

# SPIRE Newsletter

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July 2022



## Welcome New Members on July 17!

### Joel and Debra Belter

Joel and Debra Belter live in Thiensville. They have been in the neighborhood for three years. Besides Thiensville, they spend their time Up North, enjoying the Great Outdoors. Joel and Debra are retired health care professionals. He is a retired pharmacist and she is a retired nurse. Both served in community settings while practicing. They have two children.

Joel and Debra have been members of the United Methodist Church for many years. One of the things that they enjoy is taking daily walks. When coming to visit MUMC they were greeted by members who identified themselves as neighbors and had seen them walking around the neighborhood. When asked what they appreciate about MUMC, the response was "the feeling that MUMC has a spiritual base and community orientation." They are appreciative of the warm welcome and look forward to being members of our church.



### Bonnie Davis

My faith story goes as far back as I can remember because Sovereign God gave me to Christ-honoring parents who raised me to know God's ways. I grew up surrounded by faith communities in Minnesota and North Dakota. I

accepted Jesus Christ as my personal Savior before my teen years. My relationship with Him has been the most significant force in my life. Fast forward to Wichita, Kansas in June of 2021. My husband of 33 years passed on. My older son and his family were here in Mequon. I began looking at rentals and churches online and came across MUMC. The online pages said it was the music church! There was a choir, organ and piano, and wonderful music, which has been a lifeline passion. The web pages suggested that it was a culturally diverse fellowship with open hearts, open minds, open doors. And as I followed the Sunday service online, the pastoral messages were deeply spiritual, food for my soul. So, here I am. "Jesus led me all the way," as my life song sings!



### Dave and Kristin Traut

Long time attendees, first time members, Dave and Kristin Traut have been a part of the MUMC family for 15 years. They live in Port Washington with their two boys, Simon (8) and Max (4, almost 5). Dave works in sports television production (he gets paid to watch sports), while Kristin is currently a stay-at-home mom (she gets paid in hugs, kisses, and lots of sticky stuff). The Trauts love spending time together as a family. When they have individual free time, Dave enjoys curling and playing softball; Kristin enjoys singing and cooking. Full disclosure: these Illinois natives are Cubs fans first, but they like the Brewers too (we're not going to talk about football).



[View MUMC Online Calendar](#)

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

#### **WORSHIP SERMON SPOTLIGHT**

July Sermons

Jul. 3: Luke 22:7-20, Our Defining Story

Jul. 10: Gayle Meyer will preach

Jul. 17: Psalm 40:1-3, Wait Upon the Lord

Jul. 24: 2 Corinthians 12:1-10, My Grace is Sufficient for You

Jul. 31: Ruth 1:1-22, Something God Alone Can See

#### **WORSHIP MUSIC**

Jul. 3: Lori Ludwig & Elna Hickson

Jul. 10: Praise Ensemble

#### **CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS**

Jun. 30: Meal Site, by 4 pm

Jul. 4: Fourth of July, office closed

Jul. 6: women's prayer meeting, 7:30 am, Parlor

Jul. 6, 13, 20, and 27: summer growth group, 11 am, Youth Room; 6 pm via Zoom

Jul. 7: men's prayer breakfast, 7 am, Parlor

Jul. 8: Kids' Night Out, 6-8 pm, Fellowship Hall

Jul. 10: TCI group session, 11:30 am, Fellowship Hall

Jul. 14: Reflections Book Group dinner, 6 pm, Cedarburg

Jul. 17: welcoming new members during church service

Jul. 17: Parish Nurses' walk, 4 pm, Virmond Park

Jul. 28: Meal Site, by 4 pm

Aug. 1-5: Vacation Bible School

# From the Pastor

John Wesley (1703 – 1791), one of the founders of our denomination, lived in a world where disparity in wealth and divisions among people were growing deeper day by day. To live in the divided world, he practiced three simple rules in his daily life. The three simple rules are:

