

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

+

the Spire

May 2016



Bring FRIENDS ...

Bring NEIGHBORS ...

Bring KIDS ...

Bring some STRANGERS too ...

To these activities at MUMC

- ◆ “Living with Arthritis” program on May 11
- ◆ VBS and Critter Camp -- **REGISTER NOW** to attend and to help out
- ◆ Lunch and study at weekly Lunch Bunch
- ◆ Serving at the mealsite on May 26
- ◆ Food drive for Hunger Task Force

Gospel Mass
By Robert Ray



JOYFUL, TOE-TAPPING, HAND-CLAPPING, SPIRITED!

Sunday, May 22 at 9:30 AM

*Featuring Sanctuary Choir and soloists
Alesia Miller and Tony Neal from Holy Redeemer Church*



Invite your family and friends to come!

Pastor Tim's Message

As I write this I am looking out my window at the bare trees that line the parsonage lawn. As I look at them I know we are in a transition. Soon enough buds will form on the trees, the grass will get even greener, and the flowers will begin to bloom.

The month of May is a time of transitions beyond just those in nature. Many people begin to think about summer traveling and activities. Kids begin to think about summer vacation. Students begin to plan for their graduation from high school, college and graduate school.

Experts tell us there are eight major transitional events in life: getting married, getting divorced, having a baby, moving, finding/beginning a new job, retirement, being diagnosed with a major illness, and/or losing a loved one.

In my life, I have experienced five out of the eight of those categories. I can vividly remember the times of transition that have included going from being a survey research analyst to going back to school to be a full time pastor, getting married to Audra, adopting Alyssa, welcoming Connor and Madelyn into our lives, moving as a family to Mequon, and losing several close friends and relatives who passed away. Each of these transition was hard in their own way, filled with times of joy or pain, but each of these times was a growth opportunity.

So, what transitions are you facing in your life? Maybe it's dealing with an illness, getting ready for a marriage in your family, thinking about a career change, planning for your last child to leave home for college or wondering what to do after retirement. Whatever it may be, I would urge you to think about the lessons Jesus teaches us about how we transition in life.

In the Gospels is recorded a story of Jesus transitioning into his ministry by proclaiming to his neighbors, friends, and family that he is the fulfillment of history and scripture. None of them could accept Jesus in the role of messiah and so they angrily drove him out of town. What did Jesus do? Did he allow others to define him, to set his path, or to keep him from moving forward in his role? No, he kept his focus where it needed to be, on things above and on things that really matter. Jesus went on teaching, preaching, and curing the crowds that came to him.

The lesson is clear, in the midst of transition, change, and stress the only thing to do is to keep our focus, keep moving forward, and keep remembering that God is with us in all times and in all the places of our life. And so I say cherish the transitions of life because it is through them that we grow to find a deeper meaning and purpose on our journey through this amazing and incredible life.

In God's Love
Pastor Tim



ADULT SPIRITUAL FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES

Lunch Bunch

Bible Study – 11:00 AM

Lunch – 12:00 noon

Come join us for our new study as we look at the Letter of James. This letter written by Jesus' brother and an early leader of the church addresses the practical issues of how to live our faith in the world. Come for our study and lively discussion. After our study we have lunch together which includes homemade soup each week. Come as you are able — you are welcome anytime, every time.



Prayer Breakfasts:

Women's Prayer Breakfast —

Wednesday, June 1

Wednesday, July 6

Men's Prayer Breakfast —

Thursday, June 2

Thursday, July 7

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.



Living with Arthritis

Wednesday, May 11 at 7:00 PM

Arthritis is a disease that impacts more than 50 million Americans, making it the number one cause of disability in the country. You are invited to join Sue Baird Holmes, MS, RN, ONC; Clinical Nurse Specialist-Orthopedic/Surgical from Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare for an interactive discussion on arthritis. The presentation will include discussion on non-medication strategies to assist with managing arthritis pain as well as techniques to help protect your joints during work and activity.

