

“The CHIMES” - January

Volume 54, No. 1

2019

Continuing the Conversation...

“For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, I will let you find me, says the LORD...”

—Jeremiah 29:11-14a

We ended 2018 in a pretty good place, as we also complete our first six months together. With a new pastor you have experienced changes; some you liked and others you didn't. That is just part of change and it works both ways. The important thing is we are still in this together with God in control. 2019 guarantees more change as we continue to get to know each other as this particular local church in this particular community. I look forward to many more firsts with you in the next six months.

Change is also guaranteed in our denomination as we anticipate the special General conference that is coming up in February. As our D.S., Tsuker Yang, told us at our charge Conference, we don't know what the outcome of the vote over human sexuality will be, but there will be unhappy people either way and some will choose to leave the United Methodist Church.

I understand well the anxiety that change can cause, especially when it involves something as important to us as our beliefs about God and our relationship with him. It is times like this that I find the Old Testament prophets speaking to me with words of comfort and assurance. When I came across the words from Jeremiah I was reminded that the changes that happen around us may catch us by surprise and may disappoint us but they do not surprise God. I am reminded again and again that I (we) need to stay close to God, giving God our concerns, hurts, questions, as well as our joys, thanksgiving, and praises. We also

need to keep our ears and hearts open to receiving God's words of assurance and guidance.

God has a plan for our *welfare and not for harm, to give us a future with hope*, but we can't fully participate in it if we aren't seeking after and paying attention to God. If we keep our lives too busy, or if we continually run ahead of God doing our own thing, or try to protect God from those we disagree with instead of prayerfully searching for God and seeking to join him where he is already at work, we will miss out on God's best for us and for our community. I would ask that you all join me in prayerfully seeking God's vision and plan for us as a local church as well as for our denomination.

Clear and open communication is always important, but even more so in times of change and uncertainty. As unnerving as waiting and not knowing what is going on in our denomination can be, there are some things that seem clear to me: 1) God still knows what is going on and is still in control; 2) no matter what the outcome of the general conference vote I will be basically the same pastor the day after the vote as I am today. (I say basically the same because hopefully I will continue to grow as I deepen my walk with God.) 3) You will be basically the same people I minister with the day after the vote. 4) We will continue doing faithful ministry in this very same community as we do our best to hear and follow God, trusting in his plan and his ability to carry it out through us.

2019 will provide challenges of its own, but I truly believe God has “plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.” We just need to remember the God we serve, commit to prayerfully seeking God, and then follow his plan.

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

Pastor Loretta

A Future Study Opportunity with Pastor L

Remember to sign up with Pastor L for the upcoming study, *A Disciple's Path*. Whether taken as an introduction as a new member or a renewal course as an existing member, the program guides individuals to take the next step in discipleship and become dynamic, engaged followers of Jesus Christ.

The study combines a Wesleyan understanding of our growth in God's love and grace with the time-tested practices of spiritual discipline expressed in the membership vows to uphold the church with our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. Participants will have the opportunity to develop spiritual practices, discover their unique gifts, and become engaged in ministry that brings transformation in their own lives, the lives of others, and the world.

Pastor has a small supply of the Daily Workbook and the Companion Reader (which is not necessary to participate in the study) on hand to look over and/or purchase if you are interested. If you purchase a workbook from Pastor L the cost is: \$9; if you are interested in the optional companion reader from Pastor L the cost is \$8.50.

This **seven-week study** (including the first week of introductory material) **will begin on Monday, January 14 at 1 p.m. or 6 p.m.**; if you can't make it to all of the sessions you will still benefit from completing the workbook.

Facebook, YouTube, and Web Sites

Have you visited the church Facebook site or reviewed our worship services on YouTube? These are wonderful tools to keep up with what is going on in our church. You may even want to share these resources with family and friends who are not attending a church at this time. What an easy and unthreatening way to reach out to people and introduce them to our church. To connect on Facebook:

go to www.facebook.com and search for Sparta United Methodist Church-Sparta, WI

To connect on YouTube:

go to www.youtube.com and search for Sparta UMC and the date (for example: Sparta UMC 10 14 18)

We are still in need of someone (or a couple of people would be even better) with an interest in setting up and maintaining a church Web site. United Methodist Communications offers that training and Web site hosting. There is even a grant available to help cover the cost of training and Web hosting for a year. This is such an important outreach in our day and age that we really do need to have a presence on the Web.

