

# “The CHIMES” – November

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2021

## Continuing the Conversation...

*“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.”* (Colossians 3:16)

“Count your blessings, name them one by one; Count your blessings, see what God hath done...” (Count Your Blessings, Johnson Oatman, Jr.)

As my favorite time of year finally begins to set in with cooler weather and more color, my joy was tempered with rising numbers of COVID cases; especially as they hit close to home. People are struggling with this illness (some losing their fight) and others are still fighting with each other. It continues to be ugly out there as people desperately grasp at some sort of normalcy (at any cost). As I was ruminating over this recently, those words from that old hymn came to mind: “Count your blessings...”



At that point in my mood, I thought, “Yeah right! What good is that going to do?” It seemed at best an exercise in futility and at worst an empty cliché. But, those words weren’t going to let me off the hook, “Count your blessings, name them one by one...” So, I sat with those words and opened my Bible.

As I searched Scripture and focused on the first verse of the hymn:

“When upon life’s billows you are tempest tossed,  
When you are discouraged, thinking all is lost,  
Count your many blessings, name them one by one,  
And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done”

I came upon these words from James 1:12, “*Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.*” I remembered that even though God does not promise a problem-free life, God promises blessing for those who endure life’s trials trusting in God.

I also thought back on other times in my life when I felt down in the pits of despair where everything felt

wrong. If I let myself focus on everything that was wrong in life I tended to stay in the pits (not a place I recommend). But when I could start finding something “right” with life (even a small thing) and focus on that, my spirit would begin to lift.

For me this lifting often came with singing something like, “The joy of the Lord is my strength...” (which comes from Nehemiah 8:10) over and over until I felt that reality in my being. That really isn’t an unusual phenomenon when you think of those words from Colossians 3:16: “*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.*” Singing those words from Scripture is like a healing balm to my soul.

By the time I got to the final verse of the hymn:

“So, amid the conflict, whether great or small,  
Do not be discouraged, God is over all;  
Count your many blessings, angels will attend,  
Help and comfort give you to your journey’s end.”

I was feeling my spirit lift to the point I could feel joy once again, even in the midst of life’s challenges. As further encouragement, I came upon these words from Jeremiah 17:7-8: “*Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit.*”

When we stay firmly grounded in a trusting relationship with the Triune God, we can continue to count our blessings even when blessings might seem rare. If you can only come up with one small blessing to count on any given day, name it and count it, trusting in God who has done great things and will continue to do so in God’s perfect timing. I leave you with one final Scripture to hold on to as you “count your blessings.”

“*Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord...Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out.*” (Deuteronomy 28:1, 6)

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

Pastor L

## Feeling the Love

Thank you SUMC for the signs of appreciation I received for Pastor Appreciation month. They are beautiful reminders to me of your love and appreciation. The fall decorations have found a new home on my fireplace mantle. The beautiful begonia I received has found a new home in my office



welcoming anyone who enters. A shopping trip is in my future to spend the gift certificates I received. The prayer given by Priscilla during worship on October 17 was especially meaningful for me. Thank you all so much for these signs of appreciation for my leadership here in Sparta.

**Prayer for pastor...** "Loving Lord, we thank you for our dear pastor and for the way that she has led and guided the little flock you have placed in her care with such wisdom and grace. Keep her Lord, under the shadow of your wing, and protect her from any arrows of the enemy. Hold her in the palm of your hands.

May she continue to exhibit her love for you with all her whole body, soul, and spirit as she seeks to encourage, edify, and teach all those, that are under her guidance. May she continue to be nourished and fed by you to be your under-shepherd, to point us to Christ. May she be used by you to be an example of a true disciple and lover of the Lord.

Bless her Lord, keep her, and protect her. May she continue to be an example of a godly woman who by example, is growing in grace and in a knowledge of the Lord Jesus. Amen."

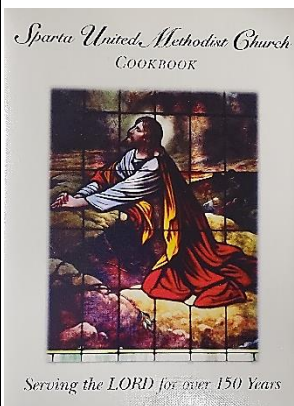
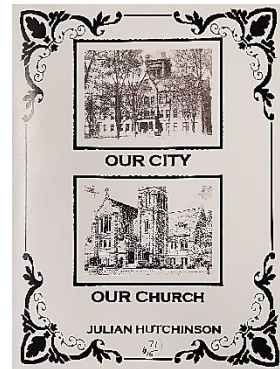


*"My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips..."* (Psalm 63:5)



## Looking for a Unique Gift?

Do you know what the first business was in this city we now call Sparta? Do you know what year the Methodist Church was first established in Sparta? We have a limited number of Julian Hutchinson's book "Our City Our Church" that has the answers to these questions and so many more. There is so much interesting information about the beginnings of Sparta and our United Methodist Church that it is a steal at \$15 or two books for \$28. We could possibly even get the author to sign your books.

