

Sparta United Methodist Church

# The Chimes - November

Volume 59, No. 11

2024



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Hybrid service: Sundays 9 a.m. | Sunday School: 9:15am | Soup Supper: Tuesdays 5pm

Bible Study Thursdays 2 p.m. | full program visit: [www.spartaumc.net](http://www.spartaumc.net) or find us



## Gratitude, Hope, and Moving Forward Together

By Rev. Lourdes Magalhães

As we enter November, our thoughts naturally turn to gratitude. Thanksgiving isn't just a holiday; it's a way of living. It's a time to pause, reflect, and thank God for the many blessings we enjoy, both individually and as a church family. November also brings colder weather, reminding us of God's presence through every season. As the temperatures drop and we may see the first snow in Wisconsin, let's remember Psalm 46:1: *"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble."* In these colder, darker days, may we find warmth in Christ's love and in the fellowship we share with one another.



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I want to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to each of you for your continued prayers, participation, and contributions to Sparta United Methodist Church. Your generosity, whether through your time, talents, or financial gifts, helps sustain our ministries and extend help to those in need. A special thank you goes out to our church staff for their hard work and dedication to keeping our ministry moving forward. Your efforts do not go unnoticed—thank you!

I'm also excited to announce the start of our weekly prayer meetings, "**Midweek Moments with God**," which will take place every Wednesday at 6:00 PM starting November 6th, 2024. (Sing up a sheet at the clip board table). This will be a time to step away from the busyness of our weeks, come together in prayer, and seek God's guidance for our lives and our church. **We invite you to submit any specific prayer requests ahead of time so that we can lift up the concerns of our church family and community during our gathering.** Let's unite in faith as we pray for our community and church leadership.

As Thanksgiving draws near, it's important to remember that this season is also about looking forward. Advent begins on December 1st, ushering us in a time of waiting, hope, peace, love, and joy. **We have a number of special events planned to mark this season, including candle-lighting services, Christmas music, and opportunities for community outreach.**

Sign up for our special Thanksgiving Soup and Supper we are offering November 26 for the Community. Sparta UMC, you are invited to join and seat at the tables to bless and engage with our Soup and Supper guests. I encourage you to join us in these meaningful events, and let's prepare our hearts and our church to welcome Christ anew this Christmas season.

As we reflect on the year and look ahead to Advent, I encourage you to consider how God is calling you to give—not only to the church but also to your neighbors, community, and those who may feel forgotten during this season of giving. **If you are considering how best to give, we offer multiple ways for you to contribute, including online giving or offering during our services.** Your generosity will support our outreach programs, ministry work, and the ongoing maintenance of our church facilities.

I invite you to take part in the exciting activities we have this month, designed to strengthen our faith, build connections in the community, and prepare us for Advent. Our Sunday School and Bible Study groups continue to meet, offering spaces for learning, spiritual growth, and fellowship. **These gatherings are**

**wonderful opportunities to deepen your understanding of Scripture, make new friends, and grow in faith.** I am grateful to everyone who makes these programs possible and to those who support them with their prayers and resources.

As we embrace this time of gratitude and hope, I encourage you to keep supporting Sparta UMC's mission and vision. **Your generous giving has allowed us to maintain our ministries, but we know there's more work ahead. Some of the key initiatives we're focusing on include expanding our outreach programs, supporting our community partnerships, and ensuring the church remains a welcoming place for all.** Let's finish this year strong, keeping our focus on the future and trusting that God will guide us in new and fruitful directions. Together, we can ensure the church continues to be a blessing to all who come through our doors.

May you and your families have a blessed Thanksgiving, filled with love, joy, and the peace of Christ. As we move through this season, let's embrace change with gratitude and hope, confident that God is with us in every challenge and blessing. Let's stay strong, grounded in our faith, and continue spreading kindness and care to those around us.

With love and thanksgiving,

**Rev. Lourdes Magalhães**

*A Thanksgiving Prayer  
I lift my heart to Thee, Oh God,  
In gratitude and praise.  
For all Thy blessings of the past,  
And those of future days...  
For well I know if I shall live,  
They blessings still shall flow  
Across my soul in greater joy  
Than I shall ever know...  
I thank you for my faithful friends  
For sunshine and the rain  
And every blessing hid or seen  
Though some may come through pain.  
O God accept my thanks to Thee  
Each time I come to pray,  
And grant each day that I shall live  
Will be Thanksgiving Day!*



**Thank you** Craig and Laurie Bartholomew for all of the work you have done on the landscaping to include shrub pruning around the church and parsonage. It looks wonderful!

