

“The CHIMES” – September

Volume 56, No. 9

2021

Continuing the Conversation...

“...for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me... ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’” (Matthew 25:35, 40)

“I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ’s gift.” (Ephesians 4:1-7)

Being the church is so much more than Sunday morning worship (although worship is an important part of being the church). In our August Servant Leadership Board meeting, we began focusing on Radical Hospitality as part of being the church. Or, I should say re-focusing on Radical Hospitality, as it is one of the foundational pillars our ministry plan is built on.



I want to point out here, that since coming to Sparta I have found you to be a very friendly and hospitable church. Others have told me that their experience here was also one of warmth and hospitality, and that is why they have stayed. Through the hospitality shown them they made connections and relationships grew. Given that, you may be wondering why I felt the need to re-focus on hospitality. I have two good reasons for this focus.

First, we have gone through a time of huge change; from the world (including the church) being closed down for a time to reopening with a focus on

livestreaming services. We weren’t practicing our usual hospitality for months as we all hunkered down and worshiped from home via the internet. As with any skill that isn’t practiced for a time we can lose some of our initial shine; we may forget to do little things that can be big things to guests or even long-time members. Things like making sure we have an elevator attendant (that cool old elevator can be tricky and intimidating when you aren’t familiar with it) or forgetting to welcome guests (which is extra challenging with masks) or other things I may be forgetting.

Second, we have to be mindful of a new segment of our congregation: those who worship with us via livestream and recordings. This second reason is even challenging for me. I have to remember to do things like: look at the camera, speak directly to those who are in the cyber world of church while not ignoring those in the pews, offer new ways for that new segment of our church to connect with us, etc. It is a huge learning curve and I am thankful to have you all on this journey with me. So following are a few things to remember about the importance of Radical Hospitality.

It is important because Radical Hospitality is a trait of vibrant, fruitful, and growing congregations. Christian hospitality is the **active desire to invite, welcome, receive, and care for** those who are strangers so that they find a spiritual home and discover for themselves the unending richness of life in Christ.

Churches that practice Radical Hospitality sense a **calling and responsibility to pray, plan, and work to invite others and to help them feel welcome and to support them in their faith journeys** out of genuine love for Christ. Some people may never enter the church building, but they are choosing to worship with us. What are ways we can offer Radical Hospitality to these folks that open us to further connection with them? How can we support them in their faith journeys as they grow in love for God and others?

Hospitality is a mark of Christian discipleship, a quality of Christian community, a concrete expression of commitment to grow in Christ-likeness by seeing ourselves as part of the community of faith, “not to be

served but to serve” (Matthew 20:28). By practicing hospitality, we become part of God’s invitation to new life, showing people that God in Christ values them and loves them. Radical Hospitality is never an end in itself, but the beginning of a life of discipleship.

The importance of hospitality streams through Scripture. In Deuteronomy God reminds the people of Israel to welcome the stranger, the sojourner, the wanderer. Why? “For you were strangers in the land of Egypt” (Deuteronomy 10:19). We, too, were once strangers to the faith, residing outside the community of faith where we now find rich resources of meaning, grace, hope, friendship, and service. We belong to the body of Christ because of someone’s hospitality. Someone invited us, encouraged us, received us, and helped us feel welcome. If we had not felt welcomed and supported in some measure, we would not have stayed.

Jesus says, “I was a stranger and you welcomed me” (Matthew 25:35). “Just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me” (Matthew 25:40). How might our behaviors toward strangers change if we lived as if we really believed this? Taking Jesus seriously changes congregational behavior.

Paul pleads with the follower of Christ to practice an active hospitality “Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God” (Romans 15:7). The letter to the Hebrews cautions, “Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it” (Hebrews 13:2).

The early Methodists practiced hospitality in ways so radical in their day that many traditional church leaders found their activities offensive. Founder of Methodism, John Wesley preached to thousands on roadsides and in open fields in order to reach coal miners, field laborers, factory workers, the underclass, and the poorest of the poor. He invited them into community and nurtured in them a strong sense of belonging as he organized societies and classes for mutual accountability, support, and care. Is the virtual world we have at our fingertips the next big mission field?