Refreshments will be served and there is no charge to attend. Invite your friends and family to attend with you. This program is sponsored by the Parish Nurse Ministry Team.



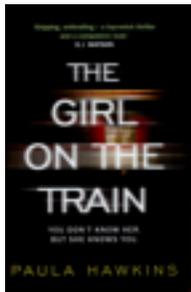
Reflection book group to dine out

Our annual Spring Dinner Out will be Thursday, May 12th at Twisted Willow in Port Washington. We'll meet at Bed Bath & Beyond at 6:00 PM to carpool. Please RSVP to Barb Henneck by Tuesday, May 10th at 238-0707 or bhenneck@wi.rr.com and indicate whether you plan to carpool with the group.

Our discussion book will be *The Girl on the Train*, by Paula Hawkins. Here's a brief description from [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) . . .

Every day the same

Rachel takes the same commuter train every morning and night. Every day she rattles down the track, flashes past a stretch of cozy suburban homes, and stops at the signal that allows her to daily watch the same couple breakfasting on their deck. She's even started to feel like she knows them. Jess and Jason, she calls them. Their life—as she sees it—is perfect. Not unlike the life she recently lost.



Until today

And then she sees something shocking. It's only a minute until the train moves on, but it's enough. Now everything's changed. Unable to keep it to herself, Rachel goes to the police. But is she really as unreliable as they say? Soon she is deeply entangled not only in the investigation but in the lives of everyone involved. Has she done more harm than good?

Reflections is a women's book discussion group that meets monthly September through May for discussion and fellowship. New women are always welcome! Contact Barb for more information about the group.

Sunday School Teacher Appreciation

May 22 — Worship Service

As our school year draws to a close, it is time once again to recognize the amazing individuals who give so much of themselves to the children of MUMC. We have an incredibly dedicated team of teachers, all of whom teach year after year. These caring teachers provide not only the content of their lessons, but a witness to their faith and what it



truly means to be a Christian — sharing the good news with young people week after week. We cannot begin to express adequate appreciation for their dedication.

The teachers will be recognized during the worship service on May 22, but please take a moment to thank them yourself when you see them. They are one of the most important pieces in the ministries of our church. Our heartfelt gratitude goes out to our preschool-elementary teachers Gayle Meyer, Kari Slater, and Linda Mordy, and to our middle and high school rock star Glen Van Fossen, and his helpers Audra O'Brien and Ben Gruettner. Thank you again, teachers, for your care for our children. We are honored to have you among us.

Mealsite — May 26

Volunteers needed!!!

Food items needed!!!

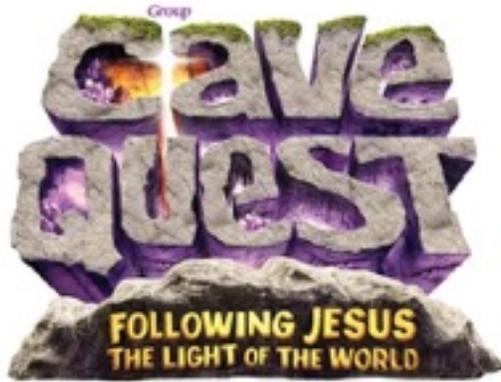
- ➔ Sign up to serve. We carpool from MUMC, leaving at 4:30 PM on mealsite day.
- ➔ Sign up to donate desserts or fresh fruit. Desserts can be brownies, bar cookies, cupcakes, cakes, etc. Fruit should be anything that can be held in the hand — bananas, apples, pears, clementines, etc. Your donated food 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.



Registration is now in progress . . . for VBS and Critter Camp!

→ Sign up your kids, your kids' friends, you neighbors' kids,
your grandchildren, your nieces and nephews!

→ Youth and Adults — sign up to help!



