

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

+

the Spire

January 2018



# Welcome 2018!

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## Start 2018 by participating in these MUMC activities:

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- **All Church gathering** — January 13 — breakfast, church plans, budget, prayers, and more
- **Outreach Dinner & Auction** — food and fun to raise funds for mission projects — January 27
- **Drive-in Movie Night** — January 28
- **Reflections reads a fun book!**
- **Women and Men Choirs** — great opportunity for singers!
- **Lunch Bunch begins a new study** on the book of Romans. the letter that changed the world
- **Volunteer to sit with the babies at Sonlight**
- **CPR Class** — beneficial learning experience for everyone — January 20



### Resolve to "be there"

Let our New Year's resolution be this: We will be there for one another as fellow members of humanity, in the finest sense of the word.

— Goran Persson

## Pastor Tim's Message

Recently, I heard this song called "*Seasons of Love*" which begins: "525,600 minutes in a year, 525,600 moments so dear, 525,600 minutes—how do you measure, measure a year?" As we begin another year, those words got me thinking about how we spend the minutes we are given each year to do whatever it is that we do. Most of us treat those "moments so dear" like we have an unlimited number of them. There is always tomorrow to do what we didn't accomplish today, right? No...wrong! We don't get to carry over to the next day or the next year the minutes we did not use.

It seems that a fair number of those 525,600 minutes are spent doing necessary things like eating, bathing and sleeping. Then there is working, caring for our families—all those day-in, day-out responsibilities that we all seem to have. So, the real question for us to consider is: how do we spend those minutes that are left?

Have you ever said, "If only I had taken the time to..." or "If only I'd spent more time with...?" You can fill in your own blanks...we all have them. How do YOU measure a year of minutes? Will your future moments be filled with regret and if only? My hope for all of us in this new year before us is that we will take the time to thank God for each minute we have and use each moment to its fullest.

We all know that life is fragile and the number of minutes is not guaranteed. So let's all make the most of it. Let's not spend any of our precious moments wishing we had told someone how much we love or appreciate them. Do it...right now!

So as you think about the minutes ahead of you in this new year, I want to encourage you to use this gift of time to find more meaning in life as we let Jesus' words to, "Love God with all our heart and soul and mind and love our neighbor as we love ourselves" be our guide. So, perhaps some of our minutes could be spent in mission to those in need around us. There are so many opportunities through the church for being a part of our ministries like Family Promise, volunteering at our daycare center, Sonlight, helping with one of our Outreach ministries, or you might even want to listen for ways that God is calling you to begin a new ministry to meet a need in our area. Some of our minutes could be spent deepening our prayer and devotional life by reading the Upper Room each day or coming to one of the prayer breakfasts, Lunch Bunch or the other small groups. Maybe this is even the year when you would like to begin a small group. I hope you are beginning to see there are so many ways to use our minutes to make God's love real.

We have all been given this great gift of time, so let's think about how we can create a legacy of love through all the precious minutes we have been given. May God bless our new year ahead of us and all our 525,600 minutes.

In Christ's love,  
Pastor Tim



**Now**  
*is the time!*





**Sharing the Light  
of God's Love at  
home and beyond**

**Support MUMC's  
mission work**

***Outreach Dinner & Auction  
Sharing the Light of God's Love  
at home and beyond***

***January 27, 2018***

***5:30 - 9:00 PM***

***Ozaukee Country Club***

**Fun and food!**

**Great items for spirited bidding!**

**As always, an entertaining game show!**

Saturday, January 27 is the date of the Mequon United Methodist Church Outreach Auction. This year is extra special as we celebrate our church's 70<sup>th</sup> year anniversary. The event will be held at the Ozaukee Country Club and serves as a fundraiser and friend-raiser! Enjoy the company of friends and family with delightful food and drinks. Participate in our silent auction, live auction, or MUMC Name game. Look for an invitation in your mailbox.

***Proceeds benefit Outreach mission projects including:***

- Youth Mission Trip
- UMCOR and Global Ministries
- Hunger Task Force
- St. Vincent de Paul Mealsite
- Family Sharing — Ozaukee County's Food Pantry
- Family Promise of Ozaukee County
- ... and many more

***See you there!***



**LOTS OF LLAMA DRAMA  
AT THE MUMC DRIVE-IN MOVIE**

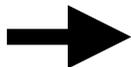
Join us for a special evening as we recall our Passport to Peru program with a family-favorite film in our MUMC Indoor Drive-In Movie. This year's film will be "The Emperor's New Groove," which takes place in Peru and features a llama going through a lot of drama.

