

SPIRE Newsletter



November 2021



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CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

- Nov. 1: All Saints' Day
- Nov. 1: Thanksgiving food collection for Family Sharing ends
- Nov. 2: Lunch Bunch
- Nov. 3: Women's prayer breakfast
- Nov. 3: COVID-19 booster clinic
- Nov. 3: confirmation class
- Nov. 4: Men's prayer breakfast
- Nov. 7: Daylight-Saving Time ends
- Nov. 9: Lunch Bunch
- Nov. 11: Veterans Day
- Nov. 11: Reflections Book Group

Mission Outreach Christmas Giving Tree Supports Pathfinders of Milwaukee

Sharing the Gift of Christmas
with Those in Need

This year MUMC will once again support the mission work of Pathfinders of Milwaukee. Please visit their website at pathfindersmke.org to more fully understand the vast array of

Nov. 14: Bel Canto Senior Singers concert (MUMC sanctuary, 2 pm)
Nov. 15: Christmas Giving Tree campaign begins
Nov. 16: TCI survey results walk-through
Nov. 25: Thanksgiving Day
Nov. 28: First Sunday of Advent
Dec. 6: Christmas Giving Tree campaign ends
Dec. 6-10: Family Promise meal service
Dec. 11: Children's Gingerbread Bash
Dec. 12: Children's Christmas Pageant
Dec. 13: Charge Conference at MUMC

WORSHIP SERMON SPOTLIGHT **November Sermons:**

Nov. 7: Luke 22:14-20, Do this in remembrance of me
Nov. 14: Marcia Schwager will preach
Nov 21: Luke 17:11-19, With a grateful heart
Nov. 28: Psalm 25:1-10, Hope

WORSHIP MUSIC

Nov. 7: Lori Ludwig & Elna Hickson

services they provide for youth and young adults.

Due to the ongoing concerns with COVID-19, the Mission Outreach Committee will once again be protecting the members of our congregation. We are asking MUMC members to provide monetary donations and Mission Outreach Committee members will do the shopping.

A donation amount of your choice is welcome and we are grateful for any amount you give to this worthy organization and the young clients they serve. In the past, the average donation amount has been \$40 - \$50 per MUMC member who donated. Your generosity has always allowed us to provide MANY gifts for the youth and young adults supported by Pathfinders of Milwaukee. Last year this equated to MUMC members providing gifts at a total value of \$2230!! Amazing!

Starting **Monday, November 15**, donations can be given on-line or by check. For online donations, go to www.mequonumc.org, click on Donate, click on Make An Online Donation, choose Christmas Giving Tree in the drop-down box.

For monetary donations, please make checks payable to MUMC with "Giving Tree" in the notation line. Leave your check in the secure box outside of the church office or mail to: MUMC, 11011 N. Oriole Lane, Mequon, WI 53092.

In order to allow time for the Mission Outreach Committee members to shop and have gifts ready for Pathfinders for Christmas giving, we would appreciate receiving your monetary donations by **Monday, December 6**. Questions? Phone Karen Stern at 262-227-7811 or Susan Yorio at 262-853-3933.

Smile and know you just made Christmas brighter for a Milwaukee area youth or young adult! Thank You and Merry Christmas!

From the Pastor

"I have constantly found and remembered reasons to be grateful." This was an answer from a person who has lots of reasons to be bitter about her life when someone asked how she has kept her spirit of gratitude despite the unfairness that life has thrown at her.



Often times, we have a difficult time being grateful because we take so many things for granted. That's it! We take so many things for granted. This month,

November, especially during the Thanksgiving week, many of us will be busy cooking turkey, making stuffing, baking pumpkin pies, and watching football games until we are fast asleep. But we all know that Thanksgiving is much more than food and fun.

As we prepare ourselves for Thanksgiving this month, why don't we set aside time to write down the things we are grateful for? How about starting it today? Write down one reason a day until Thanksgiving Day and share those reasons with those who gather around the Thanksgiving dinner table. You might think it is a childish activity, but I guarantee that the list will bring you some perspective to see life differently.

6“Godliness with contentment is great gain. 7 For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. 8 But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that.” 1Timothy 6:6-8

With a grateful heart,
Sue Lee

Recent Baptisms . . .

