

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

+

the Spire

January 2016



**MUMC offers you
opportunities, resolutions,
commitments and plans for 2016:**

- Attend the All-church meeting on January 16 — participate in the plans and ministries of our church.
- Come to the Annual Outreach Auction & Dinner on January 30. Great food, great fun, great company ... and a great way to raise funds for MUMC's many mission projects.
- Enjoy MUMC's annual Drive-in Movie on January 24. Come for the fun, the movie, and the food!
- Resolve to attend Lunch Bunch on Tuesdays and join the discussion about world religions.
- Resolve to help out with the mealsite — serve and donate food.
- Resolve to start the new year with prayer. Join the prayer breakfasts — just once a month.
- Resolve to take part in the tai chi class — good for you and for your body!
- Resolve to get involved in Reflections (women's book group) — good books, good discussion, good fellowship!
- Resolve ... to pray for peace.

If we are to accept the teaching of Jesus at all, then the only test of the reality of a man's religion is his attitude to his fellow men. The only possible proof that a man loves God is the demonstrated fact that he loves his fellow men.

—William Barclay

Pastor Tim's Message

As we come into this new year many people make resolutions with the number one being to lose weight. Well, we may need to watch what we eat as far as food goes, but I think there are others areas of our life in which we can, "Eat up!"

Eat up compliments and thank yous. Pay attention when someone offers you a genuine compliment or thank you for something you've done. If you're in the habit of letting these important personal boosts just roll past you, remember the proverb, "Gracious speech is like clover honey – good taste to the soul, quick energy for the body." (Proverbs 16:24) So, let the genuine appreciation of others be a source of soul food for your spirit, giving you a much-needed boost of spiritual energy.

Eat up the comforts of home. So often our homes are mere reflections of the office or workplace we just left. We bring our work, our issues, and our hurts into our homes making them places of conflict and stress. While life is certainly difficult at times, let us strive to do as Jesus instructs and make our homes, which are more than just brick and wood, into safe havens built on the rock of love. So that our homes become free from I-told-you-so, harsh words, and judgmental criticisms. The unconditional love of a Christian home truly feeds the soul.

Eat up prayer. When our spiritual lives dry up so does our energy, motivation, and desires. Our body, mind and spirit are one and prayer is that essential discipline that keeps them all in healthy balance. Prayer is that time we take to be in conversation with God, but it is also the time we take to refresh our souls, our spirit, our very essence. So, take the time to eat up prayer and you will find not only your soul nourished but every part and aspect of your life as well.

These are only a few things that we should "Eat up!" in this new year. In the months ahead let us pull our chairs closer to the banquet table and have a bowl of peace, a large plate of forgiveness, with a side of grace and very generous portions of love. Let us all feast heartily at the banquet prepared for us through God's mercy in Christ.

In God's Gracious Love,
Pastor Tim



Eat up!



ALL-CHURCH GATHERING

All Church Gathering
Saturday, January 16, 2016
10:00 AM
Fellowship Hall

~~ an invitation from Pastor Tim ~~

You are invited to our all church gathering where we will review our strategic plan as well as discuss our year-end 2015 budget and approve our budget for 2016. 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.

Mission Outreach Auction!

Saturday, January 30, 2016

Ozaukee Country Club

5:30 to 9:00 PM



Please plan to join us for dinner and auction fun!
Sign up to play the Family Feud starring Lou and Rick!
Also starring our own MUMC auctioneer, Ben Gruettner!

Don't miss bidding on Brewer or Bucks tickets,
a private plane ride and lots more!
Begin thinking of auction items you would like to contribute.

All of this while helping to support missions
locally, nationally and globally.



“Oliver and Company”
Sunday, January 24
4:00 PM

**Leave the winter blues behind and
cruise on in to the MUMC Drive-In Movie**

January 24 at 4:00 PM!

- *Fun*
- *Food*
- *Families*
- *Free!*

We will transform Fellowship Hall into an “authentic” **indoor** drive-in movie theater, including **car tables** and **wait staff**. Order from our menu of traditional drive-in movie foods like chicken nuggets, hot dogs and popcorn, or order a famous Flaming Penguin to warm up your winter night!