We'll sit in "car seats" and enjoy traditional concession foods, served up with flair. We'll have all of our favorites – popcorn, burgers, cheeseburgers, hot dogs, chicken nuggets and chips. There will also be fruit cups, carrots & dip, desserts and root beer floats!



**"The Emperor's New Groove"**

**Don't miss out on fun for the whole family!**



***Sunday Night, January 28***

***4:00-6:00 PM***

**In the church's Fellowship Hall**



## ALL CHURCH GATHERING

**Saturday, January 13 — 10:00 AM**  
**Starting with breakfast — 9:30 AM**  
**Fellowship Hall**

— an invitation from Pastor Tim —

You are invited to our all church gathering where we will discuss the progress on our strategic plan as well as discuss our year-end 2017 budget and approve our budget for 2018. 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.

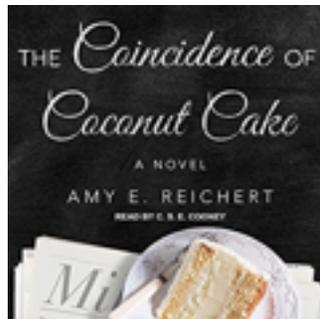
In God's love,  
Pastor Tim



## Reflections reads a fun book about love and coconut cake, set in Milwaukee!

The Reflections Book Group will begin the new year with a meeting on Thursday, January 11. We meet at 7:00 PM in the MUMC Parlor. Our discussion book will be *The Coincidence of Coconut Cake*, by Amy Reichert. Here's a brief introduction to the book from amazon . . .

*You've Got Mail* meets *How to Eat a Cupcake* in this delightful novel about a talented chef and the food critic who brings down her restaurant — whose chance meeting turns into a delectable romance of mistaken identities. . . . Set in the lovely, quirky heart of Wisconsin, *The Coincidence of Coconut Cake* is a charming love story of misunderstandings, mistaken identity, and the power of food to bring two people together.



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

### Looking ahead . . .

Our February discussion book will be *The Zookeeper's Wife: A War Story*, by Diane Ackerman.

## Human Relations Day Sunday, January 14

Our first special Sunday is coming up in January. Human Relations Day will be on Sunday, January 14. This date is always set to coincide with the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's Birthday. (The Rev. Dr. King would have been 89 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 14 during worship, or mark your check with "Human Relations Day."



## Mealsite needs servers and food items — January 25

We complain about the extended cold and jokingly utter "Brrr!" to friends. Imagine that your situation leaves you no choice but to go out on cold nights with your children in order to find a hot meal.

Please help at MUMC's next mealsite date —  
Thursday, January 25.



- **Servers are needed.** We leave MUMC at 4:15 PM, and return about 6:00 PM. The meal is served cafeteria style to the guests.
- **Food items are needed.** The main items of the meal are provided by others. But MUMC brings all the desserts plus hold-in-your-hand fresh fruit. Desserts can be brownies, bar cookies, cakes, cupcakes, etc. Fruit can be apples, oranges, bananas, clementines, etc. Food items should be left in the parlor before 4:00 PM on mealsite day.
- Sign up sheets for servers and food items will be on the Outreach Bulletin Board in the church entry.

*Next mealsite dates* — March 22 and 29.

# Music Notes

HAPPY NEW YEAR! Thank you to all of the wonderful people who added music to our church lives in 2017!!!



## And 2018 begins!

- January 7 – Special College Ensemble
- January 14 – Sanctuary Choir
- January 21 – Youth Choir
- January 28 – Women’s Choir
- February 4 – Joyful Noise Choir



## Women's Choir rehearsals begin!!!

- January 7 – 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM
- January 14 – 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM
- January 21 – 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM
- Sing January 28!!**



## Men's Choir rehearsals:

- January 28 - 6:00p PM– 7:00 PM
- February 11 - 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM
- February 18 - 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM
- Sing February 25!!**

## In sync

Need another reason to join the choir? Consider this: Neuroscientists in Sweden discovered that singers’ heartbeats tend to synchronize, which leads to a sense of emotional calm and bonding.

