



# The Spire

The Newsletter of the Mequon United Methodist Church  
March 2025

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

## Sunday Worship 9:30 am

### Sermon Themes

**Mar 2:** "Stand up in front of everyone and stretch out your hand", *Mark 3:1-6*

**Mar 5:** Ash Wednesday - "Repent and believe the good news!" *Mark 1:14-15*

**Mar 9:** "Is God in there?" *Luke 12:13-21*

**Mar 16:** "For the LORD your God will be with you", *Joshua 1:1-9*

**Mar 23:** "Quiet! Be still", *Mark 4:35-41*

**Mar 30:** "The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing", *Philippians 4:4-9*

### Musical Gifts

**Mar 2:** Chancel Choir

**Mar 9:** Allison Tinsley-Fuller

**Mar 16:** Praise Ensemble

**Mar 23:** JP Horcasitas

**Mar 30:** Allison Tinsley-Fuller and JP Horcasitas



### Calendar Highlights

**Mar 1** - Choir Retreat -- 12:00 pm

**Mar 5** - Women's Prayer Meeting -- 7:30 am

**Mar 5 - Ash Wednesday -- 7:00 pm**

**Mar 6** - Men's Prayer Breakfast -- 7:00 am

**Mar 9** - BP Screening -- after church

**Mar 9** - Chancel Choir Rehearsal -- 11:00 am

**Mar 11** - Lunch Bunch -- 11:00 am

**Mar 11** - Lenten Bible Study (session 1) -- 11:00 am

**Mar 11** - Family Sharing Food Sort -- 1:30 pm

**Mar 12** - Reflections Book Club -- 6:00 pm

**Mar 11** - Lenten Bible Study w/ Dinner! (session 1) -- 6:00 pm

**Mar 13** - Lenten Bible Study Zoom (session 1) -- 7:00 pm

**Mar 16** - Lenten Bible Study (session 1) -- 11:00 am

**Mar 16** - Chancel Choir Rehearsal -- 11:00 am

**Mar 18** - Lunch Bunch -- 11:00 am

**Mar 18** - Lenten Bible Study (session 2) -- 11:00 am

**Mar 19** - Lenten Bible Study w/ Dinner! (session 2) -- 6:00 pm

**Mar 20** - Lenten Bible Study Zoom (session 2) -- 7:00 pm

**Mar 23** - Lenten Bible Study (session 2) -- 11:00 am

**Mar 23** - Chancel Choir Rehearsal -- 11:00 am

**Mar 25** - Lunch Bunch -- 11:00 am

**Mar 25** - Lenten Bible Study (session 3) -- 11:00 am

**Mar 25** - Fiber Arts Club -- 6:00 pm

**Mar 26** - Lenten Bible Study w/ Dinner! (session 3) -- 6:00 pm

**Mar 27** - Lenten Bible Study Zoom (session 3) -- 7:00 pm

**Mar 30** - Lenten Bible Study (session 3) -- 11:00 am

**Mar 30** - Chancel Choir Rehearsal -- 11:00 am

**Apr 1** - Lenten Bible Study (session 4) -- 11:00 am

**Apr 2** - Women's Prayer Breakfast -- 7:30 am

**Apr 2** - Lenten Bible Study w/ Dinner! (session 4) -- 6:00 pm

**Apr 3** - Men's Prayer Breakfast -- 7:00 am

**Apr 3** - Lenten Bible Study Zoom (session 4) -- 7:00 pm

**Apr 6** - Lenten Bible Study (session 4) -- 11:00 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 ...

### Repairers of the Breach Lenten Mission Project



One of the organizations that Mission Outreach donates auction proceeds to, is Repairers of the Breach, located in one of the poorest Milwaukee neighborhoods. We also collect much needed clean and new clothes for the Spring and Summer as a Lenten Project. Lent is a time of giving, and this is our way of giving to some of the most needy in our community.

Repairers of the Breach is the only daytime shelter for homeless and at-risk adults in Milwaukee. The program includes a place for people to come off the street, get a shower and a meal, spend time in worship, and find resources to help them get their lives back together. There is a medical clinic, an art therapy studio, a computer lab and job counseling, a garden for growing vegetables, and a worship center. And during the winter, they are one of the emergency warming centers where people can go to get out of the freezing cold.

