

# “The CHIMES” – July

Volume 58, No. 7

2023

## Continuing the Conversation...



Hello friends,

I am packing the moving boxes. I am almost finished with this job. By the time this message is delivered to you, I will already be there in Sparta.

Whenever I meet my friends here, we talk about bicycles. “Do you know that Sparta is a place famous for biking trails?” It was the first

question posed to me after hearing the news that I would move at the end of June. “Oh, that is wonderful! I need a bicycle! I need a foot brake bike because I got used to that type of bicycle back in Germany, thirty years ago.”

A friend answered, “A foot brake bike is a very old model. A long time ago, people used that bike, but these days we have hand brake bikes because they have gears for hills.”

“Um...then I need to practice with a hand brake bike in the park...by the way, can I still ride a bicycle after thirty years?”

They replied, “Of course! Once you have learned to ride, you never lose what you’ve learned.”

“Oh, then I need to practice hand brakes in the park!”

Well, a friend heard that I got used to a foot brake bike and he visited a bike shop. He found a foot brake bike for me. It was so kind!

Later, another friend came to me and said that I might need an electric bike for hills. They all wanted to provide me with the best tips for my new journey to Sparta, doing so with all the love they have.

Yes! We are people of love. We are disciples of Jesus Christ, who is Love; who came down to us as a human being for love so that we might become humble and loving like Him. We are infinitely grateful!

I am preparing for a new journey in Sparta, which God, a long time ago, planned for you and me. We will walk a while together. Our journey is a God-ordained one. How precious it is! We trust that the time and space

we will spend together will bring beautiful and bountiful fruits.

Even though we might meet challenges sometimes, God always creates something precious from those challenges because we love Him. (Romans 8:28) Only God can bring this through our trust in Him.

Do we know that our belief and gratitude is a window through which infinite love and power is poured into our lives? Our hearts that are directly connected to God’s heart bring us miracles.

I dream of the hills and bike paths of our coming faith journey together. We will explore; we will find treasures. We will come closer to God’s heart. We will be surprised how beautiful God is and how He works in the midst of us. Let’s pray for this and see how God answers our prayers.

Grace and love,  
Pastor Hae-Jeong



## Records and History Committee Update...

Records and History: Our Community in Concert is October 21 from 2-4 pm. If you are interested in performing (instrumental or vocal or both) please feel free to contact Margie Lakowske at 608-269-5532 or 608-633-3588.



*Independence Day is a time to remember our freedoms & thank God for them.*

## Nurture Update...



### A goodbye...

The Nurture Committee wants to thank **Pastor Loretta** for the past 5 years of being our Pastor. We pray that the years ahead are filled with good health, happy times spent with family and friends, and “may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace.” Romans 15:13

### A welcome...

Our committee now wants to welcome **Pastor Hae-Jeong**—an exciting time for all of us! We are looking forward to sharing worship services, committee meetings and fellowship activities, as we get to know each other better. Welcome!

Most Sincerely,  
Cyndi Wise, Toni Burrows, Eileen Gajewsky, Lynn Humphrey, Cheryl Isensee, Sara Kemp, Amy Kiefer, Margie Lakowske.

Our next meeting is August 3 at 6 p.m.

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



## 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 16**. If you have questions or need an order form contact Michele at the church office 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.



## Perspective...

Some things are simply a matter of perspective. We can be reminded often how words can be used to skew the truth. For instance, an interoffice softball game was held every year between the marketing department and support staff of one company. The day of the game, as hard as the marketers tried, the support staff whipped the marketing department soundly.

In its best tradition, the marketing department decided to find the best “spin” they could on the dismal result. They showed how they earn their keep by posting this memo on the bulletin board after the game: “The marketing department is pleased to announce that for the recently completed softball season, we came in second place, having lost but one game all year. The support department, however, had a rather dismal season, as they won only one game all year.”

On the other hand, hidden beauty can also be found by looking at a situation in a different way. A little girl named Lauren (age 5) reports, “I know my older sister loves me because she gives me all her old clothes and has to go out and buy new ones.”

