

# “The CHIMES” – May

Volume 54, No. 5

2019

## Continuing the Conversation...



*“Come, follow me,” [Jesus] said, “and I’ll show you how to fish for people.” Right away, they left their nets and followed him.*

—Mark 1:17-18

*Jesus came near and spoke to them, “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

As a young Christian I was touched by Jesus’ call stories of “follow me.” I can’t say I was as quick as the first disciples to immediately drop everything and follow Jesus, but I was willing to follow. And I really wanted to get better at following...I just wasn’t quite sure how to do that. Looking back I can see I had so much to learn and I didn’t have the right tools or focus in my attempts at following Jesus.

At that point in my life I attended worship fairly regularly, I taught various age groups of Sunday school, I listened to several radio pastors (some giving conflicting messages), I tried to attend Bible studies when they were offered, I helped in the church kitchen and with fundraisers as I could. And I did begin to learn—although not all of it was positive.

I was very haphazard in my attempts to follow. I was flitting about from this to that and wondering why I didn’t seem to be growing much as a disciple—one who follows. Even after growing in my relationship with God enough to discern the further call, “go, and make disciples,” I have continued to struggle with just how to do this.

When I had the opportunity to participate in the Institute for Congregational Development (ICD) I came to realize that an important element missing from my desire to more faithfully follow Jesus and to go and make disciples was intentionality in all that I do. Without intentionality and clear and focused goals it is too easy to get carried away, pulled this way and that, by too many seemingly good opportunities.

I have been in conversation with our Staff/Pastor Parish Relations Committee and our Ad Council chair, Toni Burrows, and many others about our need for focus and intentionality in planning our ministries. Other members have shared how they have heard this same message of a need for intentionality and focus through other venues. The Holy Spirit is moving and we are paying attention.

Some things that have come out of these discussions that I find really exciting are: first, Toni has begun a discussion with Ad Council members about updating our ministry plan. The initial plan gives us a good foundation and there were many positive changes that came about through this plan. Members at our most recent meeting were sent home with a copy of that plan and asked to prayerfully and intentionally review it and then come back next month ready to share ideas on where we go next to become a growing and more vibrant church. I asked people to consider how their ideas could be SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-based) goals. That way we have intentional goals we can work toward and not just wishes. I am very excited for our next meeting!

Another exciting outcome of these conversations is that our S/PPRC chair, John Lodico, recommended to the Ad Council that we pursue learning more and moving toward an Accountable Leadership model instead of our current committee and board structure of church leadership. There is still much to learn, but the short story is the Accountable Leadership model cuts down on committees and meetings, saving on our human resources and time spent in multiple meetings. I am not against committees and meetings per se, but I think it is wise to be very intentional in how we use our time when so many things already compete for our limited time. After hearing John’s summary, a motion was made, seconded, and approved unanimously to move forward with exploration. I will be attending an information session at annual conference in June and in the meantime begin reading information I received from a colleague who is leading his church through this change.

Finally, I caught Lynn Humphrey’s excitement as she gave a brief report on a lay servant class she attended on prayer. A big take away I got from Lynn went back again to intentionality. She experienced some

great discussion on being intentional in prayer and just what that might look like in our congregation. Prayer is such an important part of our ministry together it only makes sense that it should be intentional and specific. I cannot wait to talk to her more and see where God leads us as a church in this aspect of our ministry together!

These are just three recent examples of fruitful conversations I have enjoyed. I cannot wait to see where we go from here and I look forward to hearing from you. If you were not at the last Ad Council meeting and would like to be part of the conversation on our ministry plan, please stop in my office and pick up a copy of the old ministry plan for review and input. You are all such an important part of this process of becoming maturing disciples and making maturing disciples because you—this Body of Christ—have unique gifts and stories of who you are in relation to God and how we do ministry together. Your story needs to be recognized and honored as we invite others to join us on this discipleship adventure. I am very excited about this opportunity we have to grow together and share with others.

