

“The CHIMES” – March

Volume 57, No. 3

2022

Continuing the Conversation...

“And let us consider each other carefully for the purpose of sparking love and good deeds. Don’t stop meeting together with other believers, which some people have gotten into the habit of doing. Instead, encourage each other, especially as you see the day drawing near.” (Hebrews 10:24-25)



I don’t know about you, but for me the last two years have been a blur. Our world was turned upside down in early 2020 as we began experiencing shutdowns and shortages that we could not have imagined in our wildest dreams. I have witnessed anger and harshness erupting in people in numbers that I would not have believed

possible before this (myself included at times)...all while we have strived for some kind of normalcy in life.

This striving has taken us in many different directions over the course of the past two years. Some hunkering down at home, others going a hundred miles an hour in various directions as they seem determined to live life to the fullest in spite of everything. For me, I have kept busy (oftentimes too busy) trying to learn how to do things in new ways while maintaining the status quo as much as possible. I have discovered that is an exercise in futility, but it hasn’t stopped me from trying and staying busy.

The thing about staying busy in the name of keeping things going while learning new ways (or whatever your coping mechanism is) you find you don’t have time to process and grieve the losses along the way. These losses can be as simple as missing a favorite worship element that is no longer being used or as hard and complex as losing a loved one that you couldn’t spend time with before they died or grieve and say goodbye in truly meaningful ways. All because for much of the past two years we have been closed off from each other. This is not healthy; we are not created to be lone creatures— not even us introverts.

I was finally forced to address this as I found myself in a slump that left me not wanting to leave the house—even for activities I normally enjoy. I have been going through the motions much of the time lately, staying productive so I can see some kind of outcome, but not feeling the joy I have previously experienced in ministry.

I don’t share this to make you worry that you have a broken pastor in your midst. I won’t lie, I was actually beginning to wonder if I was irretrievably broken. But, I have recently had opportunities to talk with other pastors and have come to the realization that we have all been struggling. It isn’t just me. I also know it is not just pastors feeling the strain. I have heard from teachers, school staff, those in food service, and from those in the medical professions, just to name a few, that they are also struggling.

I wish I could say that I have an easy answer for us; I don’t. However, this reality check has me wondering how you are doing. Especially **you** that I don’t see or hear from often, or at all anymore; **how are you doing?** It is my hope to start a conversation about where we all are as we come through two years of a pandemic that has brought so many changes to our lives.

Although I don’t have an easy answer for us, I have come across one that is very doable and I believe helpful. While searching the Scriptures I found those wonderful verses from Hebrews: *“And let us consider each other carefully for the purpose of sparking love and good deeds. Don’t stop meeting together with other believers, which some people have gotten into the habit of doing. Instead, encourage each other, especially as you see the day drawing near.”*

As we come together as a community of faith we are not just coming to worship God (although that is important). We are also coming together for each other, to spark each other to love and good deeds and to encourage each other. At this time for those who are still homebound, that coming together may be as simple as a phone call, checking in. You may consider sending notes of encouragement or asking if you can be praying for special needs of others. Consider using your church photo directory to stay in touch with each other. When we are disconnected it can be too easy to think that we

continued

are the only one struggling at any given moment, which can tend to shut us down even further. Know you are not alone, but you might have to force yourself at first to stay connected or to reconnect.

You may actually be in a good place right now, thinking you don't need encouragement or sparking; but have you ever considered someone else may need the encouragement that you can provide or you may be the spark that someone needs in their life right now? The world feels different now and I don't know anyone who doesn't long for a feeling of normal in life, so let's remember to care for each other no matter what is going on around us. This is part of God's will and mission for us and it will also benefit each of us.

God bless you as you seek to know and love God fully!
Pastor L



Taking a Step in Service for Your Church



Are you looking for a way to serve in this faith community, but just don't know where or how to begin? We have a wonderful opportunity that is an easy place to start and will help you get to know more people.

We are in need of ushers for Sunday morning worship services and occasional special services like holidays and funerals. Some of our faithful and longtime ushers have had to step down for various reasons. We so appreciate their years of service and are delighted they can still worship with us.

