

# “The CHIMES” – November

Volume 54, No. 11

2019

## Continuing the Conversation...

*“Teacher, what is the greatest commandment in the Law?” [Jesus] replied, “You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: You must love your neighbor as you love yourself. All the Law and the Prophets depend on these two commands.”*

—Matthew 22:36-40

*“God is able to do far more than we could ever ask for or imagine. He does everything by his power that is working in us.”*

—Ephesians 3:20



As I sat down to write this letter, I have been busy (along with Jan and several church leaders) preparing for our annual church conference. There are a number of forms to fill out and submit—some asking us to review the past year of ministry together and others asking us to

look forward and plan for our future.

As we report on the state of the congregation and community, two questions come to my mind: where do we find joy and passion in our ministry? and, where is love being put into action now?

I can easily answer the second question by reviewing what is currently going on in and outside our building by many of you. I could take a stab at answering the first question by what I see, but I would love to hear from you personally where you find joy and passion in ministry—and yes, we have all been commissioned into ministry by Jesus (and sorry, but Jesus never said anything about retiring).

Jesus not only gave the Great Commandment noted above, but before he went to be with his Father in heaven he gave that Great Commission: *“Jesus came near and spoke to [the disciples], ‘I’ve received all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything that I’ve commanded you. Look, I myself will be with you every day until the end of this present age’”* (Matthew 28:18-20).

That Commission is meant to be taken seriously in the United Methodist Church as we state our mission as:

“Making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.” As we move into formal membership we vow to “do all in [our] power to strengthen [the church’s] ministries” and to “faithfully participate in its ministries by [our] prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.” This doesn’t mean we wear ourselves out doing things just to be doing—even good things. Nobody wants that, and believe me I understand being tired.

Unfortunately, I think sometimes in our enthusiasm for new ministry ideas we forget we serve a powerful God who loves us and wants to work through us and we forge ahead with our own plans in our own strength and we get worn out or wonder why we don’t see our desired results. We forget the Apostle Paul’s reminder to us that God is able to do far more than we could ask or imagine *by his power at work* within us (Ephesians 3:20).

If we would seriously consider what our God-given passions that truly bring us joy are, then consider where that passion intersects with our community’s greatest needs, we could begin to pray together for God’s Spirit to break through anything that holds us back, so we can move forward together and fulfill God’s intention for why we exist as Christ’s body, right now and into the future (Flood Gates, pg. 33).

If you are feeling stuck, not sure just what to pray, pull out your 608 Breakthrough Prayer you were given earlier this year and start there again. Pray that prayer with expectancy and trust that God will answer. God hears us and desires to do a great work through us. I don’t know about you, but I have seen God moving here since we started praying that prayer together. Let’s also be persistent in our prayers until God opens the floodgates of Holy Spirit power in us as we work for God’s kingdom to come here as it is in heaven!

As we continue to pray together I hope you will join me in seriously considering the two questions I asked earlier in this letter and then also bring your responses to prayer so together we can envision the future of this church. The Sparta United Methodist Church has a strong and storied past and a healthy present, but to continue we also need to have a shared and vital future plan. Let’s PRAY, dream, talk, and PRAY!

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

Pastor Loretta

## 608 Breakthrough Prayer

*“What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open...See, I have placed before you an open door.”—Revelation 3:7-8*

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.

## Administrative business...

### November meeting canceled

The council leadership decided to forgo the regular November meeting since we just had our charge conference on October 27 (unless something comes up that needs immediate attention, in which case members will be notified). We will meet at our regular time in December on Thursday, December 19 at 6 p.m.

### Accountable Leadership

After going through training with Rev. Dick Jones in October and much discussion at the October Administrative Council meeting a unanimous vote was taken to move forward with the accountable leadership structure.

Before we can begin to function under this leadership model we still have a few steps to take. We will plan to have informational gatherings (probably after worship) so all interested can ask questions or give input; the organizational team will work to finalize our organizational plan, including: Mission, Vision, Discipleship system, strategic result-focused goals, boundary principles, accountability principles, process for selecting board members, etc.

