

“The CHIMES” – October

Volume 58, No. 10

2023

Continuing the Conversation...



Hello friends,

I imagine a beautiful community created in the image of God as a divine community of trinity. The holy community that gives love ever, joyfully receives love, and gives again with all God's hearts! I imagine that in this way, the joy will expand ever in exponential ways. Yes, it is sure that we are created to be lovers. It means that we need a community to belong to love and to be loved.

In the church of God, this intimate space of sharing life and love is called small groups. It is like the life of the first Christians in Acts. They gathered and broke bread together. They confessed their sins, prayed together, and helped each other. The presence of the Holy Spirit was among them as the power of love. That's why Fifty-eight times in the New Testament uses the phrase "one another" -- love one another, care for one another, help one another, encourage one another, pray for one another, support one another, counsel one another.

We are never meant to go through life as a Lone Ranger. We are never meant to face my problems or my darkness by myself. In this space of love and respect, we don't need to look good since it is a place to share all our fears, faults, and desires. The space is surrounded by loving and respectful hearts that know the humble common fate of humanity. There will be relief and freedom in the power of the Holy Presence.

We need each other. We have a longing for belonging. We only grow in the community. It is like a tiny church inside of a church. There, we will get to see how Holy Spirit works through us and gently leads us to the place where we never imagined to be.

I desire to belong there as a member. How about you? Our church has good small groups that are

healthy and solid. And now we need more. Could you please add your prayers so that the dream of God may come true?

Today I want to share something that I learned from the Institute of Congregational Development. It is about church culture, how our thoughts and hearts should be shaped as a healthy and beautiful church of God as a community. It is about attitudes that shape the whole energy of the church. The following was written by Pastor Jim Ozier.

Grace and Love,
Pastor Hae-Jeong

Beatitudes to Serve by and Strengthen Culture

Jim Ozier

BLESSED ARE YOU who possesses a positive attitude displayed at all times in the presence of members, visitors, and fellow workers, for even small seeds of negativism grow into large weeds.

BLESSED ARE YOU who see your assigned duties as a unique ministry in the Kingdom of God, for those who are dependable in learning and diligently applying their craft bring joy to the household of faith.

BLESSED ARE YOU who let the spirit of teamwork shine at all times, for its light illumines the dark corners of fatigue and discouragement that from time to time may creep in upon us all.

BLESSED ARE YOU who risks creatively changing things for the better, for initiative on behalf of the Lord is more to be desired than the wings of angels.

BLESSED ARE YOU who looks upon all persons with the eyes of Christ, for compassion and understanding are more esteemed than judgmentalism and self-righteousness.

BLESSED ARE YOU who ask, “What can I do to help?” with as much concern as “whose task is it?” for

future is found in the team that works together for the glory of God.

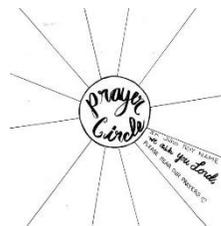
BLESSED ARE YOU who speaks of no problem without offering a solution, for the tongue of the complainer is not as worthy as the lips of a problem solver.

BLESSED ARE YOU who dwell in the abode of humble service with your brothers and sisters rather than wait alone outside the gates of haughty superiority, for there the heart of the servant is found.

BLESSED ARE YOU who find no fault in they brother or sister that you are unwilling to discuss with them in Christian love, for “talking to” is far mightier than “talking about.”

BLESSED ARE YOU whose smile and pleasant disposition are known throughout the church, for a “no” spoken in courtesy is better than a “yes” spoken in contempt.

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.



October Sermon Series

Oct 1 / Scripture: Psalm 8:1-9, Mark 10:13-16
Speaker: Toni Burrow

Oct 8/ Theme: Law and Freedom
Speaker: Pastor Hae-Jeong Yoon

Scripture: Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20; Romans 8:3-4

Oct 15/ Theme: Comfort in the Dark Valley
Ps 23; Phil 4:4-7

Oct 22/ Theme: “When nothing seems to happen”.
Scripture: Exodus 24: 12-18 & Matthew 17: 1-9
Speaker: Pastor Paul Foulke

Oct 29/ Theme: Transient Life
Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17; 2 Tim 4:6-8

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.

