

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

+

the Spire

April 2015



(and relatives ... and friends ... and neighbors!)

to these MUMC
events and activities

- ❖ **Native American Ministries Sunday** with a fascinating and informative speaker — April 19
- ❖ **Mealsite** — always in need of servers, desserts and fresh fruit — April 30
- ❖ **Marsh Meadow workday** to plant new shrub and tree seedlings — May 2
- ❖ **Roadway clean-up** — MUMC's crew needs volunteers — May 3
- ❖ **Youth Mission Trip service** — enjoy an awesome worship service while raising funds for the youth mission trip — May 3
- ❖ And these recurring activities:
 - Exercise at tai chi
 - Read with the Reflections book group
 - Come together for prayer, communion, and fellowship at monthly prayer breakfasts
 - Gather for study and lunch with the weekly Lunch Bunch



“Our Lord has written the promise of the resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime.”

—Martin Luther

Pastor Tim's Message

As you sit down to read this article, if the post office has delivered our newsletter on time, Easter is right around the corner. This joyful day where we come together to celebrate and journey once again to the empty tomb and beyond. This time we take to remember and reflect on this moment that stirs our faith and gives us hope.

When we think about our life, very often it is divided up into moments. 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 just to name a few.

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.

One of my favorite hymns that we sing during Easter is "Because He Lives" written by Bill and Gloria Gaither. They wrote this hymn during a very difficult time in their lives. Bill had been struggling with a severe illness, they had lost many dear loved ones to sudden death, and Gloria's pregnancy was not going well. It was an uncertain and scary time for them. And then Gloria gave birth to a beautiful healthy baby boy. In that moment of holding their newborn son, they began to write this hymn: "How sweet to hold a new born baby, and feel the pride and joy he gives; but greater still the calm assurance, this child can face uncertain days because he lives." For the Gaither's, this was their resurrection moment where everything was changed and put into perspective as they held their little boy and realized the significance of that empty tomb.

So, what are your resurrection moments? Because they are still happening all around us, every day, if we are open to them. If we recognize what can happen in our lives and through us to change our world because he lives.

The Gaither's ended their hymn with this stirring refrain that I have adapted:

Because he lives, we can face tomorrow
Because he lives, our faith has meaning and our service power
Because he lives, we are forgiven and freed
Because he lives, all fear is gone.
Because he lives, the worst thing is never the last thing
Because he lives, we have endless hope
Because he lives, we know he holds the future, and life is worth the living just
because he lives

In God's Love
Pastor Tim



Dinner Is On Us!

Sonlight Child Development Center needs to get out the word about our wonderful ministry.

We have some of the best teachers and facilities in the area.

We need YOU to tell your friends and neighbors.

For every family that enrolls at Sonlight that was referred by you (and the family stays enrolled for four weeks and notes that they heard about Sonlight through you), we will reward you with a \$100 gift card to the Mequon restaurant of your choice.



Find talking points on page 4.

Native American Ministries Sunday — our speaker

Sunday, April 19

Join us for our annual Native American Ministries Sunday where we highlight the many gifts given to us through the Native American culture. This year we are pleased to welcome Raena Roman, a senior at University School of Milwaukee, who will be presenting her knowledge of Native American dance and song. We will also take one of our special offerings to support the ministries of our Native American congregations in the Wisconsin Annual Conference and throughout the United Methodist connection.

Native American Ministries Sunday - our gifts

Sunday, April 19

MUMC will acknowledge Native American Sunday on April 19th, a day when we recognize and remember our native brothers and sisters. Native American Ministries Sunday reminds United Methodists of the contributions made by Native Americans to our society. The special offering collected this day benefits Native American outreach within annual conferences and across the United States and provides seminary scholarships for Native Americans.

United Methodists relate to Native American Ministries Sunday by learning about and reaching out to Native Americans in their communities and by encouraging Native Americans to consider becoming pastors and nurturing them in their journey.

Please give generously on Native American Ministries Sunday. Your generous gifts on Native American Ministries Sunday support:

- Native American ministries within the annual conference
- Scholarships for Native Americans attending United Methodist schools of theology approved by the University Senate of The United Methodist Church (administered by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry)
- Strengthen, develop and equip Native American rural and urban congregations, ministries and communities (related to the General Board of Global Ministries)



Mealsite — April 30

The mealsite is as busy as ever. On March 26, we served dinner to 285 guests. As usual the words aren't adequate, so we just say a simple "thanks" to everyone who served and who donated food items of desserts and fruit.

