

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

+

the Spire

January 2014



Join the action!

All of these MUMC activities
are beckoning for you to join in:

- ❖ Take part in MUMC's All-Church Gathering on January 18
 - ❖ Donate coats and warm clothing for the homeless and those without heat
 - ❖ Laugh and enjoy the drive-in movie on January 26
 - ❖ Take the Friends and Family CRP class
 - ❖ Serve or donate food for TWO mealsites in January
 - ❖ Stretch and move your joints at tai chi
 - ❖ Eat, laugh, and contribute at the Annual Outreach Dinner-Auction on February 8
 - ❖ Learn and converse at Lunch Bunch -- every Tuesday
 - ❖ Start your day at the Women's or Men's Prayer Breakfast -- once a month
 - ❖ Discuss falls prevention, home safety, and balance exercises at the Parish Nurse program on February 4
-

Help Me Be



Lord, help me be your heart today,
providing hope for those who stray.
Lord, help me be your love today,
displaying grace in every way.
Lord, help me be your Word today,
proclaiming good when all is gray.

—MaryAnn Sundby

Pastor Tim's Message



New Year *Journey*

What are your plans for the new year? Have you planned the new year with care and prudence? Or have you, like millions of others, not given a thought to the months lying ahead of you?

For me, the new year was always about making resolutions. I would resolve in January to make various "improvements" in my life. By February, however, my best intentions would result in very little change.

So, what are we to do when we are excited about a new chapter in life, but our failed attempts and old thought patterns seem to clutter up the pages?

This week, as I was reflecting on this I re-read one of my favorite Bible passages from the Gospel of John about a little boy who handed over his lunch, two fish and five loaves of bread, to Jesus. It was certainly not enough to make much of a difference. However, Jesus gave thanks for them, broke them into tiny pieces, and served over 5,000 hungry people. As we look down at our plans, hopes, and dreams that we carry into the new year, they may not be all thought out and may be more fragments and left overs than a complete meal. However, I invite us to lift our heads and look into Jesus' eyes, as we feel his hands around ours saying to us, "I love you. Give all these things to me." Remember, even a mustard size faith, so tiny, only whisper thin, can move mountains when we offer it and our whole hearts to God.

So, as we move into this new year let's not be hesitant to go for the blessings God has put on our hearts. We have no reason to hold ourselves back because of history or any shortcomings in our view. Jesus isn't looking for perfect people. He's eager to show us that he can make something beautiful out of our lives this year. I invite us to give Jesus all that we have as we place ourselves in his hands. For in these loving hands of grace, he accepts us, give thanks for us, and blesses our gifts, our passions, and our lives to feed the people around us: friends, family, co-workers, neighbors, and even strangers. May God's blessings flow through each one of us as we journey through this new year.

In God's Love,
Pastor Tim



All Church Gathering

**Saturday, January 18 at 10:00 a.m.
Fellowship Hall**

-- an invitation from Pastor Tim --

You are invited to our all church gathering where we will talk about our three year strategic plan as well as discuss our year-end 2013 budget and approve our budget for 2014. We will also offer 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.



Winter coat and warm clothing collection for the mealsite neighborhood

Please bring before January 23

Many of the people who come to the Mealsite are either homeless or live in buildings that have no heat. This is an especially cold winter, and we can help.

Search through your closets and bring winter coats, sweaters, and other warm clothing to church. Please put them in bags and leave them by the bins on the lower level across from the clothing rack. Mission Outreach will take your donations to the Mealsite manager on January 23 when we go to serve the meal. The manager will make sure the clothing goes to those who need it the most.

You can double the donation by purchasing the coats from a Salvation Army or Goodwill Store. You will not only provide warm clothing to someone who desperately needs it, you will also help these community service agencies.

**MUMC Drive-in movie returns
Sunday, January 26 at 4:00 PM!**

Leave the winter blues behind and cruise on in to the MUMC Drive-In Movie on Sunday, January 26th. We will once again transform Fellowship Hall into an "authentic" indoor drive-in movie theater, including car tables and skating wait staff. Order from our menu of traditional drive-in movie foods like hot dogs and popcorn, or order a famous Flaming Penguin to warm up your winter night!

