

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

+

the Spire

December 2016



Advent and Christmas at MUMC

Saturday, December 3 -

- 8:30 a.m. - Breakfast for all!
- Hanging of the Greens! Come decorate the church for Christmas.
- Children's Christmas Program Dress rehearsal

Sunday, December 4

- 9:30 AM – Children's Christmas Program: "The Inn Crowd"
- 10:30 AM – SERRV Artisan Craft Sale, supporting artisans and Fair Trade around the world

Sunday, December 11

- 9:30 AM – Congregational Carol Sing
- 10:30 AM –
 - Youth Bake Sale to support their summer mission trip
 - SERRV Artisan Craft Sale

Sunday, December 18

- 9:30 AM – Sanctuary Choir Christmas Cantata: "Jesus! The Advent of the Messiah"

Saturday, December 24 - Christmas Eve Worship

- 5:00 PM – Family Service of Carols and Candles
- 9:00 PM – Traditional Service of Carols and Candles

Sunday, December 25 - Christmas Day Worship

- 9:30 AM – Come for more Carols and Christmas Joy!



**Share these
Christmas
events!**



Hope is born
A little child, a shining star,
a stable rude, the door ajar.
Yet in that place so crude, forlorn,
The Hope of all the world was born.

Pastor Tim's Message

The Christmas season is upon us once again. A season in which there is much thought and concern put into the concept of gifts. Many children (and not a few adults) focus upon and delight in the anticipation of what gifts they may get during this season. Many adults run around from store to store consumed with getting the "right" gifts for all of those on their lists.

For many this is a time of hectic rushing around to not only shop at stores but attend parties and try to connect with family. How ironic that this time of joyous celebration leaves many feeling rundown, disconnected, or just plain tired.

So, in the midst of our hurrying, let us take time and see that behind the commercial forces that drive many of us this season, there is a deeper meaning to this time of expectation. As we move through this busy time, I would like to remind and urge us all to slow down so that we can focus on the most important gift we can receive in this Holy Season

Christmas is God's gift to us – a gift of light and life, hope and grace. This gift is a reflection of God's concern for the world and God's desire to heal it and drive away its darkness. The gift of Christmas, therefore, is the one and only gift that gives our lives focus and meaning. We are called to bear Christ's light to the world by our love expressed through works of mercy and acts of justice. At Christmas, we are invited once again to walk in the light and take the light into the world.

So, here are three thoughts to remember as we take time to reflect and appreciate this wondrous gift of Christmas:

Keep it simple. Jesus was born into some pretty sparse circumstances. The son of two poor Galileans, he lived a life of humility and simplicity that became a key element of his ministry here on Earth. It's the simple stuff. Keep your holidays simple, so you are free to serve those in need and celebrate with those you love.

Be there. One way we tell our families and friends that we love them is by giving them our focused attention. Attention says, "I value you enough to give you my most precious asset – my time." When you give someone your time, you're giving them a portion of your life that you'll never get back. God showed his love by being there, "in the flesh." Who needs you to show up in their life with specific attention this year?

Give with delight. Jesus said there's more happiness in giving than in receiving (Acts 20:35). You don't even have to give something away to share it delightfully with others. For instance, you may have a garage full of tools that, as a gift, you make available to your neighbor or an empty vacation spot that you allow other members of your family to use.

May this Christmas season be a holy time as we show up in the lives of others and celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Word made flesh, who is the promise of love fulfilled in Bethlehem, the gift of peace, and the future of hope for us all.

In God's Love
Pastor Tim



Everyone come to MUMC on Saturday, December 3!!!

Beginning at 8:30 AM:

- ◆ Breakfast for everyone
- ◆ Hanging of the greens (decorating MUMC for the Christmas season)
- ◆ Children's Christmas Program rehearsal





Youth Bake Sale
Sunday, December 11,
after worship

Pick up yummy items baked by MUMC Youth for your own munching or for gifts. Your purchases support the Youth Mission Trip

Children's Christmas Program
Dress Rehearsal
Saturday, December 3
8:30-11:00 am

On Saturday morning, December 3, we will hold our final rehearsal for the Children's Christmas Program, and put all the pieces of our Christmas program together. That makes the dress rehearsal extremely important!