“Joint action leads to joint perspectives,” write the researchers. “In other words, singers may change their egocentric perspective of the world to a ‘we-perspective,’ which causes them to perceive the world from the same point of view.”

So start singing – and enjoy the many benefits and blessings of being part of a choir!



## Friends and Family CPR Class

January 20 – 9:00 AM  
at MUMC

**Details: see CPR article on page 7**  
You must preregister for this class.

## Lunch Bunch — \*\* NEW study \*\*

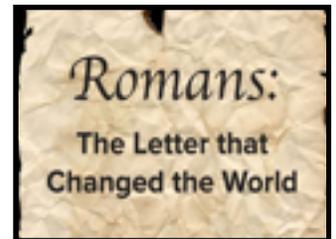
### Meets every Tuesday

**Bible Study – 11:00 AM**

**Lunch – 12:00 noon**

The Lunch Bunch returns on Tuesday, January 9<sup>th</sup> with a new study called *Romans: The Letter that Changed the World*. Through our video and discussions we will look at the culture and history that led to Paul writing this transforming letter to the small group of Christians in the city of Rome. As we discuss Paul’s time we are able to make connections with our own and let this letter come alive for us today. 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

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

### Women's Prayer Breakfast —

Wednesday, February 7  
Wednesday, March 7

### Men's Prayer Breakfast —

Thursday, February 1  
Thursday, March 1



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.

## TWO "Help Wanted" from Sonlight

### Sonlight needs your time for some tender caring!

Sonlight has opportunities in the Infant Room for caring individuals to offer volunteer help for teachers during the day for short periods of time, usually in the mornings (9:00 AM to 11:00 AM). We would welcome any time and/or day(s) you would be available. There is no strict schedule.



Our Infant Room is very popular and in demand because we provide great care! Therefore, we have a lot of babies and infants. So, the teachers could use help holding them, playing with the little ones, or just watching them, while the teacher is changing diapers or dealing with a baby who doesn't want to be there.

No experience needed, just a love for children.

Stop by Sonlight or call Sue or Marie at 262-242-4771 to learn more about this opportunity.

### The 2018 Summer School Program at Sonlight Child Development Center is looking for a teacher

**What is the Summer School Program?** Sonlight offers a summer program for the older siblings of children currently enrolled in Sonlight and/or children previously enrolled in Sonlight. It makes it easier for the families to bring their children to one location when school is not in session during the summer. We keep the students busy with lots of activities such as, arts, crafts, cooking, field trips, etc. Our past programs have been very successful and lots of fun. The group size is small with approximately 5-10 children from 6 to 9 years of age.

**What are the requirements for a teacher?** Responsibilities include planning activities for the students, Monday – Friday from 8:00 AM to 4:00 AM. This summer program lasts for approximately 12 weeks from June thru August. Credentials include a teaching certification in Early Childhood and other training, such as CPR, to meet some of the requirements of our daycare license. We offer field trips so you must be insurable with a safe driving record and valid driver's license.

If you love working with great kids with lots of energy, this could be the job for you. It is a paid position with some flexibility. Please contact Sue Lyon at 262-242-4771 for more information.

**MUMC folks: Consider this summertime teaching position or pass it along to family and friends who might be interested.**



### Time to update your church directory information!

Please take a look at our MUMC Church family Directory and let the office know if your contact information needs to be updated!

You can check the current directory by going on line to the MUMC website at [www.mequonumc.org](http://www.mequonumc.org). At the bottom of the home page under Church Members Only is the link for Church Directory. You need to put in the password code of '4mumc' and then you can see the files for the Leadership Teams Directory, the Staff Directory and the Church family Directory. Click on the desired link and save the file. Then you can scroll through the Directory whenever you would like or need to.

We would love to have a photo of each family. If there isn't one of you in the Directory, you can always ask Marilyn Thiet to take a picture of you after church one day. Or you can send a picture (selfies are good too) to DeWayna in the office by email, [office@mequonumc.org](mailto:office@mequonumc.org) or give her a call at 262-242-4770, and she'll help you find a way to get your picture into the Directory.

All contact updates should be sent to [office@mequonumc.org](mailto:office@mequonumc.org). We want our directory to include all of our friends and members, so if you don't see your name and face in it, please let us know! We are hoping to print new color copies later in January, so don't delay!!



