

“The CHIMES” – June

Volume 54, No. 6

2019

Continuing the Conversation...



“You are Peter, a rock. This is the rock on which I will put together my church, a church so expansive with energy that not even the gates of hell will be able to keep it out.”—Matthew 16:18 (The Message)

“You’ve all been to the stadium and seen the athletes race. Everyone runs; one wins. Run to win. All good athletes train hard. They do it for a gold medal that tarnishes and fades. You’re after one that’s gold eternally. I don’t know about you, but I’m running hard for the finish line. I’m giving it everything I’ve got. No sloppy living for me! I’m staying alert and in top condition. I’m not going to get caught napping, telling everyone else all about it and then missing out myself.”—1 Corinthians 19:24-27 (The Message)

Over the months I have been your pastor I have talked off and on about being fruitful, especially in relation to our ministry plan. That makes sense since our ministry plan is based on the foundation of the five practices of fruitful congregations. It also makes sense because Jesus talked about fruitfulness through metaphors like the sower in Matthew 13 and the vine branches in John 15 as ways to depict the deepest, most intimate, and most God-glorifying disciples as those who “bear much fruit.”

These are nice pastoral, but somewhat passive, images of discipleship (seeds growing, vines staying connected, etc.). They are important passages, but they are not the only ones instructing us on discipleship and living as Christ’s body—the church.

The Matthew 16:18 Scripture found above, is the same theme of fruitfulness but dressed in the biblical metaphor of the church prevailing. It is a more energetic and dynamic picture of the church fulfilling God’s mission—prevailing against the gates of hell.

The Scripture from 1 Corinthians provides us with a great motivational speech from Coach Paul (a.k.a. the Apostle Paul). Paul reminds us that we are working for a win that is far more important and glorious than any earthly contests or conquests—and yes, it does involve work and training to win God’s “race.”

Congregations don’t win by sporting the largest

sanctuary any more than sports teams win by congregating in the largest stadium. Congregations and teams win by reaching the agreed upon goal. Success is achieving an intended outcome. If there aren’t clear and agreed upon mission and goals it is pretty certain that as a congregation we will not be in God’s race—forget about winning.

Research shows that many failures in ministry result from individualism, rugged or otherwise, crowding out the shared community nature of the Christian mission. Together we are infinitely more than the sum of our parts because together we are the body of Christ. Because of our status as a body, we must value the unique contribution of each individual part, and every individual needs to understand their importance and step up to use their God-given gifts, abilities, passion for the good of the body working toward God’s mission on earth. A good definition of mission here is: success in God’s church achieving the outcome God intends.

With this background in mind the ad council voted unanimously to adopt the mission of the United Methodist Church (with the addition of one word) as our own for clarity. So, the mission of Sparta United Methodist Church is to make *maturing* disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. That mission statement is easy to remember and fits well with Jesus’ commission to: *“Go out and train everyone you meet, far and near, in this way of life, marking them by baptism in the threefold name: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Then instruct them in the practice of all I have commanded you. I’ll be with you as you do this, day after day after day, right up to the end of the age”* (Matthew 28:19-20 The Message).

The ad council has also started the work of creating specific goals for our ministry plan that fit within the foundation of the five practices of fruitful congregations and our mission of making maturing disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Your elected church leadership is hard at work, prayerfully setting clear goals and noting desired outcomes and deadlines. As plans become solidified information will be shared throughout the congregation. Any time you would like to add your input or ask a question, please do so by talking with an ad council member or Pastor L.

Remember I said earlier that the goals have to be not only clear but also agreed upon for success in our specific mission for God. That doesn’t mean I think we

will ever have 100% agreement on every decision that is made. It does mean that sometimes we may have to let go of an idea that we hold dear for the greater good of the body, and compromise. It also means that your most important job is to keep all of our leadership and the ministries of this church in your prayers to: faithfully follow Jesus, to always point people to the God of love, and to bring glory to God—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—in all that we do. These are exciting times; the fields are ripe for harvest and God has called us to win for him!

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

Pastor Loretta

What about planned giving? Planned giving provides for the future of the church when you are no longer around. Have you included the church in your will or as a beneficiary to your investment accounts or life insurance? Ten percent is a good number, leaving plenty for your family.

Finally, what about special projects. Capital fundraising can support new ministry, ministry growth, new building or renovation and maintenance of existing structures. Remember the Imagine No Malaria campaign a couple of years back that raised over one million dollars?

