

“The CHIMES” – February

Volume 59, No. 2

2024



Hello friends,

Did you find the screen at the entrance of K Street? Something is changing. Not a whole lot! We are dreaming and envisioning our future ministry. The TV screen is the first step in a new way of communication that our church needs.

It is for the ministry that all people speak and desire. Above all else, we hope that our children, youth, and family ministry starts revitalizing, blooming, and flourishing. What will make that dream come true? Here, I gathered a couple of ideas we can think of together.

One of the ideas is to gather information about what the younger generation is looking for and what they desire from the church.

We need to understand the needs and preferences of younger generations through surveys or discussions to gain insights into what younger individuals and families in your community are looking for. We are planning for this. We are planning a gathering and discussion in February. I am so joyful that we can start a baby step!

Also, a welcoming environment will be critical to invite younger families. It means creating a warm, inclusive atmosphere that appeals to more youthful individuals and families. We need to ponder on this subject. We know that our church has a welcoming heart. We feel at home in the friendship. However, when a younger family comes and finds old donated and faded furniture with dust in various parts of the church, will that appeal to their heart? We all want the younger generation to flourish in our church. When the world is shiny with all the technology, our church should be more powerful and meaningful with the tools the world provides.

Reaching the hearts of the younger generation needs both the spiritual presence and the modern aspect of the

church. They do not fully understand the precious and glorious gospel of Jesus and the joy of salvation and eternal life. The aesthetic element and cleanliness of the building are essential.

We all do not want change and think, why should there be change in the building? We might feel our space is very comfortable for us. However, imagine ten years later, fifteen years later. We are getting old physically, even though not in the Spirit. We should prepare our space and our worship style for the next generation. They need salvation desperately. They need to know Jesus desperately. We are living in a dangerous era. The church is God’s church, not our church. God desires them to come and worship the Lord with their passionate heart in their cultural language so they might be victorious.

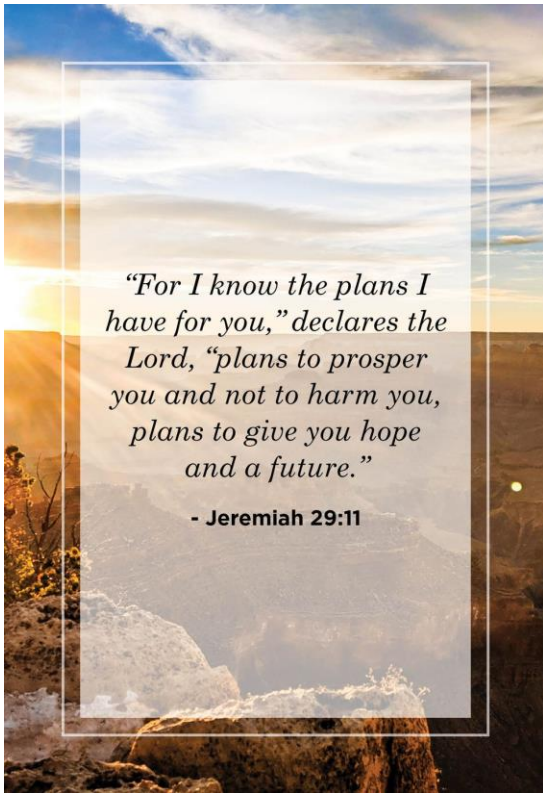
What should we do? From generation to generation, people change, and culture changes. As we hold that deep culture of the Spirit, we must stay flexible by removing the old dust of the church, increasing social platforms, preparing with technology in the ministry areas.

We should love and encourage each other more while preparing our church for the next generation. Are we ready to make a road for the next generation with love?

Grace and peace in the Lenten season
Pastor Hae-Jeong



February Memory Verse



February sermon schedule

Feb 4 Theme: Ability

Deuteronomy 8:18 (NIV) Romans 12:1 (GN)

Feb 11 Theme: Personality

Mark 12:30 (NLT) Romans 12:9-11 (MSG)

Feb 18 Theme: Wilderness Journey

Deuteronomy 8:1-5

Feb 25 Theme: Promise of God

Romans 4:20-25

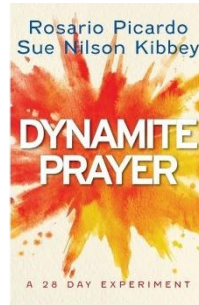
Ash Wednesday Observance

Lenten season starts with Ash Wednesday, Feb 14th. There will be two services:

One at noon in the Fellowship Hall with the Sparta Ministerial Association and at 6 p.m. in the Chapel.