**Thank you** Scott, the parking lot lines look fantastic. You did a wonderful job painting the lines. I still cannot fit my car between them—but it isn't because of the lines - it is how I park! Margie

**Thank you** to everyone that attended Our Community in Concert. Those who performed: Ellen Hemstock (piano) , Toni Jensen (solo) , Karen Joos (solo) , Cyndi Wise (accompanist) , and Rich Zidich (solo and guitar) for sharing your talents. Thank you to Pastor for your support with our concert and the introduction to our audience. Michele for creating our program and making the copies. Cheryl for her technical support and creating our slides and for baking the cookies. Toni for her assistance with the sound checks and mic set up and take down. Marty for being our Mistress of Ceremony. Amy and Eileen for ushering, Danette for being our elevator attendant, Barb McGreevy our photographer and to the Records and History Committee for your behind the scenes assistance. It was a very successful event and you all should take a bow! BRAVO!

I would like to express my heartfelt **thanks** to all of Wesley Circle. They provided continuous support during my recovery of an injured wrist. You are wonderful, unique, dedicated women. I feel fortunate to have you ladies in my life.  
Cheri Greenwood

**Thank you** so much for allowing us the privilege of using your beautiful and spacious facilities for our choirs practice and concert this past weekend. We sincerely appreciate your kindness and generosity. God Bless!  
The Midwest Festival Choir

**Thank you** for the pastor's appreciation gift and cards.  
Pastor Lourdes

## Nurture Update..



**“Give thanks with a grateful heart!”**

**November 3** – All Saints Sunday  
**November 24** – Decorating the church for Advent and Christmas after worship service. **All** are welcome to stay and help decorate (children, families, grandparents, etc.!)

**November 26** – Thanksgiving meal with our Soup Supper friends—**all** are welcome for food and fellowship!

**November 28** – Community Thanksgiving meal at American Legion 11-2 p.m. Volunteers are needed!

**December 1** – Advent begins – devotionals will be available.

**December 8** – Children's Christmas program at 9 a.m. worship service

**December 8** – Big Creek Christmas service 6 p.m.

**December 14** – Christmas Cookie sale 8-12 p.m.

**December 15** – Charge Conference following worship service with a potluck.

**December 15** – Christmas Cantata “Love Is Born” with combined choirs – Sparta UMC and Trinity Lutheran, 2 p.m.

**December 24** – Christmas Eve service 5 p.m.

\*Salvation Army Bell Ringing signup online at [www.registertoring.com](http://www.registertoring.com)

### “The Season of Thankfulness”

Dear volunteers,

For **25** years of serving a weekly **Soup Supper** and **12** years of delivering **free bakery** items form Festival Foods to our church, many have answered the call to **volunteer** by cooking, serving, donating, driving, etc. These caring and generous volunteers are a blessing and are blessed by following Jesus' example. Our prayer is to be good stewards of all that God has promised, so that others will know what the words, “God is love,” mean when they see it in our lives.

Please know **how much** you are appreciated! You faithfully serve, even though it might not be convenient—but it comes from the heart!

With many thanks,  
Cyndi Wise

*Continued..*



## Thank you

–Laurie Bartholomew for defrosting the upright freezer and for the lovely landscaping with her husband Craig!

–All the Community in Concert musicians and for Margie for “leading the band”!

–Cheryl for inspiring and energizing us to BAKE!

“Stay connected to God–  
Stay connected to each other.”

## Pizza and a Movie



night this month is **November 16** 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 Jensen at 608-343-3029 before noon on November

16 if you will be attending so we know how much pizza to order.

## “One Life”

Based on the true story of Nicholas 'Nicky' Winton, who helped rescue hundreds of predominantly Jewish children before Nazi occupation closed the borders. Fifty years later, Nicky (Anthony Hopkins) is reunited with some of those he helped save. Rated PG

## 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

## Needing a Card

### For Someone Special?



You can now find new and recycled cards for all occasions: Birthdays, Anniversaries, Weddings, Thank You, 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!

## Shop with scrip...support your church




Thank you to everyone that has supported the Scrip program throughout the year. There will be 4 opportunities to order Scrip cards before Christmas. I will be placing an order on November 3, November 17, December 1 and December 15.

I have added Casey's and Domino's to the list. I have had people ask about Aldis, but that is not one of the vendors that participate in the Scrip program.

I will have some of the favorites on hand such as Amazon, Hansen's, Kwik Trip, Theisen's and Walmart among others. I will have the cards with me after church on Sunday mornings.

If you purchase a Scrip card, you pay the face value and the church gets a discount. If you purchase \$50 of Theisen's Scrip cards the church receives \$5 on that purchase.

This is a fundraiser that doesn't cost you anything other than the value of the card. If you normally shop at Hansen's or Walmart, consider purchasing a Scrip card so the church receives money from your purchase.

