



The Spire

The Newsletter of the Mequon United Methodist Church
November 2023

Connecting people to Jesus Christ and to one another.

Sermon Spotlight

Nov 5: Ephesians 1:11-23

"You are a Saint"

Nov 12: Matthew 6:25-34

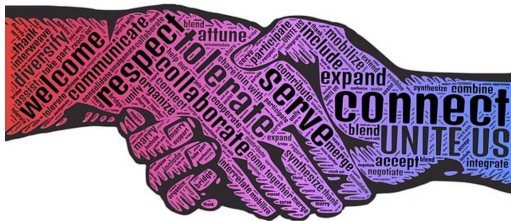
"Contentment in Christ"

Nov 19: Luke 17:11-19

"Were not all ten cleansed?"

Nov 26: *"Journey of Faith"*

Glen Van Fossen will preach



Connecting people to Jesus Christ and to one another.

Music Spotlight

Nov 5: - Chancel Choir

Nov 12: - Allison Tinsley-Fuller & Kristin Traut

Nov 19: - Lori Ludwig, Flute & Elna Hickson, piano/organ

Nov 26: Praise Ensemble



Calendar Highlights

Nov 1 - Women's Prayer B'fast 7:30 am

Nov 1 - Confirmation Class 5:45 pm

Nov 2 - Men's Prayer B'fast 7 am

Nov 2 - Church-wide Study 7 pm

Nov 3 - Tai Chi 12:30 pm

Nov 3 - Chancel Choir Rehearsal 5 pm

Nov 3 - Chancel Choir Dinner 6 pm

Nov 4 - Marsh Meadow Cleanup 9 am

Nov 4 - Chancel Choir Rehear 12 pm

Nov 4 - Chancel Choir Lunch 1 pm

Nov 5 - Return T'giving Food Donations

Nov 5 - Kids' Picnic 11 am

Nov 5 - Church-wide Study 11 am

Nov 6 - Tai Chi 12:30 pm

Nov 7 - Lunch Bunch 11 am

Nov 8 - Confirmation Class 5:45 pm

Nov 9 - Reflections Book Club 7 pm

Nov 9 - Church-wide Study 7 pm

Nov 10 - Tai Chi 12:30 pm

Nov 12 - BP Screening 10:45 am

Nov 12 - Chancel Choir Rehears 11 am

Nov 12 - Church-wide Study 11 am

Nov 13 - Tai Chi 12:30 pm

Nov 14 - Lunch Bunch 11 am

Nov 14 - Marketing Meeting 7 pm

Nov 15 - Confirmation Class 5:45 pm

Nov 16 - Church-wide Study 7 pm

Nov 17 - Tai Chi 12:30 pm

Nov 19 - Chancel Choir Rehears 11 am

Nov 20 - Tai Chi 12:30 pm

Nov 21 - Lunch Bunch 11:00 am

Nov 24 - Tai Chi 12:30 pm

Nov 26 - Chancel Choir Rehears 11 am

Nov 27 - Tai Chi 12:30 pm

Nov 27 - Church Council Mtg 7 pm

Nov 28 - Lunch Bunch 11 am

Nov 28 - Fiber Arts Club 6 pm

Nov 29 - Confirmation Class 5:45 pm

Dec 1 - Tai Chi 12:30 pm

Dec 2 - Hanging of the Greens! 9 am

Dec 3 - Kids' Picnic 11:15 am

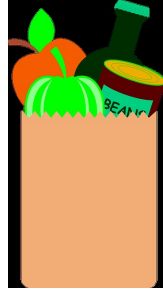
Dec 5 - Charge Conference 6 pm

[View MUMC Online Calendar](#)

MUMC Outreach

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

Thanksgiving Food Collection for Family Sharing of OzCounty!



Return Your Filled Grocery Bags

Your filled bags can be returned to church on Sundays or during the week thru **November 5**. Family Sharing will be picking up your donations on Tuesday, November 7.

