

“The CHIMES” – October

Volume 56, No. 10

2021

Continuing the Conversation...

“So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.” (Genesis 1:27)

“God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.” (Genesis 2:3)

As I write this letter, I am preparing for (and looking forward to) a week of vacation that I am hoping will be a time of Sabbath rest. I have a confession to make—I am not always faithful in making time for a weekly Sabbath. After a while I begin to feel the effects of missing that important time. I too often allow the urgency of daily and weekly tasks have too much influence over my schedule.



Work and rest are not opposing forces, but elements of a rhythm that make good work and true recreation possible. As I work to regain balance in my life I want to share three reasons for all of us to practice Sabbath rest.

First, we are designed to rest. Since we are created in God’s image, we are to obey limits in our work. God did not rest because he was exhausted after creating. God was offering us image-bearers a model cycle of work and rest. The fourth of the Ten Commandments tells us that God’s rest is meant as an example for us to follow.

“Remember the Sabbath day, and keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work. But the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work... For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and consecrated it.” (Exodus 20:8-11)

Second, Sabbath is a form of worship. When we stop our work on whatever we decide is our Sabbath day, we acknowledge that our life is not defined only by work or productivity. Author and theologian Walter



View from a previous Sabbath rest week.

Brueggemann put it this way: "Sabbath provides a visible testimony that God is at the center of life—that human production and consumption take place in a world ordered, blessed, and restrained by the God of all creation."

Otherwise, we live with the illusion that life is completely under human control. Part of making Sabbath a regular part of our work life acknowledges that God is at the center of life. In addition, the Sabbath rest comes down to an act of trust. To observe it, we must dare to trust God to provide for our needs, rather than working all-out to provide for them ourselves. This can be difficult for those of us who are prone to compulsive work habits. Sabbath is a reminder that ultimately life depends not on our hard work, but on God’s provision and grace. This is a hard lesson to learn, and it usually takes trial and error for us to really get it.

Third, Sabbath is meant for our good. A couple of Scriptures come to my mind here. The first one comes

from Hebrews 4 that speaks of Jesus himself being our Sabbath rest. The author of Hebrews develops the concept of Jesus as our Sabbath rest, revealing how a relationship with Christ frees humans from the works of law and allows a person to rest in the work of Christ to forgive sin. Ultimately, those who come into relationship with Jesus will live eternally in a “Sabbath rest” with him.

The second Scripture builds on the theme of relationship with Jesus as Sabbath rest. It is the story of Mary and Martha found in Luke 10:38-42. The two sisters were friends of Jesus and along with their brother, loved Jesus very much. In this particular story the sisters were hosting Jesus and his disciples in their home. Martha was struggling to be a good hostess and provide a meal and hospitality while Mary sat at the feet of Jesus. Martha was “distracted by her many tasks” and apparently annoyed with her sister so she came to Jesus and basically asked him to reprimand Mary and send her off to the kitchen to help with all the work.

I love Jesus’ response: *“Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her”* (vs. 41).

I believe Mary had her priorities in the right place that day. She chose Sabbath rest with the Lord of the Sabbath. I wish I could say I always choose the “better part” and honor a Sabbath time. I hope I am getting better at it because we are designed to rest, Sabbath is a form of worship, and it is meant for our good.

When I return from a week of Sabbath rest, I hope I will do better at honoring a weekly Sabbath. Please feel free to ask me how I’m doing with that—accountability is a good thing. So, I’ll end with a question for you: How will you celebrate the Sabbath this week?

Serving and leading in Christ’s love!
Pastor L

New Study Opportunity

Are any of you interested in studying the book of Romans with Pastor L? She would like to find a group who would like to study Romans with her on Monday afternoons **beginning on October 18 at 1 p.m.** If you would like to participate, let Pastor know as soon as possible so she can begin preparing.

Welcome Back to Church a Success

The “Welcome Back” to church and confirmation service on September 12 was a success. We had about 54 people in attendance in the sanctuary and more who joined us online.

The flashlights purchased by the Stewardship Task Force and given out as a gift during the service were a hit and tied in well with the message of the day. If you weren’t able to attend the service you can find the recording on the church website at:

<https://lewaughtal.wixsite.com/spartaumc/worship-services>. If you didn’t get a flashlight and would like one, let Pastor Loretta know. In fact, you are encouraged to get your flashlight before you view the service so you can participate more fully.



Hailee Scheurich, daughter of Ben and Jacqui Simplot, and Aubrey Ebert, daughter of Ron and K’Andrea Ebert, confirmed their faith on Sunday, September 12. Both young women are active in the church’s ministries. Hailee works with the tech team helping with Sunday morning worship services and Aubrey helps serve during Tuesday evening free soup suppers. If you haven’t had a chance to welcome them into “official” membership in the church, please find an opportunity to do so.

Helping God's Kingdom Come About

(The Kingdom of God) "is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade." (Mark 4:31-32)

My two children have received an allowance for doing chores from the time they understood the concept of money. We paid them allowances, not because they needed the money, but because we wanted them to begin to understand that money is something to earn, not to just ask their parents for. We also wanted to begin to teach them how to manage money.

The lesson was very simple. When they were little, every Friday, I'd grab 10 dimes and sit down with them. We'd first take a dime, grab an offering envelope, put their name on it, and slide the dime in. The second dime would be dropped in their piggy bank, which we'd take to the local bank every few months. The other eight would go into their pocket or purse for them to bring with to the store when we went.