*Jim Wells, Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation
Visit the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation at
www.wumf.org or Facebook/wumf.org
Or call 1-888-903-9863*



A New Guest Resource

If you have been in worship recently, you may have noticed the new “Welcome Guests” cards in the pews and around the sanctuary. These are meant to provide helpful information to guests. They not only have helpful directions to important common areas on the front of the card, they also have maps of the two levels of the building on the back. A big thank you goes to Scott Naeseth for drawing the maps. If you notice a guest sitting in the pew with you during worship, make sure they see the card.



Giving: Are You Giving In All The Ways You Should?

Are you giving to the church in all the ways you could or should be giving? You may be supporting this year’s budget, but what about the future of the church, missional support, and special projects? Are you providing for these as well?

I think of the church’s assets and giving as an ice-cream cone. The church’s assets such as the building, parsonage, and endowments as the cone. Essential, but not very appetizing all by themselves.

Annual budget giving is the first scoop. It is needed and provides basic support and flavor to the church. However, too often, this is where we stop thinking about supporting the church. What about other scoops?

What about missions? Mission-related giving can include apportionments (sometimes paid with the annual budget, sometimes not), conference projects, Special Sundays, UMCOR, national and international advance projects and support of individual missionaries. Are you thinking about your offering for missions this year? These are usually donations over and above what is collected for the annual budget.



NEWS RELEASE

A summer kids’ event called Roar VBS will be hosted at **First United Methodist Church** in Tomah from **June 10th to June 12th, 2019**.

At Roar, kids discover that God is good even when life gets wild! Kids participate in memorable Bible-learning activities, sing catchy songs, play teamwork-building games, make and devour yummy treats, experience one-of-a-kind Wild Bible Adventures, collect Bible Memory Buddies to remind them of God’s love, and test out Sciencey-Fun Gizmos they’ll take home and play with all summer long. Plus, kids will learn to look for evidence of God all around them through something called God Sightings. Each day concludes with the Safari Celebration that gets everyone involved in living what they’ve learned. Family members and friends are encouraged to join in daily for this special time at **7:15 p.m.**

Kids at Roar VBS will join a mission effort to provide financial support for the upcoming Tomah Area Feed My Starving Children Mobile Pack coming up on July 12-13, 2019.

Roar is for kids from Preschool (potty trained) to 5th grade and will run from **5:30 p.m. starting with dinner to 7:30 p.m. concluding with Safari Celebration** each day. For more information or to register, call **608-372-4543** or visit **tomahumc.org**.



Directory Updates:

Jessica Ortiz, 1200 River Rd, Lot 70, Sparta, WI 54656
Joel Tock, 218 North L St., Sparta, WI 54656
Ray Daley, 340 Lafayette Point Circle, Clarksville, TN 37042-3988

Stepping Up So We Can Step Out

“Give to the LORD the glory he deserves! Bring your offering and come into his courts.” (Psalm 96:8)

In the March *Chimes* you were invited to consider giving your offerings on a consistent basis because our bills come in consistently. Some of you heard that call and acted on the invitation; thank you, your efforts are beginning to make a difference. But, we are not out of the woods yet.

Looking at the numbers, it appears that we continue to run a monthly deficit that is about equal to the stipend we used to receive from The Morrow Home. That stipend stopped coming about a year ago last December. Since that time our general budget has decreased each month by about \$2,000 to cover bills. At this rate in less than a year we will be at the point of surviving week to week, hoping enough money comes in to pay the bills.

The Finance Committee and Administrative Council continue to explore ways to increase income. Since last fall we have connected with AmazonSmile as a way to raise funds for those who regularly shop online through Amazon. We finally received our first check from that endeavor; it's small, but it's a start as we remind people to use AmazonSmile. We also have been promoting the electronic giving option as a way for people to easily give on a regular basis, even when they are not able to be in worship every week. There are a few people that have begun using that option. A tag sale/bake sale have been suggested; but someone needs to step up to coordinate the effort...someone who enjoys doing that sort of thing. Other ideas have also been discussed.

Our financial struggle is not because we have an extravagant budget, but we have monthly obligations that come with property and doing ministry and there are always unforeseen expenses that come up. For instance, we had a snowier than normal winter, which increased the cost of snow removal. There are also cost of living increases that we can't control, like gas rates, electricity rates, etc.