Please let Pastor L know if you, or someone you know, might be interested. She is even interested in taking the training with you, but UM Communications does not allow the pastor to be the primary person receiving the training.



January 19, 2019

9a – Noon at Onalaska UMC

9-9:30 Devotion – Mary Beth Scow * Cross Cultural Ministry * Kyabuntu Banze

Breakout Sessions:

9:45-Noon Finance * Tamara Wims

SPRC * Tsuker Yang

9:45-10:45 Healthy Boundaries * Karen Banks

Digital Tools * Anna-Lisa Hunter

11-Noon Outreach Projects * Anna-Lisa Hunter

Leading Devotions * Park Hunter

BONUS SESSION: Noon-1p Brown Bag Lunch!

Round Table discussion on homosexuality
& United Methodists

RSVP to OFFICE@ONALASKAUMC.ORG

2019 Leadership Team of the Sparta United Methodist Church

The following are our church leadership for 2019. We have a very good leadership team with many new people (including some of our youth) filling positions. But, please note that there are some open positions; if you are interested in filling any of them let Pastor L know and she will make sure your name comes before the administrative council to fill that vacancy.

Thank you to all who said “yes” to being leaders in this church.

Administrative Church Council

(As per Charge Conference)

Pastor	Rev. Loretta Waughtal
Chairperson	Toni Burrows '21
Vice Chairperson.....	Cheryl Isensee '21
Recording Secretary	Lynn Humphrey '20
Financial Secretary	Heidi Sullivan (employee)
Treasurer.....	Bev Donahue (employee)
Lay Member to Annual Conference.....	Donna Burnham '21
Alternate Lay Member to Annual Conference.....	Priscilla Hemmersbach '21
Chairperson of Trustees	Dave Kemp '21 (elected by trustees)
Chairperson of Finance	Paul Foulke '20
Chairperson of Staff/Pastor Parish Committee	John Lodico '21
Chairperson of Membership Committee.....	Cyndi Wise '21
President of United Methodist Women.....	
Church School Superintendent.....	Lynn Humphrey '21
Lay Leader.....	Priscilla Hemmersbach '21

Work Area Chairpersons

Nurture Committee.....	Cyndi Wise
Outreach/Mission Committee	Beth Jerman
Records & History.....	Margie Lakowske
Volunteer Coordinator	Peggy Wright
Youth Director	

Members at Large

'19 —Rich Zidich	
'20 — _____	
'20 — _____	
'21 —Jeff Burrows	
'21 —Cathy Nichols	
'21 —Melissa Culpitt	
Young Adult—_____	
Youth—Emma Blackdeer	

Administrative Committees

Staff/Pastor Parish Relations

- '19 —Lisa Arvizu
- '20 —Sara Blackdeer
- '20 —John Lodico (chair)
- '21 —Clarence Brooks
- '21—Jenny Johnson
- '21— Priscilla Hemmersbach (Lay Leader)
- '21 —Donna Burnham (Lay Delegate)

Trustees

- '20 —Dave Kemp (chair)
- '20 —John Lodico
- '20 —Pete Foss
- '20 —Bob Nichols
- '20 —Mary Talsky
- '20 —Dick Gajewsky
- '20 —Tom Graber
- '21 —Gary Ascher
- '21 —Wilfredo Rivera (El Buen Pastor)
- '21 —Priscilla Hemmersbach (Lay Leader)

Finance

- '19 —Russell Janzen
- '20 —Paul Foulke (chair)
- '21 —Julie Hanson
- Church Council Chair—Toni Burrows
- Memorial Committee Rep. —Tom Hemstock, Jr.
- Mission/Outreach Committee Rep. —
- Trustee Rep. —Dave Kemp
- SPPRC Rep. —John Lodico
- Finance Secretary—Heidi Sullivan
- Treasurer—Bev Donahue

