

SPIRE Newsletter



February 2022

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CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

Jan. 30: Children's Ministry "Adventure in God's Great Outdoors"

Feb. 2: women's prayer meeting

Feb. 3: men's prayer breakfast

Feb. 6: Mission Outreach auction begins

Feb. 10: Reflections Book Group

Feb. 11: Children's Ministry "Kids Night Out"

Feb. 13: Joyful Jam

Feb. 13: Repairers of the Breach clothing collection ends

Feb. 20: Joyful Jam

Feb. 21: Family Promise host week begins

Feb. 27: Children's Ministry spring bulb planting

Feb. 27: Transfiguration of our Lord

Mar. 2: Ash Wednesday, First Day of Lent

FEBRUARY SERMON SCHEDULE

Feb. 6: 2 Samuel 18:21–33; When Suffering Overwhelms Us

Feb. 13: Glen Van Fossen, Matthew 4:23–25 and Romans 10:14–15; What's the Good News

Feb. 20: Rev. Carly Kunz (guest preacher), Luke 6: 27–38; Love is More Than a Feeling

Mission Outreach Auction Starts February 6

Dear MUMC and Friends,

As we begin February, auction time is here again! The Mission Outreach Auction is the biggest fundraiser of the year for our church and has helped our congregation realize its vision of "Making God's Love Real" through our focus on food, shelter, clothing, care, and advocacy for those in need in our community. Last year, in lieu of an in-person event, you still spoke from your hearts and helped us raise \$13,000, which we put to great use in supporting our chosen charities, including Family Sharing of Ozaukee County, Family Promise of Ozaukee County, Pathfinders, St. Vincent de Paul meal site, Hunger Task Force, UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief), Northcott Neighborhood House, and more. During this traditional season of love (yes, Valentine's Day is almost upon us!), **let us speak from our hearts again.** As Matthew 6:21 says, "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

We are **offering two ways** to support our work for 2022. **First, similar to last year, we are asking**

Feb. 27: Children's Service

WORSHIP MUSIC

Feb. 6: Praise Ensemble; Hymns: #2002, I Will Call Upon the Lord; #2025, As the Deer (Communion); #707, Hymn of Promise
Feb. 13: Lori Ludwig, Elna Hickson, & Deanna Gibeau; Hymns: #2008, Let All Things Now Living; #2108, O How He Loves You & Me

for your direct donations. Please donate what you can during the month of February (donations accepted after, of course!), either on our MUMC website (from the main page, select Donate>Mission Outreach Auction>then specify the amount of your contribution), donating through our church giving app "Give Plus," or by mailing a check to MUMC with the notation "outreach auction." **These donations have such a positive impact on our community. Thank you!**

Second, for those of us who remember the lively in-person auctions and can't resist some fun (or who want to buy their beloved something for Valentine's Day!) **we are also offering some select items you can bid on through a silent auction process. Highest bidder gets the prize.** Here are the items:

- A day at Crystal Lake near Elkhart Lake (hosted by Jeff and Marcia Schwager – thank you!).
- Four Bucks vs. Brooklyn Nets tickets for February 26 at 7:30 pm (thank you, Pat Staplekamp!).
- Four Brewers tickets at a date to be determined (thank you, Glen Van Fossen!).
- Delicious wine basket (thank you, Susan and Fran Yorio!).
- Not one, but **two** "South of the Border" margarita baskets (thank you, Reflections Book Group!).
- An all-in-one DeLonghi coffee and cappuccino machine (thank you again, Pat Staplekamp!).
- Your very own reserved parking space, with your name on it, close to MUMC's front door (three total).

There are three ways to bid. Here's the plan:

- **Beginning Sunday, February 6:** Auction items and bid sheets will be displayed in the church parlor, where you can write in your bid **after church services on February 6 and 13.** Items will also be posted on the MUMC Facebook page after church those days. **On the Facebook page,** find the photo of your item and place a bid in the "Comments" section. Finally, **you can simply send an email to Jenna Burns** (j.burns1127@gmail.com) with your bid. Updated bids will be included in the Weekly Blast.
- **Saturday, February 12 at 11:59 pm:** Deadline for online Facebook bids.
- **Sunday, February 13:** Final bids can be placed in person after church service. Please note that bidders can have someone who is attending church represent them to make last minute bids.
- **Monday, February 14 (Valentine's Day):** Winners announced (via Facebook, webpage, and blast email). The Outreach Team will follow up with each of you.