But, because of this, as worship has started opening up more after covid shutdowns, we are finding ourselves short-handed on Sunday mornings—with only one or two ushers. Three to four ushers per worship service would be ideal so that both front and back entrances, as well as the elevator, can all be attended to. If we had four or five more pairs of ushers we would have a good rotation so that you would only be committing to one Sunday a month at most.

Whether someone has attended here for years or is a new guest, ushering is important to help all worshipers feel welcomed. If you are interested in this important ministry, I have a handy guide for ushers so you can feel confident in your service.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration!
Pastor L

Our Deepest Sympathy to:

The family and friends of Gale Meyer who passed away Sunday, January 30.

The family and friends of Charles Zidich (father of Rich Zidich) who passed away Saturday, February 12.



Be on the Lookout

Pastor Loretta has started an experiment she calls "*Pastor Loretta's Weekly Enote.*" This short news blast will come out on Thursdays and will contain a few weekly "events, opportunities, and insights." One of the most important opportunities will consist of updates and more details for those on our prayer list than Pastor is able to give out in our worship services. Please be on the lookout for this weekly news blast and let Pastor know if you find it helpful or if you have updates for the prayer list.



In View of God's Mercy: Lenten and Holy Week Series

Lent is a season when we take a look at our lives in view of God's mercy toward us in the sacrifice of his Son for us on the cross. We, in turn, are called by God, especially during this time of repentance and reflection, to be living sacrifices for him, displaying our devotion to him in word and deed. Jesus helps us to see the richness of God's mercy in his life, death, and resurrection. Our worship series for Lent will focus our eyes of faith on the meaning behind God's mercy made manifest in Christ.

The series will begin on **Ash Wednesday, March 2, at 6 p.m.** in the chapel near the K Street entrance, as we consider the ashes placed on our foreheads as a sign of our sins and remember that God lifts us from our ashes to new life in Christ. The series then continues on Sunday mornings as follows:

Sunday, March 6: Mercy in Temptation. In this service, we recall that in the midst of temptation, our merciful god provides us with a way out through Christ, who was tempted just as we are, yet without sin.

Sunday, March 13: Mercy in Suffering. In this service, we recall that no life is without suffering, but

our sufferings are not worth comparing to the glory to be revealed to us in Jesus by God's great mercy.

Sunday, March 20: Mercy in Betrayal. In this service, we ponder the truth that though we may turn away from God again and again, our Lord continues to call us back into his merciful arms for Jesus' sake.

Sunday, March 27: Mercy in Relationships. In this service, we will come to understand that within the communities God has placed us, we are given the grace to treat one another as Christ has cared for us in his love and mercy.

Sunday, April 3: Mercy in Service. In this service, we will look at our lives through the lens of God's love toward us in the sacrifice of his Son, Jesus. We will recognize that we are called to serve in mercy the needs of those around us by Christ's example.

Palm Sunday, April 10: Mercy in Palms. In this service we wave palm branches to welcome Jesus into Jerusalem, as we also witness Jesus beginning his mission of mercy for all people for the salvation of our souls.

Maundy Thursday, April 14 beginning at noon: Mercy in Prayer. We will have an opportunity to pray for our world, our community, our church, our family, and our lives during a 24-hour prayer vigil. You are encouraged to sign up for a time(s) to pray in the church sanctuary or in your home for 30 minute segments as we mark the time until our Good Friday worship service. The sign-up sheet will be available at the entrance to the Gathering Place on Sundays after worship or you can call the office during the week and sign up with Michele (608-269-6949). Prayer guides will be available.

Good Friday, April 15 at noon: Mercy in the Cross. In this service we ponder how Jesus mercifully removed the sentence of sin against us by going to the cross to declare us not guilty.

Easter Sunday, April 17: Mercy in the Open Tomb. Hallelujah! We celebrate that Christ rose from the dead, so that we might have a new beginning that mirrors the mercy of our Lord and Savior. Hallelujah!