Our next date is Thursday, April 30.

- Please sign up to be a server — we leave MUMC at 4:30 PM and return by 6:30 PM.
- Please sign up to donate food — we take desserts (brownies, cupcakes, bar cookies, etc.) and fresh hold-in-your-hand fruit (bananas, apples, clementines, etc.). Put food items in the parlor by 4:00 PM on mealsite day.
- **An extra plea:** there were not enough desserts for the dinner guests on March 26. If you have not donated desserts before, please consider donating for the date on April 30.

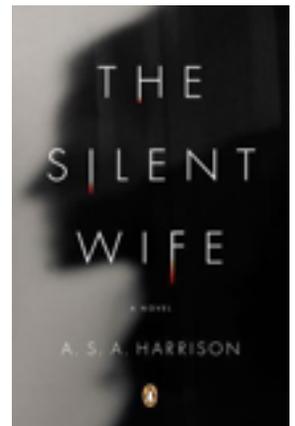


Reflections reads “The Silent Wife”

The Reflections Book Group will meet Thursday, April 9th at 7:00 PM in the Parlor. Our April discussion book will be *The Silent Wife*, by A.S.A. Harrison.

From amazon.com . . .

Told in alternating voices, *The Silent Wife* is about a marriage in the throes of dissolution, a couple headed for catastrophe, concessions that can't be made, and promises that won't be kept. Expertly plotted and reminiscent of *Gone Girl* and *These Things Hidden*, *The Silent Wife* ensnares the reader from page one and does not let go.



Reflections is a women's book group that meets monthly for discussion and fellowship. Contact Barb Henneck at bhenneck@wi.rr.com for more information about the group.



Marsh Meadow Workday

Saturday, May 2

9:00 a.m. - noon

We will be planting 40 shrubs and trees in the Marsh Meadow to fill in where the buckthorn has been removed. The plantings are small seedlings that will need to be protected with a circle of wire. Bring a shovel, gloves, and a hammer for the wire stakes. Water and snacks will be provided.

Call Linda Mordy
262-242-8091, for more information.



Changes in Sunday morning nursery

Tinesha has resigned from being our regular Nursery Care provider on Sunday mornings. She enjoyed her time there and loves the children but needed Sunday mornings for herself. We'll miss her. Tinesha continues her work with Sonlight.

Hannah Maris has agreed to be our interim nursery provider. We continue to seek a permanent person for this position so if you know of someone who could be a good candidate please have them contact the church office (242-4770).

Feed My Starving Children

Help pack meals for hungry children around the world

When:

Thursday, April 30, 5:30 – 7:30 pm
Friday, May 1, 9-11am, noon-2pm, 3pm-5pm, 6-8pm
Saturday, May 2, 9-11am, 11:45-1:45pm, 2:30-4:30pm

Where:

Portal Industries, 1015 Cedar Creek Road, Grafton

Register:

go to www.umcwf.org, click on:
Feed My Starving Children

Whitefish Bay United Methodist Church is sponsoring this hunger relief mission. FMSC is a Christian non-profit organization that sends prepackaged meals to refugee camps, orphanages and schools in 70 of the poorest countries in the world.

Volunteers are asked to contribute \$10 to defray costs of meals they pack. This easy and fun packing can be done by children as young as 5 years old. There are also jobs for those who prefer to sit. This mission is a fun way to involve families and friends. Register soon as popular time spots will fill up!

MUMC mission outreach is helping to prompt this project. If you have questions please contact Betty Deraughon at edraughon@wi.rr.com.



How can you help increase enrollment at Sonlight?

Sonlight Child Development Center, which is a ministry of MUMC, needs your help. We need more children — and your referrals could help fill our classrooms. Please consider talking to your neighbors, co-workers or family members about the wonderful child care center that we have right here at our church.

Here are some talking points.

