

# SPIRE Newsletter

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June 2022



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## CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

Jun. 1: women's prayer group, parlor, 7:30 am

Jun. 2: men's prayer breakfast, parlor, 7 am

Jun. 3: TCI group session, Youth Room, 5 – 8 pm

Jun. 3: Kids' Night Out, Fellowship Hall, 5 – 8 pm

Jun. 5: Pentecost Sunday; honoring graduates during church service

Jun. 5: first summer Sunday School, Youth Room, 9:45 am

Jun. 5: Harry Wallace memorial service, sanctuary, 11 am

Jun. 6: new member class, Pastor's office, 1:30 pm

Jun. 8: 12-week in-person summer growth group begins, Youth Room, 11 am.

Jun. 8: 12-week Zoom summer growth group begins, 6 pm

Jun. 12: Parish Nurse Team blood pressure check, 10:45 am

Jun.12: TCI group session, 11:30

## Transforming Church Update Bringing Out the Good to Get to Great

John F. Kennedy said, "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country." We are going to change up that saying slightly to be, "Ask not what your church can do for you, ask what you can do for your church." The April 2022 Spire had an excellent summary about the steps that MUMC has completed so far as part of our three-year journey of coaching and discovery of "Transforming Church: A Visioning Roadmap" that is being funded by the Lilly Foundation and facilitated by John Holm Consulting.

The answer to what can you do for your church, is to prayerfully consider committing to help us take the next steps in this process by

am – 2:30 pm

Jun. 12: Children’s Ministries kite flying, Virmond Park, 1 – 3 pm

Jun. 12: Parish Nurse Team trail walk, 4 pm

Jun. 13: Family Promise host week begins

Jun. 19: Father’s Day; honoring dads during church service

Jun. 21: new member class, Pastor’s office, 11 am

Jun. 23: new member class, Pastor’s office, 11 am

Jul. 10: TCI Group Session, 11:30 am – 2:30 pm

Jul. 14: Reflections Book Group dinner

Aug. 1: Vacation Bible School week begins, 9 am to 12 noon

### **WORSHIP SERMON SPOTLIGHT**

Preaching Schedule and Hymns for June:

Jun. 5: Acts 2:1-21: The Holy Spirit Comes at Pentecost

Jun. 12: Hymn Sing Sunday: Deanna will lead the worship

Jun. 19: Father’s Day and Confirmation Sunday for Elysia Anderson; Joshua 24:13-15: As for me and my household, we will serve the LORD

Jun. 26: John 21:1-19, God of Second Chances

### **WORSHIP MUSIC**

Jun. 12: Hymn Sing

giving us a couple of hours of your time. What will you do in those couple of hours? You will be guided through some exercises to help the church discover our SWOT (strength, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats). You will help us to discern our “Core Values” and create our “Mission Statement”. These things will be our guide, our True North, as we move forward in the coming years.

These church visioning sessions will be held on **Friday, June 3, from 5 – 8 pm** in conjunction with “Kids' Night Out” and after church on **Sunday, June 12** and **Sunday, July 10, from 11:30 am – 2:30 pm**. So, pick which session works best for you and, in fellowship with other caring people, help set MUMC’s direction for the future. Of course, being good Methodists, we will have a meal provided.

Sign-up sheets are in the narthex, or you can call the office, 262-242-4770, to let Carol Bayne know which session you can attend. Thanks so much for your help in this important work for MUMC.

Mike Debbink  
Katie Nowak  
Kristin Traut

## **From the Pastor**

One day an expert in the law asked this question to Jesus, “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” If I contemporized this question, it would be, “Teacher, what should I do to live life that makes God grin from ear to ear?”

37 Jesus

replied, “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’<sup>38</sup> This is the first and greatest commandment. <sup>39</sup> And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ <sup>40</sup> All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.” Matthew 22:37-40 NIV

In other words, Jesus said, our life is all about relationships; relationship with God and with others. Local churches like Mequon UMC are to help people to deepen their relationship with God and one another as they share their lives together as

brothers and sisters in Christ.

Friends, one of the wonderful and inevitable ways to share lives together in Christ is gathering regularly to lift up our hearts and prayers together to the Lord. Mequon UMC has been blessed to have two monthly prayer meetings: Women's monthly prayer meeting on the first Wednesday at 7:30 am in the Parlor and Men's monthly prayer breakfast on the first Thursday at 7 am in the Parlor. Come join us to pray together!