Their mission is: Life Saving, Life Sustaining, Life Restoring. And everything they do is focused on that mission.

What do they need, now that winter is giving way to spring? Here is what we will be collecting for them:

- New underwear for men and women – all sizes, but especially larger sizes.

- New boxer shorts for men – again larger sizes.
- New T-Shirts for men and women.
- Clean Spring clothing: Do you have things in your closet that you know you won't be wearing this year? Then, think of Repairers of the Breach. The clothing can be worn for a job interview, or just to give someone something nice to wear!
- We are also collecting, laundry soap, deodorant, and shampoo.

Look for the collection box at the head of the stairs in the Narthex. That is where you can place the clothing. There will be bins beneath the Children's Ministry table for the laundry soap, deodorant and shampoo.

Bring your donations to church from **March 9th to April 6th**. We plan to deliver everything to the Repairers in time for Easter.

If you have any questions about what to donate, be sure to contact [Marilyn Zwissler](#).



### Family Sharing Food Pantry

Volunteer for Food Sorting

**March 11**

1:30 - 3:30 pm

Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex!



### Midwest Mission Updated Current Needs

By donating new or used items, you are bringing hope and empowerment to people in need around the world and around the corner - THANK YOU! There's an extensive list of items Midwest Mission collects throughout the year, but here are their current needs:

- New onesies and sleepers - 0-6 months
- New receiving blankets - 28"x28"-32"x32"
- New flannel fabric (at least 1 yard)
- Contractor trash bags
- New girls' underwear size 10-14, women's 5-8
- New shampoo 12-19oz (no pumps)
- New lotion 8-10oz (no pumps)
- Wheelchairs, walkers, canes, crutches
- Shovels, rakes and brooms
- Hand tools
- Tillers

MUMC is a permanent collection site and is always open for donation.

Contact [Lisa Gorski](#) for more information. The Outreach Team will host a dedicated collection later this year, this is just some additions to their needs.

## Connecting with Jesus Christ and One Another

Come ~ Connect ~ Grow Community

### Reflections Book Club

*Wednesday, March 12, 6:00 pm*

The Reflections book group will meet on Wednesday, March 12th beginning at 6 pm. We'll be meeting at SIP in Mequon (1515 W Mequon Rd). Our discussion book will be *The Women*, by Kristin Hannah.

Please RSVP to Lauren Schreiner at [lschreiner1234@gmail.com](mailto:lschreiner1234@gmail.com) if you are planning to attend the March meeting.

Reflections is a women's book group that meets monthly for discussion and fellowship. Contact [Barb Henneck](#) for more information about the group.

Looking ahead ... our April book will be *The Briar Club*, by Kate Quinn.

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### After Five Supper Club

*Coming Soon!*

Many thanks to Sandy Christensen and Ann Miller for hosting our Soup Dinners in February. We had some great food and enjoyed the fellowship. We'll get together this spring. If you have ideas of what our theme might be please share with [Pam Layton](#).

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### Noisy Collection Funds Project "Kids to Kids"

At the Children's Service, our

### Kid's Connection (NEW DATE)

*Sunday, March 9, 11:00 am*

Join Miss Gayle for a special Kids' Connection on Sunday, March 9! We'll work on a craft project to help prepare our minds and hearts for Easter! So pack a lunch and join in the fun! We'll provide drinks and dessert. Refrigeration is available.

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### Mark Your Calendars! Community Crescendo Concert



*Saturday, May 4, 3:00 pm*

We know you'd been anxiously awaiting our next Community Crescendo Concert, and here we are to announce the next one in the series! Join us Sunday, May 4th at 3 pm to hear the musical stylings of Mitchell Shiner (and crew)! More info coming soon.

If you're looking for a sneak peak of some of Mitchell's skills, [here's a link to his newest album](#).

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### Blood Pressure Checks

*Sunday, March 9*

Blood pressure checks are before and after Worship. Keeping your blood pressure in check is a key component to good health.