The morning will start with breakfast for all, followed by decorating the church for Christmas — the Hanging of the Greens — and then our rehearsal. Parents are encouraged to come for the entire morning as both helpers and participants. Please be sure to practice the readings at home so that your child is ready for our presentation in worship on Sunday, December 4.

The Inn Crowd
December 4th

On Sunday morning, December 4, the children, assisted by the Youth Choir, will present their annual Christmas program in worship. The inn is full of grumpy travelers, and there is no room for a young family about to have a baby. The "In-Crowd" wants penthouse accommodations and the privileges that accompany wealth. What will Mary and Joseph do? Children from Preschool through Middle School are invited to join us in presenting this timeless story in worship on **Sunday, December 4.**



Christmas Eve Family Service
5:00 PM on December 24



Christmas Eve
Family Service

All those who are young at heart are invited to join us for our early service on Christmas Eve. This child-friendly service will feature carols, a bedtime story, a re-enactment of the scene at the manger, cuddly animals and take-home surprises. Our cast from the Children's Christmas program will reprise one of their songs for the service as well. Candle-lighting for "Silent Night" will also be a part of our service, but with age-appropriate options.

Please plan to join us!

*Please join our Sanctuary Choir
as we present*

JESUS!
The Advent of the Messiah

By Mary McDonald and Rose Aspinall

Sunday, December 18 at 9:30 AM

This 40-minute musical reflects on the birth of the Holy Child. It examines the impact of His arrival and what it meant for all who would receive this life-altering gift. Through powerful original songs, favored carols, and dramatic spirituals, the story is told and the question is asked, "Is there room in my heart for Him?"



Children's Christmas Program Mission Project — Heifer International

Every year during our Christmas program we ask for the congregation's support for struggling families through the sponsorship of an animal through Heifer International. This year, in honor of our little preschool sheep, we are collecting money to sponsor a sheep for a family.



- Most sheep produce about 15-30 pounds of wool per year. The average ewe produces about 1.5 gallons of milk per day, allowing a steady stream of sustainable income.
- Sheep often give birth to twins or triplets, which allows a Heifer family to "pass on the gift" to several families each year.
- There are more than 1200 distinct breeds of sheep around the world, each suited to provide different types of wool and other resources.
- Sheep have been a key part of farming throughout the history of the entire world, and figure prominently in many religious customs and images, including the image used as a follower of Jesus in this year's program.

Each sheep we sponsor costs \$120.00, and we are hoping to provide at least one. Thank you for your donations to help out families around the world this Christmas with a gift that keeps on giving.

Reflections Christmas Party

The Reflections Book Group will celebrate Christmas at the home of Pam Layton (223 W. Trillium Rd, Mequon) on Thursday, December 8 at 6:30 PM. Please bring a wrapped gift (up to \$20 value) for our gift exchange. We will also be collecting toiletries for Life Navigators. Requested items include soap, shampoo, conditioner and \$10 Target gift cards.



Contact Pam at 262-241-5418 to RSVP and indicate if you would like to volunteer to bring an appetizer, dessert or beverage.

No discussion book this month.

Looking ahead

Our January discussion book will be *A Man Called Ove*, by Fredrik Backman.



Family Promise — December 11 - 18

Our next Host Week is December 11-18. We have begun putting together our list of volunteers. If you would like to volunteer for any task, but have not yet had the opportunity, please contact Ross or Jean Paulus, Volunteer Coordinators, at tango2nite@wi.rr.com or 262-502-0512.

We currently have one family of three and one single female in the program.

Our Host Week dates for 2017 are:

- February 12-19
- April 30 – May 7
- August 27 – September 3
- November 12-19

MUMC Christmas Giving Tree

Share the joy of Christmas with a needy family? The Volunteer Center of Ozaukee County has gathered the names, ages and wishes for our Giving Tree Collection. Here's how you can participate!

The Giving Tree is up in the narthex.

The Giving Tree is decorated with gift "wish" tags for 30 children and their parents. Additional envelopes will be provided for collection of monetary donations, to subsidize any possible left over tags or additional holiday needs at the Volunteer Center.

- The children's tags will include a suggested wish list. As a general guideline, we would suggest two to three gifts totaling \$50 per child. Feel free to meet or exceed this minimum at your discretion.
- Feel free to co-sponsor a tag/child with another donor.
- Parent tags will include suggested merchant gift cards ideas along with smaller miscellaneous wishes.
- Write your name and phone number next to the tag number on the sheet provided.
- Place gift cards and monetary donations in an envelope provided.
- Checks should be made payable to MUMC with "Giving Tree" notation.



