

“The CHIMES” – November

Volume 58, No. 11

2023

Continuing the Conversation...



Gratitude

Thank you for your visitation.
It was marvelous!
Even though, it was a very short moment!

Lord,
We thank you for a close friend.
We thank you for a friend who visits me!

Thank you for all the relationships,
We thank you for the family relationships between grand children!

We thank you for a flower,
We thank you for an acceptance,
We thank you for all the prayers too.

Thank you for the voice of the beautiful bird.
Thank you for the splendor of the summer field.
Thank you for the taste of the autumn fruits.

We thank you for the enemies.
We thank you for an obstacles.

Sometimes, we thank you without a reason.
And sometimes, we thank you with reasons!

We thank you.
We thank you.
We thank you...!

November Sermon Series

Nov 5th: Theme: Our Life
Matthew 6:11

Nov 12th: Theme: Forgiveness
Matthew 6:12

Nov 19th: Theme: Save Us From The Sin
Matthew 6:13

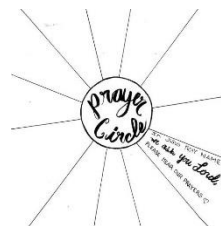
Nov 26th: Theme: Lead Us Not Into Temptation
Matthew 6:14

Community Thanksgiving Dinner



The Sparta Community Thanksgiving Dinner will be held at the American Legion on Thursday, November 23 from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Prayer Circle



Pastor will send a weekly prayer list to those who want to pray for the church and church family. If you want to receive the list, please let the pastor know. Currently ten members are receiving the prayer list.

Sunday Prayer Meeting with Pastor Hae-Jeong

Sunday's at 6:30 pm in the Chapel. Come and join the prayer meeting; you can have conversation with Pastor Hae-Jeong about your life, and pray together for personal, church family, and for God's church.



Spiritual Formation

On Tuesdays at 2:30 pm in the Chapel Pastor Hae-Jeong is introducing various ways of approach toward spiritual life that can build personal relationship with God. She will meditate together with



the voice of the Father written by Graham Cooke, and teach how to read Bible meditatively in the Ignatius method, the power of the crafted prayers, Guided Meditation on the Fruits of the Holy Spirit, and Centering Prayer. You will enter a spiritual space where you can understand and know God personally. This practice will guide and transform your spiritual life profoundly. You can find the best practice for your devotional life. If you want to participate, please let the office or pastor Hae-Jeong know. And also if you want to participate, but the schedule is not fitting, then let the pastor know.

Photographer Wanted...

Do you enjoy taking pictures? Do you have time to spare on a Sunday following church or on an occasional evening? We are thinking about making our pictorial family church directory. Please contact me if you are interested in this endeavor. We do not have a timeline but would like to capture our congregation and compile a directory. Thank you for considering sharing your gift of photography.



Don't Keep Silent...

I started preaching when I was just 18 years old. I was invited by my home pastor to preach, despite my age, because he knew I had a call to the ordained ministry. By the time I was 20, I had preached a whopping three sermons. With my call and this vast amount of experience behind me, I was invited to serve a small, rural congregation in Southeastern Wisconsin as their supply pastor — which basically meant I would visit the members in their homes and preach every Sunday. And so, in November of my junior year of college, I began to preach every Sunday for a congregation of 52 people. As I remember my first year there, I have fond memories of a group of faithful people who had to listen to, probably the worst sermons ever given.

Despite my inexperience, the congregation was very supportive — often offering a tip or an encouraging word. Particularly, I remember one gentleman who came up to me to give me a pat on the back one Sunday morning. After a particularly difficult sermon he said that he truly enjoyed my messages. A little surprised, I responded by simply saying, “Really?” He continued by saying, “Oh yes. You know, you stand up every Sunday and try to tell us about God's love and grace. But what I really like is the fact that, in the whole year you've been preaching, you've never mentioned money once.”

Considering that comment, I suppose it could be seen as a bit ironic that my ministry as a part of the Foundation is helping congregations and pastors learn how to comfortably talk about money in relation to our faith (maybe even excitedly). What I've discovered, however, is that talking about stewardship is about focusing love and grace. It is about helping people realize all the ways we are blessed by God that God has given to us abundantly. God has given us so much, in fact, that we have enough to give generously in love for others.

I encourage you to speak about stewardship boldly. Talk about how you have experienced God's love, grace, and abundance. Share how generosity has transformed your life. Talk about the blessings others have experienced in your church that are made possible by your community's generosity.

Rev. Jason Mahnke, Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation

Records and History Committee

Update...