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MUMC Children collected funds for their Project "Kids to Kids". The \$155 from that offering will be added to their fund, which supports children in Ghana. Thank you for your generosity!

### **Fiber Arts Ministry!**

*Tuesday, March 25 6:00 pm*

Grab a kit or bring a WIP and join us! If there are any suggestions for our Fiber Arts, let [Jenna](#) know. All levels of crafters are welcome!

## **Connecting with Jesus Christ and One Another**

*Come ~ Connect ~ Grow Community*

### **LENTEN ALL CHURCH GROWTH GROUP STUDY**

*THE CASE FOR EASTER: A JOURNALIST INVESTIGATES THE EVIDENCE FOR THE RESURRECTION*

In accordance with our mission to connect people to Jesus Christ and each other, please prayerfully consider committing to participate in our first of two all church studies during Lent.

It will be a 4 week study, offered four times each session:

- Tuesday mornings at church at 11:00 am beginning March 11th.
- **NEW!** Wednesday evenings at church at 6:00 pm beginning March 12th. Soup, bread and dessert will be served at 6pm in Fellowship Hall, followed by the study in the Parlor!
- Thursday evenings at 7:00 pm via Zoom, beginning March 13th.
- Sunday morning after church beginning March 16th.

Sessions last one hour. That is only a 4 hour commitment to grow your faith and seems very little when compared with Christ's sacrifice so that all who believe in him will receive salvation and the gift of eternal life.

This year's Lenten study is based on the book 'The Case for Easter' by Lee Strobel. This book can be purchased on E-bay or Amazon if desired. Of the many world religions, only one claims its founder returned from the grave. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the very cornerstone of Christianity. But a dead man coming back to life? In our sophisticated age when myth has given way to science, who can take such a claim seriously? Some argue that Jesus never died on the cross. Conflicting accounts made the empty tomb seem suspect.

How credible is the evidence for—and against—the resurrection? Focusing on his award winning skills as a legal journalist on history's most compelling enigma, Lee Strobel retraces the startling findings that led him from atheism to belief.

He examines:

- The Medical Evidence—Was Jesus' death a sham and his resurrection a hoax?
- The Evidence of the Missing Body—Was he really absent from his tomb?
- The Evidence of Appearances—Was Jesus seen alive after his death

on the cross?

The verdict is up to you.

## Beyond Fasting: 10 Tips for a More Meaningful Lent

By Joe Iovino, United Methodist Communications

Lent is a time for self-reflection and deepening one's relationship with God in Jesus Christ. For many this season leading up to Easter will be weeks of giving up something they enjoy. Others will spend extra time in devotions and prayer, while a few more will carry a cross or nail in their pocket as a reminder of the sacrifice Jesus made for them and the whole world.

If those practices work for you, wonderful! Others may want to find another way of observing this holy season. Consider adopting one or more of the following creative uses of the days between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday.

### 1 - Apologize to someone

Lent is a season of repentance. Most often we think of asking God for forgiveness from our sin, but that is only half of the story. Most sins include hurting others, which mattered to Jesus. He taught that if during worship if you "remember that your brother or sister has something against you... First make things right with your brother or sister and then come back and offer your gift." (Matthew 5:23-24 CEB). Lent is a great time to seek forgiveness from those we have harmed.

### 2 - Perform random acts of kindness

Express your love for Jesus by loving others. Pay for the order of the person behind you in the drive-through. Give an extravagant tip. Carry gift cards to give away. Ask others how they are doing, then stop and listen to their responses. Share the love of Jesus in any way you can think of each day during Lent.

### 3 - Delve into a book of the Bible

Enhance your devotions by getting to know a book of the Bible well. Read it repeatedly, at least once in a single sitting. Find articles about it. Meditate on it with a commentary. Memorize portions of it. Pray through it. Google sermons about it. Find hymns based upon it. In the six weeks of Lent, you could develop a deep understanding of a book of the Bible about which you have always been curious.

### 4 - Serve people in need

Identify an organization with which you would like to participate. Find out what is required to become a volunteer, then sign up to serve throughout the season of Lent. When Jesus washed his disciples' feet at the Last Supper, he taught that we are called not to be served, but to serve (John 13:1-17).