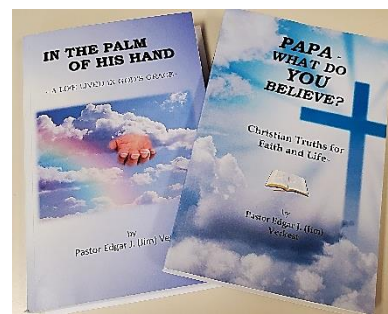


Serving the LORD for over 150 Years

Maybe you know someone who is just beginning the adventure of learning to cook or is setting up a household for the first time. A copy of the Sparta UMC Cookbook might be just the ticket. It is full of famously delicious recipes from our very favorite cooks in the church. This is a beautiful cookbook that

comes in a small three-ring binder so favorite family recipes can easily be added to the collection. The cookbooks are a real bargain at \$5 each.

Pastor also has a limited number of Pastor Jim Verkest's books: "Papa What Do You Believe" and "In the Palm of His Hand." These books are \$17 each or two for \$30.



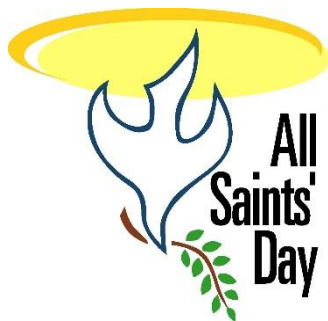
Any of these books would make wonderful gifts. Call the church office if you are interested in purchasing a book while they last.



*"...for you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy."* (Psalm 63:7)

## All Saints Sunday

All Saints Day is a day of remembrance for the saints, with the New Testament meaning of all Christian people of every time and place. It is celebrated in the church on the first Sunday of November. We will remember our members who have died since last year at this time with a reading of the names and lighting a candle for each person. If you have a loved one you would like remembered please call the church office by Wednesday, November 3 with the name of your loved one.



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## Waiting Through the Season of Advent

The first Sunday of Advent falls on November 28 this year. The season of Advent is characterized by waiting—waiting upon the Lord for his presence to be revealed to us on Christmas. As we make our way through the season of Advent we will look back in Scripture at those who waited upon the Lord for his promises to come to pass through the Christ Child. We also look forward, contemplating how we should wait upon the Lord in this present moment of our lives, as God continues to make himself known to us.

**November 28—Wait Upon the Lord with Faith** (Galatians 3:8): Abraham and Sarah waited with faith for the birth of their son, Isaac, and we wait with faith for the birth of God’s Son, Jesus, trusting that he will come at Christmas to save all people.

**December 5—Wait Upon the Lord with Hope** (Psalm 130:5): The prophet Isaiah declared the coming of the Lord, which gave the people of Israel hope for the future. We wait with hope for the future because we know what the future holds—a Savior.

**December 12—Wait Upon the Lord with Rejoicing** (Isaiah 25:9): Elizabeth rejoiced as she waited for the coming of her son, John the Baptist. And Mary rejoiced as she waited for the birth of her son, Jesus. In the same manner we rejoice as we wait for the coming of the Son of God.

**December 19—Wait Upon the Lord with Gratitude** (Psalm 9:1): Zechariah’s waiting days for John the Baptist’s birth were filled with great gratitude for the Lord’s promise about to be fulfilled. In these remaining waiting days before our Savior’s birth, we are ever more grateful for the arrival of the Promised One.

Advent devotional books entitled, “The Fullness of Time” will be available for you at the church beginning the first Sunday of Advent courtesy of the nurture ministry team. Be sure to pick your copy up!

## The UMW is Cooking Up a Good Time

The Sparta United Methodist Women is back at work in the church, cooking up a hearty and delicious Meatball Supper on Thursday, November 4 beginning at 4:30 and continuing until supplies are gone. This is their first supper since the fall of 2019; having enjoyed the cooking of the UMW ladies I know it will be worth the wait.

