# "The CHIMES" - March

Volume 54, No. 3 2019

## **Continuing the Conversation...**



"Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends." — John 15:13

As I began my Lenten ponderings, I wondered at what an incredible statement this verse from John's Gospel truly is. In the world around us people generally

won't even lay down their preferences and opinions for others. Yet our Savior commands us saying, "Love one another, even as I have loved you...by this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 13:34-35)

What does this mean in practical terms? How does Jesus intend for us to love and care for others? To help understand this, consider how Jesus loves us.

First, Jesus loves each of us selflessly. The Savior is devoted to you because of who you are, not for what you can do for him. Philippians 2:7-8 teaches that Christ cares for you so greatly that he left his glorious home in heaven just to provide a way of salvation for you. He "emptied himself, taking the form of a bond servant, and being made in the likeness of men...he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross." He left behind his magnificent throne, adoring angelic hosts, and heavenly comfort to reach you. Jesus held nothing back out of self-interest. He gave everything up for you and me; doesn't that blow your mind?!

Second, Jesus loves you with great understanding. If there is one thing you can count on it is that Christ is sympathetic to your suffering, faults, and limitations. He realizes why you respond to situations the way you do. Hebrews 4:15-16 assures you of this: "We do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need." The Lord is

compassionate in regards to your pain and always accepts you when you seek him.

Third, Jesus loves you with forgiveness. Yes, there will be times when you sin and feel separated from God. However, 1 John 1:9 promises, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." The reason God hates sin is because it is a destroyer—it takes over your life and keeps you from experiencing God's very best for you. God wants to cleanse you of your sin as quickly as possible and get you back on the right track.

Finally, Jesus loves you sacrificially. Hebrews 12:2 tells us that Jesus "for the joy set before him endured the cross, despising the shame." What was Christ's joy? It was bringing you back into a relationship with God through Jesus. However, it cost him immensely through an excruciatingly painful death on the cross. Jesus was willing to make this great sacrifice because you are God's beloved.

In light of how the Savior loves us, how are we called to care for and love others? First, we are to love them selflessly—not for what we can get. Second, we are to attempt to understand what motivates them, always accepting them as Christ would. Third, we are to love them with forgiveness, remembering that Christ has forgiven us of so much. And fourth, we are to love them sacrificially, which may mean that we put aside our own goals and desires at times for the greater good.

As we move through this season of Lent toward Easter, meditate on God's love for you and what God's love asks of you as you consider these questions: Do you truly believe in the gospel of Jesus Christ? Will you stand for it by loving others as Jesus loves us? What are some practical ways you can live out the gospel in our church and community?

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

Pastor Loretta

#### Sundays in Lent bring a Sermon on the Mount series

Sunday, March 10 will begin a sermon series for Lent (continuing through Easter) from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. This series will take us through some of the most familiar teachings of Jesus from his *Sermon on the Mount* in Matthew 5-7 and relate them to the events surrounding Christ's life, death, and resurrection. In the process, the services will powerfully reveal that the cross itself is the ultimate Sermon on the Mount for our journey of faith in this sacred season.

#### March 10: Salt and Light

Matthew 5:13-16

Christ calls us to be salt and light in this world of sin. We who have tasted and seen his great love for us on the cross can spend our Lent savoring his salvation and shining with his glory and grace in the places where he has put us.

#### **March 17: Prayer and Fasting**

Matthew 6:5-18

Lent is a season of prayer and fasting. We grow in our relationship with Christ by communicating with him, and we learn more about him and ourselves by giving up those things that can distract us from our connection to him.

#### March 24: Do Not Worry

Matthew 6:25-34

So much of our lives, even in Lent, is spent worrying about what might happen or what has happened. Christ teaches us to stop being anxious, but simply to trust that he knows what is best and will take care of us to the very end.

#### March 31: Judge Not

Matthew 7:1-5

We live in a very judgmental world, so Jesus' advice not to judge sounds radical to our modern ears. When we leave all judgment up to God, we free ourselves to look at one another through fresh and forgiving eyes.

#### **April 7: Build on Rock**

Matthew 7:24-27

We build our lives on very shaky foundations, and then we are surprised when things start collapsing. Jesus reminds us in his teachings that the only solid foundation is himself, the Rock of our salvation. On him alone we build.