Records and History will meet November 8 at 9:00 a.m. in the Library. We will have our Committee picture taken that day. We are still looking for someone that is willing to take pictures of our congregation. If you have the inclination, please let me know.



Thank you to all of the Records and History Committee and all of you that helped in some way to make our Community In Concert a success. If you missed the concert you can view it on YouTube: Sparta UMC Community in Concert 10 21 23.

We are – Keeping the Eternal Flame Glowing



Shop with scrip...support your church



Thank you to everyone who continues to support the church through the shop with scrip program. You are truly making a positive difference in our church finances. Thank you Cheryl for continuing to coordinate the scrip program for our church.

The next scrip order will be going in on **November 5**. With the holidays coming soon, you will have three more opportunities to order scrip cards to use as **stocking stuffers, Christmas gifts**, or just to do your own shopping. The extra dates will be **November 19, December 3, and December 17**. You will also have a limited-time opportunity to purchase \$10 cards until December 4 from Amazon, Olive Garden, Outback Steakhouse, Target, and Walmart.

You can get your orders to Cheryl after worship on Sunday mornings or mail your order directly to Cheryl Isensee at: 9262 Festival Avenue, Sparta, WI 54656. If you have questions or need an order form contact Cheryl.

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.

Nurture Update...



November 5 – All Saints Day
November 5 – Charge Conference @ 3:30 p.m.
November 23 – Community Thanksgiving Dinner at the Legion
Free – Delivery available
November 26 – Decorating church for Advent and Christmas. All are welcome to stay after church to help

decorate the Sanctuary, Gathering Place and Fellowship Hall.

December 3 – Advent begins. Devotionals will be available.

*Salvation Army Bell Ringing – sign up online.
<https://www.registertoring.com>

“The Season of Thankfulness”

Dear volunteers,

For 24 years of serving a weekly **Soup Supper** and 11 years of delivering free bakery items from Festival Foods to our church, many have answered the call to **volunteer** by cooking, serving, donating, driving, etc., these caring and generous volunteers are a blessing and are blessed by following Jesus’ example. Our prayer is to be good stewards of all that God has promised, so that others will know what the words, “God is love,” mean when they see it in our lives.

Please know **how much** you are appreciated! You faithfully serve, even though it might not be convenient—but it comes from the heart!

With many thanks,

Cyndi Wise

“Stay connected to God—
Stay connected to each other”



CHANGING THE WORLD
ONE PAIR AT A TIME

Thank you to all who have donated to Soles4Souls!

We have collected 639 pair of shoes through October! This is a new record!

thank you

Thank you! Our Community in Concert was a huge success! Thank you to Cheri Greenwood, Barb McGreevy, Cathy Nichols, Scott Naeseth and Cyndi Wise for helping to “spruce” up the church. It’s amazing what a little polish will do!

Thank you to Cheri Greenwood (Ushering), Marty Walley (Mistress of Ceremonies), Michele Thornton (Programs), Danette Zidich (Elevator Attendant), Amy Kiefer (Ushering and official people counter), Cheryl Isensee for her technical expertise and creation of our slides, Toni Burrows and Ron Phillips for their knowledge of setting up the mics, amps, etc.

A special **thank you** to those that attended our Concert, I’m sure you are pleased you came. Records and History Committee thank each and everyone one of you, you played a huge part in the success of this concert.

Thank you for continued support and dedication to bringing this Concert to our Church and Community!
Margie Lakowske

Thank you. Our faithful member and Trustee chairman, Scott Naeseth, received a Special Mission Recognition pin from the United Women of Faith along with a \$40 gift to Missions that was given in his name. Scot shares his talents and abilities with our church on a daily basis, and we thank him for his generous heart and servant hands. Thank you Scott!

Thank you Bob & Cathy Nichols, for your many years of ushering. Your faithfulness is sincerely appreciated.

2023 Charge/Church Conference

This year’s charge conference will take place Monday, November 5 starting at 3:30 p.m. This is an important meeting, as members present will vote on things like church leadership and the 2024 budget; as well as celebrating all we have accomplished in the past year. Rev. Tsuker Yang will lead our conference this year. Hope to see you there!



Pizza and a movie for November has been canceled due to a conflict. The next one will be December 16.