### 5 - Visit the lonely

Jesus also taught his disciples to treat others as we would treat him. This included visiting those who are sick and in prison (Matthew 25:31-36). Talk to local nursing homes, children's hospitals, prisons, senior centers or any other place where people need some human contact. Even if you can't visit in person, you can send a card, make a phone call or seek another way to let someone know you care. If a facility allows for in-person visits, find out how you may visit (observing all procedures to keep everyone safe). When

together, play games, look at photo albums, tell stories and enjoy those about whom Jesus said, "When you have done it for [them], you have done it for me."

6 - Read Wesley's sermons about the Sermon on the Mount

These 13 sermons (see Matthew) are central to the message of John Wesley. They make up a little more than one-quarter of the fifty "Standard Sermons" he gave to his Methodist lay preachers to teach them "the essentials of true religion." Reading these sermons will have you focused on Jesus' Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7) and give you a sense of what it means to be a United Methodist in the tradition of John Wesley.

7 - Tell others you love them

Some of us struggle to say those three little words. Maybe we assume others already know how we feel. Maybe we think we show our love and don't need to say it. Or maybe we are concerned it won't be reciprocated. Fight the fear and say "I love you" to friends, family members, and everyone else you love at least once during the season.

8 - Throw a party for everyone

Jesus often used the image of a party to describe the Kingdom of God. He talked about wedding receptions and banquet feasts, and participated in several large group celebrations. Host your own Kingdom party! You may choose to cook for the neighborhood, friends, people from church who you rarely see or office colleagues. Keep this act of love festive with fun napkins and other decorations.

9 - Serve in worship

Your church needs you. Sing in the choir, usher, serve as a liturgist, work with the tech team or find some other way to serve your church. If you worship primarily online, ask your church staff how you might be able to help, including sending out cards or making phone calls to people on the church prayer list. Don't wait for someone to ask you to use your God-given gifts. Offer yourself in service to your church for the season.

10 - Say "thank you"

Parents, family members, mentors, coaches, teachers, authors, pastors, Sunday school teachers, and others have shaped you into the person you are. Each week during Lent, send a note of gratitude to one of them. Tell them how much they meant to you and how they inspired you. Consider including a small gift. Even if you do not know that author or speaker personally, draft an email of thanks.

There are many ways to be observant during Lent. Be original. Find yours.

## From Pastor Sue

### Connecting with Jesus Christ and One Another

The way Jesus' calling his disciples 2000 years ago and today is the same simple command: Follow me. When Jesus walked through their neighborhoods, to respond to his call, people literally followed him, but for us following Jesus means following his way because there are countless other ways to follow. And the other ways attract many people including Christians and compete with Jesus' way. Sadly, the other ways often replace the way of Jesus in the lives of Christians. It seems the replacement happens in Christians' lives either because they are indifferent to the way of Jesus or ignorant of it.

Therefore, we need to be reminded of and learn the way of Jesus regularly to have the discernment to keep us to follow Jesus' way, and the season of Lent is a perfect time to do that. The words from the apostle Paul encouraging Christians to follow Jesus' way, in specific, his humility speak a great volume today for we are bombarded everyday with a message of "Might makes right," which is totally against the way of Jesus.

<sup>5</sup> In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

<sup>6</sup> Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;

<sup>7</sup> rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

<sup>8</sup> And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross! (Philippians 2:5-8 NIV)

Friends, the story of the cross starts on Ash Wednesday, March 5th, which leads us into the 40-day journey of Lent. The 40-day journey calls all Christians to deepen our relationship with our Lord as we worship, study and pray together so that the assurance of resurrection may truly sink deep in our hearts and lives. So, I invite all MUMC family to participate in special Lenten services (Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday) and all church four-week growth group study, The Case for Easter, to be reminded of and learn the way of Jesus to become the people of Easter who faithfully follow the way of Jesus. Have a blessed Lent!

Sue

## When did Ash Wednesday begin and why do we celebrate it?

Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent, a time when many Christians prepare for Easter by observing a period of fasting, repentance, moderation and spiritual discipline. Although Ash Wednesday has ancient roots, it does not appear in the rituals of The United Methodist Church or our predecessor denominations until the 20th century.

