

Mequon United
Methodist Church
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+

the Spire

June 2019



**Come! Worship! Sing! Pray!
Walk! Encourage! Sponsor!**

- ◆ Pentecost Sunday – June 9. Wear RED!!!
- ◆ Prayer Walk in the Marsh Meadow after worship on June 9. Bring walking shoes.
- ◆ VBS and Critter Camp begin June 24!
 - Invite children. Register now.
 - Be a sponsor. Also support the VBS mission project.
 - All-Church Dinner – June 27, 5:00 PM – for everyone to chat and have fun with VBS and Critter Camp families
- ◆ Come to worship on June 16 – honor Fathers Day and enjoy a hymn sing!
- ◆ Watch as the landscape changes around the church! See details on page 5.
- ◆ Mow lawn – many volunteer mowers will make light work for everyone!
- ◆ Read Bishop Jung's letter reflecting on the challenges in the United Methodist Church
- ◆ Kickback and read a good book on life and faith. Summer reading list inside.



*On the cusp of summer, Creator
God, I praise you for the warmer
weather, nature's wonders and this
season of both rest and growth.*

Pastor Sue's Message



Tony Campolo who is a pastor, an author, and a professor emeritus of sociology at Eastern University once offered a healing service. Some people came forward and he prayed with each of them. Two weeks later, he received a telephone call from a woman who told him that her husband had been one of those who came forward for the prayer. She then went on to say that he had had cancer. When Pastor Campolo heard the word "had," he was thrilled, and asked "How is he now?" "He died," she said. He didn't know what to say, then he said he was sorry. Then, she surprised him by saying, "No, don't be sorry. I really called to thank you. My husband had a tough time to deal with the reality of death and he was bitter, but after that healing service, he had a peace with God. The last two weeks we had together were the best time we ever had. We sang together, laughed together, and shared a time of incredible joy. Those last few days were so wonderful." Then she said something profound, "He wasn't cured, but he was healed."

Friends, cures are only for a time, but the healing of the heart is forever. And God heals when we pray for one another. "Are any of you suffering hardships? You should pray. Are any of you happy? You should sing praises. Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results. (James 5:13 & 16)

You may say, "Well, I don't think that I'm a righteous person." Wrong! I'd like to remind you that anyone who has been saved through and in Christ is *a righteous person* for they clothe themselves with *the righteousness of Christ*. Friends, that means that you and I can approach the throne of grace with boldness asking things that will bring God's healing or provision to those who need it. With that spirit, our Breakthrough Prayer Team invites you to join them in Prayer Walk on Pentecost Sunday, June 9 at 11:00 AM at MUMC. (Please see "From Our Breakthrough Prayer Team" on page 3 for details) Don't forget to wear red (red clothes, a red scarf, a red necktie, etc.) on Pentecost Sunday, June 9th to celebrate the birthday of the church together!

In Christ,
Sue Lee

~~~ Worship in June ~~~

June 2: Gospel Mass:

Our Sanctuary Choir will be joined by Homestead High School choirs and instrumentalist and two incredible soloists, Alesia Miller and Tony Neal! Invite family members, friends, and neighbors and join us for this wonderful worship experience!

June 9: Pentecost Sunday & Graduate Recognition Sunday:

Please wear red (red clothes, a red scarf, a red necktie etc.) to celebrate the birthday of the church together! We will also recognize our graduates! The message will be *The Opening Day of the Church*, text: Acts 2: 42-47.

June 16: Hymn Sing Sunday:

We will lift up our hearts and voices to praise the Lord as our Ministers of Music, Rick and Michelle, lead us in worship.

June 23: Pastor Sue will start a new sermon series, "I Love My Church."

June 30: VBS (Vacation Bible School) Sunday:

Come and join us for the wonderful worship as children share their experiences at VBS!



My favorite picture with/of my father for Father's Day Sunday.

For Father's Day Sunday, June 16, we'd like to have a Father's Day show entitled "My favorite picture with/of my father" to honor our fathers. Please email or turn in your picture to Pastor Sue by Monday, June 10. Write your name on the back of the picture. Thanks!

Pentecost Sunday, June 9

Pentecost, an important day in the life of the church, can be a wonderful opportunity for family worship, discussions about church and the Holy Spirit, and a celebration of our faith. Pentecost is celebrated June 9, 2019. On Pentecost Sunday, we remember the day the disciples received the Holy Spirit in a special way. There was a powerful wind and tongues of fire (see Acts 2:1-41).