We'll start at 4:00 PM with the classic "The North Avenue Irregulars."

Here's the description from amazon.com:

"Terrific fun for the whole family.

A pastor finds himself fighting organized crime when one of his church members gambles away church money.

After he publicly

speaks out against organized crime, two FBI agents come to him and ask him for his help in going undercover to expose the gangsters. The pastor asks for help from his congregation, and the only ones who will aid him are 6 indomitable females.

You'll relish every second that you see all of the ladies on the screen. The film's final moments, a "demolition derby" of sorts, will delight kids."

So come on down to the drive-in for an evening of fun for all ages! Please be sure to let us know you are coming so we can plan enough cars and food for everyone. Sign up next to the car in the narthex in January!

YOUTH! We need you! (Adults, too!)

Our drive-in movie theatre can't happen without your help! Sign up to be a skating server and bring your roller blades along! Don't want to wait tables? We need your help prepping orders in the kitchen! High school and middle school students are welcome and REALLY needed, so please consider helping out.



**Hats off to You, Because You Care!
Mission Outreach Auction – February 8**

5:30 PM - 8:30 PM

Ozaukee County Country Club

This year's Mission Outreach Auction honors MUMC members and friends for the way we care for our community and our world. Come celebrate 2013's year of service and help prepare for more work in 2014. You make it possible for Mission Outreach to respond to the needs of those in Ozaukee County, Wisconsin, and around the world.

The evening begins with fellowship and the silent auction at 5:30 PM, followed by dinner at 6:30 PM, and the live auction at 7:00 PM. Throughout the evening, you will be entertained by our surprise game show hosts who will lead us in Bible Jeopardy.

The live auction has something for everyone! From baseball and concert tickets, special dinner events, and reserved MUMC parking spaces and much more!

Watch for your invitation in the mail and stop by the reservation table in the church entrance to make your reservation.

To volunteer to help call Jean Storer at 414-617-6776.

To donate items to the silent and live auction, call Lou Henneck at 262-238-0707.



**CPR Friends and Family Course
Saturday, January 25**

- The Parish Nurse Team will be offering CPR training to interested members of MUMC.
- The course is approximately 2 1/2 hours.
- Class will begin at 9:00 a.m.
- This course is intended for those interested in learning and practicing the skills necessary to perform CPR on an adult as well as how to use the AED. (Automated External Defibrillator)

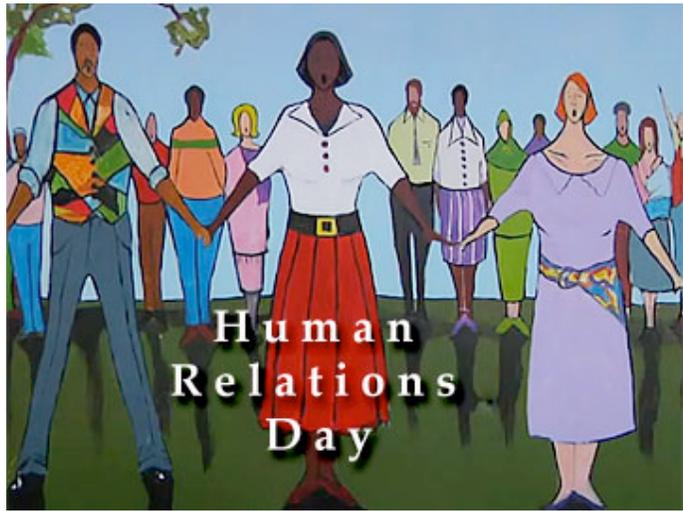
• **Pre-registration by January 22 is required to participate and class sized is limited.**

- Contact Susan Solverson with any questions and/ or to sign up for this training.
- 262-375-9818 or susansolverson@wi.rr.com

**Falls Prevention and Home Safety
Tuesday, February 4
7:00-8:00 PM**

Do you have concerns about falling or safety concerns about someone in your family or perhaps a friend or neighbor? Join Michelle Schumacher, Rehabilitation Manager at Wheaton Franciscan Home Health, for an interactive discussion addressing falls risk and completing a home safety checklist. Michelle will also discuss exercises to improve balance.

