

# SPIRE Newsletter



April 2023

Our Mission: Connecting people to Jesus Christ and to one another



[View MUMC Online Calendar](#)

[View Printable Calendar \(PDF\)](#)

## CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

**Apr. 2:** 9:30 am, Palm Sunday service

**Apr. 5:** 7:30 am, Women's Prayer Meeting, Parlor

**Apr. 6:** 7 pm, Maundy Thursday service

**Apr. 7:** 7 am, Men's Prayer Breakfast, Parlor

**Apr. 7:** 7 pm, Good Friday service

**Apr. 9:** 9:30 am, Easter Sunday service

**Apr. 9:** 10:30 am, Easter egg hunt, church backyard

**Apr. 13:** 7 pm, Reflections Book Group meets at Ruby Tap

**Apr. 18:** 11 am, DISCIPLE growth group study begins

**Apr. 22:** Earth Day

## New Growth Group Study Begins April 18

If you want to have "the big picture" of the Bible as you connect the dots of the story of God's amazing love story for the world, you are invited to join the growth group study, DISCIPLE: BECOMING DISCIPLES THROUGH BIBLE STUDY. This study gives the Old and New Testaments equal time, emphasizing the wholeness of the Bible as a revelation of God.

DISCIPLE draws upon the work of scholars, the personal Bible reading and study of the participant, and dynamic group discussion to aid understanding of the Bible.

Participants will read more than 70 percent of the Bible, if they follow the reading schedule of this study.

## **SERMON SPOTLIGHT**

### **April Sermons:**

**Apr. 2:** Palm Sunday, Matt 21:1-11

**Apr. 6:** Maundy Thursday,  
John 13:1-17 and 31b-35

**Apr. 7:** Good Friday, Luke 23:26-49

**Apr. 9:** Easter Sunday,  
John 20:19-31

**Apr. 16:** Parable of The Talents,  
Matthew 25:14-30

## **WORSHIP MUSIC**

**Apr. 2:** Praise Ensemble

The study is designed for a weekly study group gathering of 2.5 hours for 34 weeks. But since it is hard for many people to make that commitment, we will offer the study at a more relaxed pace, in manageable, one-hour gatherings for four to five weeks at a time, followed by a one-month break between sessions. The study will begin on Tuesday, April 18, and will be offered in person each Tuesday at 11 am at Lunch Bunch, followed by lunch and fellowship.

If you are interested in this study, please order the study manual, Disciple: Becoming Disciples Through Bible Study, Second Edition, at Cokesbury.com, and let Pastor Sue know you intend to attend.

## **From the Pastor**

I hope that every member of our Mequon United Methodist Church (MUMC) family can recognize what this is: Connecting People to Jesus Christ and to One Another. Yes, it is our new mission statement that we gave birth to collectively last year as part of the Transforming Church Insight (TCI) work begun in Fall of 2021. The mission statement was born after multiple gatherings when many MUMC members and friends had thoroughly reflected on the Great Commission given by our Lord and MUMC's Core Values. By practicing our mission, 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, can be a reality.

The more I reflect upon our mission and vision, the more I am grateful for all of your hard and good work guided by the Holy Spirit. I deeply appreciate both since they state crystal clearly, powerfully, and plainly the reason why we, the gathering of Jesus' followers, are here. Christ Jesus came to this world to make the connection between Holy God and broken humanity. Jesus is the connector and mediator between God and human beings who can be man standing in the presence of God, and can be God standing in the presence of human beings. He is the only God-man who can fulfill that role of bringing reconciliation and healing to the severed relationship between God and human beings. That's why he is THE Savior. And you and I, disciples of Jesus Christ, have been called to continue the connecting work our Lord started so that we may be part of God's greatest work, sharing the gift of salvation and building a community to share life together in, through, and for Christ. Everyone at MUMC has been invited to be a part of this good work through opportunities TCI provides, and more invitations will come to all as we start implementations to make our vision into a reality. May we, MUMC, faithfully continue to help people connect to Jesus Christ and to one another by the help of God!