With the gift of the Spirit, the disciples were able to tell people from all over the world about Jesus in ways each could understand. The Bible reports that about 3,000 people were baptized that day, creating the first church. Creatively celebrating Pentecost in the home can be a wonderful addition to your family's devotional life, as you give thanks to God for the gifts of the Holy Spirit and the church.



Here are some ideas to help get you started.

- **Wear red:** Red is the color of Pentecost, symbolizing the Holy Spirit's arrival as tongues of fire. Go through your closets and find red clothes to wear to church on Pentecost Sunday to join in the celebration!
- **Tell the story:** Read together the story of Pentecost in Acts 2. Imagine the scene. Ask each family member what they will try to remember from the story.
- **Make decorations:** Make a banner, draw some pictures, or find another way to express the day artistically. Post your creations around your home as reminders of the gift of the Holy Spirit and the church.

(A UMC.org Feature by Joe Iovino)

From Our Breakthrough Prayer Team

(1) Prayer Walk on June 9, Pentecost Sunday after worship.

The Prayer Walk will be held at 11:00 AM on June 9th. We encourage people to walk in the Marsh Meadow with prayerful intent after the worship service. After the walk, we will gather at the fire pit for a community word of prayer. Bring your walking shoes with you on this Sunday! For people who have mobility issues and want to attend, we will have a golf cart to transport them. In addition to our personal prayers we are praying to bring people in our area who are seeking a faith community to MUMC! Contact Emily Levine with any questions at Emily.levine1@gmail.com



(2) Prayer Log

The Team invites you to pray as you walk and walk as you pray in this beautiful season! Pray for your loved ones, yourself, friends, church, country, and anything else that you want to share with the Lord! The team has prepared Prayer Walk Log in the narthex for you so that we can celebrate our "praying continually" together! Contact Pastor Sue with any questions at pastor@mequonumc.org.



New member class coming!

July 14, 21, & 28

Watch for details from Pastor Sue

The fun begins June 24! Sign up NOW!

EXPLORE GOD'S CREATION AT MUMC CRITTER CAMP

JUNE 24-26: NOON-3:30 PM

JUNE 27: NOON-5:00 PM

Children in elementary and middle school are invited to join us in the great outdoors for nature and art explorations based on God's creation. We'll start each day with a brown bag lunch in the Marsh Meadow, and then have adventures through art, nature walks, music and an exciting service project. We will be making peace poles to install on the church grounds, reminding all who visit about Jesus' message of peace. On Thursday we will journey to the Riveredge Nature Center for explorations there. Helpers are still needed in all capacities!

ALL-CHURCH DINNER JUNE 27 AT 5:00 PM

Thursday evening we will gather for an All-Church Dinner celebrating both VBS and Critter Camp, starting at 5:00 PM in Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited to join in the food and fun. Come meet and support the young families of our church and all of our visitors. Helpers are needed!

THE ADVENTURE BEGINS! VBS STARTS IN A COUPLE WEEKS!

REGISTER TODAY!

JUNE 24-28, 2019 9:00 AM - NOON

Don't miss the most exciting week of the year at MUMC! Join us for hands-on Bible explorations for children in preschool through elementary school as we ROAR onto the African savannah. There will be music, games, crafts, Bible stories, videos, snacks, special discovery stations just for preschoolers and more.

➡ **Be sure to invite the children** in your neighborhood to sign up today – and bring your grandchildren, nieces, nephews, friends and families to join the fun. This is the perfect way to share the good news that God is Good with the children of our community. Register today on line or in the church office.

➡ **We are still looking for a volunteer to run our video and missions activity station.** It doesn't require a lot of preparation and it is one of the stations kids remember most – it's where they get their Bible Buddies and learn about children in Africa. We also need youth to volunteer as crew leaders – another great opportunity to bring a friend! Please e-mail Peg at mumckidstuff@gmail.com if you have questions or will volunteer in either of these important capacities.



TWO ways for YOU to support VBS and Critter Camp

**Become a Serengeti Sponsor for VBS
or a Critter Camp Cohort
Support a Part of our Summer Programs!**

We are still hoping you can help us cover our ROAR VBS and Critter Camp costs this year. A collection of African animals and woodland critters has been taped to the sanctuary windows. On each one is an item or items that you can donate funds to provide. We are also looking for food donations. Or you can just donate any amount you'd like to the 2019 VBS/Critter Camp fund. We realize that not everyone has the time in their schedule to take a week off and come to help, but we are hoping that everyone will want to help us reach children at VBS, or connect with God's Creation at Critter Camp. So pick a project to support this week and help us make this summer's programs the best ever church experience for all the children we can serve!



