



# The Spire

The Newsletter of the Mequon United Methodist Church  
January 2026

*Connecting people to Jesus Christ and to one another.*

## Sunday Worship 9:30 am

### Sermon Themes

**Jan 4:** Where is the king? *Matthew 1:1-16*

**Jan 11:** "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased," *Matthew 3:13-17*

**Jan 18:** "It is written," *Matthew 4:1-13*

**Jan 25:** A race to compete with horses, *Jeremiah 12:1-5*

### Musical Gifts

**Jan 4:** JP Horcasitas

**Jan 11:** JP Horcasitas

In January we will welcome Amelia to our MUMC family. For more information, see below.



### Calendar Highlights

- Jan 3** - De-Decorating our Church -- 10:00 am
- Jan 5** - Confirmation Class -- 6:30 pm
- Jan 6** - Lunch Bunch -- 11:00 am -- New Study Starts!
- Jan 7** - Women's Prayer Meeting -- 7:30 am
- Jan 8** - Men's Prayer Breakfast -- 7:00 am
- Jan 8** - Group Bible Study (Zoom) -- 7:00 pm
- Jan 11** - Blood Pressure Monitoring -- 10:45 am
- Jan 11** - Confirmation Class -- 10:45 am
- Jan 13** - Lunch Bunch -- 11:00 am
- Jan 13** - Family Sharing Food Sort -- 1:30 pm
- Jan 14** - Reflections Book Club -- 6:00 pm
- Jan 15** - Group Bible Study (Zoom) -- 7:00 pm
- Jan 18** - Surprise Youth Activity -- 2:00 pm
- Jan 20** - Lunch Bunch -- 11:00 am
- Jan 22** - Group Bible Study (Zoom) -- 7:00 pm
- Jan 27** - Lunch Bunch -- 11:00 am
- Jan 27** - Fiber Arts Club -- 6:00 pm
- Jan 29** - Group Bible Study (Zoom) -- 7:00 pm
- Feb 1** - Chili Cook Off -- 11:00 am
- Feb 3** - Lunch Bunch -- 11:00 am
- Feb 4** - Women's Prayer Meeting -- 7:30 am
- Feb 5** - Men's Prayer Breakfast -- 7:00 am

## Remember!

Can't make it in person? MUMC Services are livestreamed on the [MUMC YouTube channel](#) at 9:30 am every Sunday - we'd love to see you there!

You can also watch any of our services at any time on our YouTube channel.

## MUMC Community Connections

To be the bridge to community connection and collaboration ...

### Family Promise Meal Help

January 19-23

MUMC's next commitment to provide evening meals for homeless families at the Family Promise Portlight Shelter will be **Monday, January 19 to Friday, January 23**. Volunteers

are needed to cook an entre or a vegetable side-dish or bake a dessert for up to 20 individuals. In recent weeks, half of those in shelter have been children.



Other volunteer options are to prepare all the parts of a meal, donate the cost of ingredients for a meal, or be the driver to deliver one of the meals that week ... the shelter is only 15 minutes from the church.

Our MUMC "Family Promise" is to provide evening meals for a week at a time, every 8 or 10 weeks. We do this so families facing the crisis of homelessness will have one less thing to worry about while they work to overcome the issues that resulted in having no home to go to. Can you help keep the Promise?

If you can help, contact either Pam Layton or [Connie Pukaite](#) at 262-242-2778.

### Mission Outreach Auction and Dinner

February 28, 5-8pm

Our 41st Mission Outreach dinner and auction on February 28, 2026 is honoring Repairers of the Breach for their work with the homeless and at risk adults in Milwaukee. Our guest of honor is Pastor James West, Executive Director. This organization is the only Milwaukee shelter that is open during the day. They provide meals, a medical clinic, an art therapy space, showers and clean clothing, employment assistance, computers, Bible study and prayer groups, and a "living room" where people can relax and rest.



Their mission is to "Combat homelessness by providing life-saving, life-sustaining, and life-restoring programs."

Come join us at Remington's River Inn on February 28, 2026, from 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM to meet Pastor West and find out more about Repairers of the Breach. Invites will be in your mailbox soon!

## Lenten Collection: Repairers of the Breach



Where do you go if you are homeless? Where do you receive the help you need to become self-sufficient? In Milwaukee when the overnight shelters close, you are welcome at Repairers of the Breach. There you will be provided with nutritious meals, a shower and clean clothes, medical assistance in their clinic, resume and job search assistance, and the confidence to succeed.

Mission Outreach is honoring this organization at our dinner/auction in February. And we are supporting them with our collection/donation mission during Lent. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18 and we will have bins ready for your donations on Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>. We are collecting new underwear for men and women, personal hygiene items, and clean/new clothing for interviews. Large sizes are especially needed.

Watch for updates on Facebook, Instagram and the Mission Outreach webpage.



