

“The CHIMES” – December

Volume 56, No. 12

2021

Continuing the Conversation...

“Certainly he was crucified because of weakness, but he lives by the power of God. Certainly we also are weak in him, but we will live together with him, because of God’s power that is directed toward you. Examine yourselves to see if you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Don’t you understand that Jesus Christ is in you? Unless, of course, you fail the test. But I hope that you will realize that we don’t fail the test.”

(2 Corinthians 13:4-6)



Here we are in the season of Advent; a season of waiting on God with a heightened sense of expectation. For me it is also a time of examination. The past year has gone by in a blur of hard decisions, closing, re-opening, learning new ways, learning patience and flexibility, all while

praying and continuing to minister in Christ’s name.

Some days were harder than others, wondering, “is this really what you want from us, Lord?” Other days would give a glimpse of hope and affirmation and with that renewal to my soul. In reading the above passage from 2 Corinthians two important thoughts spoke to me.

The first is that it is God’s power that sustains us in life and ministry. At times when life gets too busy or I seem to only receive “push back” it is too easy to think I have to do this or that, or I failed in doing this or that. At those times I seem to forget, it is God’s power that sustains us and ultimately it is God that I (that we all) will answer to. Frankly, on my bad days I am too often my own worst critic as I take on more responsibility than what God gives. So, lesson one, God’s power, that even brought Jesus back to life, is directed toward me (toward us) in our weakness.

The second lesson is, “examine yourselves to see if you are in the faith.” We are called to examine our lives.

Are we living together through Christ, relying on God’s power in our weakness? Do we even admit having weakness? Do we truly believe God’s wonder-working power is there for us? Are we committed to doing the work of ministry Jesus calls us to in God’s power and love?

In my personal examination I can see where I need to continue to work, remembering God’s power moving and sustaining me and I need to continue bolstering my faith in that power at work in me.

In my examination of our life together as Christ’s body I can see where we must continue the work of discernment and encouraging one another to love and good deeds. Through our charge conference I was also able to see all of the ways we are getting it right, the many ways we are trusting God’s power at work in us as we offer Bible studies, Sunday school, free bakery, free Tuesday night suppers, partnerships with Topps, Al-anon, Soaring Skills, Sojourner’s Journey, Families First, and others. I see it in the ways you care for each other, providing meals, visits, prayers, etc. Our district superintendent could also see (and was impressed) with all of the ways we are attempting to make “new and maturing disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”

I say enthusiastically with the Apostle Paul, “*I hope that you will realize that we don’t fail the test,*” as we continue to seek God’s guidance and power for ministry. I am looking forward to another year of ministry with you that will bring glory to God.

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

Pastor L

P.S. If you would like a copy of the Charge Conference report we have extra copies in the church office.



Scarcity or Abundance: What are you looking for?

“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.”

(Matthew 7:7)

Pastor John Pavlovitz tells a story about a time when he was a young youth leader and he found himself overly worried about the future. He was sharing his concerns with his pastor, who replied, “John, do you know why a bluebird finds worms? Because that’s what it looks for.”

John remembers his pastor continuing to tell him that much of what we discover in this life is about the questions we ask, the things we give attention to, and the way we invest our time. The more John was aware of the orientation of his life at any given moment, and the more intentional he was along the way, his pastor counseled, the more John could rest in knowing that he’d eventually end up where he needed to be.

What are you aware of during this Advent and Christmas season? What are you looking for? With global supply chain issues along with the commercialized nature of the holidays, it is easy to fall into a scarcity mindset. However, if we choose to focus on the blessings we have and look to see where God is at work in our lives, in our churches, and communities – we are more likely to experience the joy and peace, not only of the season but that Christ offers all – no matter what time of year.

Rev. Jason Mahnke, Wisconsin UM Foundation

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

Save the Date: Super Bowl of Stewardship
Retreat at Algoma Boulevard UMC:
Oshkosh February 12, 2022 More
Information at www.wumf.org

Our Deepest Sympathy to:

The family and friends of Robert Olson who passed away on October 29, 2021.