Support our 2019 VBS Mission Project

This year VBS will be focusing on keeping babies healthy. In partnership with the UMC No More Malaria project, we will be collecting donations to prevent malaria in pregnancy by providing nets to protect expectant mothers and new babies. The United Methodist Church has a program called Abundant Health, which includes this program. For more details, visit <https://umcabundanthealth.org/preventing-malaria-during-pregnancy/>

Each day at VBS, children who bring a donation will put a leaf on our "Giving Tree," a symbol of their gift to help babies in Africa. You can help, too. Just drop your donation in the offering plate or mail it to the church, with your check marked "VBS Mission Project." Thanks for your help!



Music in worship

- June 2 – GOSPEL MASS in collaboration with Homestead High School Choirs
- June 9 – Special Music by Homestead High School senior Joshua Hodge
- June 16 – Congregational Hymn Sing with Richard Hynson
- June 23 – Special Music by our own Graycie Gardner
- June 30 – Special Music by VBS!!!



As you can see, there is and will be wonderful music every Sunday to enhance our worship. Plan to be there to experience it!!!

Reflections summer outing

The Reflections book group does not meet regularly in the summer, but is looking forward to a mid-summer outing in July. Mark your calendars for the evening of Wednesday, July 17th. We will be heading to Baccanera Enoteca and then Beans & Barley for dinner. More details to follow in the July Spire.

Looking ahead . . . our September discussion book is *The Clockmaker's Daughter*, by Kate Morton.

For more information about the Reflections Book Group or our July dinner out, contact Barb Henneck at bhenneck@wi.rr.com.



MUMC garden plot update

MUMC gardeners are planting cool weather seeds. Shelley Burn's lettuce seed sprouted up within a week and it looks as if every seed germinated. Soil temperatures are around 60.

Gardeners are sharing tools so that a gardener is never at the garden without a tool. One gardener started plants from seed and has extra plants that are being shared.

Gardening is underway at MUMC! Congratulations to the gardeners on what will be their upcoming successful gardening season!



What's going on today at MUMC?

Volunteer needed

Are you one of the folks who appreciate the little notices that are straight ahead as you walk in MUMC front door? Each day, the little notice tells what is taking place at church that day and where to go for each activity. It's a very low tech notice but achieves the purpose of welcoming guests, helping us find our way, and noting which rooms are in use. Ginger Ayres has been doing these notices but she's retiring. Are YOU willing to do them? They can be done on your own time, at home, as often as you want. Ginger did them monthly, but a happy new volunteer can set any schedule! Contact Ginger if you are interested or have questions (242-7703 or hayres@wi.rr.com).



Sunday School takes a summer vacation!

Sunday School has ended for this school year. We have childcare available for toddlers and preschoolers in the nursery all summer, but school-aged children are encouraged to stay in church.

Have a great summer!

We'll see you for Sunday School again on September 15.

Trustees hope you like change!

You may already have seen changes in the landscape across the front of the church. Spring flower bulbs are being dug up and saved for replanting, some shrubs are being transplanted elsewhere, and ground cover plants are being moved, too. The stone retaining wall protecting the wheelchair entrance has also been replaced, thanks to Tom Ellis and Bruce Stern.

This is all in preparation for a whole new landscape taking shape shortly after June 10. The new landscape will have gardens with a front yard view of the flagpole, in honor of long-time members Ruth and Clary Groth, thanks to memorial donations and their daughter, Diane Richson.

Northern Exposure Landscape Services produced a plan, and will remove virtually all past-prime trees/shrub, regrade/improve foundation drainage, and install new trees/shrubs. New gardens will include benches and stepping stone pathways to quiet spots where visitors can sit awhile and remember all the MUMC stewards before us.

Another new view will appear under the Parlor windows on the north side of the church where Peace Poles painted by Vacation Bible School children will be installed among shrubs and plants along the walkway.

Trustees hope you'll notice other, more subtle improvements as well, including clean white siding above the church's brick exterior, which was cleaned and treated to prevent build up of summer spiders & bugs; and in June, tile floors in the corridors, kitchen and other rooms will be cleaned, stripped, resealed, and given a brighter look.

