



# The Spire

The Newsletter of the Mequon United Methodist Church  
December 2023

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

## Sermon Spotlight

**Dec 3:** Psalm 80:1-3 & 17-19 *"Hope"*

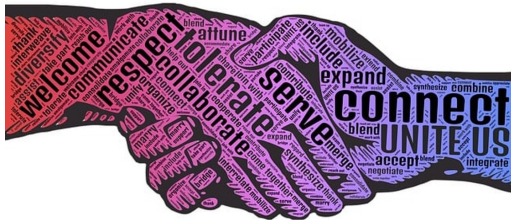
**Dec 10:** Isaiah 40:1-11  
*"Peace" Children's Program!*

**Dec 17:** John 1:6-8 & 19-28  
*"Carol Sing-a-long day!"*

**Dec 24:** Luke 1:26-38 *"Love"*

**Dec 24 Evening:** Isaiah 9:2-7 & John 1:1 *"Emmanuel"*

**Dec 31:** Romans 12:1-2  
*"The Gift of Worship"*



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

## Music Spotlight

**Dec 3:** Chancel Choir

**Dec 10:** Children's Program

**Dec 17:** Carol Sunday

**Dec 24, Evening:** Chancel Choir

**Dec 31:** Praise Ensemble



## Calendar Highlights

Dec 1 - Tai Chi 12:30 pm

**Dec 2 - Hanging of the Greens! 9 am**

Dec 3 - Child. Prog Rehear 9:45 am

Dec 3 - Advent Begins

Dec 3 - Chancel Choir Sings 9:30 am

Dec 3 - Kids' Picnic 11 am

Dec 4 - Tai Chi 12:30 pm

Dec 5 - Lunch Bunch 11 am

Dec 5 - Charge Conference 6 pm

Dec 6 - Women's Prayer Bfast 7:30 am

Dec 6 - Confirmation Class 5:45 pm

Dec 7 - Men's Prayer B'fast 7 am

Dec 8 - Tai Chi 12:30 pm

Dec 10 - Children's Program 9:30 am

Dec 10 - BP Screening 10:45 am

Dec 10 - Chancel Chr Rhrl 11 am

Dec 11 - Tai Chi 12:30 pm

Dec 12 - Lunch Bunch 11 am

Dec 12 - Marketing Team 7 pm

Dec 13 - Confirmation Class 5:45 pm

Dec 14 - Reflections Party XX pm

Dec 15 - Tai Chi 12:30 pm

Dec 17 - Carol Sing-Along 9:30 am

Dec 17 - Chancel Chr Rhrl 11 am

Dec 17 - Live Nativity 4 pm - 8 pm

Dec 18 - Tai Chi 12:30 pm

Dec 19 - Lunch Bunch 11 am

Dec 21 - Fiber Arts Club 6 pm

Dec 22 - Tai Chi

Dec 24 - Christmas Eve! 9:30 am

Dec 24 - Choir Warm Up 3 pm

Dec 24 - Christmas Eve Svc 4 pm

Dec 25 - Merry Christmas! All day!

Dec 26 - Lunch Bunch 11 am

Dec 29 - Tai Chi 12:30 pm

Dec 31 - Praise Ensemble 9:30 am

Jan 1 - Happy 2024!

Jan 2 - Lunch Bunch 11 am

Jan 3 - Women's Prayer Bfast 7:30 am

Jan 3 - Confirmation Class 5:45 pm

Jan 4 - Men's Prayer B'fast 7 am

Jan 5 - Tai Chi 12:30 pm

Jan 6 - [Epiphany](#)

[View MUMC Online Calendar](#)

## MUMC Outreach

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

The Mequon United Methodist Church Mission Outreach Committee invites you to our **2024 in-person leadership dinner and fundraiser!** This special event will be held at **5 pm on Saturday, January 27, 2024**, at Remington's River Inn Restaurant in Thiensville.



During the evening, the Outreach Team will provide a brief summary of our 2023 activities and present MUMC's second annual leadership award to a Mission Outreach partner. There will be a Silent Auction, Raise the Paddle, and a fun time had by all. Auction items might include some super prestigious parking spots, Bucks tickets, Brewers tickets, and a *3-hour boat ride*. **[Click here for more info.](#)** As always, 100% of the net proceeds support our outreach activities and selected partners for the year.

Finally, and most importantly, we will celebrate being together! This will be a casual evening to spend together and celebrate MUMC's superb outreach throughout the year.

**Save the date—January 27, 2024—5 pm  
Mission Outreach Leadership Dinner  
Invitations will be mailed soon. See you there!**



### **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 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.

Donate [online on the MUMC website](#) or make checks payable to MUMC with "Giving Tree" in the memo

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

Questions? Contact [Karen Stern](#), 262-227-7811, [Susan Yorio](#), 262-853-3933 or [Lisa Gorski](#), 414-573-8018

## Connecting with Jesus Christ and One Another

Come ~ Connect ~ Grow Community

A note from the editors: The first person to email [news@mequonumc.org](mailto:news@mequonumc.org) listing all of the hilariously hidden editorial comments in this newsletter will win a [frah-gee-lay special prize](#), at the discretion of the editors, of course.