Community Thanksgiving Dinner



The Sparta Community Thanksgiving Dinner will be held again this year at the American Legion on Thursday, November 23 from 11-1. Information will be coming out in the near future for ways you can help support this very worthwhile endeavor.

God's Abundance...

Parker Palmer, a Quaker theologian, once told a story about abundance. Palmer was a passenger on a plane that pulled away from the gate, taxied to a remote corner of the field and stopped. You know the feeling: the plane stops and you look out the window and see that you're not on the runway, the engines wind down and your heart sinks. The pilot came on the intercom and said, "I have some bad news and some really bad news. The bad news is there's a storm front in the West, Denver is socked in and shut down. We've looked at the alternatives and there are none. So we'll be staying here for a few hours. That's the bad news. The really bad news is that we have no food and it's lunch time." Everybody groaned. Some passengers started to complain, some became angry. But then, Palmer said, one of the flight attendants did something amazing. She stood up and took the intercom mike and said, "We're sorry, folks. We didn't plan it this way and we really can't do much about it. And I know for some of you this is a big deal. Some of you are hungry and were looking forward to a nice lunch. Some of you may have a medical condition and really need lunch. Some of you may not care one way or the other and some of you need to skip lunch. So, I'll tell you what we're going to do. I have a couple of bread baskets up here and we're going to pass them around and I'm asking everybody to put something in the basket. Some of you brought a little snack along – something to tide you over – just in case something like this happened, some peanut butter crackers, candy bars. And some of you have a few LifeSavers or chewing gum or Roloids. And if you don't have anything edible, you have a picture of your children or spouse or girlfriend/boyfriend or a bookmark or a business card. Everybody put something in and then we'll reverse the process. We'll pass the baskets around again and everybody can take out what he/she needs. "Well," Palmer said, "what happened next was amazing. The griping stopped. People started to root around in pockets and handbags, some got up and opened their suitcases stored in the overhead luggage racks and got out boxes of candy, salami, a bottle of wine. People were laughing and talking. She had transformed a group of people who were focused on need and deprivation into a community of sharing and celebration. She had transformed scarcity into a kind of abundance." After the flight, which eventually did proceed, Parker Palmer stopped on his way off the plane – (deplaning), and said to her, "Do you know there's a story in the Bible about what you did back there? It's

about Jesus feeding a lot of people with very little food." "Yes," she said. "I know that story. That's why I did what I did." Even amid what we think is scarcity, many times God has already given us what we need.

Rev. Jason Mahnke, Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation

Records and History Committee Update...



Save the Date: Records and History will be hosting our fifth annual *Our Community In Concert* on Saturday, October 21, 2023 from 2-4 p.m. We have a wide variety of musical talent and many of our own parishioners will perform. This is a free, ecumenical concert so please plan to come and support our church and our community and invite your family and friends!

WANTED: Ushers (2) and Elevator Attendants (2) for Our Community In Concert on October 21. Both would need to be at the church by 1:30 to assist guests with elevator rides and to hand out programs. The concert concludes at approximately 4:00 with refreshments following the concert. Guests should be leaving between 4:30-4:45 for elevator duties. If interested, please contact Margie at 608-269-5532 or 608-633-3588

Anyone with a little extra time on their hands that would like to come **help clean** (dusting and sprucing up) the Sanctuary and the Gathering Place is invited to join the Records and History Committee on Wednesday, October 11th at 9:00 a.m. Many hands make light work—let's make our church shine!



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.

The next scrip order will be going in on **October 8**. 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.

Thank you

Thank you! We have received more books from very generous friends. Thank you for sharing your books with us. Currently, I have a good stock pile of books. When I free up some room, I will let you know. Please hold on to your books until space is available. Thank you again for your generosity.

Margie Lakowske

Thank you to Duane & Jane Hobson for the beautiful altar plant and to Maxine Gudbaur for delivering it. It's so beautiful. Thank you, thank you!

Bev Laufenberg

Hello to our Church family and friends!

Thank you all for your thoughtful, kind words and well wishes as we embark on this new journey of life. The trip down to Texas was wonderful as we were able to visit family along the way in Janesville, St. Louis, and Shawnee and then on to New Braunfels, TX. We miss and love you all!

John and Diane

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.



Pizza and a movie night this month is **October 21** 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 October 21 if you will be attending so we know how much pizza to order.