Unseen improvements coming inside the church will include WIFI technology wired into the Education Wing to accommodate access throughout church facilities, and Assistive Listening technology in the Sanctuary to enhance sound for worshipers who may have some difficulty hearing the spoken word during services. Assistive Listening technology is a gift to MUMC from donations in memory of Stan Janusiewicz, thanks to Ruth Janusiewicz.

Other improvement projects are being studied, so stay tuned and watch for even more exciting change!

Trustees need help from members this summer. PLEASE!

How often have you heard ... or said ... *"many hands make light work?"* While our seven Trustees tackle multiple special improvement projects and take care of all the structural and equipment needs of the church, **the weekly lawn-mowing from now to October must also be done.**

Trustees will reduce the amount of lawn to cut this year, allowing especially wet areas to grow tall grass — a first step toward creating a more natural landscape in future years. But on the short-term, we need every able-bodied member of the church to step up and volunteer become part of the lawn mowing labor rotation so no one person needs to do it very often. The more volunteers we have, the fewer times any one individual needs to do the job.

Could YOU mow at least one time or two? MUMC has two riding lawn mowers ... bring a friend or family member. The job gets done faster when both mowers are working together. The church belongs to and serves all of us. Please help Trustees maintain it for the benefit of all. Call or email Connie Pukaite to volunteer (262-242-2778 or pukaite@sbcglobal.net).



United Methodist Special Sundays Gratitude from the MUMC Mission Outreach Committee

The Mission Outreach Committee coordinates United Methodist Special Sundays and you, as a congregation, have generously funded four Special Collection Sundays since the beginning of January 2019. Your donations are much appreciated by the individuals who have benefitted from these monetary funds. Our committee plans to consistently keep you informed regarding the results of the Special Sundays collections and to thank you for your ongoing support. To this date, the following organizations have been provided assistance by you, the members of our congregation!

January 2019: Human Relations Sunday:

Sponsored by General Conference. Associated with Martin Luther King Day. Donations strengthen outreach to underserved communities and at-risk youth.

Amount donated: \$2055

March 2019: UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) Sunday:

Provides administrative General Conference expenses which allows 100% of all other Special Sundays donations to go towards missions.

Amount donated: \$1030

March/April 2019: Blanket Sunday:

Sponsored by Church World Service. Supports domestic and international disaster relief.

Amount donated: \$705

April 2019: Native American Sunday:

Sponsored by General Conference. Nurtures mission with Native Americans and provides scholarships.

Amount donated: \$475

Watch for additional upcoming Special Sundays throughout the remainder of 2019.

Always know that your giving makes a positive difference for others!

**United Methodist
Special Sundays**
Please give
generously

MUMC Mission Outreach Committee:

Karen Huffman & Ireene Sullivan (co-chairpersons)
Rick Gattoni, Joel Huffman, Jim Layton, Karen Stern,
Susan Yorio, Marilyn Zwissler, Pastor Sue

Food Sort Date: Saturday, July 27

All the food donations that are being collected at Summerfest and Milwaukee summer events pile up in the Hunger Task Force warehouse. They need volunteers to make sure the food gets to the mealsites, senior meal programs, food pantries, and children's lunch programs throughout the Southeastern Wisconsin area.

You make it possible! Bring friends and family and join the Mission Outreach Team on Saturday, July 27, 2019 at the Hunger Task Force warehouse to help sort food donations. We will meet at the church for carpooling at 8:00 AM and go to the warehouse at 201 S. Hawley Court, Milwaukee. We sort food donations from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM.

We need 25 volunteers, so be sure to sign-up. Look for the sign-up sheets on the Mission Outreach bulletin board at the end of June. If you would like to learn more about this vital mission project, contact Marilyn Zwissler.



Are you giving in all the ways you should?

Jim Wells, Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation

Are you giving to the church in all the ways you could or should be giving? You may be supporting this year's budget, but what about the future of the church, missional support, and special projects? Are you providing for these as well?

I think of the church's assets and giving as an ice-cream cone. The church's assets such as the building, parsonage, and endowments as the cone. Essential, but not very appetizing all by themselves.

Annual budget giving is the first scoop. It is needed and provides basic support and flavor to the church. However, too often, this is where we stop thinking about supporting the church. What about other scoops?

What about missions? Mission-related giving can include apportionments (sometimes paid with the annual budget, sometimes not), conference projects, Special Sundays, UMCOR, national and international advance projects and support of individual missionaries. Are you thinking about your offering for missions this year? These are usually donations over and above what is collected for the annual budget.