### April 14—Palm Sunday: Ask, Seek, Knock

Matthew 7:7-11

When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the people asked, "Who is this King of Glory?" They were seeking one who saves when they shouted, "Hosanna!" They were knocking on the door for a new future. What they did not know was that Jesus was opening the door to everlasting life through the cross.

## April 21—Easter Sunday: Treasures in Heaven

Matthew 6:19-21

Easter reminds us that Jesus taught to lay up treasures in heaven and not on earth. His resurrection is a wake-up call to us all that while the things of this earth are temporary, we have the precious gift of life with him forever awaiting us.

#### **Wednesday Evening Lenten Services**

Remember, we also have special Wednesday evening Lenten services beginning on Ash Wednesday, March 6, at 6 p.m. in the chapel. The following Wednesdays will begin with a simple supper at 5:30 in the fellowship hall and then move to the chapel for worship around Adam Hamilton's 24 Hours That Changed the World. For full details see the February newsletter or the poster found on the entry bulletin boards, or ask the pastor.



#### Why Do We Give?

The wicked borrow and do not repay, but the righteous give generously. (2 Psalm 37:21)

People give to the church for a variety of reasons that form a hierarchy of motivations. Where they fall on the hierarchy is related closely to how much, proportionately, they give; how willingly they give; how they respond to being asked to pledge their support to the mission and ministry of the church, and how openly they talk about their giving. What motivates you to give?

Some people feel **called** to give out of their faith. Giving generously feels right and natural. It is a part of their discipleship. In turn, they are grateful for their own blessings including a place in the church where they can contribute.

Some people feel **fulfilled** by giving. They derive joy, energy and good feelings from giving. They value the church in their lives and want to support it so it is there for others.

Some people value giving as a **duty**. It is the right thing to do and creates good in the world. Giving influences the community for good and connects the giver with the community.

Some people would feel **guilty** if they did not give. They feel giving is something they should do, even if they would rather not. Alternatively, they fear they will be shamed if they do not give.

Finally, some people feel **coerced**. They feel their situation compels them to give. Which of these describes why you give?

Which do you think would be most pleasing to God? Next month, how to move up the hierarchy...

Jim Wells, Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation, Visit the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation at www.wumf.org or Facebook/wumf.org or call 1-888-903-986

#### 2019 Ecumenical Lenten Lunch/Speaker Schedule

Each Lunch begins at 12 noon, with music and speaker lasting until around 1PM

Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup> Ash Wednesday. Each church hosts their own Lenten service this day.

Wednesday, March 13th

Lunch Site: United Methodist Church

Speaker: Rev. Jo Glasser Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup>

Lunch Site: St. John's Episcopal Church

Speaker: Pastor Loretta Waughtal

Wednesday, March 27<sup>th</sup> Lunch Site: St. Patrick's Speaker: Pastor Bill Clyma

Wednesday, April 3rd

Lunch Site: Trinity Lutheran Church

Speaker: Father Eric Burns Wednesday, April 10<sup>th</sup>

Lunch Site: Congregational United Church of Christ

Speaker: Pastor Mark Kvale Wednesday, April 17<sup>th</sup>

Lunch Site: Faith Evangelical Free Church

Speaker: Father Peter Augustine Friday, April 19th. Good Friday

Meet at 11a.m. at St. Patrick's. Walk and Prayer through Sparta, Pastor Brian coordinates. Walk concludes at Lanham-Schanhofer Funeral Home, with an ecumenical service to follow. **No lunch this day.** 



#### A Lenten Study Opportunity

Paul Foulke will be leading a 5 week Lenten Study on Monday afternoons and evenings beginning Monday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, with classes at 1:00 and 6:00 p.m. This video-based series by Adam Hamilton is titled "Half Truths." We will look at statements that are often said that are half true, such as:

- Everything happens for a reason
- God helps those who help themselves
- God won't give you more than you can handle
- God said it. I believe it. That settles it!
- Love the sinner, hate the sin

The cost of the accompanying study book is \$12. Please let Paul know of your interest by March 1<sup>st</sup>, so books can be ordered. He can be reached at 1-715-554-0246.