Leadership & Development

- Pastor Loretta Waughtal
- '20 —Eileen Gajewsky
- '21 —Cathy Nichols
- '21 — Cyndi Wise
- Church Council Chair —Toni Burrows
- Lay Leader —Priscilla Hemmersbach

Membership

- Pastor Loretta Waughtal
- '19 —Carolyn Kenyon
- '20 —Beverly Laufenberg
- '21 —Cyndi Wise (chair)
- '21 —Margie Lakowske
- Office Manager

Work Areas

Mission/Outreach

- Beth Jerman (vice-chair)
- Ann Olson (secretary)
- Ce Stow
- Kathy Ekern
- Peggy Wright
- Lynn Humphrey
- Paul Foulke
- Rich Zidich

Nurture

- Cyndi Wise (chair)
- Cheryl Isensee
- Amy Kiefer
- Emily Axelsen
- Sara Kemp
- Donna Burnham
- Margie Lakowske
- Julie Rodgers
- Eileen Gajewsky
- Toni Burrows
- Lynn Humphrey (church school superintendent)
- _____ (youth director)

Records & History

- Margie Lakowske (chair)
- Julian Hutchinson
- Cyndi Wise
- Jeanine Houtevelde
- Cindy Isensee
- Cathy Nichols

Shepherding Committee

- Pastor Loretta—Sparta United Methodist Church
- Priscilla Hemmersbach—Sparta UM Church
- Cindy Isensee—Sparta United Methodist Church
- Antonia Gutierrez, Lay Missioner—
UMC El Buen Pastor
- Wilfredo Rivera— UMC El Buen Pastor
- Gladys Soto— UMC El Buen Pastor
- Pastor Krysta Deede—Tomah UM Church

Stewardship Task Force

- Pastor Loretta
- Paul Foulke
- Larry Humphrey
- Eileen Gajewsky
- Marty Wally

Standing Committees

Auditing Committee

Tom Hemstock
Mike Jackson

Communion Stewards

Maxine Gudbaur (chair)
Kathy Ekern
Carolyn Lieder

Food Pantry Committee

Lori Ascher
Cheryl Isensee

Librarian

Margie Lakowske

Memorial Committee

Eileen Gajewsky (chair)
Tom Hemstock, Jr. (treasurer)
Emily Axelsen (secretary)
Ruth Ebert
Lori Ascher
Dave Kemp (trustee rep.)

Camping Coordinators & Scholarship Committee

Amy Kiefer
Cheryl Isensee
Margie Lakowske

Summit Spirits

Karen Joos (chair)
Julian Hutchinson
Cyndi Wise
Beth Jerman
Wilmer Pearson
Toni Burrows
Tom Martin

Usher Committee

Dick Gajewsky (head usher)

Volunteer Services

Peggy Wright

Music Committee

Ellen Hemstock (chair)
Cyndi Wise
Toni Burrows
Karen Joos
Bev Donahue

From the Parish Nurse...

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, just like I have loved you; that you also love one another.” (John 13:34).

Take note that love is not an option for the followers of Jesus. He says, *“A new commandment I give to you”*. (John 13:34) Not a suggestion, not a recommendation. A COMMANDMENT! This is not just a command to love our families or those who love us, not to try to love others, but to love everyone the same way that Jesus loves us.

The UMC Parish Nurse Health Ministry focuses on holistic health, wellness, prevention of disease and injury for the congregation, which includes spiritual, physical and emotional well-being of all individuals.

Parish Nursing integrates education, advocacy and referrals with the gift of healing presence, which is the condition of being consciously and compassionately in the present moment with another. Healing presence affirms an individual's potential for wholeness, regardless of their life circumstances.

As your Parish Nurse, I provide monthly blood pressure screening for Senior Citizens in the Community. I have resources available for anyone and at any time. Health Educational material is provided in this monthly newsletter and I will be available at the Church in my office 2 times per week and upon request.