**SAVE THE DATE!**

### Special "Mindfulness" program on April 29

The Parish Nurse Team will be presenting a "Mindfulness" program on Sunday, April 29. It will take place after worship in Fellowship Hall. The presenter will be Dr. Paul Norton. Mark your calendar now and watch for more details as the date gets closer.



# CPR = Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation

## What is CPR?

### How does it work?

### Why is it important?

This life saving procedure preserves artificial circulation to the body. It is a life saving link until emergency responders and advanced life support is available.

When the heart stops beating there is no blood moving throughout the body. Every second counts in this situation. Performing CPR helps to keep blood circulating. Each minute without blood circulating results in tissue damage and tissue death.

It is unlikely that CPR will restart the heart but it does restore partial blood flow to the tissues in the body. Organs without a blood supply are not receiving oxygen. These cells will die. The brain is especially sensitive. A brain without a fresh blood supply will result in quick tissue damage. This tissue death is likely not reversible. Performing CPR as soon as possible can preserve brain function and save a life.

CPR involves performing manual chest compressions. It is a skill and a series of steps that can be learned, practiced and mastered. Current recommendations emphasize performing hard and fast chest compressions. Timing is of the essence. A quick response and effective CPR can save the life of someone in need, perhaps someone you know!

The American Heart Association (AHA) performs ongoing research and studies to save lives. Each year over 350,000 out-of-hospital cardiac arrests occur in the United States. If more people know CPR, more lives could be saved.



The Friends and Family CPR course will be provided on January 20 at 9:00 AM at MUMC. This one hour-long session includes video and hands on training of CPR skills. You will have the opportunity to learn or relearn CPR skills and practice on a mannikin. The AHA recommends training every two years to provide optimal success.

Please contact Susan Solverson if you would like to participate in this class. You must preregister for this class by Wednesday, January 17. Seating is limited.

Call, email or text Susan and she will sign you up!!

susansolverson@wi.rr.com

414-559-4699 (cell)

*Wishing you a Healthy, Happy New Year  
from your Parish Nurse Team.*



## Children's Christmas Program Mission Project – Heifer International

### THANK YOU!

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 this fall's Passport to Peru program, we collected money to sponsor an alpaca and/or a llama for a family. Our amazing congregation donated \$900.00, so we are able to sponsor three llamas and three alpacas! Thank you so much for your donations! Here is what you will provide:

- Alpacas and llamas provide families in need of wool with the prized commodity used for making blankets, ponchos, carpets and rope.
- Alpacas and llamas also serve as pack animals.
- Their extra wool can be sold for income.
- Pasture land high in the Andes is scarce and vegetation is fragile, but with their padded feet, alpacas and llamas have little impact on the environment.



Thank you again for your donations, which will help families around the world with a gift that keeps on giving.

## Thank you ...

- to everyone who purchased gifts from the SERRV artisan craft sale
- to everyone who purchased and enjoyed Christmas cookies from the MUMC Youth
- to everyone who generously donated gift items from the Giving Tree for two needy families.
- to everyone who helped behind the scenes and at rehearsals for the children's fabulous Christmas program

# Mequon United Methodist Church

## 2018 Ministry Teams

### Church Council:

Chairperson - Joel Huffman  
Vice Chari - \_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary - Shirley Campbell  
Financial Secretary - Kay Schroeder  
Treasurer - Doug Zwissler &  
Karen Huffman (Accounting Manager)  
Lay Leader - Glen Van Fossen  
Lay Members to Annual Conference - \_\_\_\_\_  
Newsletter Editor - Ginger Ayres  
Publicity - Marketing Team  
Chairs or representatives from the following teams

### Outreach Team:

Co-Chairs - Karen Huffman, Irene Sullivan  
Betty Draughon, Rick Gattoni, Jim Layton,  
Karen Stern, Susan Yorio, Marilyn Zwissler

### Children's Ministry Team:

Chair - Audra O'Brien  
Jen Bertolino, Linda Mordy,  
Wendy Porterfield, Nan Rilling  
**Children's Ministry Director:** Peg Gardner  
**Children's Ministry Support Team:** Gayle Meyer,  
Kari Slater, Jeff Wider

### Youth Ministry Team (being reformed in 2018):

Ellen Shuler, Ned Sisney, Lynda Stephany,  
Glen Van Fossen  
**Youth Ministry Director:** Olivia Peters

### Welcoming Connections Team:

Chair - TBA  
Susan Caldwell, Nancy Gruner, Katie Jackson,  
Ann Miller, Marilyn Thiet