## **Outreach/ Missions Committee Report**

This Committee will continue to meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month after the morning service and will move to

Library instead of meeting in the Family Room.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month the BASH kids will collect money during the offering to help support UMCOR Clean Water, Sanitation and Hygiene project. Lynn made a motion to set a goal of raising \$1000 dollars, with Peggy seconding the motion. Motion carried. Other projects discussed were the Ecumenical Food Pantry, School Backpack Program, and the Soles 4 Souls shoe project.

A few people had come to the church asking for food because the Food Pantry hadn't opened due to bad weather. Pastor Loretta Waughtal and Cyndi Wise found some food items to help tide them over. It was brought up that the Pastors' Ministerial Association has funds available for emergency needs or there were people who could open-up the Food Pantry to help with food needs.

Paul closed the meeting with a prayer.

Lynn Humphrey, recorder.



#### Volunteers are needed:

**Tuesday, March 5th:** A **Shrove Tuesday Community Pancake Supper** is being held to recognize the beginning of the Lent season. This Pancake Supper will be served from 5 – 7:00 p.m., with Sparta UMC hosting the event this year. **We need volunteers in the kitchen and dining room to help prepare and serve the supper.** Michael Bonello has volunteered to make the pancakes. This supper will be by Freewill Offering and all proceeds will support the Sparta Ministerial Association. Please contact Cyndi Wise as soon as possible to volunteer your assistance.

Wednesday, March 13<sup>th</sup>: This year's Ecumenical Lenten Luncheon and Devotions series begins this day, with Sparta UMC as the host. Lunch will be served at 12Noon, followed by a short devotional message. A sign-up sheet for the grocery items needed to prepare this luncheon is available. Check it out to see what you can donate!

Wednesday evenings from March 13<sup>th</sup> thru April 10<sup>th</sup>: Our Annual Lenten Soup N Bread suppers will begin on March 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. and continue each Wednesday evening through April 10<sup>th</sup>. We need two volunteers to prepare soups to donate and also bring bread to serve for the supper each week. These volunteers would need to set up and serve the supper and clean up afterwards. A sign-up sheet is available before and after the worship services on Sunday to select a date that will work for you. (The Wednesday night BASH kids and their parents will also be welcome to participate in these suppers.) Don't forget that these suppers will be followed at 6:00 p.m. by Pastor Loretta's Lenten study in the Chapel based on Adam Hamilton's video study: "24 Hours that Changed the World."

#### Why Consider Continuous Giving?

"Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything; you may have an abundance for every good deed."— 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

If you are keeping up with the financial reports in *The Chimes* you will have noticed that the general checking account balance continues to decline at a concerning rate. The bottom line is, offerings and other income are less than our expenses. The Finance Committee and Ad Council continue to explore ways we may be able to cut expenses (although we don't have an extravagant budget) and creative fund raisers that could involve the community.

In the meantime, one way we can all help now is by giving our offerings on a consistent basis because our bills continue to come in consistently. Continuous giving is a commitment one makes with God to contribute joyfully to the ministry of the church.

#### How does continuous giving work?

- **1.** A certain amount is set aside for each Sunday of worship by each member or family.
- **2.** If a Sunday is missed, the amount missed is placed in the next Sunday's contribution plate.
- **3.** By doing so, the church leaders can more clearly look at future budgets based upon past and current giving to assure that the ministry of the church can be continued. This includes the pastor's salary, maintenance of the church and parsonage, utilities, community and world outreach, among many others.

Some examples: If one commits to \$10 a week for giving and attends church 3 Sundays a month, no continuous giving would result in 16 Sundays missed or \$160 in a year that could be used for the missions of the church. One who commits to \$20 a week would result in \$320 in a year. One can see how this amount would be collectively significant among all members, regardless of their current dollar commitment!

It is important to note that continuous giving **does not** indicate nor demand an increase in the commitment of giving, just giving on a regular basis.

Many members do contribute on a continuous giving basis and we are very thankful for them, but if all members did so, what tremendous things our church could do as we continue in ministry.