This year our movie is Disney’s “**Oliver and Company**” — based on Charles Dickens’ “*Oliver Twist*,” featuring the music and voice talents of pop-music giants like Billy Joel, Huey Lewis, and Bette Midler. A traditional story set in the modern world, *Oliver and Company* is the story of a stray kitten who wanders the streets of New York in search of a loving family and encounters a pickpocket pack of pups. This time-tested film appeals to children and adults of all ages.

Come for the fun and the food – everything is free! See you at the movies!

Flower chart for 2016 has many open dates. Sign up now!

The 2016 Flower Chart is now up. Sign up to provide flowers for the altar during Sunday morning worship. Your flowers can be given for any reason or for no special reason. You may designate your flowers to be in memory of a loved one, in honor of someone, to celebrate special days (birthdays, anniversaries, etc.), or just to glorify the day. The chart is located across from Pastor Tim’s office, near the door into the church office.



Mealsite — January 28

Start off 2016 by volunteering to help our mealsite project. MUMC serves the meal and brings some food items for the meal on the fourth Thursday of January, March, May, July, September, and November. We do the same every time a month has a fifth Thursday.

Next mealsite date is January 28 —

- Sign up to serve. We carpool from MUMC, leaving at 4:30 PM on mealsite day.
- Sign up to donate desserts or fresh fruit. Desserts can be brownies, bar cookies, cakes, etc. Fruit should be anything that can be held in the hand — bananas, apples, pears, clementines, etc. Your donated food items should be left on the table in the MUMC parlor by 4:00 PM on mealsite day.
- Sign up sheets will be on the Outreach bulletin board inside the church front door.

Come to tai chi!

A good New Year resolution — come to tai chi at MUMC! We meet every Monday and Friday at 11:00 AM in Fellowship Hall. We do simple exercises for about a half hour that work on moving joints and improving balance. Then we do a simple tai chi routine — easy to learn. Join us — it will make you feel good!

Human Relations Day — January 17

Our first special Sunday of 2016 is coming in up in January. Human Relations Day will be on Sunday, January 17. This date is always set to coincide with the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's Birthday. (The Rev. Dr. King would have been 87 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) United Methodist 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 17 during worship, or mark your check with "Human Relations Day."



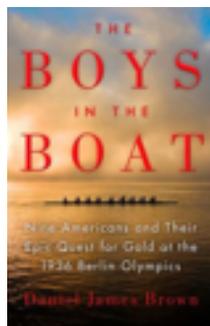
Reflections reads ... a memorable, improbable rowing crew

The Reflections book group will start the new year with a discussion of *The Boys in the Boat*, by Daniel James Brown. Here's a summary from amazon.com ...

Daniel James Brown's robust book tells the story of the University of Washington's 1936 eight-oar crew and their epic quest for an Olympic gold medal, a team that transformed the sport and grabbed the attention of millions of Americans. The sons of loggers, shipyard workers, and farmers, the boys defeated elite rivals first from eastern and British universities and finally the German crew rowing for Adolf Hitler in the Olympic games in Berlin, 1936.

Drawing on the boys' own diaries and journals, their photos and memories of a once-in-a-lifetime shared dream, *The Boys in the Boat* is an irresistible story about beating the odds and finding hope in the most desperate of times—the improbable, intimate story of nine working-class boys from the American west who, in the depths of the Great Depression, showed the world what true grit really meant.

Our meeting is Thursday, January 14th at 7:00 PM in the Parlor. New women are always welcome! Contact Barb Henneck at bhenneck@wi.rr.com or 262-238-0707 for information about the group or meeting.



TWO REGULARLY OCCURRING ADULT SPIRITUAL FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES

Lunch Bunch

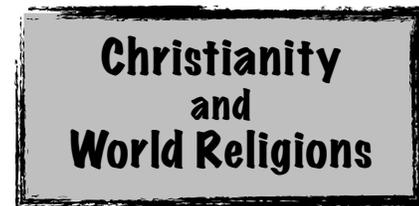
Bible Study – 11:00 AM
Lunch – 12:00 p.m.