In Christ,  
Sue

# Announcements

## Support Children's Ministry with the purchase of Easter Cards

Our children are amazing artists and we have turned their art into notecards— just in time for Easter! Each card features a drawing by one of our Sunday School children and are blank inside for your personal message. They will be on sale in the Narthex on Palm Sunday, April 2, for \$5 each or 5 cards for \$20. Your donations will help support our Children's Ministry and Vacation Bible School. Buy a card today and send it with your own Easter message to your family and friends!

**MUMC is always in need of additional people** to serve as Ushers, Liturgists, Sunday School helpers, and Volunteers on all ministry teams! Please look at where you can share your gifts. Call the church office if you need ideas and contacts!

**Looking for a volunteer opportunity?** Become a volunteer driver for Interfaith Caregivers of Ozaukee County, transporting local seniors to their medical appointments, the dentist, pharmacy, grocery store, and other essential errands. There are no minimum number of volunteer hours. Volunteers may work when it fits their schedule, knowing they are making a difference in the lives of seniors. Call 262-376-5362 to volunteer.



## News From Children's Ministry

Immediately following church service on **Sunday, April 2**, the children will be tracing everyone's hands. They will be making a handprint lily bouquet for Easter Sunday. Don't miss the chance to have your hand included!

On **Sunday, April 2**, the children will open our Palm Sunday service with a palm parade through the sanctuary.

On **Friday, April 7**, there will be NO Kids' Night Out. Instead, join us at 7 pm for Good Friday service. We will celebrate the April birthdays at another event this month.

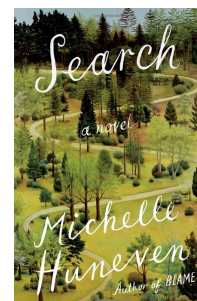
On **Sunday, April 9**, join us at 9:30 am for our Easter Service and Sunday School followed at 10:30 am by a celebration of the resurrection of Jesus with an egg hunt. Invite your friends and family. Please RSVP to [childrensmin@mequonumc.org](mailto:childrensmin@mequonumc.org).

## Reflections Book Group

### APRIL REFLECTIONS

The Reflections Book Group will meet on Thursday, April 13 at Ruby Tap in Mequon. We begin at 7 pm. Our discussion book will be *Search: A Novel* by Michelle Huneven. Please RSVP to Renee Quick at [rquick113@gmail.com](mailto:rquick113@gmail.com) if you are planning to attend.

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](mailto:bhenneck@gmail.com) for more information about the group.

Looking ahead . . . our next book will be *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus.

## From the Editor

This is my last edition as Spire editor. After 46 monthly editions of our Mequon United Methodist Church newsletter, starting with the inaugural edition of the electronic version in July 2019, I am pleased to be turning over the editorial reins to the very capable Shelley Burns, who will be ably assisted by her daughter, Jenna Burns. My sincere appreciation to these two women for stepping up in service to our church.

Look for many things in Spire to stay the same and expect some things to change as Shelley and Jenna put their editorial stamp on the newsletter. I am grateful to have served as editor for these last several years, and am looking forward to what's ahead. Thank you for all of the many articles that you have submitted and, most especially, thank you for your kind words of appreciation and encouragement.

Sincerely,  
Marilyn Meyer  
Spire Editor

## From the Wisconsin UM Foundation

April 2023

Often, when the word “stewardship” is uttered in the church, we think of money, giving, and budgets. With the celebration of Earth Day, April is one of many occasions when we can remind ourselves that Christian stewardship is broader than just money. Here are just a few teachings on creation that have been passed on through the ages.