Recent Baptisms at Mequon United Methodist Church:

Carter Jay Sigler, son of Cody and Jessica Sigler, baptized June 12 and 20, 2021

Elliott John Wachowiak, son of Ryan and Amy Wachowiak, baptized August 22, 2021

Emmett Darrin Clark, son of Tyler and Melissa Clark, baptized August 29, 2021

Evelyn Bennett, daughter of Jake and Lisa Bennett, baptized September 11 and 26, 2021

. . . and Receiving New Members

Welcome New Members, Jake and Lisa Bennett!

Jake and Lisa met in Chicago in 2015. Work brought them both to St. Louis in 2016 where they were later married. They moved to Milwaukee in 2019 and welcomed their baby girl, Evelyn, in August of 2020. They moved to Mequon a few months ago in 2021 and are excited to meet the MUMC family soon (hopefully in person).

Jake and Lisa enjoy hiking and running. Jake has completed an Ironman and both have completed multiple marathons. Daughter Evelyn is very curious and loves to explore more and more about the world every day. The Bennetts are excited to be in the Milwaukee area (Go Bucks!) and look forward for what is to come.



Announcements

Thanksgiving Food Collection for Family Sharing of Ozaukee County

The Mission Outreach Committee invites and encourages you to participate in MUMC's annual collection of nonperishable foods for elderly, disabled, and low-income residents of Ozaukee County. Empty grocery bags, with the attached list of requested Thanksgiving foods, are available in the narthex. Please return the filled bags to Mequon United Methodist Church by **Monday, November 1**. THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

MUMC Will Host COVID-19 Booster Clinic

MUMC will team up with Welltopia Pharmacy to offer a COVID-19 Booster Shot Clinic at the church on **Wednesday, November 3** from 12:30-2:30 pm (by appointment only). The clinic will be open to all who are 65 or older or have a qualifying medical condition, and have received the Pfizer vaccine at least 6 months ago. Please note, Moderna and J&J boosters are available upon request.

You can make an appointment on the MUMC website by clicking on the Sign-up Genius link for the booster clinic. Or, contact Karen Huffman at 262-957-6273. Your ID and medical insurance card are required. Please bring your Covid vaccination record, so that the third dose can be added. All recipients will also need to complete a vaccine form.

MUMC has scheduled a TCI Survey Results Walkthrough on November 16, 2021, at 7 pm. This is for everyone in the congregation to attend, so the link will be sent to all through the MUMC Weekly Blast when we receive it from the program.

The Annual 2021 Charge Conference will be held in person at MUMC on Monday, December 13 at 7 pm. Pastor Clarissa Martinelli from 5th Avenue United Methodist Church, West Bend, will preside over the conference.

Those who need to submit their annual report to the Conference (chairs of the Administration Council, Trustees, Finance Team, Staff-Parish Relations Council, Lay Speakers, and the Office Manager) need to complete their form by the end of November so that Carol Bayne has enough time to put everything together for the Charge Conference booklet.

The November/December issue of the Upper Room Devotional Guide is available in the narthex. If you can't pick up your copy, contact the office to have one mailed to you.

One usher is needed each Sunday. Because we are not collecting the offering during worship and are using prepackaged communion elements, the usher's responsibilities are: 1) before worship, to distribute the church bulletin as worshipers come into the sanctuary; 2) during worship, at 9:45 am, to count the number of worship attendees and fill out the form; and 3) after worship, to collect the offerings from the offering plates at the sanctuary entrance, put them in the provided envelope, and drop the envelope into the safe in the office.

If you are available to act as an usher, please phone Office Manager Carol Bayne at 262-242-4770 or sign up at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/>.

Thank you to everyone for your support and kind words concerning the passing of my oldest sister, Amy. It has been a long journey but she is now free and in a better place.

—Marcia Schwager

When Advent begins on November 28 this year, so does a new church year for liturgical congregations. The church seasons, which correspond to key events in Jesus' life, begin with the four-week Advent period of preparation for our coming Savior at Christmas. After the 12-day season of Christmas is Epiphany, which begins January 6 and continues through Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. That period of preparation culminates in Holy Week, and then Easter marks the pinnacle of every church year. Forty days after the Resurrection we celebrate Ascension, and 10 days after that, the Pentecost season begins; it lasts until Advent, when the cycle begins again.

News From Children's Ministries

Children's Christmas Pageant

Join the MUMC children as they celebrate the meaning of Christmas on Sunday, December 12 at 9:30 am. Enjoy your favorite Christmas carols as the children retell the story of Jesus' birth. If you have children that you know would like to have a meaningful Christmas experience by joining us please email Gayle at childrensmin@mequonumc.org. All are welcome.