- ➡ Wrapping paper, gift bags, tape, etc. will be collected and distributed to the families as well. Look for a collection box for these items.

Sunday, December 11th - gifts due at MUMC

- All unwrapped gifts need to be returned to MUMC Narthex.
- Firmly attach the tag/number to the bag or item(s).
- Mark the sheet confirming you delivered your gift(s), making our accounting easier.

The Volunteer Center is always looking for volunteers! Feel free to contact Brenda at 262-377-1616 to help with this project or others.

Please call Karen Stern with any questions or concerns about the MUMC Giving Tree project — 262-242-7811.

Thank You and Merry Christmas!!

Holiday Craft Sale

December 4 and 11, 2016

On Sunday, December 4, and the following Sunday, December 11, MUMC will once again host a holiday sale following the worship service to help artisans and farmers all around the world. Please plan to bring your gift list and help lift people out of poverty with the purchase of beautiful, hand-crafted gifts. UMCOR Fair Trade Coffee, Tea and Chocolates will also be available for purchase.

SERRV is a nonprofit organization with a mission to eradicate poverty wherever it resides by providing opportunity and support to artisans and farmers worldwide.

For more than 60 years, SERRV has worked to eradicate poverty through direct connections with low-income artisans and farmers. They market their crafts and foods, find joint solutions to their challenges, and help them grow and embrace the future. One of the first alternative trade organizations in the world, SERRV is a founding member of the World Fair Trade Organization (formerly IFAT) and a founding member of the Fair Trade Federation (FTF).



SERRV strives to enrich lives around the world and to inspire real change for the better.

- Their work encompasses more than just buying and selling.
- They offer prepayments so their partners can sustain their business.
- Create new designs so they can build their markets.
- Teach new skills so they can develop their craft.
- Provide grants so they can expand their resources.
- They support equal rights for women.
- Guide sustainable development.
- And of course, pay a fair wage.



Please plan to join us for this exciting opportunity to help others while doing your holiday shopping!

Music in worship

- December 4 – Children's Christmas Program!
- December 11 – Sing familiar Carols
- December 18 – Sanctuary Choir Cantata
- December 24 at 5:00 PM – Family Carols
- December 24 at 9:00 PM – Sanctuary Choir
- December 25 – Carol Sing
- January 1 – Carol Sing



Show Us Your Smile!

Last call — December 11

MUMC needs a new Photo Directory. We will use Shepard's Staff, our church database software, to upload pictures and create a directory, so we do not have to use a costly photography vendor. The last date to have your photo taken at church is December 11 after worship. Listen for an announcement in worship for specific instructions as to where the photos will be taken.

You also may submit your own family photo. You can either email an electronic file to DeWayna in the office at office@mequonumc.com or you can submit a printed photo to the office that we will scan and return to you. Please put them in the office in an envelope and include your name. The best photos for the directory will be ones that show close ups of faces, so we can see those smiles!

For our Hearts at Home Members who are no longer able to attend, if you are unable to send in a photograph please contact the church office and we will make arrangements to have someone come to your home to take your photograph.

Our goal is to have the photos by the first of the year so that we can publish the directory shortly afterward.



Winter Clothing Needed!

Winter is here, and more than 1,500 men and women will be enduring subzero weather on the streets of Milwaukee.

Repairers of the Breach is one of the non-profit organizations dedicated to homeless and at risk adults and provides Milwaukee's only daytime refuge and resource center. They need our help!

Take a look in your closets to find winter clothing that you no longer wear and bring them to church starting Sunday, December 11. MUMC's Mission Outreach team is collecting coats, sweaters, pants, socks, and shoes for adults.

Or you can buy a package of new underwear for men and women. We are also accepting blankets, quilts, and sleeping bags.

There is a shortage of clothing for large men and women. Here are a few of the items that are critically needed now:

- Packages of new men's underwear & T-shirts, sizes M, L, XL, 2X, 3X
- Packages of new women's underwear, sizes L, XL, 2X, 3X
- Men's & women's winter coats/jackets, sizes M, L, XL, 2X, 3X
- Men's & women's fall /winter shirts & tops, sizes M, L, XL, 2X, 3X
- Men's jeans & pants (sizes 34, 36 and large and tall sizes)
- Women's jeans & pants (large sizes especially needed)
- Comfortable walking shoes in good condition
- Socks for men & women, new or gently used
- Clean blankets & sleeping bags
- 13-gallon garbage bags
- 40-gallon garbage bags

To find out more about this life changing non-profit organization, go to <http://www.repairers.org>.



