



Sparta United Methodist Church

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Rev. Lourdes Magalhães – Pastor

November 2025, Edition

CHIMES NEWSLETTER

A Season of Gratitude, Hope, and Light.

By Rev. Lourdes Magalhães

“Let your light shine, so that others will see the good that you do and will praise your Father in heaven.” — *Matthew 5:16 (CEV)*

As we enter November, our hearts are filled with gratitude and anticipation. The autumn colors remind us that God is still at work in every changing season—turning endings into new beginnings and preparing us for the Light that soon will shine through Advent and Christmas.

This month, we joyfully celebrate the 25th Anniversary of our Soup & Supper Ministry on November 11, 2025—a quarter century of nourishing bodies and souls, serving our community with open hands and warm hearts. What a testimony of faith, generosity, and perseverance! Each bowl of soup served has carried the aroma of love, compassion, and Christ’s presence among us.

We also embrace this time as our Stewardship Season, with the theme reminding us that every offering is a reflection of gratitude. On Sunday, November 16, we will gather our pledge cards, not merely as numbers or amounts, but as sacred commitments—our response to God’s abundant grace. Let this be a moment of healing, trust, and renewal. Some may give from abundance, others from sacrifice—but together, we form the body of Christ, sustained by shared faith and generosity.

We give thanks for the faithful members of our Servant Leadership Board (SLB) whose terms concluded this year. Their dedication, prayers, and discernment have guided us through

seasons of challenge and growth. We stand on their shoulders as we look forward to what God will continue to do among us.

Our church also celebrates a season of financial blessing and stability. Through the kind hearts of those who included the church in their estates, and through generous givers whose blessings have overflowed, Sparta UMC stands in a moment of grace. These gifts are not merely monetary—they are seeds of faith planted for future generations.

Meanwhile, our musicians are tuning their voices and instruments, joyfully preparing for the Christmas Cantata and the upcoming Advent and Christmas celebrations. Their dedication fills our sanctuary with anticipation—the sound of hope breaking through winter’s silence.

As the days grow shorter and the air turns cold, many hearts around us wrestle with loneliness, loss, or quiet struggles. May we be bearers of warmth and light, remembering that the smallest act of kindness, the gentlest word, the simplest prayer can illuminate someone’s darkness.

Let us move together—grateful for the past, generous in the present, and hopeful for the future.

May this November be a time to rekindle our faith, renew our commitments, and prepare room in our hearts for the Christ Child who comes again to dwell among us.

Grace and peace,

Rev. Lourdes Magalhães

Sparta United Methodist Church – Pastor



Servant Leadership Board - Report (SLB)

This month, we spent most of our meeting time reviewing the budget line items so that the budget would be ready to present at **Charge Conference**, which was held on **October 21 at 6pm**. The budget reflects a **3% pay increase for all salaried employees** and some higher expense allocations due to rising costs.

Our **Stewardship Campaign began October 12**, and we are looking for pledge cards to be returned by November 6. Pledges help us to budget for the future. However, they can be changed at any time, if needed. Please prayerfully consider your financial giving and **return the pledge card**.

The Safe Sanctuary policy will be launched soon. Currently, we are getting adults who work with children and/or vulnerable adults to attend the Conference-led training. The conference will provide the **Safe Sanctuary trainings** which are provided via Zoom. The next session is **November 1 from 9am-12N** - For those enrolled, come to the Chapel to watch together.

Pre-registration is required <https://wisconsin-reg.brtapp.com/2025SafeSanctuaryTraining>.

Saturday, November 8, we will be holding an **all-church planning meeting** from **9am-12N**. This meeting is for everyone, not just the board members. We want and need your input so that we make decisions that are relevant to all.

SLB is seeking people to serve on the board. Several members were steadfast in getting the Servant Leadership Board started and stayed in their positions to assist with new clergy transitions. Some are completing 7 years+ on the board and need to take a break. Please prayerfully consider helping us in this area. We need you!

EXCITING NEWS! We have contracted with **The Audio Video Pros** in Onalaska to put in a **new sound system**. Barring any difficulty obtaining equipment, they believe they will be able to have it installed in the **first part of December**. The new system will be paid for by the generous memorial gift from Elaine Lee.

We will also need to **upgrade the laptop** that projects the PowerPoint presentation as it does not meet the system requirements to upgrade to Windows 11. This was **not part of the sound system bid** and will need to be purchased separately. We would happily accept donations toward a new laptop, if you feel called to do so.

Thanksgiving and Advent/Christmas Offerings: The Thanksgiving offering will be divided between the Ecumenical Food Pantry and Soup Supper. The Advent and Christmas offerings will be divided between the School Backpack Program and Family Promise.



Thank you to all who have donated to Soles4Souls!

We have sent 2,492 shoes so far.



Thanks be to God!