We will have dress rehearsals on Saturday, December 11 at 10 am and Sunday December 12 at 8:30 am.

Christmas Gingerbread Bash on Saturday December 11 at 11:30 am. Pizza lunch provided. "Gingerbread Bash" is a fun, hands-on Christmas event for kids and families. We will build gingerbread nativities, hear the Christmas story from the Bible, sing songs, and discover that sometimes the greatest gift comes in the most ordinary box in a manger.

ALL are welcome. Invite your neighbors and friends. Join us and get in the Christmas spirit. Don't want to build a nativity? Come and help us get messy. RSVP to Gayle at childrensmin@mequonumc.org.

Vacation Bible School Kid to Kid Well Project Fundraiser

With great joy, our summer Kid to Kid Well Project was able to donate a total of \$1700 to help build and establish safe drinking water for impoverished countries. We would like to thank everyone for their support. We are always looking for ways that encourage our children to make God's love real everyday through their actions. Watch for our next project.

Reflections Book Group

NOVEMBER REFLECTIONS

The Reflections Book Group will meet on Thursday, November 11 at 7 pm in the parlor at MUMC. Our discussion book will be *Inheritance: A Memoir of Genealogy, Paternity, and Love* by Dani Shapiro. Here's a brief summary from amazon.com:

In the spring of 2016, through a genealogy website to which she had casually submitted her DNA for analysis, Dani Shapiro received the stunning news that her beloved deceased father was not her biological father. Over the course of a single day, her entire history—the life she had lived—crumbled beneath her.

Inheritance is a book about secrets. It is the story of a woman's urgent quest to unlock the story of her own identity, a story that had been scrupulously hidden from

her for more than fifty years. It is a book about the extraordinary moment we live in, a moment in which science and technology have outpaced not only medical ethics but also the capacities of the human heart to contend with the consequences of what we discover.

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 November meeting.

Looking Ahead – Our Christmas Party is scheduled for Thursday, December 9. More details to follow.

Music Ministry News

Announcing the opportunity to join MUMC's newly forming Praise Ensemble

After a great experience working together and with the congregation to bring praise music to our worship service recently, Jeff Nowak and Deanna Gibeau are now looking to expand the group in order to eventually provide praise music on a more regular basis to MUMC's Sunday services.

Do you play bass, guitar, percussion, or any other instrument? Or perhaps you'd like to join us as a singer as we lead our congregation with the Praise Ensemble? And if not you... maybe someone else you know could join us (dust off the old guitar, clarinet, or fiddle hiding in the attic) and just needs a nudge of encouragement from you!

Please help our new Praise Ensemble to grow and serve with joy and love. Contact Deanna Gibeau at 414-446-1000 or deannagibeau99@gmail.com.

Family Promise Update

Many thanks to those who cooked meals for us in October. Our next meal service is December 6–10. There are currently no churches signed up to serve the whole week of November 22, December 20, or December 27. We may be asked to serve 1 or 2 meals during those times. If you are interested in helping out during busy holiday times, please let me know.



Christmas at the Chalet – We want to support Family Promise's plan to brighten the Christmas season of those in the Chalet with planned drop offs on three Mondays in December.

December 6: small Christmas decorations, such as (removable) window or mirror decals, a wreath or something to hang on door, artificial mini Christmas tree, or garland. No real candles.

December 13: Christmas treats drop off.

December 20: Christmas gift drop off.

Keep in mind that these folks are in small motel rooms, so keep decorations small. We will have one person assigned to our church. At this point there are only adults

in our motel program at the Chalet. That is because Family Promise has worked hard to keep families in a home setting so their children can attend school in their districts.

Volunteer Hours and Receipts – Family Promise has managed to keep the program functioning because of donations, grants, and other financial programs. Grants frequently require documentation that the organization is getting local support so they ask to see matching donations – in the form of hours worked, gifts in kind, or donations. We can help by providing a log of volunteer hours worked and receipts for any groceries that were purchased. During our Meal Service week please look for the Volunteer Hours Log and note the number of hours you have spent this week. Also feel free to leave receipts or a list of groceries with prices. Alternatively, if you want to email that information to Pam at p.layton90@gmail.com or Connie at Pukaite@sbcglobal.net, we will pull together a report for the office.

Thank you so much for all that you have done to support this important ministry.

Mission Outreach Ministries

We are pleased to offer the latest in a series of Outreach Committee articles describing the charitable organizations and ministries we honor with our time and treasure. With your faithful support, we are helping to Make God's Love Real. Thank you!

