

Sparta United Methodist Church

The Chimes - February

Volume 60, No. 2

2025

216 North Court St., Sparta, WI 54656

Email: office@spartamethodist.com | Phone: (608) 269-6949

Hybrid service: Sundays 9 a.m. | Sunday school: 9:15 a.m. | Soup Supper: Tuesdays 5 p.m.
Bible Study Thursdays 2 p.m. | For full program visit: www.spartaumc.net or find us at



Dear Friends and Family of Sparta UMC,

As we step into the heart of winter, let's warm ourselves not just by hearth but through the fellowship and joy of our church community. February and March bring several opportunities to come together, celebrate our bonds, and enrich our spirits as we are led by our yearly Theme: "Restoration and Renewal—Living in God's Grace and Truth." How has God restored his grace for you in January? How open are you to receive God's restoration and renewal in February?

Love and Friendship Celebration

Join us on **February 22 at 6 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall for our Love and Friendship Celebration. This is a perfect occasion to bring a friend and share the warmth of our community. We encourage you to wear something red or pink to add to the festive atmosphere. Let's make it a night of joyous connections and cherished memories!

Bible Reading Discussions

We're excited to continue our Bible reading discussions this month. Gather with us on **February 12 and 26 from 6 p.m. to 6:45 p.m.** in the Conference Room. Feel free to bring your supper and enjoy your meal as we explore the scriptures and discuss their impact on our lives today.

Ash Wednesday

Mark your calendars for **March 5**, as we observe Ash Wednesday from **6 p.m. to 6:45 p.m.** This solemn occasion marks the beginning of Lent and invites us to reflect and prepare our hearts for the journey toward Easter. Watch for more information on Lent Bible studies and Holy Week Celebrations in our bulletins.

International Women's Day Celebration

On **March 8**, we celebrate International Women's Day—a global day acknowledging the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women. Join us for a special Tea Time event, featuring a guest speaker, an enriching program, and delicious refreshments. It's a day to honor the significant contributions of women in our lives and across the world.

Each of these events is a chance to strengthen our community bonds, deepen our faith, and enjoy the company of one another in meaningful ways. We look forward to seeing you there, sharing in these moments of fellowship and reflection.

With love and care,

Reverend Lourdes Magalhães



Needing a Card

For Someone Special?



You can now find new and recycled cards for all occasions: Birthdays, Anniversaries, Weddings, Thank Yous, Get Well, Sympathies, and Holiday Cards! The cost is only 50¢ each. All proceeds go to our Missions & Outreach Fund. You can find them in the Gathering Place if you'd like to check them out!



Records & History



We will have our first meeting of 2025 at 9:00 am on Wednesday, February 12, in the conference room. This room is located in the Education Wing (the room next to Pastor's Office).



Church Facebook Page



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

services. You can find that site at:

<https://www.facebook.com/UMCsparta/>. Once you are there just "like" the site and you will receive updates when new information is posted.



UMW **thank you** for your donation to the Backpack Program. Your generous contribution helps assure the children of our community receive proper nourishment. We appreciate the donation very much!

Thank you for the beautiful Cyclonal and to Cathy for delivering it. It made me feel very blessed.
Barb Zucco

Thank you to Paul Foulke for the generous donation of bibles, hymnals and other study materials. These books will pass on wisdom and knowledge to all that use them.
Margie Lakowske

Thank you for the \$100 donation to the St. Clare Health Mission of Monroe County. We are honored by your steadfast support and generosity! The mission clinic strives to create a space where health, well-being and dignity thrive. Your gift helps to cultivate a compassionate, resilient, connected and healthy community. Thank you!

In gratitude,
Annie Berendes, Coordinator
St. Clare Health Mission of Monroe County

Michael Saunders, MD, Medical Director
St. Clare Health Mission of Monroe County

Thank you to everyone who participated in the All Church Birthday Banquet. The food was amazing and the cakes never disappoint. It makes turning a year older "sweeter."



Nurture Update..



“Love one another...”❤️

Thank you 56 luminaries “glowed” on Christmas Eve in honor of and memory of our loved ones—\$205 was given to the Food Pantry.

All Church Birthday Banquet

brought 36 friends together on a below zero Sunday morning to celebrate each other with beautifully decorated tables and 12 delicious cakes! Cakes and tables by: Judy Fuhrmann, Amy Kiefer, Toni Jensen, Peggy Wright, Cathy Nichols, Scott Naeseth & Rose White, Pastor Lourdes, Mary Talsky, Danette Zidich, Margie Lokowske, Marty Walley, Julie Rodgers, & Cheryl Isensee. \$52.46 was given to the camp scholarship.

Coming Up...