1. Don't do what you know is wrong.
2. Do what you know is right.
3. Stay in love with God.

Wesley not only practiced those three rules but also shared them as the way of living with his fellow Christians called Methodists in his days to make a better world together. As we are also living in such a divided world where people and nations are unprecedentedly hostile toward one another and divided around many critical issues, the three simple rules speak a great volume. Friends, making a better world takes intentional work, which can be demonstrated through the three simple ways. I believe we understand the first two ways without examples; but when it comes to number three, stay in love with God, we have to think of specific examples, don't we? Wesley named some common essentials for all of us while this third rule is constructed differently for each of us because each of us is unique. The common essential examples he named were public worship of God, the Lord's Supper, private and family prayer, searching the Scriptures, Bible study, and fasting, as essential to a faithful life. While we may have different names for our essential spiritual disciplines, these common practices are called to be a life-giving source of strength and central to our lives for faithfulness to God and one another. So may we practice the simple three rules in our daily lives so that we may do our part to make a better world in Jesus' name!

In Christ,  
Sue Lee

## News from Children's Ministries

### **Friday, July 8 is Kids' Night Out!**

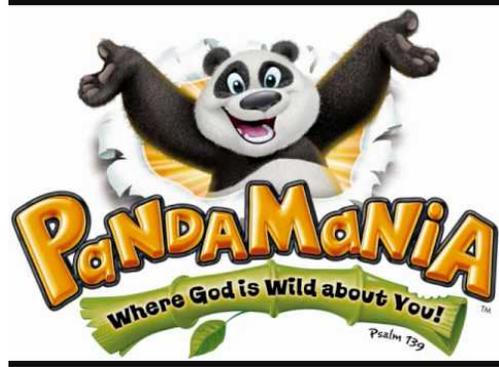
Due to the 4th of July weekend, Kids' Night Out will be held on the ~~second~~ **second** Friday of July. Join us on Friday, July 8 from 6–8 pm for Kids' Night Out (adults too)! We will have dinner, music, and games. If you would like to bring a dish, or to RSVP, please email Miss Gayle at [childrensmin@mequonumc.org](mailto:childrensmin@mequonumc.org).

**Vacation Bible School (VBS) is just around the corner**, scheduled for August 1 – 5, from 9 am – 12 noon. We would like to spread the good news of Jesus to as many as we can. Don't forget to invite family, friends, and neighbors. There are postcards and handouts that you can use to share the information available in the Narthex.

The costs can add up in order to provide a meaningful experience for all. It costs approximately \$35 a student. There are many ways you can help us nurture our youngest. You can make a donation that is labeled "VBS", you can donate a sponsorship for \$35,

or grab a "panda" from our VBS display in the narthex that supports a particular item.

Volunteers are needed so don't forget to mark your calendars and join us in the fun during VBS week. Brighten your summer by being a volunteer. The joy and smiles of children will fill your heart! It is uplifting for all. Remember God is WILD about you!



For more information email [childrensmin@mequonumc.org](mailto:childrensmin@mequonumc.org) or visit the website and check out "Children's Ministry".

## Announcements

**Meal Site Desserts Needed** on Thursday, June 30. Due to the pandemic, our contribution is limited to cookies, dessert bars, and brownies, bagged in individual servings. If you care to participate, please place 3 cookies, 2 brownies, or 2 dessert bars in a snack or sandwich bag and bring your baked goods to the church by **Thursday, June 30 by 4 pm**. There will be a box on the bench inside the front doors where you can deposit your baked goods. Thank you for your service to MUMC's Mission Outreach programs!

### **One usher needed each Sunday**

We are in need of one usher for Sunday worship. Since we are not collecting the offering during worship and are using pre-packaged communion elements at this point, the usher's responsibilities are to: 1) distribute the worship bulletin as people enter the sanctuary; and 2) after worship, collect the offerings from the offering plates, put them in the envelope provided, and drop the envelope into the safe in the office

If you are available to serve as an usher, sign up at [www.signupgenius.com](http://www.signupgenius.com). You can also let Office Manager Carol Bayne know you'd like to volunteer, and she'll add you to the list. Thank you in advance for your service.

