

# “The CHIMES” – May

Volume 57, No. 5

2022

## Continuing the Conversation...

*“I have observed the task that God has given human beings. God has made everything fitting in its time, but has also placed eternity in their hearts, without enabling them to discover what God has done from beginning to end.” (Ecclesiastes 3:10-11)*

*“So then, a Sabbath rest still remains for the people of God; for those who enter God’s rest also cease from their labors as God did from his. Let us therefore make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one may fall through such disobedience as theirs” [those who disobeyed]. (Hebrews 4:9-11)*



I hear from people much too frequently, comments like, “I don’t have enough time,” “there are not enough hours in the day,” the days go by faster every year,” or more notoriously, “what a waste of time, time is money,” and so forth. Sometimes I am not immune to these thoughts.

It may be coming out of a pandemic, the season right after Lent and Easter we are in, or the turning of another calendar year for me (or a combination of all), but I have been feeling the “tyranny of time” more fully lately. By that, I mean the urgent feeling that there is never enough time to do the things I want or need to do. And with that, the fatigue that even a good night’s sleep doesn’t alleviate.

Because I hear these types of comments so often I know I am not alone in this condition and through regular reading of the Scriptures I also know this is not the way of life that God intends for us. In mulling this over I feel God nudging me to delve deeper and share some of my findings with you through a sermon series. So, that is what I hope to do for the first four Sundays of May. I have made some good headway in my research, but details still need to fall into place. Please

join me in prayer that God speaks clearly to all of us, across all life stages, and is glorified in the process.

One of the important things I am reminded of is the important part the church has to play in teaching and modeling the healthy rhythms and the beauty and creativity God has gifted us with in work and leisure. We need to reclaim the God-given stewardship of our time and our health. After all, we are the temples of the Holy Spirit (see 1 Corinthians 6:19). Further, Romans 12:1 informs us we are to present ourselves as living sacrifices, holy and acceptable, to God because that is our spiritual worship. If we are running frantically with the rest of the world through life trying to cram more into our set and limited time we will never experience the “abundant life” that Jesus came to give us.

Here is what I have so far for the sermon series I am calling “Redeeming the Routines of Life”:

**May 1 “The Tyranny of Time”** will be the foundation I hope to build on, while also informing us of ways to tame the tyranny.

**May 8 “The Work and Leisure Cycle”** will focus on the rhythm of work and leisure God intends for us as a gift.

**May 15 “Leisure as Celebration”** will focus on one of the elements of leisure God gifts us with. This will coincide with a “celebration” of Sunday school students and teachers as they mark the end of another year of studies and begin to think about next steps.

**May 22 “Leisure and the Church”** will focus on the responsibility of Christ’s followers to model a better way, God’s way, for a consumer culture that has lost its way. We will continue the “celebration” as we honor our graduates and commemorate history month.

In my reading, I am uncovering a wealth of information I cannot possibly share in just four sermons. If you would like to continue the conversation outside of worship I would be very happy to talk with you.

If you feel like you are already in a good place time and leisure-wise, please don’t tune out the conversation. You just may have the wisdom and guidance someone else needs to hear and see.

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

## What is Native American Ministries Sunday?

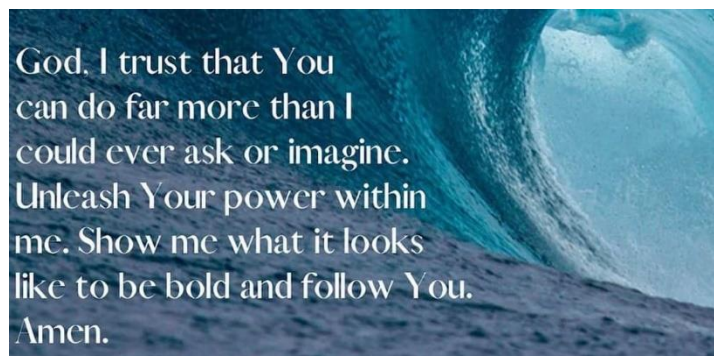
Native American Ministries Sunday serves to remind United Methodists of the gifts and contributions made by Native Americans to our society and in our communities. With more than 20,000 Native Americans within the denomination, this Special Sunday helps to ensure that Native American United Methodist leaders are recognized and to celebrate their special voice in The United Methodist Church.