Come Explore Jesus' Words From the Cross

During my first Lenten season with you (in 2019) I offered a Wednesday evening hybrid Lenten worship. I say hybrid because it was part worship and part study as we viewed and discussed Pastor Adam Hamilton's *24 Hours that Changed the World*, in which he retraced the final day of Jesus' life beginning with the Last Supper. It was well attended for a mid-week hybrid service. The next two years found us distracted by COVID and trying to figure out how to maneuver through life in the midst of a pandemic.

This year I want to again offer a Wednesday evening Lenten presentation. **I invite you to a viewing and discussion of Pastor Adam Hamilton's DVD series, *Final Words From the Cross*. We will meet in the chapel at 6 p.m.**

This year's DVD presentation and discussion will be a more in-depth consideration of the six hours during which Jesus hung dying on the cross and to what are traditionally called the "seven last words" of Jesus, but which are more accurately called the seven last statements of Jesus.

This time is meant to be a non-intimidating way to help make Lent a more meaningful time as we make our way toward Holy week and Easter. I will offer a prayer, we will view a video segment each week from Pastor Hamilton (who is a wonderful teacher), and then I will offer some questions as discussion starters. I want to emphasize that this will be a discussion time where there are no "dumb" questions and you are not expected to have all the "right" answers. If you have never been involved in something like this you will be amazed that others have similar questions to those you may struggle with and also great insights will be shared (maybe even from you).

The full schedule is:

Wednesday, March 9: Father, Forgive Them

Wednesday, March 16: Today You Will Be with Me in Paradise

Wednesday, March 23: Behold Your Son...Behold Your Mother

Wednesday, March 30: My God, My God, Why Have You Forsaken Me?

Wednesday, April 6: I Thirst

Wednesday, April 13: It Is Finished...Into Your Hands I Commit My Spirit!



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 March 13. 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 sometimes has a few extra scrip cards for local businesses on hand.



Human Relations Sunday

Human Relations Day is one of six church wide Special Sundays. Human Relations Day calls United Methodist to recognize the right of all God's children to realize their potential as human beings in relationship to each other. The special offering benefits neighborhood ministries, community advocacy through United Methodist Voluntary Services and work with at-risk teens through Youth Offender Rehabilitation programs. Human Relations Day offerings are distributed by the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries & General Board of Church and Society where the need is greatest.

United Methodist gave \$265,324 in 2021 in Human Relations Day offerings that changed lives.

You are encouraged to reflect and pray about this ministry and to participate with your generous gifts on **March 13**. Your gifts truly make a difference in people's lives as relationships are built.

Paul Foulke
Finance

Blessed to Be A Blessing

In their book, *The Generosity Challenge*, Kristine Miller and Scott McKenzie share the results of a 2017 Barna Group study on prayer called, *Silent and Solo: How Americans Pray*. The study found that 79% of American adults have prayed in the last three months. What was the content of those prayers?

- Gratitude and thanksgiving – 62%
- The needs of family and community – 61%

- Personal guidance in crisis – 49%
- My health and wellness – 47%
- Confession and forgiveness – 43%
- Things I suddenly feel compelled to pray about – 43%
- Safety in my daily tasks or travel – 41%
- A sense of peace – 37%
- Blessings for meals – 37%
- Specific requests for others – 34%
- Several others at lesser percentages

First, let me note that I love that gratitude and thanksgiving top the list of prayer subjects. Part of spiritual, emotional, and mental wellness can be found in gratitude practices. Miller and McKenzie do point out that something important is missing from this list, however. There is no mention of listening to God, no mention of asking "God, what do you want me to do, how do you want me to live?"

These questions, for us as individuals and for our churches, are key part of our stewardship practices. Our faith teaches us that God gives us good things for a purpose that is greater than satisfying our own needs and desires. We are blessed to be a blessing. It is important for our prayers of gratitude to be followed by an openness to the movement of God's Spirit.

May God grant you the courage to ask, "Lord, what can I do in gratitude for all you have already done for me?"

Rev. Jason Mahnke, Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation

United Methodist Women



It's been awhile since you've heard from UMW so it's time to fix that. Our plotting and scheming continues but more under the radar. We have 39 members within Lois and Wesleyan Circles. We are back to meeting in-person at church on the second Tuesday of the month. Lois meets in the afternoon and Wesleyan meets in the early evening. Both Circles welcome all women who seek fellowship with each other and with God.