### Reflections Christmas Party

December 14 ~ 6:00 pm

### Hanging of the Greens

December 2 9:00 am



The Reflections book group will celebrate Christmas on Thursday, December 14 at 6:00 pm at the home of Susan Caldwell. Our get-together will include our usual "steal-a-gift" gift exchange. (*Really, ladies - **stealing** at a church event?*) If you are planning to attend, please bring a wrapped gift (up to \$25 value) for the exchange. Those attending are encouraged to bring an appetizer, dessert or beverage to share. Please RSVP to Susan at [susancaldwell@outlook.com](mailto:susancaldwell@outlook.com). No book discussion this month.

*Reflections is a women's book group that meets for fellowship and discussion. Contact Barb Henneck at [bhenneck@gmail.com](mailto:bhenneck@gmail.com) for more information about the group or our December get-together.*



### 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 10.

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.

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



---

### Stewardship Campaign 2024

Please **get your pledge cards in** for the 2024 Stewardship Campaign. That will help the Finance Committee complete our budgeting process for the coming year. We have had a great response so far with 14 households increasing their pledge for 2024. Thank you for your generosity to MUMC. Your Finance Team

---

### MUMC Charge Conference

*Tuesday, December 5 6:00 pm*

MUMC 2023 Charge Conference will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 5 at 6:00 pm. The Bishop's message will be shared through a YouTube clip.

[See the agenda, here.](#)

**What's a Charge Conference?** It is a meeting for all church members to discuss and vote on a variety of MUMC issues. It's how we set the stage for our work in the New Year! Make your voice count by attending!



### Lunch Bunch Bible Study

We have a great new bible study beginning on **Tuesday, January 9<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am** with lunch and fellowship for about an hour afterward. This is a 5-week study.

This study is based on the book 'Seeing Gray in a World of Black and White' by Adam Hamilton, dealing with thoughts on religion, morality, and politics. You may purchase the book on Ebay or Amazon.

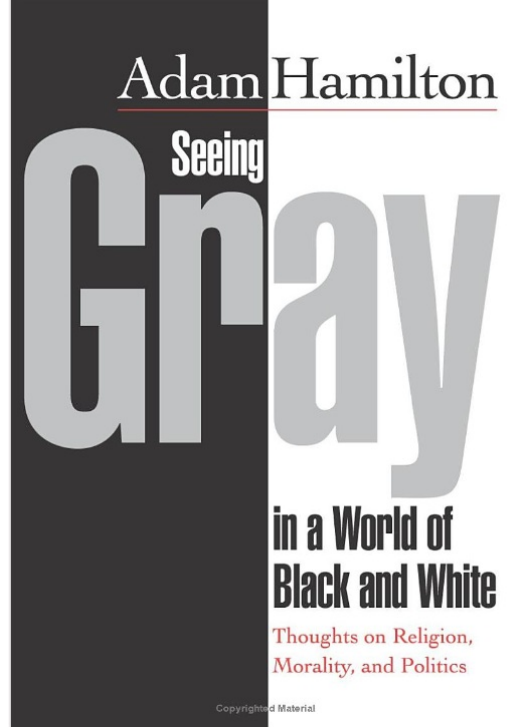
Sally Dyck, Resident Bishop in the Minnesota

Area said “While reality is presented in church and our culture these days as black or white, either/or, left or right, conservative or liberal, Adam Hamilton skillfully, carefully, and faithfully helps us see the wisdom and humble way of gray. In religious and scientific questions, in the hot buttons of most denominations today (like abortion and homosexuality), in an approach to reading the scriptures, and more, he shows ‘a more excellent’ third alternative to the extreme polar opposites we assume are the only ones available to us, I highly recommend that all United Methodists read this important book to help us find the radical center that combines social and personal holiness again.”

Probably few of us will agree with all of Adam Hamilton’s personal conclusions, but it will certainly provide food for thought and lively discussion. If you have never tried lunch bunch before, now just might be the time to give it a try. We meet for an hour, have thought-

provoking conversations with Pastor Sue or members of the Education Committee leading the study, and then enjoy lunch and fellowship downstairs.

If you have questions or would like more information, call Jean Paulus at 262-502-0512.



### Fiber Arts Update

**NEW DECEMBER DATE: Thursday, December 21st.**  
Join us! There will be snacks!

This past month **we donated 33 scarves to United Methodist Children's Services of Milwaukee.** They were very appreciative as the temperatures are dropping!

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!