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



## Congregational Connections

I hope you enjoyed reading in last month's issue what those who shared had to say about their love of this congregation and why this church is important to them.

This month we are featuring a variety of members, some who are still able to be active in church activities and some who are not able to get out and join us because of changed life circumstances. I appreciate their willingness to share here and keep our connection alive and well. Please consider sharing your story here to help keep us all connected.

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Vivian Webster was born on September 20<sup>th</sup>, 1920. She was married in 1940 and was married for 46 years. Her husband passed away in 1986.

Vivian never worked away from home. She and her husband had one daughter, but she has now been blessed with 3 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren!

Vivian has been living at the Morrow Home for a few years and has not been able to attend church in quite a while. She goes to exercise class every morning and keeps busy with many other personal interests and activities. Her favorite activity is playing cards, but she



also likes to do 'fancywork' embroidery, read short stories and watch TV.

Vivian says she has no complaints about her life at the Morrow Home. She says the staff is very good to her, the food is good and she gets plenty of it!

At the end of their visit, she shared with Beth Nowak that she is very grateful for her visits. It's a wonderful way for us to keep a strong connection in place with our members who are no longer able to attend weekly services.

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Why do I attend Sparta United Methodist Church? I don't believe that I can answer that question. It's more of how I feel if I don't attend church on a Sunday. When I miss a Sunday service, I feel like something is missing in my life. I guess I just don't feel quite whole that week.

In addition, I do so enjoy my church family. The feeling of belonging to a group bigger than myself feels so good. I know that if I need support, I just need to reach out and whatever is needed, is there for me. I feel so blessed to be part of SUMC.

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—Cindy Isensee, member



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Nancy Hendricks was born on May 9<sup>th</sup>, 1936. She and her husband, David Hendricks, were married on September 16<sup>th</sup>, 1953. They celebrated their 66<sup>th</sup> anniversary last year and are well on their way to celebrating 67 years of marriage. They have one daughter (Jill), who lives in Coughlin and two grandsons.

Nancy has a long history with the United Methodist Church. While growing up she attended the Cataract United Methodist Church and sang in their church choir. At just 16 years old she became their Sunday School Superintendent and also taught Vacation Bible School.

When she began attending Sparta United Methodist Church she also got involved in many different ways. She said she did a lot of decorating at the church in the past and really enjoyed doing it. She was also a Sunday School teacher and taught 1<sup>st</sup> grade classes for 5 or 6 years. She later taught 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades for a few years and was involved in the youth activities.

Nancy said it has been a while since she attended a service here at SUMC. She wants to, but it is very hard to do.

Nancy keeps busy with sewing, reading and other artistic endeavors.

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(Congregational Connections is continued)

## Congregational Connections *(Continued)*

What does the United Methodist Church mean to me? Forty-seven years ago I became a Methodist through marriage to my wife Sara. We came to church almost every Sunday, but I was not involved in any committees or leadership positions for many years. I think I was in my late thirties before I got interested and found myself on committees and volunteering for other work around the church.

Now I just feel blessed with all the friends I have made at Sparta UMC over the years. I hope I have many more years to come to serve this church.

God Bless ALL of us! See you around...hopefully at church!  
—David P. Kemp III, member



### God Loves a Cheerful Giver

*“Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.”*  
(2 Corinthians 9:7-8)

The apostle Paul reminds us of the Law of the Harvest: “whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.” How simple is that. Each year, every farmer has the same choice. Consume all the seed as food or give some back to the soil to ensure next year’s harvest.

And the same is true with the spiritual harvest where our seeds are our good works, financial giving, prayers, study, service, and worship. If one’s return is determined by his or her investment, then no farmer would sow sparingly or haphazardly and expect a beautiful, bountiful harvest. And neither should we.

The Law of Spirituality is as certain as the law of nature: When we live in the world of the flesh, we are tempted to withhold from God and withdraw from helping others. When we feel God’s abundance, however, we know and experience a bountiful return.

