

SPIRE Newsletter



October 2022

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CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

Oct: Pastor Appreciation Month

Oct. 1: 9 am, Marsh Meadow clean-up

Oct. 2: 9:30 am, World Communion Sunday

Oct. 3-7: Family Promise host week

Oct. 4: 11 am, Lunch Bunch, study of Moses with Adam Hamilton

Oct. 5: 7:30 am, women's prayer meeting, Parlor

Oct. 6: 7 am, men's prayer breakfast, Parlor

Oct. 7: 6 pm, Kids' Night Out, Fellowship Hall, dinner and the movie *Game Changer*

Oct. 9: 9:30 am, Commitment (pledge) Sunday; Bread Sunday

Oct. 9: 3 pm, Blessing of the Pets, outside front of church

Oct. 11, 18, and 25: 11 am, group study, Stewardship of God's Creation; MUMC

Oct. 12: 6 pm, TCI dinner; 7 pm, TCI progress report with John Holm

Oct. 13: 7 pm, Reflections Book Group, Parlor

Oct. 13, 20, and 27: 7 pm, group study, Stewardship of God's Creation; via Zoom

Oct. 22: 9 am, Marsh Meadow clean-up

Transforming Church Insight Update

October 2022

MUMC has now completed its first year in the "Transforming Church: A Visioning Roadmap" program, a three-year journey of discovery, visioning, and coaching that will help us to design a custom roadmap to guide us into the next phase of a vibrant ministry. It has been a deeply intensive process that was difficult at times, yet very rewarding. As expected, there was a range of thoughts and ideas, but also much in common. We want to share with you what we have found as well as the next phase.

We thought an excellent next step is for you to meet John Holm, our consultant throughout this journey, in person for the "congregational debrief" that we promised to you earlier. **John has agreed to come to MUMC on October 12 to discuss the Transforming Church process, give you an update on what we have done so far, and most importantly to give all an opportunity to ask questions.** Here are the basics:

Wednesday, October 12 at 6 pm (dinner in Fellowship Hall, followed by John's presentation in the Sanctuary at 7 pm). The

WORSHIP SERMON SPOTLIGHT

Oct. 2: 2 Corinthians 9:6-15,
Stewardship for God's Financial
Blessing

Oct. 9: Matthew 22:34-40 and
28:16-20, Connecting People to
Jesus Christ and to One
Another

Oct. 16: Children's Sabbath

Oct. 23: Colossians 1:15-23, Why
Jesus?

Oct. 30: Ephesians 5:21,
Relationship with our loved ones I

WORSHIP MUSIC

Oct. 2: Allison Tinsley-Fuller and
Elna Hickson

Oct. 9: Praise Ensemble

presentation will also be
livestreamed for those of you
who cannot make it in person.

**We would love to see you there!
This will be a great opportunity
to share a meal, celebrate
together what we have done, and
look forward.**

To summarize where we are, Year
One was dedicated to Discovery
and Visioning. Our Discovery
process was all about
understanding who we are as a
congregation and what matters
most to us, which is critical to
preserving our essence and our
identity (i.e., our "Core"). We heard

your voices through surveys, focus groups, and listening sessions. You told us about your most meaningful memories, your positive stories, and the unsung "heroes" in our congregation. We also learned more about our local community through demographic studies provided by John Holm and by conducting external focus groups with local organizations. Our goal was to lean heavily on your input to narrow the themes to four "Core Values." Doing so will help us to preserve what is most important to us going forward. Here are the four **Core Values** of MUMC we developed:

Sharing God's grace through:

- **A warm, welcoming, and inclusive environment**
- **Authentic relationships**
- **A nurturing approach to spiritual growth**
- **Impactful service and stewardship**



Based on our Core Values, we also developed a new Mission Statement, which explains why we exist, our beneficiary, and our objective. Ideally, the Mission Statement should be brief. The listening sessions held over the summer were so helpful in this process. After much discussion and prayer, we decided the following **Mission Statement** best captures all of those great ideas:

"Connecting people to Jesus Christ and to one another"

Year One has also been about Visioning. Our Vision is our intended result. The Transforming Church leadership team, comprised of members of the congregation, Administrative Council, and staff, just completed our second retreat in September. We incorporated our Core Values, our Mission, and our Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (a "SWOT" analysis) into a visioning exercise that asked these questions:

- What would we like to be most different about our church in ten years?
- What, specifically and collectively, are we most passionate about as a church?

- What is the greatest need in our community?
- What would you like to be most different about our local community in ten years?
- What can we do potentially better than anyone else in the community?