A Note from the Financial Secretary

The deadline for all donations and contributions to Sparta United Methodist Church for deposit in 2021 is Wednesday morning, December 29. That is the final day that Heidi Sullivan, our financial secretary, will be making a deposit to the bank for 2021.



Shop with scrip...support your church



Thank you to everyone who continues to support the church through the Shop with Scrip program. As the holiday season approaches don't miss your opportunity to purchase scrip cards. You can use the cards for your holiday shopping, or they make nice gifts for the hard to shop for on your list.

The next Scrip order (and last one before Christmas) will be going in on **December 12**. If you have not tried Scrip and have questions, please contact Cheryl Isensee or Pastor to get more information. Cheryl does have a small inventory of some of the most popular available.





Put Your Money to Work for the Church

Did you know that when you shop for the holidays (or any time) at *smile.amazon.com/ch/39-6026139*, AmazonSmile donates to our United Methodist Church?

When you shop on *smile.amazon.com* the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to the charitable organizations selected by customers. To take advantage of this opportunity just go to the *smile.amazon.com* site and put Sparta United Methodist Church into the search area. Several choices will come up (be sure to select the Sparta, WI option). You can go directly to our support page by entering the link:

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/39-6026139>

You may not think 0.5% sounds like much, but if you combine that amount with the 2.25% earned through Amazon scrip cards it adds up. If enough people take advantage of this opportunity it adds up even faster. What an awesome way to donate free dollars to the church.



Ecumenical Food Pantry Update

The Ecumenical Food Pantry is in need of personal care items at this time. Some of the specific things they could use are:

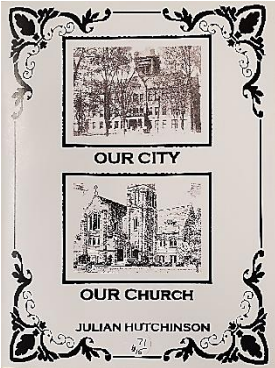
- liquid or bar soap,
- dish soap,
- shampoo,
- tooth paste,
- deodorant,
- hand lotion
- facial tissues,
- feminine hygiene items.

You can get great deals on many of these at the dollar stores. If you can help, bring your donations to church and we will arrange to deliver them to the food pantry.

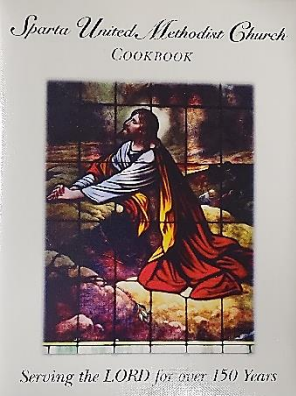
If you are interested in volunteering at the food pantry contact Lori Ascher at 608-343-4068.

Looking for a Unique Gift?

Do you know what the first business was in this city we now call Sparta? Do you know what year the Methodist Church was first established in Sparta? We have a limited number of Julian Hutchinson’s book “Our City Our Church” that has the answers to these questions and so many more.



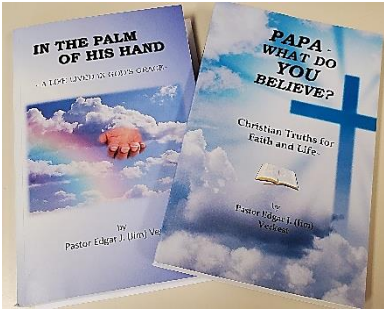
There is so much interesting information about the beginnings of Sparta and our United Methodist Church that it is a steal at \$15 or two books for \$28. We could possibly even get the author to sign your books.



Maybe you know someone who is just beginning the adventure of learning to cook or is setting up a household for the first time. A copy of the Sparta UMC Cookbook might be just the ticket. It is full of famously delicious recipes from our very favorite cooks in the church. This is a beautiful cookbook that

comes in a small three-ring binder so favorite family recipes can easily be added to the collection. The cookbooks are a real bargain at \$5 each.

Pastor also has a limited number of Pastor Jim Verkest’s books: “Papa What Do You Believe” and “In the Palm of His Hand.” These books are \$17 each or two for \$30.



Any of these books would make wonderful gifts. Call the church office if you are interested in purchasing a book while they last.





