastoral appointment in Stevens Point. That means Trustees have had to assess conditions in and around the Parsonage in preparation for a new pastoral family who will move here by July.

We have found need to repair the chimney (a broken cap and deteriorating bricks), repaint the interior (which hasn't been painted since the 1990's), replace the air-conditioning system, remove dying Ash and Willow trees, re-do the brick patio which has settled unevenly over time, and replace old landscaping shrubs that have lived beyond their expected lifetimes.

While we have much to do before July, we have been blessed to have completed our Capital Campaign successfully in advance so funds are available to meet those needs. **Thank God!**



## Sounds of Spring — Two Music Groups at MUMC

Mequon United Methodist Church is excited to invite the congregation and community to hear the beautiful music of two unique ensembles during the last week of April.

**The Homestead High School Chamber Orchestra will perform at MUMC on Wednesday, April 25 at 7:30 PM**, under the direction of John Emanuelson. MUMC has hosted the Chamber Orchestra for four years and the group is excited to be back this year. “The high school students look forward to sharing our music with the community in this lovely space”, said Mr. Emanuelson. HHSCO will present a variety of works for chamber ensembles appropriate for this intimate and acoustically warm venue. They will perform Tchaikovsky Serenade for Strings, Op. 48 and a work for orchestra and accordion, with noted area accordionist Stas Venglevski serving as guest artist.

The Homestead Chamber Orchestra performed collaboratively with the Shorewood HS Chamber Orchestra in New York’s Carnegie Hall on February 18, 2018. The Homestead Chamber Orchestra performed previously at Carnegie in 2014, and at the Wisconsin State Music Conference in Madison in 2011. 35 advanced string musicians enroll in this class as a course during the school day at Homestead. The HCO has earned the top rating at the Wisconsin School Music Association Solo & Ensemble Festival for the past 41 consecutive years. The Chamber Orchestra performs around the community, as well as at all curricular orchestra concerts at Homestead.

**The Bel Canto Mequon Senior Singers will perform at MUMC on Thursday, April 26 at 7:00 PM.**

Come and share in the joy of human expression through song! The program will include a number of choral songs of hope and faith, as well as songs of love and loss -- traditional songs, jazz, gospel, and gems from our historical choral repertoire – and even a piece by G.F.Handel! The audience will join the Singers in a number of familiar songs as we raise our voices in community – *Down by the Riverside, Precious Lord Take My Hand, What a Wonderful World, Danny Boy, and Always* to name but a few. Bring your friends and family and SING with the Bel Canto Mequon Senior Singers!

The public is invited to join the MUMC congregation at these free concerts and enjoy the beautiful sounds of the Spring season. Invite your family and friends!!

**Homestead HS  
Chamber Orchestra  
Wednesday, April 25  
7:30 PM**

**Bel Canto Mequon  
Senior Singers  
Thursday, April 26  
7:00 PM**

## Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation meets at MUMC in April. What/who are they?

Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation (WUMF) will hold its Spring Board meeting at MUMC on April 17, giving our congregation the opportunity to say “Thank You” for all that the Foundation has done for our church over the years, and especially for guidance last year to make our combined Stewardship and Capital Campaign successful.

For those who may not be familiar with WUMF, the Methodist tradition of using gifted resources to serve the needs of people and churches in Wisconsin began as far back as 1893 with Milwaukee homes established for young girls and elderly people. Those homes were eventually sold, and proceeds plus more donations over the ensuing years were carefully invested to serve people and churches in many ways.

Today, the Foundation offers professionally managed long-term investment services that adhere to our United Methodist Social Principles, pooling and growing endowment, reserve or other permanent funds for many churches around the state, including MUMC. WUMF also offers Planned Giving help to individuals, assisting them to secure the remainder of their lives while arranging to share their life blessings with others when they no longer need them.



Foundation services to local church have helped our own Mequon United Methodist Church in many ways. WUMF offers mortgage loans when needed – MUMC has used that service in the past to grow in ministry and build or add to our church.

WUMF offers positive, faith-centered fundraising assistance to local churches to help them enhance annual stewardship support for ministries as well as produce capital funds for physical needs. MUMC has taken advantage of WUMF’s fund raising guidance many time in its 70 years.

Last but not least, the Foundation provides scholarships for qualifying United Methodist students and seminary students as well as grants to local churches for the start-up of creative and innovative programs in ministry. MUMC has been honored to have young people from our church qualify for scholarships in the past; and more recently, MUMC received a grant from the foundation for an exciting “Green” project that will start soon to promote renewable energy in our community.

Let us welcome and thank the Wisconsin United Methodist Board when they meet at MUMC on April 17.



*I have been truly blessed by our loving, compassionate congregation who continues to support both me and my family as we journey together through the challenges of cancer. Your cards and meals mean so much to me as I struggle through some difficult days. I feel so surrounded by love and positivity, and it makes every day easier. Thank you with all of my heart.*

*Peg Gardner and Family*



Dear MUMC,

I want to thank the congregation for all your thoughts, kind words, cards and prayers on my Dad's passing.

Rick Gattoni and Family

## Thank You for Lent event

Thank you to all who came to our Lent Event “Step by Step” and painted gorgeous stepping stones for our playground and parsonage. Thanks to Audra O’Brien, Ireene Sullivan, Nancy Gruner and Jennifer Bartolino for providing our delicious meal. Thanks to Graycie Gardner for leading our music and helping with set-up, production and clean up. Thanks to Linda Mordy for cleaning our MANY paintbrushes. And thanks to Wendy Porterfield and Peter Gardner for both managing our stepping stones and cleaning up our big mess. The stones will be placed this spring to provide both beauty and safety for those out walking. Thanks to all who made our project possible!



