

# “The CHIMES” – March

Volume 59, No. 3

2024



Hello friends,

We are currently in the season of Lent. During this time, us Christians are called to focus on prayer, fasting, and repentance. Today, we want to understand the true meaning of repentance in Christ Jesus.

Repentance with Christ is different from when the law was the rule of life. The law separates what is right and wrong, and is judgmental. Christ has already paid the price for all sins on the cross. As individuals united with Christ, there is no condemnation, guilt, or shame. So, what does repentance involve?

In Christ, we are reborn as new people. Our old selves were crucified and died on the cross with Jesus. We now live as resurrected individuals with Jesus (Romans 6:5). This could mean making a firm decision to live as a new person in Christ in the future. Our past sins have already been forgiven through Jesus' sacrifice. Instead of dwelling on guilt and shame, we should focus on becoming more like Jesus. During this process, we recognize what needs improvement instead of dwelling on past mistakes. Our focus should be on the righteousness of Jesus, and our repentance should be directed towards the future. This way of thinking is lighter, more positive, and helps shape us into Christ's likeness. It brings about a joyful willingness to uncover our potential for the next opportunity and be prepared for it, creating a sense of delight in the transformation process in Christ.

Under the old covenant, people repented for their wrongdoings. Jesus fulfilled the law by serving as a sinless sacrifice. In the new covenant, repentance involves admitting when we fail to do what is right according to the nature of Jesus, in our new selves. James 4:17 states, "Remember, it is sin to know what you ought to do and then not do it." Sin in the new covenant is falling short of the glory of Jesus, who is within us. A glorious life is found in Jesus, and we cannot live in Him and remain ordinary.

When confessing that we missed an opportunity to be like Christ, God is faithful and just to forgive us and cleanse us for not doing what is right. We are then given another chance. We can pray something like this: "Father, thank you for granting me a new chance to walk in peace. I did not practice your peace, so I ask for another opportunity soon to increase peace in my life."

Grace and love,  
Pastor Hae-Jeong Yoon

## March Memory Verse

*Jesus answered,  
"I am the Way and the Truth  
and the Life.  
No one comes to the Father,  
except through me."  
-John 14:6*

GrowingOlderEveryday.com

*"To everything there is a season,  
and a time for every purpose  
under Heaven"*



## March Sermon Schedule

March 3 Theme: I want to know Christ

Philippians 3:10-12

March 10 Theme: Battle Ready

Ephesians 6: 10-12

March 17 Theme: The Cross

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

March 24 Palm Sunday/Theme: Open your gate

Psalms 118:1-2, 19-29

March 31 Easter/Theme: Fearless living

2 Corinthians 5:15 (MSG) Romans 8:15 (MSG/NLT)



Wednesday, March 6 – Noon – 1  
Trinity Lutheran Church

Wednesday, March 13 – Noon – 1  
United Congregational Church of Sparta

Friday, March 29 – Good Friday – 11 – 12 p.m.  
Stations of the Cross activity in Sparta.  
12 – 1 p.m. Final Words program at  
Lanham-Schanhoffer Funeral Home.  
Coordinated by Maureen & Priscilla.

We will be holding special worship services each  
Wednesday during Lent 6 p.m. in the chapel.



## The Faith Lift 2024...

One of Pastor Hae-Jeong's goals for 2024 is to bring a Spiritual Renewal event to our church. Last year, the SLB voted to support her goal and bring a spiritual reformation speaker, Rev. Dr. John Sungchul Hong, to Sparta UMC based on Pastor's testimony.

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 lead revival events in more than 90 countries. This free event promises to uplift and nourish your soul through the power of the Holy Spirit.

We have set the date for our spiritual retreat weekend "Faith Lift" to be April 5-7. All events are free and open to the public. Please invite friends and neighbors to come with you! We will take a free will offering at each event as an honorarium for the speaker.

**Mark your calendars for the "Faith Lift" weekend!**

### Friday, April 5

**7pm-9pm** – "Nicodemus' Shock" John 3:1-5  
Refreshments will be offered  
Praise Band will be offering music.

### Saturday, April 6

**10am-12N** – "Under the Cross" Luke 14:27  
Continental Breakfast will be offered at 930am  
Praise Band will be offering music.

**5:30pm-6:30pm** - FREE Meatball Supper will be served by SLB members – RSVP by April 1.

**6:30pm-8:30pm** – "From Egypt to Canaan" Deut. 6:23.  
Praise Band will be offering music.

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**Sunday, April 7**

**9am-10am** – Dr. Hong will lead our worship service. “It is...” Matthew 4:4

Chancel Choir will provide music during the service.