Light the Night Luminaries

“Light the Night” luminaries will be offered this year to honor our loved ones. On Dec 24, these luminaries will light up the Court Street sidewalk while all are inside celebrating Christ’s birth at the Christmas Eve service at 5:00 p.m.

They will be \$5 each or 3 for \$10 and these monies will go to the Heifer International project the BASH children are promoting this year. Please use the forms provide.

Christ is the light of the world!



Christmas Flowers

With Christmas just around the corner, Sparta Floral is once again willing to provide us with Christmas flowers at a reduced rate. The choices are as follows:

Poinsettias – 4-1/2” pots - \$9.60
6” pots - \$15.00

Color choices: red, pink, white or limited supply: jingle bells, burgundy, marble

Cyclamen – 4-1/2” pots - \$10.40
6” pots - \$17.60

Color choices: red, white, pink, lavender

Flowers may be given “in honor” or “in memory” of a loved on. For the best chance of reserving the color of your choice, please stop in to the office by noon December 5, for a form or get one at Sunday Worship or call the office to let us know your flower choices, colors and who you’re buying them in honor or memory of.

Flowers maybe t taken home to enjoy following the 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service.



Thank you to all who have donated to Soles4Souls!

We have collected 2234 pair of shoes through November!

CHANGING THE WORLD
ONE PAIR AT A TIME

Waiting Through the Season of Advent

As we continue our journey through the season of Advent we are looking back in Scripture at those who waited upon the Lord for his promises to come to pass through the Christ Child. We are also looking forward, contemplating how we should wait upon the Lord in this present moment of our lives, as God continues to make himself known to us.

December 5—Wait Upon the Lord with Hope (Psalm 130:5): The prophet Isaiah declared the coming of the Lord, which gave the people of Israel hope for the future. We wait with hope for the future because we know what the future holds—a Savior.

December 12—Wait Upon the Lord with Rejoicing (Isaiah 25:9): Elizabeth rejoiced as she waited for the coming of her son, John the Baptist. And Mary rejoiced as she waited for the birth of her son, Jesus. In the same manner we rejoice as we wait for the coming of the Son of God.

December 19—Wait Upon the Lord with Gratitude (Psalm 9:1): Zechariah’s waiting days for John the Baptist’s birth were filled with great gratitude for the Lord’s promise about to be fulfilled. In these remaining waiting days before our Savior’s birth, we are ever more grateful for the arrival of the Promised One.

Advent devotional books entitled, “The Fullness of Time” are available for you at the church courtesy of the nurture ministry team. Be sure to pick your copy up!



Nurture Report



Congratulations! The United Methodist Women had the pleasure of presenting Cindy Isensee with a Special Mission Recognition in and certificate last month. A \$40 gift to Mission was given in her honor.

Cindy’s generous spirit, energy, ideas, and servant heart are blessings to our UMW and the whole church. We are so very thankful for her helping hands and big heart – thank you Cindy, for all you do to further the mission of the United Methodist Women and the church. God bless you, always!

Bible Study Opportunities

The Bible study on Romans is continuing on Mondays at 1 p.m. in the church library with Pastor Loretta. Anyone who is free on Monday afternoons and interested in going deeper in Romans and learning more about the Apostle Paul is welcome to participate in this study. All you need is a Bible and a willingness to learn. Even if you weren't there for the beginning of the study you are welcome to join the discussion at any time and would still benefit from it.

The Monday evening class that meets at 6 p.m. in the large classroom is on a break until January 3. When they start meeting again they will be going through season two of *The Chosen*. If you are not familiar with this series, it looks at Jesus through the eyes of some of the people who were closest to him. *The Chosen* is an intriguing and thought provoking series that is well made.



Wesleyan Circle News

Wesleyan Circle will meet on the December, 14th at 6 p.m. at the church. We will meet in Fellowship Hall at 6 for our potluck. Paper plates, napkins and plasticware will be provided. After our meal we will adjourn to the Gathering Place for our White Elephant gift exchange and to share a poem, reading or other special Christmas memory. Please remember to bring Cyndi your \$10 donation for the Angel Tree family gift.