- The staff at Sonlight has more than 100 years combined experience in providing child care. Our staff is stable and provides continuity to child care. Many of our staff migrated here from Deerwood Center in Brown Deer when it closed. Some of our MUMC members have had fun reconnecting with teachers their children had at Deerwood 20 years ago.
- As you all know, Sonlight is located on a safe quiet street, but is just minutes from access to I-43.
- In addition to a warm and caring atmosphere, Sonlight Center offers some unique enrichment programs. Our Nature Lady (you know her as Linda Mordy) provides nature appreciation times with "field trips" through the Marsh Meadow and hands-on learning about the wonders of nature. We also offer a weekly music program and a weekly computer program.
- Sonlight accepts infants as young as 6 weeks. This is unique — not all centers accept small babies. Our current program is for a child/staff ratio of 3 to 1 even though Wisconsin licensing allows for 4 to 1.
- Sonlight now accepts children thru age 6 and has worked out details so that M-T school busses will transport children to and from M-T schools to Sonlight. Sonlight can now provide before or after school care until a child reaches age 7.



In case you missed the recent all church meeting in January, it was reported that the Sonlight Ministry has now repaid all of the cash advances that the church provided from its operating account to help start the ministry. Sonlight now needs to focus on growing the enrollment in order to maintain a viable ministry.

The friendly staff at Sonlight would be glad to offer a tour to any church member (or others). Please contact them ahead of time. And Sonlight is offering a gift card to your favorite Mequon restaurant for a referral of a new family. See details on page 2..

If you would like to make a referral to Sonlight, you can find brochures in the narthex or give them the phone number, 262-242-4771. Sue Lyon, the center's Director, would be happy to set up an appointment for a tour.

Adult Spiritual Formation Opportunities

Comment from the Lunch Bunch group:

Fascinating sessions are happening at Lunch Bunch! We have traveled with Paul as he met Jesus, then moved on to Antioch, to Asia and Galicia, back to Jerusalem. And now we're on his longest and farthest trek as he works to set up new Christian churches.

Join us on these travels. Come any Tuesday. Join in the discussion or sit back and become enlightened.

And do stay for soup lunch!

Lunch Bunch Bible Study – 11:00 a.m.
Lunch – 12:00 p.m.

Come join on Tuesdays for our Bible study at 11:00 AM and our delicious lunch including homemade soup at Noon. Throughout the month of April we will be continuing with our study looking at the life of Peter and Paul using the video: *Peter and Paul* to help us better understand the times they lived in. We will also be studying some of Paul's most famous letters preserved in the New Testament. This new study will be jointly let by Pastor Tim and Bill Church, who has recently joined our church as a retired United Methodist pastor. Come join us for a time to feed our bodies and our souls - you are welcome anytime, every time!



Women's Prayer Breakfast
Wednesday, May 6th

Women of all ages are invited to gather at 7:00 AM on **Wednesday, May 6** 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.

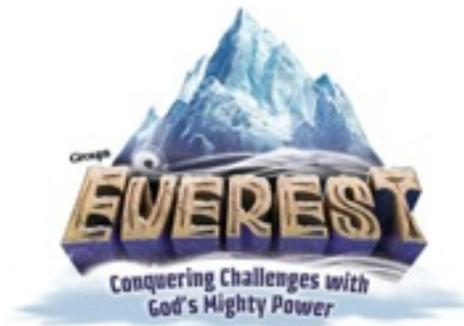
Men's Prayer Breakfast
Thursday, May 7th

Men of all ages are invited to gather at 7:00 AM on **Thursday, May 7** 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 Breakfasts are a quick and meaningful one hour together:

- a simple meal
- prayers
- insightful study
- communion

Once a month!
Join us!



VBS and CRITTER CAMP
July 6-10, 2015
Registration
Now in Progress

Registration is now in progress for a special week of activities for young and old. Our VBS campers will be exploring God's power through an exciting wintery theme, and our Critter Campers will once again explore the MarshMeadow and take a field trip with our adult Bible Study to the Riveredge Nature Center. Please plan to join us, and bring a friend!

We need lots of helpers to make our programs possible – all ages can help.

Youth,
this is your chance
to give back
to your local community.



Senior adults,
this is your chance
to feel like a kid again!



We are looking for science/craft helpers, game leaders, Bible Story leaders, kitchen crew helpers and Missions project helpers for VBS, and Critter Camp help in the kitchen area, along the trails, and with crafts. See Peg to join our team and be part of a great week of fun, community building, service and fellowship.



The day the Lord created hope was probably the same day he created Spring.

– Bernard Williams

Fair Trade coffee and tea — always available at MUMC

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. Here is some information about some products we currently have on hand:

Coffee ...

- Organic Breakfast Blend Coffee
- Organic Love Buzz Coffee
- Organic Ethiopian Coffee
- Cafe Salvador Coffee
- Cozy Cup Decaf Coffee



Tea ...