Name:		Phone #	
Product	% QTY	Total	
<b>All American Do-It Center \$25</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	
Amazon.com \$100.00	2.25%	\$ -	
Amazon.com \$25.00	2.25%	\$ -	
Amazon.com \$40.00	2.25%	\$ -	
American Eagle® \$25.00	10%	\$ -	
Applebee's \$25.00	8%	\$ -	
Applebee's \$50.00	8%	\$ -	
Arby's \$10.00	8%	\$ -	
Barnes & Noble \$10.00	8%	\$ -	
Barnes & Noble \$25.00	8%	\$ -	
Bath & Body Works \$10.00	12%	\$ -	
Bath & Body Works \$25.00	12%	\$ -	
Best Buy \$25.00	4%	\$ -	
Buffalo Wild Wings® \$10.00	8%	\$ -	
Buffalo Wild Wings® \$25.00	8%	\$ -	
Burger King \$10.00	4%	\$ -	
Cabela's \$25.00	10%	\$ -	
Cenex \$25.00	3%	\$ -	
Dairy Queen \$10.00	3%	\$ -	
Dick's Sporting Goods \$25.00	8%	\$ -	
Fazoli's \$25.00	9%	\$ -	
Festival Foods \$25.00	3%	\$ -	
<b>Ginny's Cupboard \$5</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	
<b>Ginny's Cupboard \$20.00</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	
<b>Hansen's IGA \$25.00</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	
<b>Hansen's IGA \$50.00</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	
<b>Hansen's IGA \$100.00</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	
<b>Hardware Store \$25.00</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	
iTunes \$15.00	5%	\$ -	
Kohl's \$100.00	4%	\$ -	
Kohl's \$25.00	4%	\$ -	
Kwik Trip \$100.00	4%	\$ -	
Kwik Trip \$25.00	4%	\$ -	
Kwik Trip \$50.00	4%	\$ -	
Menards \$100.00	3%	\$ -	
Menards \$25.00	3%	\$ -	
Olive Garden \$25.00	8%	\$ -	
Olive Garden \$10.00	8%	\$ -	
Outback Steakhouse \$25.00	8%	\$ -	
Outback Steakhouse \$10.00	8%	\$ -	
Panera Bread \$10.00	8%	\$ -	
Papa Murphy's Pizza \$10.00	8%	\$ -	
Pizza Hut (Not AK or HI) \$10.00	8%	\$ -	
Red Lobster \$25.00	8%	\$ -	
Starbucks \$10.00	7%	\$ -	
Subway Restaurants \$10.00	6%	\$ -	
Target \$10.00	2.50%	\$ -	
Target \$25.00	2.5%	\$ -	
Texas Roadhouse \$25.00	8%	\$ -	
<b>Theisen's \$25.00</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	
Walgreens \$100.00	5%	\$ -	
Walgreens \$25.00	5%	\$ -	
Walmart \$100.00	2.5%	\$ -	
Walmart \$10.00	2.50%	\$ -	
Walmart \$25.00	2.5%	\$ -	
Walmart \$50.00	2.5%	\$ -	
0 \$ -			<p>This section to be completed by the SCRIP team member completing your transaction:</p> <p><b>Paid:</b> CASH    CHECK (Circle One)</p> <p>CHECK#_</p> <p>Initials: _____</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>\$</b></p>
5			<p>Consider purchasing gift cards to purchase your weekly or monthly groceries, gas, entertainment or gifts. By doing so Sparta UMC receives a % for each card purchase.</p>

Total Order \$

\$

-

## Christmas Bake Sale

The time is getting close for the Christmas Bake Sale. **We need your help!** Cyndi Wise and her group are making lefse. Annabelle Von Ruden is organizing the cutout cookie baking at church. Cheryl Isensee is organizing a night of baking pumpkin rolls on Monday, November 25 at 5 p.m. at the church. We are working on getting an outside group of ladies to come in and lead us in making rosettes. There is a signup sheet to sign up for any of these groups. If you can't come to church and help with one of these groups, we would encourage you to bake your favorite treats at home.



Bake sale items that go well at bake sales are: bars, cookies, holiday specialty cookies and desserts, candy (fudge, caramels, peanut brittle) dipped pretzels, puppy chow, Chex mix, pies and quick breads. If you have a favorite dessert that you like to make, I would suggest that if you make desserts that you put them in 8 x 8 aluminum pans to be sold (small families usually don't want a 9 x 13 pan of dessert). Bars and cookies will be packaged at church in 6 or 12 count packs.

This will be open to the public so we will need the whole church family to help us out. The Christmas Bake sale will be held on Saturday, December 14 beginning at 8 a.m. and ending at 12 Noon.

