

“The CHIMES” – July

Volume 59, No. 7

2024

A New Beginning at Sparta United Methodist Church



Greetings, dear friends and family of Sparta United Methodist Church!

I am thrilled to join you as your new pastor, bringing with me a deep sense of joy and responsibility. My life's journey has been one of learning, serving, and growing in faith, and I am eager to embark on this journey

with all of you.

A Lifetime of Learning and Service

My calling to ministry began at the age of 15 and has guided me ever since. I was ordained as an elder in 2007 while serving at Sao Miguel Methodist Church in São Paulo, Brazil. My academic journey includes studies in Social Studies in Ministries at Drew University in New Jersey and a degree in Divinity from the Methodist University of São Paulo. Additionally, I pursued studies in Portuguese, English, and Latin, and earned a degree in Literature encompassing Brazilian, Portuguese, American, and British works. My passion for languages and cultural communication has taken me to London and New Jersey, allowing me to connect deeply with diverse communities.

Global Ministry Experience

My ministry has been enriched by global experiences. In London, I volunteered as an interpreter for the Scripture Gift Ministry and was active at All Souls Church Langham Place, working with youth from twelve different countries. In 2008, I was invited by Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar to serve in New Jersey as a pastor missionary under the GBGM program "From Everywhere to Everywhere." I served at Davis Memorial UMC in Harrison and have been honored to interpret for several General Conferences and other international Methodist and ecumenical events.

Leadership and Resilience

My leadership was recognized when I became the first Brazilian elected to the executive table of the National Plan for Hispanic/Latino Ministry. In 2017, I joined the Wisconsin Conference, serving at Wesley UMC in Marshfield. Despite the loss of our church building to a fire and the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, we successfully completed and dedicated a new building in September 2020. In 2022, I was appointed to Cedarburg Community UMC, where I navigated the challenges of being the first female and first cross-racial pastor in a predominantly European community, helping the congregation process and stop disaffiliation, I was so blessed to have a great pastoral care program for our homebound and shut-ins members.

Embracing a New Chapter

Now, as I join Sparta United Methodist Church, I bring a wealth of experience, empathy, and unshakeable faith. My journey has been one of serving God and His people, overcoming challenges with resilience, and fostering unity within diverse communities. I am excited to begin this new chapter with all of you and look forward to the blessings and growth our shared journey will bring. Let us welcome this new beginning with open hearts and minds, ready to embrace the transformative journey ahead.

Praying for all of you with faith and anticipation,

Reverend Lourdes Magalhães



Come Join Us to welcome Pastor Lourdes to our church family with a potluck.

This will take place in the Fellowship Hall following her first service with us, July 14.



Annual Conference Report 2024



The Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church was held at the KI Center in Green Bay on Friday, June 7 through Monday, June 10. I was privileged to be a delegate to the conference.

The 54 annual conference was “All about Jesus! God’s gift to us to transform our hearts.” It was entitled: “Abundant God, Beloved Community.”

Statistics:

- 396 churches in Wisconsin
- There are 38,000 members in 2023/3500 members were lost
- Going to 4 districts in the conference/North Central Conference absorbed into Southwest and Southeast conferences/by Sept. 1 – Northern Illinois – Wisconsin conference formed
- 50% of churches in Wisconsin are below 58 members
- 240 churches paid their apportionments in full in 2023 (We were one of them)
- Giving to UMCOR was \$1.1 million over and above apportionments
- \$30 million given to Boy Scouts to fulfill our obligation
- Revive! Community Connector program– 60% new ministries, 15% buildings, 25% help churches with management of properties
- Launched 31 new ministries including Korean, Hmong, Hispanic/chartered 3
- Rev. Tsuker Yang retired after 32 years in ministry
- Budget \$1.3 billion Wisconsin
- 8 candidates for ordination/ 2 deacons, 6 elders
- Women in Faith – 4 ladies to General Conference/2 consecrated deaconess
- 2 certified lay ministers
- From 9 to 6 bishops
- 50% of clergy of different cultures
- Wisconsin paid Global apportionments in full – two partnership with Bolivia and Korea
- 5 transfers including Pastor Hae-Jeong Yoon
- 21 new appointments for ministers
- \$7 million mission budget