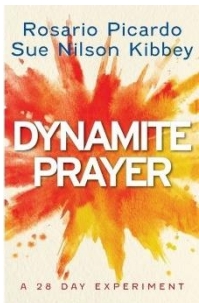
**10am-10:30am** – Coffee Fellowship will be offered to all who attend.

To help fund this endeavor, we will also be hosting some fundraisers in the future, as well as requesting a grant from the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation.

It is our hope that everyone in the church will be excited to attend multiple sessions to fully gain all the weekend has to offer!

Toni Burrows

**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.

**Records & History**



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

**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 **April 7**. 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



CHANGING THE WORLD ONE PAIR AT A TIME

**Thank you** to all who have donated to Soles4Souls! We have collected 219 pair of shoes through February!



# Thank you

**Thank you** for the yellow mum altar plant and the many wonderful birthday cards I received for my birthday. God bless you!

Sara Kemp

**Thank you** for the prayers, flowers, text messages and cards while I was trying to heal from an insistent cough. I am happy to report that I am once again back to my pre-cough self. I do appreciate your thoughts.

Cindy Isensee

**Thank you** to Scott for relocating the money box so that it is next to the recycled card table. It has made a huge difference!

Elizabeth Jerman

**Thank you** to the United Methodist Women and the Wesleyan Circle for the Anniversary wishes! We love and miss everyone very much! God Bless!

John and Diane



## 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!

## 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!



## Pizza and a movie

Each month this month is **March 16** 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 March 16 if you will be attending so we know how much pizza to order.



## March's Movie is:

### “Left Behind: Rise of the Antichrist”

In the wake of the sudden disappearance of millions of people around the world, the prophesied "Great Tribulation" has begun. As the Antichrist spreads his web of lies, everyone must choose a side. The stakes have never been higher.

New 2023 version starring Kevin Sorbo, Neal McDonough, and Corbin Bernsen. Rated PG13.



If you are looking for a **St. Patty's Day or Easter Card** for that special someone look no further! We have added new cards to the variety of others located in the Gathering Place off the Sanctuary. All proceeds go to Missions & Outreach and we appreciate all the donations we receive.

## There Never Seems to Be Enough

Sometimes it flies, sometimes it crawls, but it always passes inexorably. We mark it, save it, waste it, bide it, race against it. We measure it incessantly with a passion for precision that borders on the obsessive. We are obsessed with it; we never seem to have enough of it; and yet scientists don't even know how to explain it. What is it? The answer is time.

We never seem to have enough time. A group of experts once got together to figure out how much time we should need to get everything done in one day. These experts got together and noted how much time was needed for exercise, hygiene, work, commuting, household chores, eating, entertainment, spiritual development, sleep, and family time. When these figures were all added together, the experts said that a human being needs 42 hours a day. That's not very encouraging.

Of course, those are the things we're supposed to be doing every day according to experts. In truth, we add to that list as well. Consider that every day in the United States:

- 74,000 of us move to a different home and 22,465 move to another state.
- 36 businesses go bankrupt while 13,700 new ones start up.
- Americans purchase 38,082 new automobiles and trucks and smash 16,438.
- 2,266 couples get divorced while 6,578 get married.
- Dogs bite 12,329 people including 15 mail carriers.
- We eat 75 acres of pizza, 53 million hotdogs, 167 million eggs, 3 million gallons of ice cream, and 3,000 tons of candy.

The Psalmist tells us that "This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it." In other words, every moment of every second, and every second of every minute, and every minute of every hour, and every hour of every day is literally a gift from God. Unfortunately, in all of the hustle and bustle of our lives, we forget this. Instead, we are more often stressed out by this gift than thankful for it. Think about this: God gives to every one of us all the same amount of time in a day.

Sometimes it's just our perspective. What if we were to get up every morning and thank God and remember that "This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it."