Another key driver of Mission Outreach, with support from members and friends of the Mequon United Methodist Church, is Care & Advocacy. To that end, we support carefully selected non-profit agencies such as Advocates of Ozaukee County, Interfaith Caregivers of Ozaukee County, the Milwaukee Rescue Mission, and Northcott Neighborhood house.

Since 1980, Advocates of Ozaukee County has been committed to the safety, respect and compassion for individuals and families, working to end domestic and sexual violence through intervention, education, and prevention services. To date, the agency has answered over 1,100 domestic violence calls and provided 3,200 nights of shelter to women and children. To learn more, visit www.advocatesofozaukee.com. In 2021, Mission Outreach allocated \$500 to Advocates of Ozaukee County.

Since 1993, Interfaith Caregivers has provided support services to seniors such as transportation, errand assistance, and respite care, so they might remain independent for as long as possible. The growth of the senior population has led to an exponential increase in demand. In 2019, the organization processed more than 8,000 calls and answered over 5,400 requests for services. To learn more, visit www.interfaithozaukee.org. In 2021, Mission Outreach allocated \$500 to Interfaith Caregivers of Ozaukee County.



For over 100 years, the Milwaukee Rescue Mission has provided food, shelter, and clothing to men and women in the process of healing and recovery. In an average year, the Mission provides 1,000 meals per day, 70,000 nights of shelter and over 45,000 articles of clothing. To learn more, visit www.milmission.org. In 2021, Mission Outreach allocated \$500 to the Milwaukee Rescue Mission.



Founded in 1945, Northcott Neighborhood House is a full-service community center serving over 2,400 participants per year in the settlement house tradition. Services include a food pantry, job training, adult education, parental support, and activities for children and teens. To learn more, visit www.northcotthouse.org. In 2021, Mission Outreach allocated \$1,000 for Northcott Neighborhood House.

Thank you all for your support of these important partners in our quest to Make God's Love Real!

Mequon United Methodist Church Membership Covenant

As a member of Mequon United Methodist Church,

Prayers: I will set aside a time daily for devotions and prayer. I will pray for my church, its ministry, and church leaders.

Presence: I will strive to attend weekly worship services and the church-wide (spring and fall) growth group studies for spiritual growth.

Gifts: I will honor God by giving my income with the goal of tithing.

Service: I will give my talents and service to make God's love real to others in my church and beyond church walls.

Witness: I will be a unifying church member by acting with love toward other members, by engaging my conversations about my church in a positive way, and by inviting those who don't have their church home to my church.

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With God's help, I commit myself to follow Jesus Christ as I faithfully participate in the ministries of Mequon United Methodist Church by my prayers, my presence, my gifts, my service, and my witness.

—Adopted by the MUMC Administration Council on September 23, 2019



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 are posting a weekly Reflection. Two Reflections for October are presented here.

A Reflection for October 18, 2021, by Kate Croskery Jones

A Time To Be Silent and A Time To Speak, A Time for Everything

*1 There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens,
7 a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak,
8 a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace.*

Ecclesiastes 3:1,7-8 NIV

In Ecclesiastes' litany on seasonal actions there is a time to be silent and a time to speak. Acknowledging this is the easy part. Often, the far more difficult task is determining whether any moment is the moment to speak out or a moment to keep silent. Mostly we are too quick to speak out about the little things and keep silent when the stakes are much higher. When I think about keeping silent, I remember Rev. Martin Niemöller's words in post-war Nazi Germany: "First they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out—because I was not a socialist. Then they came

for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out—because I was not a trade unionist. Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out—because I was not a Jew. Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me." When I think about speaking out, I recall Jesus saying, "Do not throw your pearls before swine, or they will trample them underfoot and turn and maul you." Matthew 7:6

As I reflect on my own life and the times when I did not speak out, I was usually afraid. I was afraid of creating, getting involved in, or exacerbating a conflict. I was afraid that my words would have no value because the other would not listen to my opinion. I was afraid that I would be considered arrogant, presuming that I am right and the other is wrong. Sometimes, I ask myself "Am I right?" The refrain to Kenny Rogers's song "The Gambler" says, "You've got to know when to hold 'em, Know when to fold 'em, Know when to walk away, And know when to run. . . ."