According to Wesley, before people ever consciously come to faith, they have inner desires for relationship to God that are stifled, neglected, or denied. By God’s grace, people may be more ready than we realize to accept the invitation and initiative of Christ that comes through gracious hospitality.

A personal invitation to join you in worship in the building (maybe even offering a ride to church) could go a long way in showing Radical Hospitality. Or it could mean letting people know about our livestreamed and recorded services if they aren’t ready to come to public worship. You could even host a watch party worship service in your home with someone who doesn’t have access to the internet. That’s just a couple of ideas to build on.

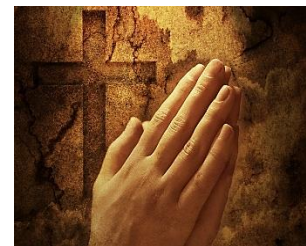
God seeks relationship to people. Through the practice of Radical Hospitality, the church today expresses the gracious welcome of God in Christ. But remember, the work doesn’t end with hospitality, we also need to be working on the intentional discipleship process that we offer that will help people continue to grow in their faith and relationship with God and others...more on that later.

Serving and leading in Christ’s love!
Pastor L



“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

Let us pray: God of love and power, we know that you are with us and you are for us. Breakthrough into our lives and into your church that our relationship may flourish with you and each other.



Fill us with the grace, mercy, and power of Jesus. Help us discern where your Spirit is leading. Open doors that lead us into a new season of faithfulness and fruitfulness; of growth and service for your Kingdom; exceeding our dreams and expectations. Give us faith and courage to step through the doors that you open as we faithfully follow you, in Jesus name and for your glory. Amen.

Celebrating Faith



Hailee Scheurich and Aubrey Ebert

There are exciting plans in the works for **Sunday, September 12** during worship. We will be celebrating two young women in our congregation who are taking the important step of confirming their faith before the congregation.

Aubrey Ebert and Hailee Scheurich have had a unique confirmation experience as part way through their classes the pandemic stopped us in our tracks. It took some time to figure out how to proceed, but they both decided to put extra time in over the spring and summer to get back on track.

We have had some good discussions along the way as they learn what it means to confirm their faith and become members of the church. There have also been adventures along the way as both girls and Pastor Loretta were first-time participants in the Wildfire Youth Mission Event in Superior, Wisconsin. Hopefully you saw the pictures from Wildfire that were in last month's *Chimes* and on the church Facebook page. When you see the girls, ask them about it.

Both girls are also active in ministries within the church. Aubrey helps with the Tuesday night Soup Suppers. You may have seen Hailee working in the back of the sanctuary as part of the tech teams on Sunday mornings. If you haven't met them, I hope you will take this opportunity to meet both girls, welcome them into our church family, and thank them for their service in the church.

September 12 will also be a celebration of all of you as we kick off a new season of ministry together as Sparta United Methodist Church. I will also resume a "children's moment" in worship. This will be our "Young Disciple's Moment." As we reboot this ministry I will ask that children stay with their parents

for now, but be aware I am specifically talking to them during "Young Disciple's Moment."

The past 18 months have been challenging in so many ways and we continue living through many challenges; but we have kept the light of Christ shining in and through our lives and ministries. **There will be a special gift for you when you come to worship on September 12 and prepare to take the light of Christ out into the world with you.**

How to Instill Faith in Children

Crystal Caviness works for UMC.org at United Methodist Communications. This content was published August 10, 2021.

Helping kids learn about God may seem daunting. The good news is that a theology degree isn't required and it has less to do with words than with actions. Check out these tips from United Methodist children ministry leaders for how to make faith real in the lives of the kids we love.



Every day presents teachable moments "Every moment of every day is a teachable moment and that doesn't stop with your faith," says Aimee Cox, director of children's ministry at Christ United Methodist Church.

"People think you have to be in a worship setting in your sanctuary to have sacred moments," Cox explains. "When you allow your kids to talk about how they are feeling and how to approach things in a Christ-like way, you're having that sacred moment without naming it."

Sitting around the table at mealtime, taking a walk, snuggling at bedtime are ideal holy moments, says Melinda Shunk, the Arkansas Conference's children's ministry coordinator. "Adults can take these routine opportunities to tell children that you thank God for them or for the time you're spending together.

