

“The CHIMES” – April

Volume 59, No. 4

2024

God's Joy in Generosity



Hello friends,

After the Faith Lift of the first weekend of April, we enter the One Step Stewardship Campaign. We know that generous giving talks about our discipleship and spirituality. It is far more than that! It is something about joy God provides for God's people. Why don't we check with that joy in the Bible?

In 2 Corinthians 8–9, Paul encourages and exhorts the Corinthian Christians to contribute generously to the relief of the suffering believers in Jerusalem. As he does, he describes how God's beautiful economy of grace works to produce a wealth of joy.

He starts by pointing to the grace of God clearly evident in the Macedonian Christians. These believers were living in extreme poverty, and yet they experienced an abundance of joy in being redeemed by Christ, which overflowed in a wealth of generosity in their contribution to the poor in Jerusalem. Then Paul points the Corinthians directly to the grace that Jesus showed them when, “though he was rich, yet for their sake he became poor, so that they by his poverty might become rich”. Then Paul describes how the contribution the Corinthians give will not only supply the needs of the saints but also overflow in many thanksgivings to God.

In other words, this is how God's economy of grace works to produce a wealth of joy for everyone involved: the grace of Jesus overflows in his incredible generosity to redeem and give eternal joy to the Corinthian believers. This grace experienced by the Corinthians and Macedonians produces in them an abundance of joy that overflows in their generous giving to meet the needs of the Jerusalem saints, which also produces joy for them since it is more blessed to give than to receive. This grace of provision produces in the Jerusalem saints an abundance of joy that overflows in thanksgivings to God, not only for his provision, but also for the

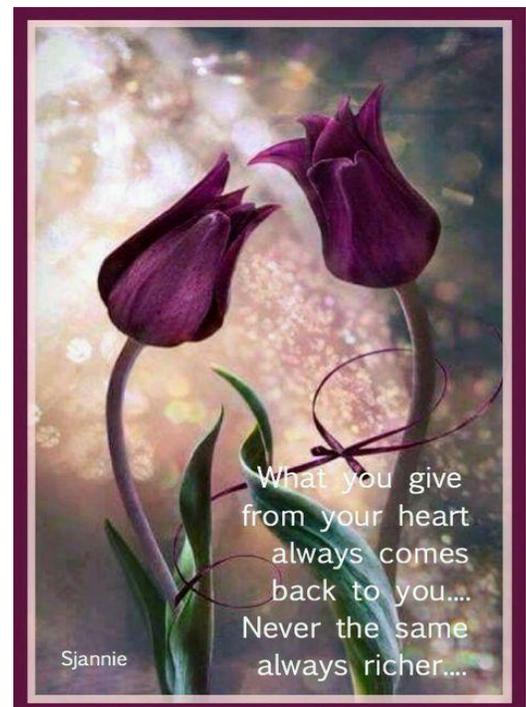
surpassing grace of God evident in the Corinthians. And this whole economic cycle of grace glorifies God, the Source of all grace.

Over and over again, God's grace produces joy, which then produces generosity, which then produces joyful thanksgiving and praise back to God. This is God's wonderful kingdom economy, where the true riches of grace and joy are the returns of generous giving to meet the needs of others. Paul wants the Corinthians and us to have as much joy in God as possible, so he's exhorting them to invest in order to see that return.

In God's gracious economy of joy, we don't need to fear running out of grace and joy. Paul wants us to know that if we trust God and invest well in generous giving to meet the needs of others, God will supply every need according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

Grace and Joy,

Pastor Hae-Jeong



April Memory Verse

"Wealth and honor come from You; You are the ruler of all things. In Your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all."

1 Chronicles 29:12

Saturday, April 6

10am-12N – "Under the Cross" Luke 14:27

Continental Breakfast will be offered at 930am

Praise Band will be offering music.

5:30pm-6:30pm - FREE Meatball Supper will be served by SLB members – RSVP by April 1.