The program will take place on Tuesday, February 4, 2014 from 7:00-8:00 PM. There is no charge to attend and the program is open to everyone. Refreshments will be served. This program is sponsored by MUMC Parish Nurse Ministry.



Human Relations Day -- Sunday, January 19

Our first special Sunday is coming in up in January. Human Relations Day will be on Sunday, January 19. This date is always set to coincide with the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's Birthday. (The Rev. Dr. King would have been 85 on January 15 had he not been assassinated.) The United Methodist Church has set aside this day to generate awareness and action that will help us heal the social ills in our country.

Three specific types of programs are supported by offerings given on this day. They include 1) Community Developers which can be instituted by local congregations to create effective responses to community needs; 2) UM Voluntary Services which support community organizations that challenge oppression and injustice; and 3) Youth Offender Rehabilitation, which aids ministries with nonviolent youth offenders through education, advocacy and leadership training. Examples of these programs can be found in Milwaukee where we support ministries at Solomon Temple UMC, United Methodist Children's Services, the Interfaith Council and Northcott Neighborhood House.

To participate in Human Relations Day, simply place your offering in the envelope provided on January 19 during worship, or mark your check with "Human Relations Day."

Marilyn Zwissler, from MUMC's Outreach Team, shares the following example of a project supported from Human Relations Day.

Because of a Human Relations Day grant, United Methodists of all ages travel to Washington, D.C., where about 30 seminars on national and international affairs per year take place at the United Methodist building across from the U.S. Capitol. The sessions empower and equip participants to put their faith together with action steps to change their world. After each group chooses a topic — poverty and homelessness, human trafficking, immigration, environmental justice — seminar designer Susan Burton tailors a unique learning experience.

"The program," she said, "offers us the opportunity to increase our knowledge of ourselves and our faith, increase our knowledge of injustices impacting our brothers and sisters in our own communities and throughout the world, and identify new ways to use our voices — staying awake and keeping watch."



Reflections book group reads of upheaval, friendships, and secrets

The Reflections Book Group will meet Thursday, January 9th to kick-off 2014. Our January book is *Orphan Train: A Novel*, by Christina Baker Kline. Here's a brief description of the book from amazon.com:

Orphan Train is a gripping story of friendship and second chances from Christina Baker Kline, author of *Bird in Hand* and *The Way Life Should Be*.

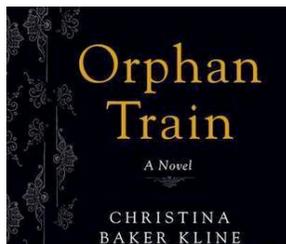
Penobscot Indian Molly Ayer is close to "aging out" out of the foster care system. A community service position helping an elderly woman clean out her home is the only thing keeping Molly out of juvie and worse...

As she helps Vivian sort through her possessions and memories, Molly learns that she and Vivian aren't as different as they seem to be. A young Irish immigrant orphaned in New York City, Vivian was put on a train to the Midwest with hundreds of other children whose destinies would be determined by luck and chance.

Molly discovers that she has the power to help Vivian find answers to mysteries that have haunted her for her entire life – answers that will ultimately free them both.

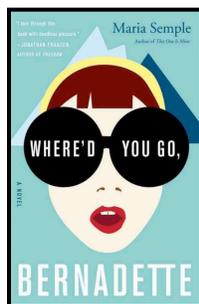
Rich in detail and epic in scope, *Orphan Train* by Christina Baker Kline is a powerful novel of upheaval and resilience, of unexpected friendship, and of the secrets we carry that keep us from finding out who we are.

We begin at 7:00 pm in the Parlor. New women are always welcome! Contact Barb Henneck at 238-0707 or bhenneck@wi.rr.com for more information about the group.



Looking ahead:

Reflections next date is February 13. Our discussion book will be *Where'd You Go, Bernadette?* by Maria Semple.



Tai Chi update ...