As Pastor Sue referenced during a recent sermon, giving to the Outreach Mission is our opportunity to "share a piece of our grace" with those who so rely on others

to help meet their basic needs. By doing so we also recognize their dignity, inherent in all people. Regardless of how you decide to give, we are truly grateful for your participation in this year's auction.

May God bless you,
Katie Jackson, Mission Outreach Ministry Chair
and the Mission Outreach Team:

Pastor Sue
Jenna Burns
Lisa Gorski
Joel Huffman

Karen Huffman
Jim Layton
Karen Stern
Ireene Sullivan

Kim Waters
Marie Widder
Susan Yorio
Marilyn Zwissler

From the Pastor

Based on the research of 557 churches from 2004 to 2010, nine out of ten churches in the United States are declining or growing at a pace that is slower than that of their communities. (Thom S. Rainer, *I Am a Church Member*.) For the last twenty years, MUMC, Mequon United Methodist Church, has been consistent with this pattern.

MUMC leadership was of one accord in deciding to employ professional consultations to provide the pastor, lay leadership, and congregation with the tools to guide the necessary changes brought about by our changing cultural and community context while protecting the unique values of MUMC. As an endeavoring effort to meet the undeniable need, MUMC has made a covenant to participate in a 3-year program called *Transforming Church: A Visioning Roadmap* in partnership with Leighton Ford Ministries & JH Consulting. The journey is designed to assist us in addressing our current challenges while leaning into our strengths. It is a process that will be a roadmap for the future that will increase our missional impact in our community. The survey taken last year is a part of the process for year one. One of other steps that needs to be done during the first year of the program is preparing a report entitled Discovery Report about MUMC and its community. The report will be available sometime in the month of February. So stay tuned! This report is a "map" that shows where we are and will help us understand the challenges that need to be overcome, and the opportunities and changes that should be embraced with boldness and confidence in God.

Friends, it will take lots of discussions, prayers, and commitments to build strategies and implement them for MUMC to become a growing and vibrant church. So, I invite you to join me and our leadership in this journey by sharing your questions, dreams, faith, and commitments as proactive players and faithful disciples for *Transforming Church: A Visioning Roadmap*. May we joyfully obey the Holy Spirit leading us in this journey so that MUMC may become a "hill" to shine the light of Christ that brings life to many people.

In Christ,
Sue Lee

Announcements

Rev. Carly Kuntz will be guest preacher on Sunday, February 20. She served as a pastor in the Wisconsin Conference for thirty-seven years before

retiring last June. Before attending Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary, she taught music in public schools in Barneveld and Beaver Dam. She was blessed to share two years of ministry with Pastor Sue in Menomonee Falls. In retirement she volunteers at Children's Hospital and Kyle's Korner. Carly attended many meetings in the Mequon UMC building and is pleased to accept an invitation to preach and share worship with all of you.

MUMC is reinstating a mask requirement to enter the church building as COVID-19 continues to spread in our community.

A message from our Parish Nurse Team: Transmissible virus remains at a very high rate in Ozaukee County. Vaccines are the best public health measure to protect people from severe illness, hospitalization, and death. The CDC recommends everyone over 5 years of age to get fully vaccinated. With the omicron variant spreading rapidly and being highly contagious, MUMC will require masks to be worn indoors by everyone over 2 years of age until further notice. Current science encourages wearing a well fitted medical-grade mask that covers your nose and mouth in indoor places where people gather.

We will also suspend coffee hour until further notice.

Music Ministry News

New at MUMC this February we present our Joyful Jam!

Joyful Jam is going to be a joyful and jammin' experience! It is designed to give families **and everyone** the chance to sing and make music together. Kids, parents, and grandparents can come and be together and join in singing and praise. And it is not limited to young families at all! We welcome our grandfriends and singles and all visitors: the entire family of God is invited.