This Special Sunday was officially recognized in 1988 and has been celebrated on the Third Sunday of Easter since 1989. An offering is taken on this day and is used to develop and strengthen Native American ministries in the annual conferences, and Native American rural, urban, reservation ministries and communities. It also provides scholarships for Native Americans attending United Methodist schools of theology.

Donations support vital ministries and churches in the Native American communities and allow The UMC to partner with existing native ministries to develop new programs on behalf of Native Americans. Half of the donations collected remain within the Annual Conference to provide hope to children and youth, hope for a brighter future in impoverished communities and a voice to those who have felt voiceless for years. This fund is distributed by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.

When you give generously on Native American Ministries Sunday, you equip seminary students who honor and celebrate Native American culture in their ministries. You empower congregations to find fresh and culturally appropriate ways to minister to their communities with Christ's love.

You are encouraged to reflect and pray about this ministry and to participate with your generous gifts on Sunday, May 15. Your gifts truly make a difference in people's lives as relationships are built.



## Thank You Bev

Bev Donahue, our treasurer of 12 years, is retiring this spring. Bev has done a wonderful job of keeping our bills paid and our financial records in good order, as well as being very patient whenever I had questions for her.

We don't have a specific final date for her retirement as Bev has agreed to stay on until we find a replacement so she can train that person. Our congregation deeply appreciates Bev's conscientious work ethic and her faithful service throughout the years in so many ways.

Blessings on you next chapter Bev!



We are searching for a new church treasurer. This position requires 2-3 hours per week.

Successful applicant should have computer and

bookkeeping experience.

If you are interested or know someone who is contact Pastor Loretta.

We will need a resume and three references from applicants.

## May Schedule of Events

There will be a **Trustees** meeting on May 1 following Worship, in the small kitchen.

**Summit Spirits** will meet in the library on May 3 at 6:30 p.m.

The **Nurture Committee** will be meeting in the library, May 5 at 6 p.m.

The ***Get Out of Your Head*** study group will continue meeting every Thursday starting on May 5 at 6 p.m. in the large classroom.

**Lois Circle** will meet on May 10 at 1 p.m. in the small kitchen.

**Wesleyan Circle** will meet on May 10 at 6:30 p.m. in the Gathering Place.

There will be a **Trustees** meeting on May 15 following Worship, in the small kitchen.

**Servant Leadership Board** meets Thursday, May 19 at 7 p.m. in the chapel

## 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 **May 8**. 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 the church office.

If you find yourself in need of a card before the next order goes in give Cheryl a call; she may have the card you need on hand.



focus on what's good. John claims that the slogan is an affirmation of the here and now. "Don't determine that you're going to be happy when you get the new car or the big promotion or when you meet that special person. You can decide that you're going to be happy today."

In the church, we have a similar saying, but I don't think that it's trademarked. "God is good, all the time. All the time, God is good." This is more than an observation, however. Among other things, it's a promise that our good God is with us and is active in our lives when we are struggling and in the valleys of life and when our hearts are full of the many blessings we have received and we are filled with joy.

Yes, life may be good, but if it is, it's because "God is good . . . all the time."

Rev. Jason Mahnke, Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation

## Life Is Good

"Life is good." You may disagree, but "Life is Good" is a registered and trademarked expression by the "Life is Good" people for whom, life is good. The "Life is Good" logo is a stick figure named Jake who wears a black beret, beatnik sunglasses, and flashes a giant grin. Jake is often posed in any number of activities that bring simple pleasures to life — hiking, surfing, flying a kite, walking the dog.