I think Lauren is on to something. Our entire lives can be shaped by perspective. How would I approach money, “stuff,” and giving if I knew that God had already given me everything I need, rather than seeing all the things I “need” in the store windows? How would I treat others if I focused on the ways I could serve rather than making sure everyone respected my rights? How would my marriage change if it were based on being one another’s servant rather than a struggle for power? What would my attitude be toward work be if I saw it as my God-given vocation rather than someplace I had to go to earn a paycheck? What if I saw Sunday as a true Sabbath . . . a time for connecting with God and family and rest . . . rather than a day to run the kids to more activities the day I must get things done at home before I go to work?

Sometimes we need God to help us see the world differently before we can live differently in it.

Rev. Jason Mahnke, Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation



*Live as people who are free, not using evil as a cover up, but living as servants of God.*  
1 Peter 2:16

## Little Free Library Update...



Library Steward

Our shelves are overflowing. Thank you one and all for your book donations. At the present time, I do not have enough space to store any more books. When I have space open up, I will again eagerly accept any books you may have. Thank you for your generosity!

Margie Lakowske Little Free



## Altar Plants

UWIF would like to thank all those who signed up for one or more plants on one or multiple dates for 2023. 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,  
Cathy Nichols



## 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 now Easter. All proceeds go to our Missions & Outreach Fund. You can find them in the Gathering Place if you'd like to check them out!



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



Wesleyan Circle will meet on July 11 at Julie's house at 6:00 p.m.

Nathan Janzen will be performing a free voice recital Sunday, July 23 at 4 p.m. All are welcome

August *Chimes* newsletter deadline is Monday, July 24 by noon.

The Study of The Acts continues on Mondays at 1 p.m. with Paul in the library.

SUMMIT Spirits won't be meeting again until August.

Records & History will not meet again until August.

Nurture will not meet again until August.

Lois circle will be not be meeting again until September.

The Sparta Ministerial Association is off for the summer. They will resume meeting in September.

## 4<sup>th</sup> of July Pie & Ice Cream Social and Brat & Hotdog Lunch



**Where:** First United Methodist Church, Tomah

**When:** Tuesday, July 4, after the parade until 1 p.m.

**What:** Homemade pie with ice cream \$6, Brat lunch \$6, Hot dog lunch \$6, Brat or hotdog with chips, beverage, AND pie & ice cream \$10. For more information see [www.tomahumc.org](http://www.tomahumc.org) or go to [facebook.com/tomahumc](https://facebook.com/tomahumc). Everyone is welcome!



## Annual Conference Report 2023

### Ellen Hemstock



The Annual Conference of the United Methodist church was held at the KI Center in Green Bay on Friday, June 9<sup>th</sup> through Monday, June 12<sup>th</sup>. I was privileged to be a delegate to the conference.

The conference was titled, “Blessed Community.” We were called to be the blessed

community. It opened with an African drum circle.

The Service of Remembrance included the names of Rev. Jim Rivers, former Sparta UMC pastor, and Bev Maser, spouse of Rev. Dick Maser, former pastor.

In attendance was a delegation from the Korean UMC. Their vision for the church was: One together – the hope that we all come together as one in Christ.

#### Statistics:

Disaffiliation – 43 churches

Closures: 5 churches

440 churches in conference

47,000 members in WI

30% full time pastors

79% Sunday Schools

70 % small groups

65% community outreach (It was felt that we can improve in this area.)

\$1.6 million spent on 125 programs supported by UMC

Budget \$6.1 million

Foundation \$14.5 million

26 Hispanic Ministries

15 missionaries supported

\$27.8 Million given to Ukraine Relief (Keeping WI engaged in mission)

3 Ordained ministers

3 new churches – Menomonee, Waunakee and Milwaukee (African)

In 2024, the Northern Illinois conference will combine with the Wisconsin conference.

5 districts will become 4 districts in 2024.

Boy Scout settlement \$30 million, still need \$157,000.

Pastor Loretta Waughtal was honored as a retiree of 20 years in the service of the church.