Additionally, God does not value gifts given reluctantly or under compulsion. We feel loved by God every day when we receive God’s gifts, of life and food and family and work, or at least we should. But, does God feel loved when he receives our gifts? Or, is he offended by the spirit in which they are given? That is what it means to be a cheerful giver. We give because we love the recipient.

Jim Wells, Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation  
Visit the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation at  
[www.wumf.org](http://www.wumf.org) or Facebook/wumf.org  
or call 1-888-903-9863

## Benefits of Family Dinners

Our belief in the “magic” of family dinners is grounded in research on the physical, mental and emotional benefits of regular family meals. Some of the specific benefits of family dinners are:

- ✓ Better academic performance
- ✓ Higher self-esteem
- ✓ Greater sense of resilience
- ✓ Lower risk of substance abuse
- ✓ Lower risk of teen pregnancy
- ✓ Lower risk of depression
- ✓ Lower likelihood of developing eating disorders
- ✓ Lower rates of obesity

Dinner is the most reliable way for families to connect and find out what’s going on with each other. In a survey, American teens were asked when they were most likely to talk with their parents: dinner was their top answer. Kids who eat dinner with their parents experience less stress and have a better relationship with them. This daily mealtime connection is like a seat belt for traveling the potholed road of childhood and adolescence and all its possible risky behaviors.

AND...food is always a blessing. When we have food on the table to feed our family and friends, that’s a big blessing from the Lord. It is important to always remember Him before eating, to show thanks and appreciation for His provision. Thank You!

Priscilla Hemmersbach, RN, Parish Nurse



### BASH News:

What an amazing year we are having, with only a few weeks left we will be busy getting everything finished up. Thank you, Craig and Austin Goodenough, for singing in church on April 14<sup>th</sup>. Thank you Ellen for all that you have done this year for the BASH Kids.

We have a lot of things happening:

- We are working on a Rooster Project for the Maundy Thursday Service.
- We are coloring coffee filters with washable markers and then putting drops of water on them to create a tie dye effect. When they dry we will be folding to make a butterfly.
- Putting together Kid’ Kits for Annual Conference
- Pizza and movie night on May 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Planting flowers for Mother’s Day
- On Mother’s Day, May 12<sup>th</sup>, we will be having BASH & Teacher Appreciation Sunday! Please mark your calendars.
- May 15<sup>th</sup> will be our last night for BASH until next fall.

We wish you all a happy and safe summer! God loves each and every one of you. GOD IS GOOD!

Lynn Humphrey, Bash Coordinator



## In Appreciation...

Thank you all for your kind thoughts, prayers and cards during my recovery. Dave Kemp

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THANK YOU to Lynn and Larry Humphrey for the new curtains, tables and bookcases in the BASH Classrooms. It was such a thoughtful gift.

You two feed our hearts, minds, souls and tummies. Thank you! Your BASH Family

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## Nurture News...

Submitted by Cyndi Wise, Nurture Chair

The 40 Days of Lent—the days of Holy Week—and finally, Easter—the day of Resurrection! Thank you, for your faithful participation and prayers as we journeyed together to glorify our Savior, Jesus Christ, who fills our lives with love, forgiveness and HOPE!

**May 12<sup>th</sup> – Mother’s Day:** The BASH kids will sing and hand out flowers.

*“Beautiful things in this life are manifold ‘tis true,  
We count the stars by thousands, the birds and flowers, too;  
The sunsets and the dawns are beauties far and near,  
But all the wide world over, there’s just one Mother Dear.”*

**May 19<sup>th</sup> – Honoring Our High School & College Graduates:** Please contact the Church Office with the names of High School and College Graduates in your family. For High School grads, we’d like to know what school they are graduating from and what their plans are for the future. In the case of College grads, we’d like to know where they are graduating from and with what degree(s). If they have already obtained employment in their field of study, we’d like to honor them for that accomplishment, too. *Contact Jan Hanson, our Office Manager, at 269-6949 by Tuesday, May 14<sup>th</sup> so your student can be listed and honored in the May 19<sup>th</sup> bulletin.*

**May 26<sup>th</sup> – “Honor Our Fallen Military”**

**June 9<sup>th</sup> – 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 for the church grounds, it would be appreciated.