6:30pm-8:30pm – "From Egypt to Canaan" Deut. 6:23. Praise Band will be offering music.

Sunday, April 7

9am-10am – Dr. Hong will lead our worship service. "It is..." Matthew 4:4

Chancel Choir will provide music during the service.

10am-10:30am – Coffee Fellowship will be offered to all who attend.

To help fund this endeavor, we will also be hosting some fundraisers in the future, as well as requesting a grant from the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation.

It is our hope that everyone in the church will be excited to attend multiple sessions to fully gain all the weekend has to offer!

Toni Burrows



The Faith Lift 2024...

One of Pastor Hae-Jeong's goals for 2024 is to bring a Spiritual Renewal event to our church. Last year, the SLB voted to support her goal and bring a spiritual reformation speaker, Rev. Dr. John Sungchul Hong, to Sparta UMC based on Pastor's testimony.

Rev. Dr. John Sungchul Hong will lead us on an inspirational, unforgettable, transformational experience. He has taught at Asbury Seminary as an Evangelism professor, has authored 31 books and lead revival events in more than 90 countries. This free event promises to uplift and nourish your soul through the power of the Holy Spirit.

We have set the date for our spiritual retreat weekend "Faith Lift" to be April 5-7. All events are free and open to the public. Please invite friends and neighbors to come with you! We will take a free will offering at each event as an honorarium for the speaker.

Mark your calendars for the "Faith Lift" weekend!

Friday, April 5

7pm-9pm – "Nicodemus' Shock" John 3:1-5

Refreshments will be offered

Praise Band will be offering music.

continued...

April Sermon Schedule

April 7 Theme: It is ...

Scripture: Matthew 4:4

Speaker: Pastor John SungChul Hong

April 14 Theme: Stewardship

Scripture

Speaker: Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation

April 21 Theme: Living Generously

Scripture: Acts 20:35, 1 Tim 6:17-19

Speaker: Pastor Hae-Jeong Yoon

April 28 Discipleship, not Membership

Scriptures: Timothy 6:6-10 Deuteronomy 8:11-18

Speaker: Pastor Paul Foulke

Nurture Update..



“I know that my Redeemer liveth...”

Thank you, all, for the lovely plants and lilies for the Easter season, as well as, fresh flowers for the Blossoming of the Cross. May the blessings of Easter remain in your heart and soul!



Circles Update..



We welcome spring with grateful hearts. Lois and Wesleyan Circles have been meeting monthly (barring bad weather) sharing fellowship, programs and delicious snacks. Circle member made light snacks in March for the volunteers at St. Clare Mission. Monthly volunteers faithfully pick up altar plants that add a beautiful presence to our services before they are gifted or kept. We thank those volunteers and members of the congregation that purchase the plants in honor or in memory of. Some plants have continued blooming in sunny windows months later or come up the following year when planted in a garden.

Planning for our traditional Spring Luncheon took place on March 6. Mark your calendars because we changed the week and day of the luncheon. **Our Mission fundraiser Spring Luncheon will be held Wednesday, April 17 from 11:00-1:00 in the Fellowship Hall.** Deliveries and carry-outs will also be available. Local merchants continue to be generous to our event. They include Walmart, Hansen's, Kwik Trip and Northwood Country Market. Only a small amount of grocery items will be put on a donation request list that will begin **April 7.** The kitchen schedule will be available at the next circle meetings.

You are wished a Blessed Easter and a warm, sunny spring.

God's Blessings,
Cathy Nichols



Records & History



We have noticed that addresses and telephone numbers have been changing. To keep current with all of our congregation we are asking you to contact the office (608-269-6949) and update your contact information. The following information is asked to be updated:

Name, Address, Home Phone Number, Cell Number & E-mail Address.

Thank you for taking the time to update this vital information!

We are - Keeping the Eternal Flame Glowing



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 2023. The calendars are up for 2024. 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



Financial Stewardship

This year's Grow One campaign begins **April 14, 2024.** With the Stewardship committee providing the final Grow One financial pledge cards on Sunday, **May 5, 2024** following our 9:00 service.