*continued...*

It wouldn't give us any more time, but maybe our perspective each day would change and we'd appreciate the gift of time a little more. Rev. Jason Mahnke, Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation



- There will be a Finance Meeting on Tuesday, March 5 at 6 p.m.
- SUMMIT Spirits will meet on Tuesday, March 5 at 6:30
- Lenten Service in the Chapel, Wednesday, March 6 at 6 p.m.
- Nurture will meet in the library, Thursday, March 7 at 6 p.m.
- Lois Circle will meet Tuesday, March 12 at 1 p.m., in the small kitchen.
- Wesleyan Circle will meet on Tuesday, March 12, in the Gathering Place at 6:30 p.m.
- Records & History next meeting is Wednesday, March 13 at 9 a.m. in the library.
- Pizza and a movie returns on Saturday March 16 at 6 p.m. in the small kitchen for pizza and 6:30 in the chapel for the movie.
- All Church Potluck Brunch, March 17 at 10:30 in the Fellowship Hall.
- Servant Leadership Board will meet on Tuesday, March 19 at 6 p.m.
- April *Chimes* newsletter deadline is Monday, March 25 by noon.





**March Anniversaries**

14 Pat & Gail Clark

**March Birthdays**



- 02 Andrea Cole
- 03 Lillian Ebert
- 03 Larry Walley
- 05 Adeline Simplot
- 05 Ana Bonilla
- 06 Mac Smith
- 07 Derek McDonald
- 07 Kristine Phillips
- 08 Quentin Dale
- 09 Lori Ascher
- 16 Phyllis Aney
- 18 Tristan Blackdeer
- 19 Barb McGreevy
- 19 Elijah Peth-Schaffer
- 21 Hae-Jeong Yoon
- 22 Arvilla Crocker
- 24 Joel Tock
- 25 Bob Nichols Jr.
- 26 Melissa Culpitt
- 28 James Davis
- 28 Julie Hanson
- 28 Jennifer Johnson
- 30 Grenda Rugg
- 31 Brenda Herrman
- 31 Dana Tock



**Ushers**

- 3 Kurt & Amy
- 10 Ron & Denise/Ronnie & Kandy Eberts
- 17 Ron & Donna Burnhart & Peggy Wright
- 24 Kurt & Amy
- 31 Russ & Tina

**Tech Team**

- 3 Ben & Hailee
- 10 Cheryl & Amy
- 17 Ron & Kristine
- 24 Cheryl & Kristine
- 31 Ron & Toni

**Liturgist**

- 3 Beth Nowak
- 10 Annabelle Von Ruden
- 17 Marty Walley
- 24 Judy Fuhrmann
- 31 Beth Nowak

**Scripture Readers**

- 3 Kristine Phillips
- 10 Cathy Nichols
- 17 Hailee Scheurich
- 24 Judy Fuhrmann
- 31 Annabelle Von Ruden







This is the giving and expense comparison for January and February 2024. Please look it over and consider giving something extra if you can.

**January Giving:** \$10,818.70

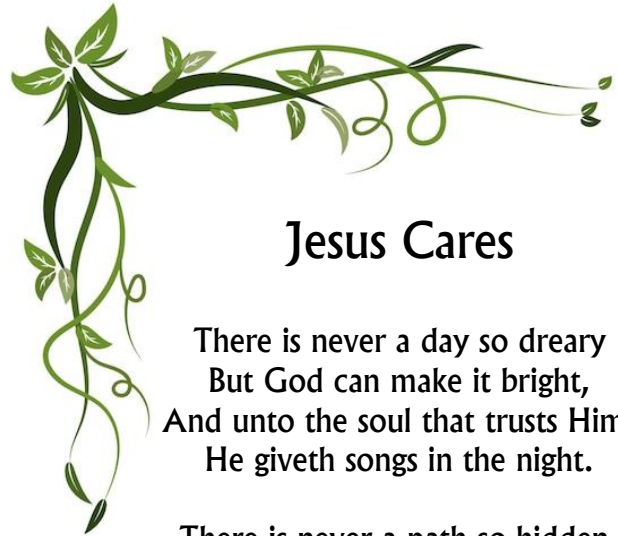
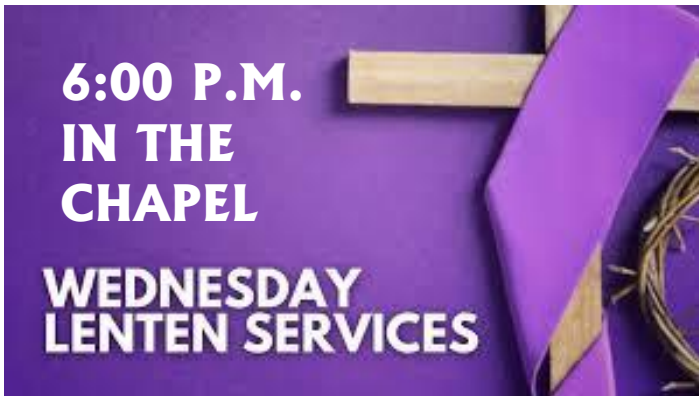
**January Expenses:** \$20,327.47