COMING SOON

- The Finance Committee will be meeting on Monday, November 4 at 2 p.m.
- The Ministerial Committee will meet on Wednesday, November 6 at noon.
- Nurture will meet on Thursday, November 7 at 6 p.m.
- Lois Circle will Tuesday, November 12 in the small kitchen at 1 p.m.
- Wesleyan Circle will meet on Tuesday, November 12 in the Gathering Place at 6:30 p.m.
- Records & History will meet Wednesday, November 13 at 9 a.m. in the library.
- Pastor will be on vacation November 11 through November 21.
- Pizza and a movie will be Saturday, November 16 at 6 p.m. in the small kitchen for pizza and 6:30 in the chapel for the movie, "One Life."
- Servant Leadership Board will meet on Tuesday, November 19 at 6 p.m.
- SUMMIT Spirits will perform the play "Nonsense" November 22-23 at 7 p.m. and November 24 at 3 p.m.
- December *Chimes* newsletter deadline is Monday, November 25 by noon.

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## Volunteers Needed!

The Ecumenical Food Pantry is in need of additional volunteers. Our church is responsible for covering 12 2-hour slots each month. Currently, we have four of those slots covered by Methodists with volunteers from other churches or myself working the rest. Paul has been working one shift, but with his recent falls he may need to stop. We need two volunteers for the fourth Tuesday from 10-noon and two volunteers 10-noon whenever there is a fifth Tuesday in a month. (this happens 4 times a year) It would also be nice to have someone who could sub on a Tuesday when needed. If you are interested in volunteering, give me a call at 608-343-4068. Thank you!

Lori Ascher- Pantry President





## November Birthdays

- 03 Donna Burnham
- 03 Annabelle Von Ruden
- 05 Kevin Lakowske
- 06 Morgan Healy
- 08 Ken Shaw
- 09 Jacqueline Davis
- 09 Cheryl Isensee
- 09 Aaron Lieder
- 11 Emma Blackdeer
- 12 Dean Benedict
- 12 Jeanne Davis
- 12 Jerry Miller
- 12 Scarlett Simplot
- 13 Denise Ebert
- 13 Harrison Flury
- 13 LeRoy Jackson
- 14 Jessica Janzen
- 14 Nathan Janzen
- 14 Betsy Tadisich
- 14 Harper Von Ruden
- 16 Julie Jones-Conte
- 18 Julian Hutchinson
- 18 Elizabeth Jerman
- 18 Ron Phillips
- 18 Marty Walley
- 21 Richard Wright
- 24 Brandon Burnham
- 25 Henry McGreevy
- 28 Alix Herrman
- 29 Phyllis Christiano



### Ushers

- 3 Kurt & Amy Kiefer
- 10 Ron & Denise Ebert
- 17 Rich & Danette Zidich & Peggy
- 24 Kurt & Amy

### Tech Team

- 3 Ben Simplot & Hailee Scheurich
- 10 Toni Jensen & Amy Kiefer
- 17 Ron & Kristine Phillips
- 24 Cheryl Isensee & Annabell Von Ruden

### Liturgist

- 3 Beth Nowak
- 10 Annabelle Von Ruden
- 17 Beth Nowak
- 24 Judy Fuhrmann



**Thank you** to all who have donated to Soles4Souls! We have collected 1629 pair through the year so far!

CHANGING THE WORLD  
ONE PAIR AT A TIME



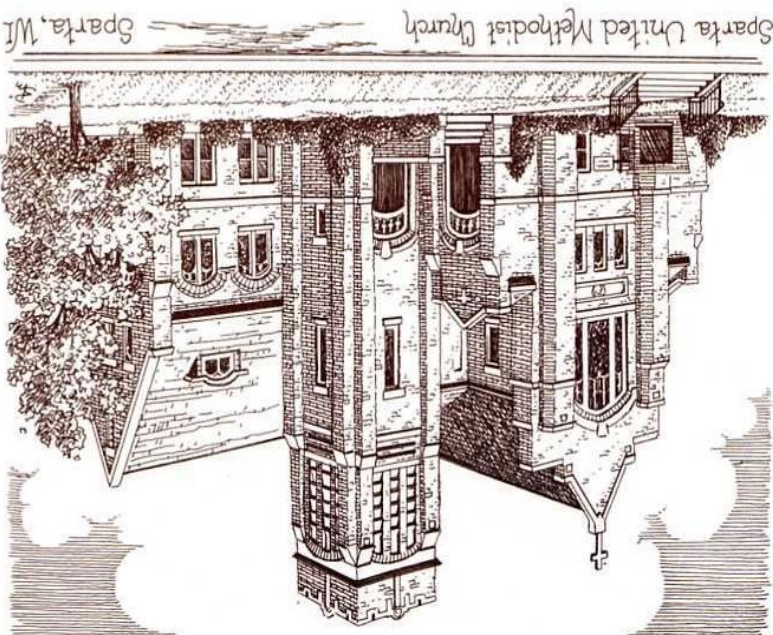
# The Chimes

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



*Prepared Especially For:*



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**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