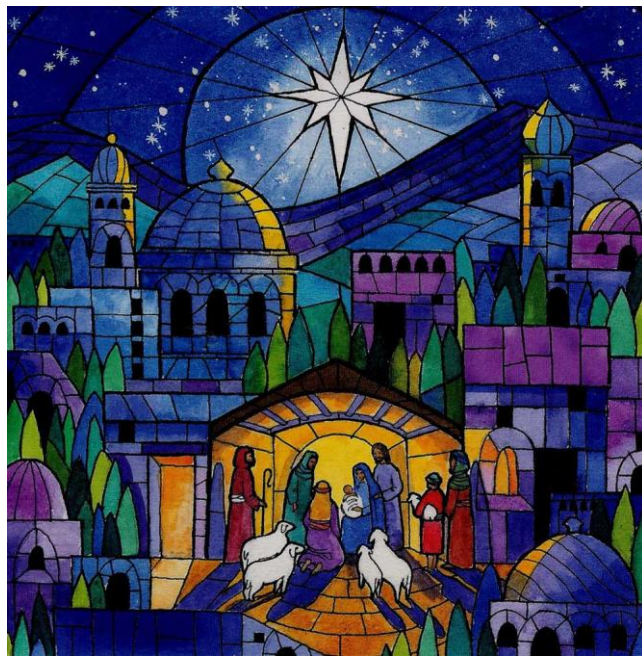


Schedule Your Meetings

As the church building gets busier hosting meetings for groups both inside and outside the church, it is very important that you remember to schedule any meetings you are planning to have in the church with the office. It's important for a couple of reasons: first, it helps keep the lines of communication open. Second, if you just assume you can come to your usual spot to meet with your group, you may be surprised to find that another group has already scheduled the use of that space. We want all interested church groups to be able to use the church space so please remember to schedule your meetings with Michele in the office. Thank you!

Two Special Candlelight Services Coming Up this month

A candlelight service of lessons and carols will be held at the **Big Creek Church** at 6 p.m. on Sunday, **December 12**. Pastor Loretta will be leading the service, with Cyndi Wise at the organ. There will be refreshments following the service. If you are looking for a quiet break in the midst of a busy holiday season to help you refocus and re-center, this may be just the ticket for you. Everyone is welcome!



Light the Night Christmas Eve

Service of Lessons and Carols

Friday, December 24 at 5 p.m.

It is such a joy to anticipate once again worshipping on Christmas Eve in the sanctuary (as well as through livestreaming). Come and celebrate with joy and anticipation the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ and his continuing revelation in our lives, in this beautiful service of light and sound.

Luminaries are available to purchase in honor or memory of loved ones. An order form is available in worship bulletins and the church office.

But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people...Luke 2:10



From the Parish Nurse..

Christmas truly is one of the most wonderful times of the year. For many, there are warm parties, cozy homes, fond traditions to celebrate, and gifts to be shared. It's a joyous time of celebration. However, sometimes we get lost in the season and forget the reason we celebrate it, to begin with. Among the hustle and bustle, our focus is lost and priorities are misaligned.

Most people can tell you the origins of Christmas—that it's a remembrance of the birth of Christ. But either that's the extent of their knowledge or they lose sight of this in the busyness of the holiday. Why do we truly celebrate Christmas? Not Santa Claus, or the Christmas tree, or any other of the various traditions wrapped up into Christmas. Why do we celebrate this occasion—what is its true meaning?

Because when Jesus came, he also left us with the gift of salvation. His birth is significant because of His death. For thirty-three years Jesus lived a life free from sin so that He could be the perfect sacrificial lamb for the atonement of our sins. On Calvary, Christ paid the price and overcame death so that we could have victory over sin and condemnation. So, when that precious baby was born and placed in the manger, it wasn't just another birth. It was the beginning of God's redemptive plan for humanity. An act He didn't have to take part in but He chose to out of love.

"In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." Philippians 2:5-11 (NIV)

This very act of humility and his choice to die on the cross is cause for bowed knees and lifted hands. I know the busyness of the season can cause time to fly and before we know it, the holiday has passed and we have forgotten to celebrate why we are celebrating it in the first place. But don't get sidetracked—get perspective. Choose reverence and give honor where honor is due.

