

“The CHIMES” – January

Volume 59, No. 1

2024

Continuing the Conversation...



Hello friends,
Do you know how Korean people start the New Year? I will tell you a little. In the U.S., Christmas is the day that all families gather together. In Korea, the first day of the year is the day all families gather together. It is the most important festival of the year along

with Chuseok (Full moon in August in the lunar calendar). We call the first day of the year **Seollal**. All Korean people have very special memories around this day.



My first childhood memory is of an ancestral rite. The day started very early in the morning before breakfast. My father woke my siblings and me up early in the morning. My whole family went to the home of the oldest brother of my father, since my grandfather and grandmother on the

father’s side had already passed away when I was a little child.

My aunts prepared an abundant amount of special food over several days; therefore, the kitchen was filled with many kinds of delicious Seollal foods. Some of it was already in a nice display for the ancestral rite. After we bowed before our ancestors, we were able to have breakfast. This tradition was mixed more from Confucius with Shamanism tradition. Nowadays, most family members believe in different religions, so this tradition has stopped in our family.

We usually wore traditional Korean costumes on that day. I enjoyed my red Korean traditional dress, and a beautiful red winter jacket. We ate a special Seollal food (Tteokguk). And the most joyful time for children

followed. All children bowed deep on the floor to grandma and grandfather, father and mother, uncle and aunts reciting the blessings to adults. Then our Grandparents and all of the adults gave special blessings to the children for the New Year, including gifts of money. So, the Grandparents and all of the adults should have prepared to go to the bank the day before and prepare a certain amount of money for each of the children.

When my son, who was born in Germany, came to Korea, he was four years old when he experienced the ceremony of blessings and the gifts of money for the first time. He bowed deeply, and said, “Please give me lots of New Year money!” This was very similar in pronunciation to a blessing towards the grandparents, “Please receive many blessings from heaven.” All of us laughed with his observation and new interpretation of the ceremony.

New Year is a joyful time for all children. Always, all families played special Yoot games. This is a really exciting game that doesn’t limit the number of the family participating. Usually, in the afternoon, I took a nap, because the day started too early, and I usually ate a lot.

I remember the Korean tradition whenever the New Year comes. If I were in Korea, I would have to prepare lots of five dollar bills and ten dollar bills for the little members of the family.



A Korean New Year’s greeting to you all.

Pastor Hae-Jeong



January Sermon Schedule

Jan 7 /Laurie Graber

Jan 14 /Theme: Masterpiece

Ephesians 2:8-10 Pastor Hae-Jeong

Jan 21/Theme: Spiritual gift

1 Cor 12:1-12 Pastor Hae-Jeong

Jan 28 / Theme:Abilities

Romans 12:6-8 Pastor Hae-Jeong



Pastor's office hours

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 10 am - 4 pm by appointment

Sunday: After the service, and 12 pm - 5 pm by appointment

Second Thursday of the month 10:30 a.m. - Morrow Home Worship service

Quarterly fourth Friday afternoon - Morrow Home Memorial service

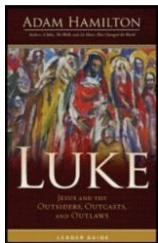
Because of the pastoral visitation, she may not be in the office. Please make an appointment to meet with the pastor.

Contact Number: 415 846 3278

Email: haejeongyoonsumc@gmail.com



The Gospel of Luke

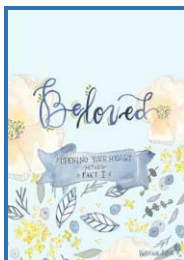


Explore the life, teachings, death, and resurrection of Jesus as told in the Gospel of Luke. Join Paul in this new study, starting Thursday, January 4 at 2 p.m.



Beloved

The class "Beloved" will start Jan 14 Sundays at 10:30 a.m. in the classroom 5 facilitated by Pastor Hae-Jeong. It will let you be embraced to the love of the Father in an intimate relationship. You might never have gone this path of spiritual life. This class will enrich your life and heart. Please join all who want to explore an abundant spiritual life.



Active Discipleship

A University chaplain had an interesting conversation with a student that came to see him one day. He writes:

"I was wondering what I ought to do about the exam, "she said, "then I looked at this bracelet" (here she gestured to the "What Would Jesus Do?" bracelet on her wrist), "and I said to myself, 'I am going to just say a little prayer, relax, and look after myself.'"

And I thought to myself, "I can think of at least a couple of other things Jesus might tell you to do — like get over to the library and get busy studying for this exam."

Devoid of specific content, insubstantial, vague "spirituality" may be our contemporary Christian undoing. We have rendered Jesus into someone so vague, amorphous, and flimsy that he makes little claim upon us. Jesus has become a fashion accessory, something tied to our wrist, a comfort, never a challenge. What would Jesus do? Whatever we do, it appears.