**June 16<sup>th</sup> – Father’s Day:** The Nurture Committee will once again be serving sweet rolls, juice and coffee during Fellowship Time after Worship.

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**Thank you,** Larry and Lynn Humphrey, for donating new curtains, tables and bookcases for our classrooms. **So very generous of you!**

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The Nurture Committee’s **May meeting date has been changed from Thursday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> to Thursday, May 9<sup>th</sup>** because of Pictorial Directory photo appointments.

If anyone in our congregation has not yet made an appointment for a photo to be taken and included in our new pictorial directory, time is running out! There are still some openings available April 30<sup>th</sup> through May 4<sup>th</sup>. Call Cindy Isensee at 487-5859 to get scheduled.

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## Trustees Report...

There are several projects that still need to be completed after the Parsonage renovations. John Lodico will be finishing the trim work in the kitchen and venting the dryer in the new laundry room. Pastor Loretta thanked John for fixing a curtain rod. Lanny Deiters is scheduled to redirect and replace a heat register in the parsonage kitchen on April 16<sup>th</sup>.

The Trustees will do a walk around the church and parsonage at the May meeting to assess our needs for spring clean-up and beautification. After the outside needs are listed, we will try to schedule work days or evenings and ask for volunteers to handle specific projects.

Placement of handicap parking areas was discussed and all were in agreement that spaces on each side of the west entrance be requested. Pete Foss has contacted the city (Mark Van Wormer) and will get pictures and descriptions created. Pete and/or Gary Ascher will make a presentation at the Public Works meeting as soon as possible.

Plaster is falling in corners of the Balcony ceiling in the Sanctuary and it doesn’t seem to be from moisture. We need to look into how/when this can be repaired. Pastor recently noticed the same problem in the Youth Room.

The ceiling leaks in The Gathering Place have stopped with the melting of the snow off the roof. Gary Ascher is going to contact a contractor to look at it.

The porch roof on the parsonage needs to be fixed and the eaves trough above the parsonage’s back door leaks. Trustees will address the porch roof and Pete Foss will fix the eaves trough when the weather is better.

The pop machine in Fellowship Hall is freezing up. Pete Foss called Pepsi and they will send a repair person to fix or replace the machine.

## Administrative Church Council Report

John reported that Dave Kemp has been out due to an illness. Pete Foss and John Lodico have been stepping in to cover for him. Council was asked to keep Dave in their prayers for a speedy recovery.

Paul Foulke reported that offerings have been decent, with a check book balance of \$14,373. Lenten offerings have raised \$1600 for the Ecumenical Food Pantry so far. The Finance committee did not meet in April. The Stewardship Task Force will meet on May 16<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00pm. The church received a thank you from the conference for apportionments paid.

John reported that the Staff Pastor Parish Relations Committee (SPPRC) has been looking into the Accountable Leadership Plan. The committee would like to move forward in exploring the One Board Plan. This Plan would combine Finance, Trustee, SPPRC, and the At-Large Church Council all into one Board. It was decided to further study the Accountable Leadership Plan.

Margie Lakowske reported that the Membership Committee is working on updating the church membership. They have found that some folks have fallen through the cracks over the years. Pastor Loretta has sent out 40 letters to introduce herself and ask for feedback or to share a memory. Pastor Loretta has not yet heard back from any of the letters she sent out.

Margie Lakowske also reminded us that the UMW Salad Luncheon will be Thursday, April 25<sup>th</sup> from 11am to 1 pm.