Our task was to state a bold Vision for MUMC that reflects our Core Values, our Mission, and our “SWOT” analysis. Or as John Holm put it, a “BHAG” (from the book “Built to Last,” a Big Hairy Audacious Goal) that requires God’s help. Here is our **Vision**:

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

As we finished the September retreat, we began to pivot toward how we intend to use this work to define our strategic priorities going forward. Strategy is the process of focusing our resources to fulfill our Mission, in alignment with our Core Values, and in light of our ever-changing context (the community and society around us). The process will ultimately help us to develop strategies that: 1) Align with a Core Value; 2) Connect with a Target Audience; 3) Address a Strength, Weakness, Opportunity, or Threat; and 4) Propel the Mission Forward. We have begun this process and have identified four **Strategic Priorities**:

- **Build a culture and identity around our core values and mission (given to all cohort churches)**
- **Create a community gathering place to meet the emotional, physical, and spiritual needs of people in our region (leveraging our Facilities, a strength)**
- **Create an engaging environment that fosters a passionate desire in our congregation to serve God (building on Outreach as a strength)**
- **Engage members and the community with a strong digital connection (addressing a weakness)**

As we have emphasized before, this is a journey for all of us together. We need and want all of you to be a part of this effort. Years Two and Three of the three-year process is the implementation phase as we refine and implement our roadmap, so there is much more to come.

We thank each of you so much for participating in this transformative process and for being part of the MUMC community. May God bless us all and give us wisdom.

The Transforming Church Leadership Team
Mequon United Methodist Church

From the Pastor

In reflecting on Jesus’ parable of the Good Samaritan, Martin Luther King, Jr. said something about doing justice as the people of God in this broken world. He said, On the one hand we are called to play Good Samaritan on life’s roadside; but that will be only an initial act. One day we must come to see that the whole Jericho road must be transformed so that men and women will not be constantly beaten and robbed as they make their journey on life’s highway. True compassion is more than flinging a coin to a beggar; it is not haphazard and superficial. It comes to see that an edifice which produces beggars needs restructuring. (“Beyond Vietnam: A Time to Break Silence”)

Regarding climate change, justice (true compassion according to Martin Luther King, Jr.) calls us to ask why climate is changing and why there are so many more weather disasters than ever before all over the planet. It also challenges us to see that our lifestyle which produces climate change needs be changed.

Our all-church growth group study this fall, Saving Us, is our response to that call. Together we will learn what has gone wrong with “the whole Jericho road” and discuss and share what we can do to become better stewards for God’s creation and His gift to us, the planet, our home on this side of eternity.

Week One (Oct. 11 and 13): Fact vs. Opinions

Week Two (Oct. 18 and 20): Christians’ Stewardship for God’s Creation

Week Three (Oct. 25 and 27): What can and should we do?

Let’s gather together and find ways to be better stewards for God’s creation.

Sue Lee

MUMC's 2023 Stewardship Campaign

In last month’s Spire we wrote about the Apostle Paul encouraging churches to give generously, consistently, and joyfully. Another way to describe those traits is “Wholehearted Giving.”

“Giving Wholeheartedly” means committing ourselves entirely to the mission and ministry exemplified by the life of Jesus Christ. This means that every bit of time, every bit of talent, and every bit of treasure, even that which we spend on ourselves and our families, is for God’s purpose.

“Giving Wholeheartedly” means that when our hearts are open, our arms are open as well. When we are practicing discipleship, we are sharing the love and grace with our neighbors near and far. We live out our love by reaching out to those in need.

Finally, “Giving Wholeheartedly” means a willingness to give to the church so whatever ministry unfolds, it is funded. Giving wholeheartedly provides opportunities for MUMC to be ready, willing, and available to serve in whatever manner Christ calls us to serve.

You should have received (or will shortly) a Stewardship Packet in the mail which includes a letter, a narrative budget, and a commitment card. Instructions with the ways you can get your pledge into the church by Commitment Sunday, October 9, are included as well.

Please prayerfully consider giving your best gift, so MUMC can continue “to be THE bridge to community connection, collaboration, and common ground through Jesus Christ.” Thank you for your commitment to our church.

MUMC Finance Committee

Growth Group Study Coming in October
"Stewardship for God's Creation"

"People are seeing the impact of climate change around them in extraordinary patterns of floods and droughts, wildfires, heatwaves and powerful storms" says John Holdren, Director of Woodwell Climate Research Center. Yet, opinions on climate change still run the gamut from "the planet is on fire" to "there is no such thing as climate change." Mequon United Methodist Church (MUMC) will host a 3-week discussion series based on science and faith in October 2022. The series is open to all people who are interested in exploring the impact of current atmospheric conditions and what the impact means for our lives now as well as for the future of our children's children.

In the Great Lakes Midwest region, huge increases in precipitation have already been recorded. How are those increases impacting our cities and rural areas now? People of faith respond to the needs of people whenever bad things happen and need is evident. Is there anything people of faith can or should do to offset conditions that cause bad things to happen? Our discussion will begin with what we can all agree on – how climate change is affecting us – and generate positive viable solutions.