Take time this holiday season to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas by glorifying the One who gave



it all. A child was born in humble circumstances and his sacrificial death reflected the same, however, both were significant for humanity. Without the death of Christ, salvation isn't possible. So without His birth, neither is it possible. Jesus coming to Earth that night changed everything and it's a moment we should celebrate with all our hearts.

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ~ Isaiah 9:6
Merry Christmas, with love and prayers,
Priscilla



Sunday School News: Formally BASH News



It is that time of year when we start thinking about what we are thankful for. I want to share a few things I am thankful for. One is the wonderful church and Sunday School who so generously donated items for the Sojourners House in Sparta. Katie's comment was "You are so Sweet" then went on to say they hadn't been getting many donations. So thankful for her and her team and what they do for women and children. I am also thankful for the 13 kids we have enrolled in our Sunday School and for Larry Humphrey, Margie Lakowske, and Donna Burnham for their help. I am thankful for the families that bring these kids every week. I am truly blessed.

We are excited to be joining the church family in raising money for the Heifer Project. The money raised will go towards purchasing animals for families. The Sunday School kids chose a Water Buffalo, with the water buffalo, they can plant more than four times than by hand, increasing their crop yields. They chose a heifer; its milk can be used to feed and support a family. They also chose a sheep; its wool can help a community increase its income through hand-spun wool products. Your help is appreciated.

Mark your calendars: No Sunday School December 26 or January 2.

Hope you had a Happy Thanksgiving,
Lynn Humphrey
Sunday School Coordinator





Thank you United Methodist Women for the honor of being selected as this year's recipient of the Special Mission Recognition Program. The kind and generous words have touched my heart. I will wear my pin with true honor and pride.

Again, thank you and may God Bless you and yours.

Cindy Isensee



SUMC Web Site

Have you checked out the church web site lately? You can find it at: lewaughtal.wixsite.com/spartaumc. Once you are there you will notice links along the top of the page that say "Home," "Stay Connected," "Learn," and "Get Involved."

Each of those links will take you to more information about us and the opportunities we provide. The "Stay Connected" link takes you to either our archived worship services or our archived *Chimes*.

We do our best to keep the web site current and fresh, but it never hurts to have fresh eyes looking over the site offerings. You may have some good suggestions for improving and updating information. We would love to hear from you.

We have been told that some folks have actually found us by first checking out our web site; we want to make sure we are providing the most accurate information for those who are considering being our guests and maybe even joining us in ministry.



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.





Thank you to: Lori Ascher, Ellen Hemstock Cathy Nichols, Sara Kemp and a mystery donor for books for our Little Free Library. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Margie Lakowske, Little Free Library Steward

Thank you: Sidewalk edging and general outdoor maintenance of church grounds. Thank you to everyone (Noonan's, Dean Olson and any others) that faithfully provide maintenance and upkeep to the church grounds. It always looks GREAT! Margie Lakowske

Records and History Committee wishes all of our members a very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year!



Cookie/Candy Walk

On Saturday, December 11, 2021 the United Methodist Women will have the annual cookie/candy walk at the First United Methodist Church, 1105 Butts Ave., Tomah, WI from 9:00 a.m. to Noon. You may buy homemade Christmas cookies, candy and baked goods including Stollen. The United Piecemakers will have a quilt display and sale. For more information see the website: tomahumc.org and find us on Facebook: [Facebook.com/tomahum](https://www.facebook.com/tomahum)



JESUS BEFORE CHRISTMAS

By Rebekah Simon-Peter, Ministry Matters, 11/14/21

Christmas wasn't always part of the Christian experience. There's no record that Jesus or his disciples or the early church celebrated Christmas at all, as they did all the Jewish holy days and holidays. In fact, the first Christmas or Christ Mass wasn't celebrated until the 4th century. It's likely Jesus wasn't even born in the winter. Rather, it's thought that December 25 was chosen as a day to celebrate his birth because it coincided with a pre-existing pagan festival. That would make it easy for non-Christians to add a new layer of meaning to their old celebrations. Stuff happens in the history of religion.

December 25, however, wasn't merely the date of a pagan festival. It also overlaps with a festival that Jesus did actually celebrate.