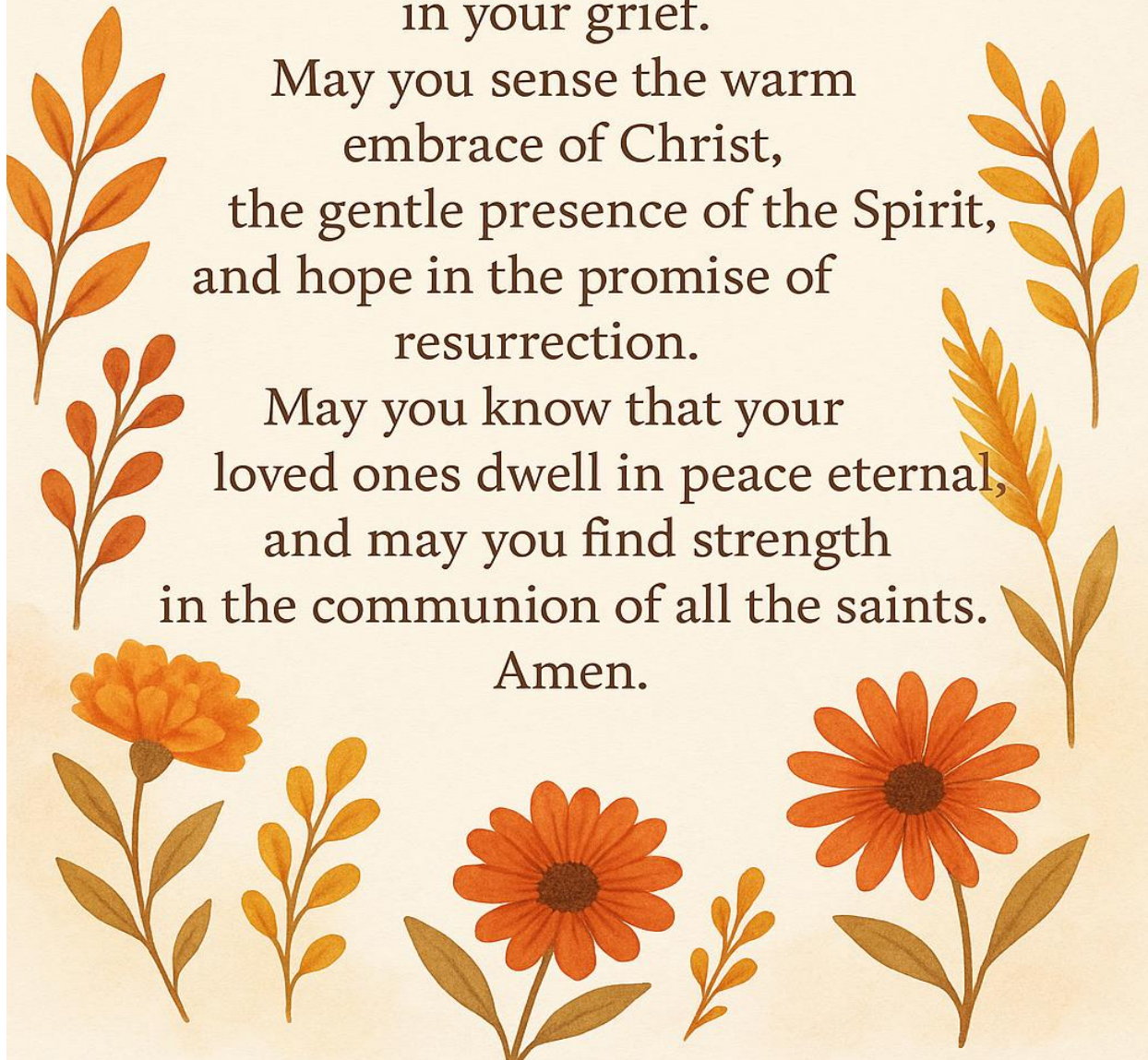
ALL SAINTS' DAY BLESSING

On this All Saints' Day, may
God surround you with comfort
in your grief.

May you sense the warm
embrace of Christ,
the gentle presence of the Spirit,
and hope in the promise of
resurrection.

May you know that your
loved ones dwell in peace eternal,
and may you find strength
in the communion of all the saints.

Amen.





FINANCE COMMITTEE

Let me begin by thanking everyone who took a pledge card for the 2026 stewardship drive. A letter and pledge card has been sent to the remainder of the congregation for them to prayerfully consider their financial commitment for 2026.

Sparta UMC has a vital ministry for its members and the surrounding community. Let's keep these ministries alive. Our ministries make a positive difference in people's lives.

I also wish to recognize the members of the finance committee

Heidi Sullivan Financial Secretary.

Amy Kiefer Treasurer

Eileen Gajewsky

Julie Hanson co- chair for. For 2026

Paul Foulke, Chair

I am particularly thankful that Julie has agreed to accept the position as co-chair.

If you have questions regarding the work of the finance committee feel free to talk to any committee member.

Paul Foulke

Finance Chair



RECORDS & HISTORY COMMITTEE

Records and History Committee: The next meeting for Records and History Committee will be November 12th at 1:00 pm in the Church Conference Room. Please note that our new meeting time will be at 1:00.

Records and History Pictorial Directory: Please be sure to take pictures of your Committees, Circles, Friday Breakfast Groups, Choir, Praise Band, Organists and pianists and staff. If you haven't had your picture taken yet, please contact us so we can schedule you. If you have submitted a picture, please be sure to fill out the information sheet to accompany your picture. To schedule or if you have questions, please contact Margie Lakowske at 608-272-3331.

To the congregation: If you have not had your picture taken or information updated please contact the office or myself and we will get you updated and scheduled! If you have a current picture you would like to use, please provide it to the office and we will incorporate it in the book. Thank you! Margie Lakowske, 608-633-3588.