What about planned giving? Planned giving provides for the future of the church when you are no longer around. Have you included the church in your will or as a beneficiary to your investment accounts or life insurance? Ten percent is a good number, leaving plenty for your family.

Finally, what about special projects. Capital fundraising can support new ministry, ministry growth, new building or renovation and maintenance of existing structures. Remember the Imagine No Malaria campaign a couple of years back that raised over one million dollars?



"THE SPIRE" MOVES FORWARD ...

A Greek philosopher from about 500 BC is quoted with "Change is the only constant." Now *the Spire* is joining the long line of things that change. This issue that you are holding in your hand will be the last that most of you receive as a paper copy in the mail. Starting in July, the Spire will be emailed to you. It will have a totally different appearance. For the most part, the articles will appear in a list. Longer articles will have a "read more" click to take you to the full text. The calendar will be accessed by a link to the calendar that already exists on the MUMC website.

Will this be a difficult change? No. It will just be different. Most of you already receive electronic newsletters from organizations, agencies, and companies. Our leap into electronic news-sharing will go slow. We are new at this and will take baby steps, sometimes we might fall! We welcome your comments. However, please recognize that the Spire is done by a volunteer, using her own time, and she will be getting up to speed month by month.

What is most important about this change?

Easy answer — you will continue to find information about everything at MUMC by reading *the Spire*. No change in that!

Some details:

- For those without email, a paper copy will be printed and mailed to you.
- Some printed copies will be available in the church narthex each month.
- ANY and ALL information that you want to put in *the Spire* should be emailed to news@mequonumc.org
- For now, the deadline for articles will remain as the 25th of the month prior to publishing. The deadline for the July edition will be June 25.

Why go to an electronic newsletter?

- To reach everyone more quickly and more timely than the postal service
- To appeal to an increasing number of people who are comfortable with electronic media
- To make it easier to share the Spire with friends, family, neighbors, etc.
- To offer a less expensive alternative to paper and postage
- To join the electronic age where MUMC looks upbeat to those searching for a church
- To expand and grow some new brain cells which is good for all of us!



Hard Choices in Troubled Times [a letter from our bishop]



Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. John 14:27

Immediately it struck into my mind, "Leave off preaching. How can you preach to others, who have not faith yourself?" I asked Bohler whether he thought I should leave it off or not. He answered, "By no means." I asked, "But what can I preach?" He said, "Preach faith till you have it; and then, because you have it, you will preach faith." John Wesley

I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live,... Deuteronomy 30:19

There are many people in our United Methodist Church today who are not experiencing the peace of Christ in their hearts, minds, and spirits. Rarely in our history has there been such division, such hurt, such disagreement, such anxiety, and such widespread discontent. This is one of the reasons that we changed our Annual Conference theme to "Wilderness." Wilderness is not our destination, but it is an accurate appraisal of our current reality.

The hard question that challenges us at this moment in time is this: do we still believe there is a Promised Land on the other side of the wilderness? Are we still moving toward a "future with hope?" Is there ANY possibility we can make this journey together?

I understand that many people are feeling desperation and hopelessness. There are many who feel our only future is to divide, go our separate ways, and continue our journey with only the like-minded and acquiescent. To some people, the integrity of the body of Christ has been so badly compromised that they no longer choose to fight for unity.

My deepest hope and prayer through this messy and hurtful time is that God's Holy Spirit might inspire and work through our better natures, that we might make the healthiest, most sustainable, and least damaging choices possible. Once we burn our bridges, we limit our options, perhaps to our detriment. So, a very important first step is to acknowledge that what we are doing is making choices.

One lay person in our conference wrote, "you leave me no choice but to leave The United Methodist Church." It doesn't matter whether this person is conservative or progressive, liberal or traditional – what matters is that she has given away her power by saying she has no choice. I want to say that no matter how upset we are, no matter how angry we may be, no matter that others make decisions we disagree with, we still have choice. We may not choose to feel frightened or angry or anxious or confused, but we still have power to decide how we will respond.

Every time I write or speak about what is happening in our denomination and our conference, some people like what I say, some vehemently dislike what I say, some have no idea what I am saying. If I say, "I will work to lead a church that welcomes ALL people," I get a wide variety of responses. Some people praise me, some say I do not go nearly far enough, some say I go too far, but it is not as interesting to me what people say as how they say it. Some will tell me they disagree with me, some that they do not understand how I can say what I do, some say they are disappointed by what I said, but others insult and say terribly personal things. These people choose how they will disagree with me.