The generosity of this congregation and community is a major part of the UMW’s past success. The women are hoping to increase their Pledge to Mission in 2022 with the help of proceeds from the supper. Your support was appreciated with donations of grocery items needed for the meal.

Now you can continue to support the UMW as you come to church and pick up your delicious carryout meatball supper (with all the trimmings). Tickets are \$10; that is quite the deal for a delicious and hearty home-cooked meal, while also supporting the UMW Pledge to Mission. To make sure you don’t miss out, you can call the church office at 608-269-6949 to reserve your meal(s); call by noon on November 3.

When you come to pick up your meal(s) you will be asked to drive up to the K Street entrance of the church. There will be “runners” outside to take your order and bring you your food. Don’t miss out on this delicious opportunity!

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## Feeding the Hungry at SUMC

*“If there is a poor man...in any of the towns of the land that the Lord your God is giving you, do not be hardhearted or tight fisted.” (Deuteronomy 15:7)*

All of us know where the hungry of the world are, or the poor, or the sick, or they dying, or the grieving—but often, we need Christ to direct us to get involved to help alleviate their concerns. **He chooses us** to be part of the solution.

For 22 years of serving a weekly Soup Supper and 9 years of delivering free bakery items from Festival Foods to our church, many have answered the call to volunteer, by cooking, serving, donating, driving, etc. These caring and generous volunteers are a blessing and are blessed by following Jesus’ example. Our prayer is to be good stewards of all that God has promised, so that others will know what the words, “God is love,” mean when they see it in our lives.

Cyndi Wise



We would like to thank everyone who sent cards and memorial gifts after the loss of our son, Ricky Wright. Also, thank you for all the thoughts and prayers at this difficult time. They were very much appreciated.  
Richard and Peggy Wright

Thank you to the SUMC women and Lois Circle for the wonderful anniversary cards. We feel truly blessed to be a part of the SUMC family.  
In God's love,  
Donna and Ron Burnham

A very tardy thank you so very much for graciously hosting our FVWTE Board meeting and gathering way back in July!! It was so much appreciated!  
Suzie Burdick  
FVWTE Gathering Chair

Thank you United Methodist Church for the thoughtful plant from the altar for our anniversary. We celebrated 60 years, September 9.  
With love,  
Duane and Jane Hobson

Families First Board of Directors and Staff thank you for your kindness and generosity! Your donation will be used directly to benefit those who need it most in Monroe County. Please see our website to see how you've positively impacted our community.  
[www.familiesfirstofmonroecounty.org](http://www.familiesfirstofmonroecounty.org) and on Facebook!

A special thanks to Margie Lakowske for delivering the beautiful mum plant from UMW for my birthday. It is still in full bloom. Thanks again,  
Maxine Gudbaur

Dear Friends, your prayers, calls, cards and visits all added to Bob's recovery and my peace of mind! Thank you for **always** being there for us!  
Love,  
Bob and Cyndi

Dear Sparta United Methodist Church, Thank you for your donation to the Salvation Army. Together we will make a difference in our community. This donation will go toward helping our mission to provide services to families and individuals in need. Thank you for thinking of us.  
God Bless,  
Hope

### Little Free Library thanks you!



The Little Free Library would like to thank Ruthie Jerome for the children's books. We sure appreciate your donation.

Thank you to Sara Kemp for the donation of children's books to the Little Free Library! We appreciate all you do to keep us well stocked!

Thank you to Cindy Isensee and Vera Knudtson's family for the donation of books to our library and Little Free Library. It is always nice to get additional bibles and devotionals to share with everyone. We now have another 365 Day Bible in the library to share. We will miss Vera but will remember her faithful presence in our church through her family's donation.

Thank you to Ce Stow for the donation of books to the Little Free Library. These new books will add hours of enjoyment to users of our Little Free Library. With crisp mornings and cool evenings ahead, a good book is a welcome companion.

Margie Lakowske, Little Free Library Steward

### Our Deepest Sympathy to:

The family and friends of **Vera Knudton** who passed away on August 24.

The family and friends of **Avis Quackenbush** who passed away on September 14.



The family and friends of **Merlin Ebert** who passed away on September 24.

The family and friends of **Dwain "Spike" Jones** who passed away on October 16.

## SUMC Charge Conference Set

Our 2021 **Charge Conference** is set for Saturday, **November 13 at 10 a.m.** Our district superintendent, Tsuker Yang, will facilitate our conference this year. This is an important meeting as we vote on many important items for the upcoming year. If that isn't enough to motivate you to come, we will also have coffee and rolls for those in attendance. What could be better—food, fellowship, and having a say in the work of this church. Hope to see you there!