The Ad Council will need to approve the organizational plan, the new board will be selected and then a special charge conference will be held with the district superintendent to approve the structure and board membership. This new board will begin meeting at least three months before taking over church leadership responsibilities; in the meantime the current board will continue to meet and make sure the business of the church is taken care of. As you read this, it may sound like a lot of work, but we need to put in the effort up front to make sure we make this transition well for the benefit of all.

In the meantime if you have questions please feel free to ask Pastor Loretta or Toni Burrows, Ad Council chair; and we will do our best to answer your questions.

For a full report of administrative council business see the minutes posted on the bulletin board...

## Thanksgiving and Blessing of the Blaze Service

A special Thanksgiving and Blessing of the Blaze service will take place on Thursday, November 21 at 7 p.m. in the chapel. Plan to come and worship as we focus on giving thanks to God for all that God provides, as well as pray for the safety and success of our deer hunters. 100% of the offering taken at this service will go to support our Special Thanksgiving offering. Let the hunters in your life know about this service and invite them to come and be prayed for. Hunters are encouraged to wear their finest (or not so fine) blaze orange!



## THE Wonder OF CHRISTMAS

Would you like to experience the wonder of Christmas as never before? You are invited to rediscover the true wonder of Christmas through worship and study during Advent this year.

The Advent program, *The Wonder of Christmas*, explores the true wonder of Christmas through four elements of the Christmas story: a star, a name, a manger, and a promise.

As we look to these wonder-filled aspects of the Christmas story, we will rediscover that the true wonder of Christmas is found in the love of Christ and made real in our hearts when we share that love with others.

This transformational program will include special sermons and worship experiences, as well as study groups for adults, youth, and children.

**The four-week adult study will begin on Monday, November 25 at 6 p.m.** and will include a weekly book reading, a DVD segment, and discussion. The books are \$13.20 and can be picked up from Pastor Loretta. The youth and children's studies will be incorporated into confirmation and BASH.

Let's join together this Advent season in embracing and celebrating the true wonder of Christmas, believing that because of God's great love and light in Jesus Christ, anything is possible!



## Roof Matching Funds Progress

We continue to make progress toward meeting the matching gift for the work that needs to be done on the outside of

the church. **As of Sunday, October 27 we are at \$13,580.**

Please be in prayer for our church, the construction workers, and our future as we move forward with this important work. **Prayerfully consider how you can support the project while continuing your regular financial support of the ministries of this church.** With all of us doing our part and working together we will be successful in raising the remaining \$4,420 (and then some, to begin an ongoing maintenance fund for the continued care of our properties).

Please designate your extra gift for this project to: **church roof/trustees.**

### Sparta United Methodist Church Mission Statement:

*We are called to make maturing disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.*

## Abundance: Security in God

*“And all ate and were filled; and they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish. Those who had eaten the loaves numbered five thousand men.”*

*(Mark 6:42-44, NRSV)*

The story of the loaves and the fishes illustrates God’s abundance. It also illustrates the often seen configuration of Stewardship attitudes in our churches.

**The needs of the many are great.** It is late in the day and Jesus sees that the people are hungry and takes compassion on them. Then as now, Jesus tells his disciples to feed his people.

**The leaders are skeptical.** The disciples say, “There isn’t enough. We don’t have enough money to buy bread for all these people.”

**A few give generously, sacrificially.** In the story, a young boy gives up his entire lunch, a few loaves and fishes.

Jesus blesses our gifts and multiplies them in ways that are difficult for us to comprehend. The few loaves and fishes given to Christ and blessed by him turn out to feed 5,000 with baskets of food left over.

Trygve David Johnson has noted, “that the ministry I serve in Christ pivots not on how much I have or what I can give, but rather on how much God gives by multiplying what I have.”

Often at this time of year, when our thoughts turn to Stewardship, our churches act as if there is scarcity. Tentatively asking their congregants to give a little from their scarcity. The disciples said, “We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.” But, if we have the right Stewardship attitude, then we will experience abundance. “Bring me your nothing, ask for my blessing,” says Christ, “and I will turn it into something.”