"It's a blessing to that child to hear those words washed over them," Shunk points out.

Engage all five senses Asking children what they see, what they smell, what they hear in the world helps them experience God's creation in a variety of ways, Cox says.

Employing this tip isn't just for nature walks or outside settings, Cox clarifies, suggesting the same questions can be asked following all activities, including church. "Always engage kids after worship by

asking, “What did you see today? What smells did you smell?” “Help them walk through the experience of being at church,” she says.

Allow kids to have their own experiences. Sometimes, parents fear how their child may react to a Bible story. Leaders suggest we share the story anyway without editing and introducing personal biases. “Children take it in and they understand what they understand for their age,” explains Cox. “Let them ask questions.”

Read the stories together, followed by a discussion. “You don’t have to be an expert in understanding the Bible,” Cox points out. Ask questions, such as “What do you hear? What words spoke to you?”

Asking open-ended questions is important to keeping the conversation going, says Brittany Sky McRay, director of children’s and family ministries at Los Altos United Methodist Church.

“Invite kids into the experience of the story, giving children an opportunity to think about the feelings or who is missing or the most important part makes the Word living. Asking questions is meant to engage our curiosity. You are not looking for right or wrong answers.

Take time to wonder “I think the greatest gift our kids give to us is the curiosity they bring to the table,” McRay shares. “The wondering about how God works in our world creates more biblically literate children and creates lifelong lovers of Jesus.”

Build a spiritual library as a way to nurture wonder and create a space for discovery, McRay says, offering that books by the likes of Matthew Paul Turner, Fred Rogers and music by Rain for Roots are good starting places. *The Deep Blue Bible Storybook* was developed specifically to engage conversations.

Being present is a spiritual act “Showing up, being there and listening to your child is the cornerstone of faith,” McRay says. She explains that numerous studies indicate the understanding of God, ourselves and the world comes down to five foundational relationships in a child’s life. “Particularly the adults who love you when you are really small set you up for who God is,” she tells us.

Authenticity rules! Admitting you don’t know the answer or that you messed up is OK too.

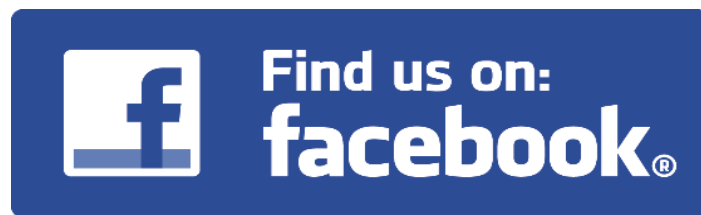
“Being authentic is really key, because our kids see through the (façade),” McRay explains. “I want to model what it means to be a believer, but we have to remind ourselves that life is hard and we are going to struggle.

“I have to give myself space to be a good enough person who my son will watch his whole life and internalize that being a good person means making decisions every day, saying, ‘I’m sorry’ when I mess up and trying again the next day.”

Be a faith storyteller Children love a good story, particularly when someone they love is the main character. “Tell stories about when you were a child, what you thought about God, how you first came to your faith,” Shunk suggests. Grandparents, especially, make excellent faith storytellers because they have the time and experiences to share those stories.

“Just like the Bible teaches us about God’s people from long ago, our faith stories from long ago are valuable to children,” Shunk suggests. “Being a faith storyteller makes faith come alive and weaves into your family’s faith story.”

Pro tip: “Save the stories about their parents as children for tweens,” Shunk says. “Those stories are going to be so valuable and so fun.”



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.

Sparta UMC Web Page Update

Our church Web site is updated with a new page that has direct links to our worship services starting with 2020 through current services. You will also find our Chimes archived there starting with 2020. You can find it at:

lewaughtal.wixsite.com/spartaumc

Once you are at our Web site, click on the “Stay Connected” link and it will give you options to go the worship or Chimes newsletter sites.

We hope you find this new feature helpful.

Connecting Vision and Generosity

“Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.” Matthew 7:7-8

After serving my first local church part-time as a college student for two years, I had just finished leading my last worship service and was greeting folks at the door. One gentleman shook my hand and said, “Jason, thank you for being our pastor. I think one of the things I liked about you the most is that you never talked about money.”