Like Jews of his time, Jesus celebrated the Feast of Dedication, which occurs on the 25th of Kislev, a month in the Jewish calendar that most closely approximates December. "At that time," John's Gospel relates, "the Feast of Dedication took place in Jerusalem; it was winter. Jesus was walking in the Temple in the portico of Solomon. Tell us," the Jews said, "if you are the Messiah." Their comments were fitting, because the Feast of Dedication remembered the last time a deliverer had arisen to save them from oppression. It was past time for another; the Roman experience was a cruel one indeed.

The Feast of Dedication commemorates the rededication of the second Temple in Jerusalem, after its utter desecration at the brutal hands of Antiochus Epiphanes in 167 or 168 BCE. Today, that feast is known by its Hebrew name, Chanukah. Although Hanukkah (Feast of Dedication) only gets a line or two in the New Testament, it actually plays a significant role in the birth of Jesus...

Exactly three years after its desecration, the Temple was rededicated. This took place on the 25th of Kislev, approximately 165 years before the nativity of Christ. If Antiochus had carried out his plan for genocide of all the Jews, there would have been no Mary, no Joseph, and no Jesus. There would have been no Messiah of Israel, no Savior of the World. Bottom line: without Hanukkah, there would probably be no Christmas.

As we prepare for Advent, let us remember the minor Jewish holiday that celebrates freedom of religion and which makes possible the major Christian one. Let's do like Jesus did and rededicate ourselves to freedom of religious expression, to the freedom that allows our devotion to God, to the freedom that motivates us truly love each other.

*Adapted from "Christmas through Jewish Eyes,"
by Rebekah Simon-Peter*

A Narrative for the Continuing United Methodist Church

For anyone trying to keep up with what is going on with the United Methodist Denomination, you know that the special General Conference called to make big decisions for the future of our world-wide denomination have been put off for a couple of years now because of the pandemic. The new date for General Conference in Minneapolis is rescheduled for August 29 thru September 6, 2022.

Of course, with the pandemic still a reality and the difficulty of gathering people from around the world, it is yet to be seen if this new date will work. In the meantime, various groups, including our Council of Bishops are prayerfully at work behind the scenes trying to help the decision-making process be truly God-honoring. At the Council's fall gathering the bishops agreed on a narrative for continuing the UMC. The document reminds United Methodists of Christ's prayer for unity and the commandment to gather all to the table, to make space for one another, appreciate one another, and look for Christ in each other. Below is the bishops' full statement.

United Methodists all over the globe are liturgical, contemporary, charismatic, social activists, urban, suburban, small town, rural and much more. We are children, youth, young adults, senior adults, new Christians, and mature Christians. We are present on four continents, in more than 45 countries, and we comprise an unknown number of cultures and languages. We are a holy communion of different races, ethnicities, cultures, and perspectives united by the Holy Spirit, driven by the mission of Christ, and bearing the good news of an unmerited grace that changes lives and transforms communities.

Christ's prayer for our unity and command to gather all to the table, to make space for one another, appreciate one another, and look for Christ in each other, prohibit us from creating individual tables only for those who think, act, look, and perceive the world like we do. We cannot be a church that fractures its identity and commitment to Christ by aligning itself with political parties. We cannot be a traditional church or a progressive church or a centrist church. We cannot be a gay or straight church. Our churches must be more than echo chambers made in our own image arguing with each other while neglecting our central purpose. This is the way of the world.

Instead, we must be one people, rooted in scripture, centered in Christ, serving in love and united in the essentials. It is hard work. It is sacred work. It is the ministry of reconciliation that Christ gave to each of us. Our best witness is to love each other as Christ loves us,

to show the world the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit to bind us together despite our differences. This is living out the gospel.

We are a church:

- Confident in what God has done in Christ Jesus for all humankind
- Committed to personal and social salvation/transformation
- Courageous in dismantling the powers of racism, tribalism, and colonialism

All of our members, clergy, local churches, and annual conferences will continue to have a home in the future United Methodist Church, whether they consider themselves liberal, evangelical, progressive, traditionalist, middle of the road, conservative, centrist, or something else. We hold on to our Wesleyan heritage that "the living core of the Christian faith is revealed in Scripture, illuminated by tradition, vivified in personal experience, and confirmed by reason".