I also provide Sunday service and Memorial service for one of our Nursing homes that no longer has a paid Chaplain/Pastor on staff.

The Health Ministry recently provided 3 “mitten trees” at our church which our congregation decorated with hats, mittens and scarves for children in our community.

Our Health Ministry also makes home visits to anyone needing encouragement, comfort or a sense of belonging that would benefit from a visit. Our team consists of Pastor Loretta, Bev Laufenberg, Cindy Isensee, Dean and Ann Olson, Beth Nowak, Paul Foulke, Eileen Gajewsky and the Parish Nurse.

Priscilla Hemmersbach, RN, Parish Nurse

A New Way to Support SUMC

If you shop on Amazon, you can now 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) 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). Or you can go directly to our support page by entering the link <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/39-6026139>.

This is such an effortless way to support your local church and collect some “FREE” and much needed funds for our ministry. Utilizing this option will be greatly appreciated. We encourage you to also pass this information on to others that you know regularly shop online and ask them if they will also support SUMC through smile.amazon.com.



Finance Committee Update

I would like to begin with a thank you for your generous gifts in 2018. Your weekly offerings and various other gifts allow ministry to happen in a variety of ways.

As we begin 2019 I take this opportunity to share that we paid 60% of our apportionments for 2018. This is an increase of 10% from 2017. For 2019 the Administrative Council has approved paying 100% which means one twelfth will be paid each month.

Our apportionments really do make a difference. United Methodists are connectional. We put into practice that if we want to give money beyond our local church and local community needs, the first place to look is our connectional system. Apportionments form the framework for our individual and congregational participation in connectional ministry and mission.

Some of the ministries our apportionments support are: World Service Fund, ministerial

education fund, Africa University Fund, United Methodist Committee on Relief administration, and many more. To learn how annual conferences use apportionment dollars, look at your conference budget or speak with your annual conference leadership. Delegates vote on and approve annual conference budgets at annual conference sessions, so detailed reports should be easy to find.

We do however face some financial challenges as we enter a new year. We no longer receive the \$10,000 a year that we had received prior to 2018 from Morrow Home. In their restructuring, Morrow Home leadership decided they no longer needed the 10 hours a week that our previous pastor served there as chaplain, which worked out because we decided that we needed a pastor fully-focused on the ministries of this church. But that means we need to make up the approximately \$830 per month that is no longer coming in from Morrow Home. This loss affects our general budget fund balance negatively which means our contingency fund (meant to be kept for emergencies) has been going down each month. This development is concerning.

To help reverse this trend Sparta UMC has accepted a Stewardship Challenge Grant from the United Methodist Foundation. This grant will educate and challenge us with the hope we will be able to move forward as a healthy and vital church. As part of the grant requirements a Stewardship Task Force has been formed that will be exploring, brainstorming, and praying about ways to increase our giving. The work of the task force will include sharing education materials, information in *The Chimes* newsletter and through specific ministry areas. Pastor Loretta will be preaching about stewardship throughout the year and we will have a financial campaign in 2019.

The task force will begin meeting in January, but this important work is not just the work of one group of people. With their guidance, it is the work of the entire church to turn our financial situation back around. We invite you to pray about our ministry for the new year. As information is shared throughout the coming year, take an honest look at your giving and pray for guidance as you make God-honoring decisions regarding your support for the ongoing ministry of this congregation through your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service, and your witness.

Paul Foulke, Finance Committee Chair

If You're Going to Make One Diet Change in 2019, Try This One...

Committing to a complete diet overhaul in the new year can be overwhelming, exhausting, time consuming, and frankly unsustainable. So here is some advice to anyone who wants to make a food-related resolution? Zero in on one dietary change that's likely to stick. And in my opinion, the resolution that offers the biggest bang for your buck is simple: Eat five servings of vegetables a day, every single day.