Saturday, Feb. 22 @ 6 p.m. – Friendship and Love Service in the Fellowship Hall.

Sunday, March 2 – Shrove Pancake Breakfast after worship service prepared and served by the men of our church. All are welcome!

Wednesday, March 5 – Ash Wednesday with service at 6 p.m. Lenten devotionals are available.

Wednesday, March 12 – First Ecumenical service HERE @ noon.

Sunday, April 13 – Palm Sunday

“Stay connected to God—
Stay connected to each other.”



Chronic Pain Workshop

Healthy Living with Chronic Pain is a six-week workshop for adults who have – or are living with someone who has – on-going pain.

Led by trained leaders in a small group setting, the program focuses on helping you feel better, have more control and do the things you want to do.

This program does not replace existing treatments but serves to complement your medical treatment plan. It is not intended to be a solution for addiction to pain medication

Where: Virtually

When: Wednesday, February 12 – March 19 from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Cost: \$30 includes textbook.

Pre-register by calling 608-775-6870 or visit gundersenhealth.org/livingwell

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: Monday, March 3 through April 7 from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Cost: \$30

Pre-register by calling 608-775-6870 or visit gundersenhealth.org/living-well.



COMING SOON

- Servant Leadership Board will meet on Tuesday, February 4 at 6:30 p.m.
- The Ministerial Committee will meet on Wednesday, February 5 at noon.
- Summit Spirits will not meet in February.
- Lois Circle will Tuesday, February 11 in the small kitchen at 1 p.m.
- Wesleyan Circle will meet on Tuesday, February 11 in the Gathering Place at 6:30 p.m.
- Records & History will meet Wednesday, February 12 at 9 a.m., in the conference room.
- Nurture will meet on Monday, February 13 at 6 p.m.
- Pizza and a movie will be Saturday, February 15 at 6 p.m. in the small kitchen for pizza and 6:30 in the chapel for the movie, "Arthur the King."
- The office will be closed on Monday, February 17 in observance of President's Day.
- Servant Leadership Board will meet on Tuesday, February 18 at 6 p.m.



**Wisconsin Annual Conference
June 5-8, 2025
Madison Marriott West, Middleton, WI**

Join the Conversation on social media!

On Twitter - wisconsinumc or @wisconsinumc
On Facebook - www.facebook.com/wisconsinumc
On Instagram - wisconsinumc
Use the hashtag #wiumc2024 to stay connected.

Altar Plants



United Women in Faith (UWIF) would like to thank all those who signed up for one or more plant(s) on one or multiple dates for 2024. **The calendars are up for 2025.** Each date has two lines for one plant per line.

Plants are \$5.50 each or two for \$11. Plant money goes to Eileen Gajewsky, UMW treasurer, who pays the invoice from Sparta Floral quarterly.

Thank you to the volunteers who deliver plants to church and to designated recipients after a service. Plants and volunteers brighten our days.

Thank you for your continued support of UMW.
Cathy Nichols



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 **February 5**. 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 (269-6949.)

If you find yourself in need of a card before the next order goes in give Cheryl a call and ask if she has the card you need. She sometimes has a few extra scrip cards for local businesses on hand.



Church Website



We have a new web site domain so it is easier to find our site.

It is: spartaumc.net. Check it out if you haven't lately.



Pizza and a Movie

Pizza and a Movie was cancelled in January due to extreme temperatures. The following weather policy has been established regarding future cancellations:

“Pizza and a Movie will be cancelled if temperatures are forecasted to be below 25 degrees or above 85 degrees.”



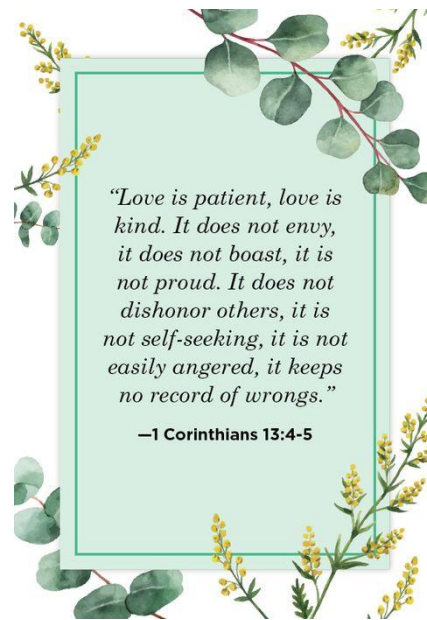
This month is **February 15** Pizza will be served in the small kitchen at 6 p.m. with the movie to follow in the Chapel. Everyone is welcome! Bring a friend! Please contact Toni Jensen at 608-343-3029 before noon on February 15

if you will be attending so we know how much pizza to order.