## Family Sharing Food Pantry

Volunteer for Food Sorting!

**January 13**

1:30 - 3:30 pm

Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex!

## Connecting with Jesus Christ and One Another

Come ~ Connect ~ Grow Community

### Reflections Book Club

*Wednesday, January 14, 6:00 pm*

The Reflections book group will start 2026 with a meeting at Wild & Precious Collective (W62N542 Washington Ave, Cedarburg) on Wednesday, January 14. We begin at 6 pm. Our discussion book will be *The Correspondent*, by Virginia

### The Finance Team thanks YOU

The Finance Team here at MUMC would like to thank the congregation for their financial generosity throughout 025. Our "Generosity" (Stewardship) Campaign for 2026 has been a great success thanks to all of you.

Evans. Reflections is a women's book group that meets monthly for fellowship and discussion. New women are always welcome. Contact [Barb Henneck](#) to RSVP for the January meeting or to learn more about the group.

*Looking ahead . . .* our February discussion book will be *What We Wished for: An Adoption Story*, by Lisa Crawford Watson. The author will join us remotely for the discussion.



May God Bless you all in the New Year.

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### **Fiber Arts Ministry!**

*Tuesday, January 27, 6:00 pm*

Bring your most recent WIP and join us! We will have snacks and good company! If there are any suggestions for our Fiber Arts, let [Jenna](#) know. All levels of crafters are welcome!

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### **Chili Cook Off**

*Sunday, February 1, 11:00am*

The 2nd Annual Chili Cook Off is coming up! Join us after church on Sunday, February 1st to crown our next best Chili Chef! If you would like to make a chili, please let [Jenna or Patrick know](#). If you don't want to make chili, we need tasters! Everyone can participate in voting. All proceeds will go towards the Youth Mission Trip this summer.

## **New Year Bible Study**

### **FIVE THINGS GOD USES TO GROW YOUR FAITH**

In accordance with our mission to connect people to Jesus Christ and each other, please prayerfully consider joining our lunch bunch bible studies. We meet once a week on Tuesday at 11:00am, followed by an hour of a light lunch and fellowship.

This study will be a 6 week DVD study led by Andy Stanley. He is considered one of the most influential pastors in America. This study will begin on January 6th and end on February 10th.

The break in the relationship between God and man began when Adam and Eve refused to trust God. Our faith in Jesus Christ as our savior is based on trust. In this study Andy Stanley explores the ways we can strengthen our faith through our relationship with God.

During these sessions you will watch the video component each week in preparation or as part of the discussion and explore and share what you are learning with other people in a conversational environment.

Sessions include:

- Practical biblical teaching - reading the bible, group bible studies.
- Relationships - with people of faith.
- Private disciplines.
- Personal ministry - serving others.
- Pivotal circumstances - good or bad, such as marriage, birth of a child, illness, death of a loved one, loss of a job.

If you would like to join the class via Zoom, please reach out to [Pastor Sue](#). If you have any questions regarding lunch bunch, please feel free to contact [Jean Paulus](#).

### Meet Our New Member: Dixie Lowin

Next time you see her, please take a moment to welcome our new member. Here is an introductory message from her.

My religious journey has taken me down many paths. I have been a member of Lutheran, Baptist, Methodist and Unitarian churches.

In recent years I've watched Sunday services on TV, but always felt something was missing. I came to realize I was missing the feeling of fellowship and being part of the church community.

As I've listened to Pastor Sue's messages and enjoyed the warm reception I receive each week from church members, I know I've made the right decision to join Mequon United Methodist Church and I look forward to meeting and getting to know members of the congregation.

I love to travel. My husband and I visited most of the continental United States and Hawaii, spent three months traveling around Europe, seven weeks in Africa and a trip to Egypt and Israel. My interests also include photography, F1 racing, camping, music, reading and taking long walks. I have two children and am very fortunate that they both live in the area.



### Meet Our New Music Director: Amelia Spierer

SPRC is thrilled to announce that Amelia Spierer has accepted the position of Music Director. She will be starting on January 12.

Amelia has extensive experience with vocal music programs including; Wisconsin Conservatory of Music, Cardinal Stritch, Basilica of St. Josaphat, and Cathedral of St. John. She is also pursuing a degree in Music Therapy at Alverno College. Her education



also includes Master's of Music in Vocal Performance, Rutgers University, and Bachelor of Arts in Vocal Performance, University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Please welcome Amelia to our church family!

## Youth Yodel

Any high school aged youth are welcome to attend feel free to bring a friend. We know there are some middle schoolers that might like to join, and they are definitely free to come to activities throughout the year, they just might not be able to come on the mission trip in the summer. Reach out to [Patrick and Jenna](#) if you have any questions!