I am calling upon the beautiful people of the Wisconsin Conference to carefully, mindfully, kindly, compassionately, and with mercy and justice in mind, choose how you will live through this time of division and hurt and anxiety. Choose life over death; choose blessing over curse; choose hope over despair; choose grace over judgement and condemnation. Choose to preach faith and love and hope, even when you don't feel it. Choose to be patient and gentle and generous so that you might be numbered among the peace-makers that Jesus blesses. And above all, don't give up. Choose to fight for a church that equips all people to be gifted and used by God for the transformation of the world. Choose to look at all we can be, not where we fail and where we disagree. The good that God calls us to be is greater than any bad of human design. Choose God and let us make our way through the present wilderness to a future brimming with hope and promise.

Grace and Peace,

Bishop Hee-Soo Jung

Walking: Trim Your Waistline, Improve Your Health

Ready to reap the benefits of walking? Here's how to get started — and stay motivated. Can you really walk your way to fitness? You bet! Get started today.

Physical activity doesn't need to be complicated. Something as simple as a daily brisk walk can help you live a healthier life.

For example, regular brisk walking can help you:

- Maintain a healthy weight
- Prevent or manage various conditions, including heart disease, high blood pressure and type 2 diabetes
- Strengthen your bones and muscles
- Improve your mood
- Improve your balance and coordination



The faster, farther and more frequently you walk, the greater the benefits.

Consider your technique

Turning your normal walk into a fitness stride requires good posture and purposeful movements. Ideally, here's how you'll look when you're walking:

- Your head is up. You're looking forward, not at the ground.
- Your neck, shoulders and back are relaxed, not stiffly upright.
- You're swinging your arms freely with a slight bend in your elbows. A little pumping with your arms is OK.
- Your stomach muscles are slightly tightened and your back is straight, not arched forward or backward.
- You're walking smoothly, rolling your foot from heel to toe.

As you start your walking routine, remember to get the right gear. Choose shoes with proper arch support, a firm heel and thick flexible soles to cushion your feet and absorb shock. Wear comfortable clothes and gear appropriate for various types of weather. If you walk outdoors when it's dark, wear bright colors or reflective tape for visibility.

Once you take that first step, you're on the way to an important destination — better health.

Resource: mayoclinic.org

Walking Program 2019

The Parish Nurse Ministry Team invites you to join in our 6-week summer walking program. We will be walking Sundays, July 7 to August 11 from 4:00-5:00 PM. We will be exploring different parks and nature preserves in Ozaukee County. Whether you are an experienced walker or want to begin a walking program this opportunity is for you! All parks have level walking paths and several have stairs or side trails as an option for those who want more challenge. We invite individuals, families and friends to join us and commit to improving your health and well-being.



Walking Schedule:

July 7: Mequon Nature Preserve

July 14: Concordia University-Mequon

July 21: Virmond Park-Mequon

July 28: Bratt Woods Natural Area-Grafton

August 4: Highland Woods-Mequon

August 11: Lion's Den Gorge Nature Preserve-Grafton

Each week an email will go out to the congregation with location and directions to the site. There will also be information in the Sunday bulletins. You are welcome to join us for one walk or all six. Wear comfortable, supportive walking shoes and dress for the weather. Don't forget to bring water to stay hydrated.

If you have any questions, please contact Debbie LeRoy (262-377-5694) or rleroy@wi.rr.com.

A good book is hard to find: Summer reads 2019

[A UMC.org Feature by Joe Iovino, United Methodist Communications]



Life is too short to read bad books, but **finding your next favorite** can sometimes be difficult.

Our friends at **Abingdon Press** and the **United Methodist Publishing House** have some new titles that might be perfect for you this summer. Authors you may already know and several new names help you explore topics of life and faith. Here are ten to consider.

Lectio Divina Prayer Bible

Lectio Divina is the ancient practice of reading the Bible slowly and prayerfully, intentionally pausing to listen for what God is speaking to your heart. For each chapter of Scripture *The Lectio Divina Prayer Bible* offers a recommended passage for slow and thoughtful reading, questions for guiding a time of reflection on the text, a prayer, and suggestions for putting your new insights into action. The helps will guide you in an ancient way of praying the Bible.