October's movie is

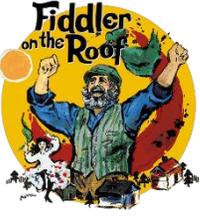
"The Simple Life of Noah Dearborn"

The Simple Life of Noah Dearborn, is a 1999 American television film aired on 9 May 1999 on CBS. It stars Sidney Poitier as the eponymous rural Georgia skilled carpenter, who lives alone without electricity and seems frozen in time. George Newbern played a developer trying to force Dearborn off his land. He tries to enlist the help of his psychologist girlfriend, a move which backfires badly. The developer tries to have Dearborn declared mentally incompetent; the effort fails, mostly because of the efforts of the woman, who realizes why Dearborn is held in esteem by his neighbors. For her performance, Dianne Wiest was nominated for a Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Supporting Actress - Miniseries or a Movie. Poitier retired from acting and died in 2022. Rated PG

*"Fall in love with Jesus
He never Leaves"*



Attention Theater Fans



Fiddler on the Roof will be at the La Crosse Community Theater (Weber Center) from October 6-22, 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 the following days:

Sunday – October 15 – 12:30pm-5:00pm – 6 ushers

Sunday – October 22 – 12:30pm-5:00pm – 10 ushers

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



SUMMIT Spirits will meet Tuesday, October 3 at 6:30 p.m. in the library.

The Sparta Ministerial Association will meet at noon, in the small kitchen, Wednesday, October 4.

Pastor will be in Eau Claire for the Institute of Congregational Development October 4 & 5.

Nurture will meet Thursday, October 5 at 6 p.m. in the library.

Lois circle will be meeting Tuesday, October 10 at 1:00 p.m. in the small kitchen.

Wesleyan Circle will meet in the Gathering Place at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, October 10.

There will be a Stewardship meeting, Wednesday, October 11 at 6:30 p.m. in the small kitchen.

Records & History will meet at 8:30 a.m. in the library on Wednesday, October 11.

The Servant Leadership Board will have a goal setting meeting on Sunday, October 15 @ 10:30 a.m. in the Garden Room.

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

Servant Leadership Board will meet in the small kitchen, Thursday, October 19 at 6 p.m.

Community in Concert will be held Saturday, October 21 from 2-4 p.m.

Pizza and a movie is Saturday, October 21 with pizza in the small kitchen at 6 p.m. and the movie in the chapel at 6:30 p.m.

November *Chimes* newsletter deadline is Tuesday, October 24 by noon.

Fall Festival will be held Wednesday, October 25.

Library News

Do you prefer to see the movie instead of reading the book? Have we got a deal for you! The church library recently received a donation of **25 DVD movies**. The movies are ones that have already been shown at the monthly Pizza and a Movie Event held at our church.



Some of the titles include God's Not Dead, Heaven is for Real, WWJD, The War Room, What If, and Courageous.

Feel free to check them out and enjoy.

Sunday school News



What a great start to the Sunday School year, Margie Lakowske, Aubrey Ebert, and I are returning teachers. Larry Humphrey was joined by Annabelle Von Ruden & Maddie Tadisch as helpers.

We started the year with 10 students and will be learning about Creation, Adam & Eve, Noah's Ark and will continue through the Old Testament.

New this year, Ellen Hemstock has asked to meet with the kids for music. They will meet with her twice a month for the last 15 minutes of Sunday school.

God has blessed us with a wonderful group of kids and teachers & helpers.

Lynn Humphrey
Sunday School Coordinator

Fall Festival...

Children's Fall Festival will be Wednesday Oct. 25. Volunteers will be needed for prep, decorating, etc. We will need hay, scarecrows, pumpkins, games, etc.



Family Fun Nights



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.



We have had 4 Family Fun Nights, August 23 & 30 and September 13 & 27 from 4:30 to 6:45 with a meal at 5:30. After the meal we have music & dancing followed by a Bible story and craft.

On the 23rd we had inside activities because of the HOT weather. We had playdough, coloring, and a craft in a theme of Summer Camp.

On the 30th, we had two Bounce Houses, one from Sparta Hardware and another from Donna Burnham Larry Humphrey, Megan Humphrey & Addy Alvarado, Kevin & Margie Lakowske, Donna Burnham were great help getting things set up and watching the kids enjoy the bounce house, play corn hole, and just enjoy the cooler day.