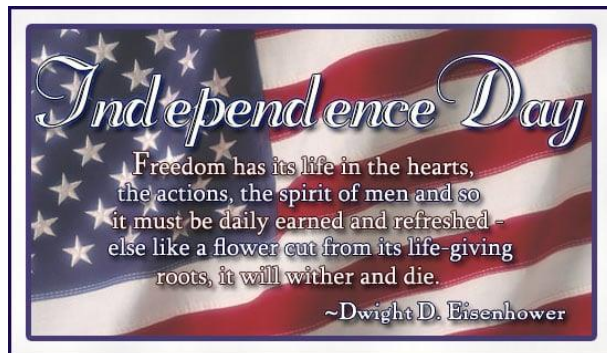
The Bible study led by Dr. Javier A. Viera, president of Garrett Theological Seminary, was on Racial Justice and Radical Inclusion. He spoke about reclaiming the United Methodist church. “Reclaim, Revive and Renew.” As we move away from the pandemic, we must spread the word of God! Lay ministry must spread the word and the love of God! “Love All People!”

The highlight of the convention for me was singing in the 40 voice Harmony Choir which performed “The Hallelujah Chorus” and “Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi” for the ordination ceremony.

The United Women in Faith, represented by Kathy Hartje, spoke about refreshing our organization to improve the lives of women, children and youth. “We need to expand our mission and change the world. Love in Action, Faith and Sisterhood.”

Bishop Hee-Soo Jung spoke to the convention: “I am proud of you. You are the mission as ambassadors of Christ Jesus. Transcending race, gender as a people loved by God. Pursue a community where everyone is a beloved community of Christ. We must find a pathway to the future – of hope, the church of Jesus Christ. We need the church of reconciliation. Renew our commitment and pray for the church. Sons and daughters, we are serious about changing the world.”

The bishop’s closing words to the convention were, “Look to the future – New Hope, New Blessing. Love one another as he had loved them.”



thank you

**Thank you** to the UWIF, Wesleyan Circle and everyone else for the anniversary cards, calls, texts and best wishes to us.

Kevin and Margie Lakowske

Dear church members,

**Thank you** so much for your monetary donation to our SHP project.

Sincerely,

Diane Huber & Gwen Nelson

There are a group of volunteers who serve so faithfully month after month—our **Soup Supper crews**. The following are the current ones, but there have been countless folks over the past 24 years.

I, along with our weekly guests, appreciate everything you do—always with a generous heart and a warm smile!

Most Sincerely,  
Cyndi Wise

Eileen Gajewsky  
Kristine Phillips  
Heidi Sullivan  
Donna & Ron Burnham  
Kathy Ekern  
John Lodico  
Evelyn Van Tassel  
Cathy Nichols  
Cheri Greenwood  
Laurie & Craig Bartholomew  
Julia Schmick  
Priscilla Hemmersbach  
Margie Lakowske  
Danette Zidich  
Amy Kiefer  
Julie Hanson  
Evangelical Free Church  
Lions Club

P.S. New folks are always welcome!

**Thank you** so much to the Servant Leadership Board for the beautiful, sweet card and the gift card. Also for those that have stopped in to offer support and love. I appreciate you all.

Michele



### **Thank You From the Bottom of My Heart**

Thank you all for a wonderful final Sunday together. I am especially thankful for the members of the praise band who were able to come and sing *The Blessing* as our final benediction together; that made my heart so happy. I also very much appreciated Cyndi Wise including Charles Wesley hymns in the service—including my all-time favorite. I am thankful for the Servant Leadership Board cooking and coordinating a potluck feast after worship. I am thankful for all who stepped up to help serve and clean up after the meal. I am thankful to all who attended and showed me love through your presence, cards, notes, and gifts. I know I didn't get around to visit with everyone who was there, but that isn't because you aren't appreciated. You are appreciated and loved, I'm just not great at goodbyes.

I will continue to pray for you and Pastor Hae-Jeong as you begin a new chapter in this great adventure we call faith in God.

The Lord bless you and keep you...  
Pastor L





### **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 Smith
- 10 Ginnie Jones
- 13 Beth Anderson
- 13 Sarlyn Ziegler
- 17 Tim Waughtal
- 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



### **Bakery pick-up**

- 2 Cyndi Wise
- 9 Margie Lakowske
- 16 Amy & Kurt Kiefer
- 23 Dave & Sara Kemp
- 30

### **Tech Team**

- 2 Ron & Kristine
- 9 Ben & Haileee
- 16 Amy & Toni
- 23 Cheryl & Cindy
- 30 Toni & Amy

### **Liturgist**

- 2 Annabelle Von Ruden
- 9 Judy Fuhrmann
- 16 Marty Walley
- 23 Amy Kiefer
- 30 Cheryl Isensee