Attention Theater Fans



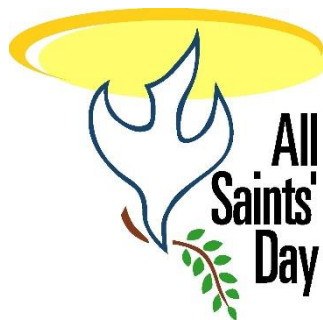
The Wizard of Oz will be at the La Crosse Community Theater (Weber Center) from December 1-17, 2023. Normally the tickets cost about \$38.00 per person.

However, you could see it for free by volunteering as an usher with our SUMMIT Spirits Theater Group. I have blocked several volunteer slots on:

Sunday – December 17 – 12:30pm-5:00pm – 6 ushers

If you are interested, please contact Toni Burrows 608-343-3029.

All Saints Sunday



All Saints Day is a day of remembrance for the saints, with the New Testament meaning of all Christian people of every time and place. It is celebrated in the church on the first Sunday of November. We will remember our members who have died since last year at this time with a reading of the names and lighting a candle for each person. If you have a loved one you would like remembered please call the church office by Wednesday, November 1 with the name of your loved one.

COMING SOON

The Sparta Ministerial Association will meet at noon, in the small kitchen, Wednesday, November 1.

Nurture will meet Thursday, November 2 at 6 p.m. in the library.

Charge Conference will be held, Sunday, November 5 at 3:30 p.m.

SUMMIT Spirits will meet Tuesday, November 7 at 6:30 p.m. in the library.

Pastor will be in Stevens Point for the Institute of Congregational Development November 7-8.

Records & History will meet at 8:30 a.m. in the library on Wednesday, November 8.

The Gospel of John continues on Thursdays at 2 p.m. in the library.

Servant Leadership Board will not meet in November due to Charge Conference.

Lois circle will be meeting Tuesday, November 14 at 1:00 p.m. in the small kitchen.

Wesleyan Circle will meet in the Gathering Place at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, November 14.

Pizza and a movie is Saturday, November 18 with pizza in the small kitchen at 6 p.m. and the movie in the chapel at 6:30 p.m.

December *Chimes* newsletter deadline is Friday, November 24 by noon.

Connections Ministry

A new Ministry is forming to connect people and ministries. We can call it tentatively *Connections Ministry*.



It is to love and care for our church families and friends with the love of Christ. It is by connecting the gift and willingness of support, and the needs of the congregation. *Connections Ministry* strives to connect people in need with individuals of Sparta UMC, ministry teams, or community organizations that provide compassionate care. If you would like to join this ministry, please let the pastor know. It will alleviate suffering of our church family and provide discipleship opportunities.

Altar Plants



UWIF would like to thank all those who signed up for one or more plants on one or multiple dates for 2023. **There are only two dates left in December.** Each date has two lines for one plant per line. Plants are \$5.50 each or two for \$11.00. Plant money goes to Eileen Gajewsky, UWIF treasurer, who pays the invoice from Sparta Floral quarterly. At this time please continue to make your checks out to UMW.

Call the church office if you would like one or more dates(s) and Michele will add to the Altar Plant calendar in hallway.

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 UWIF





- 03 Donna Burnham
- 03 Annabelle Von Ruden
- 05 Kevin Lakowski
- 06 Morgan Healy
- 08 Ken Shaw
- 09 Jacqueline Davis
- 09 Cheryl Isensee
- 09 Aaron Lieder
- 11 Emma Blackdeer
- 12 Dean Benedict
- 12 Jeanne Davis
- 12 Jerry Miller
- 12 Scarlett Simplot
- 13 Denise Ebert
- 13 Harrison Flury
- 13 LeRoy Jackson
- 14 Jessica Janzen
- 14 Nathan Janzen
- 14 Betsy Tadisch
- 14 Harper Von Ruden
- 15 Roger Jerome
- 16 Julie Jones-Conte
- 18 Julian Hutchinson
- 18 Elizabeth Jerman
- 18 Ron Phillips
- 18 Marty Walley
- 21 Richard Wright
- 24 Brandon Burnham
- 25 Henry McGreevy
- 28 Alix Herrman
- 29 Phyllis Christiano



Bakery pick-up

- 5 Cyndi Wise
- 12 Margie Lakowske
- 19 Amy & Kurt Kiefer
- 26 Dave & Sara Kemp

Tech Team

- 5 Ben & Hailee
- 12 Toni & Amy
- 19 Ron & Cindy
- 26 Cheryl & Kristine

Liturgist

- 5 Annabelle Von Ruden
- 12 Cheryl Isensee
- 19 Marty Walley
- 26 Amy Kiefer

Ushers

- 5 Bob & Cathy
- 12 Peggy, Donna & Ron
- 19 Kurt & Amy
- 26 John & Karen





Soul Food

By Bishop Hee-Soo Jung

“And now, friends, we ask you to honor those leaders who work so hard for you, who have been given the responsibility of urging and guiding you along in your obedience. Overwhelm them with appreciation and love.”