****NEW** -- a one-time class for beginners**

Monday, January 20 at 10:00 AM

Do you wonder what the MUMC Tai Chi gang is doing? Would you like to come but fear being a beginner? Here's your chance to learn the basics. On Monday, January 20 there will be a beginners session at 10:00 a.m. to introduce the steps of the basic Tai Chi pattern that we follow.

As a reminder, the class starts with simple easy-to-follow movements that exercise every joint of the body. Then we spend time doing a 20-step Tai Chi routine. This routine is the same every time. The beginners class will teach the steps of this routine.

Don't be frightened or intimidated by the thought of exercise or "Tai Chi." It is easy to learn and so good for you. It is not high impact or vigorous but it is good for relaxation, minimizing chronic pain, lowering blood pressure, sharpening concentration, improving balance, and doing deep breathing. MUMC's regular Tai Chi classes are Mondays and Fridays at 11:00 a.m.

If you have questions or would like further information, contact Herb Ayres (242-7703 or hayres@wi.rr.com). Please let him know if you are interested in the class for beginners.



Adult Spiritual Formation Opportunities

Lunch Bunch – returning on Tuesday, January 7!

Bible Study – 11:00 a.m.

Lunch – 12:00 noon

The lunch bunch will be returning meeting on Tuesday, January 7 with our study at 11:00 a.m. and our delicious lunch including homemade soup at Noon. Our new DVD based study will be *Verbs of God: How God Moves on Our Behalf*. If you have ever wondered, "God don't you see? Can't you do something about this? Where are you?" then Pastor Tim invites you to this study as we look at four verbs found in scripture that help us understand how God is moving and working in our lives. Come join us for a time to feed our bodies and our souls - you are welcome anytime, every time!



Lunch Bunch

Women's Prayer Breakfast

Wednesday, February 5th

Women of all ages are invited to gather at 7:00 a.m. on **Wednesday, February 5th** 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, February 6th

Men of all ages are invited to gather at 7:00 a.m. on **Thursday, February 6th** 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.



WANTED
Current Addresses for
MUMC college students
by January 19

Care packages are being assembled for our college students. They're a great way to say "we miss you and hope all is going well" while students are away at school. If you have a college aged student, please contact the church at 262-242-4770, or email to office@mequonumc.org before Sunday, January 19 and include your student's name, street address, city, state and zip code.



Flower Chart --

The flower chart for 2014 is now up. Flowers for the altar beautify the sanctuary for Sunday morning service and give you the opportunity to remember or honor a loved one. The chart is on a bulletin board inside the church front door.

Prayer Chain --
by phone or email

Pastor Tim invites anyone to join ... and pray

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



Mealsite --
TWO dates in January

- January 23
- January 30 (Confirmation class serves)

Please sign up to help serve the evening meal or to donate desserts or fresh fruit for these two meals. Despite the cold and blustery winter weather, there will be guests who come out for these meals.

Desserts may be brownies, bar cookies, cookies, cakes, etc. Fruit should be hold-in-the-hand like apples, pears, bananas, etc. We have found that the guest love bananas! Food items should be left in the parlor before 4:00 PM on the day of the mealsite

Servers gather at MUMC at 4:30 PM to go to the mealsite together.



Family Promise is a non-profit organization that is trying to start a shelter program for homeless families in Ozaukee County. The Family Promise plan utilizes thirteen churches as hosts. The host church commitment would be 4 weeks (28 days total) a year per host church. The guests stay at each church from 5 pm to 7:30 am. The host church provides dinner and breakfast and prepares a bag lunch. The church also provides 4 separate sleeping areas for each family. The maximum number of guests would be 14. At least two volunteers would be required to be at the church during the entire family stay including over night. The families are then transported to a community center where they work with a director who helps them on a plan for self-sufficiency.

Family Promise expects that each hosting week will require at least 50 volunteers. The cost per year for the Ozaukee County program is estimated at \$110,000. These funds cover the cost of transportation and the day center. The cost of hosting is not included. Host churches do not provide any transportation.

Family Promise tells us that there are 9 families impacting 22 children who are currently homeless in Ozaukee County. The mission of Family Promise is a serious commitment. 15 churches were in attendance at the last meeting. They are working hard to establish host churches.