I’ve thought about his statement many times over the years. I’ve also heard the same sentiment repeated by both laity and clergy in many ways. We tend to see financial stewardship and money as a “necessary evil.” It’s something we must deal with to get to real ministry.

In his short book, *A Spirituality of Fundraising*, Henri Nouwen challenges this view of money and stewardship (which he calls fundraising). He writes: Fundraising is, first and foremost, a form of ministry. It is a way of announcing our vision and inviting other people into our mission.

Fundraising is proclaiming what we believe in such a way that we offer other people an opportunity to participate with us in our vision and mission. We are declaring, ‘We have a vision that is amazing and exciting. We are inviting you to invest yourself through the resources that God has given you—your energy, your prayers, and your money—in this work to which God has called us.

I wonder what vision God has entrusted to you and your congregation that you can invite others to be a part of through their prayers, their presence, their service, their witness, and their gifts.

Rev. Jason Mahnke, Wisconsin. UM Foundation
Visit the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation
at www.wumf.org or Facebook/wumf.org
Or call 1-888-903-9863

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 **September 12**. 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 Pastor Loretta at the church (269-6949) or on her cell phone at (608-386-1862).

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 has a few extra scrip cards for local businesses on hand.



Little Free Library

Thank you Emily Axelsen for the young adult books. I sure hope that our patrons start replacing books they borrow as we are in desperate need of children’s books. These are flying out of the library. As always, if you have books you would like to donate, please contact myself or the office and I will pick them up from you. We are sharing a great pastime with many people who may not otherwise have an opportunity to read. Thanks.



Margie Lakowske, Little Free Library Steward



Lois Circle

Lois Circle will be meeting at the church in the small kitchen on **Tuesday, September 14 at 1:00 p.m.**



Records and History



Records and History will meet on **Wednesday, September 9, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.** in the Church Library. If the situation with COVID has changed by that time I will keep you informed as to if our meeting will still be conducted. If you are unable to attend or would like to look at different date/time options for the future, please let me know. I look forward to seeing you and tackling a plan on how we will

move forward with our Committee. Thank you.

We Are—Keeping the Eternal Flame Glowing

Margie Lakowske



Thank you for your prayers and cards before, during and after my recent surgery. Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated. Thank you again.

Patty Wiedemann

Thank you for all the prayers, cards, plants and support on the unexpected loss of brother/brother-in-law Tom Noonan. We are so blessed to have such a wonderful church family. God bless all of you.

John & Diane Noonan

Thank you to the Noonan's for their diligent care of the church grounds. Also thank you to whoever is mowing the lawn. It is not an easy job and all of us appreciate the great job you do!

Margie Lakowske

Thank you to all who expressed their sympathy to us on my mom's death. Thank you for the flowers from UMW, the cards, memorials and condolences from so many. Caroline Storck reached her 100th birthday with a family party on July 25th, 2021. She will be greatly missed. We are so thankful for our church family during this time. Sincerely, Ellen and Tom Hemstock

UMW Update

UMW has not met as a unit yet—Lois Circle has not met, either. Wesleyan Circle has had three outdoor summer potlucks with fellowship time, but no business as yet.

The executive committee met to set a budget for 2022, which includes: \$500 pledge to mission and \$40 special mission recognition, for a total of \$540. We will give more when we can. Treasurer, Eileen Gajewsky will take of sending in all of our offerings.

A slate of officers was also voted on. Our officers are: treasurer, Eileen Gajewsky; secretary, Cyndi Wise; sunshine, Maxine Gudbaur; publicity, Margie Lakowski; communications coordinator, Cathy Nichols.

After much discussion about available volunteers, the rise in COVID cases, and the apprehension of attendees, we decided not to serve our traditional Harvest Supper with turkey and all the trimmings. We will do a carryout meal of meatballs, gravy, rice, squash, green beans, coleslaw, rolls, and cranberry bars for \$10. The date in November is to be determined.

We are excited about beginning our events again, but everyone's health and safety is our top priority.