**The Reflections Book Group will be dining out** on Thursday, July 14. We have a 6 pm reservation at Lime Cantina in Cedarburg. Please RSVP to Barb Henneck at [bhenneck@gmail.com](mailto:bhenneck@gmail.com) by July 12 if you are able to join us.

No book discussion this month; just our annual mid-summer get-together.

Reflections is a women's book group that meets monthly for discussion and fellowship. New women are always welcome. Contact Barb Henneck at the above email address for more information about the group or our July dinner out.

Looking ahead . . . our September book will be *The Women's March* by Jennifer Chiaverini.

**Marilyn Zwissler reports** that MUMC has an Instagram account where we are beginning to post events and news. The link is: <https://www.instagram.com/mequonunitedmethodistchurch/>

**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 volunteer hours. Volunteers may work when it fits their schedule, knowing they are making a difference in the life of a senior. Call 262-376-5362 to volunteer.

## Music Ministry News

June 5, 2022

Dear MUMC Community,

I am writing to let you know that I have been called to another music ministry here in West Bend at Fifth Avenue United Methodist Church (FAUM). I have decided to accept this new position beginning this July 17, and I will have the MUMC summer music all planned out for you before I leave.

All other things being equal—both congregations are loving United Methodist Church communities looking for new ways to thrive and serve and grow—my commute to MUMC is one and a half hours minimum total travel time, while it happens that Fifth Avenue United Methodist Church is just blocks from my house in West Bend.

I am sure that you will understand how glad I am to have found a United Methodist home to serve right in the community where I have lived for over 30 years now. And I already know many of the FAUM church members very well via other community groups and organizations as well as through church. That being said, please know that this was still a very hard decision for me to make after almost a year of so many wonderful, warm, and loving connections made with all of you and the MUMC family. For this, and for so much more that you have all given me, I will always be grateful. Thank you.

I wish you all the best, with a music ministry that will continue to grow in ways that are worshipful, joyful, and in meaningful fellowship with one another.

Peace and blessings,  
Deanna Gibeau

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### Music Director Sought

Mequon United Methodist Church, a Traditional/Contemporary worship church in Mequon, Wisconsin is seeking a part-time (12-15 hrs/wk) Music Director to expand our music offerings to better achieve our mission of “Making God’s Love Real” and developing disciples of Jesus Christ.

The ideal candidate is an energetic, creative, Christ-centered individual with the ability to:

- motivate others through support, development, and performance in contemporary worship music programs
- develop youth music programs that engage children and youth
- support and grow adult and special event music ministry leaders and volunteers

Qualifications—The ideal candidate must:

- feel “called” by the Lord to do His work
- have computer knowledge and experience in running general office machines
- sing and play rhythm guitar or piano at a public performance level
- be able to read and transpose sheet music and chord charts
- possess a Bachelor’s Degree in Music or 2 to 3 years successful experience in both traditional and contemporary church music

Candidates with experience in rhythm guitar, vocal, and soundboard experience will receive heightened consideration.

This is a salaried position with a two-week vacation. See the full job description at [mequonumc.org](http://mequonumc.org).

Submit resume to [office@mequonumc.org](mailto:office@mequonumc.org) or ATTN: Pastor Sue, Mequon United Methodist Church, 11011 N. Oriole Lane, Mequon WI 53092.

## Mission Outreach News

### Disaster Relief Collection at the Mequon United Methodist Church

On Thursday, June 9, 2022, Mequon United Methodist Church (MUMC) delivered over 3,000 items for disaster relief to the Midwest Mission Distribution Center (MMDC) as part of the Annual Wisconsin United Methodist In-gathering in Green Bay. Included in the delivery were Personal Dignity Kits and Home Care Kits to be distributed whenever and wherever needed to help people recover after natural disasters. The items were collected from the **Brookfield, Central, Mequon, and Oak Creek United Methodist Churches** through the efforts of a number of generous and talented individuals.