## Bible Study Opportunities

On Mondays at 1 p.m. Pastor Loretta is leading a Bible study on the book of Romans. Anyone who is free on Monday afternoons and interested in going deeper in Romans and learning more about the Apostle Paul is welcome to participate in this study. All you need is a Bible and a willingness to learn.

Monday evenings at 6 p.m. Paul Foulke is leading a study entitled *Treasure*. This is a four-week DVD study that centers around Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. Especially the verse that proclaims, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Matthew 6:21) Be sure to bring your Bible and a willingness to learn.



## Prayer Request Cards Available

*"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers."* (Acts 2:42)

If you have been in worship lately you have likely noticed that we no longer ask for joys and concerns during the service. It's not that we don't want to pray for your concerns and celebrate your joys, but with livestreaming our services that practice doesn't serve our online congregation well. It can leave them feeling left out because they can't see and hear what is going on like those worshipping live.

With that said, we do still want to join you in praying for your concerns and celebrating your joys. So we have "Prayer Cards" available at both the K Street entrance and the Court Street entrance. They are on bright green paper and are on the same table as the announcements and offering plates. Once you fill out the prayer card you can leave it in one of the offering plates or give it to an usher to pass on to Pastor Loretta for more immediate prayer.

## Nurture Ministry Team Update



"Stay connected to God – Stay connected to others!"

**Sunday, November 21** – Decorating the church for Advent and Christmas! All are welcome to stay after church on this Sunday to help decorate the sanctuary and the Gathering Place.

**Thursday, November 25** – "Give thanks with a grateful heart", and have a Blessed Thanksgiving.

**Sunday, November 28** – First Sunday in Advent, with the devotionals "The fullness of Time" distributed.



## Lay Servant Class Opportunities

Are you a lay servant/lay speaker who needs a class to keep your certification? Are you someone who would like to learn more about UM Basics, Leading Worship, or our UM Heritage? Well you are in luck! The North Central District Committee on Ministry is pleased to be offering three classes in November via Zoom.

The **Basic Class** is being taught by Mike Zahn. It starts Friday Nov. 5 from 6-9 p.m. and concludes Saturday, Nov. 6 with the class going from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. If you have never taken a Lay Servant/Lay Speaker class this one is a pre-requisite.

An advance class on **Leading Worship** is being taught by Pastor Caleb McGregor. The class starts Friday, Nov. 5 from 6-9 p.m. and concludes Saturday, Nov. 6 with the class going from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

A second advanced class on our **United Methodist Heritage** is being taught by Pastor Mark Klaisner. The class begins on Friday, Nov. 12 from 6-9 p.m. and concludes Saturday, Nov. 13 with the class going from 9 a.m to 3:30 p.m.

There is **no fee** for attending the Zoom classes, the only cost incurred will be for any required books or reading material. **To register** please email Nancy Schmig at [schmigkn@gmail.com](mailto:schmigkn@gmail.com) or call her at 608-486-4588. Nancy will forward your name to the class teachers who will contact you with the link for the class as well as any information regarding required books or reading material.



*"This is the day that the Lord has made; let us be glad and rejoice in it."* (Psalm 118:24)

## From the Parish Nurse...

**Love at All Times?** We are to love each other as Jesus loved all of us. He even gave His life for us. There are approaches to provide sacrificial love to someone else: we can listen, we can help, by giving consolation, and by giving material help.

What sort of companion or friend am I? There is a tremendous contrast between knowing somebody well and being a genuine friend. The best proof of certifiable friendship is steadfast loyalty.

Our friendship with others should not lessen due to unforeseen circumstances. There is no one but Christ who merits unconditional friendship, but we should strive to be as Christ would have us to be.

*Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.* (1 Corinthians 13:4-7).

Being an individual that is accessible to help in the midst of pain or individual battles is vital. Such a large number of individuals are part-time, wavering, indecisive, or fair-weather companions.

They are the ones that stick around you when they obtain help from and receive benefits from the friendship and then they avoid you when they feel that they are not getting anything from the friendship. We need to think about our companions and survey our faithfulness to them. We should be the sort of friend that is true and faithful that the Bible empowers.

*One who has unreliable friends soon comes to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother* (Proverbs 18:24).