Respectfully submitted,

Cyndi Wise



BASH Update

Do you love kids? Do you want to share the love of God with kids? Have we got a deal for you. We are hoping to start BASH (Bible Activity and Story Hour) on **Sunday, September 19** during worship. We need teachers and helpers to teach our kids, using a very user-friendly curriculum.



We need enough people to be able to rotate the schedule so that no one has to teach every Sunday. If you have questions or know you would like to teach contact BASH coordinator, Lynn Humphrey, or Pastor Loretta.



From the Parish Nurse...

Health Ministry Visitation Purpose:

To offer encouragement, spiritual and emotional support bringing the love of Christ to the growing number of homebound people living in their home/assisted living residence/nursing homes.

To maintain contact with homebound members, and to remind them they are not forgotten, though unable to attend worship and other church activities.

Since Covid the Visitation team has been on hold—providing phone calls only.

We are planning a meeting Thursday, September 23 and will be reviewing the visitation list and revamping it as we have lost some people and some will be added. We will be mindful of the pandemic situation and will make contact by phone if preferred or felt it would be safer to do so for all involved.

The Visitation Team that will be making visits at this time consists of Cindy Isensee, Eileen Gajewski, Judy Fuhman, Bev Laufenberg and myself. We are always looking for anyone that is interested in joining us. Please feel free to contact me through the church or calling me directly at 608-269-5359.

But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in Him. (John 3:17

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me. (Mathew 25:35

Imagine a man or woman on the streets, who society has forgotten. This person may smell of garbage because they have not bathed in months. This person sits quietly alone, may be hungry or cold or both. Homelessness is, often times generated by drug /alcohol disease and mental illness and can be very “scary” to some of us. A common problem with homelessness is the stigmatizations of being homeless and how this perception has led to anti-homeless polices and attitudes that keep people distancing themselves from the issue.

Homelessness is a problem that has been afflicting hundreds of thousands of people around the world for ages.



I am humbled to have been a part of working with the homeless people in Wisconsin, Arizona and New Mexico.

Our number of homeless here in Sparta is growing. I will be meeting with others in the community that already have some assistance in place for our homeless population. My hope is to find ways we can partner with other organizations so we are not duplicating services (especially with our limited resources). The types of things I have been providing are: warm clothing, blankets, a warm meal, personal hygiene items and most importantly resources for them.

Pastor Loretta and Paul Folke are also on board and will be joining in this ministry. If anyone else is interested please contact me.

In Christ's Love, Priscilla



We have hit a milestone!



Thank you to all who have donated to Soles4Souls!

We have collected 1504 pair of shoes through August!

CHANGING THE WORLD
ONE PAIR AT A TIME



Family Promise update

As of mid-August Family Promise has one family of two that is in the program according to April Buchanan, Executive Director and Case Manager of Family Promise of Monroe County.

Our church is in need of a Family Promise Coordinator. Our previous coordinator, Lynn Humphrey, has stepped down. She did a great job of keeping in touch with April and organizing our volunteers when it was our time to host. Thank you very much for your work Lynn!

If you are interested in stepping into this important position, please let Pastor Loretta know as soon as possible. There is a Family Promise coordinators meeting coming up on September 19. I believe we have one more time to host in 2021.



The Parish nurse—will be available in the church on Wednesdays beginning **September 15 from 1030 am to 130 pm.**

If you have any issues or concerns please stop in and see me. Here is a list of some of the things I can assist with or if you would just like to visit-all is confidential.

- Provide spiritual support and resources to patients when faced with difficult health /emotional issues/substance abuse.
- Serving as a liaison between patients, the community, and members of the health care team.
- Mentoring volunteers and other members of their parish.
- Start up/provide resources on support groups.
- Serving as a patient advocate/resource person.
- Educating patients on the importance of faith in relation to health and wellness.
- Educate/assist in preventive health screenings.
- Visit members in homes or hospitals.
- Counsel parishioners on medical or health issues.
- Volunteer in various community service establishments (shelter, soup kitchens, etc.)
- Provide community resources to parishioners.
- Educate patients on preventive health/health maintenance.
- Assist with medical forms, Advance Directives.

I hope that you will utilize this service, thank you.