HAND CHIMES ANYONE??

Yes, our church does have hand chimes! Many will remember a few years ago when we had an active hand chime group! What are hand chimes you might say? They are flat instead of the bell-shaped

hand bells, but they sound just as great. I am looking for a minimum of 6 players to ring. I'm sure there are some young folks besides adults that play or have played an instrument. If you enjoy music, read notes, and count you're in. Please let me or the church office know if you are interested. There is a possibility of ringing in time for the Christmas Season!

Hope enough can play! Karen Joos



Scrip Cards – Cheryl Isensee

Thank you to everyone that has supported the Scrip program throughout the year. There will be 4 opportunities to order Scrip cards before Christmas. ***Scrip cards make great Christmas gifts.*** I will be placing an order on **November 2, November 16, November 30** and **December 14**. I have added Casey's and Domino's to the list. 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.

Christmas Bake Sale – Cheryl Isensee

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. We encourage you to make up your dough and bring to church to bake as a group. For decorating purposes, we would like to stay away from the small cookie cutters. Stay tuned for the date for cutout cookie baking. We will have an all church baking day at church on **Saturday November 22 from 9AM-2PM**. Bring your favorite Christmas recipe to bake as a group. We will be making rosettes that day as well. Cheryl Isensee is organizing a night of baking pumpkin rolls on **Monday November 24 at 5PM** at the church. 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). If you would like to bake but don't have freezer space, please let me know as I have some freezer space that I can freeze your baked items in until the sale. 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 13 beginning at 8AM and ending at 12 Noon.



**Find us on Facebook www.spartaumc.net
share in your face book our events, what did you
learn in the church through the service and
ministries, it is one way you can testify God's
glory and blessings to the world. Be Christ like to
the Word Starts with you and me, it starts here!!**

Kids' Page

Thanksgiving

A Thankful Verse

"Give thanks to the Lord
because he is good,
because his faithful
love lasts forever." (CEB)



Activity: Gratitude Journal

1. Find a small notebook.
2. Decorate the cover with drawings.
3. Each day, write or draw something you are thankful for.
4. Look back at your journal and remember God's blessings!



A Prayer of Thanks

Dear God,
I thank You for all the good things
You give. Help me to have
a grateful heart.
Amen.



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Rev. Lourdes Magalhães

Thanksgiving letter

"For the fruit of his creation, thanks be to God".

Dear Beloved Members and Friends of Sparta UMC,

As we enter this Thanksgiving season, my heart is filled with deep gratitude for each of you — for your faith, generosity, and unwavering love that continues to make our church a true reflection of Christ's compassion. You are the heart and hands of Jesus in Sparta, and together, we continue to make a difference in the lives of many.



I am thrilled to announce that this year, our Thanksgiving Offering will be divided between two vital ministries that faithfully serve our neighbors: the **Sparta Ecumenical Food Pantry** and our own **Soup Supper Ministry**. Both are a great bless to the community and rely on the kindness and generosity of people like you to fulfil their compassion spirit.

A Bit of History: Our Community Ministries of Compassion

Sparta Ecumenical Food Pantry

The Sparta Ecumenical Food Pantry was founded through the united effort of local churches and community partners in the early 1980s. It began in a small church basement as a grassroots response to families struggling to put food on the table. Over the years, it has grown into a cornerstone of care in Monroe County, offering food and household essentials to hundreds of residents each month.

Volunteers from multiple denominations work side by side, living out the Gospel call to love one another. Their shared mission—*"I was hungry and you gave me food"* (Matthew 25:35)—remains at the heart of everything they do.





United Methodist Church Soup Supper

Our own Sparta
UMC **Soup
Supper** began
more than two
decades ago as
a simple meal
during the cold
winter months,
meant to bring
people
together. What
started with a
few pots of

soup and homemade bread soon became a long-standing weekly tradition—an open table of grace for anyone seeking warmth, food, and community.

Each week, different volunteer groups prepare and serve meals with love, offering nourishment for both body and spirit. For many guests, the Soup Supper is more than a meal—it's a moment of belonging and hope.

Together, these ministries reflect who we are as followers of Christ: people who feed the hungry, welcome the stranger, and serve with grateful hearts.

As Scripture reminds us:

“You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us.”

— *2 Corinthians 9:11 (CEB)*

This Thanksgiving, as we count our blessings, let us also share them—so that others may taste the goodness of God through the food, fellowship, and compassion we offer.

Thank you for being a generous, faithful, and loving congregation. May your homes be filled with peace, your tables with joy, and your hearts with gratitude.

With deep appreciation and blessings,

Rev. Lourdes Magalhães

Pastor, Sparta United Methodist Church



UWIF - United Women In Faith

We are in the season to celebrate our blessings and UWIF has a special offering called World Thank Offering. A program was presented to Lois and Wesleyan Circles on October 14. We gave thanks for the bounty God provides for us and we were reminded of the farm workers who pick fresh fruit and harvest the vegetables we enjoy. Do they receive fair, livable wages for their

labor? Weather coins in a jar or dollars, members can give at their November 11 Circle meetings from a spirit of abundance, the practice of

faith and the choice of hope.