MUMC is one of two MMDC permanent collection sites in the state of Wisconsin. The MMDC brings “the hearts and hands of God’s people together to transform resources into humanitarian relief.” Since 2000, the MMDC, located in Pawnee, Illinois, has made God’s love real with the distribution of disaster relief supplies, education, health, and micro-business assistance to support those in need. For every dollar donated in 2020, over \$9.74 in humanitarian aid was delivered.

MUMC collects items for disaster relief all year round: during annual appeals and when called upon following a major crisis or disaster. Instructions and promotional materials for individual items and the assembly of various humanitarian relief kits may be found at [www.midwestmission.org](http://www.midwestmission.org). The Midwest Mission Center’s trailer at MUMC provides a convenient collection point for local efforts to help prepare for and respond to disasters in the United States, especially in the Midwest. People interested in collecting items for disaster response may call Mequon United Methodist Church, 262-242-4770, to get information or arrange a drop off.

Collecting items for disaster relief is just one of the many volunteer ministries offered by the Mission Outreach Committee of MUMC. The church’s focus is on food security, care and advocacy, shelter, and sanctuary. In the past year, MUMC partnered with Welltopia Pharmacy to deliver over 1,000 vaccines and boosters in a safe and inviting environment. Food insecurity was addressed with food collections for Family Sharing of Ozaukee County, the Hunger Task Force, and the St. Vincent de Paul north side Meal Site, as well as delivery of hot meals to people who were homebound or homeless. Clothing and materials are collected for partner

charities that provide basic needs. Finally, MUMC provides financial support to other selected non-profit organizations who support underserved people with food, shelter, and clothing.

Visit the church website at [www.mequonumc.org](http://www.mequonumc.org) to learn more or to participate in any of MUMC's outreach services.

Karen Huffman  
Mission Outreach Committee  
Mequon United Methodist Church  
Huffy1234@sbcglobal.net  
262-957-6273

## From your Finance Team

### 2022 Apportionment Appeal

We have all missed seeing one another and being together in worship at Mequon United Methodist Church during the past years of the pandemic. We also missed having opportunities to be active in person in ministry with each other. Yet many people in our community, in Wisconsin, throughout the region, and in our country have not remained as safe or fared as well as we have. Many desperately need the ministries of our United Methodist Church, and we can assure that those people in distress get help to sustain them through our church apportionments, through sharing our own good fortunes. The first step in appreciating apportionments and the ministry they make possible is to understand what an apportionment is and what it is not, and to understand the good that apportionments can do.

Apportionments provide:

Compassion  
Justice  
Mercy  
Accountability  
Hope

Apportionments are not a “church tax”, nor are they a form of “membership dues” or a “disciplinary obligation.” They are a gift and an opportunity. They are the means by which even the smallest church may magnify and increase its ministry potential, and the largest churches may multiply the blessings and impact they provide. Each dollar given to fund the apportionments of the United Methodist Church undergoes the miracle of the loaves and fishes—they multiply to serve and satisfy those who hunger and are in need around the world. Apportionments are an investment in building the realm of God and spreading the good news of Jesus Christ. Lives are changed, faith is shared, and hope is raised. By our giving, we participate in the saving of lives as well as souls.

We ask that you prayerfully consider responding to this year's apportionment appeal with suggested gifts of \$250 per person or \$500 per family. We know this is not possible for everyone. Some will be able to give more and that extra will be a gift on behalf of those who cannot. Please donate online under member apportionments or send a check to the church indicating 2022 Apportionment appeal.