### Sonlight Child Development Center Board:

Operations Co-Chair - Mavis Luther  
Financial C0-Chair - Ed Mordy  
Pastor - Tim O'Brien  
Director of Children's Ministry - Peg Gardner  
Members at Large - Cheryl Bair, Pat Dillon, Pat  
Gattoni, Katie Jackson, Pam Layton, Ross Paulus,  
Tracy Strickland

### Staff Parish Relations Team:

Chair - Pam Layton  
Janice Church, Lauren Schreiner, Marilyn Thiet,  
Doug Zwissler,  
Lay Leader - Glen Van Fossen

### Lay Leadership Team:

Chair - Pastor Tim O'Brien  
Sandy Christensen, Ann Miller, Scott Solverson  
Lay Leader: Glen Van Fossen

### Trustees:

Chair - Connie Pukaite  
John Baker, Busch Buschman, Tom Ellis, Jim Layton,  
Ed Mordy, Jeff Nowak, Connie Pukaite, Dain Shuler,  
Bruce Stern

### Worship Logistics:

Flowers and Altar Decorations -  
Connie Pukaite, Katie Jackson  
Communion Stewards -  
Pat Stapelkamp, Pat Gattoni,  
Sandy Christensen, Pat Dillon  
Ushers - Audra O'Brien & Church Office  
Liturgist - Church Office  
Music Team - Rick Hynson, Michelle Hynson,  
Ellen Shuler, Elna Hickson

### Finance Team:

Chair - Mike Debbink  
Doug Bertolino, Jim Caldwell,  
Pappy Draughon, Ed Mordy,  
Treasurer - Doug Zwissler &  
Karen Huffman (Accounting Manager)  
Financial Secretary - Kay Schroeder  
Lay Leader - Glen Van Fossen  
Church Council - Joel Huffman  
Trustees Chair - Connie Pukaite  
SPRC Chair: Pam Layton

### Parish Nurse Team:

Chair: Debbie LeRoy  
Sandy Christensen, Lisa Gorski, Nancy Gruner,  
Eileen Hill, Randy LeRoy, Kathy Morgan,  
Mary Sisney, Nancy Snoots, Sue Solverson

### Marketing Team:

Chair: Herb Ayres,  
Ginger Ayres, Doug Burns, Pam Layton,  
Marcia Schwager

### Audio-Visual:

Herb Ayres, Peter Gardner, Randy LeRoy, Dain Shuler

### Family Promise Task-group:

Anne Bingham, Pam Layton, Connie Pukaite,  
Karen Stern, Glen Van Fossen, Marilyn Zwissler

### Green Team:

Chair: Herb Ayres  
Cheryl Bair, Bill Church, Jim Layton,  
Randy LeRoy, Ann Miller, Linda Mordy,  
Wendy Porterfield, Amber Rydholm



## Thanks to everyone for helping at MUMC in 2017...

As we start the new year of 2018 by recognizing the members of all MUMC teams on the previous page, we look back with heartfelt thanks for 2017.

With thanks — to every person on every team, to anyone who did one act or many acts for MUMC in 2016.

With thanks — for children's and youth and adult programs, for care of our buildings and grounds, for care of people and their concerns, for music and worship, for prayers, for fellowship, for meals, for Sonlight and Family Promise volunteers, for Sunday morning ushers and liturgists and greeters and coffee hosts and altar flowers, for communion stewards, for audio-visual volunteers, for Parish Nurse programs and informational articles, for attention to church finances, for donations of food and money and gifts, for mealsite servers, for those who clean up our assigned sections of Mequon roads, for VBS volunteers, for Spire mailing crew, for Marsh Meadow workers, for office volunteers.

A special "shout out" of thanks goes to everyone who put in their time and talents and prayers on the Combined Annual Stewardship and Capital Campaigns. Congratulations on a job well done! Equal big thanks go to everyone who pledged and contributed financially to these campaigns.

AND lastly ... thanks to EVERYONE who did a task not listed here.



## Birds (and the Green Team) say "Thanks"!!

One Sunday in December, the Green Team set up shop in the narthex to sell homemade bluebird houses and log bird feeders (complete with seed/peanut butter filling). The response was overwhelming!