Sunday 1/18, 2:00pm - Surprise Activity

Sunday 2/1, 11:00am - Chili Cook Off (Youth to sell tickets)

Sunday 2/22, TBD - If youth are interested

We are registered for another mission trip! The youth group will be going to Winchester, Kentucky July 4-11, 2026. If you know a youth that might be interested, click this [link for our FAQ](#) and share it with them.

## January Stewardship Letter

### **More Than a Resolution: Practicing Faithful Stewardship for the Long Haul**

Every January, many of us start the year with good intentions. We resolve to spend less, save more, pay down debt, or finally feel less anxious about money. Some of those resolutions stick for a while. Many don't. And it's not because we lack discipline or desire.

The truth is that healthy financial stewardship is rarely achieved through willpower alone.

Getting out of debt, learning to save, practicing contentment, growing in generosity, and cultivating gratitude are not quick fixes. They are habits – formed slowly, intentionally, and often imperfectly over time. Like prayer, worship, and service, faithful stewardship is a spiritual practice that shapes us as disciples.

Scripture reminds us that transformation is ongoing work. Paul writes “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds” (Romans 12:2). That kind of renewal does not happen because the calendar flips from December to January. It happens when we acknowledge that our relationship with money, possessions, and generosity is deeply spiritual – and that God's work in us unfolds over a lifetime.

For some, this might mean seeking help to escape cycles of debt. For others it may mean learning to live with enough, resisting the pressure to accumulate more. For

others, it might be discovering the joy of generosity – not just financial giving, but generosity of time, skills, hospitality, and compassion.

As individuals and as churches, the invitation at the start of a new year is not simply to make resolutions, but to recommit ourselves to practices that help us grow in trust, gratitude, and faithfulness. Stewardship is not about perfections. It's about progress – taken one faithful step at a time.

## Charge Conference Recap

At this year's annual Charge Conference on December 9, we celebrated this year's ministries as we also look forward to 2026. There were many highlights that we should celebrate, and I will mention just a few. I encourage all to read the 2025 annual Church Conference booklet available in the office and narthex, which includes reports on our Children's, Music, Christian Education, Parish Nurses, Outreach and Garden ministries, among other details. Importantly, there is a list of ministry teams that includes names of volunteers, without whom our positive impact on our church family and surrounding community would not be possible.

Also, it's true that virtually every MUMC member is involved at some level. We celebrate you! You create our community and make the difference. While we celebrate, we should take a step back and be aware of all the activities we do and the efforts needed to make these successful. We do a lot. We are not a large church, so it is also important to make sure we don't do too much. We must always focus our ministries on our Mission, which is "connecting people to Jesus Christ and to one another," to achieve our Vision, which is "to be THE bridge to community connection, collaboration and common ground through Jesus Christ." I hope you will see those elements in all of our ministries.

[Please Click Here for the rest of Joel's report.](#)

## From Pastor Sue

### Connecting with Jesus Christ and One Another

In the short book of Philippians, the apostle Paul says the word rejoice six times. Consequently, Philippians is called the "book of joy." We may assume the book was written when everything was going well for Paul. But surprisingly, Paul wrote the letter to the Philippians while he was in jail.

The Jewish leaders arrested Paul because he preached the gospel of Jesus Christ and His resurrection. As a result, he was sent to Rome and imprisoned for two years, awaiting the outcome of his appeal to the notorious emperor, Nero. During his imprisonment, he wrote the letter to the Philippians, filled with joy despite the circumstances. And he also encouraged his fellow Christians to be joyful always. In his letter, he said, Rejoice, I will say again rejoice. So, we inevitably ask: What was his secret? How could he be joyful in the midst of so many difficulties and hardships?

Paul's joy was only possible because he put his hope and trust in God. And he knew that God works for the good of those who love Him in His ways in the midst of whatever had happened, was happening, and would happen to Paul. So, friends,

whatever happens in 2026, may we put our hope and trust in the Lord so that we may renew our strength and joy in and through the Lord, Jesus Christ.

*<sup>30</sup> Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; <sup>31</sup> but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.  
(Isaiah 40:30 – 31 NIV)*

In Christ,  
Sue

## Our Vision:

To be THE bridge to community connection, collaboration,  
and common ground through Jesus Christ

How can YOU help MUMC achieve our vision?

Like, follow and repost MUMC Social Media -



Forward this newsletter to:

- a friend or neighbor looking for community and connection
- a family whose children would love our awesome Children's Ministries
- a community member looking for service opportunities
- anyone who loves Jesus!

You do not have to be a MUMC member to subscribe to the Spire. Click the link below to subscribe!

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Deadline for SPIRE copy: the 25th of the month. Send articles to [news@mequonumc.org](mailto:news@mequonumc.org) to be included in the monthly SPIRE or the weekly Sunday bulletins.

The editors reserve the right to edit content. Hence, the "editor" title.

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Office Hours: Mon-Thurs 9am-1pm / Closed Fridays

Sunday Schedule:

9:30am Worship Service

10:30am Fellowship

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