“Arthur the King”

Over the course of ten days and 435 miles, an unbreakable bond is forged between pro adventure racer

Michael Light (Mark Wahlberg) and a scrappy street dog companion dubbed Arthur. Based on an incredible true story, ARTHUR THE KING follows light, desperate for one last chance to win, as he convinces a sponsor to back him and a team of athletes (Simu Liu, Nathalie Emmanuel, and Ali Suliman) for the Adventure Racing World Championship in the Dominican Republic. As the team is pushed to their outer limits of endurance in the race, Arthur redefines what victory, loyalty and friendship truly mean. Rated PG-13



Stewardship Ideas For February

Valentine’s Day is just around the corner — a time to celebrate love. We often think of lines like “How do I love thee? Let me count the ways,” or picture roses, cupids, and hearts filling store shelves. But amidst the romance, have we lost sight of love’s deeper meaning?

Romantic love is everywhere, yet even that is often reduced to fleeting infatuation. More significantly, many have forgotten the love that Jesus calls us to live out: “Love your enemies” (Luke 6:27), “You shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Matthew 22:39), and “The one who loves another has fulfilled the law” (Romans 13:8).

This love isn’t about warm, fuzzy feelings. Christian love is about action. It’s choosing to act kindly, even when our feelings fall short. When someone cuts us off in traffic, we can respond with patience rather than anger. When dealing with a difficult coworker, we can show genuine interest in their life rather than just tolerating their presence.

Often, loving actions lead to loving feelings, not the other way around. Romantic love, for instance, grows deeper through small gestures like holding hands. Similarly, in other relationships, choosing to act with love can foster understanding and compassion over time.

This Valentine’s Day, cherish romantic love but also take every opportunity to practice Christian love — through your actions toward neighbors, enemies, and everyone you encounter. It’s in these moments that we reflect God’s greatest commandment: “Let all that you do be done in love” (1 Corinthians 16:14).

Rev. Jason Mahnke, Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation

February

February Anniversaries

09 Wayne & Amy Johnson
17 Russell & Melissa Culpitt

February Birthdays

01 Jeanette Bert
02 Tom Houtevelde
02 Stephanie Ochoa
03 Peggy Wright
06 Angela Talsky
08 Toni Jensen
10 Emily Ascher
10 Dean Olson
11 Laurie Graber
11 Sara Kemp
12 Klynn Friemoth
13 Liam Huntington
14 Linda Pfuhl
15 Lorie Dale
15 Brady Kozelka
22 Melissa Goodenough
22 Sarah Rodriguez
22 Russ Tock
25 Mara Culpitt
25 Brian Hemstock
25 Jane Hobson
27 Peyton Hale



Ushers

2 Kurt & Amy Kiefer
9 Ron & Denise Ebert/Ronnie & Kandy Ebert
16 Rich & Danette Zidich & Peggy
23 Kurt & Amy

Tech Team

2 Annabelle Von Ruden & Kristine Phillips
9 Toni Jensen & Amy Kiefer
16 Ron & Kristine Phillips
23 Cheryl Isensee & Beth Jerman