We remembered the legacy of our sisters in faith who mentored us years ago by creating a 'pearls of wisdom' necklace as we recited their names. We see their faces in the photos on a bulletin board in the little kitchen every time we meet.

We celebrated with our sister in faith, Amy Kiefer, as she was presented the Special Mission Recognition pin on October 5. Any has gifts beyond measure she shares with SUMC.

Circles will have an opportunity to have group pictures taken for the new directory at the November 11 meetings.

The SW District of UWF will host Day of Enrichment 2025 in Baraboo, WI on Saturday November 8, 2025. From 9am to 1 pm. Keynote speakers' topic is Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. Registration deadline is October 27. Registration forms can be picked up in the office. Talk about it with friends and plan to carpool.

Lois Circle and Wesleyan Circle welcome new members with open arms, lots of smiles and, on occasion, laughter!

Celebrate and know you are loved,

Cathy Nichols, Communications and Program Coordinator



Join The Women's Breakfast and the Men's breakfast both group meet separate Fridays 8 am at Family Restaurant



November Pizza and a Movie

Pizza and a Movie will be cancelled if temperatures are forecast to be below 25 degrees or above 85 degrees.

Who: Everyone is invited!
 What: Pizza and a Movie
 Where: Sparta UMC small kitchen and chapel

When: **Saturday, November 22** at 6pm for Pizza / 630pm for movie

RSVP: Please contact Toni Jensen at 608-343-3029 before 12N on Nov. 22 if you will be attending so we know how much pizza to order.

"The Unbreakable Boy"

You've never met a kid like Austin. He's not just one in a million... he's one in four billion -- the odds of being born with both a rare brittle-bone disease and autism. But what makes Austin truly unique is his joyous, funny, life-affirming worldview that transforms and unites everyone around him -- especially his dad, Scott (Zachary Levi), who comes to see Austin not as the symbol of something broken, but the triumph of an indestructible spirit. To meet Austin is to know that being "unbreakable" is not about physical strength, but the inner strength that comes from embracing love and grace, even in the most trying times. THE UNBREAKABLE BOY is an inspirational true story from Kingdom Story Company and the producers of I CAN ONLY IMAGINE, and I STILL BELIEVE. Written for the screen and directed by Jon Gunn, based on the book by Scott M. LeRette with Susy Flory, the film is produced by Jon Erwin, Andrew Erwin, and Kevin Downes through their Kingdom Story Company banner. Rated PG.



NURTURE COMMITTEE

"We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing...."

November 2 – All Saints Day

November 11 – Soup Supper celebrates 25+ years! All are welcome!

November 16 - Stewardship Campaign Pledge Card Consecration Day

November 23 – Hanging of the Greens – decorating the church for

Advent and Christmas after worship service. *ALL are welcome to stay*

and help decorate (children, families, grandparents)

November 25 – Thanksgiving Service with our Soup Supper friends.

November 27 – Community Thanksgiving Meal at the American Legion

November 30 – Advent begins- devotionals available

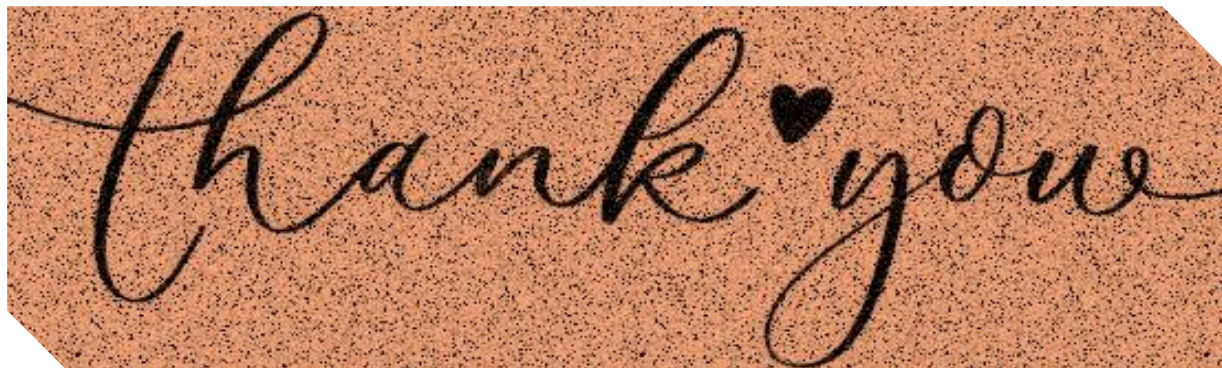
December 13 – Christmas Cookie Sale

December 14 – Christmas Cantata, “Hope Is Born” 2 pm; Chancel Choir & Trinity Lutheran Choir

December 17 – Christmas Caroling 5pm; meet at Cyndi Wise’s house

December 21 – Sunday School & Confirmation Christmas Program

December 24 – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service



THANK YOU: Craig & Laurie Bartholomew for organizing and cleaning the kitchen freezers. All that you do is noticed and appreciated!

THANK YOU: Once again, we were treated to delightful musicians at our Community In Concert. Their wonderful talent and generous spirit graced our sanctuary, and we all left with smiles! Thanks to Margie Lakowske, for “leading the band” again this year!