Lenten season devotion "Dynamite Pryaer" by Sue Nilson Kibbey.



Wisconsin conference Bishop and Cabinet recommended the Prayer Book Dynamite Prayer to the Wisconsin churches to pray together through the Lenten season.

Dynamite Prayer is a daily prayer guide that will show you how to begin a practice of "breakthrough prayer," a way of praying where we ask God to open new doors and reveal new possibilities, fueled by the Spirit's power. This 28-day adventure will take you from feeling stuck, overwhelmed, and uninspired to curious and expectant as you surrender your own preferences and ideas and courageously follow the miracles God brings into your life.

THE FAITH LIFT 2024



You are invited to receive a "Faith Lift"! Rev. Dr. John Sungchul Hong will lead us on an inspirational, unforgettable, transformational experience.

He has taught at Asbury Seminary as An Evangelism professor, has authored 31 books and led revival events in more than 90 countries. This free event promises to uplift and nourish your soul through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Mark your calendars!

When: April 5-7

Where: Sparta United Methodist Church



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Mark the beginning of Lent in a traditional way with homemade buttermilk pancakes, sausages, applesauce and a beverage on Tuesday, February 13 from 5-6:30 p.m.



Free will offering. All are welcome!

Please contact Cyndi Wise at 608-269-4529 if you can help that evening. Thank you!



Shop with scrip...support your church



Thank you to everyone who continues to support the church through the shop with scrip program.

The next scrip order will be going in on **March 3**. If you have questions or need an order form contact Michele at the church 608-269-6949. If you find yourself in need of a card before the next order goes in give Cheryl a call and ask if she has the card you need. She sometimes has a few extra scrip cards for local businesses on hand.



Altar Plants

United Women in Faith (UWIF) would like to thank all those who signed up for one or more plant(s) on one or multiple dates for 2023. The calendars are up for 2024. Each date has two lines for one plant per line. Plants are \$5.50 each or two for \$11. Plant money goes to Eileen Gajewsky, UMW treasurer, who pays the invoice from Sparta Floral quarterly.

Thank you to the volunteers who deliver plants to church and to designated recipients after a service. Plants and volunteers brighten our days.

Thank you for your continued support of UMW, Cathy Nichols

Nurture Update..



Thank you to all our delicious cake bakers and talented table decorators who helped make our Birthday Banquet a festive and tasty event. The potluck was plentiful and over 50 friends attended. May the year ahead be filled with many blessings as we all celebrated our birthdays!

Aubrey Ebert, Judy Fuhrmann, Eileen Gajewsky, Julie Hanson, Larry & Lynn Humphrey, Cheryl Isensee, Amy Kiefer, Margie Lakowske, Scott Naeseth, Ann Olson, Julie Rodgers, Mary Talsky, Annabelle Von Ruden, Rose White, Peggy Wright, and dishwasher Joe Tadisch.



Records & History



Records & History Committee will not meet in February. Our next meeting will be March 13 at 9 a.m. in the church library. Please let me know if you are not able to attend.

Margie Lakowske

Thank you

The All Church Birthday Banquet was a huge success! **Thank you** to all the cake bakers, table decorators, set up and clean up people. As always the food and cakes were the best!

Margie Lakowske

Thank you to everyone who offered support to me and my family as we cared for my dad over the past year. It was much appreciated. He passed away peacefully on January 5.

Laurie Bartholomew



Pizza and a Movie

There will **not** be Pizza & a Movie in February. Watch for the next one in the March issue of the *Chimes*.

A Word from Our SLB Chair



The SLB met twice in January. Once for our monthly meeting and once for a Visioning Session.

Here is a high level overview from our **January monthly meeting**:



Needing a card for someone special?