Next spring m-a-n-y bluebirds will have new houses. And already the log feeders are being emptied by hungry birds. If you bought a log feeder, remember that the mix "recipe" is 2/3 peanut butter + 1/3 mixed bird seed. Hint: it mixes easier if you warm the peanut butter in the microwave first.

The Green Team asked only for donations. Your generosity was amazing. \$500 was raised which will go toward start-up expenses for the Community Garden that will be at the west end of the church parking lot. Watch for news about the garden as spring approaches.

**Help the birds stay warm in winter.** So far, this winter seems to be a bit brutal with an extended frigid cold wave as this issue of "the Spire" goes to print. If you are concerned about the birds, here's something you may consider. To keep warm, birds huddle together. Some do so in dense evergreen trees or bushes. Others look for inside habitats. You can help the latter by "winterizing" old bird houses. If you can, turn the front panel so the entrance hole is toward the bottom; the heat will rise and not escape. Fill all cracks with foam or gel; or use duct tape on the outside. If possible, add perches or place small twigs inside for more birds. They do crowd together in the winter. Put some grass or sawdust on the bottom. Position the house with the hole away from the prevailing wind, in the sun for warmth, and safe from predators. In the spring, clean out the house and revert it to a nesting box.



In addition to shelter, other winter tips include providing a variety of food and having a heated bird bath for water. The sources below give detailed info and lists of food.

Resources:

- [birds.cornell.edu](http://birds.cornell.edu) (search on the site for "winter feeding")
- <https://extension.psu.edu/winter-bird-feeding-the-basics>
- [thespruce.com](http://thespruce.com) (search on the site for "winter birds")
- do a general *google* search for "winter bird feeding"



## Altar Flowers Chart for 2018

has been put up and is mostly empty!!

The chart is located on the wall outside the church office.



## Remember when ...

As MUMC looks forward to celebrating its 70th year, "the Spire" continues looking back at interesting, somber, fun, or important highlights from the past.

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**April 1999.** *The following story is just so funny that, rather than a summary, it is being re-printed here in its entirety. Brad Mather was pastor. Becky Mather, Minister of Youth at the time, writes this story.*

It all started on a cold Sunday last January when three young women and I were sitting around "interpreting" the parable of the "Prodigal son" for use in the Youth Worship Service. One of the girls suggested we turn the younger son into a French maid, as opposed to a swineherd. At that moment it hit me that we had the perfect prop sitting next to our garage — a toilet. Brad had just remodeled our bathroom and replaced it with a new toilet, so this was the perfect opportunity for our most outrageous prop to date. However, as fate would have it, that is only the beginning of the story.

The toilet was transported to the church sanctuary and successfully used in the worship service. After the service, we were cleaning up. I said to a couple of the young men, who shall remain anonymous to protect the innocent, that I needed the heavy toilet returned to the back of my van so that I could take it home and dispose of it on garbage day. I gave them the keys to my van, went back to the clean-up and thought nothing else about it. After everyone else had left, the kids, Brad and I all grabbed the last couple boxes of stuff and headed out to the van. As I tried to lift the back door, I was a little surprised to find that it was locked. I lifted the back and it was empty. No toilet. That's when I began to laugh.



I had a pretty good idea what had happened and as it turned out I was right. I hadn't given the young men explicit instructions as to where my van was located. They remembered the dark purplish colored van I used to have and when they found one of that color with the back open, close to the side door of the church, they figured it must be mine. So now we know what had happened, *but* we still didn't know where the toilet went.

On Tuesday Michelle Hynson went to do her weekly grocery shopping. She pushed her cart to the back of the van, lifted the door to put her groceries in and *surprise*, there was the missing toilet. Luckily, Michelle is a person with a healthy sense of humor and three boys so she didn't have much problem piecing the puzzle together. She sent me an email to inform me that she had found my item of lost property and, later, returned it to me. So that is the end of the "Toilet Story" — *we hope*.