Scripture says, “You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.” 2 Corinthians 9: 11

We must ask ourselves how will we use all that God has entrusted to our care? Through our time, our talents and our treasures to love God and our neighbors. Stewardship honors God with all of the relationships and resources in our life!

Stewardship Committee

Thank you

Thank you, most sincerely, to all who donated, served, fried sausage, flipped pancakes, cleaned up, or attended the Shrove Pancake Supper on February 13. The evening was filled with delicious food, good conversation and a warm sense of community!

Dining Room: Laurie Bartholomew, Eileen Gajewsky, Julie Hanson, Cheryl Isensee, Amy Kiefer, Margie Lakowske, Cathy Nichols, Kristine Phillips, Julie Schmick, Annabelle Von Ruden, Marty Walley, Danette Zidich.

Kitchen: Michael Bonella, Kurt Kiefer, Bill Mc Clain, Scott Naeseth, Joe Tadisch.

Thank you to these ladies for serving the Ash Wednesday noon Lenten lunch on February 14. Gathering with friends from the other churches is a special time for us during Lent.

Laurie Bartholomew, Eileen Gajewsky, Maxine Gudbaur, Amy Kiefer, Margie Lakowske, Cathy Nichols, Marty Walley.
Cyndi Wise, Nurture Committee Chair

Thank you to the UWIF for the altar plant I received on my birthday. The yellow tulips were so springy and we enjoyed them for several days. The deer in our neighborhood feast on tulips so we no longer struggle to plant any in our gardens. Your thoughtfulness is appreciated.
Larry Walley

Thank you for the lovely plant. It is still very nice. Also, thank you to Cathy for delivering it. We enjoyed the nice visit.
Maxine Holz

Thank you, Lynn & Larry Humphrey, and Margie Lakowske for hosting a fun potluck and games on St. Patrick's Day. The decorations were beautiful and the food delicious, and plenty of games to play! All of us at church truly appreciate the time and energy you give to our families and children.

continued...

Thank you, Chauncy for volunteering to clean the kitchen and Fellowship Hall after soup supper. There is heavy traffic down there and it looks and smells great after you're finished! Thanks too, for the other cleaning crews who keep our church looking bright and fresh!

Thank you, dear friends for your sympathy, prayers and caring concern when my brother passed away suddenly. Surrounded by the love of friends means the world, and I lean on you more than you know. Once again, you have touched our hearts.

Love, Cyndi & Bob

Pizza and a movie



night this month is **April 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 April 20 if you will be attending so we know how much pizza to order.

April's Movie is: "On a Wing and a Prayer"

In this extraordinary true story of faith and survival, **ON A WING AND A PRAYER** follows passenger Doug White's (Dennis Quaid) harrowing journey to safely land a plane and save his entire family from insurmountable danger, after their pilot dies unexpectedly mid-flight.
Rated PG13.



**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!

Attention Theater Fans



“Bright Star” will be at the La Crosse Community Theater (Weber Center) from May 2-19, 2023. Normally the tickets cost about \$38.00 per person.

However, you could see it for free by volunteering as an usher with our SUMMIT Spirits Theater Group. I have several volunteer slots on the following day:

Sunday, May 19 - 12:30 p.m.- 5:00 p.m. – 8 ushers
BRIGHT STAR MUSICAL –THEATRE PG
Magical. Romantic. Pure.

Inspired by a true story and featuring the Tony®-nominated score by Steve Martin and Edie Brickell, Bright Star tells a sweeping tale of love and redemption set in the American South in the 1920s and '40s. When literary editor Alice Murphy meets a young soldier just home from World War II, he awakens her longing for the child she once lost. Haunted by their unique connection, Alice sets out on a journey to understand her past—and what she finds has the power to transform both of their lives.

Music, book & story by Steve Martin. Music, lyrics & story by Edie Brickel.