You can now find new and recycled cards for all occasions: Birthdays, Anniversaries, Weddings, Thank You, Get Well, Sympathies, and Holiday Cards! The cost is only 50¢ each. All proceeds go to our Missions & Outreach Fund. You can find them in the Gathering Place if you'd like to check them out!

- Joel Tock has created a new web design but has not been able to upload it yet as he is waiting for current photos.
 - Please send pictures to Michele in the office and she will get them to Joel.
- The Youth Minister position has not been filled yet.
 - Over \$10,000 has been donated specifically for family ministry.
 - This money cannot be used for general budget items, so even if there are concerns about our current financial situation, the money must be used for family ministries specifically.
 - It was voted on to continue the job search for Youth Minister Candidate.
 - SPPRC will advertise for a 6 hour per week position at \$20 per hour.
- 3 TV Screens have been purchased.
 - One screen will be in the “K” Street entrance lobby. It will display current announcements and photos.
 - Second large screen in the balcony will display the slides during the service to the worship leaders.
 - Third screen will be installed in the Family Room off the sanctuary. We will display the Facebook live stream on that TV during the service.
- Last month, SLB voted to approve a speaker to come to Sparta UMC for spiritual revival. We will call the event “Faith Lift.”
 - All church event April 5-7, 2024
 - Speaker – Rev. Hong from Atlanta
 - Pastor Hae-Jeong has attended one of his revivals and said he is very faith-filled and spiritual.
 - She wants everyone to experience the powerful revival.
 - We will open this up to the public. It is our hope that many from the



Thank you to all who have donated to Soles4Souls! We have collected 81 pair of shoes in January!

CHANGING THE WORLD
ONE PAIR AT A TIME



Free Organ!



Located in the hallway of the church by the Garden Room. It just needs a new cord. Yours for the taking!

Contact Margie Lakowske if you're interested!

congregation will attend – and invite others to join them.

- SLB approved travel expenses, food and lodging.
- We will also apply for a United Methodist Grant to help defray the costs.
- A free will offering will be taken as an Honorarium for the speaker who is offering his time and talent for the whole weekend.
- Shrove Pancake Supper
 - February 13 from 5pm-630pm.
 - This is a church-wide event and fundraiser so everyone is asked to help.
 - Nurture is spread heading it and will let us know where help is needed.

At our **Visioning Meeting**, we discussed the following:

- Special vote taken to approve new members to Staff, Pastor, Parish, Relations Committee (SPPRC).
 - Beth Nowak, Paul Foulke, Marty Wally, Gary Ascher, Andrea Cole will join SPPRC.
 - Ellen Hemstock will continue as chair.
- Our board needs to come up with a 10 year plan to keep our ministry going.
- We discussed our current mission statement and no one could remember it without looking it up
 - We decided that it needed to be simple, yet state who we are and what our mission is.
 - Our new mission statement is “Grow and Share Our Faith in Jesus with All.”
- We had a brainstorm session and talked about our dreams for this church.
 - The ideas bucketed themselves into the following categories:
 - Evangelism
 - Children’s & Family Ministries
 - Plans for church facilities
 - Offering additional and/or different format worship services
 - Ways to get ourselves out there / fundraise / service projects
- We will meet again next month to continue our visioning and planning for the future.

I encourage you to ask questions about what we are doing. Reach out to myself (Toni Burrows) or any of the other SLB members:

Ron Phillips, Donna Burnham, Julie Hanson, Ellen Hemstock, Scott Naeseth, Peggy Wright, Gary Ascher, Andrea Cole, Denise Ebert & Pastor Hae-Jeong



- Nurture will meet in the library, February 1 at 6 p.m.
- SUMMIT Spirits will meet on Tuesday, February 6 at 6:30
- The Sparta Ministerial Association will meet at noon, in the small kitchen, Wednesday, February 7.
- There will be an SLB Visionary meeting on Sunday, February 11 after Worship.
- Lois Circle will meet Tuesday, February 13 at 1 p.m., in the small kitchen.
- Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, February 13, 5-6:30 p.m.
- There will be a Finance Meeting on Tuesday, February 13 at 6 p.m.
- Wesleyan Circle will meet on Tuesday, February 13 in the Gathering Place at 6:30 p.m.
- Stewardship Meeting will be Thursday, February 15 at 6 p.m.
- Records & History will not meet in February.
- Servant Leadership Board will meet on Tuesday, February 20 at 6 p.m.
- There will not be a Pizza and a movie in February.