So, come one, come all to our Joyful Jam in the fellowship hall on Sundays, February 13 and 20, 11 am until 12 noon. All are welcome to be in our circle with us (whether you sing or play along or not, anyone should feel comfortable participating, regardless of musical ability), so please come on down and join in after the morning service if you are at all curious!

We are hoping that all members of our church who like music—from preschoolers to seniors—will feel comfortable taking part in this new offering at MUMC. And, of course, we welcome all visitors and hope you will bring new friends to the Joyful Jam as well. So, get this on your calendars. Our Joyful Jam will gather in the fellowship hall (lower level) where we will be looking forward to meeting you and your family and friends on February 13 and 20, 11 am-12 noon. See you there!

Deanna Gibeau
MUMC Minister of Music

News From Children's Ministries

We have fun things planned for each month during the winter season. Mark your calendars!

Children's Ministry invites all to join us **Sunday, January 30 at 3 pm.** We will be

having an outdoor (weather permitting) Adventure in God's Great Outdoors in our Marsh Meadow. We will be looking for winter animal tracks, having a scavenger hunt, making ice jewels, doing crafts, munching on "scat snacks" (coco puffs and chocolate covered raisins), singing songs around a fire, and much more! What a fun way to spend a snowy winter afternoon! Invite your friends! All are welcome! RSVP to childrensmin@mequonumc.org. See you there!

Friday, February 11 at 6 pm is kids Night Out in Fellowship Hall. Social time for the children to hang out together. Games, crafts, stories, and music will be offered. Friends are welcome to join.

Sunday, February 27 at 9:30 am is Children's Sunday. The children will be reading scriptures, saying prayers, and singing a song using sign language and another language for the Special Music. It will be a great celebration of children addressing diversity and kindness.

Children's Ministry invites you to join us on **Sunday, February 27 at 10:30 am**. Immediately following the church service, we will begin celebrating the upcoming Lenten season by planting bulbs. You can take home your planting, care for it, and watch it grow as we journey through the season of Lent awaiting Easter. Everyone is welcome. We want to make sure to have enough supplies so please RSVP to childrensmin@mequonumc.org

Mission Outreach Ministries

FAMILY PROMISE

Have a recipe for a cozy casserole? Have friends who love to cook? MUMC's next Host Week for Family Promise will start February 21. We need to provide evening meals for homeless shelter guests from **Monday through Friday of that week, February 21 - 25**. You don't need to cook a whole meal. We're happy to coordinate with others who are willing to contribute a portion of a meal. Or maybe you can organize your Mahjong group or a sports team to cook. You don't need to feel like a meal is always salad, meat, potatoes, veggie, and dessert...maybe it's an entree salad and dinner roll, or enchiladas and rice, or soup and sandwich. You can also choose to purchase sub sandwiches or maybe fried chicken with a side.

Please give some thought to how you might be a part of this important ministry and shoot us an email or text (to Pam) or give us a call. With some creative thinking we don't have to have the same folks prepare the meals for every MUMC Host Week. However, carrying the load isn't a bad thing because you will know that you've done a good deed and some people at the Chalet will be going to bed with full tummies and the knowledge that someone out there cares about them.

Please mark your calendars for our Host Weeks in 2022:
(Host Weeks are Monday through Friday, evening meals to be delivered by 5 pm.)

February 21 – 25

April 18 – 22

June 13 – 17

August 8 – 12

October 3 – 7

November 28 – December 2

REPAIRERS OF THE BREACH

Clothing Collection for Repairers of the Breach is Extended! Our confirmands and scout troop are collecting clothing for Repairers of the Breach and bringing their donations to church on **February 13**. If you missed the first end date in January, you have another opportunity to help with this mission. Repairers of the Breach is asking for new underwear and socks for men and women, large sizes are especially needed. Hand warmers are especially needed this time of year. They also need travel sizes of shampoo, toothpaste, mouthwash, deodorant, soap, razors, and shaving cream. They can always use clean, new or nearly new winter clothing.

Repairers of the Breach is one of Mission Outreach's special projects. It is the only Milwaukee daytime shelter for homeless adults. This shelter provides a myriad of life-sustaining programs to help people get their lives together. Visit their website to learn about their life-restoring programs at www.repairers.org

Reflections Book Group

FEBRUARY REFLECTIONS

The Reflections Book Group will meet on Thursday, February 10. We begin at 7 pm in the parlor. Our February discussion book is *Transcendent Kingdom*, by Yaa Gyasi.