## Expanding our view of service

We often think of serving in terms of Matthew 25: supplying food and clothing; caring for the sick, incarcerated and other “least of these” members of society – serving Jesus in the process. But we also can serve him with our unique talents and by doing things we love.

For example, Ged King, a barber in England, devotes some of his time off to giving homeless people free haircuts. Imagine Jesus saying, “For my hair was long and scraggly, and you cut it” – or “My heart was lonely, and you played music to lift my spirits. I could no longer read small print, and you read to me. I have to work two jobs, and you invited my child to spend afternoons crafting with you. My car broke down, and you repaired it.” Then the King will say, “Come, you who are blessed by my Father ... *whatever* you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me” (Matthew 25:34, 40, NIV; emphasis added).

## Sonlight Scoop April 2018

*Sonlight Child Development Center, established by and operated as a ministry of Mequon United Methodist Church, is open to children from infant through 9 years old, including before/after school care.*



We were pretty lucky at Sonlight this month! Our Green Day was a huge success. We decorated cookies, (yes we had green lips and tongues!) danced to Irish music, had green apples, green grapes, and green juice. Luck O' the Irish be with you!

The sap is running! Miss Linda took out the Froggies and Bunnies to tap the maple tree! What a fun day! Get the pancakes and waffles ready!

As the Spire goes to print, we plan our Sonlight Easter Parade for March 27. If you were at MUMC that day, you may have seen us in our finest Easter attire, parading around the circle (if the weather cooperated). Maybe you saw the Easter Bunny too!

### ***When we can't find Easter***

Easter is the most joyous Christian holy day ... except when it's not. What do we do when our mood isn't what we think it "should" be? The kids are sugared up, we're juggling family gatherings (and maybe conflicts), our everyday challenges remain, and festive hymns – however rousing – fail to lift our spirits. We wonder, "What's wrong with me, that I can't seem to find Easter?"

Been there, done that. And it's okay. *You're* okay.

Jesus' resurrection doesn't scoop us out of our troubles, but the death-defying Christ walks through them beside us, on our own Emmaus road (Luke 24). We aren't alone. When we can't find Easter, Easter somehow finds us – if not on this designated Sunday, perhaps two days from now, or next week or mid-May. Watch for it; keep your heart open. Christ is risen indeed – and you shall be too.



–Heidi Mann

## *the Spire*

is published monthly by

**Mequon United  
Methodist Church**  
11011 North Oriole Lane 20W  
Mequon, WI 53092

**262-242-4770**

**www.mequonumc.org**

Editor: Ginger Ayres

Assistants:

Shirley Campbell, Susan Caldwell,  
Sandy Christensen, Chris Debbink,  
Barb Henneke, Ann Miller, Herb Ayres

Deadline for copy: the 25th  
of the month prior to publication.  
Editor reserves the right to  
edit for content and space.

### ***Church Staff***

Pastor: Tim O'Brien  
pastor@mequonumc.org  
Office Manager: DeWayna Cherrington  
office@mequonumc.org  
Finance Manager: Karen Huffman  
finance@mequonumc.org  
Ministers of Music:  
Rick & Michelle Hynson  
michellehynson@gmail.com  
Organist: Elna Hickson  
ehickson@wi.rr.com  
Youth Choirs Director: Ellen Shuler  
shulers4@sbcglobal.net  
Director of Children's Ministries:  
Peg Randall Gardner  
mumckidstuff@gmail.com  
Youth Director: Olivia Peters  
olivia.bedran@gmail.com  
Sonlight CDC Director: Sue Lyon  
info@sonlightcdc.org  
Webmaster: Marcia Schwager  
mkschwager@sbcglobal.net

MUMC office: 262-242-4770  
fax: 262-242-9539

MUMC office email:  
office@mequonumc.org

Office hours:

Mon. - Thurs.: 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM  
Closed Fridays

### ***Sunday schedule:***

9:30 AM: Worship Service  
and Sunday School  
First Sunday is Family Sunday  
(no Sunday School)  
10:30 AM: Fellowship for all

Mequon United Methodist Church  
11011 North Oriole Lane, 20W  
Mequon, WI 53092

DATED MATERIAL



PRESORT  
STANDARD  
NON-PROFIT ORG.  
US POSTAGE PAID  
THIENSVILLE, WI  
53092  
PERMIT NO. 8042

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

### *An Easter Prayer for United Methodists*

When everything was dark  
and it seemed that the sun would never shine again,  
your love broke through.  
Your love was too strong,  
too wide,  
too deep  
for death to hold.  
The sparks cast by your love  
dance and spread  
and burst forth  
with resurrection light.  
Gracious God,  
We praise you for the light of new life  
made possible through Jesus.  
We praise you for the light of new life  
that shone on the first witnesses of resurrection.  
We praise you for the light of new life  
that continues to shine in our hearts today.  
We pray that the Easter light of life, hope and joy,  
will live in us each day;  
and that we will be bearers of that light  
into the lives of others.  
Amen.



— Rev. Michaela Youngson

### *Easter is eternal*

If Easter means anything to modern man, it means that eternal truth is eternal. You may nail it to the tree, wrap it up in grave clothes and seal it in a tomb. But truth crushed to earth shall rise again.

Truth does not perish. It cannot be destroyed. It may be distorted. It has been silenced temporarily. It has been compelled to carry its cross to Calvary's brow ... but with an inevitable certainty, after every Black Friday dawns truth's Easter morn.

—Donald H. Tippet