THANK YOU: Records and History Committee would like to thank the following individuals for their assistance with Our Community In Concert: Eileen Gajewsky and Amy Kiefer for ushering, Cheryl Isensee for creating the slide show and being our tech support and for the delicious cookies following the concert, Toni Jensen for setting up sound and help between musicians, Beth Jerman for creating our programs, Pastor Lourdes for our concert welcome and tech support and Danette Zidich our friendly reliable elevator

attendant. It goes without saying our musicians were terrific. We are so blessed that some of the musicians were our own congregation, Ellen Hemstock, Toni Jensen, Nicole Thompson, Cyndi Wise and Rich Zidich. You all deserve a standing ovation! We have another successful concert in the books! BRAVO!

THANK YOU: Barb McGreevy and Cindy Isensee for continuing to take pictures of our congregation. We appreciate all that you do to record our history.

THANK YOU: To Records and History Committee you are the best. Cathy Nichols, thank you for being our Mistress of Ceremony. Barb McGreevy thank you for once again capturing the musicians in action with your photography skills. Cyndi Wise for your unflappable calm presence and attention to detail in organizing the program and calling in recruits when our program abruptly changed, as well as, accompanying some of the singers. Cindy Isensee for your social media skills in advertising the concert. What a Team!

CONGRATULATIONS!! Last month Amy Kiefer received a Special Mission Recognition pin from United Women In Faith – she is most deserving! Since her retirement, and even before, she has volunteered in countless ways to bless our church and community. Her cheery, friendly personality makes her a joy to be around, and we are so thankful for her presence with us. Thank you Amy for all you do, and may God bless you and your family always!

THANK YOU: To Sara Kemp for the generous donation of supplies for our Recycled Cards Missions project. The

stamps, decorative scissors, stickers, etc... will go a long way to make our cards more attractive!



"The Season of Thankfulness"

Dear Soup and Supper Volunteers,
For 25+ years of serving a weekly SOUP SUPPER and 13 years of delivering FREE BAKERY items from 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
Soup & Supper Coordinator

This article ran in the February 2017 CHIMES, and was written by Julian Hutchinson, a member of our Records and History Committee.

Now we are celebrating our 25th anniversary on November 11-please join us for a meal in the Fellowship Hall at 5 pm for all our friends!

DID YOU KNOW?

This column is about a very special program, the United Methodist Church Soup Supper. Every Tuesday at 5 pm the doors of our church open to those folks who need a meal. How it began and continues to function is a fascinating tale.

In the late 1990's, our main kitchen was remodeled into a state of the art's facility. Shortly thereafter, Cyndi Wise said to Bob, her husband, "it is such a shame that our wonderful kitchen is only used for funerals. Let's pray about what else could we do?"

That conversation developed into the creation of **Soup Suppers**. Pastor Carlson and the Administrative Council supported the idea. The first Soup Supper was held on Tuesday evening, February 23, 1999.

Cyndi reports the menu was chicken soup served with her home baked bread and chocolate cake with Jell-O. There were four guests. Those instrumental in making the first suppers happen were Al Ewers, Don Grenrich, Kathy Johnson, Dave and Jill Sims, Joey Esteline-Oehler, Cyndi & Bob Wise.

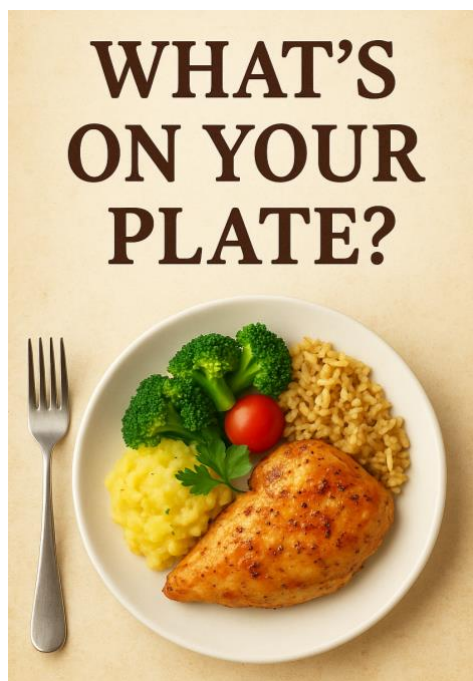
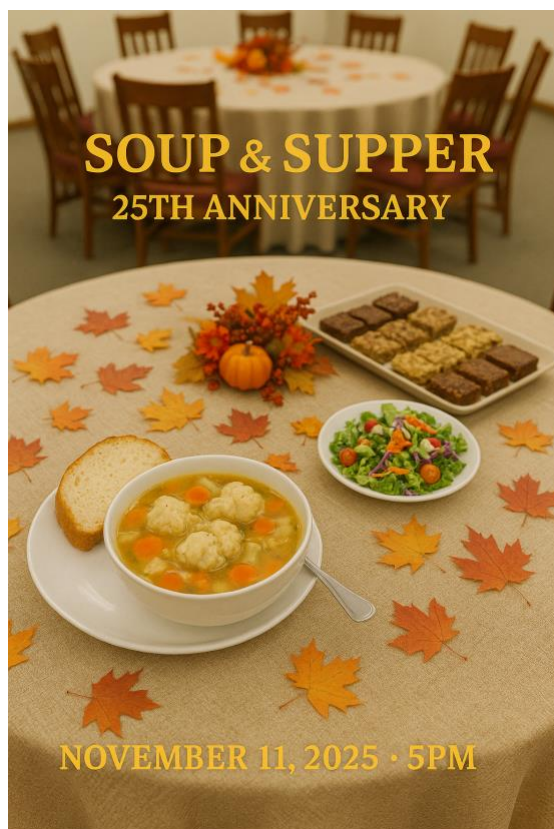
Tuesday nights were chosen for the activity because that was the free Clinic Day and folks with transportation limitations could come straight to the church for a meal. The concept must have worked since from its meager beginnings of four guests at the first supper, an average of 40 per meal have attended. Cyndi reports that this past month when the temperatures were below zero with howling winds, over 20 souls came to eat. Pastor Rey is always there. His presence is very meaningful to the workers and guests.