Lois circle has a presented reading followed by discussion of that reading. Wesleyan Circle chooses a different Bible study guide each calendar year of September through May. Each Circle ends with fellowship and refreshments as members share

information and stay connected. You have to keep your ears open during this time or you'll miss something.

Well, that's just the tip of the iceberg as the saying goes and our iceberg stays solid and afloat with the love and support of our congregation's membership. Careful planning with health and safety of all enabled UMW to have a successful Meatball Supper open to the community with carry-outs only. It's been a year and a half since we had any traditional fundraising. Increased giving allowed us increased gifting.

In January Wesleyan Circle listened to a guest speaker representing the Head Start program in Sparta and received updates on our local Ecumenical Food pantry and the Sparta School District Backpack Program. The core of our Mission giving globally and locally aligns us with helping women, children, and families in each of these organizations. A labeled box for Backpack Program food items is in little kitchen. A list of requested items (no glass jars) is also available. 100 bags are packed on a weekly basis for food insecure children.

A tradition for Lois and Wesleyan Circles in March is to provide healthy snacks for the 12-15 volunteers that run St. Clare Mission on first and third Tuesdays of the month. Lois Circle has March 1 and Wesleyan Circle has March 15. We've enjoyed this tradition for years. It keeps us connected within our giving community.

The Executive Committee of UMW will meet soon to make some decisions about possibility of Spring Salad Luncheon and adding to our list of giving. We'll keep you in the loop.

The altar plants each Sunday truly add to the service and later bring joy to designated recipients. A kind reminder that whether you sign up for one plant (\$5.50 each) or multiple dates/plants the money goes to our treasurer, Eileen Gajewsky. She gets quarterly statements from Sparta Floral. Continued thanks go to monthly plant pick up volunteers.

May you witness God's presence each and every day.
Cathy Nichols, UMW Communications Coordinator

From the Parish Nurse...



THE LENTEN SEASON

While many differ over the practice of Lent, we all agree that Scripture provides us with key guidance in our Christian walk. Hopefully some of us will choose to use Lent as an opportunity to encourage believers to meditate on Scripture and deepen their faith. We know some of us will, while recognizing that others will choose not to

participate.

In our normal life we do not do the same thing every day, 365 days a year. We have a workweek, weekends, holidays and vacation time. Our year is punctuated by birthdays, anniversaries, and special times like Christmas, Halloween or Thanksgiving. Organized people think of getting things done in different "seasons" of the year. Income tax and spring cleaning come to mind, but we also make plans to get other tasks done during some time period. Some of us might plan to lose a few pounds because a wedding or reunion is coming up and we want to look good.

I believe, we should pray and read the Bible and be concerned with holiness all year round—but as stated, in our "normal" life we do not do the same thing every day, 365 days of the year. We understand the wisdom of seasons—sometimes setting aside times to work on something helps you all year long.

At its simplest, Lent is a season where you commit to a deeper holiness and more vibrant discipleship. The season of Lent is 40 days long, modeled on Jesus spending 40 days in the wilderness. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. Sundays do not count towards the 40 days—they are already the Lord's Day, a resurrection day, a feast day. The last day of lent is Holy Saturday – so Lent ends with Easter Sunday.

During an Ash Wednesday service, you go forward to have the sign of the cross written in ash on your forehead. Ashes are a biblical symbol of mourning, repentance, and an acknowledgement that we are frail and need God's grace.

Second Timothy 3:16-17 provides a helpful context here: "All scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man and woman of God may be complete, equipped for every good word." We see Jesus saying the same thing time and



Thank you to all who have donated to Soles4Souls!
We have collected 188 pair of shoes through February!

CHANGING THE WORLD
ONE PAIR AT A TIME

time again in the Gospel of John. The word of God has a special role in helping us to live a more godly life. Lent should be a time where we take extra care to spend extra time reading and thinking upon God's wordwritten, to use this time for reflection on Jesus Christ, to recognize his affliction and his atonement, his life, death, burial, and resurrection.