As I pondered all of this, it seemed to be an overwhelming problem. I don't have an extra \$2,000 a month to give and I doubt that others do either. But then I remembered, none of us are in this alone. If we all committed to giving \$5 more a week we would put a huge dent in that deficit.

If you don't give anything now because you think what you could give wouldn't make a difference, I hope you can see how even \$5 a week would make a meaningful difference.

If you already give a regular gift, and can't afford \$5 more per week that is ok, your regular gift is appreciated and makes a difference. But there are probably some that could do more than \$5 a week extra; you are asked

to prayerfully consider what you can do to help bring down the deficit and bring our budget into the black.

As a congregation, we are very good at giving over and above to other missions, but we have to realize this church is also a worthy mission and if we were no longer here we would be missed deeply in the community. I hope we are doing ministry here for many generations to come.

What I am getting at is, if we all step up just a little we can easily overcome the deficit that overshadows our monthly budget and get on with the mission Jesus left us with when he said: *“I've received all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything that I've commanded you. Look, I myself will be with you every day until the end of this present age.” (Matthew 28: 18-20)*

Respectfully submitted by your Finance chair,

Paul Foulke



Bash News

What a great year! We have three 6th graders Aubrey Ebert, Craig Goodenough and Kaylee Bass, who will be joining Bella Jackson in Confirmation class next fall. What a joy they have been to teach.

I would like to thank the parents/grandparents who brought all of the kids each week for classes and to church on Sundays.

I would also like to thank the following teachers who were there each week: Betsy Tadisich and Margie Laskowske for all they did in the preschool room, Sara Blackdeer and Toni Burrows in the 1st through 6th grade room. Plus, I cannot forget to thank our helpers: Emma Blackdeer, Courtney Goodenough, Julia and Bella Jackson.

I would also like to say a special Thank You to Ellen Hemstock for sharing her music with the kids. What a blessing it has been to work with these ladies, I could not have done it without each and every one of you!! Thank You! I pray that everyone has a wonderful summer!

God's Blessings!

Lynn Humphrey
BASH Coordinator



MANY THANKS!

Thank you to Cindy Isensee for taking the lead on getting our congregation scheduled for, and even taking, their Directory pictures. Cindy went above and beyond to ensure that members were included in the new directory.

Another thank you to our Host and Hostesses for their part in our pictorial directory: Paul Foulke, Eileen Gajewsky, Maxine Gudbaur, Cheryl Isensee, Bev Laufenberg, Cathy Nichols, Julie Rodgers-Adams, Lorna Schamens and Cyndi Wise.

Thank you to Jan Hanson, too, for her assistance with our directory.

Last and very importantly, thanks to all those who took the time to be included in this new directory!

BASH Kids: Thank you all for taking the time to plant all of the wonderful flowers which you presented on Mother's Day. You are all really special people and we are so grateful for your dedication to coming to BASH! Have a great summer.

Thank you, Phyllis Christiano, for providing Records and History with more pictures of our church. We really appreciate you sharing them with us.

If anyone else has any church-related information that they would like to share we are more than willing to accept it!

Sara Kemp, you did it again! The outside planters are just gorgeous. Thank you for enhancing the outdoor beauty of our church. Maybe spring will actually stay!

Thank you to Larry Humphrey and Dean Olson for mowing the parsonage and church lawns. They look marvelous! We appreciate your hard work.



Sparta United Methodist Church,

Thank you for your generous contribution to Acres of Hope and Walk Thru the Bible. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Blessings Always,
Laurie & Tom Graber



Nurture News...

June 9th- Pentecost Sunday: If possible, please wear something "red" (reminiscent of the Holy Spirit's flame) to church that day! Also, if you'd like to

purchase a red geranium or other red flowering plant to donate for the church grounds and bring it that day, it would be greatly appreciated.

June 16th – Father's Day: The Nurture Committee will once again honor all fathers by serving sweet rolls, juice and coffee during the Fellowship Time in The Gathering Place after worship that day.



CONGRATULATIONS to our high school and college graduates:

Angelyna K. Talsky – Sparta High School

Angelyna is the daughter of Kelly Talsky, granddaughter of Mary Talsky, and great granddaughter of Ann and Dean Olson. Angelyna has already obtained her EMT license through WWTC prior to her high school graduation and will be furthering her education at the University of Oregon – Eugene to pursue a Pre-Med course of study in Human Physiology. Her goal is to be a doctor.