➔ **Start your New Year with prayer –
come to one of our prayer breakfasts!**

**Women's Prayer Breakfast –
Wednesday, December 7
Wednesday, January 4**

**Men's Prayer Breakfast –
Thursday, December 1
Thursday, January 5**

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.



Lunch Bunch

Bible Study – 11:00 AM

Lunch – 12:00 noon

The lunch bunch will be meeting through Tuesday, December 13 as we continue our study looking at the parables of Jesus. We will then take our break over Christmas and return in the New Year on Tuesday, January 3. Come join us for a time to feed our bodies and our souls — you are welcome anytime, every time!

All Church Gathering

**Saturday, January 14, 2017 @ 10:00 a.m.
Fellowship Hall**

~ an invitation from Pastor Tim ~

You are invited to our all church gathering where we will review and discuss the results of our mission and vision survey. We will also present the year-end 2016 budget and approve our budget for 2017. Our time will end with a prayer of dedication for our ministries and teams in the New Year ahead of us.

Your presence and input are very important, so I hope you will make it a point to come and share your ideas. Let's begin this year with rejuvenation and a rededication of our commitment to God, to each other, and to our community.

In God's love,
Pastor Tim

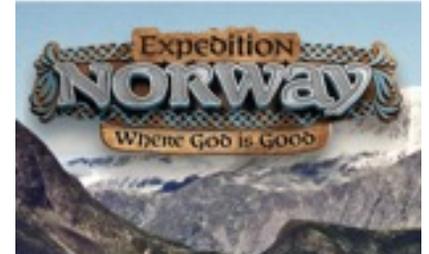


***** For kids!!! *****



Spend Sunday nights in January at Expedition Norway

Each Sunday in January, children in preschool through elementary school will have the opportunity to be immersed in one of the world's most remarkable (and chilly) cultures, sharing the sights, sounds, smells and tastes of Norway as they discover God's eternal love for the world. This VBS-style program features music, games, crafts, snacks, Bible explorations and kid videos about an exciting culture and fundamental Biblical truths.



- **Times and dates.**

The program will take place from 4:00-5:30 PM each Sunday evening, followed by dinner for the whole family. Dates are January 8, 15, 22 and 29. The 29th will be a movie night, with our Drive-In Movie format. Please plan to join us!

- **Volunteers are needed** to provide family dinners, bake tasty Norwegian snacks, decorate, and lead our activities.
- **Middle and High School students are invited** to join us as crew helpers. Please let Peg know if you would like to be a part of this exciting adventure!

Flower Chart for 2017

The flower chart for 2017 will be posted on the wall near the church office (across from the elevator). Sign up to provide flowers for the church altar on Sundays. Not only will your flowers beautify the church during Sunday worship, but you can use the opportunity to lift up the memory of someone or to honor a celebrated event (birthday, anniversary, etc.).



Save the Date

**Outreach Dinner
and Auction
January 28, 2017
Ozaukee Country Club**



Crafty help needed!

We need help cutting tiny felt blankets for baby Jesus. These blankets will be used in the Christmas Eve family service. The task is to cut little felt squares — we need 100 white felt squares that are 3"x3". This task can be done at home in your spare time. Please see Peg for details if you'd like to help!



Friends and Family CPR Course

Saturday, January 28, 2017 — 10:00 AM

- The focus of this class is adult CPR
- Class is on Saturday, January 28.
- It begins at 10:00 AM.
- The course is approximately 75 minutes. It will be given at MUMC.
- This class is open to anyone interested in learning skills and hands-only CPR.
- Pre-registration by January 25 is required to participate and class size is limited.
- Contact Susan Solverson with any questions and/or to sign up for this training — 262-375-9818 (home) or susansolverson@wi.rr.com or 414-559-4699 (cell for text).

Listening Sundays — share your comments about worship at MUMC

The Worship Committee's "Listening Sunday" is the third Sunday of every month from September through May. These are Sundays when members of the committee are available to receive your comments or suggestions about worship services at MUMC. So look for one of us wearing a badge after the service. If you are unable to attend on a third Sunday of the month, you are, of course, welcome to contact a member of the Worship Committee anytime.