It is also good to consider spending extra time in prayer or humble service. Maybe you can "fast" from your phone and the internet for a day or week or a season. Maybe you can forsake some simple pleasure and take the money you would have spent on that pleasure and give it to support a missionary or a group that works with the poor. There are so many people that could use a phone call, a kind word, visit or a card and of course prayers!

Friends, please join me in having a Gospel-shaped Lent! With Love and Prayers, Priscilla



Summit Spirits Announcement

SUMMIT Spirits will be hosting a concert – "Celebrating the Music of America" on Sunday, March 27 at 2 pm on the stage in our Fellowship Hall. We are looking for a variety of talent of all ages (vocalists, instrumentalists, dancers, etc.). We will have a rehearsal date on Sunday, March 20 at 2 pm. Anyone interested in performing or needing more information can contact Beth Jerman at 343-6914.



We also have plans to do a comedy called "The Charitable Sisterhood of the 2nd Trinity Victory Church." Performance dates will be April 22—24 and again April 29—May 1. It has a cast of five women. If you are interested in helping out behind the scenes or obtaining a script please contact Beth Jerman at 343-6914. Tentative rehearsal dates will begin in March.



Time to Change Your Clocks

Daylight saving time begins on **Sunday, March 13**. Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour before you go to bed on Saturday so you don't miss worship!



Nurture Update



Lent Calls
Elizabeth Herbert Cottrell

Lent calls to me again . . .
To do what?
Like Martha, I tend towards doing
Doing is something I understand
Chairing a committee
Taking food to the sick
Reading the Bible

Lent calls to me again . . .
He wants more of me than I've ever given
More than Lenten study
More than giving up dessert
More than extra church services

Lent calls to me again . . .
He wants more of me and I'm frightened
Frightened of losing control
Frightened of letting go
Frightened of what He might ask me to do if I really listened

Lent calls to me again . . .
I feel a yearning, a tugging towards something more
Whispers of a love unimaginable
Glimpses of a relationship unshakable
Tastes of a water so clear and sweet that my thirst is slaked forever

Lent calls to me again . . .
A step is all I can manage, Lord
A hand extended
A head bowed
A conscious placing of myself on your Potter's wheel

Lent calls to me again . . .
Help me with the hard part, Lord
Help me surrender
And may our response to Jesus' Great Commission reflect the Apostle John's purpose in writing his account of Jesus' ministry:

Help me abandon myself to you
Help me reconcile myself to you
Lent calls to me again . . .
Here I am, Lord

March 2 – Ash Wednesday. 6:00 p.m. Worship in the Chapel. Lenten devotional, "Drawn to the Cross" will be available.

March 9, 16, 23, 30 and April 6 – 6:00 p.m. in the Chapel. Wednesday evening video, “Jesus’ Words from the Cross”, by Adam Hamilton, followed by discussion. Please join us.

April 10 – Palm Sunday

April 14 – Maundy Thursday. 24 hour prayer vigil (Thursday noon- Friday noon.)

April 15 – Good Friday Worship service, 12 noon.

“Stay connect to God, stay connected to other.”

Fellowship is a place of grace, where mistakes aren’t rubbed in but rubbed out. Fellowship happens when mercy wins over justice. We all need mercy, because we all stumble and fall and require help getting back on track. We need to offer mercy to each other and be willing to receive it from each other. God says, “*When people sin, you should forgive and comfort them, so they won’t give up in despair.*” (2 Corinthians 2:7).



THANK YOU: I must confess, I am behind in keeping track of the many book donations I’ve received for Little Free Library. Please know your generosity in donating is greatly appreciated.
Margie Lakowske
Little Free Library Steward



Church Facebook Page

Have you checked out the church’s Facebook site? 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: <https://www.facebook.com/UMCsparta/>. Once you are there just “like” the site and you will receive updates when new information is posted.

And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.

(Galatians 6:9)



Thank you for the flowers, they look like spring. Thanks to Cathy for bringing them.
Joyce Graewin

Thank you to the United Methodist Women for the beautiful yellow begonia delivered by Cathy Nichols. We both enjoyed her visit and the plant continues to brighten our day!
Karen and Winnie Joos

Thanks for the altar plant, flowers, treats and wonderful cards I received on my birthday
Sara Kemp

Thank you to the United Methodist Church for the lovely lavender Kalanchoe plant. I have it on my table and enjoy it all the time. Thanks to Cathy Nichols for bringing it to me. Ruthie Jerome.