- Organic English Breakfast Tea (regular and decaf)
- Organic Earl Grey Tea
- Organic Chai Tea
- Organic Darjeeling Tea
- Organic Green Tea
- Organic Jasmine Green Tea
- Organic Peppermint Tea
- Organic Vanilla Rooibos Tea

Fair Trade Prayer

God, bless the campesinos, the small-scale coffee farmers who spend all year working small, family-owned farms, with unpredictable harvests.

Renew their souls so that they might carry on through the next harvest as their coffee fuels me through the next challenge in my life.

Help me remember that when I choose to buy the things that I need from fair-trade companies, I'm investing in social projects like fresh-water wells, educational materials and organic agriculture projects.

Remind me every day that I do mission work simply by choosing the coffee that I drink.

Amen

Reminder

Flower chart has open dates. Sign up soon. Reminders will be emailed from church office before your date.

Put TAI CHI on your calendar. Every Monday and Friday at 11:00 AM in MUMC Fellowship Hall. Easy movements! Good for balance and stretching. No sign-up needed. Just come!

Donate books for the Free Little Library. Coming soon to MUMC. Books can be for adults or children, hard or soft cover, fiction or non-fiction, new or used. Box is in the narthex coat rack area.

Making God's love real through music!



THANK YOU!

To the Sanctuary Choir, actors, and instrumentalists for a moving performance of GLORY TO GLORY! To the congregation for your support, both financial and personal!

COMING UP!

Music in worship ...

April 5 – EASTER! Sanctuary Choir
 April 12 – The Shuler Family
 April 19 – THE High School Choir
 April 26 – Sanctuary Choir
 May 3 – Youth Choir

Men's Choir — gear up!

Rehearsals are:

Sunday, April 19 – 6:00 pm
 Sunday, April 26 – **7:00 pm**
 Sunday, April 3 – 6:00 pm
 SING: Sunday, May 10 –
 MOTHER'S DAY!

Fitness For Seniors

Participating in a balanced fitness program contributes to well being at every age, but it's vital for seniors. According to the Mayo Clinic, regular exercise helps control blood pressure, body weight, and cholesterol levels. It reduces the risks of hardening of the arteries, heart attack, and stroke. What's more, exercise strengthens muscles, tendons, ligaments, and bones to help fight osteoporosis. Keeping your body strong and limber reduces the risk of injury and allows you to continue to enjoy the kinds of activities you've enjoyed your entire life. Staying healthy will help you maintain your independence.

If you haven't been active for a while, be sure to take it easy and start slowly. Walking for just five or 10 minutes at a time, several days a week is a great way to begin. Once you can walk for 30 minutes at a time, you have built a solid foundation and are ready to add more challenging activities to your regimen. Be sure to check with your doctor before beginning a new exercise regimen. They can help create a workout plan that suits your specific needs and goals.

Aerobic Endurance

Any activity that increases your heart rate helps build endurance. And it doesn't take long to make significant changes. After as few as six weeks of consistent exercise, you should notice that you're more comfortable during exercise as well as when going about your day-to-day activities.

The best aerobics for seniors are low impact like walking, swimming, water aerobics, cycling, and dance. Other options include:

- yoga
- tai chi
- line dancing
- square dancing
- ballroom dancing

Strength

Even small changes in overall muscle strength can have a huge impact on your daily activities. Carrying groceries, climbing stairs, and even getting up out of a chair all require muscle. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommend people over the age of 65 participate in strength-training workouts at least twice a week.

Start with small weights like 1- and 2-pound dumbbells. Try to do 10 to 15 repetitions of a variety of exercises such as bicep curls, triceps extensions, and chest presses. You need only your body weight to do some very effective moves, including lunges, squats, and modified push-ups.

Try this: Stand facing a wall, with your toes 12 to 18 inches from the wall. Lean forward slightly, and place your palms flat on the wall at about shoulder height. Now bend your elbows. Lower your body toward the wall until your nose nearly touches the wall, or get as close as you can without straining. Then push back to the starting position. Do this 10 times. This modified push-up builds chest, upper back, and shoulder strength.

Balance

The CDC reports that falls are the leading cause of injury-related death and the most common cause of trauma hospital admissions among Americans aged 65 and older. For seniors, even minor injuries can have serious consequences. Doing a few basic exercises to improve balance just might come in handy the next time you step off a curb awkwardly or try to sit down on a moving train or bus.