Respectfully submitted by your Finance chair, Paul Foulke

#### A "Noisy Can" Offering!!!

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month the Children's Choir kids will be passing cans to collect an extra offering. Their goal is to collect \$1000 for the UMCOR Clean Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Project. This effort is sponsored jointly by the Children's Choir and the Outreach Mission Committee. (What if everyone threw their change in a container at home each day, collected it throughout the month and then brought their container in on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday to dump in the collection cans here at church and make some noise?) Let's see how quickly we can help them reach their goal!



#### **BASH News:**

BASH kids sang in church on February 17, 2019. They will sing again on March 17<sup>th</sup> and on April 14<sup>th</sup>. The BASH Children's Choir kids will also be collecting money on the Sundays they sing during worship for the UMCOR WASH program.

The kids are busy learning about Jesus's birth and about his family. We have talked about the different kinds of family we can have like moms, dads, brothers and sisters, grandparents, aunts and uncles, our church family, our BASH family, school family, and so on. We will continue to learn about the people in Jesus's family through the rest of the year.

We are looking for people who would like to volunteer on a Wednesday night to help with BASH. You don't have to be available every Wednesday. If you are interested, please see Toni Burrows or Lynn Humphrey.

God's Blessing, Lynn

(Continuing a Sparta Tradition)

## Shrove Tuesday

**Community Pancake Supper** 



Tuesday, March  $5^{th}$ , 5-7 p.m.

Sparta United Methodist Church 210 N. Court St.

Mark the beginning of Lent in a traditional way.

A Freewill offering will be taken, with all proceeds going to the Sparta Ministerial Association to support their work in the community. Call 269-6949 if you have questions or need more information.

## Living wills and Advance Directives For Medical Decisions

Plan ahead and get the medical care you want at the end of life.

Living wills and other advance directives are written, legal instructions regarding your preferences for medical care, if you are unable to make decisions for yourself. Advance directives guide choices for doctors and caregivers if you're terminally ill, seriously injured, in a coma, in the late stages of dementia, or near the end of life.

Advance directives aren't just for older adults. Unexpected end-of-life situations can happen at any age, so it's important for all adults to prepare these documents.

By planning ahead, you can get the medical care you want, avoid unnecessary suffering, and relieve caregivers of decision-making burdens during moments of crisis or grief. You also help reduce confusion or disagreement about the choices you would want people to make on your behalf.

A medical or health care power of attorney is a type of advance directive in which you name a person to make decisions for you when you are unable to do so. In some states this directive may also be called a durable power of attorney for health care or a health care proxy.

Depending on where you live, the person you choose to make decisions on your behalf may be called one of the following:

- Health care agent
- Health care proxy
- Health care surrogate
- Health care representative
- Health care attorney-in-fact
- Patient advocate

Choosing a person to act as your health care agent is important. Even if you have other legal documents regarding your care, not all situations can be anticipated and some situations will require someone to make a judgment about your likely care wishes. You should choose a person who meets the following criteria:

- Meets your state's requirements for a health care agent
- Is not your doctor or a part of your medical care team
- Is willing and able to discuss medical care and end-of-life issues with you
- Can be trusted to make decisions that adhere to your wishes and values
- ●Can be trusted to be your advocate if there are disagreements about your care

The person you name may be a spouse, other family member, friend, or member of a faith community. You may also choose one or more alternates in case the person you chose is unable to fulfill the role.

In determining your wishes, think about your values. Consider how important it is to you to be independent and self-sufficient, and identify what circumstances might make you feel like your life is not worth living. Would you want treatment to extend your life in any situation? All situations? Would you want treatment only if a cure is possible?

You should address a number of possible end-of-life care decisions in your living will. Talk to your doctor if you have questions about any of the following medical decisions:

**Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR)** restarts the heart when it has stopped beating. Determine if and when you would want to be resuscitated by CPR or by a device that delivers an electric shock to stimulate the heart.

**Mechanical ventilation** takes over your breathing if you're unable to breathe on your own. Consider if, when, and for how long you would want to be placed on a mechanical ventilator.

**Tube feeding** supplies the body with nutrients and fluids intravenously or via a tube in the stomach. Decide if, when, and for how long you would want to be fed in this manner.

**Dialysis** removes waste from your blood and manages fluid levels if your kidneys no longer function. Determine if, when, and for how long you would want to receive this treatment.