### **Ushers**

- 2 Bob & Cathy
- 9 Kurt & Amy
- 16 Peggy, Donna & Ron
- 23 John & Karen
- 30 Russ & Tina



# What's Possible Through Our Connectional Giving: Your Apportionment Dollars at Work

## GLOBAL CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES

We are connected nationally and internationally to ministries through our Conference apportionment payments to the General Conference, supporting:

- Africa University
- Black College Fund
- General Administration of GCFA
- Interdenominational Cooperation Fund
- Ministerial Education Fund (25% stays in Wisconsin and is available for our Board of Ordained Ministry)
- World Service Fund – worldwide missions
- North Central Jurisdictional Conference Fund
- Episcopal Fund to support Bishops

## CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES

- Operations of Pine Lake and Lake Lucerne camps and retreat centers
- Advocacy, social justice, and monitoring groups
- Support for health and welfare agencies like Northcott Neighborhood House, UM Children's Services and Harbor House
- Support for our active caucuses representing a range of cultures
- Communications and technology to connect with churches through weekly Enews, district communication, Soul Food from Bishop Jung, and devotionals.
- Membership and support of the Wisconsin Council of Churches
- Salaries and benefits for Conference staff

## CLERGY AND LAY LEADERSHIP

- Connectional Table provides leadership to our conference committees and training
- \$50,000 designated for Radical Inclusion and Racial Justice Initiatives
- Training for Church renewal through Missional Church Consultation Initiative (MCCI). 14 churches have gone through this training.
- 5 campus ministries supported through Board of Higher Education and Student Ministries
- Recruitment and nurturing of future and current ordained ministry
- Assistance to churches to pay minimum compensation for full time clergy
- Health insurance for 343 retired and disabled clergy and their families. Health insurance for 249 active clergy.
- Coordination of pension benefits for 270 active clergy, 40 appointed to extension ministries, 35 on disability and 650 retired clergy, their spouses and surviving spouses

## LOCAL CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- 20 New Ministries are being funded for a total of \$430,000
- Critical Mission funding totaling \$145,000
- Support for The Institute of Congregational Development and Instituto de Desarrollo Congregacional
- Salaries and expenses for 5 district superintendents, the Assistant to the Bishop and two District Administrators
- Moving expenses for 65 pastors moving to and from appointments and retirements
- Legal immigration assistance for new pastors
- Assistance to clergy and churches with emergency financial needs

## CONFERENCE SUPPORT MINISTRIES

- Operation and maintenance of the Conference Center in Sun Prairie
- Archives office supporting research and history
- Accounting, legal and other support administration

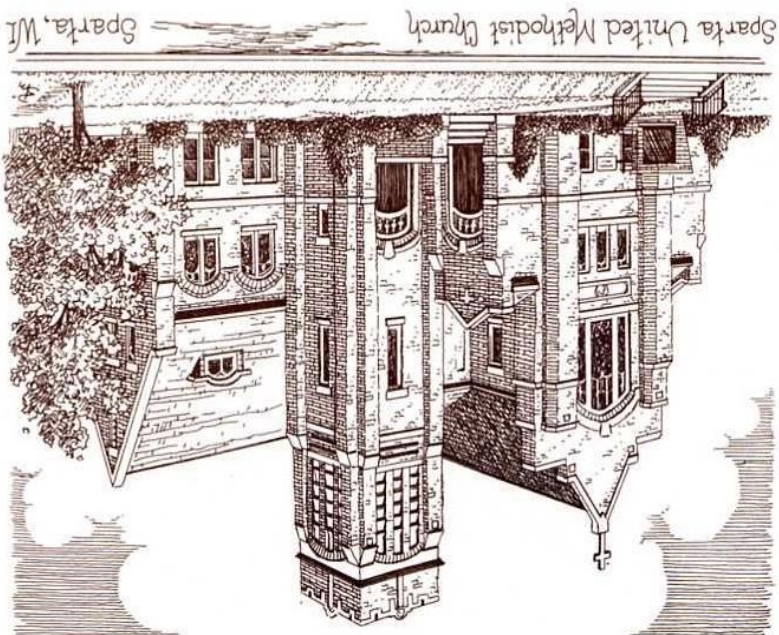
# The Chimes

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](mailto:office@spartamethodist.com)

**Website:** [spartaumc.net](http://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