MUMC VBS 2016 July 11 - 15 9:00 AM - Noon

Join us as we become spelunkers and head underground to explore the rock-solid foundation of God's love, a love that takes us through life's dark times. Full of exciting adventures that your family won't want to miss, *Cave Quest: Following Jesus – The Light of the World* will take place Monday through Friday mornings, July 11-15, from 9:00 AM to noon. This program is designed for preschool through elementary aged children.

Registration is now in progress, so sign up today! You can pick up a form in the narthex, or download one from the church website. Please register now so we can start to order important supplies (like Bible Buddies) while they are still available from our publisher!

Youth: In order to begin to form our teams, we also need to know if any youth are planning to join us. We need middle and high school youth to lead our crews (great service hours, too)! Please register today.

Adults: we need you to lead our program stations – Bible Stories, Games and KidVid Missions. Or lead our preschool crew, help out in the kitchen or with our opening and close. There are all kinds of ways to be part of the fun, while doing the important work Jesus called us to do – witnessing our faith to his youngest disciples. Childcare will be available if you have children under three. Please see Peg soon and volunteer to lead one of our activities – there are easy to follow guidebooks and simple to find or create resources. You can do it – and our children need you! Please sign up today.



Critter Camp 2016 July 11 - 14, Noon - 3:30 PM

Elementary aged kids - your summer day at MUMC can be extended if you join us for explorations of the MarshMeadow this summer. We will meet Monday through Wednesday afternoons, and then go on an afternoon field trip to Riveredge before we close with an evening all-church meal/cookout on Thursday. Each day includes lunch for our campers and adventures in the woods.

Middle and high school students are invited to join us as helpers.

Adults are invited to join us as helpers as well - in the craft station, the woods, or the kitchen. Or plan to participate in the afternoon adult Bible Study, a "green" journey into scriptural connections in God's creation. The Bible Study will take place at Riveredge on Thursday afternoon, a wonderful opportunity to enjoy and explore the beauty of our earth. Critter Camp registration is limited, so sign up today!



Go Batty for VBS or become a Critter Camp Cohort



→ Sponsor a part of our summer programs!

Help us cover our Cave Quest VBS and Critter Camp Costs! You can enhance this community outreach effort by sponsoring a small part. A collection of bats, packs 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. Or you can just donate any amount you'd like to the 2016 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 bat, pack or woodland critter this week and help us make this summer's programs the best ever church experiences for all the children we can serve!

General Conference 2016

**May 10- May 20
Portland, Oregon**

This month our General Conference, an international body of 864 delegates that meets every four years, will be held for two weeks in Portland, Oregon. The delegates are elected by annual conferences from all around the world. General Conference is the only body that can set official policy and speak for our denomination. During this time together delegates discuss and vote on petitions and resolutions proposed by individuals, agencies, annual conferences, and other groups within our church. These actions result in the revision of the Book of Discipline, our denomination's book of law, the Book of Resolution, policies of the denomination on current social issues, and adopting a budget for the worldwide church for the next four years.



Pastor Tim invites you to keep all the delegates, including the six people who will be traveling to Portland to represent the Wisconsin annual conference, in your prayers as they do their important and faithful work.

2016 Wisconsin General Conference Delegates: Lisa King, Barbara Dick, Gail Burgess, Dan Dick, Sam Royappa, Steve Zekoff

Want to Learn More? Go Online!

- www.wisconsinumc.org/connections/general-ncj-conferences — this is the blog of Wisconsin's delegation to General Conference. 'Subscribe' now and you'll be notified of updates as they are posted
- www.umc.org/topics/general-conference-2016 — Official United Methodist Church General Conference 2016 Website

Music in worship — special music EVERY Sunday!!

- May 8 – Mother's Day – All Moms and Kids!
- May 15 – Pentecost – Alana Dust
- May 22 – GOSPEL MASS
- May 29 – Memorial Day weekend –
Rick and Michelle with Kerry Saver
- June 5 – Choir Appreciation Sunday – ALL CHOIRS



Hunger Task Force Food Drive and Food Sort

Circle the date of July 14, 2016 to come help sort food at the Hunger Task Force Warehouse, 201 S. Hawley Court, Milwaukee, WI 53214 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 noon.