Try this: Stand directly behind a sturdy chair, such as a dining room chair that won't tip easily. Rest one hand on the back of the chair, and place the other hand on your hip. Lift your right leg, bending the knee slightly. Hold for a count of 10. Relax, and do nine more repetitions. Switch legs and repeat. As your balance improves, do the same move without resting your hand on the back of the chair.

Flexibility

If you've noticed that reaching for objects on high kitchen shelves or doing basic activities, such as getting dressed, aren't as easy as they used to be, you probably need to add some stretches to your daily routine. Stretching is something you can, and should, do every day. It's best to warm up for three to five minutes by walking or simply marching in place. Then slowly move into your stretches, holding each for at least 10 seconds. Be sure to breathe during the stretch. Remember that stretching should never be painful. You're stretching too far if you feel sharp pain or soreness the following day.

Try this: You can do this neck stretch standing or sitting. Slowly turn your head toward the right until you feel a slight stretch. Don't tilt your head backward or forward. Hold for 10 to 30 seconds. Now slowly turn your head to the left. Hold. Repeat three times in each direction.

General good fitness can be achieved in as little as 30 minutes each day, and these 30 minutes could prolong your life and improve the quality of it. Start slowly, be cautious, and don't be afraid to hire a personal trainer to help you along the way.

Source: healthline.com

Did you know that Tai Chi is offered at MUMC on Mondays and Fridays at 11:00 AM? Give it a try!

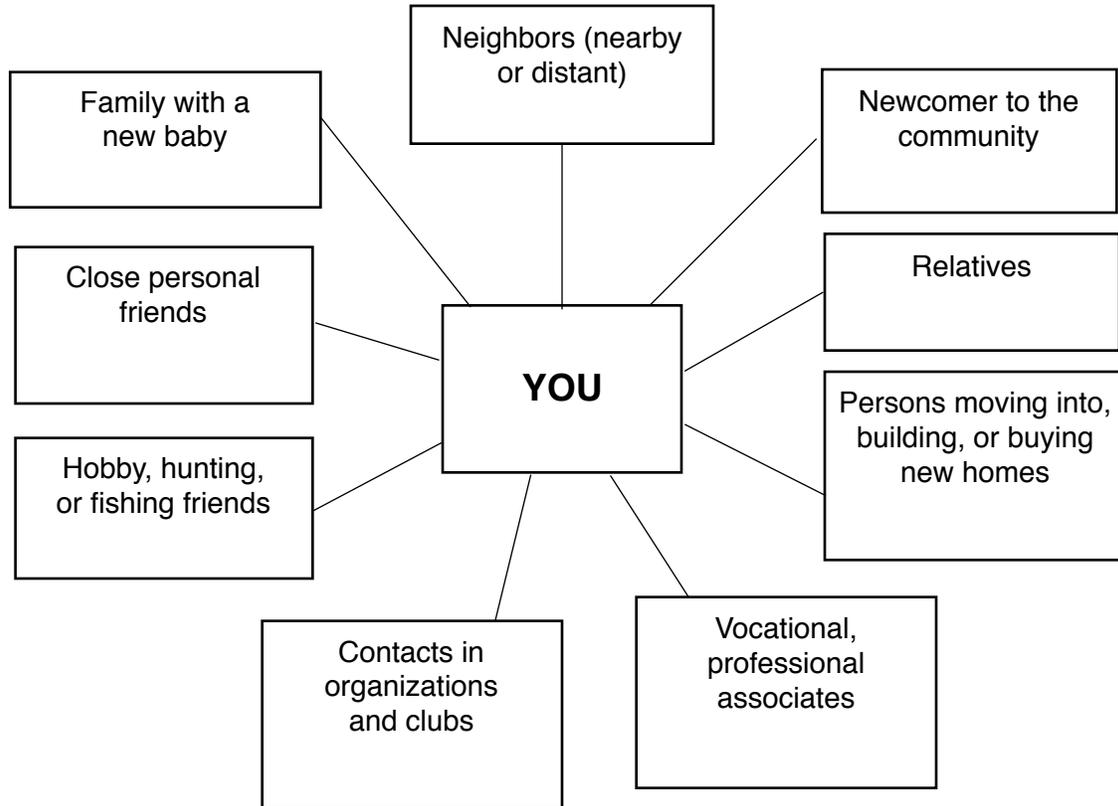


"MUMC Parish Nurse Ministry promotes wellness, healing and wholeness of body, mind and spirit within our church family through health assessment, counseling and education." [Parish Nurse Mission Statement]



Are you inviting?