If you are interested, please contact Toni Burrows 608-343-3029 by May 1.



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 **April 7**. If you have questions or need an order form contact Michele at the church 608-269-6949. 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.



Annual

SPRING LUNCHEON

Wednesday, April 17, 2024

Menu: Chicken salad croissants, cranberry salad, relish tray, dessert, coffee and punch.

SERVING FROM 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

*in the Fellowship Hall at:
United Methodist Church
210 Court St., Sparta*

TICKETS: \$11.00

Reservations, Carry Outs and Delivery Available

Note: Carry outs and deliveries do NOT include drinks. There is a \$1.00 delivery fee per address.

*Dining room reservations will be accepted
until Noon, April 16
Carry out and Delivery reservations accepted
until 9:00, April 17*

Call (608) 269-6949 for carry out, delivery orders, reservations or additional info

Handicap Accessible from the
“K” Street Entrance

Sponsored by United Methodist Women

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!



COMING SOON

- SUMMIT Spirits will meet on Tuesday, April 4 at 6:30
- The Ministerial Committee will meet Wednesday, April 3 at noon in the small kitchen.
- Nurture will meet in the library, Thursday, April 4 at 6 p.m.
- The Faith Lift will be held Friday, April 5 through Sunday, April 7.
- Lois Circle will meet Tuesday, April 9 at 1 p.m., in the small kitchen.
- Wesleyan Circle will meet on Tuesday, April 9, in the Gathering Place at 6:30 p.m.
- Records & History next meeting is Wednesday, April 10 at 9 a.m. in the library.
- Our Annual Spring Luncheon will be held Wednesday, April 17 from 11-1.
- Pizza and a movie returns on Saturday April 20 at 6 p.m. in the small kitchen for pizza and 6:30 in the chapel for the movie.
- Sunday, April 21 the Servant Leadership Board will meet for their monthly visionary meeting after Worship.
- Servant Leadership Board will meet on Tuesday, April 16 at 6 p.m.
- May *Chimes* newsletter deadline is Friday, April 26 by noon.



Needed items sign-up

There is now a sign-up sheet in the Gathering Place for groups and committees to write down any items needed such as stamps, coffee, cleaning supplies, etc. If you need items, write them down, if you can donate any of the items, please cross off the item and bring it to the office or directly to those requesting it.

Servant Leadership Board



I have heard people say that they wish we could have an old-fashioned revival to get everyone lifted up. Well, that is what we have planned for you!

On the first weekend in April, we will be bringing in a guest speaker, Rev. John Sungchul Hong to recharge us. We are calling the event "Faith Lift." Each session will be different. Please invite and/or bring your family and friends.

Fri, April 5, 7 p.m.-9 p.m.

Session 1 – Praise Band - Refreshments will be served Sat, April 6, 10 a.m.-12N

Session 2 – Praise Band – Refreshments will be served 5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.

FREE Meatball Supper (RSVP to 608-269-6949 by April 1)

6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Session 3 Praise Band Refreshments will be served

Sun, April 7, 9 a.m.-10:30 a.m. Rev. Hong will preach during our Worship Service; Coffee Fellowship after the Service

Our giving versus expenses has been experiencing a shortfall for quite a while now. Each month the giving is about \$2000 short to meet the expenses of the church. That shortage has depleted our general budget to a level of concern. The Servant Leadership Board (SLB) has been working closely with the Finance committee regarding this. SLB voted to move money from several funds (that have contained a balance but have not been used in several years) to the General Budget. The Stewardship committee has also planned a Stewardship Campaign called "Give One" to begin April 14, the week after the Faith Lift event. For 3 weeks, we will have members give their testimonials, and on May 5, we will ask the congregation to prayerfully consider pledging one step up from their current giving.

It is our prayer that the Faith Lift and Give One campaign will ignite a fire in people's hearts.