"Life is Good" started inauspiciously as brothers Bert and John Jacobs hawked homemade novelty T-shirts in the Boston streets and door-to-door through the college dorms. They were literally living in their van down by the river. They found their key to success when they printed 48 shirts of Jake over the saying, "Life is Good" for a 1994 street fair in Cambridge. The shirts sold out by noon. People were crazy for the simple and sunny philosophy. So much so, that the sincere and optimistic slogan has grown into an \$80 million-a-year merchandise line sold by 5,000 distributors in 14 countries.

One key to the success of "Life is Good" merchandise lies in the interpretation of those who own the products. Someone wearing the kayaking Jake shirt announces both his hobby and the simple pleasure that makes his life good. But cancer sufferers and survivors have also flocked to the merchandise line due to its simple, clear worldview. "Life is Good" is the hopeful battle cry of the cancer afflicted and the celebration song of cancer survivors

There's an implicit sense of truthfulness to the slogan which preserves its widespread appeal. The Jacobs's are quick to note the humility of the assertion — life isn't perfect or great, but it's good. They know there's plenty of bad in the world but find it better to



## Nurture Update



The 40 Days of Lent — the Wednesday evening devotions — the days of Holy week, with Palms, the 24-hour Prayer Vigil and Good Friday service — and finally, Easter Sunday with a sanctuary full of the flowers of Spring — the day of Resurrection! Thank you, for your

faithful participation and prayers as we journeyed together to glorify our Savior, Jesus Christ, who fills our lives with love, forgiveness and HOPE!

**May 8 – Mother's Day** – The BASH kids will present flowers.

"You built a home filled with  
Your courage and your cheer.  
And year by year my love returns  
To you, my Mother Dear."

**May 15 – Last day of Sunday School** – we will celebrate our children with cupcakes in the Gathering Place.

**May 22 – Honoring our high-school graduates:** Emma Blackdeer, Grace Johnson and Damijon Talsky. Please contact the church office with additional names of high-school & college graduates.

**May 29 – Honor our Fallen Military**

**June 5 – Pentecost Sunday**

## From the Parish Nurse...



**How should we respond to the turmoil and the evil that we see in the world?** There is so much craziness around us from all different sources. There's the political sphere, the attack on Ukraine, social unrest, injustice, the craziness that goes on social media that seems to just stir that pot and make it even worse in some cases.

Then, you've got kind of a more personal level where you see others, your friends, your community, or even yourself going through heartaches, and griefs, and big challenges.

In addition, we're seeing more and more sin and evil abounding. Where the Bible says, "They will call good evil and evil good," –that is happening. As we look around, it's easy to get discouraged and overwhelmed by all these things that we're seeing. The political issues, the individual heartaches, and then absolute confusion in our world about what is good and right and what is wrong.

Sometimes we can get bogged down underneath all of this. It's important for us to stop and reframe our thinking and figure out how we should be responding to all of this.

**Respond rather than react** That's the key right there. **We need to be responding, not simply reacting.** A reaction is what happens naturally. It's the first thing that pops in our mind. But a response is when we stop, we think, we reframe our thinking with biblical truth, we take it to God, and we come back, and we're ready to respond correctly.

It impacts our own demeanor. How we are doing mentally matters. If we are stressed about something going on in the political sphere or a new article we read on our way to work, that will affect how we interact with others.

What's happening, however, is that **we are not trusting God.** We have forgotten, or at least we're not choosing to remember, that God is in control, that He knows what He's doing, that none of this has happened by accident, and we are not trusting God. We're taking all the responsibility on ourselves to fix this. But this is not what God has called us to. God has not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. (2 Tim. 1:7)

Sometimes the belief that God is in control can mistakenly lead us to the idea that we don't have to do anything. We are completely stepping back. We have nothing to do with this. But that is not a right application of the concept that God is in control.

### **How should we respond?**

**1. Remember that God is in control.** This simple truth is the foundation of everything, and it totally transforms the way that we view these difficulties.

Realize that nothing ever happens without it being under God's control. He's either chosen or allowed it for a purpose. It's not as if this world is spinning out of control and it's taking God by surprise. It's not like He's looking down and wringing His hands wondering what he's going to do about it.