In addition to being packed with vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants, veggies are low in calories and high in belly-filling fiber. When they displace other foods, you can drastically lower your intake of calories and carbs without sacrificing fullness. For example, trading one cup of cooked rice with a cup of [riced cauliflower](#) saves about 175 calories and 40 grams of carbs.

But even if your overall calorie intake stays the same, more veggies in your diet could still help you slim down: When researchers compared people that consumed the same number of calories, they found those who ate more plant foods had a [lower BMI and smaller waist measurements](#), as well as less inflammation, compared to those who ate less produce.

The high amount of fiber in veggies is a big benefit: A classic German study found that every gram of fiber we eat essentially [cancels out about seven calories](#). A fiber-rich diet has also been tied to less [belly fat](#), and it helps regulate blood sugar and insulin levels, to keep hunger at bay and your energy levels steady.

Other benefits of eating more produce include protection against nearly every chronic disease and a healthier gut microbiome, which is tied to your immunity and mood. There are even beauty perks: Scientists at the University of Nottingham in the UK found that eating more produce daily [gives skin a healthy glow](#).

Want to give this resolution a go?

To hit the daily mark of five servings of veggies, use this simple strategy: one serving at breakfast, two at lunch, and another two at dinner. (One serving is one cup raw, which about the size of a baseball.)

At breakfast: Whip veggies into a smoothie. So many blend easily, including spinach, kale, zucchini, celery, bell pepper, and even broccoli or cauliflower. You could also add a cup of veggies to an omelet; serve eggs over a bed of shredded zucchini or fresh spinach; fold shredded or finely chopped veggies into

overnight oats; combine veggies with chopped hard-boiled eggs tossed with pesto, mashed avocado, or olive tapenade. Or simply nibble on fresh, raw veggies, like cucumber or bell pepper, as a palate cleanser after eating breakfast. Many of my clients tell me this habit switches off their sweet tooth, so they're less tempted by goodies around the office.

At lunch: Make [salads](#) a staple. Start with at least a cup of leafy greens (such as kale, spinach, romaine, or field greens) and top them with other veggies of your choice, such as tomato, cucumber, and red onion. Dress with a healthy fat, like Extra Virgin Olive Oil (EVOO) mixed with balsamic, Dijon and Italian seasoning, seasoned [tahini](#), [avocado](#) blended with a little apple cider vinegar, lime juice, garlic, salt and pepper; or a jarred pesto, or olive tapenade. Top your veggie base with a lean protein (beans, lentils, chickpeas, chicken, or fish) and a scoop of clean carbs, such as cooked, chilled quinoa, sweet potato, or fresh [fruit](#).

Prevent boredom by mixing up the combinations. Try veggies, olive tapenade, tuna, and fingerling potatoes; followed by veggies dressed in balsamic topped with lentils and quinoa; then greens tossed with avocado dressing topped with chicken and sweet potato; or pesto tossed greens, topped lentils and apple slices. The potential combos are endless.

At dinner: When deciding what to eat for dinner, choose your veggies first, so they're never an afterthought. Sauté veggies over low heat in EVOO, or oven roast or grill your favorites and make them the largest component of a stir-fry, soup, chili, or stew, or make veggies your pasta alternative (think eggplant ribbons, spiralized zucchini, spaghetti squash, or shredded cabbage). Serve your protein over a bed of these same veggies, or over riced cauliflower, massaged kale, or wilted lettuce.

Wrap bean, salmon, or turkey burgers in greens in place of buns, or use a bun made out of two grilled Portobello mushrooms. Or simply steam some frozen veggies and toss with a bit of jarred pesto to serve as a side. You can add veggies to nearly any dish, or serve entrees over or alongside veggies. When you make them the first step in your meal planning, or when ordering from a menu, it's easy to fit in two baseball-sized portions each night, and reach the target of five servings by day's end.

May God continue to bless each of you this New Year!

In Christ,

Priscilla Hemmersbach, RN, Parish Nurse

Library News

Now is a great time to read the greatest book of all - the **Bible**. Start 2019 on the right foot, I have placed several copies of the **Bible in 365 Days** in The Gathering Place.