Forlornness or loneliness is widespread. Many individuals today feel cut off and estranged from others. Being in a group simply makes some individuals more mindful of their disengagement and their own isolation. These lonely individuals should not have to hear “have a pleasant day.” They need companions who will stick close, tune in, care, and provide help when it is required, no matter what circumstances or challenges they may face.

What is better to have, one true companion or many shallow and superficial colleagues? Rather than wishing that we could discover a genuine friend, we should try to become one.



There are individuals who need our true friendship, so we ought to request that God uncover them to us, and afterward step up and become that true and genuine companion. If we want to have faithful friends in this life, then we ought to present ourselves as friendly. “*You are my friends if you do what I command*” (John 15:14). “*If you love me, keep my commands*” (John 14:15).

There is a church hymnal song, “I’ll Be a Friend to Jesus,” that says:

*“They tried my Lord and Master, with no one to defend; within the halls of Pilate, He stood without a friend... I’ll be a friend to Jesus, my life for Him I’ll spend; I’ll be a friend to Jesus, until my years shall end.”*

There is another church hymnal song, “I Love the Lord, Down in My Heart,” that says:

*“I love the blessed Savior divine; He brightens up this pathway of mine, From His dear side I’ll never depart; I’ll follow wheresoever He leads, my soul each day He tenderly feeds, I love the Lord deep down in my heart... I love the Lord deep down in my heart, no earthly change can cause us to part; I’ve been made a child with a homeward start, I love the Lord deep down in my heart.”*

Are we truly friends with the Lord? Do we really love the Lord like we say we do? Do we do as He says and do what He says to do? If we say we are a friend of Jesus, then we should be. If we are not obeying Him, then maybe we are not a faithful friend?

Jesus states when questioned, that the greatest commandment in the Law was to “*love thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind...and the second is this, love thy neighbor as thyself*” (Matthew 22:36-40; Galatians 5:14).

Jesus is saying that if we really love God and our neighbor, we will want to keep the commandments. This is taking a positive look at God’s law. Instead of stressing over all that we ought **not** to do, we should focus on all that we **can** do to show our affection for God and others.

When we are not inspired by love and affection, we become disparaging of others. We quit searching for the goodness in them and we begin to only see their faults.

Have we become guilty of only seeing the inadequacies or faults in others rather than their qualities?

*So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets* (Matthew 7:12).

This is what is commonly known as the Golden Rule, “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you” (Luke 6:31). It is not difficult to avoid hurting others; it is harder to step up in doing something that benefits them. The Golden Rule as Jesus established is the basis of mercy and goodness that is active in its function, the type that God shows to us every single day.

We are forever owing a debt to Christ for the extravagant love he has spilled out on us. The only way we can start to reimburse this obligation, this debt, is by loving others.

Since Christ’s love will consistently be boundlessly more noteworthy than our own, we will consistently have the commitment to love our neighbors, to love others.

*Jesus does not leave an escape clause in the law of love. At whatever point love requires it, we are to go past human lawful prerequisites and abide by the God of love (Romans 13:8-10).*

*We must treat all people as we would want to be treated, regardless of their financial status. Do not show favoritism to the rich for what they can give us and ignore the poor for what little they can offer. We are equal in the eyes of God (James 2:8-9).*

We are to love each other as Jesus loved all of us. He even gave His life for us.

Give all the love that we can and attempt to give more.

Priscilla Hemmersbach, Parish Nurse



## The Chosen

Have you heard of *The Chosen*? For the first time ever, the greatest story ever told is being presented as a multi-season show. Digging deeper into the backstories and context of the people and events of the gospels, Season One of the #1 highest crowd-funded media project of all time introduces you to people such as Simon Peter, Nicodemus, Mary Magdalene, Matthew, and of course Jesus in a way never before seen on film.

The Monday evening study group has watched and discussed season one (and will plan to do the same with season two when it is available). Now you have a chance to view season one. We were gifted a DVD of season one of *The Chosen*. You can check it out to view at home by stopping in to Pastor Loretta’s office and letting her know you are interested. When you check it out, you may want to invite a friend to watch and discuss the series with you.

## Shop with Scrip for the Holidays



Thank you to everyone who continues to support the church through the Shop with Scrip program. You can use the cards for your holiday shopping, or they make nice gifts for the hard to shop for on your list. For the holiday season, Scrip is offering \$10 scrip cards for: Wal-mart, Amazon, Olive Garden, Outback, and Target. These make great

stocking stuffer for Christmas gifts. If you are interested in this promotion, please write in on your Scrip order form or ask for the special “holiday” order form.