The next scheduled Listening Sunday is December 15.

The next scheduled meeting of the Worship Committee is Monday, January 2nd at 7:00 PM in the Parlor.

A very Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year to you all from the Worship Committee!

Repairs and improvements at MUMC — Trustees report

Just in time!! All the necessary repair and improvement projects undertaken at MUMC during this year's non-winter seasons have been buttoned up. We're ready ... if not looking forward to ... winter's quiet down-time when we can do some serious long-range stewardship planning for keeping our beautiful church, parsonage and grounds in good condition as they age.

This has been another very active year of taking care of our church home by doing the kinds of repair or preventive maintenance we all must do constantly around our own homes to keep them in good shape. While Trustees feel good about the year's accomplishments, we know church members generally don't see the needs *or* the quality of the work that gets done on their behalf. That's why we share, in writing, what we do with the precious resources MUMC members entrust to us.

At the Parsonage, we

- replaced 50+ year-old water pipes and repaired damage done by undetected leaks from those pipes
- replaced the original overhead garage door and opener, which broke unexpectedly
- mud-jacked the concrete approach to the garage, raising it inches to the proper level for entry into the garage

At the Church, we

- corrected foundation drainage that was harming the north wall of Fellowship Hall
- replaced broken underground wiring for all lamp-posts, and increased exterior lighting around the church
- repaired, installed new lining in the 68-year old Yankee gutters, extending their useful life for years to come
- removed old shrubs, repaired window-wells, re-graded, and moved A/C condensers away from the north wall to prevent damage to the foundation



Those are the major repairs Trustees initiated. In addition, many, many small maintenance tasks were done, like re-painting lamp-posts, repairing and re-staining picnic tables and playground equipment, adding wood chips to the playground and trails, moving & expanding the compost bin, building new benches for the playground, tree-trimming, stump removal, window washing, weekly lawn cutting ... the kinds of things you must do at your own house. These things take money for supplies and equipment, sometimes for professional

contractors, and always many hours of time from willing Trustees and other members. Be sure to thank — *especially* - Ed and Linda Mordy who spend hours every week observing what needs to be done, doing it themselves when they can, and working with Trustees and other members to make sure our church home remains in quality condition. We all owe them a debt of gratitude.

Now that the 2016 physical-work season is over, Trustees will be refining the list of required or wanted repairs and improvements MUMC must consider over the next 5 to 10 years. As we have reported before, our congregation will need to launch a capital campaign in 2017 to raise the funds needed to keep our 68-year old Church home in proper shape. Trustees are diligently reviewing all physical conditions of equipment, buildings and grounds, identifying what will need to be replaced or upgraded within the next 10 years, and projecting costs for the Church Council and membership to consider as the capital campaign is planned. Prayers as well as financial support and willing laborers are needed to keep God's house.

3 Tips to Combat Winter Weight Gain

As the days are getting shorter and the nights are getting colder, you may notice a heightened desire to kick back with a bowl of comfort food. If your appetite seems to rise as the temperature drops, you're not alone.

There's scientific evidence that your weight will follow a seasonal pattern, too. A study published in *Nature* found that both food patterns and body weight vary with the seasons. In this study of 593 adults, researchers found that participants ate more calories and fat in the fall compared with the spring. Physical activity was also lowest in winter and highest in spring, making it easier to put on winter pounds. Let's dig into a few reasons why you gain winter weight and follow up with a fix.

1. We crave high-calorie comfort foods.

If weather is to blame for our increased desire to eat, should we just accept winter weight gain as an inevitable part of the change in seasons? Not exactly. "When we feel chilled, our body sends a self-preservation message to our brain to do whatever it can to warm up, which includes reaching for carbohydrate-heavy foods that provide that fastest 'heat' as quick-burning energy," says Abbey Sharp, RD.

The Fix: To warm up without overloading on refined carbohydrates and excess calories, choose warming foods that are still light and lean, like vegetable-based soups and hot teas. Broth-based soups can be an excellent way to warm up in cool weather months. In addition, consuming soup before a rich meal has been shown to help reduce overall calorie consumption.