Volunteers still do all the work and individually proclaim intense pride in helping. In 2008 other churches joined the program. St. Johns' Episcopal, Evangelical Free and the Leon United Congregational Church, led by Rev. Abernathy, began to share the effort.

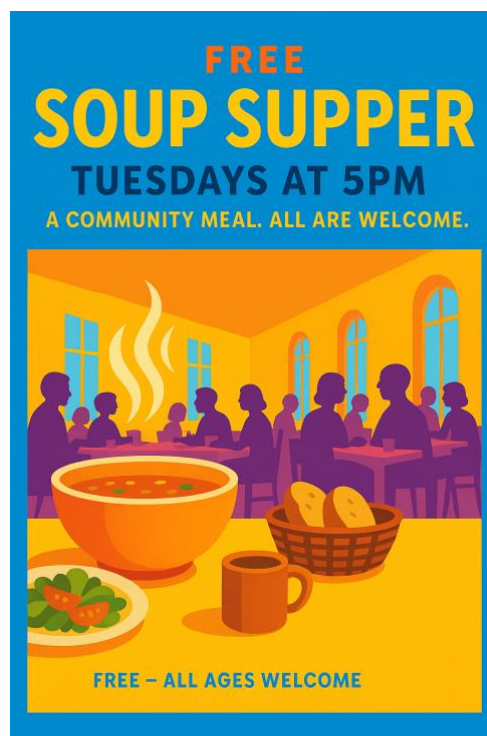
The Soup Supper mission is funded from several sources. Early on a \$10,000 county grant from the abolished W-2 program was received. Free will offerings and donations help with expenses. For the last 11 years, Kiwanis has contributed money for their meals. Supplies are purchased from local grocery stores. On occasion, local restaurants, neighboring churches, funeral homes, community fundraisers, and individual families contribute food from various events.

The Soup Supper event remains a perfect example of the United Methodist Church motto-**Open Minds Open Hearts, and Open Doors**. On Tuesday evenings at 5 pm, our minds, hearts and doors are always open to feed the needy.

Records/History Committee, Julian Hutchinson, (Chimes, 2017)



**UMC Soup & Supper serves,
compassion, grace and
kindness to all!**



The Table Where Grace is Served: A Tribute to Soup & Supper

There is a table in Sparta where grace is
ladled with love,
where steam rises like prayer,
and every bowl tells a story of compassion.
Years ago, a small group of faithful
dreamers —
ordinary people with extraordinary hearts
—
gathered inside the Sparta United
Methodist Church.
They looked at the hunger around them —
hunger for food,
for warmth, for kindness — and said,
“Let’s make a place where everyone can
come and eat.”
From that holy whisper, *Soup & Supper* was
born.
It began not as a program, but as a promise
—
that no one in our community should ever
feel forgotten at the table of life.
Every week since then, the fellowship hall
transforms into a sacred kitchen.
Volunteers arrive with aprons and open
hearts:
men and women from different churches,
students, retirees, neighbors, families —
each one a living ingredient in God’s recipe
of love.
Some bring bread, others stir the soup,
some offer music, some offer prayer,
and others simply offer presence —
the kind that heals without words.
Funding comes from hands seen and
unseen —
generous souls who understand that every
dollar given
is not just for soup, but for hope.
Local businesses, community groups,
and faithful donors join in this unseen

ministry of mercy.
Together, they keep the pots warm, the
lights glowing,
and the doors forever open.
Over the years, this table has welcomed the
lonely,
the traveler, the weary worker, the single
mother,
the man who lost his way, the child who
needed a smile.
And in every shared meal, something more
than food is served —
it’s the taste of belonging,
the flavor of faith,
the nourishment of grace.
As the Gospel reminds us:
“For I was hungry and you gave me food,
I was thirsty and you gave me drink,
I was a stranger and you welcomed me.”
— *Matthew 25:35*
So we give thanks —
to the founding hearts who had the courage
to begin,
to the volunteers who keep the mission
alive,
to the donors and friends who sustain it
year after year,
and to the One who blesses every spoonful
with love divine.
The *Soup & Supper* is not merely a meal.
It is a ministry of mercy.
A hymn sung in ladles and laughter.
A living reminder that when we serve one
another,
we taste the very heart of God.