Amazon.com offers this summary:

Gifty is a sixth-year PhD candidate in neuroscience at the Stanford University School of Medicine studying reward-seeking behavior in mice and the neural circuits of depression and addiction. Her brother, Nana, was a gifted high school athlete who died of a heroin overdose after an ankle injury left him hooked on OxyContin. Her suicidal mother is living in her bed.

Gifty is determined to discover the scientific basis for the suffering she sees all around her. But even as she turns to the hard sciences to unlock the mystery of her family's loss, she finds herself hungering for her childhood faith and grappling with the evangelical church in which she was raised, whose promise of salvation remains as tantalizing as it is elusive.

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 for more information about the group or our February meeting.

Looking ahead . . . our March book will be *Sparks Like Stars* by Nadia Hashimi.

Community Gardens Update

MUMC's Community Gardens will be Making God's Love Real one tomato at a time in 2022.

Mequon United Methodist Church converted an overgrown out-lot into a growing community garden outreach program. In 2021, our fourth year, we added to the legacy that our gardens are providing to our community and beyond. During our

2021 gardening season, we had 10 family garden plots, two outreach gardens, and two Sunday school youth gardens. We touched more than 300 individuals in our area. Our outreach plots produced more than 750 pounds of produce; combine that with another 750 pounds from the 10 family plots and the MUMC community gardens contributed more than 1,500 pounds of fresh organic food to area residents, church family, and organizations such as Family Promise and the Saukville Community Food Pantry. Using the standard community garden conversion, this contribution would be equivalent to a \$3,000 donation. And that total does not include the hot peppers from the Byron Jackson Memorial Garden being processed into hot sauce.

Future project: To create additional gardens, we need some major drainage work that we hope we can have completed this winter. We also have a pergola plan that would be a permanent structure and central meeting place in the gardens, but more on this later!

There will be 12 full size garden plots in 2022; they are already reserved and assigned.

A big thank you to all the people who are supporting the gardens; together we are Making God's Love Real.

Jim Layton
Community Gardens Director

A Letter from Bishop Jung Regarding the Boy Scouts of America Bankruptcy

January 10, 2022

Siblings in Christ,

I begin with gratitude for Christ who is present in all things, and for your faithfulness as we continue the work of restorative justice and healing in our response to the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) bankruptcy matter. I write to update you and communicate our next steps as an annual conference.

Pending court approval of a settlement agreement in the BSA bankruptcy case, United Methodists have agreed to contribute \$30 million to a \$3 billion Survivor Trust Fund that will receive contributions from the Boy Scouts of America (BSA), insurance companies, and charter organizations. Every annual conference has been asked to commit to contribute toward the Survivor Trust Fund. The Wisconsin Conference has been asked to commit \$208,096 toward the Survivor Trust Fund and attorney fees. The Conference has already contributed \$20,000 of this amount. The fund will be used to compensate persons alleged to have experienced abuse while in scouting. The BSA filed for bankruptcy as it faces more than 80,000 claims for alleged child sexual abuse over the last 80 years. United Methodist congregations sponsor more than 6,000 Boy Scout troops and Cub packs.

United Methodists participated in the bankruptcy mediation process with five goals:

1. Healing and support for survivors
2. Releases from claims related to sexual abuse for United Methodist congregations that chartered Boy Scout troops and Cub packs

3. Releases for all charter organizations
4. Preservation of congregations' and annual conferences' insurance
5. A fair and just financial settlement

The settlement agreement meets each goal, but the cornerstone of the United Methodist settlement was the healing and support for survivors. "When people hurt, United Methodists help," said Bishop John Schol, chair of the UMC Leadership Team created to support the United Methodist chartering organizations in the bankruptcy matter. "The commitments of United Methodists, working together, are bringing healing, hope, and wholeness to the survivors."