Marcie Fuhrmann–University of WI–Madison

Marcie is the daughter of Judy and Tim Fuhrmann. She graduated with a Master's Degree in Social Work.

Katie Jerman – Pennsylvania State University

Katie is the daughter of Beth and Pete Jerman. She graduated on December 15th, 2018 with a Master's Degree in International Affairs. In January 2019 she was hired by Lockheed Martin (located in King of Prussia, PA near Philadelphia) to work as a Multi-Financial Analyst.

Morgan Rodgers – University of WI – Milwaukee

Morgan is the daughter of Julie Adams-Rodgers and the late Ron Rodgers. She graduated with a Degree in Global Studies.

Andrew Ochoa – University of WI – Madison

Andrew is the son of Eloy and Lisa Ochoa. Andrew graduated in May 2019 and earned a B.S. in Industrial Engineering and minor in Manufacturing Engineering. He also earned a Six Sigma Green Belt. In the fall 2018 semester, Andrew and his team were awarded the Robert Ratner Award for the best overall project in the Senior Design class. Andrew made the Dean's list for 8 semesters during his time at UW-Madison. In addition to graduating, Andrew completed the ROTC program and commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the United States Army Reserves in the Quartermaster Branch. In his time in ROTC, 2LT Ochoa took part in training in Estonia, Fort Knox, Fort Bragg and Fort McCoy. He will now serve as a Platoon Leader for the 698th Quartermaster Company in Nichols, NY. He will be working at Eaton Corporation as a Manufacturing Engineer and will be relocating to Horseheads, NY. He is a 2014 graduate of Sparta High School.

Nurture News (Continued)...

SUMMIT Spirits will present “Alice In Wonderland” on August 8th -11th, 2019. There will be evening performances Thursday, Friday and Saturday, and a Sunday afternoon matinee. More details will be shared in the next newsletter.



Looking for anyone interested in playing **Hand Chimes!** It would be wonderful to hear that lovely sound again! Please call the church office if this is of interest to you. (269-6949)



Thank you:

* **Margie Lakowske and Cindy Isensee** for organizing all the photo appointments for our church’s new Pictorial Directory.

* **Lynn Humphrey, and the BASH kids and staff** for an enriching and educational year of BASH. Especially, thank you for your joyful celebration of all mothers and ladies of the church on Mother’s Day!

* **Sara Kemp** for the lovely plantings around the church. Your ‘green thumb’ is truly appreciated!



“Stay connected to God – Stay connected to others.”



Opportunities to be in Ministry

Part of being a member of a church (or even being an active friend of the church) means supporting the church through your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. For the Body of Christ—the church—to thrive all parts of the body must be working together.

What does that mean in practical terms? Besides Sunday morning worship there are many opportunities to support your church through our shared ministries. If you have a passion for any of the following ministries or have questions about how you can help, call the church office at 269-6949 for contact information on the ministry of your choice. There is a place for everyone and everyone is needed.

- **Food Pantry** – Tuesday mornings
- **Bread pickup** – on Sundays
- **Soup Supper** – Tuesday evenings: in the kitchen or in the dining room visiting with guests
- **Fellowship Time** – Sunday mornings: providing refreshments, setting up, cleaning up
- **BASH** – Wednesday evenings during the academic school year

- **Hand Chimes** – As director or in the bell choir
- **Chancel Choir** – from September thru May
- **SUMMIT Spirits** – Actors, directors, or behind the scenes
- **Youth Leader** – Middle School and/or High School age youth
- **Family Promise** – Several possible ways to serve in this ministry
- **Recording Sunday Worship Services** – for live streaming
- **Greeters and Elevator Attendants** – Sunday mornings, to be called upon as substitutes if something comes up for the scheduled people.
- **Liturgists** – Sunday mornings, sign up in The Gathering Place
- **Other opportunities, as they arise...**

This is just a sampling of the many ways you can serve in the ministry of Sparta United Methodist Church. Don’t know where you might be most needed or could be most helpful? We would love to help you identify your special gifts and talents and where you can put them to use.