"To God be the Glory for 25 years of faith
put into practice sharing **the plate of grace**
feeding many.

by the Reverend Lourdes Magalhães
(for Chimes November 2025 edition)



NOVEMBER

Leding the worship services

USHERS

- 2nd- Kurt & Amy Kiefer
- 9 The Eberts
- 16 Rich & Danette Zidich & Peggy W
- 23 Kurt & Amy Kiefer
- 30 Peggy Wright & Annabelle Von Ruden

TECH TEAM

- 2 Annabelle & Emily Von Ruden
- 9 Toni Jensen & Amy Kiefer
- 16 Ron & Kristine Phillips
- 23 Cheryl Isensee & Beth Jerman
- 30 TBD

LITURGIST

- 2 Marty Walley
- 9 Beth Nowak
- 16 Paul Foulke
- 23 TBD
- 30 Beth Nowak

SONG LEADER

- 2 Special Music
- 9 Chancel Choir
- 16 Chancel Choir
- 23 Praise Band
- 30 Special Music

ANNIVERSARIES

There is no anniversary in November



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Annabelle Von Ruden
- 5 Kevin Lakowske
- 6 Morgan Healy
- 8 Ken Shaw, Harper White
- 9 Jacqueline Davis, Cheryl Isensee
Aaron Lieder
- 11 Emma Blackdeer
- 12 Dean Benedict, Jeanne Davis
Jerry Miller, Scarlett Simplot
- 13 Denise Ebert, LeRoy Jackson
- 14 Nathan & Jessica Janzen
- 14 Betsy Tadisch, Harper Von Ruden
- 16 Julie Jones-Conte
- 18 Julian Hutchinson, Beth Jerman
- 18 Ron Phillips, Marty Walley
- 24 Brandon Burnham
- 25 Henry McGreevy
- 29 Phyllis Christiano



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!

Sparta United Methodist Church

Charge Conference Summary - October 21, 2025

Presiding Elder: Rev. Amanda Stein, District Superintendent

Pastor: Rev. Lourdes Magalhães

The 2025 Charge Conference of Sparta United Methodist Church was held on October 21 in a spirit of gratitude and renewal. Guided by District Superintendent Rev. Amanda Stein and Pastor Lourdes Magalhães, members of the Servant Leadership Board, committee chairs, and representatives from the congregation gathered to celebrate God's faithfulness and affirm the church's mission.

The evening opened with a devotional focusing on thanksgiving and transformation through God's grace. Reports from all ministry areas highlighted a vibrant year of worship, outreach, and spiritual growth. Sermon series such as *From Revival to Renewal*, *Summer Baggage*, and *Sacred Rhythms: Living Light in Everyday Life* deepened faith and inspired intergenerational participation.

Educational ministries flourished with Sunday School, Confirmation classes, and small-group studies including *Threads of Courage* and *From Revival to Renewal*. Community outreach remained strong through the *Soup & Supper* ministry—celebrating its 25th anniversary in November—and continued partnership with the *Ecumenical Food Pantry*. Pastoral care expanded with regular home and nursing-home visits, memorial services, and grief-support outreach.

Financially, the church entered a stable and hopeful season. Several bequests and gifts helped strengthen the church's resources and the stewardship campaign "*The Plate of Grace*" invites members to see generosity as a spiritual act of faith restoring trust among the congregants members and friends.

Music and worship also thrived through the Chancel Choir, and community musicians preparing for the upcoming Advent Cantata. Administrative business included approval of 2026 leadership officers, pastoral compensation, membership review, and continuing stewardship goals.

Rev. Stein commended the congregation for its creativity, inclusiveness, and steadfast faith. Pastor Lourdes expressed deep gratitude to the volunteers, donors, and leader who continues to share Christ's love in the Sparta community.

The meeting closed with a prayer of thanksgiving and commitment to move forward in unity and hope, trusting that God's Spirit will guide Sparta UMC into another fruitful year of mission and ministry.

Welcome to

Bridgepath

Advanced Assisted Living & Memory Care

Discover comfort and care - contact us today to tour our newly renovated community. Additional apartments and renovated spaces designed with comfort, safety, and dignity in mind.

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Morrow Home Community



"A Christian Tradition Of Caring"





Council of Bishops
The United Methodist Church



October 2, 2025

Dear Colleagues,

In our United Methodist work in the area of immigration, we have been assisted by information shared with us by the National Immigration Litigation Alliance (NILRA). Today we received the following information from the NILRA concerning immigrant children in the U.S. that is deeply concerning.

Beginning tomorrow, October 3, 2025, ICE will launch an operation reportedly named “Freaky Friday,” targeting unaccompanied children aged 14 and older of all nationalities.

- Children detained and released will be sent a “threat” letter from ICE threatening indefinite detention and immediate transfer to ICE upon age-out if they do not waive jurisdiction under the TVPRA and withdraw applications for relief
- Children will be offered \$2,500 to return to their countries of origin
- If children do not comply with the “offer”, the letter intimates their parents in the US will be arrested
- ICE plans to detain all children who reach the age of 14 and are ready to be released from detention, and they anticipate legal challenges.
- There are indications that the age threshold for this threat letter may be lowered to 10 years old.
- We understand they plan to first target detained children but will also target children released from custody.