We will begin the food drive on Sunday, June 5, 2016. Please place non-perishable food and personal items, such as toothpaste and shampoo, in the Hunger Task Force boxes located in the Narthex. All donations will be delivered to Hunger Task Force on our sort day. Part of the fun is sorting our own donations – so give lots! High protein foods such as peanut butter, canned meats, canned beans and stews are especially needed.



Everyone 12 years old and over is welcome to come. We will meet at the church at 8:30 AM to carpool to the warehouse. Be sure to wear closed toe shoes. No sandals are allowed.

Look for the sign-up sheet on the Mission Outreach Bulletin board. Community Methodist Church of Cedarburg will join us again this year.

Contact Marilyn Zwissler for more information; mzwissler@wi.rr.com.

Outdoor Summer Worship Services

The Saturday outdoor summer worship services will be returning in June and run through August (There may be one in September weather permitting). They will be held once a month at 6:00 PM. Watch for more information about specific dates. These services will be held around the fire ring behind the church and they will be very casual and prayerful through the music, readings, and devotions that we do together. Also, after we are done you can stick around to roast hot dogs, make a Smore, or enjoy the fellowship around the fire. Come as you are and worship with us.



CARE.plants.Hope -

A Big Success for Family Promise of Ozaukee County

Family Promise of Ozaukee County celebrated its first year with a Spring event, CARE.Plants.Hope on April 20th at the Columbia St. Mary's Center on the Ozaukee County Fairgrounds. Many *caring* hands have worked to *plant* the seeds of *hope* for families in need by providing overnight shelter and meals in 23 participating churches, and the support of a case worker to help them move out of homelessness.

The event was a wonderful success for this interfaith mission for homeless families in Ozaukee County. More than 200 people attended, many of whom are volunteers and supporters in the 23 host and support churches in the program. The event raised more than \$8,000, which will help to sustain the Day Center located in Port Washington and provide for the costs of transporting families to and from the churches. The funds also go toward the services of the case worker, who helps families locate housing, find work, stabilize their children in school, and manage their finances.

The evening opened with a welcome by Suzy Frazier, President of the Board of Directors. Kathleen Fisher, Executive Director, shared the story of the first family in the program and the successful outcome of their Family Promise experience. Wayne Larrivee shared his insights into homelessness, from his experiences working with people on the streets and those he knew in professional football who struggled out of this condition. The program concluded with a performance by One Drum, an eclectic world music ensemble which performs songs on aboriginal, ancient, modern & one-of-a-kind percussive, string & wind instruments.

The event committee is extremely grateful to MUMC for its contributions to the evening and its support of the program. Thank you to everyone who came and donated to this mission. A special thank you goes to MUMC members who gave of their time and talent to make sure the event was a success.

- Katie Jackson, who planned the decorations and helped set up the Columbia St. Mary's Center on the day of the event
- Glen Van Fossen, who joined the food preparation team at Crossroads Presbyterian Church
- Herb Ayres, who created a chainsaw mushroom sculpture for the silent auction
- Marilyn Zwissler who chaired the event committee
- Connie Pukaite who secured sponsorships for the event

Family Promise Update

(from Ross and Jean Paulus,
MUMC Family Promise
Volunteer coordinators)

Thanks to volunteer hosts from MUMC, Witness Community, and Beautiful Savior Lutheran, we have again fulfilled the mission of Family Promise Ozaukee County. In April, it was our privilege to serve a wonderful Hispanic

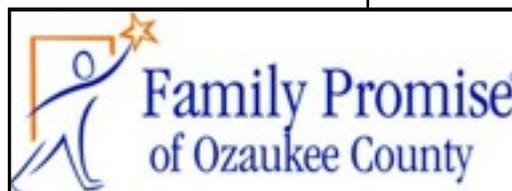
family – Georgina, her son Leonardo, and her mother Virginia. We were especially thankful for the Spanish speaking youths from MUMC that were with us for meals and Family Time on 4

evenings. Everything went as planned, and we also

were able to help celebrate Leo and Gina's birthdays. This family asked us to express their sincere thanks for our hospitality and love. We have found out that Gina went back to work on May 2nd, which will get them back into employment sponsored housing.