Can you name someone in one or more of these categories who does not attend church? Write their name(s) in the appropriate box(es). Take advantage of your next opportunity to invite them to an MUMC event? Consider Easter services ... or the Native American speaker coming on April 19th ... or serving at the mealsite ... or working in the Marsh Meadow ... or helping on MUMC's local roadway clean-up day ... or coming to VBS and Critter Camp ... or enrolling their children in Sonlight.



Giving is putting God first.

Quotes shared by the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation

"I would never have been able to tithe the first million dollars I ever made if I had not tithed my first salary which was \$1.50 per week."

-John D. Rockefeller (1839-1937)

"Money is like manure. You have to spread it around or it smells."

-J. Paul Getty

"When you cease to make a contribution you begin to die."

-Eleanor Roosevelt

"Could it be that we have not truly given our hearts to God? Jesus said, 'Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.'"

-Arthur Simon, founder of Bread for the World

"Give me five minutes with a person's checkbook, and I will tell you where their heart is."

-Billy Graham

**Remember
to give
to the church
regularly.**



Sonlight Scoop April 2015

Sonlight Child Development Center, established by and operated as a ministry of Mequon United Methodist Church, is open to children from infant through 6 years old, including K2, K3, and K4 programs.

Spring is now here, and the returning birds are a joy to listen to! The children also love being able to play outside again. They tapped a Maple tree with the Nature Lady last week and placed a pail to catch the sweet drips as they ran out of the tree. All are looking forward to the annual Maple Syrup tasting, thanks to Ed and Linda Mordy!

Green Day was a success again, as everyone became Irish and arrived in green on March 12 (and some even brought in green treats to share with their classes).



Since Easter is so early this year, the children will be celebrating on Thursday, April 2 – complete with an indoor/outdoor parade (depending on the weather...), as well as a visit with the Easter Bunny. Each class will have its own Easter Egg Hunt and party!

HAPPY EASTER!
Kathy and Sue

Thanks to our Lent Event helpers

Our Lent Event was a huge success, with more than 35 children, youth and adults participating in a fun afternoon of learning, music, crafts, games and wonderful food. Our mini golf course was both challenging and fun, and our Roll the Rock Relay generated wild excitement and lots of laughter. We shared a delicious dinner together in fellowship and faith, and then continued crafting Easter pottery with Kari Slater and Glaze, and/or watched a Veggie Tales movie, complete with freshly-popped popcorn.

Thanks to all of our participants and our helpers – Debbie and Randy LeRoy, Audra O’Brien and Mary Sisney provided our fabulous dinner, Kari Slater helped with crafts, and Wendy Porterfield, Patrick and Devin Curran, Peter and Nikolai Gardner, and Ned and Kaitlyn Sisney helped with clean-up. Thanks also to Peter Gardner, Herb Ayres, Doug Zwissler, Glen Van Fossen and Tim O’Brien for providing putters for our golf game.



Dear MUMC Congregation,

Thank you very much for your sincere concern and prayers before and after the loss of my mother. Your cards and notes have been especially kind. I always feel so blessed to have such a wonderful and caring MUMC family.

*With deep appreciation,
Jean Storer*

My Father's World - by Ginger Ayres

Some things are not what they seem.

The princess and the pea was a fraud. You remember the fairy tale. The young girl slept on a bed of 20 mattresses and 20 feather-beds with a pea under the bottom one. Apparently she proved that she was a princess because she woke up complaining of the bump in the bed (supposedly the pea). I can't say if she was or was not a princess. But I submit that she did not feel the pea. Instead, she may have suffered from a medical illness like fibromyalgia. This condition is generally characterized by fatigue and pain, affecting people differently and to differing degrees. The hallmark is pain at several "tender points." One tender point is on either hip. So, during a flare up of symptoms, lying in bed and rolling onto a hip feels like sharp rocks are in the bed. So I'm rewriting this tale and hypothesizing that the maybe-a-princess felt the pain of fibromyalgia ... not a silly pea. ***Some things are not what they seem.***

Last fall, the Lunch Bunch spent a session delving into the story of the Prodigal Son. You remember the oft-repeated Bible story. He took his father's riches, left town, left his responsibilities, and partied. He later returned home to a seemingly hero's welcome. The son who stayed at home and worked received no riches or accolades for his work, no hero's party, and he complained at this lowly treatment. The general consensus of folks discussing this story is to be critical about the prodigal, and to feel sympathy for the son who stayed home to work.