The United Methodist Church does not tolerate sexual abuse of any kind and has consistently worked to keep young people safe. Most of the 80,000 claims occurred in the 1950s through the 1970s. Since that time, new practices and policies have been put in place by the BSA and UMC, which has dramatically decreased child sexual abuse. For United Methodists, only 1 percent of all claims alleged to have taken place in and through United Methodist Scouting programs occurred in the last 20 years. While that is a dramatic reduction, even one case is too many. In addition to a financial contribution, United Methodists are committing to the following:

1. Train leaders to meet with and hear the experience and hopes of any survivor who participated in scouting activities connected with a United Methodist congregation.
2. Review all Safe Sanctuaries/Ministry Safe policies and update as necessary.
3. Develop a series of articles about how to ensure safe youth programming.
4. Participate in a survivors' justice and healing working group formed by survivors who filed claims.

Each annual conference is now being asked to commit to follow-through with the United Methodist commitments listed above by agreeing to the following:

1. Identify leaders who are willing to be trained and listen to survivors' experiences.
2. Review all Safe Sanctuaries/Ministry Safe policies of congregations and the conference to ensure they are up-to-date and are being followed.
3. Re-publish the series of articles about child sexual abuse.
4. Raise funds for the Survivors Trust Fund.

Conference leadership has asked the Cabinet, the Conference Board of Trustees, and the Council of Finance and Administration to confirm our commitment to our portion of the settlement before the February 1 deadline.

Conference leadership is preparing a recommendation to the 2022 Annual Conference that will offer a way to meet our commitments. I appreciate your faithful attention to this very serious matter. Please keep the victims, our shared ministry, and the integrity of our witness in prayer.

Together, God's newness will continue to be made known in the power and love we know as Christ. Thank you.

Peace,
Bishop Hee-Soo Jung

From the Wisconsin UM Foundation

An Attitude of Gratitude Makes a Big Impact February 2022

Most of the time it seems as if making a positive change in your life takes a lot of discipline, time, and effort. This makes sense. If quick and easy fixes really led to things like better physical and mental health, financial wealth, and problem-free relationships, we'd all be rich, deliriously happy, and well-adjusted. We do know that life isn't that easy or simple. But, what if one word was able to improve both your physical and mental health, give you more and better friends, and help you accomplish more? Such a word does exist. It is GRATITUDE. An article from Forbes from 2014 outlines seven benefits of showing gratitude:

1. Gratitude opens the door to more relationships. When we say thank you or express appreciation to someone we've just met, the person we thank is more likely to seek an ongoing relationship.
2. People who express gratitude experience fewer aches and pains and they report feeling healthier than people who do not express gratitude.
3. Gratitude improves psychological health. Research confirms that gratitude effectively increases happiness and reduces depression.
4. Gratitude reduces aggression and increases both sensitivity and empathy.
5. Grateful people sleep better.
6. Gratitude increases a person's self-esteem and reduces resentment toward people who are perceived as having more.
7. Gratitude increases mental strength. Studies indicate that people who are grateful respond to trauma and tragedy with greater resilience and strength. Recognizing all you have to be thankful for, even during the worst times of your life, fosters resilience.

How can you nurture an attitude of gratitude?

- Consider creating a gratitude journal, taking time each day to write out what you are grateful for.
- Surround yourself with "gratitude cues," which are notes or visual reminders of what you must be grateful for, set in places where you will see them throughout the day.
- During your daily prayer time, be sure to include time to give thanks.
- Begin practicing mindfulness. Mindfulness and gratitude are connected.

Yes, we may find that being grateful is neither easy nor simple, especially during difficult times. But I believe its impact on our lives is well worth the effort.

Rev. Jason Mahnke
Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation

From the Wisconsin Conference

Editor's Note: From the beginning of the pandemic until the end of August 2021, the Cabinet of the Wisconsin Conference posted a daily devotion, called a Reflection, to their website. Since September 1, they have posted weekly Reflections. Each Reflection is well written and thought-provoking; below is one from January.