Our February guests, Kelly and Cameron moved into their own apartment on April 16th. They are still receiving some financial counseling and other such help from Family Promise.

Network update: The Case Manager at the Day Center has been receiving 2-3 calls per week. They generally are not situations that match our program, but Lana is able to provide contact to other Ozaukee County agencies for them.



HELP WANTED: MUMC Office Manager position



MUMC is seeking an Office Manager that can make a computer sing and dance, create bulletins, talk to the copier and answer phones with a friendly smile.

The office manager will be the front line of the church and must project pleasant and professional communication skills. This person will work approximately 16 hours per week (Monday-Thursday, 9:00 AM-1:00 PM)

managing the operation of the office and providing office support to the Pastor, staff and church teams. This includes creating bulletins, maintaining orderly and accessible church files, ordering and maintaining office supplies and equipment, handling various forms of communication for the church (phone, mail, email), updating website content and facilitating other online systems including online master calendar.

Qualifications:

- A strong and growing faith that will affirm the United Methodist Church, its theology and its practices
- Must be able to work independently and maintain a high level of confidentiality
- Strong organization and communication skills
- High degree of competence with computers, internet and software programs, including Microsoft Office software (Word, Excel, Publisher)
- Committed to a high level of accuracy in all work
- Able to greet and be the front line contacts for the church, providing a friendly and competent atmosphere

If you are interested in this position or know someone who might be please share the information or contact Pam Layton, 262-241-5418 or sprc@mequonumc.org.

Did You Know? Kiva at MUMC

Kiva is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded in 2005 whose mission is to connect people through lending to alleviate poverty. Its belief is that people have the power to create opportunity for themselves and others if given the chance. Kiva does this through “microfinance” – using the Internet to help funders make small (usually several hundred dollars to several thousand dollars) interest-free loans to individuals or groups who live in impoverished parts of the world and who don’t have access to traditional banks. The borrowers use the loans for a variety of projects (for example, stocking a small retail shop with goods they sell to neighbors or buying an animal for their farm). As they repay their loans, that money can then be re-lent to other borrowers. Kiva works with microfinance partners (called Field Partners) around the world to identify and administer loans. There are currently about 300 Field Partners in 81 countries. Over \$843 million has been lent through Kiva since its founding. For more information you can visit Kiva’s website at www.kiva.org.



Through our Outreach team, MUMC has had a Kiva account since 2007, supported by your donations. The church decides which individual or group to lend to and how much (we lend typically \$25 or \$50 per borrower, about 75% directed toward women). Since we started, you have contributed a total of \$708, which has so far turned into 112 loans worth \$5,375 in 40 countries! We currently have 20 loans outstanding and we’re getting ready to lend to some more borrowers. In the last two years, our Youth Group has participated in selecting individuals to receive our funds. Please look for profiles on some of the borrowers they chose below here and in future issues of *the Spire*.

Kiva is a great way to leverage a small donation into a big impact on improving people’s lives. If you would like to support this part of our church’s mission, you can simply put your loose change in the Kiva jar in the back of the sanctuary. The Outreach team and the Youth Group will be good stewards of your donations and we’ll keep you updated. Thank you!

Kiva profile — Kholishon, lives in Rudaki, Tajikistan

Kholishon is a 49-year-old married woman. Her husband works in the Russian Federation because he could not find suitable work in his country. He earns money and sends it home.

She decided to also earn a living from home, so that she would not have to wait for the money wires from her husband.