As the holiday season approaches there will be three opportunities to purchase scrip cards before Christmas. The next scrip order will go in on **November 14** with a second opportunity to purchase cards on **November 28**. There will be one final order going in before Christmas on **December 12**.

You can get order forms from the church office if you need one. You can leave your order and check in the church office by the Thursday before each order goes in, or give it to Cheryl on Sunday mornings after worship. If you have any questions please call the church office at 608-269-6949.

Since the inception of the Scrip program at Sparta UMC, we have made a profit of just over \$1000. You do not have to fork out any extra money, just purchase scrip cards to do your weekly and monthly shopping and Scrip gives back a percentage to Sparta UMC. If you shop at Wal-mart, Hansen’s IGA, Kwik Trip, Theisen’s, Wal-greens, or Cenex just to name a few businesses that give us a percentage back.

If you have not tried Scrip and have questions, please contact Cheryl or Pastor to get more information. Cheryl does have a small inventory of some of the most popular cards available.

A big thank you goes to Cheryl Isensee for organizing our scrip program and keeping it up and running.



## Family Promise Update

After careful consideration, the Servant Leadership Board voted to end our partnership with Family Promise of Monroe County at this time. A couple of the deciding factors were that we no longer have a coordinator for our church and those who have been involved did not feel that we received helpful and timely information from Family Promise. If the situation changes in the future, we can always revisit this decision.

## Great Quotes on Giving

Sometimes a great quote sticks with you, rings true, and really makes you look at something in a new way. Stores like Hobby Lobby seem to have based a large part of their business models on the fact that we love having great quotes hanging in our homes. As we approach Thanksgiving, I hope you find these giving quotes inspiring.

“Make all you can, save all you can, give all you can.” ~John Wesley

“He who obtains has little. He who scatters has much.” ~Lao-Tzu

“No person was ever honored for what he received. He was honored for what he gave.” ~Calvin Coolidge

“It is possible to give without loving, but it is impossible to love without giving.” ~Richard Braunstein

“You can’t have a perfect day without doing something for someone who’ll never be able to repay you.” ~John Wooden

“You can have everything in life that you want if you will just help enough other people get what they want” ~Zig Ziglar

“Remember this – you can’t serve God and Money, but you can serve God with money.” ~Selwyn Hughes

“I judge all things only by the price they shall gain in eternity.” ~John Wesley

“It is more blessed to given than receive.” ~Jesus, Acts 20:35

Rev. Jason Mahnke,

Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation

Visit the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation

at [www.wumf.org](http://www.wumf.org) or [Facebook/wumf.org](https://www.facebook.com/wumf.org)

Or call 1-888-903-9863



## Put Your Money to Work for the Church

Did you know that when you shop for the holidays (or any time) at [smile.amazon.com/ch/39-6026139](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/39-6026139), AmazonSmile donates to our United Methodist Church?


When you shop on [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to the charitable organizations selected by customers. To take advantage of this opportunity just go to the [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) site and put Sparta United Methodist Church into the search area. Several choices will come up (be sure to select the Sparta, WI option). You can go directly to our support page by entering the link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/39-6026139>

You may not think 0.5% sounds like much, but if you combine that amount with the 2.25% earned through Amazon scrip cards it adds up. If enough people take advantage of this opportunity it adds up even faster. What an awesome way to donate free dollars to the church.



There is one who scatters, and increases yet more. There is one who withholds more than is appropriate, but gains poverty. The liberal soul shall be made fat. He who waters shall be watered also himself.

Proverbs 11:24-25

 Daily Bible Inspirations







Noah's Ark Christian Learning Center is holding a fundraiser to raise money for a playground area. Join them for Papa Murphey's tip night, **November 11, 2021 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.** For more information contact First United

Methodist Church, Tomah, WI, Danielle Anderson, Noah's Ark Christian Preschool @ 608-343-0884 or [preschool@tomahumc.org](mailto:preschool@tomahumc.org) or First United Methodist Church 608-372-4543 or on their website: [tomahumc.org](http://tomahumc.org). Find them on Facebook [www.facebook.com/Noahs-Ark-Christian-Learning-Center](http://www.facebook.com/Noahs-Ark-Christian-Learning-Center)



### Craft Sale

The United Methodist Women's group of Tomah are holding their annual craft sale, **Saturday, November 20, 2021 from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.** There will be gift baskets, baked goods, jewelry, quilts, small collectibles, scarves, woodworks, etc. Quilts by United Piecemakers will be displayed and for sale, all sizes available. Lunch of soup, bread, dessert bar & beverage by Noah's Ark will be offered for \$6 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information contact First United Methodist Church, 1105 Butts Ave., Tomah, WI, 608-372-4543, [www.tomahumc.org](http://www.tomahumc.org), [Facebook.com/tomahumc](https://www.facebook.com/tomahumc). Everyone is welcome!