So if God is not wringing His hands about it, we don't need to either. We can have faith and trust in Him. Which brings us to a couple practicalities...

**2. Choose to trust God** If we remember that God is in control, then that means, first of all, we can trust in Him.

**We do not need to be afraid.** Any time we are afraid of something happening around us, we are either not remembering, not believing that God is in control or we're not trusting that God knows best.

Or, to make it a little more personal, **maybe we know that God is in control, but we don't like what He's doing.** What we're really saying, "My way's better than God's." We have to trust in God—not only that He is in control, but that we want what He wants more than our own agendas.

Sometimes when we see this political upheaval, **often what we're really upset about is this question of what's going to happen to us?** We worry, "what if my life becomes less easy? What if I have to go through these difficulties that I see someone else going through? What if I come under fire for my faith, for standing up for the truth? What if the political system becomes less tolerant of Christians, right? What if we end up being persecuted?"

But once again, do we trust God? Do we trust Him that He is in control? And then, do we surrender to that? Do we say, "God knows better than me"? If God chooses to bring that into our lives, it is for a purpose. It is good, and I don't need to fear that. Not that I'm looking forward to that if it ever happens, but I don't need to fear it.

Remembering that God is in control, we can trust in Him and not be afraid of the future.

**3. Realize we don't have to fix everything.** This truth also frees us from feeling that we have to fix everything. Sometimes, we can feel like it's on us to fix all of the world's problems, but it's not.

Yes, God has called us to be salt and light and to make a difference. But, that does not mean that it's on us to fix all of sin's problems. Why? Because our world is under the curse of sin, and only One has the power to break that curse.

Consider this....**Both Christians and non-Christians alike long for a world where there is peace, unity, and justice** If you look through scripture, there's promise after promise of the King that will come, of the peace He will bring, of the justice and righteousness that He will reign with.

When Christ reigns, that is what our world will be like. But, we are foolish when we think that we can arrive there without Him. He is the only way we would ever get to that point.

So does that mean we have no responsibility? Absolutely not (more on that in a minute). But, we can't feel like we have to fix this in our human might, in our human ingenuity. We can't fix everything. We just can't.

So, trusting in God, realizing that He is in control, that He has a plan, that His purposes are never going to be overrun, or destroyed, or put down, and that He cannot lose, should **free us from feeling like it's all on us to come up with a solution to a problem that is so much bigger than us.**

But, we can't just stop there, right? What *should* we do? Remember, we said it's also wrong to just take this approach of, "I'm just completely withdrawing." It would be wrong to say, "God is in control, so I don't have to do anything." That's not what the Bible teaches at all. So what *should* we do? Let's tackle that next.

**4. Pray** When we see evil and turmoil, realizing that God is in control should drive us to prayer.

So often we view prayer as a last resort or like a last-ditch attempt. We may not really think that it works. But prayer is the way that we work with God. Prayer is powerful.

When we see turmoil and evil, it should drive us to pray. To pray for the leaders that are involved in that situation, to pray for us that we'll know how to respond, and what we should do with the opportunities God gives us, and to pray that God would intervene. We should be praying, "God, intervene in this situation. God, send truth. Make truth apparent." Pray for God to intervene and pray, above all else right, for God's Kingdom, for

His purposes to be established in and despite of all the turmoil.