So this year, let us boldly invite people to abide in the Kingdom of Abundance.

Jim Wells, Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation

[www.wumf.org](http://www.wumf.org) or Facebook/wumf.org

Or call 1-888-903-9863



I want to send out a heartfelt thank you for the pastor appreciation Scriptures, words, prayers, and gift last month. I was very humbled and moved by your words and actions. I took Tim out for a wonderful celebratory dinner

with the gift. I am honored to be here in ministry with all of you. Thank you again.

Pastor Loretta Waughtal

I would like to thank the United Methodist Women for the special recognition pin and the monetary gift to Mission in my name. It is truly an honor to receive special recognition for doing something that I love to do - contribute to the music ministry of our church. Thank you also for the beautiful flowers. Cyndi Wise did such a wonderful job of presenting to me.



I have been very blessed to be a part of the music of our church in the past and look forward to many more years in the future.

Ellen Hemstock



The family of Maurice Olson would like to thank Pastor Loretta for officiating at his funeral and Cyndi Wise and Rich Zidich for providing the music. Thank you to all in our church family who offered comfort during this time of loss.

## Nurture Committee News

Submitted by Cyndi Wise

“Give thanks with a grateful heart.” A list of special events to reflect on, and to remind us of God’s blessings.

**Sunday, November 3:** All Saints Day Worship Service with Communion and remembering our loved ones who have gone before us in the past year.

**Sunday, November 17:** Advent Devotional Booklet submission deadline. Please share special readings, Scripture, devotions, songs, poems, prayers, short stories, etc. that reflect the season of Advent and Christmas. This booklet will be shared with the families in our congregation on December 1. Thank you.

**Thursday, November 21:** Thanksgiving and “Blessing of the Blaze,” a special service of Thanksgiving in the chapel at 7 p.m. Hunters, feel free to wear your blaze orange hunting attire, as we pray for safe and successful hunting.

**Sunday, November 24:** Decorating the church for Advent and Christmas! All are welcome to stay after church this Sunday to help decorate the sanctuary and fellowship hall.

**Thursday, November 28:** Community Thanksgiving Dinner at the American Legion, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. All are welcome!

**Sunday, December 1:** First Sunday in Advent, and a special “Hanging of the Greens” worship service with a blessing of the symbols of Christmas!

### Special Mission Recognition

Ellen Hemstock received a Special Mission Recognition pin from the Sparta United Methodist Women, and a \$40 Gift in Mission was given in her name.

Ellen has shared her musical gifts with us for over 37 years directing the Chancel Choir and many years with the Children’s Choir. Our church is blessed with her faithfulness and gift of music, and we sincerely thank and appreciate all that she has done for us. God bless you, Ellen, as you continue to serve Him.



### We Welcome into our Christian Fellowship Through the Sacrament of Baptism:

Mother and daughter, Andrea Faye (Blackdeer) Cole and Olivia Mary Cole, daughter of Andrea Faye (Blackdeer) and Eric James Cole.



### A Note of Thanks...

Thank you for your prayers and concerns on my recent stay in the hospital. Get well cards were also much appreciated.

Larry Walley



## Family Promise of Monroe County

Homelessness can seem like an overwhelming problem. Many people wonder what one person or congregation can do to truly make a difference.

Family Promise provides a way for churches and synagogues to work together to help homeless families. Each congregation participating in their regional Family Promise provides overnight lodging and meals for three to five families (up to 15 people) for one week each, two or three times per year on a rotating basis. Family Promise “guests” stay in each congregation from 6 p.m. to 7 a.m. daily. Each morning guests are picked up and taken to the day center where they meet with the Director, care for pre-school children, make phone calls, and seek housing and employment.

Family Promise enables us to meet important basic needs of homeless families. Families with children make up the fastest growing segment of the homeless population. Usually, over half of the guests in the program are children, and most of the children are under the age of six. Nationally, more than 6,000 congregations participate in Family Promise with tens of thousands of volunteers who help families regain their independence.