### Church Facebook Page

Have you checked out the church's Facebook page? It's a good place to keep up with what is going on in the church and easily access the online worship services.

You can find that site at:

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



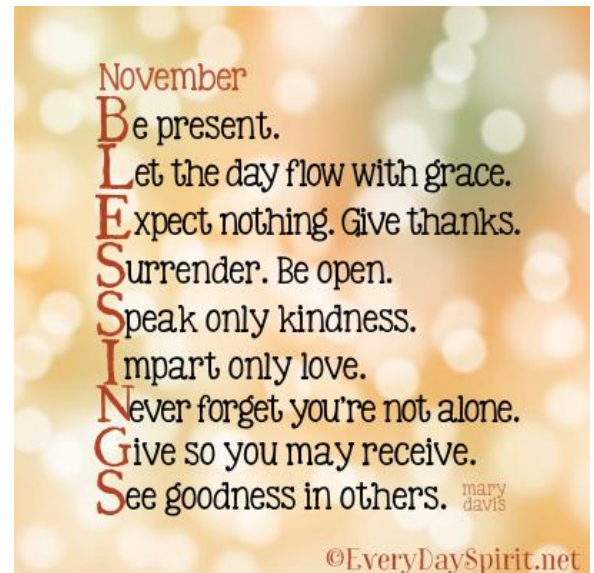
### SUMC Web Site

Have you checked out the church web site lately? You can find it at: [lewaughtal.wixsite.com/spartaumc](http://lewaughtal.wixsite.com/spartaumc). Once you are there you will notice links along the top of the page that say "Home," "Stay Connected," "Learn," and "Get Involved."

Each of those links will take you to more information about us and the opportunities we provide. The "Stay Connected" link takes you to either our archived worship services or our archived *Chimes*.

We do our best to keep the web site current and fresh, but it never hurts to have fresh eyes looking over the site offerings. You may have some good suggestions for improving and updating information. We would love to hear from you.

We have been told that some folks have actually found us by first checking out our web site; we want to make sure we are providing the most accurate information for those who are considering being our guests and maybe even joining us in ministry.



## A Word of Wisdom from Bishop Jung

We know that God was in Christ, reconciling the world, and that relationship is the essence of transformation. We are changed by offering gifts in ways that serve each other. I am grateful for the gifted laity who lead and serve, and the dance of shared mission we discover when we deploy gifts in relationship with communities.



I write to thank you, clergy. Local Pastors, Deacons, Elders, and to you who may be spiritual leaders not yet with clergy credentials—but on the journey—thank you for your ministry!

God creates by speaking a new reality into being. God said, ‘let there be light,’ and there was light. Clergy, our words articulate God’s newness in creation. We reset blessing in creation when we pronounce a benediction and say, ‘may the Lord bless you and keep you.’ We re-establish God’s newness when we say, ‘in the name of Jesus Christ you are forgiven.’ We pronounce something irrevocable when you, say, ‘I baptize you...’ These are not just words, but language that paints God’s possibilities over the worn-through grain of the world. The church is a language community establishing God’s relentless solidarity and interdependent good in a world that asserts self-interest as the way of the world...

I want you to know that clergy are paying the price of a politicized pandemic. They are exposing themselves to the harm of those who refuse to mask for their neighbor. They are trying to raise the level of maturity in Christian community so that Christ would be made known in our witness. They proclaim the Oneness of Christ in a world where powerful forces seek to divide us.

According to the Lewis Center for Church Leadership, nationally, young elders, those age 35 or younger, declined again in 2021 to 721—lower than the previous low of 852. There is a decline of young deacons since 2019 by 23%. 38% of Wisconsin clergy appointed to churches have been in their appointment three years or less—and they are trying to build pastoral relationships across a pandemic and via electronic means of communication...

Ministry has always been hard enough to require both lay and clergy to rely on God and disorienting enough for us to take God’s hand whenever it comes. I offer ten concrete ways to show appreciation for your clergy person.

- Pray for your clergy persons. Deeply, earnestly, and honestly pray for their ministry.