Trustees Report

Work is done or progress is being made on the following items:

John Lodico will be working on finishing the trim work in the Parsonage kitchen and venting the dryer in the new laundry room. Redirecting and replacing the heat register in the kitchen has been completed. The eaves trough on the parsonage leaks by the back door. Pete Foss inspected it and determined that the roof and drip edge have to be repaired prior to installing new troughs. John Lodico will continue to look at replacing it.

Placement of handicap parking areas was discussed. Gary Ascher made a presentation at the Public Works meeting and they approved our requests. Gary shared that the city asked if the church would be interested in obtaining the outside parking area, if it was deeded to the church. After discussion, it was through a unanimous vote that we decided to decline the city’s offer. Gary Ascher will respond to the city with our decision.

Plaster is falling in the corners of the balcony ceiling in the Sanctuary. It doesn’t seem to be from moisture, so we need to look into how and when to repair. Pastor recently noticed the same situation going on in the youth room.

The ceiling leaks in “The Gathering Place” stopped after the snow melted off. Gary Ascher and John

Trustees Report (Continued)...

Lodico are going to research putting in 'crickets' to help prevent future issues.

The pop machine in the Fellowship Hall had been fixed by Pepsi and was refilled by Pete Foss. After monitoring usage over the past month, it was determined that the usage and income did not warrant the electricity needed to operate the machine. After unanimous vote, Pete will empty the machine of its contents and contact Pepsi to remove it.

Under new business, it was decided that Trustees meetings will start at 6:00 beginning in June 2019.

Trustees did a walk around the church and parsonage to make a list for spring clean-up and beautification. Pete will cut and grind out the stump behind the church. There needs to be clean up done regarding the gardens and shrubs and raking needs to be done. Mary Talsky volunteered to do some raking. Bob Nichols will get some help to do the clean-up. Dick Gajewsky will see if he can get some mulch donated. Pete will cut unwanted trees and spray to keep them from coming back in the garden areas. He will also weed (where possible) in the same areas. Eaves troughs and downspouts are causing issues with drainage at the parsonage. Pete will address the parsonage garden with Pastor Loretta and try to resolve issues with the drainage. The trim on the parsonage garage needs to be painted. The sidewalks in front of the church need attention.

There was a recommendation to put project and help needed in the Sunday bulletins to get more volunteers.

Respectfully submitted by
Pete Foss, Vice Chair

the image of the Creator. Like God we have the capacity to love and care, to communicate, and to create.

The church is the body of Christ, an extension of Christ's life and ministry in the world today.

We believe that the **Bible** is God's Word and is the primary authority for our faith and practice.

God's kingdom or the **reign of God** is both a present reality and future hope.

Our Distinctive Wesleyan Heritage

Wesley and the early Methodists were particularly concerned about inviting people to experience God's grace and to grow in their knowledge and love of God through disciplined Christian living. They placed primary emphasis on Christian living, on putting faith and love into action. This emphasis on what Wesley referred to as "practical divinity" has continued to be a hallmark of United Methodism today.

The distinctive shape of our theological heritage can be seen not only in this emphasis on Christian living, but also in Wesley's distinctive understanding of God's saving grace. Although Wesley shared with many other Christians a belief in salvation by grace, he combined them in a powerful way to create distinctive emphases for living the full Christian life.

Grace is central to our understanding of Christian faith and life. Grace can be defined as the love and mercy given to us by God because God wants us to have it, not because of anything we have done to earn it. We read in the Letter to the Ephesians: "*For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God — not the result of works, so that no one may boast*" (Ephesians 2:8-9).

John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement, described God's grace as threefold: prevenient, justifying, and sanctifying.

Prevenient Grace: Wesley understood grace as God's active presence in our lives. This presence is not dependent on human actions or human response. It is a gift — a gift that is always available, but that can be refused.

God's grace stirs up within us a desire to know God and empowers us to respond to God's invitation to be in relationship with God. God's grace enables us to discern differences between good and evil and makes it possible for us to choose good...God takes the initiative in relating to humanity. We do not have to beg and plead for God's love and grace. God actively seeks us!

Justifying Grace: Through the work of God in Christ our sins are forgiven, and our relationship with God is restored. According to John Wesley, founder of the Methodist movement, the image of God — which has been distorted by sin — is renewed within us through Christ's death. This process of salvation involves a change in us that we call conversion. Conversion is a



United Methodism 101

What does it mean to be a United Methodist? First of all, United Methodists share a common heritage with all Christians. According to our foundational statement of beliefs in *The Book of Discipline*, we share the following basic affirmations in common with all Christian communities:

God, who is one, is revealed in three distinct persons.