Lynn Humphrey reported that she and Larry had purchase some new furniture to update two of the classrooms. The BASH kids will be singing on May 12<sup>th</sup> and will be handing out flowers to mother's on Mother's Day. On April 24<sup>th</sup> the BASH kids will be packing hygiene kits for kids so Pastor Loretta can take them to Annual Conference. The last night of BASH for this academic year will be May 15<sup>th</sup>.

Margie Lakowske reported that the History & Records Committee met on April 17<sup>th</sup>. She shared that on May 5<sup>th</sup> there will be an insert in the bulletin on the History of the Parsonage.

Pictorial directory sign-up is going well, but there is a need for volunteers to serve as host/hostess on April 30<sup>th</sup> from 3:30 to 6:30 and on May 4<sup>th</sup> from 1:30-5:30pm. Margie said these shifts could be broken up and done by several people, if needed. Cindy Isensee has been doing a wonderful job getting people signed up for pictures.

Cyndi Wise was unable to attend the meeting, but sent in a report. She wanted to thank Lynn and Larry Humphrey for their purchase of the new curtains, 2 round tables, 2 small tables, and 2 bookcases for the BASH classrooms. Cyndi also thanked everyone for

faithful participation during the Lenten Season and Holy Week.

Paul Foulke reported that the Mission Outreach Committee received money to purchase supplies for the Annual Conference Kits. The church has also been asked to donate \$300 for the Walk through the Bible event to be held at Sparrows Nest. This committee will meet to approve payment of that request through Mission funds. Bev Donahue, Church Treasurer, reported that there was some money sitting in the Global Missions account and wants to know where it was supposed to go.

Pastor Loretta shared that the "24 Hours that Changed the World" Lenten Service is now finished. The Noon Ecumenical Luncheons and Devotions were well attended and very interesting.

There will be a Maundy Thursday Service on April 18<sup>th</sup> at 7pm and on Good Friday there will be a Prayer Walk ending at the Funeral Home. On May 17<sup>th</sup> she will be doing a Quarterly Memorial Service at the Morrow Home. On May 19<sup>th</sup> she will be doing an infant and mother baptism and on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month she will be doing a communion service at the Morrow Home. She has also been speaking with 2 people who want to become members and a young couple about getting married.

Priscilla Hemmersbach reported that the Health Ministry will be highlighting shut-ins in the upcoming issues of *The Chimes*. These will be included in the Congregational Connections articles. She and the rest of the Health Ministry Team have been doing a lot of visits. She has been visiting and will be giving Sarah Johnson a prayer shawl. Priscilla has been doing Quarterly Memorial Services out at Rolling Hills.

A Pizza and a Movie night has been scheduled for April 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm.

There was discussion about the "Simple Church". Pastor Loretta handed out an old 4 Year Ministry Plan and challenged the committee to read it over and come back with new ministry goals. At next month's meeting the group will choose goals they feel are priorities and set a time frame in order to accomplish them.

Toni Burrows talked about the Evangelism Seminar she attended where Rev. Randy Larson was the speaker. She came back with some good ideas that she will be sharing.

Pastor Loretta handed out a list of "50 ways to Welcome New People" and asked us to read through it as we consider our ministry goals.

Lynn shared her thoughts about trying Intentional Prayers for the church's needs.

## Summer Volunteers in Mission Trip



If anyone is interested in going on this Volunteers in Mission trip to United Methodist Children's Services in Milwaukee during July 29 –

**August 2, 2019 please talk to Pastor Loretta about registering as soon as possible.**

Pastor has been on this trip twice in the past and found it a very worthwhile experience. If you have questions or are interested in going talk to Pastor as soon as possible so she can answer questions and discuss registration and carpooling if you decide to go.

This will be a return trip by VIM to a very worthy agency on the front line of efforts to deal with folks with major life issues relating to poverty and lack of basic life opportunities. This is always a rewarding trip as the agency has been in existence and grown in service for years and is very dynamic in the community there. There is a variety of jobs to be done depending on your physical ability and skill level. This will be an adult/youth trip.