If we are to proceed with this project, the first thing MUMC needs is someone who is interested in creating and leading a Family Promise team. Please let Betty Draughon or Pastor Tim know if you are interested in becoming the MUMC leader for this shelter program.

There is a lot more information. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to ask.





**Lose weight? ... Check.
Start exercising? ... Check.
Stop smoking? ... Check.**

It can be daunting when your list of New Year's Resolutions is as long as your holiday shopping list. In addition to the post-holiday slump, not being able to keep your resolutions by February, March or even late January may increase your anxiety. When your holiday decorations are packed up and stored away, the frustration of an unused gym membership or other reminders of failed resolutions can make the later winter months feel hopeless.

However, it is important to remember that the New Year isn't meant to serve as a catalyst for sweeping character changes. It is a time for people to reflect on their past year's behavior and promise to make positive lifestyle changes. "Setting small, attainable goals throughout the year, instead of a singular, overwhelming goal on January 1 can help you reach whatever it is you strive for," says psychologist Lynn Bufka, PhD. "Remember, it is not the extent of the change that matters, but rather the act of recognizing that lifestyle change is important and working toward it, one step at a time."

By making your resolutions realistic, there is a greater chance that you will keep them throughout the year, incorporating healthy behavior into your everyday life. The American Psychological Association offers these tips when thinking about a New Year's resolution:

Start small

Make resolutions that you think you can keep. If, for example, your aim is to exercise more frequently, schedule three or four days a week at the gym instead of seven. If you would like to eat healthier, try replacing dessert with something else you enjoy, like fruit or yogurt, instead of seeing your diet as a form of punishment.

Change one behavior at a time

Unhealthy behaviors develop over the course of time. Thus, replacing unhealthy behaviors with healthy ones requires

time. Don't get overwhelmed and think that you have to reassess everything in your life. Instead, work toward changing one thing at a time.

Talk about it

Share your experiences with family and friends. Consider joining a support group to reach your goals, such as a workout class at your gym or a group of coworkers quitting smoking. Having someone to share your struggles and successes with makes your journey to a healthier lifestyle that much easier and less intimidating.

Don't beat yourself up

Perfection is unattainable. Remember that minor missteps when reaching your goals are completely normal and OK. Don't give up completely because you ate a brownie and broke your diet, or skipped the gym for a week because you were busy. Everyone has ups and downs; resolve to recover from your mistakes and get back on track.

Ask for support

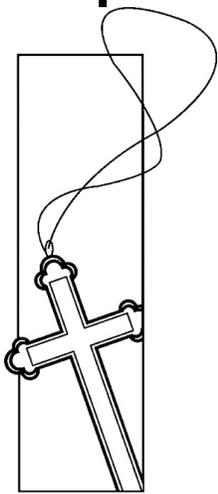
Accepting help from those who care about you and will listen strengthens your resilience and ability to manage stress caused by your resolution. If you feel overwhelmed or unable to meet your goals on your own, consider seeking professional help. Psychologists are uniquely trained to understand the connection between the mind and body. They can offer strategies as to how to adjust your goals so that they are attainable, as well as help you change unhealthy behaviors and address emotional issues.

Source: American Psychological Association.
<http://apa.org/helpcenter/resolution.aspx>



***The Parish Nurse Team
wishes you a blessed,
Happy New Year!***





The Bishop is Coming!!

Bishop Jung's Visit to Mequon United Methodist Church

Tuesday, March 25, 2014

As many of you know, Bishop Hee-Soo Jung, Bishop for our annual conference, has set a goal of visiting all 500 congregations in the Wisconsin Conference. On Tuesday, March 25 he will be visiting our church. We don't have a lot of details yet about the specific time when he will be here. What Pastor Tim knows is that we will have two opportunities to meet with him. The first will be here at MUMC during the daytime and the second will be in the evening at a circuit gathering. When Pastor Tim hear more details from the Bishop's office, he will get the word out so that as many of you as possible can come and meet with him. During his visit, Bishop Jung will be leading a discussion on three questions:

- 1) What has God called us to be and do?
- 2) What do you celebrate about the "fruits" you are producing?
- 3) How can we witness to new, diverse, and young people in our community?