Liturgist

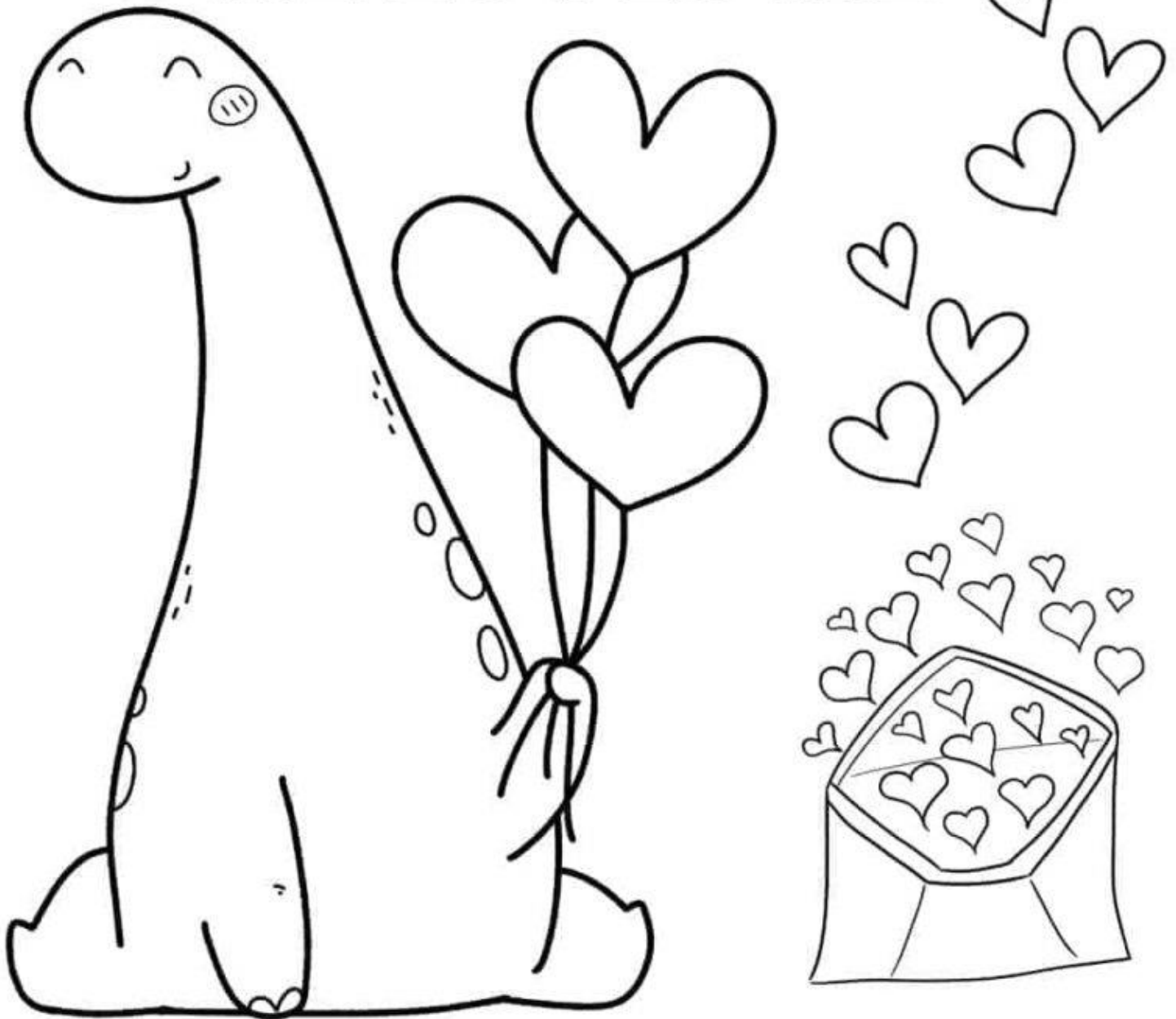
2 Marty Walley
9 Judy Fuhrmann
16 Beth Nowak
23 Annabelle Von Ruden



Thank you to all who have donated to Soles4Souls! We have collected 114 pair so far this year!

CHANGING THE WORLD
ONE PAIR AT A TIME

I LOVE JESUS
HE LOVES ME



1 John 4:19: "We love him, because he first loved us."

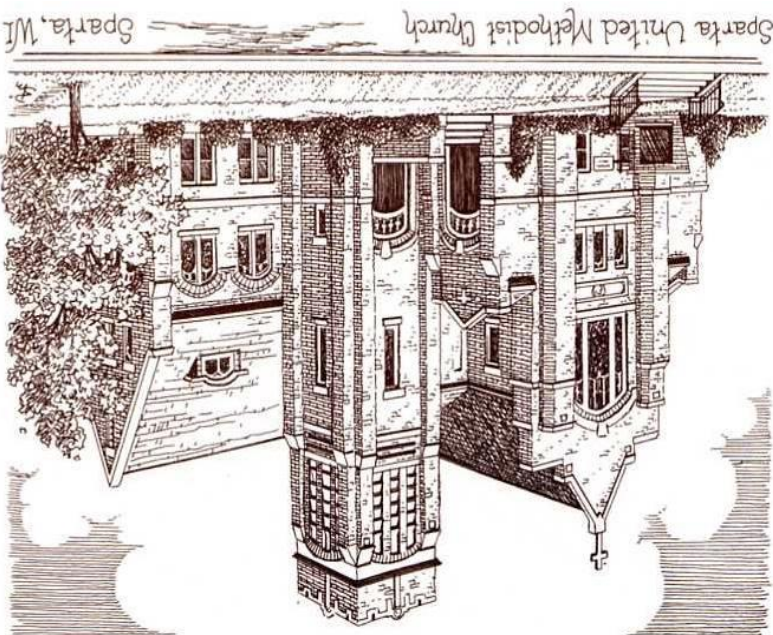
The Chimes

Sparta United Methodist Church
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Sparta, WI 54656

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



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Email: office@spartamethodist.com

Website: spartaumc.net

SUMC Worship Schedule

In-house Service

9:00 a.m. Sunday mornings

Livestream Service

9:00 a.m. on Facebook

Online Service

YouTube: Sparta UMC month day year