We are longing for a United Methodist Church that will move towards new forms of being a connectional church, a General Conference focused on global essentials, and an empowerment of regions for contextually relevant forms of living our common mission mandate. Deeply rooted in the Doctrinal Standards of the UMC, we pledge to exercise our episcopal role in ways that enable as many United Methodists, lay and clergy, as are willing to remain in the UMC and – together – to continue in making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. And, because we are part of the Church Universal, we seek to be united visibly and in ministries with other parts of the Body of Christ in God's mission for the human family and creation.

We are committed to strengthening every local church, where the word is preached and Christ is offered, and where the table is set before all who hunger and thirst for righteousness, confident in the prayer we have learned to say and share:

- Make us one with Christ—this is faithfulness.
- Make us one with each other—this is unity.
- Make us one in ministry to all the world—this is fruitfulness.

This is the United Methodist Church we love and serve!

Council of Bishops

The United Methodist Church

November 4, 2021





December Anniversaries

- 09 Pete & Beth Jerman
- 24 Tom & Laurie Graber
- 27 Tim & Judy Fuhrmann
- 27 Russ & Dana Tock

December Birthdays

- 01 Mandy Moore
- 02 Jack Buswell
- 02 Priscilla Hemmersbach
- 03 Kmaya Richards
- 04 Mary Axelsen
- 04 Joyce Graewin
- 05 Hayden White
- 06 Craig Goodenough
- 10 Kay Foulke
- 10 Eileen Roller
- 14 Deb Thurston
- 15 Diane Noonan
- 15 Madeline Tadisch
- 16 Donald Knoll
- 17 Jeffrey Ascher
- 17 Dave Kemp III
- 19 Mark Christiano
- 21 Gary Ascher
- 22 Tim Fuhrmann
- 23 Olivia Cole
- 29 Amarra Davis
- 30 Matthew Foss



December Schedules

Bakery pick-up

- 5 Donna Burnham
- 12 Cyndi Wise
- 19 Margie Lakowske
- 26 Amy & Kurt Kiefer

Tech Team

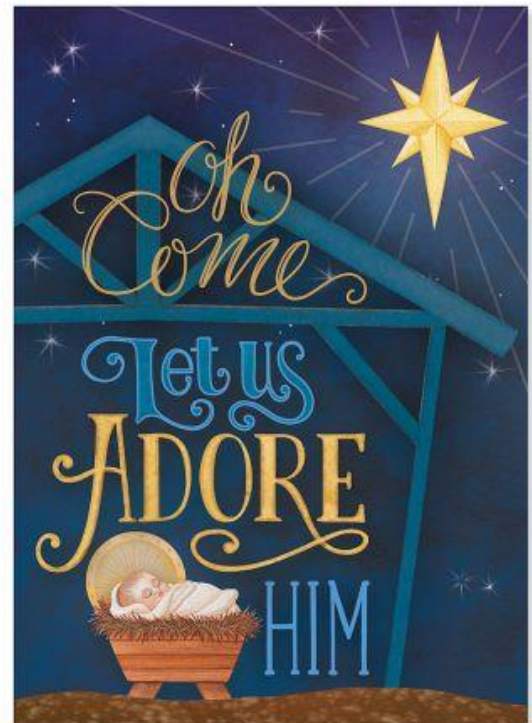
- 5 Cindy & Cheryl
- 12 Ben & Hailee
- 19 Ron & Kristine
- 26 Toni & Amy

Liturgist

- 5 Amy Kiefer
- 12 Priscilla Hemmersbach
- 19 Beth Nowak
- 26 Eileen Gajewsky

Ushers

- 5 Bob & Cathy
- 12 Kurt & Amy Kiefer
- 19 Peggy Wright
- 26 Dick & Eileen



Servant Leadership Board for 2022

Servant Leadership Board (Accountable Leadership)

Pastor	Rev. Loretta Waughtal
Chair	Toni Burrows '24
Finance	Paul Foulke '22
Finance	Julie Hanson '24
Trustees Representative.....	Scott Naeseth '23
Trustees Representative.....	Peggy Wright '24
Staff/Pastor Parish Representative	John Lodico '24
Staff/Pastor Parish Representative/Lay Leader	Priscilla Hemmersbach '23
At Large.....	Cheryl Isensee '23
At Large.....	Ron Phillilps '24
At Large.....	
Lay Leader.....	Donna Burhnam '25

Thank you to all who have agreed to serve on the new Servant Leadership Board. As you can see there is a spot still needing to be filled. Please call the church office or stop in if you're interested.