In Christ,  
Sue Lee

## Music Ministry News

June 3—It's Ukulele night at our Joyful Jam during Kids' Night Out! Please bring your ukulele and/or willing fingers to play and learn a song on the ukulele. If you don't have a ukulele, no worries. We will have a few extras on hand.

June 12—We will have a Hymn Sing during the service and would like to know your favorite hymns so that we can all share in singing them together. Deanna and Elna will take requests from the piano and organ that morning, but if you know ahead of time what your favorite hymn is, please email [Deanna](mailto:Deanna) the title and we will make sure to include it! Deanna's email: [deannagibeau99@gmail.com](mailto:deannagibeau99@gmail.com)

June services this summer will also include our own Praise Ensemble and visiting folk singer Dave Bertelsen from Fifth Avenue Methodist Church in West Bend. Looking forward to seeing everyone this June!

## New Summer Growth Group Study Begins

### Epic of Eden (Video Study)

Does your knowledge of the Old Testament feel like a grab bag of people, books, events, and ideas? In Epic of Eden, Dr. Sandra Richter clearly and powerfully communicates a history of God's redeeming grace, weaving together a story that runs from the Garden of Eden to the garden of the New Jerusalem. Through text and video teaching, Dr. Richter uses this 12-week study to bring a new dimension to the history of the ancient Near East, orienting any study group in time, geography, culture, redemption, and relevance to today — all without diminishing her reader's faith or "dumbing down" the scripture.

Legendary Bible stories take on new life as Dr. Richter clearly articulates their part of a larger pattern, revealing an even deeper significance for the tales individually. The Epic of Eden is a meaty study of biblical text, providing a strategic grasp of the good, the bad, and the ugly of the Old Testament and how it relates to God's activity in the present.

The Epic of Eden study begins on Wednesday, June 8 and continues for twelve consecutive Wednesdays at 11 am in the parlor and at 6 pm on Zoom. Please sign-up in the narthex or email [Pastor Sue](mailto:Pastor Sue) at [pastor@mequonumc.org](mailto:pastor@mequonumc.org) to let her know you would like to participate.

## Announcements

**The Reflections Book Group** does not meet in June. But mark your calendars now for our mid-summer dinner out on July 14. Look for details in the July issue of the Spire.

**Sunday, June 5 is Pentecost**, known as the birthday of the church. We invite you to come to worship in person, and wear something red (tie, shirt, scarf, earrings—any touch of red) to celebrate this important day in the Christian Church!

### **Let's Celebrate Our Graduates on Sunday,**

**June 5!** Graduation is a rite of passage to be celebrated. Our students have worked hard to complete their studies. Let's celebrate them here at MUMC with photos of all of our graduates, from kindergarten to grad school! Sons and daughters, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews. Send a photo of your graduate to Carol Bayne at [office@mequonumc.org](mailto:office@mequonumc.org). Don't forget to include your graduate's name and school.



The deadline for submitting photos is Wednesday, June 1. The photos will be shared during Sunday Worship on June 5.

**Harry Wallace, one of our dearest members of MUMC**, passed away on May 15, 2022. His funeral service was in Portland, Oregon, and he was buried next to his wife at Highland Lawn Cemetery in Terre Haute, Indiana.

To celebrate his life, his MUMC church family will have a memorial service on Sunday, June 5 at 11 am in the sanctuary. Harry was a long-time faithful and generous supporter of MUMC. We will celebrate and honor his life together as we share our memories of his faithfulness at the memorial service. Your presence would be very much appreciated.

Please pray for Harry's daughter, Mary Ann Frantz, Harry's wife, Ruth, and his family as they walk in this difficult time.

**A New Member Class** will be offered in three sessions, on June 6 at 1:30 pm, on June 21 at 11 am, and on June 23 at 11 am, in Pastor Sue's office. The classes will cover what church membership is all about here at MUMC, using the book *I Am a Church Member* by Thom S. Rainer. The book is our gift to new members from MUMC. If you would like to participate, please contact Pastor Sue at [pastor@mequonumc.org](mailto:pastor@mequonumc.org).

### **Old Plank Farm Organic Vegetable Deliveries Begin June 17**

Stephanie Bartel, daughter of Joanne, runs an organic vegetable farm and delivers fresh vegetables and eggs to MUMC on Fridays in the summer. If you are a subscriber, you can pick up your box of vegetables between 2 pm and 6 pm at the back door every Friday beginning June 17. Marilyn Zwissler is the site coordinator, so if you are late or can't pick up your vegetables on Friday, she will hold your box for you at her home. If you are out of town and forget to stop your order, she will donate your vegetables to the Saukville Food Pantry. To find out more about Old Plank Farm, go to <https://www.oldplankfarm.com/>.