### **Prayer For Peace In A World In Turmoil**

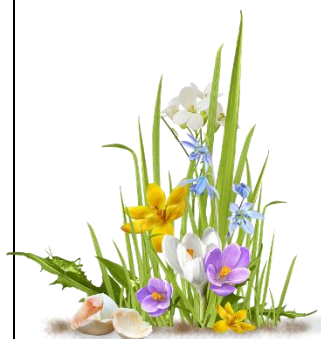
*Heavenly Father, I come to You today knowing that the world is in trouble and turmoil. It is also a melting pot of stress and anxiety. The world seeks after peace and yet Lord, we know that there is no peace outside of the Lord Jesus Christ.*

*Look down in pity on those that do not know You and who have foolishly turned from the true and living God to the false promises of peace from fallen man and governments.*

*Thank You, that You are a good God Whose yoke is easy and Whose burden is light, and yet there are many who have been taught lies and untruths about Who You are. Lord, there are many that have been brought up in an environment of hatred and violence who have not heard of Your name or have been fed a tissue of lies about the Lord Jesus Christ, and yet He is the only hope for true peace in this world. Lord, I pray that in Your grace You would convict many of their need of the Lord Jesus and that many would be saved from the jaws of death.*

*Look down in mercy on those that are unsaved in this warring world and turn their hearts towards the Lord Jesus, their Savior and the only Prince of Peace, in Whose name I pray, Amen.*

In Christ's Love. Priscilla



## **Annual Spring Luncheon**

**Date:** Thursday, May 5

**Time:** 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

**Where:** Fellowship Hall

**Cost:** \$10

**Menu:** Chicken salad  
croissants, cranberry salad,

veggie spear, dessert, coffee and punch.





**Thank you** to Julian “Hutch” Hutchinson for the donation of books to the Little Free Library. Spring still has not sprung so people are still cuddling up with books which means our library is being well used.

Margie Lakowske, Little Free Library Steward.

**Thank you** to Sara Kemp for the silk flowers and chicken wire and to Larry Humphrey for building the cross the Sunday School kids decorated for Easter. We are all enjoying its beauty.

**Records and History Committee:** We will make a decision by June 2022 if we will host *Our Community In Concert* this October. Stay tuned for more updates! Thank you

We are—Keeping the Eternal Flame Glowing



I would like to thank everyone for your cards and prayers and the beautiful altar plant during and after my hospitalizations. (I returned to work part time on the 18<sup>th</sup> and am finding how tiring even a short day can be.) Your thoughts are great appreciated.

Patty Wiedemann

We would like to thank the United Methodist Women for the anniversary card we received for our 13<sup>th</sup> anniversary on April 9.

Richard and Peggy Wright

Thank you to UMW, Wesleyan Circle and my church family for all the birthday wishes, calls and cards! You made turning a year older actually FUN!

Margie Lakowske



**Thank you** to all who have donated to Soles4Souls! We have collected 347 pair of shoes through January!

CHANGING THE WORLD  
ONE PAIR AT A TIME

## Diabetes Workshop

This workshop is designed to help adults with type 2 diabetes or pre-diabetes learn self-management skills and increase their confidence in managing their diabetes.

The workshop meets virtually once a week for six weeks—2-1/2 hours each session.

**Where:** Virtually

**When:** Mondays, May 9 – June 20 (no class May 30), Noo-2:30 p.m.

**Cost:** \$30

Pre-register by calling 608-775-6870 or visit [gundersenhealth.org/living-well](http://gundersenhealth.org/living-well).



## Lay Servant Ministries Courses

**Basic Course** (In-person)

**Dates:** Friday, May 20, 2022 6pm - 9pm

Saturday, May 21, 2022 9am – 4pm

**Place:** Mauston United Methodist Church, 420 Suszycki Dr., Mauston, WI 53948

**Cost:** \$15.00 to cover book and food. The book can be ordered from the leader, or can be found at The Upper Room website.

**Leader:** Mike Zahn

Deadline to register: Friday, May 6, 2022

Pre-register to Nancy Schmig, LSM co-director at [schmigkn@gmail.com](mailto:schmigkn@gmail.com) with name, church affiliation, email and phone number. If you have any questions about the class or to order a print copy of the book, please contact Mike Zahn at 715-470-1957 or [mmzahn57@hotmail.com](mailto:mmzahn57@hotmail.com).