Summit Sprits will meet Tuesday, March 1 at 6:00 p.m.

Lois Circle will meet Tuesday, March 8 at 1:00 p.m. in the small kitchen.

Wesleyan Circle will meet on Tuesday, March 8 at 6:30 at the church.

Records & History committee will meet Wednesday, March 9 at 9:00 a.m. in the library.

Trustees will be meeting every 1st and 3rd Sunday immediately following Worship in the small kitchen

Save the date: You are invited to join us for a free concert in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, March 27 at 2:00 p.m. We will be celebrating and enjoying the music of America.

Recycled cards - Unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances we are unable to continue making the cards at this time. Patty, Lorie and I would like to thank everyone for their ongoing support of this mission project. If anyone is interested in continuing this project or would like to know more; please contact Beth Jerman. Thank you.

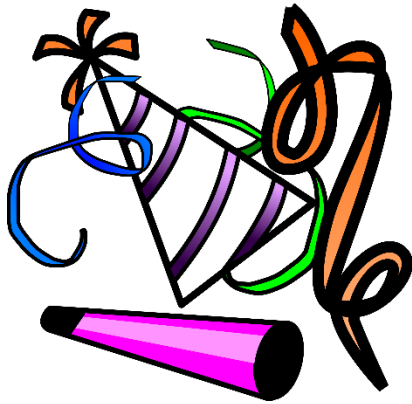
Let's Celebrate

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
14 Pastor Loretta
16 Phyllis Aney
18 Tristan Blackdeer
19 Barb McGreevy
19 Elijah Peth-Schaffer
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



MARCH

March Schedules

Bakery pick-up

6 Ron & Denise Ebert
13 Cyndi Wise
20 Margie Lakowske
27 Amy & Kurt Kiefer

Tech Team

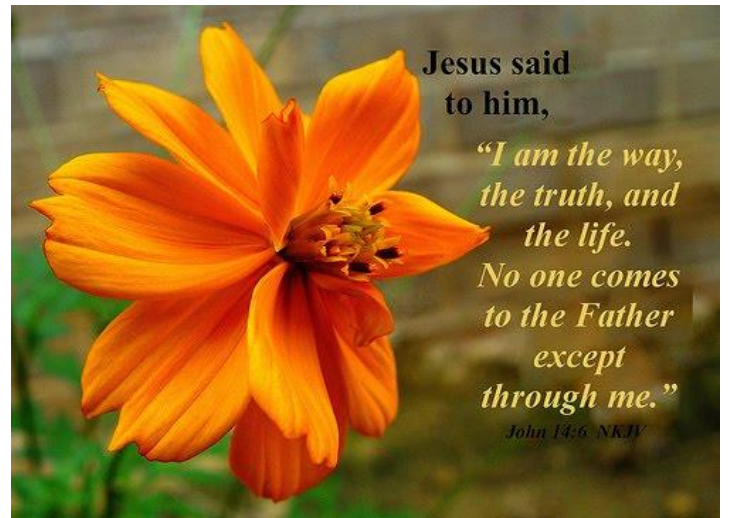
6 Cheryl & Cindy
13 Ben & Hailee
20 Ron & Kristine
27 Toni & Amy

Liturgist

6 Judy Fuhrmann
13 Paul Foulke
20 Marty Walley
27 Cheryl Isensee

Ushers

6 Bob & Cathy
13 Kurt & Amy
20 Peggy Wright
27 John & Karen Lodico



Soul Food from Our Bishop



Dear Siblings in Christ,

Thank you for your faithfulness in our mission of making disciples for the transformation of the world. I am grateful for your courage and innovative spirit as we faithfully engage ministry during days of a global

pandemic. I write today to remind us of our global siblings in Ukraine and seek your prayers.