On September 13th, Donna Burnham engaged the kids in a kick ball game and even Pastor Hae-Jeong joined in the fun.

Thank you to Cyndi Wise, Amy Kiefer, Margie Lakowske & Eileen Gajewsky for furnishing the meal. I would also like to thank everyone who helped with the setup, clean up, & serving of the meal, we could not have done it without you.

What a fun time with friends and family.

Lynn Humphrey
Family Fun Night Coordinator

Sock-Tober

What: Help your neighbors get back on their feet by donating new socks of all colors and sizes.

When: October 2-31

Where: Drop off locations are:

- ADRC of Monroe County, 315 W. Oak St., Sparta
- Kupper Ratsch Senior Center, 1002 Superior Ave., Tomah
- Scenic Bluffs (2 locations) 238 Front St., Cashton or 200 W. North St., Norwalk
- Monroe County Senior Dining Sites
Cashton – 812 Main St.
Norwalk – 206 West Center St.
Kendall – 412 Spring St.
Wilton – 806 Railroad St.
Sparta – 1000 E. Montgomery St.
Tomah – 1002 Superior Ave.



All donations will be distributed to local Monroe County organizations who help those in need.

If you have any questions, please call Stephanie Haas, Community Health Worker at the ADRC of Monroe County at 608-269-8636.

Children's Choir is Back!

Initial choir practice will be held October 8 and 22 at 9:45. Please call the church office at 608-269-6949 if your child has interest in joining or have questions.



Coffee Fellowship

Below is the schedule for
October 2023 through January 2024:



Rotation 1		
1 st Sunday	Servant Leadership Board	Oct 1, Dec 3
2 nd Sunday	SUMMIT Spirits / Missions	Oct 8, Dec 10
3 rd Sunday	Wesleyan Circle A-L	Oct 15, Dec 17
4 th Sunday	Finance	Oct 22, Dec 24
Rotation 2		
1 st Sunday	Trustees	Nov 5, Jan 7
2 nd Sunday	Chancel Choir	Nov 12, Jan 14
3 rd Sunday	Wesleyan Circle M-Z	Nov 19, Jan 21
4 th Sunday	Praise Team	Nov 26, Jan 28
Rotation 3		
5 th Sunday	Lois Circle	Oct 29, Dec 31

If you are interested in being part of the coffee fellowship ministry but are not on one of the above teams, please contact Toni Burrows at 608-343-3029. We would love to have you 😊



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

Nurture Update...



“How we spend our days is, of course, how we spend our lives. Begin the day with a song and a prayer, and the rest of the day will take care of itself.”

Sunday school began with 8 children, and always welcoming more. Teachers and helpers are: Lynn & Larry Humphrey, Margie Lakowske, Aubrey

Ebert, Annabelle Von Ruden and Maddie Tadisch.

Thank you, for teaching and guiding our children!

Our first **Ministry Celebration** in the Fellowship Hall, reminded me of all the meaningful ministries we have in our church. **Thank you** leaders and chair persons for the beautiful displays.

The September **Family Fun Nights** were so well planned. Bible activities, food and fun were offered to all ages. Also 25 backpacks were purchased and filled and delivered to Maplewood School District office.

Thanks to all who helped with the joyous ministry.

Thank you, Amy Kiefer for helping train our youth to be acolytes—carrying the Light of Christ.

Coming up:

October 25—Fall Festival

The church will celebrate this beautiful time of year—Autumn! More details coming.

November 5—All Saints Day Sunday

The next meeting is **October 5** at 6 p.m. in the library.

“Stay connected to God—

Stay connected to each other”



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 facebook.com/umcsparta. Once you are there just “like” the site and you will receive updates when new information is posted.