A stewardship message from the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation

HOW MUCH IS ENOUGH?

*"Philip answered, "Two hundred silver pieces wouldn't be enough
to buy bread for each person to get a piece." (John 6:7 The Message)*



When I was a child, it was a big treat to go to McDonald's. Our family rule was that everyone paired up to share a shake and a small order of fries to go along with their hamburger or fish sandwich. The one who divided the shake allowed their partner to choose first and my brother (now a math teacher) would often count out the fries! Almost every time we went I remember thinking, "This isn't enough. I'm really hungry." The reality was that my perceived scarcity often turned to abundance as I forced myself to eat those last few fries that were mine!

As we begin a new year, we're facing new challenges of perception in the church. Do people really have enough money to go around? It's already been a cold winter and some find themselves choosing between heat and food or medicine. The stock market is still unstable and interest income is still incredibly low.

While the experts say unemployment numbers are down, many people are still unemployed or under-employed. Yet, God is good – all the time. And, all the time – God is good. We say this. We encourage our children and youth to repeat it with great enthusiasm. Yet, do we believe it? How does it become real in our lives? God is calling us to rework our priorities and, perhaps, re-imagine our ministry.

When times get tough – financially or emotionally – it's very tempting to withhold our money from God because we're convinced we don't have enough. When we remember that everything we have is a gift from God, it's easier to give the first check or the first payment of every week or month to the ministry of Christ through the church. And whether our gift is enough to buy a half-order of fries or feed the multitudes, we know it will be used to proclaim the Good News. Praise God! Happy New Year!

-Rev. Jean Ehnert Nicholas



Save the date!!!!
**Vacation Bible School
and Critter Camp
at MUMC**
June 23-27, 2014





Christmas Thanks!!!!

Giving Tree thanks!

Thanks to everyone for everything! Thanks for all the Giving Tree gifts. Thanks for children's toys and clothes, thanks for monetary donations, thanks for gifts cards. We can only imagine the smiles and gratitude for your gifts.

As an example of your generosity, the foster child worker said the gifts cards were not just great -- they were "awesome!" And she immediately thought of one young lady who was in desperate need of clothes in order to go job hunting.

Thank you MUMC -- you truly are awesome!



"Night Shift" thanks!

Our 2013 Children's Christmas Program was once again a wonderful addition to the celebration of Christmas at MUMC. Our very special thanks to the families who participated through a busy season of rehearsals and performances, and the children who provided this very special worship service: Maddie Laferriere, Devin Curran, Cali Sims, Kristen Dillon, Connor O'Brien, Abby Moyer, Alyssa O'Brien, Sam Laferriere, Haley Stephany, Nikolai Gardner, Alex Burns, Ethan Shuler, Philip Shuler, Ellie Huffman, Brinya Baker, Charlie Nowak, Madelyn O'Brien, Jimmy Nowak, and Jordan Baker, plus our two special lambs, Emma and Kate, and our wonderful angel Zariah.

Our special thanks also to those who provided meals this fall as we prepared for our Children's Christmas Program: Doug and Shelley Burns, Rose Dillon-Norman, Penny Laferriere, Debbie and Randy LeRoy, Melissa Moyer, Audra O'Brien, Wendy Porterfield and Patrick Curran, Mary, Ned and Kaitlyn Sisney and Marilyn Thiet.

Thanks also to Gayle Meyer, who prepared our Falafel House aprons, to our rehearsal helpers Wendy Porterfield, Audra O'Brien and Nan Rilling, and to our audio crew - Peter Gardner and Dain Shuler.



Thank you for helping Heifer International

Thanks to your generous support we were able to sponsor TWO \$480 knitter's baskets for Heifer International. The Knitter's Gift Basket includes a llama, an alpaca, a sheep and an Angora rabbit.