The Lunch Bunch returns on Tuesday, January 5th with our new study: *Christianity and World Religions: Wrestling with Questions People Ask*. Through this study we will be exploring Christianity and four major world religions: Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, and Judaism. We will wrestle with the tough questions many Christians ask:

- Why are there so many different religions?
- How should Christians view other religions?
- How is God at work in other religions?
- What is the fate of those who earnestly pursue God through other religions?

Please come and join us for this interesting study and take part in our lively discussions. After our study we join in a simple lunch with some delicious homemade soup as well as some great fellowship.

Come join us for a time to feed our bodies and our souls — you are welcome anytime, every time!



Prayer Breakfasts:

Women's Prayer Breakfast —
Wednesday, February 3

Men's Prayer Breakfast —
Thursday, February 4

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.

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



**Prayer
Breakfast**



Friends and Family CPR Course

Saturday, January 30

- The focus of this class is adult CPR.
- Class is on Saturday, January 30 — and will begin at 10:00 AM
- The course is approximately 2 hours. It will be given at MUMC.
- This class is open to anyone interested in learning skills and hands-only CPR.
- Pre-registration by January 27 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 or susansolverson@wi.rr.com or susanbasket@icloud.com

**PRE-REGISTRATION
FOR THIS CPR
COURSE IS
REQUIRED.**

Thanks for the wonderful musical year of 2015!

Highlights include MUMC's

*Sanctuary Choir
THE High School Choir
Youth Choir
Men's Choir
Women's Choir
Children's Christmas Program
Sanctuary Choir's Lenten and Christmas Cantatas*

Special Music by our very own

*Bill Church
Graycie, Schuyler, and Nikolai Gardner
Joe Hill and Quattro Horns
Rick and Michelle Hynson
Penny Laferriere and Dale Parkinson
Marcia Schwager
Shuler Family
Hailey Stephany
Jeff and Andrew Widder*

And other soloists from our extended church family:

*Grace Bobber and Maggie Collins
Jennifer D'Alessio
Alana Dust
Brett Hanisko
Kerry Saver
Jim Stout*

Thanks to all of the above!

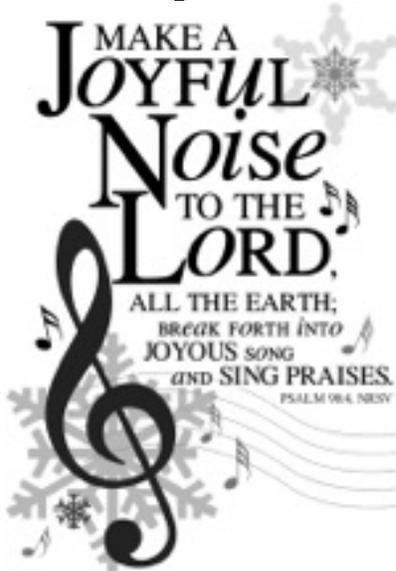
AND

**Introducing our newest musical instrument
(thanks to an anonymous gift!):**

*Kawai digital keyboard with its own dolly and cover!
It fits in the elevator, so it can be moved pretty much anywhere!
And no tuning costs anymore!*

Music for worship — coming in January:

January 10 – Sanctuary Choir
January 17 – Youth Soloists
January 24 – Sanctuary Choir
January 31 – Youth Choir
February 7 – Sanctuary Choir



MUMC Annual Church Conference — addendum

On December 2, 2015, MUMC held its annual church conference, presided over by Pastor David Blackmer from Cedarburg Community UMC. Voting business included reports of lay leadership, membership, care of members, lay speaker, and 2016 pastoral support. Non-voting business included reports on the 2015 work of various MUMC teams with comments from team chairs plus written reports from each team. A packet with copies of these reports is available at the church. Written reports were included from the following teams: Welcoming Connections, Outreach, Marketing, Trustee, Music, Staff-Parish, Children's Ministries, Sonlight, Parish Nurse, and the pastor. Two reports were inadvertently left out of the packets. They are reprinted here.