Priscilla

Sojourner's Journey Transitional Living

Dear Friends,

It has been a very busy summer for all of us at Sojourner's Journey, fall is fast approaching. We are so grateful for the opportunities to work with individuals in our community that have fallen on hard times and need our help. We want to thank you for your support and your prayers for our organization. We are totally funded by the generosity of our community. It costs about \$5,000 per month to keep both the men's and women's transitional houses going. With your help we have been able to reach out and help so many individuals in our community. Thank you!

We have also been busy with presentations and helping our community become better educated on the Human Trafficking epidemic that is sweeping across our country. We can all make a difference in our community by just knowing the signs and how to protect our children.

Please add to your prayers that God will guide us and bring to fruition a vision we have for a community center that could provide a safe place out of the elements for people in need as well as additional resources to give people a hand up. We would love to come and talk with your church (or groups within your church) about this or about Human Trafficking.

We are committed to sharing Christ and sharing ourselves here at Sojourner's Journey. Again, thank you so much for everything that you do, we look forward to hearing from you soon.

God bless you,

Spencer (men's house – 608-518-0154)

Katie (women's house – 608-633-3322)



Servant Leadership Board

Greetings Church Family,

We have been working with the Servant Leadership Board (SLB) module now for almost two years now. Pastor asked me to touch base with you on how things have been going.

I believe it has been working well. The governing principles of the SLB allow Pastor Loretta to accomplish her work without having to jump through “numerous hoops” that we previously had with the Administrative Council model. For example, when it was identified that we needed to hire a new administrative assistant for the office, she was able to get the wheels in motion quickly. She kept us apprised of what she was doing and didn’t have to wait for a monthly meeting to be able to start the process. Pastor Loretta has also given us a great spiritual foundation and direction for our SLB. Each meeting starts with a devotion to make us prayerfully consider the bigger picture for the direction our congregation will take.

We are called to make maturing disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. That is our mission statement. The reason Sparta United Methodist Church exists is to make God’s love real in our church, neighborhood, community, and world. That means that coming to church on Sunday or watching the service online is just a small part of who we are. We still need our work teams (e.g. Nurture, Missions, Trustees, etc) to come together to continue with the mission of the church.

The leaders selected for the SLB are still the best representatives to bring your hopes, dreams and concerns regarding the future of our church. Please don’t hesitate to contact the following should you have any questions or concerns: Toni Burrows, Cheryl Isensee, Paul Foulke, Julie Hanson, Ron Phillips, Scott Naeseth, Peggy Wright, John Lodico, Priscilla Hemmersbach, and Pastor Loretta Waughtal.

In Christ,
Toni Burrows,
Chair of Servant Leadership Board



UMCOR

We are deeply saddened by the news of the tragic earthquake in Haiti and flooding in Tennessee. United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) provides a very real way that you can help those who are suffering devastating loss.

You are invited to make a donation to UMCOR to aid in the response efforts. We ask you to pray for the families of those who have died or are missing. We also pray for the communities experiencing upheaval and uncertainty. UMCOR is a vital ministry of the United Methodist Church that is well known and respected even in the secular world for the work that they (and you through them) do.

If you would like to mail a check please make the check out to Wisconsin Conference of The UMC and note Adv# 00483A for Haiti or Adv# 5965 for U.S. disaster response in the memo line. Please mail your check to:

Wisconsin Conference, Attn: Finance Dept., 750 Windsor St., Sun Prairie, WI 53590 or you can give online through the conference website:
www.wisconsinumc.org.



Any Youth Ready to Confirm Your Faith?

If you have youth in your family who are ready to take the step of preparing to confirm their faith, Pastor L is considering beginning a new class in October.

She will again plan for a two-year cycle of confirmation classes. The classes are intended to make young people aware of how God is and has been at work in their lives, even before they were old enough to realize it. And confirmation affirms a new commitment—a new covenant relationship—between a young person and Christ’s body, the church as they become members of the church.

For more information, or to register your youth for classes contact Pastor Loretta in the church office before September 15 so she can make plans.