**Father's Day is Sunday, June 19** and to honor our fathers and the father figures in our lives, we will feature favorite photos of them in a slide show during

our service. If you sent us a photo of your Dad last year, we'll use that one. But if you haven't submitted a photo in the past, or would like to submit an updated one, just send it to Carol Bayne at [office@mequonumc.org](mailto:office@mequonumc.org) or text it to her cell phone at 414-491-1430. The deadline for submitting photos is Tuesday, June 14. Please include your name and your father's name.

**Thank you, everyone,** for the cards, kind wishes, and offers of help during my recovery from hip replacement surgery. They made my month! I am doing pretty well with my recovery and hope to be back to church soon.

Love,  
Shelley Burns

## News From Children's Ministries

### Kids' Night Out: Friday, June 3, 5 – 8 pm

Join us the first Friday of each month for Kids' Night Out (Adults too)! In June we will be starting at 5 pm to allow those with children to be able to attend the TCI workshop. If you would like to bring a dish to pass and to RSVP, please email Gayle at [childrensmin@mequonumc.org](mailto:childrensmin@mequonumc.org).

### Summer Sunday School

We will be having Summer Sunday School for the first time. We will meet the first and third Sundays of the month beginning Sunday, June 5. There will be children's bulletins each week in the sanctuary during the service.

### Adventures in God's Great Outdoors

Learn how God's love keeps us flying high while we fly kites on Sunday, June 12 from 1 – 3 pm at Virmond Park. Bring a kite and join the fun.

### Vacation Bible School

Mark your calendars for a "Pandamania" Vacation Bible School. Dates are Monday August 1 – Friday, August 5, from 9 am – 12 noon. Our theme this year is Pandamania, Where God is Wild About You. For more information, email Gayle at [childrensmin@mequonumc.org](mailto:childrensmin@mequonumc.org).

## The Parish Nurse Team

The Parish Nurse Team has a new plan for Summer 2022: walking one Sunday a month at 4 pm. The dates are June 12, July 17, and August 14.

The trails selected are beautiful and walking friendly for all, families and pets. Please stay tuned for locations. I check out trails for each date. Virmond Park, Mequon Preserve, and Lion's Den are coming. Please join us.

Susan Solverson  
Parish Nurse Team



## About Our Kitchen . . .

Shelley Burns, aka the Kitchen Lady, provides the following helpful information: As we return to our post-pandemic normal, I wanted to provide an update about what you can expect when you use the kitchen and how you can help keep it appropriately stocked.

Below is the list of items I regularly purchase for the kitchen and parlor:

- coffee (regular and decaf)
- coffee filters
- lemonade (Country Time powder)
- juice for coffee hour
- creamers
- sugar/Sweet'N Low/Stevia (or equivalent)
- ketchup/mustard/ranch dressing
- individual bags of chips
- coffee cups/hot cups
- coffee stirrers
- cold cups, 5 ounce (juice cups)
- cold cups, 9 -12 ounce
- dinner napkins
- beverage napkins
- plastic knives, forks, and spoons
- small plates, 6 inch
- dinner plates, Chinette
- luncheon plates, Chinette
- cleaning supplies
- Ziploc bags, foil, Saran wrap, etc.
- paper towels (Bounty rolls, not the stuff in the wall dispensers)

As a rule of thumb, if you notice that a supply is low (less than 70 items or servings), please let me know by calling/texting me at 414-712-4512. Similarly, let me know if you have a special request; I can usually get it to the kitchen in about 1½ weeks.

If you are planning a large event (not including coffee hour), you might want to gather the number of paper products and supplies you need and label them so others don't use them prior to your event. If your corralling of supplies means I need to restock, just let me know.

I know the kitchen organization/signage needs some work – that is my project for this summer. If you have any suggestions or concerns, please reach out to me at the above listed phone number or by email at [ShelleyDBurns@gmail.com](mailto:ShelleyDBurns@gmail.com).

## **From the Wisconsin UM Foundation**

**"Good" — June 2022**

To be a follower of Jesus means to be willing to sacrifice ourselves for the good of all. It means to be willing to deny ourselves for the benefit of all of humanity. I recently read about a man named Thomas Cannon who did this in a truly remarkable way. He was a postal worker in Richmond, Virginia, who lived much of his life on the edge of poverty so that he could give to those in need. Describing himself as "a poor man's philanthropist," he gave away more than \$150,000 to people who were experiencing hard times, or who had been unusually kind or brave. He gave these gifts over the last 33 years of his life, mostly in the form of

\$1,000 checks.