Ash Wednesday emphasizes two themes: our sinfulness before God and our human mortality. The service focuses on both themes, helping us realize that both have been triumphed through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Ashes are an ancient symbol. In Genesis, we read that God formed human beings out of the dust of the earth (Genesis 2:7). After expulsion from the Garden of Eden, the first human beings are told by God, "you are dust, and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19 NRSV). The Hebrew word translated dust, is occasionally translated ashes elsewhere. Throughout scripture, ashes are part of rituals when people seek forgiveness and mourn their sin (see Numbers 19:9, 17; Hebrews 9:13; Jonah 3:6; Matthew 11:21, and Luke 10:13, among others).

The imposition of ashes on the heads of Christians to mark the beginning of Lent can be traced at least to the 10th century. United Methodists first adopted an official ritual for Ash Wednesday that involves the use of ashes in the 1992 Book of

Worship.

As the ashes are placed on the forehead, words such as these are spoken: "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return," recalling God's words to Adam in Genesis 3:19, or "Repent, and believe the gospel" recalling the message of both John the Baptist and Jesus (Mark 1:15). Through the service of ashes on the first day of Lent, we come before God recognizing our humanity, repenting of our sin, and remembering who we are and who we can be.

[Click here to read the rest on UMC.org.](#)

## Reflections from a Circuit Rider

### Conspiracy of Silence

Romans 12:9: "Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good."

"There is a conspiracy of silence about hatred, its function and its meaning."

--Howard Thurman, *Jesus and the Disinherited*, p.65.

We are a love your neighbor religion. Scripture calls us to welcome the stranger thirty-five times. United Methodists ground their lives in grace that is offered expansively for all—to save and to heal and to grease our growth in love. And yet there is a culture of silence about the othering being done by powerful monied interests at work in the federal government.

In his book *Jesus and the Disinherited*, Howard Thurman has written an entire chapter on hate. Many who have counseled me to be silent for the benefit of the unity of the church, do not seem to be troubled by the ways in which silence supports a clear weaponization of the other. For example, seeds have been planted in the national discourse to displace millions of Palestinians. While some believe that only felons and bad actors are being rounded up in immigration raids, that is not true. Raids have been indiscriminate. I have read in more than one credible source that Indigenous persons have been rounded up in the raids, some in the government have even called for removal of their citizenship. We all know there is a battle in the courts over birthright citizenship guaranteed by the 14<sup>th</sup> amendment. Persons who identify as LGTBT, especially trans persons are also losing rights and access to medical treatment. The war on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion means women and persons with disabling conditions also face losing their rights. Are these actions unrelated? Episodic?

Are we ready to call this evil and abhor what is evil? If these actions constitute hatred, we must ask how is such hatred functioning—to return to Thurman's premise? What else is going on while the nation is being divided in this way? How does the silence of Christians help the harm continue? And what does this mean for the church? What would it look like to let love be genuine?

I will encourage us to break the conspiracy of silence about hatred by:

- Creating circles for conversation about hard topics in your community of faith.
- Creating a forum to discuss the Sunday sermon following services of worship.
- Engaging in small talk with anyone as a step toward bridging life together.
- Being in mission to express your witness to the love of Jesus.

- Contribute in ways that strengthen the church's voice.
- Make relationships with persons who are different from you. Learn.

In The 2020/2024 Book of Discipline, among the disciplines by which bishops are encouraged to lead the church is: "a prophetic commitment for the transformation of the world" (403.1d). The subparagraph continues: "the role of the Bishop, is to be a prophetic voice for justice...and alleviation of human suffering." Yes, we are to lead the whole flock of Christ, with all its gifts and differences. My hope is to offer a prophetic reminder that God's relentless love is among us to reduce human suffering.

While these considerations are tearing at the hearts of all spiritual leaders, I would call us to our practices. I have been praying more. I have engaged in bible study with laity and clergy. I would call us all to the assembly of the faithful for worship and service.

I would also call us to our neighbors. Make them. Learn from them. Expand your definition of neighbor.

Know that I am praying for you.  
Thank you.

Peace,  
Bishop Dan Schwerin

**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!

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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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