2015 Family Promise Ministry Report

In 2014, MUMC members voted to join an interfaith network of collaborating congregations from throughout Ozaukee County to mobilize resources for Ozaukee children and their families who face homelessness. The network incorporated to become *Family Promise of Ozaukee County*, one of 181 affiliates in 41 States organized to help homeless families achieve lasting independence at one-third the cost of traditional shelters.



The mission is to provide services that will stabilize those children and their families, keep kids in their assigned schools, reverse the causes of their homelessness, and optimize family self-sufficiency. The services needed include professional guidance to help parents overcome daunting circumstances plus safe, warm overnight lodging, meals and hospitality provided by host churches.

In 2015, many MUMC members helped make this new ministry real with much work to help produce a Board of Directors for the county-wide collaboration, raise money for professional staff, a van and comfortable cots as well as secure a daytime location where families can work with a professional counselor to break the frustrating cycle of poverty, and receive guidance toward self-sufficient, productive lives.

Equally importantly, MUMC members worked to organize and train compassionate volunteers, accumulate equipment and supplies, and prepare four rooms in which up to four families may receive short-term safe haven with warm overnight sleeping accommodation, meals and hospitality for a week at a time, 4 to 5 times per year, rotating weekly stays among collaborating churches until they can be re-housed and regain independence.

On November 1, 2015, Family Promise of Ozaukee County opened its doors to welcome and help families in need as they may emerge. Mequon United Methodist Church's first week (November 15 to 22) to Host families was a dry run that clearly demonstrated how very ready and committed are MUMC members and volunteers from partnering churches to opening their hearts and lending a hand to help overcome homelessness.

Four rooms were ready to be turned into private quarters for families. Two additional rooms were ready to accommodate MUMC volunteer hosts. Rooms were rearranged with comfortable cots and cozy sitting areas. Food for breakfasts, lunch and dinners was donated. MUMC volunteers stood ready each and every night to share meals, offer friendly companionship and stay overnight to provide comfort as needed.

While three homeless families emerged during MUMC's first Host Week, and started the qualifying process to become guests within the Family Promise ministry, they were not quite ready to accept help during that week. In keeping with MUMC's new ministry to serve homeless children, perishable unused food donated for the first Host Week was taken to Pathfinders, a service providing shelter and help for homeless young people in Milwaukee.

As winter settles in, the Ozaukee Family Promise network of churches, including MUMC, will undoubtedly become safe haven for children and families facing homelessness in our county as anticipated. MUMC will host again for weeks starting February 14, April 24, July 17, October 2, and December 11 in 2016.

MUMC Green Team Report 2015

The MUMC Green Team sprouted from a summer 2015 bible study during Critter Camp. The source of information was a book, *Green Faith*. From the book, **"God is calling us to live differently. The challenges we face are imminent. GreenFaith provides vision, inspiration, and practical tools to help you build your faith while inhabiting a creation that is at risk."** What can we do? How can a few people make a difference? How can we work together to Save the Earth?



Some thoughts about our objectives and goals:

- Inform and educate the congregation (and the community) of steps to save the earth.
- Green Shield - a certification program faith communities.
- Use of the church property. How to be good stewards of the church property and grounds.
- Interface with Trustees: What has been done? What's planned? What would the wish list look like?
- What things that the trustees have done would translate to personal opportunity?
- Green Faith website - lots of information
- Marsh Meadow and Linda Mordy – possible resource
- Movie night
- Raised bed gardening.
- We're open to many ideas.

Everyone is invited to join the Green Team. For more information contact Herb Ayres, at 242-7703 or herbert.ayres@gmail.com

Strategic Giving

(a message from MUMC Finance Team)

What is your strategy for your gifts to the Mequon United Methodist Church?

That strategy might fit one of these methods: immediate gifts that are made in a more tax efficient way; gifts made upon your passing; and gifts that provide you income during your lifetime.

In the category of immediate gifts, think of using stocks or mutual funds that have gone up in value. If you have had the position for longer than a year you can gift the stock, and receive the deduction, for the full value. Gifts and pledges can be made with these stocks without ever having to pay capital gains tax. To make it even better, the stocks get sold without fees or commissions. 100% of the value of the stock goes to the church. This is a very tax efficient way to give to MUMC.