This short story reminds me of what a challenge Christian Discipleship. It is easy for us to become a member of a church, attend several times a year, give a little money, and to sit back and relax because we all know that God's grace is free. And yet, we forget that while God's love is given to us freely, if we allow it to grab ahold of us, it changes our lives. Our priorities are no longer our own, but God's. We pray that "God's will be done," not only in a general sense, but particularly in and through our own lives. This means becoming an active part of our community of faith. Giving our energy to worship, instead of being a passive observer. Actively loving and serving our neighbor, instead of just praying for them and hoping for a miracle. Spending time with God in prayer and study. Letting generosity be the top priority in our finances, not just giving what's left over after we've gotten ours.

Christian Discipleship is a difficult enterprise. Thank God we have grace to support us and strengthen us. And thank God we have a community of faith to help us along and to hold us accountable.

Rev. Jason Mahnke, Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation

Thank you

To the Sparta UMW...**thank you** for the birthday card. So thoughtful to have been remembered.

Love, Diane Noonan

Also, to our Church Family,
Both John and I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. God Bless!

Thank you Paul Foulke for the donation of Bible study books and DVD's to the church library. Anyone wishing to borrow the books is more than welcome to check them out.

Thank you to Sara Kemp for her donation of Christmas Stockings. Thank you for always thinking of us with your kind donations.

Thank you Cyndi Wise for your most diligent holiday behind the scenes coordination. Unpacking all the decorations for the Hanging of the Greens event, the pick-up of poinsettias, lining up the luminary sheets and bag writing, hosting Christmas Caroling at your house, bread pick-up calendar, and all the other things that are so seamless we don't notice. You are our guardian church angel!

Thank you Scott Naeseth for the outdoor fall maintenance and all the other maintenance you do that goes unnoticed! You are the best!

Thank you Michele Thornton for your diligence with trying to get our telephones to actually work. You could teach a class to TDS and Spectrum once this is complete! Thank you!

Bravo! Thank you and bravo to the Summit Spirits cast and crew. You put on a very enjoyable play. It was evident that many hours of practice and time went into the production. You should all be very proud of this accomplishment. Thank you for bringing the theater to us!

Thank you Sara Kemp, Margie Lakowske & Lynn Humphrey for sharing the cut, treat-filled "stockings" for our soup supper guests. They were delighted with your kindness!

Thank you to Dean & Ann Olson, United Methodist Women, Jerry & Laurie Hesselberg, Paul & Kay Foulke, Scott Naeseth, Margie Lakowske, Bob & Cyndi Wise, Laurie Bartholomew & Craig for the Christmas cards and gifts. You are so kind and generous. Thank you so much!

Michele Thornton

Thank you Kevin & Carolyn Lieder, the Gathering Place tree, Ron & Donna Burnham, the outdoor nativity, and John & Karen Lodico for hanging the lighted star above the front doors. Also, thanks to those who helped decorate our church for the Advent and Christmas seasons. Everything was bright and beautiful!



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 **January 7**. If you have questions or need an order form contact Michele at the church office 608-269-

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.



Records & History



Wishing everyone a Happy, Healthy New Year! Our next meeting will meet January 10 at 9:00 a.m. at Parkview in their Community Room. We will take our Committee picture then. Please let me know if you are not available and we will reschedule so all can be pictured! Thank you!

Margie Lakowske

Altar Plants



United Women in Faith (UWIF) would like to thank all those who signed up for one or more plants on one or multiple dates for 2023. The calendars for 2024 are up now. Each date has two lines for one plant per line. Plants are \$5.50 each or two for \$11.00. Plant money goes to Eileen Gajewsky, UWIF treasurer, who pays the invoice from Sparta Floral quarterly.

Call the church office if you would like one or more of these dates/spaces and Michele will add to the Altar Plant calendar in hallway.

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 UWIF,
Cathy Nichols



Pizza and a movie

night this month is **January 20** 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 Burrows at 608-343-3029 before noon on January 20 if you will be attending so we know how much pizza to order.



“I Heard the Bells”

I Heard the Bells tells the inspiring true story behind the beloved Christmas carol and its author, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. Known as America’s Poet, Henry leads an idyllic life – until the day his world is shattered by tragedy. With a nation divided by Civil War and his family torn apart, Henry puts down his pen, silenced by grief. But it’s the sound of Christmas morning that reignites the poet’s lost voice as he discovers the resounding hope of rekindled faith.

There will not be Pizza & a Movie in February

All Church Birthday Banquet!



When: Sunday January 21, 2024
(following the worship service)

Where: Fellowship Hall

Needed: Members of the congregation to volunteer to decorate a table for each month, and also to bring cake for each month. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Gathering Place.

Please join us at this event to celebrate our entire church family’s birthdays. Bring a dish to pass (this will be a brunch, so some suggestions would be: Egg Bakes, French Toast Bakes, breakfast meats {bacon, sausage patties or links, meatballs, ham}, fresh fruit or fruit salad, meat & cheese tray, a hot dish, juice, etc.), and a penny for each year of age (example: age 11 bring 11 pennies, age 55 bring 55 pennies).