“The initial step for a soul to come to knowledge of God is contemplation of nature.” – Irenaeus (120-202)

“Nature is schoolmistress, the soul the pupil; and whatever one has taught or the other has learned has come from God – the Teacher of the teacher.” – Tertullian (160-230)

“Christ wears ‘two shoes’ in the world: Scripture and nature. Both are necessary to understand the Lord, and at no stage can creation be seen as a separation of things from God.” – John Scotus Eriugena (810-877)

“If I spend enough time with the tiniest of creature – even a caterpillar – I would never have to prepare a sermon. So full of God is every creature.” – Meister Eckhart (1260-1327)

“God writes the Gospel not in the Bible alone, but also on trees, and in the flowers and clouds and stars.” – Martin Luther (1483-1546)

“Let everyone regard himself as the steward of God in all things which he possesses. Then he will neither conduct himself dissolutely, nor corrupt by abuse



those things which God requires to be preserved.” – John Calvin (1509-1564)

“I believe in my heart that faith in Jesus Christ can and will lead us beyond an exclusive concern for the well-being of other human beings to the broader concern for the well-being of the birds in our backyards, the fish in our rivers, and every living creature on the face of the earth.” – John Wesley (1701- 1791)

“The harvested fields bathed in the autumn mists speak of God and his goodness far more vividly than any human lips.” – Albert Schweitzer (1875- 1965)

“To drive to extinction something He has created is wrong. He has a purpose for everything. We Christians have a responsibility to take the lead in caring for the earth.” – Billy Graham (1918-2018)

“God intends...our care of creation to reflect our love for the Creator.” – John R.W. Stott (1921-2011)

“The first law of our being is that we are set in a delicate network of interdependence with our fellow human beings and with the rest of God’s creation.” – Desmond Tutu (1931-2021)

“We cannot be all that God wants us to be without caring about the earth.” – Rick Warren (1954 -)

Rev. Jason Mahnke

## From the Wisconsin Conference

### Weekly Devotion for March 6, 2023, by Scott Carlson

#### Doing What We Can

*Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and blessed and broke the loaves and gave them to his disciple to set before the people, and he divided the two fish among them all. Mark 6:41*

While I write this, I am in the Holy Land for our Annual Conference pilgrimage for 2023. Christians throughout the ages have felt a need to go on a pilgrimage to see and experience those holy places that have a memory. It helps us remember God and renew our commitment to a life of faith.

Certainly, one doesn’t have to travel to Israel and Jordan to experience Holy places or holy moments, they can happen where ever we are. We just need to train our eyes and hearts to be open to how God works in the ordinary, every day moments of life.

The context for the scripture quoted above took place on an ordinary day. The disciples had just returned from a preaching mission Jesus had sent them on. They were so excited to share with Jesus what had happened. While they were sharing how they saw God at work, Jesus invited them to a deserted place, possibly so they could learn more about what they experienced.

The Gospel of Mark tells us that when the crowds saw the disciples and Jesus going into the wilderness, they went out too, possibly to see what was going to

happen. After a day of teaching, Jesus looked at the disciples and said, "Give them something to eat."

The disciples must have looked at Jesus as if he were out of his mind. There were at least 5,000 present. They said, "What are you talking about? We don't have enough money to buy food for everyone." Like the disciples, we often look at the challenges before us and lament that we don't have enough. Jesus looked at the disciples and said, "What do you have?" They counted up what they had: five loaves of bread and two fish. They brought what they had to Jesus. He ordered them to have the people sit in groups. Then he blessed what had been offered. He gave it to the disciples, and they gave it to the people. When the meal was over, everyone had enough and there was food left over.

This passage is a constant reminder to me that Jesus invites me to offer what I can, what I have, trusting in the service of God, that it will grow and be more than enough. I need this reminder, because there are too many times when I look in the mirror and feel inadequate.

As we continue our Lenten Journey, I pray that we can bring what we have and offer it to the God who loves us, who goes before us, who wants to speak through us to touch this world. May our lives show God to this world.