Inside the Miracles of Jesus: Discovering the Power of Desperation

The Rev. Jessica LaGrone, United Methodist pastor and Dean of the Chapel at Asbury Theological Seminary, uses the miracles of Jesus to help us better grasp how our weaknesses can be an invitation for God to work powerfully in our lives. We need God as much on our best days as we do on our worst.

Simon Peter: Flawed but Faithful Disciple

United Methodist pastor the Rev. Adam Hamilton offers an in-depth dive into the life, faith, and character of one of Jesus's most vocal disciples. An ordinary fisherman who left everything to follow Jesus, yet was sometimes quick-tempered, impetuous, and struggled with doubt and fear. In many ways, Simon Peter was like us.

More for Mom: Living Your Whole and Holy Life

In *More for Mom*, Presbyterian pastor the Rev. Kristin Funston encourages moms to stop believing the lie that more is needed *from them*, and start living with the truth that more is available *for them*. Using real-life talk, humor and convicting biblical truths, Funston helps moms see the whole and holy life God has in store for them, just waiting to be claimed. A great gift for the mom in your life.

Called: Hearing and Responding to God's Voice

Calls aren't just for pastors, missionaries and church leaders. Throughout the Bible God interrupts the lives of ordinary men and women, calling and empowering them to lives of service they never could have imagined on their own. United Methodist pastor the Rev. Susan Robb will help you discover how to hear and respond to the unique call God is placing on your life. A good gift for graduates.

She Dreams: Live the Life You Were Created For

God breathes new dreams within our hearts and revives old dreams that have died. Using Moses' journey to live out the God-sized dream given to him, gifted author and speaker Tiffany Bluhm encourages women to say yes to all God has planted in our hearts. Our dreams, no matter how big or how small, push us to become women of courage, grace, and grit.

Be Bold: Finding Your Fierce

United Methodist pastor the Rev. Rachel Billups encourages anyone who's ever felt put down, unsure, underestimated, or overlooked, to find their power and potential to be bold. Using the biblical stories of Sarah, Mary and Timothy, mixed in with her own story, Billups teaches how being bold can bring you closer to God and God's plan for your life.

The Authenticity Challenge: 21 Days to a More Content Life

The fear of missing out (FOMO) isn't new, but social media can intensify it. We may yearn for the lives we assume others are living based on their posts. United Methodist pastor the Rev. Sarah Heath teaches what she learned from her own journey: that we can overcome FOMO by embracing authenticity in our vocation, relationships, and faith. Living authentically empowers us to move toward a more content life.

Here, Now, With You: Six Movements of Compassion for Life and Leadership

By sharing real-life experiences and relatable stories, United Methodist pastor the Rev. Gregg Louis Taylor encourages us to become more compassionate and connected to one another by experiencing God's movement of compassion in our own lives.

Dare to Hope: Living Intentionally in an Unstable World

In many ways, we live in an unstable world where marriages fail, bank accounts run low, friendships end, and the everyday demands of a fast-paced life get us down. Author and speaker Melissa Spoelstra shares God's message of hope, as seen in the biblical book of Jeremiah. Despite life's uncertainties, you can live with hope!



The gift of yourself

If you could only see how important you are to the lives of those you meet; how important you can be to the people you may never even dream of. There is something of yourself that you leave at every meeting with another person.

—Fred Rogers

Sonlight Scoop June 2019

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 K2, K3, and K4 programs.



Sonlight is getting ready for summer. With the temps finally warm enough, we are spending time out of doors. There is nature fun, walks around the church grounds, and a lot of playground time. The summer program will begin June 17th! Kangaroos will be in their own space downstairs!

Don't forget about our Red, White, and Blue parade on July 2nd at 10:30 AM.

The kids will be marching around the front circle in full patriotic fashions. Wear red, white, and blue, and bring a treat to share for the social on the playground right after the parade.



Teacher Appreciation

On Sunday, May 19, we recognized our 2018-19 Sunday School teachers. Without these important volunteers, the cornerstone of our Children's Ministry would not be possible. Please be sure to express your appreciation to Glen Van Fossen, who teaches our youth, and Gayle Meyer and Kari Slater, who teach our preschool and elementary children. These amazing people are your messengers, sharing the Word with our youngsters every week on behalf of the whole church. Please continue to support them through encouraging words and ongoing prayers. Thank you!

What's in your cup?

You are holding a cup of coffee when someone comes along and bumps into you, making you spill your coffee everywhere.