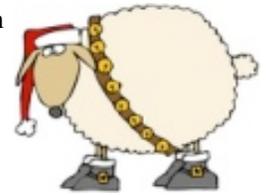
Your gift also ensures families are instructed on how to properly feed and care for the animals. Each Knitter's Gift Basket:

- Nourishes families with milk from the llama and sheep
- Keeps families warm with wool that can be made into sweaters and scarves
- Provides a source of income from the sale of clothing and blankets made from wool

These four animals provide families with ample wool for warmth, as well as a source of income. Your donation to a Knitter's Gift Basket represents an opportunity for a better life.

***Special thanks to Marie Widder and Elna

Hickson for donating woven goods to help support our Children's Mission project, which were sold as part of our SERRV Sale.



SERRV sale thank you

Our MUMC Christmas shoppers have once again supported SERRV in astonishing ways, and this year we will be sending them more than \$2000. SERRV works 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.

At SERRV, every product has a true story behind it. Those stories are about freedom from poverty and achieving basic human rights, such as access to food, shelter, education, and basic health care. And they are stories about equality and dignity for all people. For 63 years, SERRV has practiced core values that create positive change through lasting partnerships and trust. They believe in building environmental, economic, and social sustainability. They esteem culture traditions that nurture the human spirit, and your purchases helped make that possible.

Thank you for doing your Christmas shopping at MUMC's SERRV sale.



Thanks for help on Sunday mornings

from the Welcoming Connection Team

A recent Sunday was frigid, dark, and dreary except at MUMC where the lights glowed; the young men's quartet delighted the eyes as well as the ears; the sermon was edifying and uplifting; the joys and concerns were heartfelt; the conversations were most enjoyable; and the coffee, juice, fruit, and pastries were a gastronomical feast.

Many thanks to all those wonderful people who made it happen, not the least of these being the coffee hosts and hostesses for the past month: John and Nancy Kirtley, Herb and Ginger Ayres, Shelley and Doug Burns, Mavis and Jeff Luther, Barb and Lou Henneck, and Joanne Bartel and Marilyn Thiet. Thanks very much also to our welcoming greeters who open the door even on these cold Wisconsin Sundays.



Sonlight Scoop
January 2014

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

Sonlight Center had a wonderful **Christmas Celebration** on December 19. The day began with a table of goodies with coffee and hot cider, available for the parents to enjoy throughout the day, courtesy of the Sonlight staff. Of course, the staff enjoyed the treats as well!

The children all came in their Christmas finest and gathered in the Fellowship Hall at 9:45 for songs of the season with Mrs. Twila, our new Music Teacher. Then Santa (Mike Bell) arrived at 10:00 and all of the children were thoroughly excited! Most of them enjoyed a photo moment with Santa, and each family received a picture of their child with Santa. Pictures are also available online if any parent desires them! Here are a few choice photos.



Happy New Year!
Kathy and Sue

MUMC Congregation,



My family and I would like to thank you for the kind words, cards and especially prayers during my father's recent journey to join my mother following her passing just six short months ago. These events really hit home how quickly life can change. My parents met at the Great Lakes Naval Base when they both joined the Navy in their early 20's. Dad was from Pennsylvania and Mom was from New York. All told, they were together for more than 60 years. He was steadfast at her side during her failing health, hospitalizations and final days. After so many years together it was hard for him to be here without her; thus were reunited in death on November 15. A combined military service will be held for them in early 2014 in St. Petersburg, Florida, where they resided for the past 35 years.

*Sincerely,
Karen Stern & Family*

My Father's World - by Ginger Ayres

Funny ... and odd ... how something that we see or hear or smell can take us back to a past time with its very vivid sights, and sounds, and smells. When the Milwaukee oldies station plays "Walk Away Renee" by the Left Banke, I'm back in college. I'm singing in my way-off-key voice, feeling like I'm hearing WVBR (Cornell's "Voice of the Big Red"), sitting right in my old dorm room. My surroundings are the high ceiling and standard-issue gray walls made cheery by anything I could afford that was bright yellow ... and the music helping me make sense of the GNP for an economics class.