The most common way to give upon your passing is to name MUMC in your will. Often people do this as a fixed amount. Another approach is to name a percentage of your estate to go to the church. That way, as your estate changes over the years, your gift will remain as significant portion of your estate as you originally planned. You can even use a flexible way to direct how these funds are to be used.

And finally, your gift can provide you income now, and benefit MUMC upon your passing. These gift annuities can be structured in a number of ways, but they can provide income that is at least 2 to 7 times what you have been earning on your CDs.

Your Finance team wants to highlight these strategies in the coming year, and we will talk about these again in upcoming Spire article.



— Help Wanted —

Nursery worker for Sunday mornings

MUMC is looking for a nursery worker to staff our church nursery during Sunday morning worship. Our requirements are

- Be at MUMC each Sunday for 1.5 to 2 hours – as well as occasionally other times as dictated by Church schedule.
- Able to lift and safely move children weighing up to 40 pounds.
- Provide a clean, safe, warm and welcoming environment for children ages 1 month to 4 years.



We are looking for a committed person who enjoys children and would find this position a way of expressing their faith. We are open to anyone — but possibly a young person or a more grandparent type would enjoy this task.

This position is open to young people especially if they have completed a babysitting safety course. A younger person or college-age adult might like this as an easy way to earn \$30 a week.

Or this position might be attractive to a grandmotherly person who misses her grandchildren or would like a hug from a little person on a regular basis.

Please let us know of your interest by calling or emailing the church office — 262-242-4770 or office@mequonumc.org.



Welcome Baby!

- ◆ William Montgomery Penner was born on December 3, 2015. William's parents are Charlie and Emily Penner; he is the grandson of Ann Miller.
- ◆ August James Kryder, was born November 28, 2015. He weighed 8 pounds, 1 ounce and was 21 inches long. His parents are Kim and Gus Kryder; his sisters are Quinn (6) and Nora (almost 3). He is the grandson of Peter and Jean Storer.

We must learn to live together as brothers or we will perish together as fools.
—Martin Luther King Jr.

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!



Heifer International Thank You

Thank you for your incredible support of Heifer International through this year's Children's Christmas Program, with gifts that totaled \$575. Through your generosity, we can establish three bee colonies that will not only provide a source of revenue for the family, but pollination for the plants surrounding it. Your gift of three trees will provide fruit, shade and stability for eroding land.

This tree gift includes seedlings and saplings of trees appropriate to the region. Recipients are educated on nurturing young trees and the importance of reforestation. Each gift of a tree:

- Provides firewood and fodder
- Yields nutritious fruits and nuts that improve health
- Enriches the soil and purifies the air



A family with a small orchard is able to supplement their diet with delicious fruits and vegetables while becoming self-reliant at the same time. Passing on the seedlings enables communities to continue the cycle of sustainability. Your plant-a-tree gift ensures a healthy, productive future while fighting poverty and hunger.

Thank you for your donations to help out families around the world with gifts that keep on giving.

Giving Tree thanks!

Our generous congregation got into the Christmas Spirit and donated approximately 30 toys to Salvation Army of Ozaukee County. These toys were distributed to families who may have missed the deadline for other programs, or other possible unforeseen circumstances.

In addition, 31 various gift cards totaling \$845, were donated to benefit young adults who have aged out of the Ozaukee County Foster Care system. There currently are 16 young adults in this situation.

THANK YOU!!! Merry Christmas indeed!!



Thanks from Susan

Susan Caucutt passes along sincere thanks to everyone who has been sending her cards and saying prayers on her behalf. She says that she is very grateful for the connections with MUMC folks. And she enjoys receiving the cards because it is difficult for her to get out.

Nigeria health board reaches 30 villages with malaria prevention and treatment

Four countries, Nigeria, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Ethiopia, and Uganda account for nearly 50 percent of deaths due to malaria (from CDC and USAID reports, 2013). Nigeria is the worst hit with more reported malaria cases and deaths than any country in the world. With a population of about 170 million, many rural and hard to reach villages are often left out of national malaria control efforts. These remote and forgotten villages have been the focus of the Rural Health program of the United Methodist Church in Nigeria. The Nigerian Health Board has been responding to the challenge of malaria in remote villages tucked in the nooks of the Sandstone Mountains of North Eastern Nigeria along the banks of the Upper Benue River and stretching across Federated States of Bauchi, Gombe, Taraba, and Adamawa States.