Prayer

*Loving God, thank you for calling us. Thank you for inviting us to look at what we have, so we can offer that to the world. There are too many times when I feel inadequate. Give me the courage I need to live well today. Guide me on this journey to you. Teach me how to live. In the hope Jesus offers us, Amen.*

---

## **Weekly Devotion for March 27, 2023, by Barbara Certa-Werner**

*You make known to me the path of life; You will fill me with joy in Your presence, with eternal pleasures at Your right hand. Psalms 16:11*

It was early on a Saturday morning. I was headed to Steven's Point to attend the Laity Convocation. I had driven this same road many times and was pretty confident I knew where I was going. But for some reason, I had the nudge to turn on my GPS. As I did, to my surprise, I was told to make a right turn in two miles.

Obedient to the directions, I made the turn. This route was shorter, and my speed was slower. I was blessed with beautiful landscapes of glittering snow, glistening trees, soaring eagles, and open glorious fields. It was an invitation to offer God my gratitude for the beauty, embrace the quieter route and enjoy this moment.

I have been pondering, reflecting, and exploring this experience. How often have I known the destination and just went to it on autopilot? I pay attention to the road traffic but am in such a hurry to get where I need to go that I miss the joy of the trip.

As we enter this Holy Week, filled with Palm/Passion Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday, it is often too easy to go on autopilot. We have been here before; we know where we are going, and we will take the road we have always driven.

Here is the invitation to take a different road that is less familiar on this journey through Holy Week.

I invite you to a Scripture and prayer plan for Holy Week:

- Palm Sunday: Read and pray through Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, [Mark 11:1-11](#).
- Monday: Begin reading the account of Jesus' final week in John. Today, read and pray through Jesus' anointing at Bethany, when Mary pours perfume on his head, [John 12:1-11](#).
- Tuesday: Read and pray through Jesus' prediction of his own death, [John 12:20-36](#).
- Wednesday: Read and pray through Jesus' prediction of his betrayal, [John 13:21-30](#).
- Thursday: Read and pray through the Last Supper, [John 13:1-17, 31-35](#), and Jesus' prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane, [Matthew 26:36-45](#).
- Friday: Read and pray through Jesus' arrest and crucifixion, [John 18:28-19:37](#).
- Saturday: Read and pray through the burial of Jesus, [Matthew 27:57-66](#).
- Sunday: Read and pray through the resurrection of Jesus, [John 20:1-18](#).

*May we be intentional about taking a different path this Holy Week, allowing us to hear and see God in new ways. Amen.*

## Christian Symbols of the Month

Lily—The lily that blooms around Easter is a symbol of Christ's resurrection because it rises from a seemingly lifeless bulb decaying in the ground. It is also used as a symbol of Christ himself. The lily, a symbol of purity, is often used to represent the Virgin Mary.

Palms—When Jesus entered Jerusalem days before his death, crowds welcomed him by waving palm branches, which were common symbols of victory and rejoicing. Thus, churches continue to use them in remembrance of that occasion, knowing that Jesus' crucifixion was ultimately his triumph over sin and death. As early as Leviticus 23:49, God commanded Israel to use palms in a festival of rejoicing. In Revelation 7:9-10, Christian martyrs carry palm branches as they praise the Lamb before the throne of God.

**Our Vision: To be THE bridge to community connection, collaboration, and common ground through Jesus Christ**

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

**Disclaimer: Editor reserves the right to edit content.**

SPIRE Editor: [Marilyn Meyer](#)

Calendar: [Carol Bayne](#)

Pastor: [Sue Lee](#)

Office Manager: [Carol Bayne](#)

MUMC Office 262-242-4770

MUMC Office Email:

Finance Manager: Kathy Windis

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

Organist/Pianist: Ana Fau

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

Sonlight YMCA Early Childhood Education

Center Director: Krista Bold

Webmaster: [Marcia Schwager](#)

[office@mequonumc.org](mailto:office@mequonumc.org)

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

Sunday Schedule:

9:30am Worship Service

10:30am Fellowship

[www.mequonumc.org](http://www.mequonumc.org)