But some things are not what they seem. Think of this as a story about forgiveness. Realizing his errant ways, the prodigal son asked for forgiveness ... he was forgiven ... and returned to a celebration of forgiveness and welcoming into reconnection with his

family (very much like redemption of our sins by God). The homebound son never forgave ... never let go of his bitterness ... and never felt gracious and loving (like not being repentant and not feeling the love of God).

On Sunday mornings at MUMC, during our time of expressing prayers for joys and concerns, there is *action* and *response*. Our *action* is expressing our problems ("I broke my leg") or giving thanks ("Hurray, my broken leg is healed"). Our MUMC loving church family's *response* is to help — share hugs, bring meals, offer rides, drop off groceries, send cards, and pray. However, rarely, if ever, is our *action* that of sharing difficult situations we are facing about our emotions, our feelings, or our minds. We don't say: I'm blue, I've been diagnosed with clinical depression, I have an eating disorder, I am an alcoholic. The reasons for not sharing these issues are varied. Maybe we fear how our comments will be received or perceived. Maybe we are embarrassed. Or we harken back to generations before us who did not believe there was such a thing as an injured mind. But "injured" is surely the correct word. Depression is a broken mind exactly like a fracture in a broken leg.

To this perception within our church, I say ***some things are not what they seem.*** I believe that this loving, caring, generous church family is not closed to mental illness. Anyone feeling the pain of emotional or mental issues should know that they can express their concerns, ask for prayers ... and share their joy when their spirits are on the upswing. We are a church family who is open, willing, and able to help. We can and will offer hugs, and meals, and rides, and cards, and prayers — to anyone, experiencing any difficult situation in their life, including mental illness. ***We are more than we seem.***

Something borrowed

When a Sunday school teacher told her class that Jesus was buried in a borrowed tomb, one girl raised her hand to share an insight. "I know why," the girl said. "It's because Jesus only used it for three days."



the Spire

is published monthly by

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Office hours:

Mon. - Thurs.: 8:30 AM - 2:00 PM

Friday: 9:00 AM - noon

Sunday schedule:

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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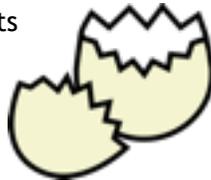
DATED MATERIAL



CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Egg-stra facts

- Although Easter eggs were once part of pagan spring festivals, they've become Christian symbols of new life. A cracked-open shell also represents Jesus' empty tomb on Easter morning.
- The early Christians of Mesopotamia began staining eggs red in honor of Jesus' blood shed on the cross. Red eggs remain part of Greek Orthodox celebrations today.
- For Lent, some families used to give up eggs and dairy, so they prepared a pancake feast on Shrove Tuesday, the day before Ash Wednesday. They solved the egg surplus by hard-boiling them in various broths, which led to colored eggs.
- In medieval times, churches held "egg-throwing" festivals. The priest threw a hard-boiled egg toward the choir boys, who tossed it back and forth. When the clock struck 12, whoever was holding the egg got to keep it.
- In some European countries, children go from house to house to collect Easter eggs.
- Each year, the PAAS Dye Co. sells more than 10 million egg-coloring kits, which consumers use to decorate 180 million eggs.
- The tallest chocolate Easter egg ever produced weighed 16,000 pounds – more than an elephant!



Expanding horizons, one foot at a time

My 8-year-old often likes to wear the pants of one outfit with the shirt of another. "I want these socks today!" he proclaims, holding up a white and a black. When I offer the stray black one I spot on the couch, he insists, "No! I *like* things different!"

What about *us* in the world ... in the church? Studies show that people tend to live near others like them. Many congregations consist predominantly of one ethnicity. We gravitate toward people who share our marital status, profession, values and views. Sometimes this is sensible, but often it limits our growth and horizons.

For a tux-clad ring bearer, matching socks are best. But when socks' only purpose is keeping feet warm at school, where my youngster feels "at home" and each child's uniqueness is celebrated, I embrace his nonconformity – and that of his socks. Would that we all appreciated diversity as much!

—Heidi Mann