Antibiotics or antiviral medications can be used to treat many infections. If you were near the end of life, would you want infections to be treated aggressively or would you rather let infections run their course?

Comfort care (palliative care versus Hospice care) includes any number of interventions that may be used to keep you comfortable and manage pain while abiding by your other treatment wishes. This may include being allowed to die at home, getting pain medications, and avoiding invasive tests or treatments.

**Organ and tissue donations** for transplantation can be specified in your living will. If your organs are removed for donation, you will be kept on life-sustaining treatment temporarily until the procedure is complete. To help your health care agent avoid any confusion, you may want to state in your living will that you understand the need for this temporary intervention.

**Donating your body** for scientific study also can be specified. Contact a local medical school, university, or donation program for information on how to register for a planned donation for research.

Advance directives need to be in writing. Each state has different forms and requirements for creating legal documents. Depending on where you live, a form may need to be signed by a witness or notarized. You can ask a lawyer to help you with the process, but it is generally not necessary.

If you do not have this very important document filled out and on file please see me. I have the necessary forms available for you in my office. I am in the office on Wednesdays from 10am to 3pm. If this doesn't work for you, I will set up a time that does.

Priscilla Hemmersbach, RN; Parish Nurse



#### **Records & History Committee Report**

If anyone has information on the history of the parsonage, to include pictures, when it was built, or other information, please contact any member of Records and History Committee.

We also want to remind everyone that the dates for our Pictorial Directory photo sessions are April 30, and May 1, 2, 3 and 4, 2019. The Pictorial Directory Committee is comprised of: Eileen Gajewsky, Cheryl Isensee, Cindy Isensee, Amy Kiefer, Cyndi Wise and Margie Lakowske. If anyone else would like to assist with the Directory, please contact Margie. Keep watching *The Chimes* for more details on scheduling your photo session.

We are – Keeping the Eternal Flame Glowing



#### **Nurture Committee News...**

Cyndi Wise, Chairperson

March 3<sup>rd</sup> – Shrove Pancake Breakfast will be served by some of the men of our church following the worship service. Please come and share fellowship while enjoying a breakfast of pancakes, sausage, applesauce, juice and coffee. A Freewill Offering will be collected.

March 6<sup>th</sup> – Ash Wednesday: Our evening worship service will begin at 6:00 p.m. in the Chapel, with the Chancel Choir singing. The video-based series titled "24 Hours that Changed the World" will begin.

March 13<sup>th</sup> – Ecumenical Lenten Luncheon & Devotions series begins 12 Noon on this date. Sparta UMC will be hosting the first of these Luncheons. A short devotional message will follow lunch and will be finished by 1:00 p.m.

March 13<sup>th</sup> – Lenten Soup N Bread Suppers begin at 5:30 p.m. Worship and the continued series "24 Hours that Changed the World" will follow at 6:00 p.m. in the Chapel.

#### **LOOKING AHEAD:**

**April 18**<sup>th</sup> – **Maundy Thursday**: The 24 Hour Prayer Vigil will begin at 12 Noon. We will have a worship service in the evening.

**April 19<sup>th</sup> – Good Friday:** A Prayer Walk through downtown Sparta will begin at St. Pat's at 11:00 a.m. and end at the Lanham-Schanhofer Funeral Home. An ecumenical Good Friday service based on the seven last words of Christ will begin there at 12 Noon.

**April 12<sup>th</sup> – Easter Sunday!** We will once again participate in "Blossoming of the Cross" to symbolize the new life believers have because of Christ's death and resurrection.

Thank You to all who shared material for our Lenten Devotional booklet. This booklet will be available on Sunday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> for your daily reading during the 40 days of Lent. (A Special Thank You to Cheryl Isensee for compiling the devotional booklet for us!)

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**Thank You**, Sara Kemp, for preparing the **Activity Bags** for the children to use on Sunday mornings. The bags are hanging on small hall trees, which are located in two areas – in the Narthex and near The Gathering Place.

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**Photos:** To highlight our congregation and our many events, programming and fellowship, as well as leadership, please take photos of your committees, study groups, coffee groups, Circles, United Methodist Women, BASH teachers and helpers, musical ensembles, and so on... Then submit them to me so we can post them on our bulletin boards. Let's celebrate the life of our church!