- March *Chimes* newsletter deadline is Monday, February 26 by noon.

Practice, Practice, Practice

Believe it or not, even though Christmas feels like it is just behind us, Lent is about to begin (Ash Wednesday is February 14 this year). In the church, Lent is a period of 40 days (not including Easter) during which we re-examine our lives and our faith practices as we prepare for the coming of Easter. The practice of re-examination and recommitment dates to the very beginning of the church as new members prepared to be baptized on Easter Sunday. We may ask ourselves, however, **why is the observation of Lent important to us today?**

The reality of the situation is, if we don't take the time to re-examine what's important to us and practice the basics of faith, we run the risk of forgetting who we are, where we've come from, and what God has done in our lives. Every professional sports team gathers before the season begins and focuses on many of the things the players have done since they were small children. In baseball, they field ground balls (and coincidentally, Spring Training also begins on February 14 for many teams this year). In football, they go over tackling and blocking. In basketball they dribble and pass. These are adults who are the best players in the world, and yet their coaches start them off at the very beginning every year. Only the teams who've mastered the basics have a chance of contending for a championship.

As Lent approaches let's be encouraged to get back to the basics of faith. Come to worship regularly. Take time to become a part of a study group to grow in your faith together. Pray daily. Give generously both your time and your money. The basics aren't just for the young or inexperienced in faith. They are for everyone — from the youngest child to the champions of faith who've been an inspiration to us.

Let's take time to refocus on the basics as we begin our journey to the cross with Jesus.

Rev. Jason Mahnke, Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation



Chronic Pain Workshop

Healthy Living with Chronic Pain is a six-week workshop for adults who have—or are living with someone who has—ongoing pain.

Led by train leaders in a small group setting, the program focuses on helping you feel better, have more control and do the things you want to do. This program does not replace existing treatments but serves to complement your medical treatment plan. It is not intended to be a solution for addiction to pain medication.

Build Self-Confidence in your ability to manage your pain.

Healthy Living with Chronic Pain teaches you:

- Strategies for understanding and managing pain
- Short-term goal setting
- Gentle movement and stretching exercises
- Mind and body connection
- Relaxation techniques
- Stress and depression management
- Communicating effectively with family, friends and your medical team.

Worship Information

Where: Virtually

When: Wednesday, February 7-March 13, 8:30-11

Cost: \$30, includes textbook

**Pre-register by calling 800-775-6870
Or visit gundersenhealth.org/living-well**





February Anniversaries

- 9 Wayne & Amy Johnson
- 17 Russell & Melissa Culpitt
- 25 Grenda & Gale Rugg
- 25 John & Diane Noonan

February Birthdays

- 1 Jeanette Bert
- 2 Tom Houtevelde
- 2 Stephanie Ochoa
- 3 Peggy Wright
- 6 Angelyna Talsky
- 8 Toni Burrows
- 10 Emily Ascher
- 10 Dean Olson
- 11 Laurie Graber
- 11 Sara Kemp
- 12 Klynn Friemoth
- 13 Jeff Hemmersbach
- 13 Liam Huntington
- 14 Linda Pfuhl
- 15 Lorie Dale
- 15 Brady Kozelka
- 22 Melissa Goodenough
- 22 Sarah Rodriquez
- 22 Russ Tock
- 25 Mara Culpitt
- 25 Brian Hemstock
- 25 Jane Hobson
- 27 Peyton Hale



Ushers

- 4 Kurt & Amy
- 11 Ron & Denise/Ronnie & Kandy Eberts
- 18 Ron & Donna Burnhart & Peggy Wright
- 25 John & Karen Lodico

Tech Team

- 4 Ben & Hailee
- 11 Toni & Amy
- 18 Ron & Kristine
- 25 Cheryl & Cindy

Liturgist

- 4 Beth Nowak
- 11 Ben Simplot
- 18 Marty Walley
- 25 Judy Fuhrmann

Scripture Readers

- 4 Kristine Phillips
- 11 Beth Nowak
- 18 Annabelle Von Ruden
- 25 Hailee Scheurich





Soul Food by Bishop Hee-Soo Jung
January 2024

“When they saw the star, they were overjoyed” Matthew 2:10



On Sunday, we celebrated the beginning of the church season of Epiphany. The word Epiphany comes from the Greek epiphaneia, meaning “appearance” or “manifestation,” and refers to the manifestation of Jesus Christ to the whole world – Jews and gentiles alike!