In God's Abundant Grace and Love,  
Your Finance Team:

Mike Debbink  
Rick Gattoni  
Joel Huffman  
Pastor Sue Lee  
Connie Pukaite  
Kay Schroeder  
Glen Van Fossen  
Kim Waters

## From the Wisconsin UM Foundation

### A Matter of Perspective—July 2022

Some things are simply a matter of perspective. We can be reminded often how words can be used to skew the truth. For instance, an interoffice softball game was held every year between the marketing department and support staff of one company. The day of the game, as hard as the marketers tried, the support staff whipped the marketing department soundly. In its best tradition, the marketing department decided to find the best “spin” they could on the dismal result. They showed how they earn their keep by posting this memo on the bulletin board after the game: “The marketing department is pleased to announce that for the recently completed softball season, we came in second place, having lost but one game all year. The support department, however, had a rather dismal season, as they won only one game all year.” On the other hand, hidden beauty can also be found by looking at a situation in a different way. A little girl named Lauren (age 5) reports, “I know my older sister loves me because she gives me all her old clothes and has to go out and buy new ones.” I think Lauren is on to something. Our entire lives can be shaped by perspective. How would I approach money, “stuff,” and giving if I knew that God had already given me everything I need, rather than seeing all of the things I “need” in the store windows? How would I treat others if I focused on the ways I could serve, rather than making sure everyone respected my rights? How would my marriage change if it were based on being one another’s servant rather than a struggle for power? What would my attitude toward work be if I saw it as my God-given vocation rather than someplace I had to go to earn a paycheck? What if I saw Sunday as a true Sabbath . . . a time for connecting with God and family and for rest . . . rather than a day to run the kids to more activities and the last day I have to get things done at home before I go to work? Sometimes we need God to help us see the world differently before we can live differently in it.

Rev. Jason Mahnke  
Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation

## From the Wisconsin Conference

Weekly Devotion for June 13, 2022, by Forrest Wells

### **Toilet Paper, Terror, and Bread**

*"This, then, is how you should pray: 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread.'"* Matthew 6:9-11

We are now into year three of the pandemic, the effects of which will be upon this

generation for our lifetime. From supply chain challenges to employment to depression, illness and death, the realities of life's COVID-19 disruption surround us. On June 12, we adjourned our third "pandemic era" Annual Conference which was conducted in a hybrid fashion with those of us in person "masked except when eating or drinking." It was good to gather, yet there was an emptiness in community separated by pandemic, let alone the many issues that impact us.

A couple months ago with a new COVID-19 variant and the uncertainty it brings, once again many store shelves began emptying of many products including toilet paper, reminiscent of the pandemic's beginning days filled with anxiety. I admit that I stocked up on some of that toilet paper again, like many others trying to control some small piece of life when so much seems out of control. Daily we are inundated with what is going wrong in the world: Uvalde, Ukraine, racial hatred, lack of tolerance for differences, disaffiliation, fear of an "economic hurricane," random killings in the streets, terror... So, I buy toilet paper for what? Some imagined security?

Then I remember the words of Jesus in the prayer so familiar to us. He invites us to pray, "Give me/us today our daily bread." The antidote to worry amid the uncertainty and even terrors of life is faith; trust that we are not alone, God is with us. "Do not worry," says Jesus. "Cast all your anxieties upon God because God cares for you," advises Peter.

This season of turmoil is calling me deeper into a relationship with the God who has given me life, Christ who saves me, and the Holy Spirit who dwells within me. Yes, I will be prudent in life planning, involved in advocating for justice and serve as an instrument of reconciliation. But my first priority must be to rest in God's mercy and grace. Trust is not easy for me, but to think that my anxiety and attempts to control the world around me will solve the problems of the world looming around us is silly! So, I will wait upon God and pray for bread enough for each day; physical bread yes, but more so the spiritual sustenance that will sustain me and offer me hope and joy even in these times of terror. Join me in resting in the One who loves us!