September Anniversaries

- 03 Carolyn & Kevin Lieder
- 09 Jane & Duane Hobson
- 11 Fran & Norm Warthan
- 14 Sara & Elliot Blackdeer
- 15 Carson & Mindy Wiedemann
- 17 Julie & Dennis Hanson
- 17 Ron & Kristine Phillips
- 30 Scott & Kelly Lakowske



September Birthdays

- 01 Addison Alvarado
- 01 Ace Girard
- 02 Mary Borreson
- 02 Ann Olson
- 03 Amy Kiefer
- 06 Sue Harrie
- 08 Judy Fuhrmann
- 10 Jean Evans
- 10 Marcia Knoll
- 10 Dave Wiedemann
- 11 Grace Johnson
- 12 Allen Erickson
- 12 Maxine Gudbaur
- 13 Gale Meyer
- 15 Damijon Talsky
- 18 Yvonne Chamberlain
- 18 Kevin Eddy
- 20 Wayne Johnson
- 21 Emmersyn Alvarado
- 21 Lisa Arvizu
- 21 Gail Clark
- 22 Chuck Adams
- 23 Kevin Lieder
- 27 Teresa Brown
- 27 Laurie Hesselberg
- 28 Chris Angle
- 28 Sherry Breeser
- 28 Cyndi Wise
- 30 Mindy Wiedemann



July Schedules

Bakery pick-up

- 5 Amy & Kurt Kiefer
- 12 Dave & Sara Kemp
- 19 Priscilla & Jeff Hemmersbach
- 26 Paul Foulke

Tech Team

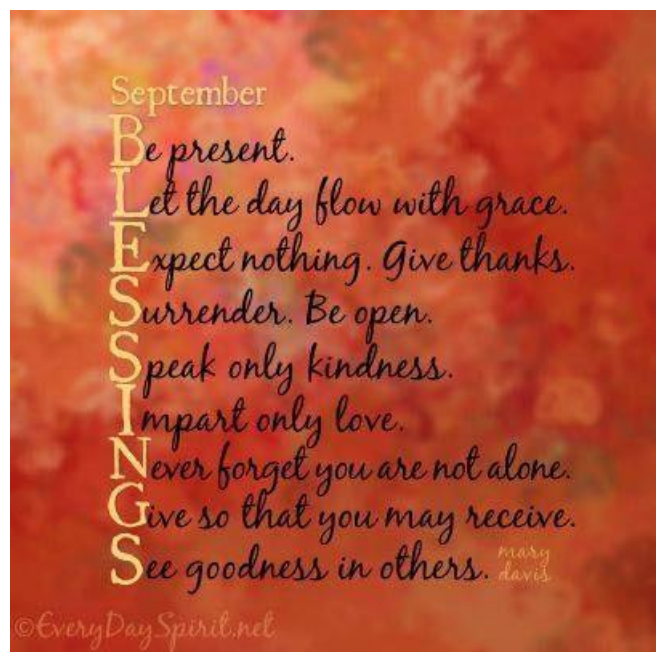
- 5 Ben & Hailee
- 12 Ron & Kristine
- 19 Cheryl & Toni
- 26 Amy & Ron

Liturgist

- 5 Judy Fuhrmann
- 12 Beth Nowak
- 19 Martha Walley
- 26 Cheryl Isensee

Ushers

- 5 Bob & Cathy Nichols
- 12 Kurt & Amy Kiefer
- 19 Peggy Wright
- 26 Dick & Eileen Gajewsky



Wisconsin Volunteers in Mission Opportunities

Below is the information for the next two Volunteers in Mission (VIM) trips this year. A new schedule for the coming year is being planned so watch for more information soon on the VIM website: www.wisconsinumc.org/volunteers-in-mission



September 26 - October 1, 2021

Lake Lucerne UMC Camp, Neshkoro, WI

Join us for a week of fellowship, fun and hard work! Plan to arrive and settle into your room in one of the cabins, then join us for dessert and our first evening together in Ridgewood, where we will share morning and evening devotions each day.

Meals will be eaten in the Lodge starting with Monday breakfast and concluding with lunch on Friday.

Tasks may range from cleaning out cabins (washing windows, sweeping floors) to bringing in the pier on the lake to cutting down trees and brush to roof repairs and laying new sidewalk!