Needed Thanksgiving Items:

Canned Mixed Vegetables
Canned Mixed Fruits
Canned Peaches
Canned Carrots
Canned Cranberry Sauce
Gravy
Instant Mashed Potatoes

Greatly Needed Items:

Adult and Children's Toothpaste
Bar Soap



Save the Date!

The Outreach Committee is inviting YOU to the Outreach Leadership Dinner and Fundraiser!
January 27, 5-8 pm at Remington's River Inn in Thiensville. Get your party shoes ready, you won't want to miss it!

Thanksgiving Dinner at St. Vincent de Paul!

Food and Volunteers needed!

As we have in the past, MUMC will provide and prepare food for an in-person Thanksgiving dinner at St. Vincent de Paul. See sign-up sheets in the narthex to provide food and/or **volunteer at St. Vincent's from 10 am - 12 pm on Thursday, November 23** for food preparation.

You can provide:

- cooked turkey, sliced
- cooked ham, sliced,
- dressing/stuffing packages
- mashed potato flakes
- butter
- chicken broth
- gravy
- cookies only (they will have pies)

Ham and turkey should be packaged in gallon ziplocks and frozen. Please **deliver food items to the church by Tuesday, November 21.**



Christmas Giving Tree for 2023 Support Pathfinders of Milwaukee Sharing the Gift of Christmas with Those in Need

MUMC will once again support the mission work of [Pathfinders of Milwaukee](#) (click the link to see the many services they provide).

The Mission Outreach Committee is asking church members to provide monetary donations - Committee members will shop for gifts. Our average donation has been ~\$50, and we are grateful for any amount you give to this worthy organization and the young clients they serve.

In 2022, MUMC provided gifts valued at \$1,830 to Pathfinders of Milwaukee! Amazing! Thank you!

Donate [online on the MUMC website](#) (click the link to go there now!)

or

Make checks payable to MUMC with "Giving Tree" in the memo

Leave your check in the secure box outside of the church office or
mail to: MUMC 11011 N. Oriole Lane Mequon, WI 53092

Please donate by Monday, December 4 so Outreach has time to shop!

Questions? Contact [Susan Yorio](#), 262-853-3933 or [Lisa Gorski](#), 414-573-8018
Smile & know you made Christmas brighter for a Milwaukee area youth or young adult!
Thank You Merry Christmas God Bless You!

MUMC Food Insecurity Outreach Transition

For over twenty years, Mequon United Methodist church's Mission Outreach Committee has supported the St. Vincent de Paul Northside Meal Site. Since the onset of the pandemic much has changed and we have decided to transition to Family Sharing of Ozaukee County as our food insecurity mission. Serving at the Family Sharing Food Pantry complements our other efforts to address food insecurity through our Community Garden, Meals on Wheels, and the Hunger Task Force. [Read more details about this transition here.](#)

Each fall, Mission Outreach kicks off an annual Thanksgiving food drive for Family Sharing with Bread Sunday. **Beginning in 2024, we will also be asking church members to volunteer the third Tuesday of each month, from 2 - 4 pm, at the Family Sharing Food Pantry to sort incoming food items.**

Thank you to Herb Ayres and Irene Sullivan for serving as our liaisons to St. Vincent de Paul for over twenty years. Your very important work, and the work of the many volunteers who participated, is much appreciated.

Connecting with Jesus Christ and One Another

Come ~ Connect ~ Grow Community



November 4 | 9:00 am

Marsh Meadow Workday! Bring work gloves and a pair of pruners or loppers. Water and snacks will be provided. Questions? Contact Linda Mordy at lmordy@sbcglobal.net

Reflections

Thursday, Nov 9

The Reflections book group will meet
Thursday, November

Hanging of the Greens

December 2 9:00 am

Many Hands Make Light Work!
Join us as we decorate the sanctuary for the Christmas Season! No interior design qualifications necessary!