*Gracious God, new every morning are your mercies, great is your faithfulness. Remind us each day of your grace so that we might seek from you the bread that sustains and thus be filled with the joy that you provide and the peace that passes understanding even during these tumultuous days. Through Christ we pray. Amen.*

## **A Letter from the Wisconsin Conference of the United Methodist Church Regarding the Boy Scouts of America**

Men's & Scouting Ministries  
General Commission on United Methodist Men  
GCUMM shares new path forward for Scouting ministry

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
June 14, 2022

Nashville, TN – The long-anticipated wait is coming to an end as a new era of Scouting ministry in The United Methodist Church makes its way forward. A highly skilled team of chancellors, insurance risk advisors, and UMC leaders have forged

a path through a difficult landscape to provide a safer way for Scouting ministry to continue within local United Methodist churches.

After months of negotiation between the Ad Hoc Committee of United Methodist's leadership team and the Boy Scouts of America (BSA), a new "Affiliation Agreement" has been finalized and approved by The UMC Ad Hoc Leadership Team, BSA top executives, and GCUMM (the General Commission of United Methodist Men) top executives. The new agreement defines the roles and responsibilities of the various parties – the Boy Scouts of America, the local councils, affiliated organizations, and Scouting units – and specific information regarding indemnity and insurance agreements (including the types of insurance coverage and limits). The ownership of the local Scouting unit will reside with the local Scout Council. The support of the ministry with the unit will still reside with the local church. Under the older relationship known as "chartering," the local church "owned" the Scouting unit while the local Scouting councils and BSA national acted as resource partners. As a result of the class-action lawsuit against BSA and their subsequent bankruptcy case, it became imperative to redefine the relationship and re-establish ownership. This move allows the local church more freedom of choice in how to engage Scouting ministry while building a responsible framework and relationship moving forward.

The General Commission on United Methodist Men (GCUMM) leads and shepherds the program ministry of Scouting for local churches throughout the connection. Greg Arnold, General Secretary and CEO of GCUMM, said, "I'm pleased at the effort put forth by the team and for keeping the focus on youth, our Scouters, adult volunteers, and local churches. Throughout the arduous process, both parties attempted to find the best way forward for this vital ministry of the local church. The relationship with BSA is new, but the ground-level ministry remains the same. GCUMM will be reaching out to conference leaders, district leaders, and local churches to assist in implementation."

The underlying question throughout the process circled around how to supply a modern agreement to reflect the needs of youth protection, liability, risk management, and appropriate identification of property ownership and program integrity—all while creating a meaningful pathway for ministry to occur.

Steven Scheid, GCUMM's Director of Scouting Ministry, shared his enthusiasm for this revamped relationship. "We looked for a new vision of relationship. This one is one that will last for the next several generations."

Today, June 14, 2022, a preliminary meeting hosted by the UMC Ad Hoc Leadership Team, GCUMM, and the BSA presented the new affiliation agreement to all attending annual conferences through a special called webinar. Bishops, chancellors, treasurers, conference Scouting coordinators, and BSA council executives were invited to learn of the new agreement.

Scheid said, "Today's meeting was the first step to ensuring our entire UMC connection is on the same page. This sharing of information will produce a more concise and collaborative effort for the final release made to the entire church on a webinar scheduled for Thursday, June 16. At such time, new affiliation agreements will be available to execute by June 30, kicking off the new relationships. The rest of the process of transferring ownership of units and properties from the local church to the local councils will take some time.

In the midst of change and alongside the legal and more technical pieces of

Scouting ministries, GCUMM is poised to assist the local church to offer safe Scouting ministries with resources and guidance.

Contact:

[gcumm@gcumm.org](mailto:gcumm@gcumm.org)

1000 17th Avenue South

Nashville, TN 37212

Ph: (615) 620-7266

## Christian Symbol of the Month

**Christian Flag**—Dating to the early 20th century, the Christian flag represents all of Christianity, though it's been used primarily in the Americas and Africa. The red Latin cross symbolizes Jesus' blood shed on Calvary to grant us eternal life. The blue background represents Christ's faithfulness even unto death, as well as our baptism into Christ. The white field signifies Jesus' purity, nonviolence, and surrender to God's will, plus the peace we gain by surrendering ourselves to 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.

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/ Closed Fridays

Sunday Schedule

9:30am Worship Service

10:30am Fellowship

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