A Fresh Start: *“The Lord guides a man in the way he should go and protects those who please him. If they fall, they will not stay down, because the Lord will help them up.”* (Psalm 37:23-24.) Let every day be a new inspiration.

Submitted by Margie Lakowske, Librarian



Tim and I would like to thank everyone who came out to the Christmas Open House in the parsonage. We understand what a busy time of year it is for everyone and appreciated those who were able to stop by and enjoy some Christmas cheer and see the remodeled kitchen, laundry room, and downstairs bathroom. If you weren't able to be there for the open house and would like to see the work, I would be happy to show you. If you give me a call, we can set up a time.

I also need to thank many people who helped make this event possible. I won't try to name names because I am afraid I would miss someone. There were so many who helped with the initial cleaning and removing of old carpeting and there was painting that was done in most rooms on the first floor. There were trustees who gave many hours of hard work to the remodeling needed on the first floor (also thankful for wives who put up with husbands putting in those many hours). As the time drew near for the open house there was more cleaning and finally unpacking and putting away kitchen items that I had much needed help with. I also know there were donors who gave over and above their regular tithes to make the remodeling possible.

Finally, I am very thankful for the Nurture Committee who helped host the open house and brought many delicious treats to share. None of this would have been possible without all of you. I am very thankful for you and my home.

Pastor Loretta & Tim Waughtal



RECORDS & HISTORY COMMITTEE

We will be meeting next on **January 9, 2019 at 9:00 a.m.** We will work on organizing the History Room and sorting files and pictures.

We want to remind everyone that the dates for our Pictorial Directory photo sessions are **April 30, and May 1, 2, 3 and 4, 2019**. The Pictorial Directory Committee is comprised of: Eileen Gajewsky, Cheryl Isensee, Cindy Isensee, Amy Kiefer, Cyndi Wise and Margie Lakowske. If anyone else would like to assist with the Directory please contact Margie.

We are – Keeping the Eternal Flame Glowing

Submitted by Margie Lakowske, Chairperson



DIRECTORY UPDATES:

Robert Olson, lives at 1510 Catherine St, Apt 6, Sparta. Bob's mailing address should be noted as P.O. Box 29, Sparta, WI 54656



OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO:

The Family & Friends of Amelia Pike, for the loss of Amelia.

The Family & Friends of Rhonda Woods, for the loss of Rhonda.

The Family & Friends of Darwin Culpitt (father of Russ & Melissa Culpitt), for the loss of Darwin.

THANK YOU...

Sparta United Methodist Church,

Thank you for letting us use your space for our annual Christmas Recital! It is so nice to host our students and parents in such a warm, welcoming, and acoustically beautiful space.

Please have a Merry Christmas!

The faculty of Dan's Music 2018:

Dana Tock, Tyler Boegler,

Dale Gonyea, Joel Tock

Janette Hanson



B.A.S.H News

The BASH group has had a busy last few weeks. They have been working with Ellen Hemstock on their Christmas Program, which was on December 16, 2018 at 9am, during the Worship Service. We also spent three weeks watching the movie "The Star." The kids enjoyed the movie and had lots of giggles and treats.

We will not be having BASH on December 26th or on January 2nd. On January 9th we will be introducing a new curriculum called Deep Blue.

I would like to say Thank You to all the parents who bring their children each week, to the kids for coming and to the teachers/helpers who give of their time and talents. Thank You Julia and Bella Jackson, Toni Burrows, Sara Blackdeer, Margie Lakowske, Betsy Tadisch, and Courtney Goodenough. I would also like to Thank Ellen Hemstock for doing the Children's choir.

I hope everyone has a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

God's Blessings,

Lynn Humphrey, BASH Coordinator



January Pizza and a Movie

Who: Everyone is welcome (bring a friend)

What: Pizza and a Movie

Where: Chapel—come watch on the big screen

When: Saturday, January 26th, 2019

6:00pm Pizza & **6:30pm** Movie and Popcorn

RSVP: Toni Burrows 608-343-3029 by

January 26 at **12Noon** if you want to eat pizza.