Kholishon tries hard to feed and clothe her children. Her loan goes toward starting a sewing business, including setting up her workshop in her home and buying a good sewing machine.

Missionary news

Gordon and Ardell Graner are missionaries with the General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church. They have served in Bolivia for 23 years and are presently serving in the Dominican Republic with the Dominican Evangelical Church.

MUMC annually supports Gordon Graner with funds raised at the annual MUMC Outreach Auction.

For more information and to follow the Graners activities in the Dominican Republic, go to www.granerfamily.org



Solar Oven Partners — 2nd VIM team to the Dominican Republic (January 2016 post to the Graner’s website)

We took a second step in our new ministry to teach solar oven cooking and distribute the ovens to persons in need, especially those who do not have enough resources for cooking fuel. The weather in December was not the best for solar cooking but we carried on in sunshine and in the shadow of clouds.

However, in San Rafael we had abundant sunshine and a large group of neighbors from the surrounding area. Rev. Carolina, the pastor of the San Rafael church had congregated a wonderful group of children, teens, adults, and seniors.



We had about eight ovens cooking chicken, beef stew, vegetable dishes, french bread, corn bread, and sweet cakes. We distributed as many ovens as we had assembled and due to demand had to make a few more, an encore performance for our oven makers. What a privilege to be a part of such a gathering of God’s people to witness God’s love shared in fellowship and a sun cooked banquet.

We are grateful to the Solar Oven Partners team from the Dakotas and also to our Dominican partners. All are serving with a faith based commitment, compassion, enthusiasm, and good humor. What a joy and what a gift to be a part of such a mission. Thank you all!

May Is National Arthritis Awareness Month

May is recognized each year as National Arthritis Awareness Month. Arthritis is a disease that impacts more than 50 million Americans, making it the number one cause of disability in the country. That means 1 in every 5 adults, 300,000 children and countless families are affected by arthritis.

- Arthritis and related conditions account for more than \$156 billion annually in lost wages and medical expenses.
- There are nearly 1 million hospitalizations each year due to arthritis.
- 57% of adults with heart disease have arthritis.
- 52% of adults with diabetes have arthritis.
- 44% of adults with high blood pressure have arthritis.
- 36% of adults who are obese have arthritis.
- 1/3 of adults with arthritis age 45 and older have either anxiety or depression.

Arthritis is inflammation of one or more of your joints. The main symptoms of arthritis are joint pain and stiffness, which typically worsen with age. The most common types of arthritis are osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis.

Osteoarthritis causes cartilage — the hard, slippery tissue that covers the ends of bones where they form a joint — to break down. Rheumatoid arthritis is an autoimmune disorder that first targets the lining of joints (synovium).

Uric acid crystals, infections or underlying disease, such as psoriasis or lupus, can cause other types of arthritis.

Treatments vary depending on the type of arthritis. The main goals of arthritis treatments are to reduce symptoms and improve quality of life.

The most common signs and symptoms of arthritis involve the joints. Depending on the type of arthritis you have, your signs and symptoms may include:

- Pain
- Stiffness
- Swelling
- Redness
- Decreased range of motion

Risk factors for arthritis include:

- **Family history.** Some types of arthritis run in families, so you may be more likely to develop arthritis if your parents or siblings have the disorder. Your genes can make you more susceptible to environmental factors that may trigger arthritis.
- **Age.** The risk of many types of arthritis — including osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis and gout — increases with age.
- **Your sex.** Women are more likely than are men to develop rheumatoid arthritis, while most of the people who have gout (another type of arthritis) are men.
- **Previous joint injury.** People who have injured a joint, perhaps while playing a sport, are more likely to eventually develop arthritis in that joint.
- **Obesity.** Carrying excess pounds puts stress on joints, particularly your knees, hips and spine. Obese people have a higher risk of developing arthritis.