We will do what the staff asks us to do—and more! This is a great time of year to enjoy the changing colors of the trees and the last of our warm weather. This is a drive to camp.

Cost: \$180.00, includes lodging, meals, work supplies and donation to camp.

Registration deadline is September 1, 2021 to insure adequate planning.

(Deposit is \$36 with the registration form. Check made out to WAC/VIM Camp.)

Registrar/Coleader: Gail Burgess - 6510 203rd Avenue, Bristol, WI 53104;

Phone - 262-945-8578 E-mail: hb53104@aol.com

Co-Leader: Donna Kiefer E-mail: momkief@juno.com 608-655-3097 (H) 608- 575-9529

October 10 – 16, 2021 – Poverty/Homeless Assistance, Detroit, MI

Cass Community Social Services works across the City in areas of concentrated poverty providing programs for food, health, housing and jobs. This is a dynamic organization serving on the front line of the poverty relief effort in this very needy community.

- CCSS prepares and serves 1 million meals annually.
- 325 homeless men, women and children currently stay in one of CCSS shelters, transitional housing or permanent supportive housing programs.
- CCSS operates a weekly free medical clinic and a day program for 100 adults with developmental disabilities.
- 70 adults are currently employed in the agency's Green Industries which marry jobs with sustainability.

They would like us to help repair their buildings and get them ready for inspection. We will be painting, patching, cleaning etc., in ten of their buildings.

We will be sleeping in the Cass United Methodist Church on our air mattresses. Showers are available.

Cost is \$175. This is a drive to trip. Checks made out to: WAC/VIM.

A deposit for registration is \$100 and should be sent to the registrar by the deadline for registration which is **September 6, 2021. The work camp will be limited to 15 people.**

Co – leader – Sherry Schreiner, Appleton, WI 54914

PH: 920-809-0924; E-mail: gmasdream@yahoo.com

Registrar – Chuck Wedemeyer, 8389 North Ivy Street, Brown Deer WI 53223 Phone - 414-354-8285

Cell – 414-517-5576; E-mail: jcwede@gmail.com

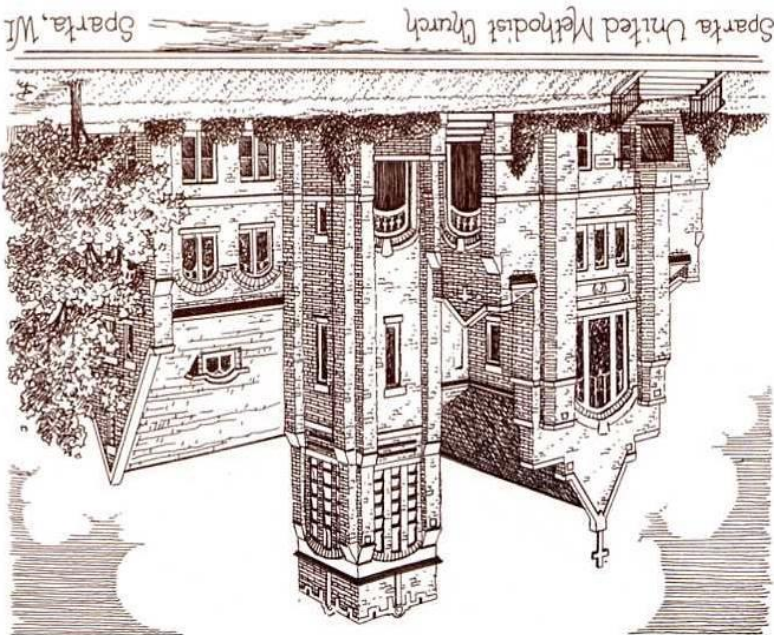
The Chimes

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Prepared Especially For:



Pastor: Rev. Loretta Waughtal
Pastor's Cell Phone: (608) 386-1862

Phone: (608)269-6949

Fax: (608)269-6940

Email: office@spartamethodist.com

Website: lewaughtal.wixsite.com/spartaumc

SUMC Worship Schedule

In-house Service

9:00 a.m. Sunday mornings

Online Service

YouTube: Sparta UMC month day year