Volunteers are the foundation of Family Promise. There are many ways that you can help. Whether you provide a hot meal, arrange activities for children, or stay overnight, you can make a difference in the lives of families who have suffered the ordeal of losing their home.

Our congregation was one of the first in Monroe County to make a commitment and we are now getting ready to see that commitment come to fruition. Family Promise will begin receiving families after the first of the year. As we get closer to the reality of helping families now is the time to begin considering how you might be able to help. Some of the opportunities will include: supper/evening volunteer (5:30-8:30 p.m.), overnight volunteer (8:30 p.m.-6 a.m.), breakfast volunteer (6-7 a.m.), meal preparation and serving, Sunday afternoon setup (beds, tables, room dividers), Sunday cleanup (7 a.m.-beds ready for pickup), help with weekly cleanup, etc.

Our congregation now has Family Promise co-coordinators: Lynn Humphrey and Betsy Tadisch. If you have questions, you can ask them. Also, stay tuned to the newsletter for more information as we prepare to be blessed and a blessing.



## Parish Nurse News...

ADVANCE Directive-

“If only we knew what he wanted.....”

“She never told us what to do...”

Thinking about medical care you would expect or reject during a crisis is not easy. Advance care planning is a way to:

\*Make sure you receive the level of care you prefer---no more and no less.

\*Let others know what to do when you are too hurt or too sick to express yourself.

\*Permit people you trust to act on your behalf.

It is your right to know the benefits and risks of your medical choices. You may accept or refuse treatment. Making choices can help you decide what, if any, limits you want on your healthcare. Your wishes will be honored when you are no longer able to decide for yourself. It is important to discuss your wishes with those close to you and your healthcare team. The end product of advance care planning is an advance directive.

An advance Directive guides others if you cannot decide for yourself during a Healthcare crisis. Choosing a healthcare agent is an important step. This person will make decisions for you if you cannot communicate due to accident/medical condition. Your advance directive says what this person can and cannot do based upon your wishes.

Your Advance Directive document should be reviewed periodically, especially if your health status changes, to ensure these documents effect your current preferences. An Advance Directive may be changed any time, as long as you are capable. You may also revoke your Advance Directive at any time.

I cannot stress the importance of this document to families with loved ones in crisis, and for the medical team providing care, but especially for you as the patient.

I am available on Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. or contact me at any time and we will work out a time that fits both our schedules.

Thank you,

Priscilla Hemmersbach, RN

Parish Nurse

beauty for all to see thanks to your hard work. Thanks also to Sara Kemp for decorating our entrances with mums and pumpkins! It was so very welcoming! THANK YOU one and all!

### THANK YOU!

The Records and History Committee thanks Amy Kiefer and Dick and Eileen Gajewsky for tending to the Elevator and providing Usher duties for the Our Community in Concert. Thank you also to Jan Hanson for her creation of the programs, Cindy Isensee, Cathy Nichols, and Cyndi Wise for their baked goods; Northwood Country Market, Dorine's, and Subway for their donations of cookies; Toni Burrows for acting as our Sound Technician, Cindy Isensee for being our videographer, with the assistance of Larry and Lynn Humphrey; Pastor Loretta for our opening welcome and prayer, and all of our wonderful musicians who shared their amazing talents with us.

I would be remiss in not also thanking our Mistress of Ceremony, Cathy Nichols; who was also our head refreshment hostess, with the able bodied assistance of Jeanine Houtevelde. Our thanks also to our own "Ninja" accompanist, Cyndi Wise; for stealthily maneuvering to accompany many of our musicians. To say we are blessed is an understatement!

Harvest Supper is rapidly approaching (November 7) and following Thanksgiving (November 28) comes Christmas. What better way to start off the holiday season but with Christmas gift suggestions. Records and History will be offering Julian Hutchinson's most recent book "Our City Our Church" as a gift suggestion. The books may be purchased from Records and History for a price of \$10 each. Hutch graciously donated these books to us and we are very thankful.