AN INTERVIEW WITH GOD stars Academy Award® nominee David Strathairn (**Good Night, and Good Luck**) and Brenton Thwaites (**Pirates Of The Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales**), along with Yael Grobglas (**Jane the Virgin**), Hill Harper (**Concussion**), and Charlbi Dean Kriek (**The Other**). This PG-rated Giving Films picture is directed by Perry Lang from a screenplay by Ken Aguado.

Covering the war in Afghanistan provided journalist Paul Asher with some of the best stories of his young career. But that endeavor ends up costing him so much more than he ever could have calculated. Upon returning home, Paul struggles to deal with the after-effects of his experiences, a failing marriage, and his dying faith. Not knowing where to turn, Paul dives deeply into the story of a lifetime—an interview with a mysterious man claiming to be God. What does an inquisitive reporter ask God? What would you ask? Sitting down with this mysterious man over the course of three fateful days, Paul finds himself answering as many questions as he asks. While wrestling with what he knows and what he's unsure of, Paul finds himself at the crossroads we all come to in our lives: Who do we say God is?

(We cancelled the November 2018 Pizza & A Movie night, so this was the movie we didn't get to see yet.)



Mark Your Calendar!

SUMC One-Day Leadership Training Retreat and Planning Day

When: January 12, 2019 from 9am-3pm

Where: Sparrow's Nest at the Abbey
17304 Havenwood Rd, Sparta

All are welcome to join us for this important day! Take a tour of the Abbey, too!

*Administrative Church Council Members,
Committee Chairs and members, please make
every effort to attend.*

Giving: Invitation

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

Henri Nouwen has said, *“Asking people for money is giving them the opportunity to put their resources at the disposal of the Kingdom.”*

If God wants us to build the Kingdom of God, then he wants us to invite others to support it. This is evangelism because the good news is that God has faith in us to build the Kingdom.

There are a number of steps in the asking process and asking is a later step, not the first:

Ask God First! We must first trust in God that we can succeed in soliciting support for the missions and ministries we seek to support. We come to God in prayer to ask God for support before asking anyone else.

Love the person you are asking. We must also love the person we are asking for support, giving them the means to become a brother or sister in Christ through their support of the Kingdom. We must trust that the Spirit of Christ that is guiding us is also guiding them.

Ask on behalf of the Kingdom of God. We are asking potential donors to invest in the work of God. Whether their ability to give is great or small, what matters is that they are making their gift available to God.

Be grateful for the answer. Whether the answer is yes or no or maybe or someday, we must be grateful that the person listened and gave us an honest answer. We have offered something of great value and that is what is important to us.

Jim Wells,

Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation

Visit the Wisconsin UM Foundation at:

www.wumf.org or Facebook/wumf.org

Or call 1-888-903-9863

November 2018 General Budget Contributions & Expenses

Date	Revenue*	Expenses
11/04/2018	\$ 3,722.20	246.90
11/11/2018	3,082.92	3,567.31
11/18/2018	2,540.60	4,110.59
11/25/2018	2,798.00	2,103.01

* \$3,772 is necessary every week to meet annual budget



Looking for a Part-time Job?

Sparta UMC has a part-time job opening for an Inside Custodian. The job includes housekeeping, light maintenance, managing inventory of prospective In-Kind cleaning & maintenance supplies and informing Office Manager when supplies are getting low, completing maintenance work orders, communicating with Pastor, Office Manager, and Trustees Chair when large maintenance jobs are needed. Good communication skills are very important. The job is 14 hours per week with some flexibility that is agreed upon ahead of time. Person hired could begin January 2. Benefits include 8 paid holidays and a week of paid vacation. For full details contact the church office and make an appointment with the Pastor.



Upcoming Special Events to Put On Your Calendar TODAY:

January 6th, 2019 – Following the morning worship service we will be taking down the Christmas decoration around the church. Many hands make light work, so please consider helping out!