2. Our emotional connection to food gets the best of us.

Do you find it hard to pass up Grandma's famous mashed potatoes or avoid Aunt Mary's homemade pie? Research has found that when we *know* a food has been made with love, we tend to eat more due to the emotional connection. Food is a great way to connect, and part of having a positive relationship with food means being able to eat all foods without feeling guilty. That being said, you shouldn't throw away your health goals, either. All it takes is a little planning!

The Fix: To survive the holiday season while maintaining a healthy weight, you have to understand the emotional sway some foods have over you. Instead of eating on impulse, follow this simple tip from Amy Gorin, MS, RDN: "At a holiday meal, survey the entire table before filling your plate. Choose the handful of items you must try, then fill the rest of your plate with healthy eats like cut veggies and fruit."

Gorin also points out that we often eat for reasons other than hunger at a holiday event. "Holiday parties are about

socializing," she says. "If you've had your fill of food and want to keep yourself from grazing, fill one hand with a sparkling water and the other with your handbag. If you're standing up and chatting, you won't have any hands left to balance a food plate."

Oftentimes, food gifts can be equally tempting opportunities to overeat. For those treats that are less than nutritious, you can reduce your portions and limit your intake simply by sharing. Bring extra food gifts to your office. You may be less likely to overeat at work than at home—and in any case, the treats will be gone more quickly when sharing with co-workers. Bringing food gifts to holiday social events or donating them can also be a wonderful way to share the wealth with others without overdoing it on your own.



Watch out for winter weight gain

3. The winter blues can trigger a binge.

The shorter days and lack of daylight can make preventing winter weight gain a challenge. Seasonal affective disorder (SAD), a type of depression that is related to the changes in seasons, tends to occur in the fall and last throughout the winter months. Lack of daylight appears to be a trigger for this form of depression, which can lead to low energy, decreased motivation and increased moodiness.

Not only can this disorder lead to changes in mood, but it has been linked to an increase in binge eating as well. One study found that as many as 27% of individuals with this disorder reported incidences of binge eating.

The Fix: If you find that your mood and energy levels significantly alter as soon as the seasons begins to change, discuss it with your doctor. There are many treatment options for SAD that may help to elevate your mood while reducing the desire to binge.

Although many factors can attribute to winter weight gain, focusing on the triggers unique to you is key to maintaining your weight. If you tend to gain weight in the winter, think back and examine what may have been the cause. Many times weight gain can result from *how* you are eating rather than *what* you are eating. By recognizing your triggers, you can work to overcome these obstacles for a healthier winter.

Resource: myfitnesspal

**The Parish Nurse Ministry Team
wishes you a happy and healthy
holiday season!**



**Newsletter
DEADLINE**

**"The Spire" deadline —
submit articles by
Wednesday, December 28
for the January 2017 issue**



Christmas Poinsettias



Help beautify MUMC's Sanctuary for Christmas week. Purchase poinsettias, which you may take home anytime *after worship on Christmas Day*. These are large beautiful plants that often last weeks after Christmas if kept well watered and cool. ***The prices this year are the same as last year, and lower than FIVE years ago!***

One large plant in a 6.5 inch pot costs **\$10.00**. Two plants in a 7.5 inch pot costs **\$16.00**. An 8.5 inch pot with *three plants* is available for **\$24.00**.

Place order forms with payment in the collection plate on Sundays.
Or mail order forms to MUMC at 11011 N. Oriole Lane, Mequon, WI 53092
Please make checks payable to "**M.U.M.C. - poinsettias**".
(Please return order form with payment.)

NAME: _____ **PHONE:** _____
(As you wish to be listed in the Bulletin)

SIZE	PRICE	COLOR				TOTAL ORDER
		RED	WHITE	PINK	MARBLE	
One large plant in 6 1/2 " pot	\$10.00 each					# of pots: _____ \$ _____
Double, 2 plants in 7 1/2" pot	\$16.00 each					# of pots: _____ \$ _____
Triple, 3 plants in 8 1/2" pot	\$24.00 each					# of pots: _____ \$ _____

IF choosing other than red, what is your second choice if it is unavailable? _____

**The last day to order is
Sunday, December 11, 2016.**

Thank you!



Thanks for filling the Thanksgiving grocery bags!

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Mission Outreach food and clothing collection. 95 bags of food and 10 bags of clothing were donated to Family Sharing. Thank you for your generous help to serve the needs of low-income, elderly, and disabled residents of Ozaukee County.

Thanks for Thanksgiving dinner!