General Conference:

- The three main pieces of legislation were passed. Regionalization (will allow regions to adapt the

book of discipline to their own cultures. This will be voted on at the 2025 General Conference.) Revision of the Social Principles (first complete revision in 50 years including wording on reproduction, gender equality, etc. This took 8 years to complete and 4000 Methodist interviews. It will go into effect on Jan. 2025); and Removal of Harmful Restrictive Language (52 years against LGBTQ members). Language now states that marriage needs to be between two consenting adults, these unions may take place in United Methodist Churches and qualified LGBTQ members may now be licensed, commissioned and ordained in the church. Each church reserves the right to determine who is married in the church.

This is a new period for the United Methodist Church. “We will do what Jesus does – love the least and lost. “This is the day that the Lord hath made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it. Look to the future.

Bishop Hae-Soo Jung gave his State of the Church address at the Retirement Banquet

“Beautiful people of the Wisconsin conference of the United Methodist Church, it has been my most profound honor and privilege to serve as your Bishop these past 12 years and as one of your pastors and District Superintendent throughout my career. As I prepared for this time of sharing I have taken time to reflect upon my time spent with you, my beautiful people and my faith journey and give God thanks. These are my feelings today, post-pandemic, post-disaffiliation, Post General conference, “Lord, refresh us so that we might fully serve and worship you.”

In addition, the Cabinet will continue to work with churches and clergy to ensure we have the best match possible when making appointments. We will honor the gifts of pastors and congregation’s traditions. Let us continue to expand a world where we love and respect everyone unconditionally with the love of God. Let us live in harmony in love, considering it as the highest value that even though we are racially and ethnically diverse, and have diverse interests and theological backgrounds, the colors of that diversity become one in Jesus. Now, after 12 years of episcopal leadership in Wisconsin, I will be moving to a new annual conference. My heart remains a dynamic, grateful spirit in Wisconsin. YES, Wisconsin is the best state that raised me and my family. You are my beautiful people, dear friends, and sojourners in Christ.

One of the highlights of the conference for me was singing in the almost 70 voice Harmony Choir which

performed “The Hallelujah Chorus” and “Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi” for the ordination ceremony.

Next year the Annual Conference will be in Madison at the Marriott Hotel on June 6 – 8, 2025.

thank you

Dear Cindy, Michele and our friends at Sparta UMC, **Thank you** for generously sharing your Fellowship Hall with us for our two history programs. The space and set-up worked great! You’re a wonderful community partner! A big “thank you” from all of us at the Monroe County Local History Room & Museum. For the History Room
Jarod Roll

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

Thank you to Cyndi for planting the geraniums that were received for Pentecost Sunday. They look great.

Thank you Scott and Rose for the lovely flower planters at the K Street entrance. They are beautiful. Scott the lawn always looks great. Thank you!

Thank you everyone for the anniversary greetings you sent to us. It is so thoughtful and heartwarming to receive your cards and calls.
Kevin and Margie Lakowske

Pizza and a Movie



night this month is **July 20** Pizza will be served in the small kitchen at 6 p.m. with the movie to follow in the Chapel. Everyone is welcome! Bring a friend! Please contact Toni Burrows at 608-343-3029 before noon on July 20 if you will be attending so we know how much pizza to order.

July’s Movie is: “The Hill”



The inspiring true story of Rickey Hill, the son of a traveling pastor, who overcomes unsurmountable odds to fulfill his dream of playing pro baseball.

Starring: Dennis Quaid , Colin Ford , Joelle Carter and Randy Houser. Rated PG.

Needing a card for someone special?



You can now find new and recycled cards for all occasions: Birthdays, Anniversaries, Weddings, Thank Yous, 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!

**If the weather is 90° or above, this will be cancelled.

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 **July 14**. You can mail your order directly to Cheryl Isensee at: 9262 Festival Avenue, Sparta, WI 54656. If you have questions or need an order form contact the church (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.