There will be 12 decorated birthday cakes to sample (you might even want to bring a container to take some cake home with you). You will be asked to sit at the table for the month of your birthday and this is a great way to get to know some of the other members of our congregation, with the extra benefit of getting to know those who share your birth month!

EVERYONE IS WELCOME & ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS FUN EVENT!

Hope to see you ALL there!



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.





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, Easter and more! 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!



Photographer Wanted...



Do you enjoy taking pictures? Do you have time to spare on a Sunday following church or on an occasional evening? We are thinking about making our pictorial family church directory. Please contact me if you are interested in this endeavor. We do not have a timeline

but would like to capture our congregation and compile a directory. Thank you for considering sharing your gift of photography.



Thank you to all who have donated to Soles4Souls! We have collected 1233 pair of shoes through 2023!

CHANGING THE WORLD
ONE PAIR AT A TIME

Our hope is not in the New Year...but in the one who makes all things new.



SUMMIT Spirits will meet on Tuesday, January 2 at 6:30

The Sparta Ministerial Association will meet at noon, in the small kitchen, Wednesday, January 3.

Nurture will meet in the library, January 4 at 6 p.m.

Lois Circle will meet Tuesday, January 9 at 1 p.m., in the small kitchen.

Wesleyan Circle will meet on Tuesday, January 9 in the Gathering Place at 6:30 p.m.

Records & History will meet on Wednesday, January 10 at 9 a.m. at Parkview in their community room.

Servant Leadership Board will meet on Tuesday, January 16 at 6 p.m.

Pizza and a movie is Saturday, January 20 with pizza in the small kitchen at 6 p.m. and the movie in the chapel at 6:30 p.m.

All Church Birthday Bash! Sunday, January 21 after worship.

February *Chimes* newsletter deadline is Wednesday, January 24 by noon.

The Servant Leadership Board will have a visionary meeting on Sunday, January 28 at 10:30 a.m.



Free Organ!



Located in the hallway of the church by the Garden Room. It just needs a new cord. Yours for the taking!

Contact Margie Lakowske if you're interested!





January Anniversaries

- 03 Larry & Lynn Humphrey
- 08 Eloda & Jerry Miller
- 12 Andrea & Eric Cole
- 27 Bob & Cyndi Wise

January Birthdays

- 07 Evan Wiedemann
- 08 Shirley Fokema
- 09 Barb Zucco
- 10 Aylah Hanson
- 11 Roy Peterson
- 14 Lauren Zucco
- 15 Dennis Hanson
- 18 Mary Talsky
- 19 Dani Glut
- 20 Sara Angle
- 21 Emily Axelsen
- 21 Jackie Vaver
- 23 Pete Foss
- 24 Austin Goodenough
- 25 Mark Halverson
- 26 Rose White
- 28 Kurt Kiefer



Ushers

(Subject to change)

- 7 Kurt & Amy
- 14 Peggy, Donna & Ron
- 21 John & Karen
- 28 Russ & Tina

Tech Team

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

Liturgist

- 7 Toni Burrows
- 14 Annabelle Von Ruden
- 14 Beth Nowak
- 28 Marty Walley



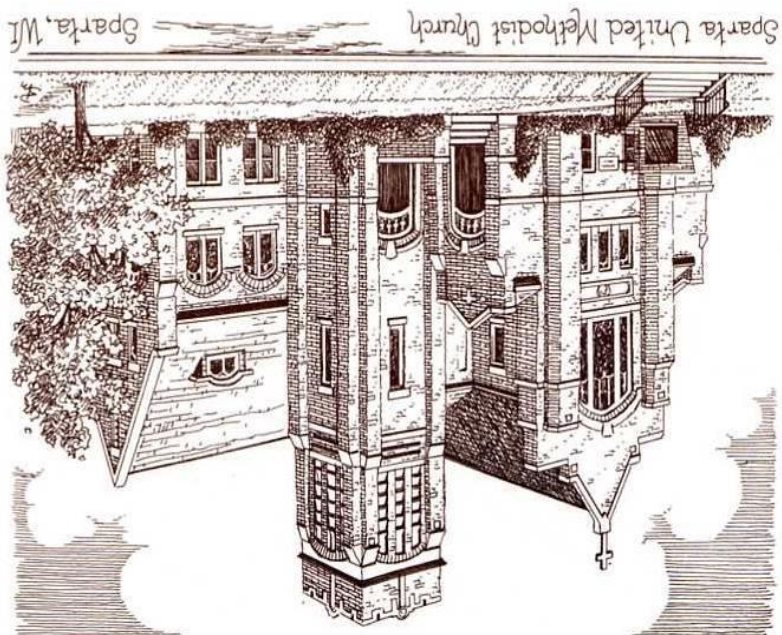
The Chimes

Sparta United Methodist Church
210 N Court Street
Sparta, WI 54656

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Prepared Especially For:



Pastor: Rev. Hae-Jeong Yoon
Pastor's Cell Phone: (415) 846-3278

Phone: (608)269-6949

Fax: (608)269-6940

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