I have never regretted speaking out in spite of my fear. Regrets haunt me when I have failed to speak out when I knew I should have. I pray that I am never silenced by fear but only silenced when being a disciple of Jesus demands it. The hymn of my heart in this season is Henry Emerson Fosdick's missional hymn for the church, God of Grace and God of Glory (UMH #577), "Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the facing of this hour... for the living of these days... lest we miss Thy kingdom's goal..."

The wisdom of what to say, and the courage to say it, surely come from steeping our life in relationship with Jesus, one of prayer and study in God's Word. Ecclesiastes does not guarantee life from hate or war and neither does Jesus. However, we can cast all fear aside because nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

Please pray with me:

God of Grace and God of glory, send Jesus into my heart, so that when I speak, my lips utter your words, strong and true. May I be a witness for you in all that I say and do. Amen.

Blessings,
Kate Croskery Jones

A Reflection for October 25, 2021, by Scott Carlson

Called for This Time

Mordecai told them to reply to Esther, 'Do not think that in the king's palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews. For if you keep silence at such a time as this, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another quarter, but you and your father's family will perish. Who knows? Perhaps you have come to royal dignity for just such a time as this.' Esther 4:13-14

If you are looking out at the world and wondering, "How much longer?" or "When will this end?" or "Who will come to help us?" you are certainly not alone. These have been challenging times, to say the least, for the people of our churches, for our clergy, for church leadership, and for our world.

As scary as it is to say this, I believe that you and I are a part of the answer. We are the ones for whom we have been waiting. In the midst of the challenges, God calls us to face this time and this age. We are invited to face them (through our faith) with hope and with courage. We are invited to lean on each other, to

embrace the challenges, together, as people of God. We are called to live out our identity as followers of Jesus. We are the ones we have been waiting for.

This was really brought home to me almost thirty years ago. I was serving at Cargill United Methodist Church in Janesville, WI. I had just been ordained an elder in the church. The weekend after I was ordained, the church threw a big celebration for me. It was great.

During my sermon, I was talking about the challenges of being in ministry today, in the world we live in. I paused to talk about how I wish I had been able to serve and be in ministry during the time in which everything revolved around the church. Back in the days when people were more supportive of the church. In the days before scandals had ripped apart churches, in the days when people sought out the church more than happens now.

Two days later, I received a card from a retired pastor, a wonderful man named Herb Ziebarth. Herb's card said, "Scott, congratulations on your Ordination. What a wonderful time this is for you! I was deeply touched by your sermon on Sunday. Thank you for your words. Meta and I served in the church you described. It was a wonderful time when people and communities supported the church and the ministry of the church. Your sermon has brought back so many memories of people and places and events and God doing wonderful things because of that support. God called me to serve during that time. It was terrific.

But God has called you to serve in this time. God has called you to serve in the challenges of these days. I know you won't find people, or communities, or even churches as receptive as I did. But I know God has called you to serve. Take the authority of that call and of the ministry of the church and serve well in these days. May ministry be as joyful and fulfilling for you, as it was for me." Love, Herb and Meta Ziebarth

Herb was reminding me that God has called me and equipped me for ministry today. I don't always feel as equipped as I need to be, but then again, I don't have to do ministry alone. We do ministry with the help of God and with one another. I want to remind you what Mordecai reminded Esther so long ago: that God has called you and equipped you for ministry today. We are the ones we have been waiting for to make a difference in this world. May God help us do so as people of courage, hope, and love.

Loving God, you have led us through a most complicated year and a half of Covid. It has changed life and how we live. We have endured isolation and challenges. It is still in our midst, creating challenges. Help us to look to you. Help us to lean on you. Help us to care for our brothers and sisters and do all we can to protect each other. Help us to sing your song and allow your song to transform our lives. Help us, in your strength and power, to keep going. In the hope that Jesus offers us, Amen.

From the Wisconsin UM Foundation

**Stewardship: Great Quotes on Giving
November 2021**

Sometimes a great quote sticks with you, rings true, and really makes you look at

something in a new way. Stores like Hobby Lobby seem to have based a large part of their business models on the fact that we love having great quotes hanging in our homes. As we approach Thanksgiving, I hope you find these giving quotes inspiring:

“Make all you can, save all you can, give all you can.” ~John Wesley

“He who obtains has little. He who scatters has much.” ~Lao-Tzu

“No person was ever honored for what he received. He was honored for what he gave.” ~Calvin Coolidge

“It is possible to give without loving, but it is impossible to love without giving.”
~Richard Braunstein

“You can’t have a perfect day without doing something for someone who’ll never be able to repay you.” ~John Wooden