Given this alarming information, we strongly encourage annual conferences and local churches to the extent possible, to:

- Provide Know Your Rights presentations to the families of children in ICE custody advising them of this plan and their right to not sign anything document without consulting their attorney
- Also, consider advising the families of immigrant children out of ICE custody about the possibility of receiving an ICE letter.
- If a child receives a letter, please consider helping them to prepare an affidavit that particularly highlights the manner in which this ICE letter was delivered (was counsel present and able to advise, were youth able to ask questions), evidence of coercion or intimidation, underlying fear of being returned to the country they immigrated from.
- Litigators are coordinating and we will provide more information shortly on who to direct these affidavits to.
- Please report concerns to the HHS Ombudsman office here: UCOO@acf.hhs.gov.

Conference Chancellors may be able to provide support in this critical situation.

Please don't hesitate to reach out with questions or concerns. We are here to support you.

Bishop Minerva G. Carcaño, Chair
COB Immigration Task Force

Community Help Emergency & 24/7 Crisis Helplines

Dial 911 for any life-threatening emergency.

- **988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline** – call, text, or chat anytime for immediate help; national service available in Wisconsin lacrossesuicideprevention.org+15dpi.wi.gov+15campussuite-storage.s3.amazonaws.com+15co.monroe.wi.us.
- **Monroe County 24-Hour Crisis Line** – call 888-552-6642 for mental health, addiction, or suicide-related emergencies co.monroe.wi.us+1co.monroe.wi.us+1.

Local Mental Health & Crisis Services

- **Monroe County Dept. of Human Services – Children & Family Services**
Provides child and youth crisis intervention, child abuse reporting, and mental health support findhelp.org+10co.monroe.wi.us+10co.monroe.wi.us+10campussuite-storage.s3.amazonaws.com.
- **Monroe County Mental Health Coalition / Mental Health Fair**
Hosts events (e.g., May 16, 2024) promoting awareness, outreach, and community resources monroe.extension.wisc.edu+1co.monroe.wi.us+1.
- **Sparta School District Counseling Services**
All schools—elementary, middle, and high—offer in-school counseling; contact your child’s school counselor for help dpi.wi.gov+5spartan.org+5findhelp.org+5.

Peer & Youth-Focused Programs

- **The Trevor Project**
Offers LGBTQ+ youth (up to 25) 24/7 crisis intervention via phone, text, and chat en.wikipedia.org+2campussuite-storage.s3.amazonaws.com+2en.wikipedia.org+2.
- **Hope Squad**
Peer-to-peer suicide prevention program used in schools to reduce stigma and connect struggling youth to help en.wikipedia.org.

Community & Prevention Initiatives

- **Monroe County Suicide Prevention Taskforce**
Engages in awareness, education, and prevention; meets monthly and supports local strategies co.monroe.wi.us+10co.monroe.wi.us+10monroe.extension.wisc.edu+10.
- **Prevent Suicide Wisconsin (MHA–WI)**
Statewide coalition supporting local suicide efforts and training like Zero Suicide for communities co.monroe.wi.us+10mhawisconsin.org+10en.wikipedia.org+10.

Additional Resources & Strategies

Monroe County Mental Health Resource Guide (PDF)

Includes youth counseling, substance use services, and crisis support options namiwisconsin.org+2workforceconnections.org+2campussuite-storage.s3.amazonaws.com+2

Sparta United Methodist Church - 210 North Court St. Sparta, WI 546756
 Phone: (608) 269-6949 | Email: office@spartamethodist.com | Website: www.spartaumc.net
November Calendar, 2025 - Reverend Lourdes Magalhães

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Safe Sanct online training
2 9 am Worship Serv. Holy Communion Daylight Saving Time	3 9 am Free Bread "K" St. Entrance 3 pm TOP'S 5:30 Yoga Class	4 5 pm Soup Supper 6pm SLB mtg. 7 pm AI-Anon	5 8pm Confirmation Class	6	7 8am Men's Breakfast 8am Women's Breakfast 9am TOP'S	8 9 am – 12 noon; All Church Planning Day All Leaders and Members are invited to attend
9 9 am Worship Service	10 9 am Free Bread "K" St. Entrance 3 pm TOP'S 5:30 Yoga Class	11 1 pm Lois Clr. 5 pm Soup Supper – 25 th anniversary 6:30 pm W. Circle 7 pm AI-Anon	12 1pm Records & History 7-8 Chancel Choir Reh. 8pm Confirmation Class	13 10:30 am Holy Communion at Morrow Home	14 8am Men's Breakfast 8am Women's Breakfast 9am TOP'S	15 6pm Pizza & Movie Night
16 9 am Stewardship Campaign Pledge Card Consecration Service	17 9 am Free Bread "K" St. Entrance 3 pm TOP'S 5:30 Yoga Class	18 5 pm Soup Supper 7 pm AI-Anon	19 7-8 Chancel Choir Reh. 8pm Confirmation Class	20	21 8am Men's Breakfast 8am Women's Breakfast 9am TOP'S	22 9 am Christmas Bake Day
23 9 am Worship Service Hang all	24 9 am Free Bread "K" St. Entrance 3 pm TOP'S 5 pm Christmas Bake 5:30 Yoga Class	25 5 pm Soup Supper 7 pm AI-Anon	26	27 11am - 1:30pm Thanksgiving day Office Closed Thanksgiving Luncheon at American Legion - Minis Assoc.	28 Office Closed	29
30 9 am Worship 1st Advent Sun & Holy Comm.						

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 SCHEDULES

SUNDAYS 9am In Person

9am Online livestream @ Youtube & Facebook

Spartaumc - month - day - year