Epiphany is also the time in the church when we recognize the arrival of the wise ones, who followed a star, and brought luxurious gifts to a Child born in Bethlehem. One of the Scripture texts that we read during Epiphany is from the Gospel of Matthew 2:10, ‘When they saw the star, they were overjoyed.’”

As I engaged with this Scripture, I was struck by the term, “overjoyed.” This is a word we rarely use. It is a challenging word, invoking in us perhaps many other emotions. The Scripture text is an invitation to reflect, dive deeper into how to we, as Christ followers, live in the joy of salvation, let alone be “overjoyed.”

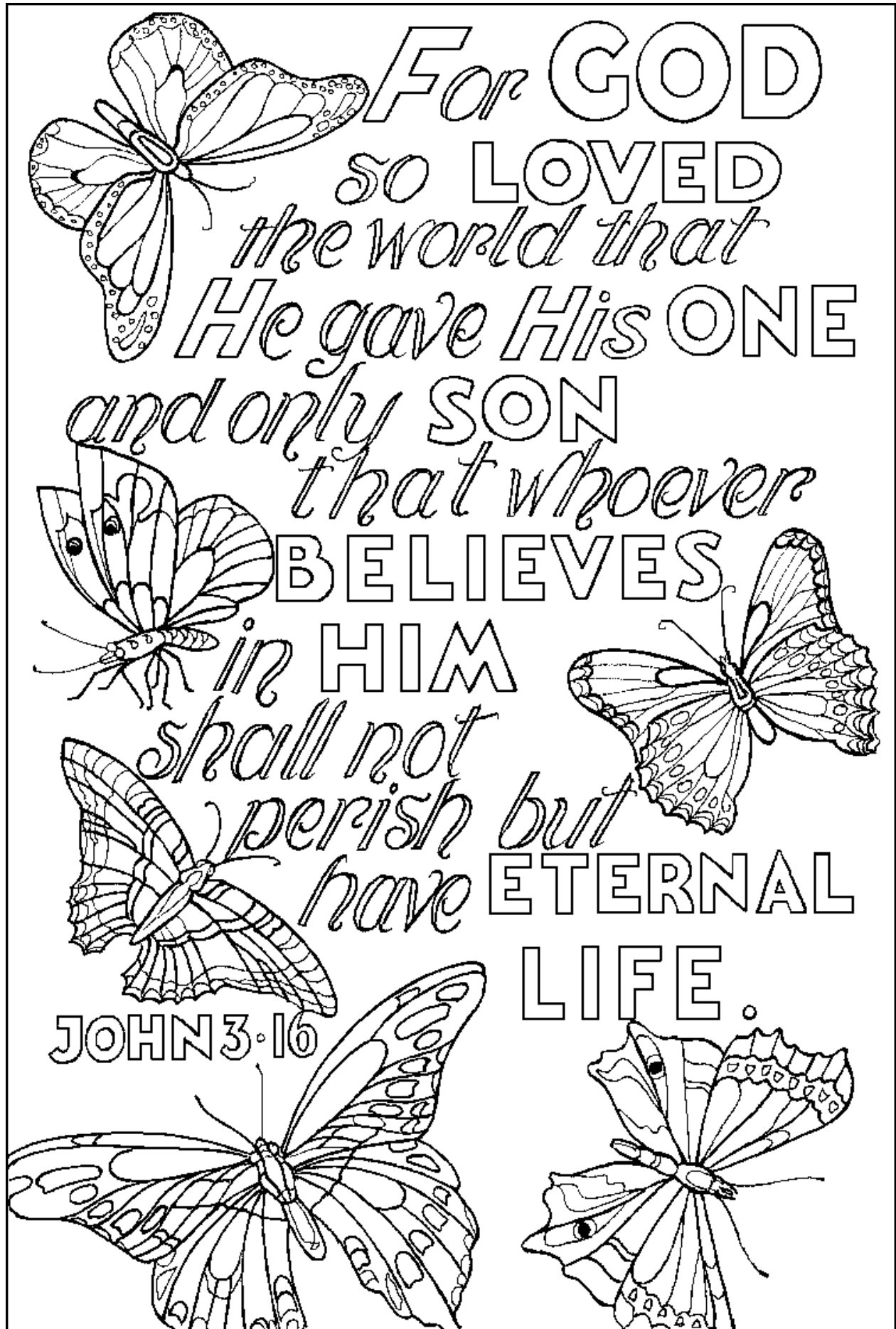
What do you praise God for? What are the things in which you have expressed gratitude? What are your joys? In a world full of concerns, struggles and burdens – where and how do you see the joy of faith alive and active?