**January 31, 2024** – General Budget Balance \$9,039.80

**February Giving:** \$14,771.63

**February Expenses:** \$17,235.71

**February 29, 2024** – General Budget Balance \$17,306.18 (after transfer of Youth Ministry Funds to General Budget.)



## Jesus Cares

There is never a day so dreary  
But God can make it bright,  
And unto the soul that trusts Him,  
He giveth songs in the night.

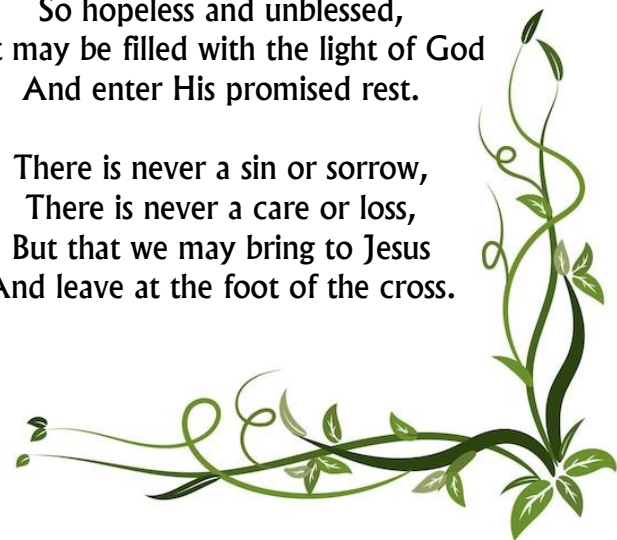
There is never a path so hidden,  
But God can lead the way,  
If we seek for the Spirit's guidance  
And patiently wait and pray.

There is never a cross so heavy  
But the nail-scarred hands are there  
Outstretched in tender compassion  
The burden to help us bear.

There is never a heart so broken,  
But the loving Lord can heal,  
The heart that was pierced on Calvary  
Doth still for His loved ones feel.

There is never a life so darkened,  
So hopeless and unblessed,  
But may be filled with the light of God  
And enter His promised rest.

There is never a sin or sorrow,  
There is never a care or loss,  
But that we may bring to Jesus  
And leave at the foot of the cross.



## Cleaners Needed

Due to budget issues we recently had to let our cleaning service go. Currently the committee members are currently rotating weekly cleaning duties. They are looing for additional volunteers to assit in keeping the church clean. Please contact Scott or Michele in the office to let them know if you can help.



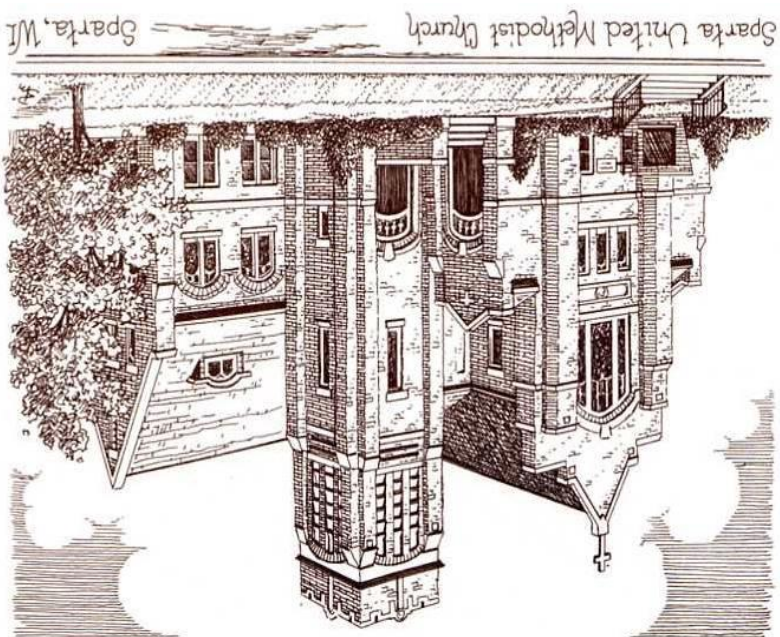
# The Chimes

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:** 608-633-8613

**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