He traced his inspiration to his time in the Navy. While he was away at signal school, there was a shipboard explosion at the Port of Chicago and many of his shipmates were killed. He concluded that he was spared for a reason—to help others, to be a role model, and to inspire people to see what he called “the oneness of it all.”

Cannon gave to people of all ages, races, nationalities, and incomes. He gave to a low-income woman who started a youth center in her apartment complex, to a retired postal worker who was a regular volunteer at an elementary school, to a woman and a man who wanted to return to Vietnam to visit their hometown, to an advocate for the victims of crime, and to a teenager who had been abandoned as an infant but grew up to be named Virginia’s Youth of the Year.

This generosity didn’t come without sacrifice. Cannon supported his wife, his two sons, himself, and his charitable efforts on a salary that never exceeded \$20,000 a year. When he retired from the postal service in 1983, he and his wife lived near the poverty line on his pension. “We lived simply,” he said before his death in 2005, “so we could give money away.” He wasn’t unhappy about these sacrifices. In fact, he had a great sense of humor, one that he kept even after being diagnosed with terminal cancer. As his health was failing, he told the Richmond newspaper, “A Baptist deacon who owed me \$200 died recently. First thing I’m going to do when I get to the other side is run him down.”

Thomas Cannon didn’t want a foundation to be set up to continue his work after his death. He feared that a foundation would require a bureaucracy, and tons of paperwork. He didn’t even want his name attached to anything. He just left one simple request: “Help somebody.”

Rev. Jason Mahnke, Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation

## From the Wisconsin Conference

Weekly Devotion for May 9, 2022, by Sue D’Alessio

### **One Another**

*Jesus said to his disciples: “I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”*  
John 13:34-35

I’ve often wondered why Jesus is recorded as saying “I give you a new commandment.” What’s new about loving one another? Pondering this, I realized that the heritage in scripture of “an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth” (Leviticus 24:20) was overturned by Jesus when he said, “But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.” (Matthew 5:44) And “Do to others as you would have them do to you.” (Luke 6:31) These are two examples of the challenging and inspiring vision that Jesus taught, inviting us to expand the circle of who we care for and how we care for them. Then there is this “new” commandment. Love one another.

Love one another “as I have loved you” – aha! The love of Jesus. A love which offers everything to God and through God. A love which gives and serves without

question. A love which, in response to the greatest insults, the most demeaning treatment, the most painful punishment, the most definitive death and entombment, “retaliates” with prayers of understanding and forgiveness, with the tombstone rolled away, with the grave of death empty, with the radical love of Jesus Christ – a love of blessing, grace, and hope of life redeemed, renewed, and resurrected.

This love of Jesus is not a simple, easy love. Jesus called people to accountability often, with compassion and love. Jesus argued and challenged people who oppressed and violated others with systems of power and dominance. Jesus ate with both disciples and sinners, healed people considered unclean, forgave people judged as unforgivable, opened his heart and life to God’s munificent, lavish, extravagant love by loving his disciples – and his adversaries – to show and teach us how we are to love one another in radical, life-transforming acts of justice and mercy.

Two thousand years later, we are still in need of this message. Where people are marginalized and dispossessed... love one another. Where people seek safety and comfort for themselves without regard for the safety and comfort of others... love one another. Where individuals and nations provoke and incite violence and war... love one another. Where we feel frustrated and overwhelmed and helpless and afraid, because of all the chaos and uncertainty... love one another. Radical, Christ-like love. Love that accepts people for who they are and which challenges and works to change the destructive systems and institutions around us. Love that expands the circle to the point where there are no “others.” We are called to learn and grow to where we live in a world where we only see the “one another.” Jesus teaches us to love, even as Jesus loves us. Grace upon grace. Justice upon justice. Redemption upon redemption. Radical, life-changing love upon radical life-changing love. Love one another.

*Redeeming, renewing, resurrecting God, continue to guide us, even when we are exhausted, even when our fears overwhelm us, even when we struggle to see your presence. Help us to experience your great and radical love which infuses us with your Spirit of grace and hope. Open our hearts and minds and arms, so that each and every person we meet, each and every situation we encounter, we can live your love so fully that others discover you in our actions. We pray in the name of the One who taught us how to live and love, Jesus the Christ. Amen and Alleluia.*

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Weekly Devotion for May 23, 2022, by Kate Croskery Jones

*I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. John 15:1-11 NRSV*

"Don'tcha know that everybody/ Is a radio receiver/ All you gotta do/ Is listen for the call/ Turn your radio on/ (Turn your radio on)/ Turn your radio on/ (Turn your radio on)/ If you listen in/ You will be a believer/ Leanin' on the truth/ That will never fall/ Get in touch with God/ (Get in touch with God)/ Turn your radio on/ Turn your radio on/" (Albert E. Brumley, 1939).