There's a Song in the Air

In his short book titled *Life Together*, Dietrich Bonhoeffer writes about how to sing as a community of faith. In his instructions, he lists out some of the “destroyers of unison singing . . . that must be rigorously eliminated.” In his list, he talks about people who try to be heard above everyone else and those who try not to be heard at all. In his thoughts, he then adds a third group. “There are the less dangerous foes of congregational singing, the ‘unmusical,’ who cannot sing, of whom there are far fewer than we are led to believe.”

After many years of attempting to sing, I have learned that I am a part of Bonhoeffer's third group. Although I've tried different types of songs and different pitches, I just can't seem to get it right. What finally convinced me of the fact that I cannot sing was a comment by one youth early in my ministry. He was a reader for a service one Sunday morning and sat next to me behind the lectern. After the service was over and we were standing in the Narthex, he turned to me and said, “Jason, you should never join the choir.” (If you need more evidence, check out the Foundation's video on Socially Responsible Investing. Both Foundation President Krystal Goodger and I have “singing” parts.)

In all reality, music is God's gift to humanity. Even for those of us who are lacking in musical talent or expertise, we are able to listen to and enjoy wonderful music, contributing through our silence.

~ Rev. Jason Mahnke, Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation



- SUMMIT Spirits will meet on Tuesday, July 2 at 6:30
- The Ministerial Committee will not meet again until September 4.
- Nurture will not meet again until August 1.
- Records & History will not meet again until August 14.
- Lois Circle will not meet again until September 10.
- Wesleyan Circle will meet on Tuesday, July 9, for a potluck at Cyndi's house at 6:00 p.m.
- Pizza and a movie will be Saturday July 20 at 6 p.m. in the small kitchen for pizza and 6:30 in the chapel for the movie, “The Hill.”
- Servant Leadership Board will meet on Tuesday, July 16 at 6 p.m.
- August *Chimes* newsletter deadline is Wednesday, July 24 by noon.
- July 28 is Ice Cream Sunday! The Servant Leadership Board will be dishing out scoops of ice cream during fellowship.



Records & History



Mark your calendars for Saturday, **October 19th** from 2:00-4:00 pm. We will be hosting **Our Community In Concert**. If you are interested in performing please contact me for details. We are also looking for an elevator attendant, and two ushers. Thank you,
Margie Lakowske, 608-633-3588.

We **WILL NOT** meet in July. We can hit the ground running at our August 14th meeting at 9:00 a.m. Please continue to contact people for the concert if that was your task. Thank you and enjoy July!

Margie

Ice Cream Social Fundraiser on August 22



4:30-6:30pm.

Menu: barbeques, chips, pickles, lemonade, pie and ice cream. Barbeque plate with pie is \$7; pie and ice cream is \$4.



Find us on:
facebook®

Church Facebook Page

Have you checked out the church's Facebook page? It's a good place to keep up with what is going on in the church and easily access the online worship services.

You can find that site at:

www.facebook.com/UMCsparta/. Once you are there just "like" the site and you will receive updates when new information is posted.



4th of July Pie & Ice Cream Social and Brat & Hot Dog Lunch

First United Methodist Church

1105 Burts Ave.
Tomah, WI 54660
608/ 372-4543
www.tomahumc.org
facebook.com/tomahumc

Thursday, July 4th, 2024 ^{★ ★ ★ ★}
Time: From the End of **4th of July Parade** To 1:00 PM

Homemade Pie with Ice Cream - \$6.00
Brat Lunch - \$6.00
Hot Dog Lunch - \$6.00
Brat or Hot Dog Lunch with Chips, Beverage, AND Pie & Ice Cream - \$10.00

Lunches include brat or hot dog, chips, and beverage (water, coffee, or lemonade)

Join us at Tomah First United Methodist Church immediately following the parade.