Below is a partial list of our ministry work teams. If you would like to receive the full report found in the charge conference book please call the church office at 608-269-6949.

Trustees

Scott Naeseth (chair)
John Lodico
Pete Foss
Bob Nichols
Mary Talsky
Dick Gajewsky
Gary Ascher
Priscilla Hemmersbach (Lay Leader)

Finance

Paul Foulke (chair)
Julie Hanson
Russell Janzen
Memorial Committee Rep. —Tom Hemstock, Jr.
Finance Secretary—Heidi Sullivan
Treasurer—Bev Donahue

Mission/Outreach

Kathy Ekern
Peggy Wright
Lynn Humphrey
Paul Foulke
Rich Zidich

Stewardship Task Force

Pastor Loretta
Paul Foulke
Larry Humphrey
Eileen Gajewsky
Marty Walley

Nurture

Cyndi Wise (chair)
Cheryl Isensee
Amy Kiefer
Emily Axelsen
Sara Kemp
Donna Burnham
Margie Lakowske
Julie Rodgers
Eileen Gajewsky
Toni Burrows
Lynn Humphrey (church school superintendent)

Records & History

Margie Lakowske (chair)
Julian Hutchinson
Cyndi Wise
Jeanine Houtevelde
Cindy Isensee
Cathy Nichols

Memorial Committee

Eileen Gajewsky (chair)
Tom Hemstock, Jr. (treasurer)
Emily Axelsen (secretary)
Lori Ascher

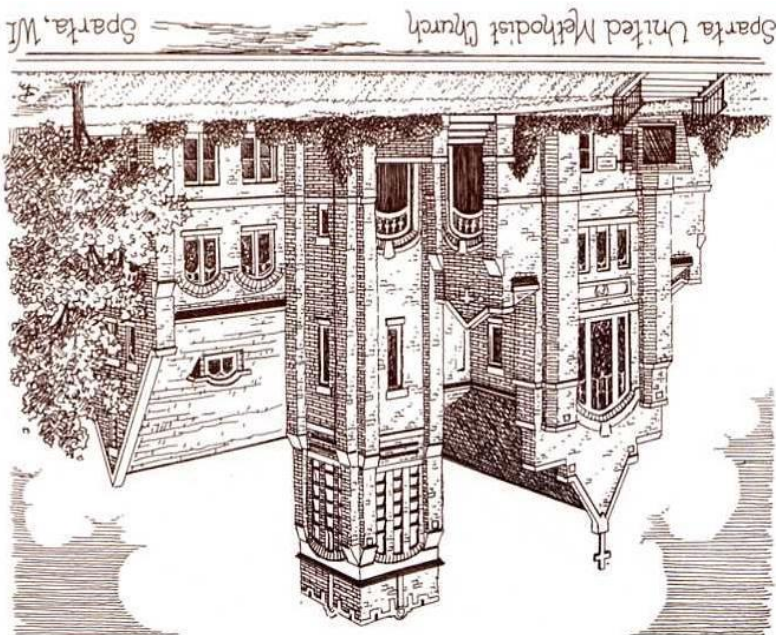
The Chimes

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Prepared Especially For:



Pastor: Rev. Loretta Waughtal
Pastor's Cell Phone: (608) 386-1862

Phone: (608)269-6949

Fax: (608)269-6940

Email: office@spartanmethodist.com

Website: lewaughtal.wixsite.com/spartaumc

SUMC Worship Schedule

In-house Service

In sanctuary worship services are on hiatus
until further notice because of COVID 19

Online Service

YouTube: Sparta UMC month day year