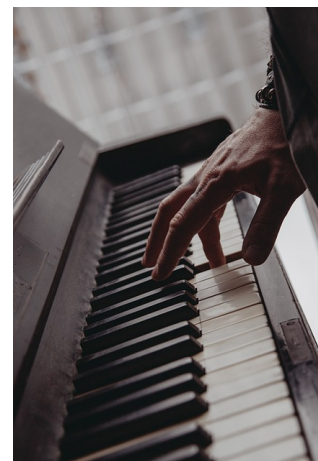


### Welcome to MUMC, John!

*Meet our new pianist!*

John Peshut is a classically-trained pianist, having attended the Interlochen Arts Academy in Interlochen, MI, followed by Piano Performance studies at Peabody Institute at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, MD. He ultimately completed his Bachelor of Arts degree (Music) at Roosevelt University, in Chicago, IL.

John was born and grew up in a northern suburb of Chicago, but thanks to siblings who attended UW-MKE, his family developed ties to Milwaukee, attending





Summerfest annually in the 1980s, and enjoying touring productions of Broadway musicals at the PAC.

In 2013, John made Thiensville, where his mother and sister reside, his permanent home. He has accompanied many choirs and singers over the years, including playing for church choirs. John is thrilled to have the opportunity to contribute his musical gifts to MUMC, a congregation with such a rich and accomplished musical history.

When he's not making music, John enjoys walking, reading, movies and culinary pursuits, both savory and sweet, with a particular obsession with pie!

## Advent 2023



### Advent Devotional: A Gift for You!

**Advent begins December 3.** Join your MUMC Family in daily devotions for Advent with ***A Little Child Shall Lead Them***. This Advent devotional offers daily reflections on both Scripture and selected works. This booklet prayerfully unpacks how God's divine love is best revealed through Jesus. Let this Advent season be one where the Child Jesus reveals the Father's love for you.

The devotional book is available in the narthex. Pick one up today— it's our gift to you!

### Kids' Picnic, December 3, 11:00AM Journey to Bethlehem Advent & Nativity Craft

Pack a lunch and join us on Sunday, **December 3 from 11-1** in Fellowship Hall as we create our own Journey to Bethlehem Advent and Nativity. We will be painting our own Nativity heroes, dressing them, and taking them home to start Mary and Joseph on their journey to Bethlehem. Each day they will travel along the path until Christmas day. On Christmas, they will be joined by the wise men, angels, and more.

Everyone is welcome! Please invite your little friends. Begin to prepare our hearts for the birth of Jesus.



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

Rehearsal is December 3 at 9:45 AM, 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 17 9:30 AM

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

## Live Nativity, December 17 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.

## Christmas Time - from Pastor Sue

Most people think that as soon as the angel left, Mary started to sing the famous first Christmas carol, the Magnificat: *My soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior*. But actually the song didn't come out of her mouth until she heard Elizabeth's affirming words below (Luke 1:42-45 NLT)

Elizabeth gave a glad cry and exclaimed to Mary, "God has blessed you above all women, and your child is blessed.

Why am I so honored, that the mother of my Lord should visit me?

When I heard your greeting, the baby in my womb jumped for joy.

You are blessed because you believed that the Lord would do what he said."

Can you imagine what those words meant to Mary who was puzzled and confused about being conceived by the Holy Spirit? But after listening to Elizabeth's words, Mary was able to sing the very first Christmas carol, and she did.

This story of Mary and Elizabeth shows so well how much we all need spiritually mature Christians who can be a channel of God's message and encouragement for us to hear so that we may follow the Lord faithfully and joyfully despite our fears, doubts, or challenges. There is no such thing as an isolated Christian, my friends. So in the season of Advent, may the Lord open our eyes to see and be connected to an "Elizabeth" who affirms us in the knowledge of grace and Jesus Christ, and prays with us and for us that we may grow into a more Christ-like person day-by-day. Merry Christmas everyone!

In Christ,  
Sue

## Wisconsin Conference Devotions

### Prayers and Reflections, 11/27 by Barbara Certa-Werner

*Come near to God, and he will come near to you.* (James 4:8)

This spring, I participated in various self-evaluations to better understand my family of origin, intercultural competence, and spiritual gifts. All these inventories and/or interviews indicated that I am task-oriented; this would not surprise those who know me. I genuinely value getting things done, moving on to the next project, and accomplishing the goal.

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!

[SUBSCRIBE](#)

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.

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

Pastor: [Sue Lee](#)

Office Manager: [Carol Bayne](#)

Finance Manager: [Kathy Windis](#)

Minister of Music: [Allison Tinsley-Fuller](#)

Organist/Pianist: John Peshut

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](mailto:office@mequonumc.org)

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

Sunday Schedule:

9:30am Worship Service

10:30am Fellowship

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

[Unsubscribe mkschwager@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mkschwager@sbcglobal.net)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data  
Notice](#)

Sent by [news@mequonumc.org](mailto:news@mequonumc.org) powered by



Try email marketing for free today!