Why did you spill the coffee? "Well, because someone bumped into me, of course!"

Wrong answer – you spilled your coffee because there was coffee in your cup. Had there been tea in the cup, you would have spilled tea. Whatever is inside the cup is what will spill out.

Therefore, when life comes along and shakes you (which WILL happen), whatever is inside you will come out. It's easy to fake it, until you get rattled.

So, we ask ourselves, "What's inside my cup?" When life gets tough, what spills over? Joy, gratefulness, peace, and humility? Or, anger, bitterness, harsh words, and reactions. You choose!

Today, let's work towards filling our cups with gratitude, forgiveness, joy, words of affirmation, kindness, gentleness, and love for others!



Priorities

My father used to play with my brother and me in the yard. Mother would come out and say, "You're tearing up the grass."

"We're not raising grass," Dad would reply. "We're raising boys."

— Harmon Killebrew

Good morning ... Good afternoon Good evening ... Good night

by Ginger Ayres
Spire Editor, Retired

Good morning. I surely did not know where this adventure would take me when I naively said I would do *the Spire*. The dawning of my role as editor of *the Spire* was enough momentous that I was taken aback when an MUMC reader left a message on our answering machine to express appreciation for the "new" *Spire*. What?? The "new" *Spire* had all the same articles. I just made it look a little different with newspaper-like pages. Prior editions had been the best effort up to that time when all articles were submitted on paper, then cut and pasted (literally with scissors and tape), copied as single pages and stapled at the top corner. Then a chance visit from a communications specialist in the bishop's office, told Pastor Brad and me that the first thing readers should see is the events coming up at church, not the practice of having the pastor's message on the front page. Whew — did I have a lot to learn to be an editor! Since then, I've gone through three computers, twenty-three years, a dog-eared copy of "Practical Punctuation Guide," about 275 monthly issues (almost 4000 pages!), and about 200 cartoons. My apologies for not having space for a cartoon in every issue — special apologies to the one reader who will remain anonymous who tells me that he always looks for the cartoon first! I've woken at 2:00 AM with the "aha" moment of how to make something fit! When time was short and I spent long days to get an issue done, Herb even made dinner!

Good afternoon. When I typed the last word each month, *the Spire* was far from done. It only came to you by the efforts of the church administrative person who ran the office printer (and cursed it at times!). Next came the efforts of Shirley Campbell and a mailing crew who handled address labels, folding, counting, and packing for the post office. Kudos to the many who have served in this role. All those *Spire*s would be sitting in dust somewhere if not for the monthly work of the mailing crew! Thank you!

Good evening. At the end of the day, there may be praise for *the Spire*. But the bottom line is this — if *the Spire* has been successful it is not due to me. It is due to YOU. There is only a *Spire* because MUMC is an energetic, busy, involved, committed, vibrant church with lots of events and activities. *The Spire* has pages and pages of things that are happening as well as articles that enlighten and instruct. *The Spire* only exists because there are lots of things to fill the pages. MUMC folks, go forth and celebrate — you are alive!!!!

Good night. I am grateful that I have been able to contribute to the life of MUMC through this publication. In my effort to keep my ear to the ground and be aware of church activities, I probably know more than I need to know about this church! So it's time to leave! Ha! Expressing a typical comment — I look back and wonder where did all those years and all those issues go? And I wouldn't trade a moment. Good night everyone! It's been a hoot!



the Spire

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9:30 AM: Worship Service
10:30 AM: Fellowship for all

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Connecting the dots

Commencement speeches and greeting cards are full of advice for graduates, yet good intentions and careful plans can't guarantee a perfect life – whatever that might mean.

“You can't connect the dots looking forward,” said Steve Jobs. “You can only connect them looking backwards. So you have to trust that the dots will somehow connect in your future. You have to trust in something – your gut, destiny, life ...”

As Christians, we can do more than that: We can trust in God. Yes, he may speak to us through a “gut” feeling, and our eternal “destiny” is assured. And we know that life, not death, will win out. But recent grads – and all of us – need not just sit and wait to see how the dots of our lives will someday connect. God has shown us through Scripture, the church and, above all, Jesus that the dots connect this way: from God's heart, to Jesus' sacrifice for us, to our entry into relationship with God, to our heart and finally to our own loving outreach to others.

Whatever shape your education, work and family take through the years, “commence” with this: God has drawn your life to connect with him and your neighbors. If you follow those Spirit-etched lines, you'll be fine.

–Heidi Mann



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.