None of these questions are new. Each is an opportunity to explore how we understand that God is alive in this world. Indeed, this is the Good News of Jesus Christ, that in Emmanuel, God is with us! Our joy does not negate the sadness, injustice nor brokenness of this world. Joy gives us a framework in which to be the joy-bearing, justice-seeking, burden-sharing people of God in any circumstance.

On Monday, January 15 we celebrate the national holiday of The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day. A day set aside to honor the ministry of a courageous, faith-filled, and faithful man. His witness continues to challenge us to move our faith into action through a beloved community grounded in Christ’s love, grace, and joy - even when facing the direst circumstances.

The Wisconsin Conference invites you to join together on Sunday, January 21, for an evening of worship featuring an African Choir and the Harmony Choir, honoring The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. We will begin at 6:30 p.m. at the Brown Deer United Methodist Church, 5736 Brown Deer Rd., Milwaukee. My prayer is that our speakers and music will fill our hearts with such joy that we can do nothing less than to live into being a beloved community of Christ Jesus.

In closing, may the words of Romans 15:13 be so, “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in faith so that you overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” Amen



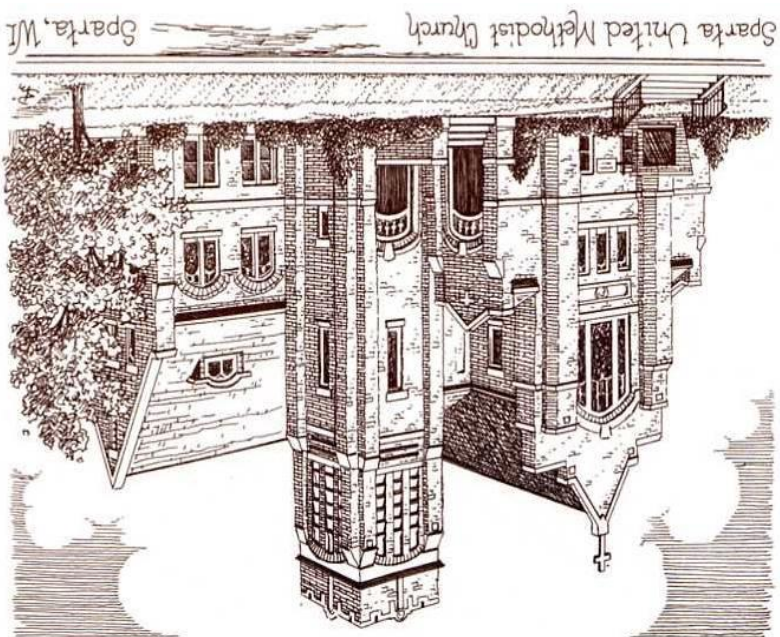
The Chimes

Sparta United Methodist Church
210 N Court Street
Sparta, WI 54656

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Prepared Especially For:



Pastor: Rev. Dr. Hae-Jeong Yoon
Pastor's Cell Phone: 415-846-3278

Phone: (608)269-6949

Fax: (608)269-6940

Email: office@spartamethodist.com

Website: spartaumc.net

SUMC Worship Schedule

In-house Service

In sanctuary worship services are on hiatus until further notice because of COVID 19

Online Service

YouTube: Sparta UMC month day year