- Advocate for an increase in compensation and work to improve your congregation’s financial stewardship.
- Serve. Teach. Organize. Your service leads by example and blesses the body.
- Hold accountable gossip and complaining that does not address people directly.
- Visit someone who is grieving or sick or shut-in on behalf of the community of faith.
- Speak well of your pastor in the church and community.
- Reflect back to your clergy something specific that you appreciated about her or his ministry.
- Attend classes that your clergy person offers. Support them with your presence.
- Help others in your congregation respect the clergy person’s Sabbath day.
- Make sure your clergy person takes regular times of vacation and gets away for continuing education.

What you pay attention to grows. Pay attention to stewardship or mission or service—and they grow. Pay attention to the office of pastor or deacon and its value and impact will only increase—as will the people in that office. Thank you, each of you, for your ministry. Know that I am praying for you.

In the hope that Christ offers us,  
Bishop Hee-Soo Jung



## Bash News



We started our BASH year learning what happened to Joseph and his special coat. We learned how God gave him the gift of interpreting dreams. Because of that gift he saved the people and his family from starvation. We learned about reconciliation and forgiveness.

A special thank you for all who donated items for The Sojourners House. I would also like to thank Margie Lakowski, Donna Burnham, and Larry Humphrey for their help.  
Lynn Humphrey



## November Birthdays

03 Donna Burnham  
05 Kevin Lakowski  
06 Morgan Rodgers  
08 Ken Shaw  
09 Jacqueline Davis  
09 Cheryl Isensee  
09 Aaron Lieder  
11 Emma Blackdeer  
12 Dean Benedict  
12 Jeanne Davis  
12 Jerry Miller  
12 Scarlett Simplot  
13 Denise Ebert  
13 Harrison Flury  
13 LeRoy Jackson  
14 Jessica Janzen  
14 Nathan Janzen  
14 Betsy Tadisch  
15 Roger Jerome  
16 Julie Jones-Conte  
18 Penny Eddy  
18 Julian Hutchinson  
18 Elizabeth Jerman  
18 Ron Phillips  
18 Marti Walley  
21 Richard Wright  
24 Brandon Burnham  
25 Henry McGreevy  
28 Alix Herrman  
29 Phyllis Christiano



## November Schedules

### Bakery pick-up

7 Dave & Sara Kemp  
14 Priscilla & Jeff Hemmersbach  
21 Paul Foulke  
28 Pat & Gail Clark

### Tech Team

7 Cindy & Cheryl  
14 Ben & Hailee  
21 Ron & Kristine  
28 Toni & Amy

### Liturgist

7 Judy Fuhmann  
14 Paul Foulke  
21 Marty Walley  
28 Cheryl Isensee

### Ushers

7 Bob & Cathy  
14 Kurt & Amy Kiefer  
21 Peggy Wright  
28 Dick & Eileen

## Thank You to All Who Serve

Thank you to all of you who work to keep the ministries of this church going. Some of you are named in lists and seen weekly as you use your gifts for various works in this church; others work quietly (but just as importantly) behind the scenes. Every one of you is so appreciated and necessary, so I offer this prayer for you:

*Gracious Lord of Love, it's so easy to think "The Church" is a building or a pastor or even a denomination. But, it's not. It's the people. Your people. Ordinary, everyday, people who are sometimes saints and sometimes sinners. I give You profound thanks for them.*

*They are the ones who form children, youth, and those new to the faith as Jesus' disciples. They are the ones who sacrifice financially to support the work of your church. They are the ones who remain the church as pastors come and go. They are the ones who take the church out into the world every single day as they live their lives. They are the ones who share the love of Jesus with so many different people in so many different ways, every single day.*

*But sometimes they forget who they are because they forget whose they are. When they do, help them remember they are part of the Body of Christ and that Jesus is their head. Fill them with Your love so they become more compassionate. Place Your vision in their hearts so they strive to be the Body of Christ to more and more people.*

*Lord, I pray that all lay persons will use their skills, experiences, and the gifts the Holy Spirit has bestowed upon them to do best what You are calling them to do. I pray this in the strong name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.*

# The Chimes

Sparta United Methodist Church  
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Sparta, WI 54656

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



*Prepared Especially For:*

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**Website:** [lewaughtal.wixsite.com/spartaumc](http://lewaughtal.wixsite.com/spartaumc)  
**SUMC Worship Schedule**  
**In-house Service**  
Sunday, 9 a.m.; this service is also livestreamed  
**Online Service**  
YouTube: Sparta UMC month day year