January 20th, 2019 will be the **ALL-Church Birthday Banquet**, with the pennies collected for each year young that we are (1 penny for each year of age) going to Volunteers in Mission. The Banquet will follow morning worship with a Brunch Potluck. Put it on your calendar and watch your bulletin for details!!

Administrative Council News – 12/12/2018

Trustees- Parsonage is getting closer to being done. Dishwasher and stove are in and the washer and dryer were getting close. A new refrigerator had to be ordered after the old one stopped working. Pastor Loretta Waughtal will be hosting an Open House in the Parsonage on 12-16-18 from 1-3 pm. Council would like to Thank the Trustees for all the outstanding work they did to get the parsonage updated.

Finance- Paul Foulke had a question about the apportionments for November. Bev Donahue will look into the differing amount listed in general budget and what was sent and report back Paul Foulke. There are still outstanding bills for the parsonage that will need to be paid before submitting a total on what it cost for updates and repairs. Pastor Loretta Waughtal and Paul Foulke will have some information that they will be putting out in the upcoming Chimes.

SPRC- Met on 12-12-18. Beth Jerman put in her resignation for the inside custodian position, effective at the end of the year and SPRC accepted it. The opportunity for the position will go to the congregation first before advertising outside the church. The council discussed that there needed to be better communication between the church and those doing snow removal to get the snow cleared before non-Sunday events like funerals, meetings, and etc.

Membership- Completed their report for the Charge Conference. Pastor Loretta Waughtal has been contacting visitors to say Thank You for visiting. The council also discussed changing the wording of “constituents” to “friends of the church”.

UMW- Karen Joos has decided not to continue in the Chair position for the UMW. Cyndi Wise, Julie Rodgers-Adams, Cathy Nichols, Eileen Gajewsky will share the position in 2019.

BASH- Attendance has remained consistent this year with 18-20 children attending each week. BASH is currently working on their Christmas program with Ellen Hemstock. The children’s program will be on Sunday, December 16th, 2018 during the morning service. Starting in January, we will be starting our new curriculum Deep Blue.

Records/History- Did not meet in December. Margie Lakowske will be getting in touch with Life Touch to set up a conference call before the April

kick off of the church directory update.

Nurture- Will be helping with the Open House at the Parsonage. Nurture members are being asked to bring 1 to 3 dozen finger foods and to help out with hosting the event. December 17th will be the last day to turn in your Luminary requests. On December 20th, Nurture will meet at the church to assemble the Luminaries. The money raised from the Luminaries will be going to the Food Pantry. On January 6th they will be taking down the Christmas decoration around the church following the morning service. On January 20th, will be the All Church Birthday Banquet, with the pennies collected for each year young we are (1 penny for each year of age) going to Volunteers in Mission. The Banquet will follow worship with a Brunch Potluck.

Outreach/Mission- Beth Jerman will replace Rich Zidich as chairman of Outreach/ Missions. Lynn Humphrey has taken the responsibility of recorder for the meetings. It was brought up that there were funds available for Family Promise. That money is being held onto for purchase of items needed when we start hosting the families under the care of Family Promise. The first Sunday of each month was always Gabler Sunday but since their retirement, Outreach/Mission has been donating the money to Food Pantry, Back Pack Program and other groups.

Pastor- Pastor Loretta will be working to help streamline some of the church/office duties. She is looking into finding ways that communications can be dispersed the way it should be. She is working on figuring out ways to talk to people, to be more approachable and looking into ways of meeting people. On December 16th the church will be hosting Charge Conference for Rockland and Norwalk Churches at 2:30.

Old Business- Leadership Retreat will be on Saturday, January 12th from 9-3 at the Sparrow’s Nest. Everyone is Welcome.

New Business- Task Force Stewardship asked about the possibility of ordering new giving envelopes because the old ones we have are so outdated. The council talked about other ways of giving: E-giving, the use of Scripp Cards, smile.amazon.com. **The New office hours for 2019 will be Monday thru Thursday, 9 am to 4:30 p.m. and closed on Fridays.**

Lynn Humphrey, Recorder