According to the *2016 Book of Resolutions*, “the bible makes justice the inseparable companion of peace. Both point to right and sustainable relationship in human society, the vitality of our connections with the earth, and the well-being and integrity of creation.” For Isaiah, peace is the fruit of a well-ordered life together: “Then justice will dwell in the wilderness, and righteousness abide in the fruitful field. The effect of righteousness will be peace, and the result of righteousness, quietness and trust forever. My people will abide in a peaceful habitation, in secure dwellings, and in quiet resting places.” (Is.32:16-18, NRSV).

Non-violence and peace-making are central to the moral imagination of the gospel. In the words of Jesus, “blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God (Mt 5:9).” For Wesleyans peace is a fruit of the Holy Spirit that vivifies personal and social holiness. We claim the help of God always before us and with us to inspire our faithfulness in each day.

Siblings in Christ, I ask that you join me in prayer personally and collectively for peace with justice in Ukraine, an easing of tensions in Europe, and a diplomatic solution. May we seek to live with mutual respect and humanitarian solidarity and let us unite prayer with our actions.

I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.

Ephesians 1:17

DailyVerses.net

Today I offer *The Prayer of St. Francis* (#481 *United Methodist Hymnal*):

*Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace;
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
and where there is sadness, joy.*
*O Divine Master,
grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console;
to be understood, as to understand;
to be loved, as to love;
for it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.*
— *St. Francis of Assisi, Italy, 13th century*

Thank you.

Peace,

Bishop Hee-Soo Jung

Wisconsin Conference

PEOPLE ARE OFTEN UNREASONABLE AND SELF-CENTERED.
forgive them anyway.
IF YOU ARE KIND, PEOPLE MAY ACCUSE YOU OF SELFISH MOTIVES.
be kind anyway.
IF YOU ARE HONEST, PEOPLE MAY CHEAT YOU.
be honest anyway.
IF YOU FIND HAPPINESS, PEOPLE MAY BE JEALOUS.
be happy anyway.
THE GOOD YOU DO TODAY MAY BE FORGOTTEN TOMORROW.
do good anyway.
GIVE THE WORLD THE BEST YOU HAVE AND IT MAY NEVER BE ENOUGH.
give your best anyway.
FOR YOU SEE, IN THE END, IT IS BETWEEN YOU + GOD.
it was never between you and them anyway.
-MOTHER TERESA-

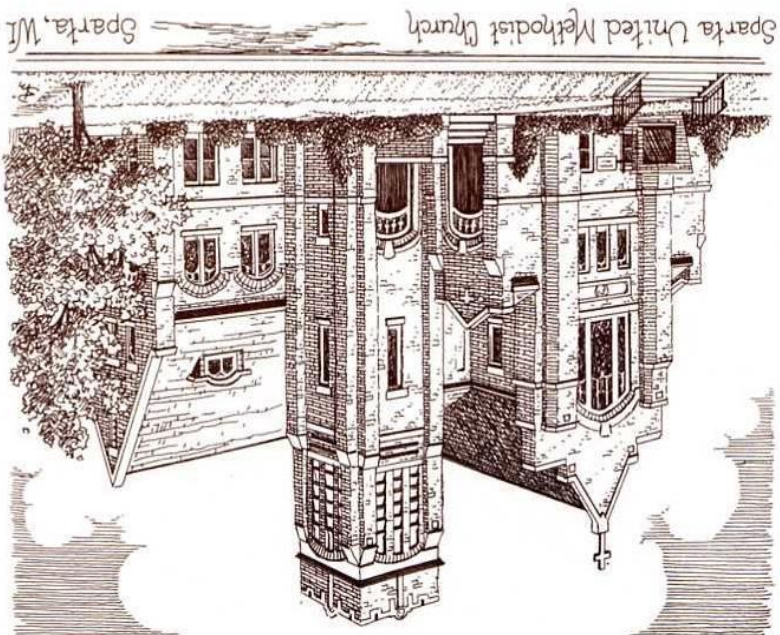
The Chimes

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Prepared Especially For:



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

Phone: (608) 269-6949

Fax: (608) 269-6940

Email: office@spartamethodist.com

Website: lewaughal.wixsite.com/spartamc

SUMC Worship Schedule

In-house Service

9:00 a.m. Sunday mornings

Online Service

YouTube: Sparta UMC month day year