Thanks to everyone who provided turkey, ham, other food items plus volunteer assistance for the Thanksgiving dinner at the mealsite. The guests who came to the mealsite for their dinner were very appreciative of the meal and the thoughtfulness of everyone who helped provide the meal.

Sonlight Scoop

December 2016

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.

Fall has been fun for Sonlight staff and children – especially because of the wonderful mild weather that has kept the flowers blooming and the leaves on the trees. Leaf-pile jumping has finally become the activity of the day!

Sonlight has been having fun creating everything about Thanksgiving this month: Turkeys, Horns of Plenty, Vegetables, Fruit, Pilgrims, Indians, etc. The older children sang two Thanksgiving songs for all present at the Thanksgiving Feast, which was attended by over 100 people! Parents, grandparents, siblings and other family members all enjoyed this fabulous meal, served by Ed Mordy and his wonderful MUMC volunteers. What a celebration!

Enjoy a couple pictures of the Feast:



December brings another Sonlight celebration, coming up on December 15. The children will have a visit from Santa, complete with presents!!! Hopefully they will ALL choose to visit with him before receiving their gift...

Merry Christmas to You and Yours
Kathy and Sue



Christmas concert

Sleigh Ride by Leroy Anderson and the majestic beauty of Holy Hill in Hubertus.

Please join Joe Hill, Bill Church and the Lakeshore Symphonic Band as they perform an annual Christmas concert at Holy Hill Basilica on Sunday, December 11, 2016 at 6:00 PM. The concert is free and open to the public.

Someone took Jesus

A couple of days after Christmas, the Nativity scene was still up in the chancel of a San Francisco church. Walking by it, the pastor noticed that the baby Jesus was missing from the manger.

Shortly afterward, as the pastor walked outside the church, he saw a small boy pulling a new wagon. In the wagon bed was a doll that looked very much like the missing baby Jesus.

The pastor greeted the boy and asked him about the doll.

“I got it in the church,” the boy replied.

“Why did you take it from the church?”

“Well,” the boy answered. “I prayed for a new wagon and told the Lord Jesus that if I got one, I would give him a ride. I got the wagon, took him for a ride and now I’m bringing him back to the church.”



A mighty message

When Charles Wesley wrote "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" in 1739, he had the angels proclaim: "Glory to the newborn King; peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"

And what did Wesley think should be the consequences of that message?

"Joyful, all ye nations, rise." The Prince of Peace had come.

"Light and life to all he brings."

"Born that we no more may die; born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth. Hark! The herald angels sing, Glory to the newborn King!"

When Wesley wrote that hymn, England was going through a desperate, hopeless time. Unemployment, poverty, illness, alcoholism and crime were widespread. Wesley and his brother, John, believed the answer for their nation was Christ's life-changing message. Changed lives would bring a changed nation.

Wesley's Christmas song rang true: "Light and life to all he brings." Some historians have written that England didn't have a revolution (as did France) mainly because of the message the Wesleys preached and sang.



the Spire

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Office hours:

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

Closed Fridays

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!

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

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The heartfelt Christmas tree

There is a special Christmas tree
That lives within the heart.
It isn't pine, and can't be bought
At any store or mart.

Each branch holds some fond memory
Of joyful Christmas cheer,
Reminding us of those we love
And always will hold dear.

The gifts beneath this Christmas tree
Are stacked up very high
With kindly deeds of thoughtfulness
That one could never buy.

The Heartfelt Christmas tree expands
Through every passing year
With lovely gifts and blessings
Having come from far and near.

Atop this tree a star shines bright,
While angels sing God's praise;
Rejoice! The Christ-child's Love is shared,
And blesses ALL our days.

—Peggy Ferrell



Overcoming despair

Christmas can be a difficult time for people who are hurting or grieving. In the 1860s, poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow had reason to despair: America was at war with itself, his son was severely wounded in battle and his wife died in a fire. The first Christmas after his wife's death, Longfellow wrote, "How inexpressibly sad are all holidays."

Three years later, on Christmas Day 1864, Longfellow penned a poem that later became the song "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day." The lyrics move from despair to hope – and, thanks to Jesus, so can we.

And in despair I bowed my head.
There is no peace on earth, I said!
For hate is strong, and mocks the song
of peace on earth, good will to men!

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
God is not dead, nor doth he sleep!
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail,
with peace on earth, good will to men!