OCTOBER

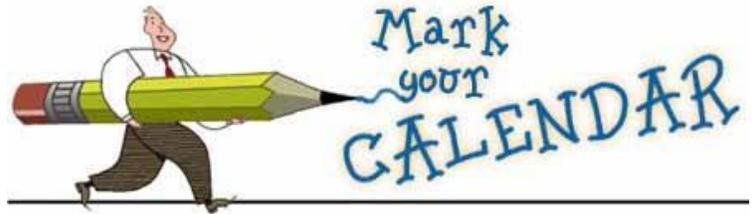
October Anniversaries

- 01 Ron & Donna Burnham
- 02 Marty & Larry Walley
- 15 Evan & Jess Wiedemann
- 18 LeRoy & June Jackson
- 19 Beth & Tyler Anderson
- 19 Dan & Deb Dishinger
- 23 Jim & Clarice Stuessel
- 25 Muriel Canfield & Hutch Hutchinson
- 29 Tom & Jeanine Houtevelde
- 31 Laurie & Jerry Hesselberg



October Birthdays

- 03 Mary Lou Cole
- 05 Jess Wiedemann
- 07 Pat Clark
- 07 Zach Herrman
- 09 Monica Davis
- 09 Kelsey Foss
- 09 Zhoey Von Ruden
- 10 Nicole Jacobs
- 10 Pete Jerrman
- 11 Duane Hobson
- 12 Kegan Rodgers
- 12 Emily Von Ruden
- 14 Beverly Donahue
- 15 Latesha Dishinger
- 17 Ron Ebert
- 17 Dot Hering
- 18 Antonia Gutierrez
- 18 Dan Davis
- 20 Berndt Borreson
- 20 Sarah Rodgers
- 21 Kory Foss
- 22 Emma Wiedemann
- 23 Beth Nowak
- 24 Nathan Goodenough
- 25 Eden Glut
- 27 K'Andrea Ebert
- 27 Cathy Nichols
- 29 Dick Gajewsky
- 31 Hailee Scheurich



Bakery pick-up

- 1 Priscilla & Jeff Hemmersbach
- 8 Pat & Gail Clark
- 15 Donna Burnham
- 22 Judy Fuhrmann
- 29 Ron & Denise Ebert

Tech Team

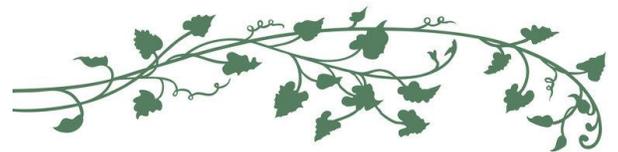
- 1 Ben & Hailee
- 8 Cheryl & Cindy
- 15 Ron & Kristine
- 22 Cheryl & Kristine
- 29 Toni & Amy

Liturgist

- 1 Amy Kiefer
- 8 Ellen Hemstock
- 15 Eileen Gajewsky
- 22 Judy Fuhrmann
- 29 Annabelle Von Ruden

Ushers

- 1 Peggy, Donna & Ron
- 8 Kurt & Amy
- 15 Bob & Cathy
- 22 John & Karen
- 29 Russ & Tina





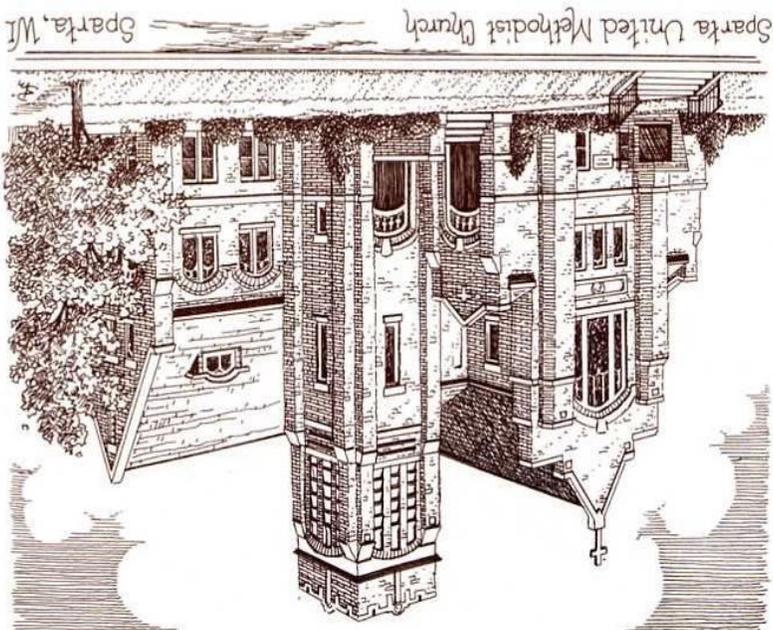
The Chimes

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



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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