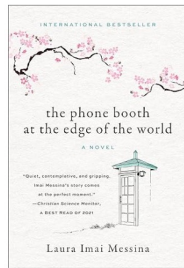


Choir Retreat - All Welcome!

The Chancel Choir will have a retreat to begin working on music for Christmas and beyond!

Friday, November 3 - 5:00 pm
rehearsal followed by fellowship and dinner in the aptly named Fellowship

9 at 7 pm at the home of Pam Layton (223 W Trillium Rd, Mequon). Our discussion book will be *The Phone Booth at the Edge of the World*, by Laura Imai Messina. Please RSVP to Pam



at p.layton90@gmail.com if you are planning to join us. Those attending are welcome to bring a beverage and snack of their own choosing.

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

Looking ahead . . . Our annual Christmas meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 14. Save the date!

Christmas Poinsettias

Advent is just around the corner, a time of preparation and renewal. Red poinsettias have been ordered, and will be on display beginning December 10th.

Poinsettias are for sale - if you purchase one, you may pick up your plant on December 24 after the Christmas Eve service. Katie Jackson will be reaching out with more details.

Hall.

Saturday, November 4 - Noon
Lunch followed by rehearsal!

Mental Health is Important!

Covid has done a number on all of us. The Council of Churches has a mental health newsletter - [Click here to Subscribe!](#)

Check that Blood Pressure! November 12

Susan Solverson will offer BP screening before and after worship.



Carol Sunday - December 17

We will sing all of our favorite Christmas carols throughout the whole service! **Send in your favorite carols by December 10** to music@mequonumc.org to make sure yours are included. We cannot wait to celebrate the Christmas season with you!

Fiber Arts Update

Prayer shawls have been donated to Kathy's House just in time for this wintry weather. Want to continue the ministry? Grab some yarn from the narthex and start your next project that we can donate to someone in need.

Want more structure? Knitting/Crochet kits have returned! If the pattern isn't speaking to you, create something that does. All items will be donated to our partners. Let Jenna B know if you have anything you want a kit for! Fiber Arts Club will meet every 4th Tuesday at 6 pm! Light refreshments are served! See you November 22!

MUMC Charge Conference

Tuesday, December 5 6:00 pm

MUMC 2023 Charge Conference will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 5 at 6 PM.

The Bishop's message will be shared through a YouTube clip.

[See the agenda, here.](#)

MUMC Gardens

A SUMMER SUCCESS!



Thanks to our gardeners we provided
food for our neighbors

Kid's Korner

Sunday, November 5 10:45am-1pm Kids Sunday Picnic in Fellowship Hall

Join us for a picnic! Children pack a lunch and bring it before church (refrigerator available) Drink and dessert provided. Following church we will enjoy God's great outdoors, weather permitting. We will have our lunch, a project, music, games, and fun while connecting to Jesus and one another. Please RSVP at childrensmin@mequonumc.org.

We are still in need of Acolytes for November 5 and December 3

Advent 2023

Kids' Picnic, December 3rd, 11:00AM

Bring a lunch and settle in for Advent- themed games and crafts. Perhaps a wreath or Advent Countdown craft? (Refrigeration available)

Children's Program, December 10th, 9:30AM

Rehearsal is December 3rd at 9:45AM, please come and rehearse prior to the big show! On December 10, experience the joy of the birth of Jesus through the eyes of children as they present a Christmas program. See you all there!

Carol Sing Along, December 17th, 9:30AM

Get ready to sing your favorite carols during this all-music Sunday service - no singing experience necessary.

Live Nativity, December 17th, 4:00-8:00 pm

The live Nativity is expanded to include a journey through Bethlehem in Fellowship Hall - families and children will travel through the town visiting a carpenter's shop, bakery, scroll shop, and more. We are in need of some "Bethlehem shop owners". Again, if anyone has a connection with farm animals for the nativity, please let [Gayle Meyer](#) know.