We also still have our UMW Church Cook Books for sale at an amazing price of \$5 each. Start your shopping early!

Records and History Committee

We Are - Keeping the Eternal Flame Glowing

### Our Deepest Sympathy to...

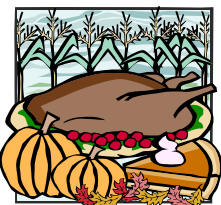
The family and friends of Maurice Olson (Husband of Edwina, father of Rose White, grandfather of Cody White, great grandfather of Hayden White, and brother of Robert Olson) for the loss of Maurice.

The family and friends of Harold Dale (father of Rich & Lorie Dale, grandfather of Char, Danielle, and Quentin Dale), for the loss of Harold.

The family and friends of Shirley Davis (sister of Helen Radcliffe), for the loss of Shirley.

### THANK YOU!

The Records and History Committee is grateful to the following for their assistance in sprucing up the Sanctuary, The Gathering Place, and Family Room on October 9 in preparation for Our Community in Concert: Em Axelsen, Eileen Gajewsky, Laurie Graber, Maxine Gudbaur, Cindy Isensee, Kemp's Cleaning, Cathy Nichols and Cyndi Wise. Our beautiful Church showed her warmth and



## HARVEST SUPPER

at Sparta United Methodist Church  
Thursday, November 7, 2019

Serving from 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Turkey & all the trimmings, plus  
homemade pies!

Adults - \$11 Youth (age 5 thru 12) - \$5.00  
Under age 4 – FREE

### Carryout Dinners Available

(Order deadline for carryout dinners is 4:00 p.m.)

Held In The Handicap Accessible Fellowship Hall –  
Enter From 'K' Street

Need some special Christmas gifts?

Copies of "Our City Our Church" by Julian Hutchinson  
and copies of our church cookbook will be available to  
purchase

This fundraiser is sponsored by our United Methodist Women

\*\*\* The following report was inadvertently omitted from our  
2019 Charge Conference Booklets. Our apologies to Eileen  
and the rest of the Memorial Committee.\*\*\*

### Memorial Committee Report

The Memorial Committee Members: Eileen  
Gajewsky, Chairperson; Tom Hemstock, Treasurer;  
Emily Axelsen, Secretary; Ruth Ebert, and Lori Ascher

The Memorial Committee meets as needed to  
distribute funds received from Memorials given in  
memory of deceased family members.

**Designated Memorials** are given for a specific  
memorial. Some of the designated memorials that have  
been given are for the Choir, Fellowship Hall-kitchen,  
Music, youth activities, Carillon (hymns played from  
the Carillon goes outside for the enjoyment of the  
community), Elevator, Organ repair/Maintenance,  
Sunday School and Christian Education. Green chairs  
were given in memory of Glen Jensen. **Undesignated  
funds** have been used in the repair and renovation of the  
parsonage kitchen.

Memorials are always welcome and can be designated per  
the wishes of the family.

Thank you to my committee members for your faithful  
service to this Memorial Committee

Eileen Gajewsky, Chairperson

### BASH News...

We have been averaging 18 children for Wednesday  
night BASH this Fall. All the classes are finishing up  
their studies of Joseph and his Coat of Many Colors and  
Moses. We will end the month with a movie and  
popcorn party.

The BASH kids sang in church for the first time on  
Sunday, October 20 and they did such a wonderful job.

We will be starting our Advent studies the first of  
November. Ellen Hemstock has also started work on  
the Christmas Program, which will be December 15.  
Put this on your calendar and be sure to come!

**Mark your calendars we will NOT have BASH  
November 27, December 25, and January 1.**  
Reminder, if school is called off because of the weather,  
we will **not** be having BASH either.

Have a wonderful FALL!

God's Blessings,

Lynn Humphrey, Sunday School Superintendent

### Directory Updates...

Todd D. Rugg, 216 E. Averill St., Sparta, WI 54656

Tom Hemstock, Sr. has now moved to Morrow Home,  
room 261. He would really enjoy visits from his long-  
time friends here at Sparta United Methodist Church to  
fill up what can become long, lonely days in a new  
place.