The United Methodist Children's Services is located in the Washington Park area of Milwaukee. The Washington Park Neighborhood is one rich with history. A community that came to be through the development of both a city park and industrial growth, Washington Park carries a legacy of a diverse community of people from all walks of life, with the city park as a cornerstone of the community.

But Washington Park faces challenges too, and they are ones that reflect many other parts of the city of Milwaukee. With an unemployment rate of over 15%, and almost 50% of the population living below the poverty line, families in this neighborhood struggle with finding a sense of stability and hope.

The **cost is \$150 (\$30/day)** which includes your meals and lodging (in the past we have stayed in a large church and slept on cots or air mattresses that we bring. Daily rate and daily participation will be encouraged as well.

A three day minimum participation is suggested. Deposit of \$30 is due with your registration form as soon as possible. Final payments are **due by July 15, 2019**. Checks should be made out to WAC/VIM Camp.

**The trip leader is Bruce Koch**, 1560 Meadowlark Ln., Prairie du Sac, WI 53578, phone: 608-643-3962; cell: 608-370-2083. **Trip Leader /Registrar is Jeff Virchow**, 1535 Meadowlark Ln., Prairie du Sac, WI 53578, phone: 608-393-3991. Registration forms can be found at: <https://wisconsinumc.org/ministries/outreach-service/volunteers-in-mission/forms-reports> or in the church office.

## Simple Giving Opportunity

**Forgot to bring your offering envelope or check to worship? Don't carry cash anymore? Looking for a more convenient way to support the ministry of your church?**

You can keep consistent stewardship, even if you can't always be in church or are used to taking care of your finances online, by signing up with: [members.myEofferings.com](http://members.myEofferings.com).

The process is simple. It is also safe (it uses the latest encryption technologies to protect your private information). Giving through [members.myEofferings.com](http://members.myEofferings.com) also puts all your offering numbers at your fingertips so you can easily print receipts, track pledges, and print reports for your taxes with one click. If you try [members.myEofferings.com](http://members.myEofferings.com) and decide it just isn't for you, it is also easy to stop. If you are interested in checking this out Pastor L has simple step-by-step instructions.

If you choose to give electronically, there are "Electronic Giving" cards available in the sanctuary that you can drop in the offering plate as it is passed. That way you are not left out of that important part of worship and your gifts are also prayed over and dedicated to God.



### A Reminder....

You and your family are important to our church and we want to stay connected. Please let the Church Office know of any address changes, email address changes, phone number changes, marriages, births, etc. so that we can keep our church records up to date! Some of these things you can update by simply filling in your information on the Sunday attendance pads and indicating that it is "New"! You can also call the Office Manager, Jan Hanson, at 269-6949 to bring any changes to our attention.

We want to be able to celebrate the joyous occasions in your family's life (marriages, births, graduations..) and lift your needs to the Lord in prayer, encourage and support you during troubling or difficult times (illness, death, divorce...), so please call to share your important life events, too. Some of these things are also important to record in the church membership records.

Call and let us know as soon as possible when any members of our congregation become hospitalized or homebound so that Pastor can arrange to visit. In addition, let us know if you have any prayer requests for yourself or others that you'd like to put on our prayer chain or prayer list. Help us be of assistance to you in any way that we are able.

Thank You!

## April 2019 General Budget Contributions/Expenses

Date	Revenue*	Expenses
4/07/2019	3,980.50	3,605.46
4/14/2019	2896.50	4,209.08
4/21/2019	2,627.10	2,513.91
4/28/2019	<i>Not yet available</i>	<i>Not yet available</i>

\*\$3,895.73 is necessary every week to meet annual budget.