Weekly Devotion for Monday, January 17, 2022, by Barbara Certa-Werner

But let justice roll down like waters

And righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. (Amos 5:24)

Justice. This word has taken on various meanings in our culture. I often hear, “Well, I hope _____ gets what they deserve,” or “What comes around goes around,” and/or “Karma.” Our culture has confused punishment and revenge for justice. Justice is fairness, accountability, and, above all, “loving our neighbors as ourselves.” If we truly love our neighbors, we seek:

- food for the hungry
- shelter for the homeless
- healthcare access for all, including mental health services
- accountability for harm
- solidarity – standing together for the sake of righteousness

My reflections on justice turn to Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., when he said, “History will have to record that the greatest tragedy of this period of social transition was not the strident clamor of the bad people, but the appalling silence of the good people. Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly. He who passively accepts evil is as much involved in it as he who helps to perpetrate it. He who accepts evil without protesting against it is really cooperating with it.”

As we honor Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., may we embark towards justice, seeking solidarity as we strive towards truly loving our neighbor and to correct what is harmful so that “justice may roll down like waters.” Amen.

Soul Food by Bishop Jung

This I Pray and Offer as Resolutions for the Church in the New Year

“My people will live in peaceful dwelling places, in secure homes, in undisturbed places of rest.” (Isaiah 32:18)

1. A Threshold for True Harmony

As we pass through the threshold of 2022, we prayerfully and completely entrust this year to the Lord. From our trust and even through our frailty, may God liberate humankind from the chains of pandemic and restore us to even healthier days. Health arrives as a gift and a deep reception of our mutual dependence: we must all be saved together to achieve our complete and entire salvation. As we pass through the eye of this needle into God’s newness, we cross humbly, and acknowledge that a world of creation that is dependent on one another requires that we live together by moments of chosen mutuality and into places that can only be pursued on a path of love and harmony. Honest love and respect for our neighbor exalts them above ourselves. This is the agape of neighborliness proclaimed by the Gospel. In a world where even one person suffers from their dignity rejected, discrimination chooses evil forces that break the balance of God’s intended harmony and damages the beautiful tapestry of life. From this we must repent. We believe that the church’s mission is to fully give and devote itself to this kind of respect and love. This is God’s self-giving poured into each moment of creative transformation, Christ in us.

2. Our Inner Work of Confession and Worship

As we reflect on our inner journey and pass into the threshold of 2022, I would ask us how we might restore such love and respect as a priority for Christians. I hope

that we will confess our failings before God completely and worship the Lord with the simple practice of loving and respecting the lives God presents us, that we might demonstrate our neighborliness in each day. I trust that our existence can be filled with such love and respect, that we will come to think together that the holiness that illuminates our surroundings is the simple and good life of our choosing. Let us begin with a critical look at the hubris of our time when the church cared only for the vanity of a false sovereignty, imperialistic mental frames, and the trappings of dominance. We must remember that Jesus sides with the weak not out of mere sympathy, but God's divine reorganization and reclamation of the creation order. This gospel has power to lift children, to relieve the pain of the poor—this is a gospel that frees the smallest life from oppression and rejects systems of discrimination and patterns of prejudice. I believe only pure and humble love is the essence of life.

3. Walking in Beloved-ness

God, help us to become a church that unites around this strength of meekness. God, help us bring together a church that does not allow the evil of racism for even a single moment, and finds those who are always lost and in trouble. Grant that we may befriend the lonely, and generously serve those in need of help. Make us courageous in our practice of the love of Christ. May 2022 be a year in which we again focus our attention on God and unite with one another in diligence and watchfulness, that we might leave alienation on the altar and walk in unity as our worship.

I sincerely hope that this year will be a year of wide and generous love in the common dreams and beloved-ness of being children of God, with acceptance and even neighborly respect for differences. I pray that the Lord's blessings overflow to you.

Prayerfully,
Bishop Hee-Soo Jung

One Last Thing . . .

Beyond Candy Hearts and Roses

The first half of February seems dominated by pink and red, cards, and candy. But people not in a loving romantic relationship can sometimes feel left out of the festivities. Of course, all people need love--and certainly love is not limited to the romantic kind. Author Leo Buscaglia, who became known as "Dr. Love" for writing about the topic, said, "Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around."

Jesus taught that loving one another is second only in importance to loving God (Matthew 22:37-40), and that when we love one another, God lives in us (1 John 4:12). There are so many ways to do that—beyond candy hearts and roses! But Valentine's Day is as good a reminder as any.

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

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