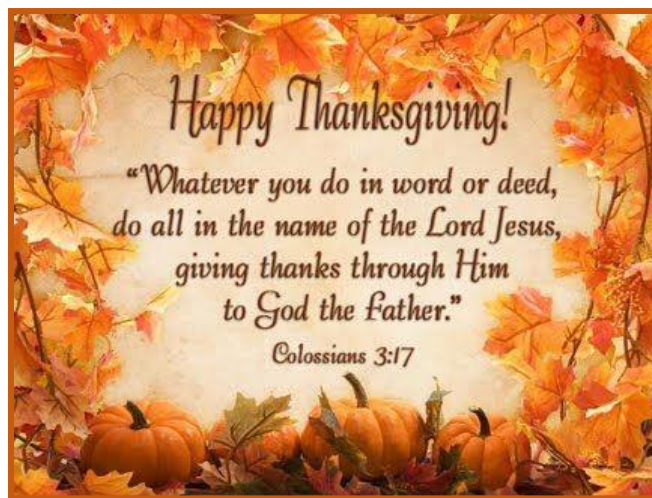
1 Thessalonians 5:12-13

Traditionally, October marks the observance of Clergy Appreciation Month, an invitation to pause and give thanks. Our clergy serve as a source of guidance, support, and inspiration, assisting us in navigating through challenging times and striving towards self-improvement. Their steadfast faith and devotion to their calling are genuinely inspiring.

As followers of the Christian faith, our call is to love and serve one another, and pastors embody this calling through their tireless efforts to minister to their congregations and communities. They selflessly give their time, talents, and resources to assist others, and their contributions are highly valued. As we honor our pastors this month, let us take a moment to contemplate the many ways they have impacted our lives. We express gratitude and appreciation for their diligent work, devotion, and unwavering faith. And let us continue to offer prayers for them, that they may be strengthened and encouraged in their calling and continue to inspire us all.

As we express our deep gratitude, I also invite us to honor those who serve during the National Hispanic Heritage Month as it comes to a close. I am grateful for the leadership of Hispanic leaders who have enriched the lives of the Wisconsin Conference of The United Methodist Church through the tapestry of music, dance, food, and traditions. Our Hispanic leaders are open to sharing their culture from many places, such as Chile, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Ecuador, and Brazil. We are blessed to learn and grow in our faith together for God’s glory.

May God bless our pastors and all those who serve in ministry, and may their work continue to produce fruit for God’s kingdom.



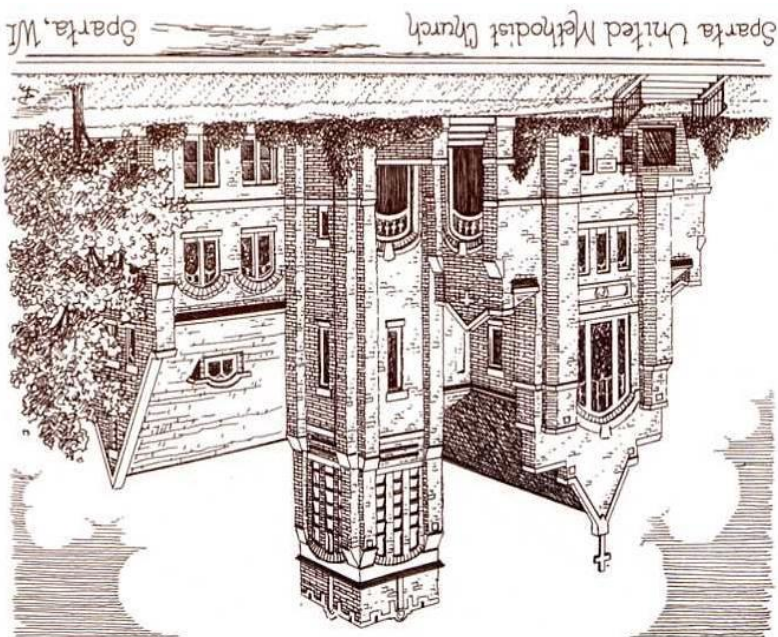
The Chimes

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Prepared Especially For:



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

Phone: (608)269-6949

Fax: (608)269-6940

Email: office@spartamethodist.com

Website: spartamc.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