### Creating a Culture of Permanent Growth

Over the course of the last three years, the conference has provided the opportunity to laity and pastors for a year-long leadership development opportunity known as the Institute of Congregational Development (ICD). Participants learned from prominent pastors, authors, coaches, and consultants from across the nation, and from each other as they were stretched out of their comfort zones.

This year, while ICD is on hiatus, the New Ministries Strategy Board and the office of Congregational Development are offering four follow-up events to graduates of ICD. These training events are also open to other clergy and laity with passion for starting new ministries. The trainers will be provided by Discipleship Ministries and Path 1.

**May 7, 2019: Strategies and Strengths Discovery Day for Planting New Ministries** - Participants will be introduced to the Change Your Ministry Pastoral Assessment which looks at key areas of ministry grouped around church, culture, and change. They will discover their preferred role for innovation, learn about creating a healthy leadership team, and focus on the skills and leadership styles best suited for creating new faith communities.

**Location:** Madison Bashford UMC

**Time:** 9 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

**Registration:** \$30, which includes the *Change Your Ministry Pastoral Assessment Workbook* created by Craig Kenneth Miller

Register at: <https://www.etches.com/ssdd2019>

**July 9-10, 2019: First Twelve** - The first 12 people to join you starting a new ministry, new church, or new faith community will set the tone and shape for the future, set the pattern for replicating leadership, and begin a cascade of invitation. Finding those first 12 is key to growth. This two-day training is designed to help you gather and grow the first 12 committed, core people.

**Location:** Tomah First UMC

**Time:** starts July 9 at 9 a.m. and ends July 10 at 4 p.m.

**Registration:** \$30

**Register at:** <https://tinyurl.com/firsttwelve2019>

**Sept. 17-18, 2019: Pioneering Missional Communities** - This is a training event for leaders and teams planting

new faith communities. Pioneering Missional Communities is especially focused on planting teams looking at a missional community, spiritual entrepreneurship fresh expressions, and asset based community development models of church planting.

**Location:** Neenah Faith UMC

**Time:** starts September 17 at 9 a.m. and ends September 18 at 4 p.m.

**Register at:** <https://tinyurl.com/pioneering2019>

**November 12-13, 2019: Launchpad** - In an effort to provide training reflective of planting experiences with more missional approaches, we offer a year-long process for planters and their teams called Launchpad. These events mark the beginning of the process. During training planter leaders and their teams will sketch out ministry plans for the next nine months, considering both attractional and missional ministry elements. Subjects covered will include theology and call, affinity groups, vision-casting, best practices, community networking, bonding with the mission field, fund raising, self and family care, and how to hold effective meetings one-on-one or with a group.

**Location:** Verona Sugar Rivers UMC

**Time:** starts November 12 at 9 a.m. and ends November 13 at 4 p.m.

**Registration:** \$30

**Register at:** <https://tinyurl.com/launchpad2019>



### Our Deepest Sympathy To:

The family and friends of Roger Ebert (brother of Merlin & Ruth Ebert), for the loss of Roger.

The family and friends of Eveline "Eve" Heitzman, for the loss of Eve.

The family and friends of Phillip "Randy" Harris, for the loss of Randy.



### Directory Updates:

**Robert Olson**, 503 S Water St, Rm 202, Sparta, WI 54656

**Gary Underland**, 639 W River Dr, New London, MN 56273-8519

**Brittany & Brandon Burnham**, 127 W Montgomery St, Sparta, WI 54656

**Lisa Erickson**, 9823 Impala Ave, Sparta, WI 54656

**Nicole & Rance Jacobs**, 216 View St, Tomah, WI 54660

**Joel Miller**, 4255 Summer Landing Dr, Apt 202, Lakeland, FL 33810

**Nathan Miller**, 6319 Scott Ave N, Brooklyn Center, MN 55429

**Jason Moore**, 111 28<sup>th</sup> Street South, La Crosse, WI 54601

**Holly Pike**, 214 Gebhardt Rd, Black River Falls, WI 54615