We believe in the mystery of salvation through **Jesus Christ**. God became human in Jesus of Nazareth; and his life, death and resurrection demonstrates God's redeeming love.

The **Holy Spirit** is God's present activity in our midst. When we sense God's leading, God's challenge, or God's support or comfort, it's the Holy Spirit at work.

Genesis 1:27 asserts that **human beings** are made in

United Methodism 101 (Continued)

turning around, leaving one orientation for another. It may be sudden and dramatic, or gradual and cumulative. But in any case, it's a new beginning. John Wesley called this process justification.

Justification is what happens when Christians abandon all those futile attempts to justify themselves before God, to be seen as "just" in God's eyes through religious and moral practices. It's a time when God's "justifying grace" is experienced and accepted, a time of pardon and forgiveness, of new peace and joy and love. Indeed, we're justified by God's grace through faith.

Justification is also a time of repentance — turning away from behaviors rooted in sin and toward actions that express God's love. In this conversion we can expect to receive assurance of our present salvation through the Holy Spirit "*bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God*" (Romans 8:16).

Sanctifying Grace: Salvation is not a static, one-time event in our lives. It is the ongoing experience of God's gracious presence transforming us into whom God intends us to be. John Wesley described this dimension of God's grace as sanctification, or holiness.

Through God's sanctifying grace, we grow and mature in our ability to live as Jesus lived. As we pray, study the Scriptures, fast, worship, and share in fellowship with other Christians, we deepen our knowledge of and love for God. As we respond with compassion to human need and work for justice in our communities, we strengthen our capacity to love our neighbors. Our inner thoughts and motives, as well as our outer actions and behavior, are aligned with God's will and testify to our union with God.

We're to press on, with God's help, in the path of sanctification toward perfection. By **perfection**, Wesley did not mean that we would not make mistakes or have weaknesses. Rather, he understood it to be a continual process of being made perfect in our love of God and each other and of removing our desire to sin.

Faith and Good Works: United Methodists insist that faith and good works belong together. What we believe must be confirmed by what we do. Personal salvation must be expressed in ministry and mission in the world. We believe that Christian doctrine and Christian ethics are inseparable, that faith should inspire service. The integration of personal piety and social holiness has been a hallmark of our tradition. We affirm the biblical precept that "*faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead*" (James 2:17).

Mission and Service: Because of what God has done for us, we offer our lives back to God through a life of service. As disciples, we become active participants in God's activity in the world through

mission and service. Love of God is always linked to love of neighbor and to a passionate commitment to seeking justice and renewal in the world.

Nurture and Mission of the Church: For Wesley, there was no religion but social religion, no holiness but social holiness. In other words, faith always includes a social dimension. One cannot be a solitary Christian. As we grow in faith through our participation in the church community, we are also nourished and equipped for mission and service to the world.

"From Wesley's time to the present, Methodism has sought to be both a nurturing community and a servant community. Members of Methodist Societies and class meetings met for personal nurture through giving to the poor, visiting the imprisoned, and working for justice and peace in the community. They sought not only to receive the fullness of God's grace for themselves; but...they saw themselves as existing 'to reform the nation...and to spread scriptural holiness over the land.'"



Our Deepest Sympathy to:

The family and friends of Donald "Don-Burnie" Burnham (brother of Ron & Donna), for the loss of "Don-Burnie".

The family and friends of Lewis Andringa, for the loss of Lewis.



We welcome into our Christian Fellowship through the Sacrament of Baptism:

Mother and daughter, Jessica Nicole (Walters) Wiedemann and Emma Rose Wiedemann, daughter of Jessica Nicole (Walters) and Evan David Wiedemann.



Make this Father's Day extra special

Find the perfect gift at smile.amazon.com and Amazon donates.

You shop. Amazon donates.

[amazon smile](https://smile.amazon.com)

The advertisement features a smartphone displaying the Amazon Smile app interface, a pair of brown leather boots, and a wooden comb with a brush, set against a light blue background with a yellow sunburst graphic.

Just go to the smile.amazon.com site, put Sparta United Methodist Church into the search area and several choices will come up. Be sure to select the Sparta, WI option and then continue shopping. Or you can go directly to our support page by entering the link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/39-6026139>. Thank You!