An example of our "Imagine No Malaria" dollars at work.

The aim of the Rural Health program is to reach the most vulnerable, pregnant women and children under age five with long lasting insecticidal nets (LLINs), malaria diagnosis, and treatment services in these underserved villages. Services are provided through two mobile clinics supported by the Imagine No Malaria grants from the General Board of Global Ministries. The first phase of bed net distribution in 2014 reached 3,400 women in 10 villages. The second phase in 2015 is targeted will reach 15,000 pregnant and nursing mothers in 30 villages. The health board hopes to reach even more villages with nets and services in 2016. Your gifts to the Imagine No Malaria program have given hope to children who might otherwise not make it to their 5th birthday. With your continued support we can do more in Nigeria in 2016.

The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.

—Martin Luther King Jr.

Sonlight Scoop
January 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.

Sonlight parents were treated to a wonderful **Christmas Cheer** table of goodies, made by the Sonlight staff, complete with coffee and hot cider! Sonlight wanted to let them know how just special they are to the Center! Then, at 10:00 AM, the children all met in the gym for a wonderful visit from Santa Claus! He even brought presents for the children, who all got a chance to sit on his knee and tell him what they wanted for Christmas! Most of the children were happy to visit Santa...



Blessing to you in 2016!
Kathy and Sue



Quattro Horns

presents

“Honor the Day”

A mid-winter concert

Monday, January 11 — 7:00-8:00 PM

Old Courthouse Museum

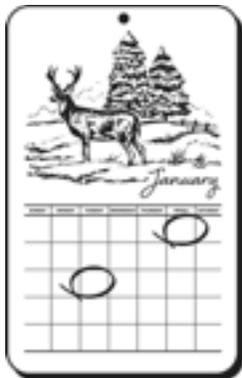
320 South 5th Street

West Bend, WI

Free admission

Quattro Horns is a musical group comprised of four French Horns. The group includes MUMC’s own Joe Hill. From time to time, this group presents music during worship services at MUMC.

This is the day



On your new calendar, be sure to mark important dates such as National Drinking Straw Day (January 3), National Artichoke Hearts Day (March 16) and National Crouton Day (May 13). Those pseudo-holidays are now catalogued as part of the National Day Calendar, a venture by a North Dakota businessman.

For a fee starting at \$1,500, anyone can register a national day or even give one as a gift. Special-interest groups are discovering that national days are great for marketing.

Throughout the Bible, God instructs people to set aside special days for rest and remembrance. Yet to him, every day is holy — even if it lacks a holiday, pseudo or otherwise. “This is the day the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it” (Psalm 118:24).



the Spire

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Mon. - Thurs.: 8:30 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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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

***When the song
of the angels is stilled***

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among people,
To make music in the heart.
—Howard Thurman

Fresh start

Here's a mixture of fun and serious thoughts about the fresh start we receive with each new year of life in Christ:

- "The best angle from which to approach any problem is the try-angle." —Author Unknown
- "Great ideas need landing gear as well as wings." —C.D. Jackson
- "God gives us dreams a size too big so that we can grow into them." —Author Unknown
- "Life is full of obstacle illusions." —Grant Frazier
- "Four steps to achievement: Plan purposefully. Prepare prayerfully. Proceed positively. Pursue persistently." —William Arthur Ward
- "Nothing is impossible with God." —Luke 1:37, NIV

MUMC is a Reconciling Congregation

Mequon United Methodist Church affirms that all people are created in God's image and are of sacred worth. We affirm Jesus' example of love without reservation and we sacredly promise to deal compassionately and justly with one another. Therefore, this inclusive and nurturing community of faith openly invites and welcomes persons of every age, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, physical or mental ability, ethnic origin, socioeconomic status, marital status -- any and all diversities -- as full participants in the life and work of this reconciling community.