“You can have everything in life that you want if you will just help enough other people get what they want” ~Zig Ziglar

“Remember this – you can’t serve God and Money, but you can serve God with money.” ~Selwyn Hughes

“I judge all things only by the price they shall gain in eternity.” ~John Wesley

“It is more blessed to given than receive.” ~Jesus, Acts 20:35

Rev. Jason Mahnke, Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation

Soul Food by Bishop Jung

October was National Clergy Appreciation Month

Siblings in Christ,

We know that God was in Christ, reconciling the world, and that relationship is the essence of transformation. We are changed by offering gifts in ways that serve each other. I am grateful for the gifted laity who lead and serve, and the dance of shared mission we discover when we deploy gifts in relationship with communities.

I write to thank you, clergy. Local Pastors, Deacons, Elders, and to you who may be spiritual leaders not yet with clergy credentials—but on the journey—thank you for your ministry!

God creates by speaking a new reality into being. God said, ‘let there be light,’ and there was light. Clergy, our words articulate God’s newness in creation. We reset blessing in creation when we pronounce a benediction and say, ‘may the Lord bless you and keep you.’ We re-establish God’s newness when we say, ‘in the name of Jesus Christ you are forgiven.’ We pronounce something irrevocable when you, say, ‘I baptize you...’ These are not just words, but language that paints God’s possibilities over the worn-through grain of the world. The church is a language community establishing God’s relentless solidarity and interdependent good in a world that asserts self-interest as the way of the world. October was Clergy Appreciation Month. I hope, Siblings in Christ, you will join me in offering signs of

genuine appreciation and thanksgiving to clergy.

I want you to know that clergy are paying the price of a politicized pandemic. They are exposing themselves to the harm of those who refuse to mask for their neighbor. They are trying to raise the level of maturity in the Christian community so that Christ would be made known in our witness. They proclaim the Oneness of Christ in a world where powerful forces seek to divide us.

According to the Lewis Center for Church Leadership, nationally, young elders, those age 35 or younger, declined again in 2021 to 721--lower than the previous low of 852. There is a decline of young deacons since 2019 by 23%. 38% of Wisconsin clergy appointed to churches have been in their appointment three years or less—and they are trying to build pastoral relationships across a pandemic and via electronic means of communication.

Our clergy recruitment is international, bringing highly educated and gifted candidates from around the planet to serve and supply congregations in Wisconsin, and we know cross-cultural and cross-racial appointments clearly express the oneness of Christ. That said, they require deep commitment from both laity and clergy for us to make world-transforming disciples of Jesus. Every pastor and every congregation have a cultural heritage. Where deep sharing takes place the governance of God's Spirit is made known. Thank you for choosing to make Christ known.

Ministry has always been hard enough to require both lay and clergy to rely on God and disorienting enough for us to take God's hand whenever it comes. I offer ten concrete ways to show appreciation for your clergy person.

- Pray for your clergy persons. Deeply, earnestly, and honestly pray for their ministry.
- Advocate for an increase in compensation and work to improve your congregation's financial stewardship.
- Serve. Teach. Organize. Your service leads by example and blesses the body.
- Hold accountable gossip and complaining that does not address people directly.
- Visit someone who is grieving or sick or shut-in on behalf of the community of faith.
- Speak well of your pastor in the church and community.
- Reflect back to your clergy something specific that you appreciated about her or his ministry.
- Attend classes that your clergy person offers. Support them with your presence.
- Help others in your congregation respect the clergy person's Sabbath day.
- Make sure your clergy person takes regular times of vacation and gets away for continuing education.

Siblings, what you pay attention to grows. Pay attention to stewardship or mission or service—and they grow. Pay attention to the office of pastor or deacon and its value and impact will only increase—as will the people in that office. Thank you, each of you, for your ministry. Know that I am praying for you.

In the hope that Christ offers us,
Bishop Hee-Soo Jung

Christian Symbol of the Month

Cornucopia

Cornucopia, a Greek word meaning "horn of plenty," has origins in Greek mythology. But the cornucopia became a religious symbol and was even stamped on Jewish coins. Overflowing horns, now common as Thanksgiving centerpieces, came to symbolize abundance and blessings.



+++ Please pray daily for MUMC +++

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.

Disclaimer: Editor reserves the right to edit content.

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Office Hours: Mon-Thurs 9am-1pm

/ Closed Fridays

Sunday Schedule

9:30am Worship Service

10:30am Fellowship

www.mequonumc.org