**Advanced Course—Prayer** (In-person)

**Dates:** Friday, May 13, 2022 6pm – 9pm

Saturday, May 14, 2022 9am – 4pm

**Place:** Black River Falls United Methodist Church, 100 N 4th St, Black River Falls, WI 54615

(234) 855-5443

**Cost:** \$20.00 to cover food and the handbook that will be provided at class.

Recommended reading in advance: "Prayer: Experiencing Awe and intimacy with God" written by Timothy Keller.

**Leader:** Pastor Inwha Shon

Deadline to register: Saturday, April 30, 2022

Pre-register to Nancy Schmig, LSM co-director at [schmigkn@gmail.com](mailto:schmigkn@gmail.com) with name, church affiliation, email and phone number. If you have any questions about the class, please contact Pastor Inwha Shon.



### **May Anniversaries**

- 10 Joe & Betsy Tadisch
- 21 Mark & Denise Halverson

### **May Birthdays**

- 02 Gale Rugg
- 04 Richard Dale
- 04 Judy Erickson
- 05 Carolyn Lieder
- 06 Abby Smith
- 06 Denise Halverson
- 06 Scott Thurston
- 09 Joshua Ebert
- 09 Ellen Hemstock
- 09 Dorothy Zillmer
- 10 Brittany Flury
- 14 Muriel Canfield
- 18 Lorna Schamens
- 18 Liz Risseuw
- 20 Jonathan Loeffelholz
- 21 Aidyn Hanson
- 21 Jason Moore
- 22 Tom Hemstock Jr.
- 24 Joey Esterline
- 30 Eric Cole



### **May Schedules**

#### **Bakery pick-up**

- 1 Donna Burnham
- 8 Judy Fuhrmann
- 15 Ron & Denise Ebert
- 22 Cyndi Wise
- 29 Margie Lakowske

#### **Tech Team**

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

#### **Liturgist**

- 1 Judy Fuhrmann
- 8 Paul Foulke
- 15 Marty Walley
- 22 Cheryl Isensee
- 29 Amy Kiefer

#### **Ushers**

- 1 Bob & Cathy
- 8 Kurt & Amy
- 15 Peggy Wright & Donna Burnham
- 22 John & Karen Lodico
- 29 Russ & Tina Janzen

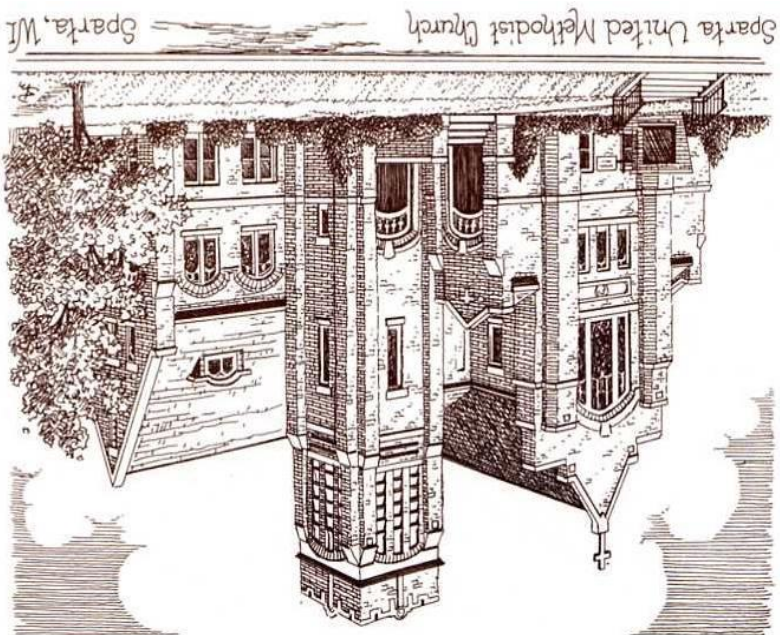
# The Chimes

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



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**Website:** [lewaughal.wixsite.com/spartamc](http://lewaughal.wixsite.com/spartamc)

## **SUMC Worship Schedule**

### **In-house Service**

9:00 a.m. Sunday mornings

### **Online Service**

YouTube: Sparta UMC month day year