EVERYONE WELCOME

Tomah First United Methodist Church will have a Food Booth at TOMAH'S DOWNTOWN THURSDAY NIGHTS July 11 through August 8, 2024

God Bless America

*While the storm clouds gather far across the sea,
let us swear allegiance to a land that's free.
Let us all be grateful for a land so fair, as we
raise our voices in a solemn prayer.*

*God bless America, land that I love,
Stand beside her and guide her
Through the night with a light from above.
From the mountains, to the prairies,
To the oceans, white with foam.
God bless America, my home sweet home.
God bless America, my home sweet home.*

- - Irving Berlin







July Anniversaries

- 06 Alex & Jackie Vaver
- 16 Abby & Mac Smith
- 23 Paul & Kay Foulke
- 25 Barb & Hank McGreevy
- 29 Ron & Kandy Ebert
- 31 Julie Adams-Rodgers & Chuck Adams

July Birthdays

- 04 Clarence Brooks
- 04 Helen Radcliffe
- 06 Kevin Moore
- 08 Deb Dishinger
- 09 Eileen Gajewsky
- 09 Andrew Ochoa
- 09 Winnifred Smit
- 09 Diesel Ramiro Johnson
- 10 Ginnie Jones
- 13 Beth Anderson
- 13 Sarlyn Ziegler
- 23 Joe Tadisch
- 24 Darlene Guinn
- 25 Brittany Burnham
- 25 Matt Glut
- 25 Courtney Goodenough
- 25 Bob Wise
- 26 Paul Foulke
- 28 Morgan Culpitt
- 29 Marvin Fokema
- 29 Natalie Tadisch
- 30 Tom Graber



Ushers


- 7 Kurt & Amy Kiefer
- 14 Joe & Betsy Tadisch
- 21 Rich & Danette Zidich & Peggy
- 28 Kurt & Amy Kiefer

Tech Team

- 7 Ben Simplot & Hailee Scheurich
- 14 Toni Burrows & Amy Kiefer
- 21 Ron & Kristine Phillips
- 28 Cheryl Isensee & Annabelle Von Ruden

Liturgist

- 7 Marty Walley
- 14 Ellen Hemstock
- 21 Beth Nowak
- 28 Judy Fuhrmann



Thank you to all who have donated to Soles4Souls! We have collected 965 pair through the year so far!

CHANGING THE WORLD ONE PAIR AT A TIME

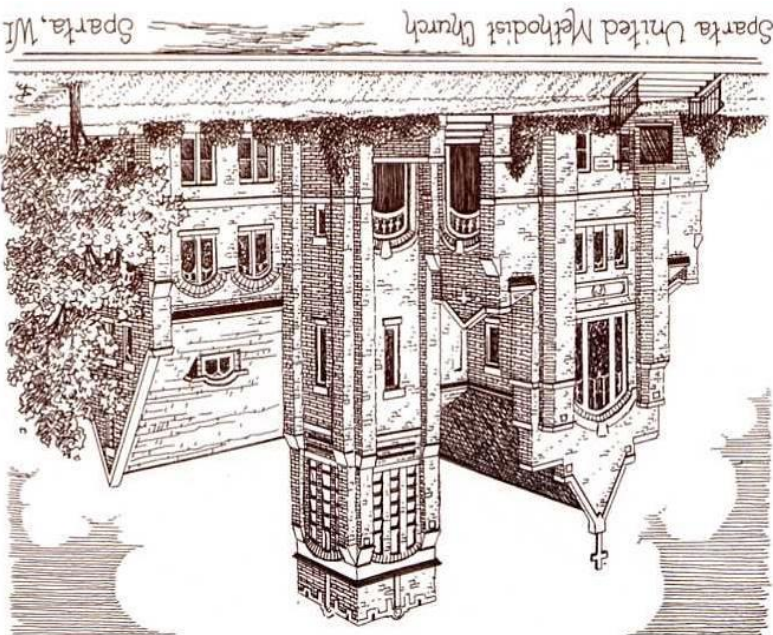
The Chimes

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Prepared Especially For:



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Pastor's Cell Phone: 973-856-4072

Phone: (608)269-6949

Fax: (608)269-6940

Email: office@spartamethodist.com

Website: spartaumc.net

SUMC Worship Schedule

In-house Service

9:00 a.m. Sunday mornings

Livestream Service

9:00 a.m. on Facebook

Online Service

YouTube: Sparta UMC month day year