I encourage you to ask questions about what we are doing. Reach out to myself (Toni Burrows) or any of the other SLB members:

Ron Phillips, Donna Burnham, Julie Hanson, Ellen Hemstock, Scott Naeseth, Peggy Wright, Denise Ebert, Andrea Cole, Pastor Hae-Jeong.

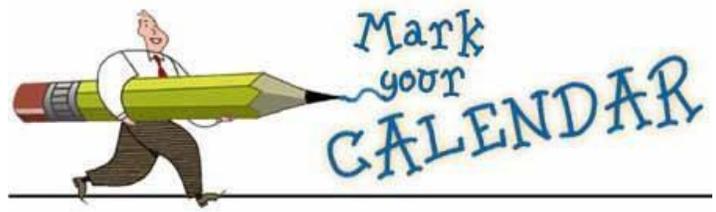


April Anniversaries

04 Richard & Peggy Wright
16 Ron & Denise Ebert
21 Brandon & Brittany Burnham
28 Gabrielle & Brady Kozelka
28 Dave & Patty Wiedemann
29 Sara & Dave Kemp

April Birthdays

01 Elliot Blackdeer
03 Bev Laufenberg
05 Amy Johnson
06 Ben Simplot
08 Julie Adams Rodgers
08 Deb Foss
08 Darcie Hanson
08 Scott Naeseth
10 April Hubbard
12 Maxine Holz
12 Margie Lakowske
17 Cecile Stow
19 Ruth Ebert
19 Dave Hering
19 Kris Jostad
21 Tennyson Kozelka
22 Danielle Dale
29 Ron Burnham
30 Margaret Jensen



Ushers

7 Kurt & Amy
14 Ron & Denise/Ronnie & Kandy Eberts
21 Ron & Donna Burnham & Peggy Wright
28 Kurt & Amy

Tech Team

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

Liturgist

7 Marty Walley
14 Annabelle Von Ruden
21 Beth Nowak
28 Judy Fuhrmann

Scripture Readers

7 Judy Fuhrmann
14 Beth Nowak
21 TBD
28 Hailee Scheurich



CHANGING THE WORLD
ONE PAIR AT A TIME

Thank you to all who have donated to Soles4Souls! We have collected 353 pair of shoes through March!

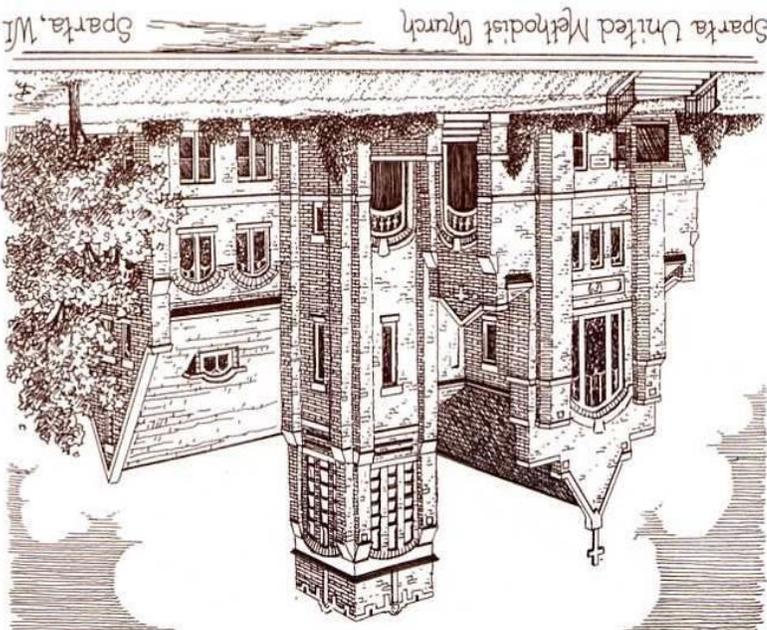
The Chimes

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Prepared Especially For:



Pastor: Rev. Dr. Hae-Jeong Yoon
Pastor's Cell Phone: 608-633-8613

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