This study and discussion will be based on research by Dr. Katharine Hayhoe, an atmospheric climate scientist who believes in God, and her latest book *Saving Us: A Climate Scientist's Case for Hope and Healing in a Divided World*. She is a remarkable communicator who was named as one of Time Magazine's 100 Most Influential People, Foreign Policy's 100 Leading Thinkers, and Fortune Magazine's World's Greatest Leaders, and in 2019 was awarded the United Nations Champions of the Earth in Science and Innovation. She received a Bachelor of Science in Physics from the University of Toronto and a Master of Science and Ph.D. in Atmospheric Science from the University of Illinois.

The series will be offered at two different times each week. The in-person sessions will be at MUMC on Tuesdays from 11 am to 12 noon, on October 11, October 18, and October 25. The Zoom sessions will be offered on Thursdays from 7 to 8 pm, on October 13, October 20, and October 27. Please join us for this learning experience and guided discussion.

Sign-up sheets will be posted in the narthex, or you may call the church office to register, 262-242-4770. Please provide your email address so that we can send you preliminary information regarding the discussion series. If you do not have email let a member of the Education Committee know so that we can get you the information. If you intend to participate via Zoom, Pastor Sue will send you an email invitation.

Announcements

Time to get rid of that buckthorn! Marsh Meadow Clean-Up Saturdays, October 1 and October 22, 9 am to 12 noon. Bring work gloves and a pair of pruners or loppers. Water and snacks will be provided. Questions? Contact Linda Mordy at lmordy@sbcglobal.net.

World Communion Sunday is October 2. Please join us in celebrating this Special Sunday. We look forward to this celebration each year when we participate in holy communion together and share our gifts to support racial-ethnic students and trainees in their quest to become leaders who embody the mission of The United Methodist Church. Your gifts provide scholarships for ethnic students and

trainees from the US and around the world. An offering envelope for World Communion Sunday is inserted in the bulletin. Please give generously! Thank you.

Family Promise Host Week Coming Up Soon! Please mark your calendars for our next Family Promise Host Week, Monday through Friday, October 3 – 7. Evening meals are to be delivered by 5 pm.

You don't need to cook a whole meal. We're happy to coordinate with volunteers who are willing to contribute a portion of a meal—the entree, a salad or side dish, bread or rolls, fruit or dessert. Contact Pam Layton at p.layton90@gmail.com or Connie Pukaite at pukaite@sbcglobal.net if you can help.

Lunch Bunch Has Resumed! Lunch Bunch has resumed its weekly meeting and will meet each Tuesday at 11 am. As always, a soup lunch will follow. The new Lunch Bunch study is *Moses: In the Footsteps of the Reluctant Prophet* by Adam Hamilton. The book is available on Amazon. Lunch bunch is open to all! Join us!

Children's Ministry invites all to the showing of the Christian-based film *Game Changer* on Friday, October 7 at 6 pm, during our Kids' Night Out. *Game Changer* is a hilarious, wholesome, inspiring mainstream comedy that is fun for the whole family, showcasing a strong, positive, and inspiring story that proves faith, hope, love, and forgiveness are real. Please RSVP to childrensmin@mequonumc.org.

Mark your calendar for October 12 at 6 pm for dinner in the Fellowship Hall followed at 7 pm for a TCI Progress Report in the Sanctuary. Join us as John Holm provides an update on MUMC's progress in the TCI program. The entire congregation is welcome to this important meeting!

Meet Our Minister of Music

Dear Mequon UMC,

Peace of Christ be with you all! My name is Allison Tinsley-Fuller, and I have recently been selected as your new Music Minister. I am thrilled and extremely grateful for this opportunity! During the short time I've spent with you thus far, I have already enjoyed a welcoming atmosphere full of open, accepting people whom I cannot wait to get to know.



A bit about me: Originally from Houston, I have spent the last 8 years at Baylor University in Waco, Texas, at which I received my Bachelor's degree in Church Music as well as two Master's degrees in both Music and Divinity. I have felt a call to music ministry from a young age, never missing an opportunity to sing in a choir or play an instrument in school or church. I believe that music speaks to people in a way nothing else can, drawing us closer to our Creator in a creative way. I served in many different churches in the Waco area working to strengthen my leadership skills. During graduate school I met my husband, Matthew, who came from Kansas to work towards hospital chaplaincy and now works at Ascension Columbia St. Mary's in the women's hospital. We are both huge nature and animal lovers, enjoying hikes with our dog, time with our four snakes, and strolls through pet stores or landscaping nurseries.