Recently Peter, our son, unearthed an old photo. There he was, ready for his first day of kindergarten, standing on our front step. Such great memories! He was holding his self-chosen red bag to carry a little boy's treasures. He was so cute, so blond, so small, eager-but-scared, looking like he wanted to ask for a hug but too "big boy" to do so. Thirty years later, he is six feet tall, and most likely it is me needing the hugs.

As I sit in the entrance of another new year, my mind is wandering through many past new years, and thinking of what life has brought our way. There have been so many blessings -- some hard-earned; some bestowed by family and friends and even strangers; some random. Although, in truth, the random ones came when God was walking beside us.

In this newest year, are we suppose to make resolutions to bring good things our way? You know the typical resolutions. They all start with "I will" or "I won't." Maybe we could better serve ourselves and those around us if our resolutions took on a different focus. Maybe we can focus on "I will" bring blessing to others. Maybe it is time we really thought about being God's instrument here. So here's some resolutions that I'm thinking about.

(1) Say "thank you."

Certainly say it to someone who does the simple pleasantries like holding a door, making a tasty meal, or being a good friend. But say it *with meaning* to anyone who teaches you something, who guides you, who waits on you. Say it at church -- to the hard-working teams and anyone who gives their time to make MUMC the best church family. Compliment professionals who do their jobs well. Send a thank-you note for the snow plowers or the police or firemen who are out in winter weather. Be sure

that volunteers know how much their time and talents are appreciated.

Maybe you saw the charming cake with Christmas-decorated squares served during fellowship after the Children's Christmas program. I sent a thank you to the Piggly Wiggly -- the decorator was just doing his job but he deserved a special thanks for going the extra mile.

(2) Control technology instead of letting it control you.

Touch each other more and click less. Burned in my mind is the image I have of a mother and young son that I saw having lunch together at a local Culvers. She looked at the phone in her hand during the entire meal and never interacted once with the boy. What does he learn about personal interactions, about how to become an adult, about forming opinions, about how to make plans, about what they will do next? Answer: not one thing. Give up some of the beeps and tones in exchange for active listening -- face-to-face using your ears and mouth and eyes! Don't put off family with gt bk 2 U.

(3) Share your time and resources

What's your passion? If you don't know, look inward and uncover who or what you feel a desire to help. Is it children, older adults, veterans, animals? Is it food, shelter, health-related, education, music, civic action? Volunteers are needed to read to kids, rock babies, feed the hungry, be a museum volunteer, build a home, be a counselor, teach crafts, work in a gift shop, help find jobs, be an advocate, do clerical tasks, do fund raising, be a land steward, rehabilitate injured wild animals, and on and on and on. Monetary funds are needed in all these areas also. Find your passion -- then share your time and your gifts.

As you think back over the many blessings you have received, consider a "paying it forward" resolution this year. As the new year begins, feel free to try on something from my list. See if any of them fit you. Somewhere I heard this advice -- "Take an optimism pill every morning." If you believe you can bring blessings to others, you will!

Or make your resolutions after taking this advice from the Bible, Micah 6:8. "He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" (NRSV)

the Spire

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Friday: 9:00 AM - noon

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9:30 AM: Worship Service

First Sunday - Family Sunday

(no Sunday School)

9:45 AM: Sunday School

10:30 AM: Fellowship for all

Everyone is welcome!

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Fill a jar

Need a new tradition to begin the new year? One way to reflect on your blessings as the days and months pass is to fill a Blessing Jar. Simply find a container (ideally with a lid) and place it in a prominent place in your home. Next to it, set slips of paper and writing utensils.

Encourage every family member to jot down one thing they're grateful for every day. If you have a large family, you may need one jar for each person. You can also use different-colored paper slips for each family member.

Every week, sit down together and review the many ways that God is present in your lives.

Humor to break up the winter blahs

- Don't let your worries get the best of you; remember, Moses started out as a basket case.
- Some people are kind, polite and sweet-spirited ... until you try to sit in their pew.
- People are funny: They want the front of the bus, the middle of the road and the back of the church.
- Quit griping about your church; if it was perfect, you couldn't belong.
- Forbidden fruits create many jams.
- Working for God on earth doesn't pay much, but his retirement plan is out of this world