Sources: Arthritis Foundation, Mayo Clinic

The Parish Nurse Ministry Team invites you to attend a presentation on “Living with Arthritis” given by Sue Baird Holmes, MS, RN, ONC; Clinical Nurse Specialist. The program will take place on Wednesday, May 11 from 7:00-8:00 PM in MUMC Fellowship Hall. Refreshments will be served. There is no charge to attend.



With sympathy

The MUMC congregation is saddened by the passing of Clarence Groth. Many memories of Clary remain at MUMC including stories of his VIM trips, his jokes, his homemade dandelion wine for men's prayer breakfast, and his many woodworking items around the church and in our homes. We pray for peace and comfort for Ruth, daughter and son-in-law Diane and Brian Richson, and grandchildren Brianne, Matthew, Ryan, and Christina.



With Deepest Sympathy

Strategic Giving – Have your cake and eat it too



Let's look at an investment: It has a high rate of return; that return is guaranteed for life; and at your passing the investment is left as a gift to the church.

The income you receive will be based on your age when you start the investment. If you are 70, you can look forward to a 5.1% income for the rest of your life. Fund the investment at 75, and the income is 5.8% as a life time guarantee. If you start at 80, you can look forward to 6.8% for the rest of your life.

If you would like to have that income cover two lives, this investment can do that too. The income will be a bit lower (two 80 year old folks would get 5.7%), but would be guaranteed for both lives. Compare these returns with the 1% return on a CD guaranteed for only a year. Even a 10 year CD will only guarantee a 2.25% income. This means you can earn a far higher guaranteed income on your investments using strategic giving.

And you benefit the church. After your passing (or the passing of the last to die) the remainder of your investment goes to the church. And because you have this charitable intent, you get a tax deduction.

So this strategic giving approach to giving allows you to earn a high income for the rest of your life on your investment, and then ultimately leave a nice gift to your church.

If you want to have your cake and eat it too, talk to Scott Reed or Glen Van Fossen about investing in a Charitable Gift Annuity.

Where is Ashley?

[Editorial note: Many at MUMC remember Ashley Barlow (now Ashley Prescott Barlow-Thompson) when she was a teenager here and then as we saw her head off to college. Her name came up at Lunch Bunch when we were discussing the route by which people become pastors. Ashley attended North Central College in Naperville, IL and Garrett Evangelical Seminary where she received a Masters of Divinity and a Masters of the Arts in Christian Education. I found Ashley in Kansas and asked if she would share an update for MUMC. Here is her response.]

My husband, Adam Barlow-Thompson, and I were married in seminary almost seven years ago. We are both clergy in the Great Plains annual conference serving in Wichita, Kansas. Four years ago we adopted our son, Prescott, and are so grateful to have him in our lives. Because I was adopted, I have always been passionate about adoption and we have been blessed beyond any understanding to have this high energy, sweet, smart little guy in our life.

I am currently serving at College Hill UMC in Wichita, Kansas as their Director of Children's Ministry. I spend most of my days reaching out to low income families and creating ministries like childcare and food programming to promote advocacy, literacy, and safe space for children. I was ordained three years ago and now also serve on the Board of Ordained Ministry. This year I was elected to be a General Conference Delegate so I will be voting in Portland this month.

My husband and I also recently started a nonprofit with another couple and made the move to live in a low income neighborhood known for drug use and prostitution. We felt God calling us to live with people who are different from us and see Christ in them while we work alongside the Holy Spirit to see how the Kingdom is coming into our part of the world. The nonprofit does two things: 1) uses community organizing to help our neighbors see their gifts and the goodness of our neighborhood as God sees them. 2) helps the Church (UMC) to see new ways of being the church in neighborhoods.

We are excited to announce that my husband will be appointed full time to our nonprofit this July! I am serving part time with the nonprofit as well. If you want to know more about what we are up to, you can find us here at www.socelife.org

I remember MUMC so fondly and am grateful for the ways you all planted the seeds of my faith and calling. I hope you are well and pray for you often!