On Gratefulness - from Pastor Sue

What is the connection between happiness and gratefulness? David Steindl-Rast who is an Austrian-American Catholic Benedictine monk and author once answered that question with these words:

"Many people would say, "Well, that's very easy. When you are happy, you are grateful." But think again. Is it really the happy people who are grateful?

We all know quite a number of people who have everything that it would take to be happy, and they are not happy, because they want something else or they want more of the same. And we all know people who have lots of misfortune, misfortune that we ourselves would not want to have, and they are deeply happy. They radiate happiness. You are surprised. Why? Because they are grateful. So it is not happiness that makes us grateful. It's gratefulness that makes us happy.

If you think it's happiness that makes you grateful think again. *It's gratefulness that makes you happy."*

I do see his point. How about you? November is a perfect month to count our blessings and express our gratitude to our loved ones and friends for their presence in our lives. The more we count our blessings, the more we would be grateful and the happier we would be.

As we prepare ourselves for Thanksgiving this month, why don't we express our gratitude to those around us daily? Or how about writing down things that you are grateful for and share them with those gather around the Thanksgiving dinner table? Let's have a Happy Thanksgiving as we share our gratefulness with others because *it's gratefulness that makes us happy.*

In Christ,
Sue

Getting to know your ... Finance Committee

In many non-profit organizations, there is a saying - "No margin, no mission" – shorthand for the fact that you can't achieve your mission and goals without concomitant financial resources. Our outstanding Finance Committee is key to MUMC achieving our mission.

The Finance Committee is responsible for creating a budget reflective of our mission (with input and approval from the Administrative Council) and ensuring we have adequate resources to execute that budget. This includes gathering, dispersing, and monitoring the financial resources of the congregation to support our mission and strengthen our ministries, kicked off by our annual Stewardship Campaign. They also attend to the tactical pieces of fiscal management – ensuring that we pay our employees and vendors correctly and on time, have regular audits of our bookkeeping and financial management, and install appropriate controls to prevent fraud and waste.

The Finance team deals with many competing demands – we need money for our mission, of

course, but also for facility maintenance and enhancement, emergencies (water hemlock!), keeping the kitchen stocked, and other basic operations. They listen carefully, keep our mission at the forefront, and look to biblical examples of stewardship and management of the resources God provides to make financial decisions in the best interest of MUMC. It's a tall order.

Our Finance Team consists of Kim Waters-treasurer, Kay Schroeder-financial secretary, Joel Huffman-Admin Council, Rick Gattoni-SPRC, Connie Pukaite-Trustees, Pastor Sue, and Mike Debbink as Chair. They are assisted by Kathy Windis, our church accountant. Thank them, especially as we wrap up our Stewardship Campaign, for their work, wisdom, and discernment as we work together toward our mission – Connecting people to Jesus Christ and one another.

Wisconsin Conference Devotions

Remembering and Celebrating, 10/30 by Rev. Scott Carlson

For us, as Christians, reconciliation is a deeply spiritual matter, for the Bible challenges us with ways of healing and being that often run contrary to the teachings of our culture. In Matthew 5:43-48, Jesus says, "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect."

To read the rest of the devotion, [click here!](#)

To subscribe to weekly devotions [click here.](#)



Connecting people to Jesus Christ and to one another.

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 to be included in the monthly SPIRE or the weekly Sunday bulletins.

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

SPIRE Editors: [Shelley and Jenna Burns](#)

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Organist/Pianist: Elna Hickson

Director of Children's Ministry: [Gayle Meyer](#)

Sonlight YMCA Early Childhood Education Center Director: [Stephanie Gayfield](#)

Webmaster: [Marcia Schwager](#)

MUMC Office 262-242-4770

MUMC Office Email: office@mequonumc.org

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

Sunday Schedule:

9:30am Worship Service

10:30am Fellowship

[Our Church](#) | [Contact Us](#)

Mequon United Methodist Church | 11011 N. Oriole Lane, Mequon, WI 53092

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