We are excited for the adventure of a new city, and we give thanks to God that we have found work for me AND a new church home so quickly. I so look forward to

observing, utilizing, and affirming the musical gifts which I already know are abundant within this congregation. Thank you all for the chance to serve this church!

Sincerely,
Allison

From Our Mission Outreach Team

Bread Sunday! Sunday, October 9, 2022

The Mission Outreach Committee is beginning the Thanksgiving season and the start of the Thanksgiving food collection for Family Sharing of Ozaukee County with Bread Sunday on Sunday, October 9, 2022. Bread Sunday is an annual MUMC tradition. We donate the funds raised from the sale



of these breads to Family Sharing of Ozaukee County, allowing us to support our local community and Ozaukee County individuals who are in need.

Please bake a loaf or two of bread and bring your delicious, wrapped, and labeled breads to church on Sunday, October 9. Mission Outreach Committee members will display the breads and collect the donations. In addition to baking and donating your breads, we also encourage you to purchase a loaf or two to take home for your enjoyment. Favorite past bread flavors have included Zucchini, Apple Nut, Banana, Pumpkin, and Cinnamon Streusel. Muffins are also appreciated. A few gluten free loaves would also be welcome for those who are on restricted diets.

Thanksgiving Food Collection for Family Sharing of Ozaukee County

Pick up your empty grocery bags, which will be distributed on Sunday, October 9, 2022, for our annual Thanksgiving food collection for Family Sharing of Ozaukee County. Attached to each bag will be a list of items that are especially needed by Family Sharing for the Thanksgiving holiday and for residents' daily needs. All donations are welcome.

Return your filled grocery bags to church on Sundays, October 16, 23, or 30, or anytime during the week. Family Sharing will be picking up your donations on Tuesday, November 1.

Needed Thanksgiving Items:

Boxed Stuffing Mix
Canned Cranberry Sauce
Canned Pumpkin
Boxed Pie Crust Mix (not refrigerated or frozen)
Seasonal Ground Spices (Cinnamon, Allspice, Nutmeg, Cloves, Pumpkin Pie Spice, Sage)

Greatly Needed Items:

Canned Tuna
Canned Chili
Canned Stew
Cereal

Toilet Paper

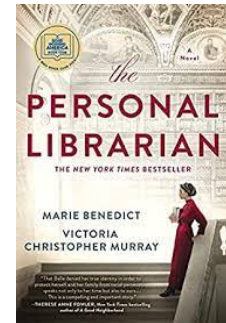
The MUMC Mission Outreach Committee thanks you for your generosity as you help serve the needs of low-income, elderly, and disabled residents of Ozaukee County.

If you have questions, contact Susan Yorio by phone at 262-853-3933 or by email at susanyorio9113@gmail.com.

Reflections Book Group

OCTOBER REFLECTIONS

The Reflections book group meets Thursday, October 13. We begin at 7 pm in the Parlor. Our October discussion book is *The Personal Librarian* by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray.



Amazon.com offers this summary:

In her twenties, Belle da Costa Greene is hired by J. P. Morgan to curate a collection of rare manuscripts, books, and artwork for his newly built Pierpont Morgan Library. Belle becomes a fixture in New York City society and one of the most powerful people in the art and book world, known for her impeccable taste and shrewd negotiating for critical works as she helps create a world-class collection.

But Belle has a secret, one she must protect at all costs. She was born not Belle da Costa Greene but Belle Marion Greener. She is the daughter of Richard Greener, the first Black graduate of Harvard and a well-known advocate for equality. Belle's complexion isn't dark because of her alleged Portuguese heritage that lets her pass as white—her complexion is dark because she is African American.

The *Personal Librarian* tells the story of an extraordinary woman, famous for her intellect, style, and wit, and shares the lengths she must go to—for the protection of her family and her legacy—to preserve her carefully crafted white identity in the racist world in which she lives.

Reflections is a women's book group that meets monthly for discussion and fellowship. New women are always welcome. Contact Barb Henneck at bhenneck@gmail.com for more information about the group or our October meeting.

Looking ahead . . . our November book will be *Apples Never Fall* by Liane Moriarty.

Christian Symbol of the Month

Door—A door symbolizes our invitation to engage in prayer and personal relationship with Jesus. "Knock and the door will be opened to you. (Matthew 7:7, NIV) Conversely, a door represents Jesus' desire to be invited into our lives and hearts. "I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me." (Revelation 3:20, NIV)



One Last Thing . . .

Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? (Matthew 6:26, NIV)

Deadline for SPIRE copy: the 25th of the month prior to publication's edition. Send copy to news@mequonumc.org to be included in the monthly SPIRE or the weekly Sunday bulletins.

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Office Hours: Mon-Thurs 9am-1pm

/ Closed Fridays

Sunday Schedule

9:30am Worship Service

10:30am Fellowship

www.mequonumc.org