Ashley Prescott Barlow-Thompson

*Ashley welcomes contact from folks at MUMC.
You can reach her by email at ashleypbt@gmail.com.*

Sonlight Scoop

May 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.

Every year Sonlight participates in Week of the Young Child, a national event that celebrates our youngest children. Each of our classes honors our children by having special activities and projects. Here are a few pictures from the week:



As Sonlight Center goes into the warmer months, the children will be spending a lot more time outside, taking advantage of MUMC's wonderful playground, and walking on the chipped paths as they discover anew God's creativity in the Marsh Meadow.

HAPPY SPRING!
Kathy and Sue



Thoughts and chuckles in honor of Mother's Day



- ◆ "If at first you don't succeed, do it like your mother told you."
— author unknown
- ◆ "A child needs your love most when he deserves it least."
— Erma Bombeck
- ◆ "[A mother] never quite leaves her children at home, even when she doesn't take them along."
— Margaret Culkin Banning

Being thankful

A pastor said to a precocious six-year-old boy, "So your mother says your prayers for you each night? That's very commendable. What does she say?"

The little boy replied, "Thank God he's in bed!"

Say a prayer

Little Johnny and his family were having Sunday dinner at his Grandmother's house. Everyone was seated around the table as the food was being served. When Little Johnny received his plate, he started eating right away.

"Johnny! Please wait until we say our prayer," said his mother.

"I don't need to," the boy replied.

"Of course, you do," his mother insisted. "We always say a prayer before eating at our house."

"That's at our house." Johnny explained. "But this is Grandma's house and she knows how to cook."

Mother and child



"I love you,"
said a great mother.
"I love you for what you are,
knowing so well what you are.
And I love you more yet, child,
deeper yet than ever, child,
for what you are going to be,
knowing so well you are going far,
knowing your great works are ahead,
ahead and beyond,
yonder and far over yet."

—Carl Sandburg



the Spire

is published monthly by

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

262-242-4770

www.mequonumc.org

Editor: Ginger Ayres
Assistants:

Shirley Campbell, Sandy Christensen,
Chris Debbink, Mavis Luther,
Jeff Luther, Ann Miller,
Eleanor Moe, Herb Ayres

Deadline for copy: the 25th
of the month prior to publication.
Editor reserves the right to
edit for content and space.

Church Staff

Pastor: Tim O'Brien
<pastor.mumc@gmail.com>
Office Manager:
Bookkeeper: Karen Huffman
<finanance@mequonumc.org>
262-238-1799
Ministers of Music:
Rick & Michelle Hynson
<michellehynson@gmail.com>
Organist: Elna Hickson
Director of Children's Ministries:
Peg Randall Gardner
<mumckidstuff@gmail.com>
Youth Director: Ben Gruettner
<bigritty@wi.rr.com>
Youth Choirs Director: Ellen Shuler
Sonlight CDC Director: Sue Lyon
Webmaster: Marcia Schwager
MUMC office fax: 262-242-9539
MUMC office email:
<office@mequonumc.org>
Office hours:
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

PRESORT
STANDARD
NON-PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE PAID
THIENSVILLE, WI
53092
PERMIT NO. 8042

DATED MATERIAL

May
2016

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

A memory for Memorial Day

There is a cemetery in Okinawa where many American military men are buried. Near the entrance to the burial ground, visitors find a thought-provoking statement that we might recall on Memorial Day. The sign reads: "We gave our todays in order that you might have your tomorrows."

—Albert L. Zobell in Speaker's Handbook

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.

Memorial Day

Is it enough to think today
Of all our brave, then put away
The thought until a year has sped?
Is this full honor for our dead?

Is it enough to sing a song
And deck a grave; and all year long
Forget the brave who died that we
Might keep our great land proud and free?

Full service needs a greater toll,
That we who live give heart and soul
To keep the land they died to save,
And be ourselves, in turn, the brave!

—Annette Wynne