We use various images to describe our connection to God. As a gardener, the imagery of John 15 always speaks to me. I am connected to Jesus and a branch is connected to a vine. Even in my darkest moments, I feel connected to Jesus. As the child of parents from Oklahoma, I grew up hearing different versions of Oklahoma songwriter Albert Brumley's gospel song "Turn Your Radio On." "Don'tcha know that everybody, Is a radio receiver. All you gotta do, Is listen for the call. Get in touch with God, Turn your radio on." With a poet's heart, I look for God in images old and new. Solar panels are popping up in fields and on rooftops most everywhere where the sun shines. They make me think of prayer. When the sun shines onto a solar panel, energy from the sunlight is absorbed by the cells in the panel. This energy creates electrical charges that move in response to an internal electrical field in the cell, causing electricity to flow. When we allow God to shine on us through our prayer life, our faith is charged to allow ministry to flow. Whether we are branches, radio receivers, solar panels, or some other image of connection, we are sustained and energized through a prayer life. Look for the images that remind you of the connection to the Holy.

*Merciful God, we are grateful for the many ways you make Your presence known to us. We are grateful for the ease with which we can connect with You and for the sustaining power that flows from this connection. Help us to stay connected to you to empower your ministry in the world. Amen.*

## Soul Food by Bishop Jung

Editor's Note: Bishop Jung submitted this article before the school shooting in Uvalde, Texas.

*"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called Children of God."*  
Matthew 5:9

Siblings in Christ,

Some days the pain is so overwhelming that words are hard to come by. These are the times we are called to our knees. I write to invite you to pray that we might be fed by God's solidarity with humanity and consider our Christian duty to be peacemakers.

The core of Jesus' teaching is nonviolence, but that is not a passive route. Peacemaking seeks to actively bless our interdependence with unconditional regard for the neighbor. Jesus promises those who act as peacemakers will offer a witness that is so remarkable that peacemakers will be called children of God.

We have declared many times that we cannot condone white supremacy. The hate crime in Buffalo targeting our African American siblings, the hate crime in Laguna targeting Taiwanese people, the hate crime in Dallas against Koreans, and the gun violence in Milwaukee over a recent weekend, call us to our knees that we may ask God—what can we do to live as peacemakers? Why, in this country, is there a mass shooting of four or more people every day? Let us be in prayer and more: call

an end to the voices of white supremacy and systems that create violence. Children of God must pursue peace-making in this society.

Siblings in Christ, peace is not achieved by coercion, intimidation, or making persons an object of hatred. Peace is a gift of God that brings a measure of God's presence, a fruit of the Holy Spirit. Christians must love God enough to call for change in systems that embed racism. Christians must trust God more than assault rifles of the kind used in Buffalo. Christians must love God more than current solutions that are not working—can we love God enough to listen for the prophetic imagination that would allow the lion to lie down with the lamb?

There is no time to wait to advance the interdependent good of God's realm. Repressed demands for justice will not give birth to peacemaking. We need political change but more: to be fed by God's peace that you might make the prince of peace the cornerstone of your life, your church, and the unifying witness of compassion to your community.

We learn from the grief of racism hard truths about the body of Christ. Those who are vulnerable teach us that we have not heard their cries. We learn from this grief that proclamation of a nonviolent Christ cannot be muted. We learn through pain to grow in love. We learn again that personal holiness must involve social holiness.

This is not just a political issue. Let's live an interdependent good life where people make neighbors, change systems, and create a new axis of creativity centered on goodness. Know that I am praying for you.

In hope.  
Hee-Soo Jung, PhD.  
Bishop Wisconsin Conference UMC

## Christian Symbol of the Month

**Tongues of Fire**—Reminiscent of the Pentecost account in Acts 2, when "tongues of fire" rested on the disciples' heads as the Holy Spirit birthed the church, images of flame symbolize the Spirit. Sometimes a tongue of fire is paired with a dove and set on a red background—other symbols of the Holy Spirit. Fire may also indicate spiritual fervor and zeal in a Christian's life.



**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.**

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