Jackie & Alex Vaver, 325 French Rd, Onalaska, WI  
54650

### Support SUMC While You Do Your Christmas Shopping...

Remember, if you shop on Amazon, you can support  
your church while you shop! You will just need to make  
sure you go to AmazonSmile instead of the regular  
Amazon web site and select our church as the charitable  
organization you wish to support.

**What is AmazonSmile?** It is a website operated  
by Amazon that lets customers enjoy the same wide  
selection of products, low prices, and convenient  
shopping features as on *Amazon.com*. The difference is  
that when customers shop on AmazonSmile  
([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 use this  
new opportunity just go to the *smile.amazon.com* site,  
put Sparta United Methodist Church into the search  
area and several choices will come up (just be sure to  
select the Sparta, WI option). **You can also go  
directly to our support page by entering the  
link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/39-6026139>**

What an AWESOME way to donate a few **FREE  
dollars** to the church! We have already received our  
first donation from AmazonSmile and should be  
receiving another donation soon! We hope you will  
consider how your upcoming holiday and Black Friday  
purchases can contribute to that total!

## Invitation to IMPACT Training Event



Greeting in the name of our Lord!

I can imagine what to expect as winter is approaching. All Saints Sunday is next week. Then we all look forward to Thanksgiving giving our gratitude and praise to the one who bless us and restore our mind-body-spirit to wholeness, with mercy and grace. Next, we hear the songs of Christmas carols and see houses, community blocks and downtown streets decorated with beautiful scenes and colorful lights, with Santa Clause on a sledge and reindeers among them. The world has changed, if you think about it. Then the New Year emerges signifying a shift of time and a new beginning for our life and world. All these indicate “change.”

One thing I learned from our last School of Ministry about gratitude was that it is more than just a remembrance of God’s goodness and blessing, or a wonderful turkey dinner with family and friends after a long year. It should be something that changes us to act, give and help transform our community and the world. Gratitude should change us to generosity, and generosity seeks to makes a difference. May our gratitude this year changes our hearts, bearing more fruits and touching more lives for transformation of the world, and specifically, our own community.

We are now at the zone of change, if I may say—a zone of change for the year, season and time, even the air we breathe, politic and church—the way how we do ministry. Going forward I want to invite you to be a part of a journey for change. We are living in a world that is constantly changed and makes change. If we hope to succeed in God’s mission in making disciples, we must face the fact of change, change and make change.

I want to invite you, pastor and leaders of your church, to come for an informational event to be introduced to a process of change for church revitalization called IMPACT. I had presented the IMPACT process for churches in the Southeast Region of our District, but we need to include more churches. This is your last opportunity to see it in order to make an informed decision for your church’s participation.

### **Please reserve the following day and time for this event:**

What: IMPACT Process for Church Revitalization Information Session

Date: Saturday, November 23, 2019

Time: 10:00am to 12:30 p.m.

Location: To Be Determined (Either Stevens Point or Wisconsin Rapids)

### **Who should attend?**

- Pastor, Lay Leaders, Administrative Council Chair, UMW President, SPRC Chair, Lay Servant and others. 3-5 people with the pastor are the ideal for participants from each church.
- Church with less than 75 people in regular worship attendance

### **How much does it cost?**

- There is no cost for this session. There is a fee of \$25 per church per session in the future for a total of 9 sessions. We recommend 10% people of your church’s attendance to attend.
- Except one or two books to read which you or your church can purchase for the training and process

### **How to Register?**

Your pastor will receive an email requesting her to sign up your church and number of participants through *SignUpGenius*. If you are interested in this opportunity, let Pastor L know as soon as possible.

Please make all the effort to come to this important event. There are churches that can’t wait for IMPACT to launch. But we are waiting for you to come on board, so that we will have more churches in the process. With more churches we can hope to transform the District and our Conference. I am looking forward to this vision. Please let me know if you have any question.

Blessings,

Tsuker Yang, North Central District Superintendent