Cyndi Wise, Nurture Chair

#### A Reminder....

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

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

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

Thank You!

#### **Administrative Church Council Report**

David Kemp reported that the trustees are working on finishing up some final projects in the parsonage. He worked with the furnace guys on fixing some cold areas in the church. The next project will be to find out what is causing the leak in The Gathering Place.

Paul Foulke reported the Finance Committee did not meet in February, due to the weather, but the Stewardship Task Force will be meeting on Thursday night for their first time. The kids from BASH raised \$68 on their first Sunday of collecting money. They will continue collecting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of every month, with a goal of raising \$1000 for UMCOR's WASH project. The committee is also looking for some fundraiser ideas for the church. A couple ideas that were talked about were: asking for a free will offering for the concert, holding a community pancake breakfast, strawberry and ice cream social, and maybe an auction.

SPPRC looked over the Accountable Leadership plan. The Committee found that the church's old ministry plan needs to have updates made to help in planning where we are going as a church in the future.

Cyndi reported that the Membership Committee met last week and discussed taking care of people, both friends of the church and church members, because we are in the people business. The group is working on updating church records to show the generations of the families in our church and how individuals are connected within the church.

UMW will meet on March 5<sup>th</sup>. Still looking for someone to lead the group. They will celebrate 150 years of United Methodist Women and are working on a call to prayer and self-denial.

Margie reported that the Records & History Committee met in February and to focus on the history of the parsonage now. Margie is exploring a website about the Disposition of Records. The Committee is also working on the plans for updating the church directory. They want everyone to be included in the book.

Priscilla reported that she and Pastor Loretta are working on the Maundy Thursday program.

Cyndi Wise reported on some upcoming special events for the Nurture Committee: **Sunday, March 3**<sup>rd</sup> – will be the Shrove Pancake Breakfast, with the men preparing and serving breakfast, **Wednesday, March 6**<sup>th</sup> will be **Ash Wednesday services at 6:00pm** and the beginning of Adam Hamilton's "24 hours That Changed the World" study series; **Wednesday, March 13**<sup>th</sup> will begin the Lenten Soup and Bread suppers starting at 5:30 pm, with the Lenten Service to follow at 6pm; and the first Noon Ecumenical Luncheon which will be held at the church. Nurture would like people to

take pictures of their church groups to put up on a bulletin board.

Lynn Humphrey reported that they have 15 to 18 children attending BASH each week. They have started the Deep Blue curriculum and think the children are having fun with the new formats. The last 2 weeks have been spent on the Birth of Jesus and Jesus's family.

The Outreach Mission Committee will continue to meet in the Library on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month after the morning's worship service.

Pastor Loretta shared some informational brochures that she has been working on and will make them available to place around Sparta to give information about the church. She is having a study "A Disciple's Path" by James Harnish on Mondays at 1 pm and 6pm. On March 7<sup>th</sup> she will be gone for a District Meeting and at the end of March she will attend a 4 day meeting in Green Lake. She will be doing The Walk to Emmaus, May 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>.

Lynn Humphrey talked about the Wi-Fi not working well in the balcony area, but measures are being taken to get to the bottom of this and resolve any issues.

Priscilla Hemmersbach indicated the Health Ministry Team has been very busy with visits. She will offer information on Advance Directives and can assist with completing them.

(For a full, detailed report, see the minutes on the bulletin board.).

February 2019 General Budget Contributions/Expenses

Date	Revenue*	Expenses
2/03/2019	5,416.40	3,435.72
2/10/2019	2,530.50	7,580.13
2/17/2019	1,422.00	2,514.37
2/242019	1,562.00	5,973.21

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



## **Our Deepest Sympathy To:**

The Family & Friends of Ray Nauman (father of Laurie & Tom Graber), for the loss of Ray.

The Family & Friends of Carol Roeske, for the loss of Carol.

The Family & Friends of Marion Rhodenhizer (aunt of Eileen Gajewsky), for the loss of Marion.

The Family & Friends of Art Baker (father of Julie Rodgers & Nikki Trigg), for the loss of Art.

The Family & friends of Roger Matson, Jr., for the loss of Roger.