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- January 1996 — "the Spire" first appeared in folded-page newsletter format; prior to that, it had been 8 1/2" x 11" sheets, stapled at the upper corner.
- June 1996 — Fred Gruner traveled to Russia as a VIM volunteer. The project was at the Novoalexevski (New Alexander) Russian Orthodox Monastery in Moscow, to reconstruct residential facilities for the elderly and a soup kitchen for the poor.
- October 24, 1999 — MUMC's New Sanctuary Dedication — celebration with special music and a reception after worship. During renovation work, a Town Hall meeting was held with "considerable discussion" (direct quote!) and then a vote to install air conditioning in the sanctuary.
- July 1999 — new name tags were made for the entire church family and displayed on a kiosk designed and built by Clarence Groth. These tags and kiosk continue to be in use today!
- Special music in 1999 included Katie Gattoni [Nowak] playing flute.
- April 1999 — the church office began collecting email addresses from the congregation. "The Spire" had a paper form to complete and mail in to the church office!
- Palm Sunday 1999 — the children celebrated Jesus' entry in Jerusalem as they led the processional with palms, hosannas, and coats. The congregation was asked to "spread your coats on the ground." All donated coats were given to the needy.
- During the late 1990s, workers from MUMC helped renovate apartments for the Transitional Living Center where young mothers can live, while completing their education and learning how to be accountable for their lives, and have their children be cared for in a safe environment. Stories were shared as residents completed degree programs and successfully found jobs.
- June 1998 — the Sunday School children of MUMC received a thank you from Bishop Sharon Z. Rader for the pictures, posters, and questions that they sent to Annual Conference about the care of children and poor people. The bishop goes on to ask the children for ideas to care for children and poor people.
- July 18, 1999, was a busy day in the life of MUMC. Worship was held in Rotary Park, followed by a fried chicken lunch. In the evening, an Ice Cream Social was held featuring speakers — Fred Gruner spoke on VIM work at an orphanage in Russia (after getting there, the workers realized they were in the Chernobyl radiation zone), the Gardners shared their experiences adopting a child from a Russian orphanage, and Clarence Groth described VIM work at a homeless shelter in Phoenix.



# A Fond Farewell

## Good-bye to MUMC from the Luthers

At last we are on our way to our home in Mesa, AZ where we plan to live year round. The summers are HOT so you can expect a visit from us and we hope you will also come and see us sometime. Thank you all for your kind best wishes. We will certainly miss our MUMC Church Family. You are the best!

Our new address is 2565. S. Signal Butte, Unit 54, Mesa, AZ 85209.

**New address**

### Words of Martin Luther King, Jr. ...

- We must come to see that human progress never rolls in on wheels of inevitability. It comes through the tireless efforts and persistent work of [people] willing to be coworkers with God ...
- I refuse to accept the view that mankind is so tragically bound to the starless midnight of racism and war that the bright daybreak of peace and brotherhood can never become reality. I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word.
- We will have to repent in this generation not merely for the hateful words and actions of the bad people but for the appalling silence of the good people.
- I look to a day when people will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character.



### ***It makes a great difference where you live***

A man lived on the border between Minnesota and Wisconsin. He had been told that his house was in Minnesota but a new survey revealed that it was actually in Wisconsin. "Thank goodness!" the man said joyfully. "I never could bear those cold Minnesota winters."

## *the Spire*

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Closed Fridays

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

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

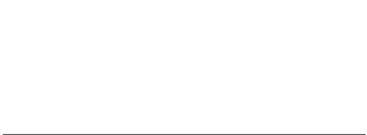
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### ***Undaunted – in the new year***

The year just past was wracked with violence, racism and political rancor. We long to fix these problems, but how? We may feel as frustrated as the church board member who spouted, “We’ve already tried prayer. It didn’t work!”

Those words might resonate today, yet things aren’t always what they seem. We can’t see God behind the scenes crafting a new reality, but Scripture promises it. And though our prayers won’t undo earthly death, they surround the grieving with strength and love. We can’t “solve” sin, but our prayers can bring communities together and spur us to look out for one another.

The Jewish Talmud states, “Do not be daunted by the enormity of the world’s grief. Do justly now. Love mercy now. Walk humbly now. You are not obligated to complete the work, but neither are you free to abandon it.” In this new year, may we be undaunted in doing what we can. It might not seem like much, but things aren’t always what they seem.

### ***United in diversity***

Although early Christians had much in common, they also dwelt in diversity. Each of their leaders emphasized certain parts of the gospel and favored certain worship styles. They all believed in the resurrected Jesus, and they all celebrated the Lord’s Supper and baptism. But Christians in Corinth had a unique approach, as did those in Ephesus, Philippi, Galatia, Rome and so on.

It might be boring if we all believed and practiced completely alike. Variations don’t need to be an impediment to Christian unity. As pastor Charles Best said, “If we’re going to be in heaven together, we might as well get along now.”