I was once asked what difference those dimes given to the church really made. To which I responded, "To the church finances, I can't imagine anything. To my kids – more than I can explain. Every Sunday they put their envelopes in the offering plate with huge smiles on their faces. As they got older, when they made more money, they'd continue the same practice – along with reflecting on how they wanted to make a difference with their generosity. Would they give it all to the church? Would they give some to a mission or another non-profit that was making a difference?"

Watching them grow in generosity constantly reminds me that we all have a place in bringing about God's kingdom, whether what we have to offer is large or small. It's about the need of the giver to give, rather than the church to receive. Even a seemingly small act of generosity can grow into something beyond what we could ever ask or imagine.

Rev. Jason Mahnke, Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation

Visit the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation at
www.wumf.org or [Facebook/wumf.org](https://www.facebook.com/wumf.org)
Or call 1-888-903-9863



Dear friends,
Your prayers, calls, cards and visits all added to Bob's recovery, and my peace of mind! Thank you for always being there for us!
Love, Bob & Cyndi

Thank you to Ce Stow for the donation of books to the Little Free Library. These new books will add hours of enjoyment to users of our Little Free Library. With crisp mornings and cool evenings ahead, a good book is a welcome companion. Thank you to all who continue to donate to our Library. Margie Lakowske

THANK YOU to Cindy Isensee and Vera Knudtson's family for the donation of books to our Library and our Little Free Library. It is always nice to get additional Bibles and devotionals to share with everyone. We now have another 365 Day Bible in the Library to share. We will miss Vera but will remember her faithful presence in our church through her family's donation.
Margie Lakowske

Thank you United Methodist Church for the thoughtful plant from the altar for our anniversary. We celebrated 60 years on September 9. With love,
Duane & Jane Hobson



Our church needs a new coordinator for the Family Promise Monroe County ministry. If you are interested or have questions contact Pastor Loretta.

Shop with scrip...support your church



Thank you to everyone who continues to support the church through the shop with scrip program.

The next scrip order will be going in on **October 10**. You can mail your order directly to Cheryl Isensee at: 9262 Festival Avenue, Sparta, WI 54656. If you have questions or need an order form contact Pastor Loretta at the

church (269-6949) or on her cell phone at (608-386-1862).

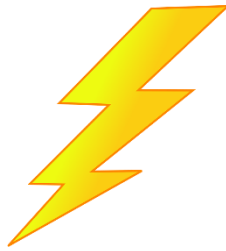
If you find yourself in need of a card before the next order goes in give Cheryl a call and ask if she has the card you need. She has a few extra scrip cards for local businesses on hand.



2021 Charge Conference

Our 2021 Charge Conference is scheduled for **Saturday, November 13 at 10 a.m.** Our district superintendent, Tsuker Yang, is planning to facilitate our conference this year. November 13 may seem like a long way off but there are reports to be written and forms to be filled out. Those **reports and forms must be submitted to the church office by Monday, October 25** so we have time to submit reports to the conference and then put them together in our booklet report for members of the church.

If you are a chair of a committee or work team please get your report submitted in a timely fashion. The information is important to keep the conference leadership informed about this church. It is also important for our archives, to help us remember where we have been as we continue to move forward in Christ's mission.



BASH Update

Bible Study and Story Hour is starting off the season with a challenge. Please Join BASH in a Mission Project for Sojourner's Journey Houses in Sparta.

SOJOURNER'S JOURNEY NEEDS

- Laundry Detergent
- Shampoo/Conditioner
- Tall Kitchen Garbage Bags
- Paper Towels
- Deodorant
- Stamps
- Toilet Paper
- Magic Erasers
- Monetary Donations (can be made through their website using Simple Give or sent to Sojourner's Journey at 111 1/2 S. Water St. Apt. D, Sparta, WI 54656)

At the end of October, we will be doing a Pillow and Sock Drive for the Harbor House in Superior, WI. Please join us in helping these organizations. Items can be left on the bench by the Church Office. Please mark your items "BASH."

God is Good!

Thank you,
Lynn Humphrey
BASH Coordinator



facebook

Church Facebook Page

Have you checked out the church's Facebook page? 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:

www.facebook.com/UMCsparta/. Once you are there just "like" the site and you will receive updates when new information is posted.



From the Parish Nurse...

Hello. I recently provided an individual with information on Palliative Care so thought I would share it with you. It is very interesting and an excellent program that is offered.

Palliative care is specialized medical care that focuses on providing patients relief from pain and other symptoms of a serious illness, no matter the diagnosis or stage of disease. Palliative care teams aim to improve the quality of life for both patients and their families. This form of care is offered alongside curative or other treatments you may be receiving.

Palliative care is provided by a team of doctors, nurses and other specially trained people. They work with you, your family and your other doctors to provide an extra layer of support that complements your ongoing care.

Palliative care may be offered to people of any age who have a serious or life-threatening illness. It can help adults and children living with illnesses such as:

- Cancer
- Blood and bone marrow disorders requiring stem cell transplant
- Heart disease
- Cystic fibrosis
- Dementia
- End-stage liver disease
- Kidney failure
- Lung disease
- Parkinson's disease
- Stroke

Symptoms that may be improved by palliative care include:

- Pain
- Nausea or vomiting
- Anxiety or nervousness
- Depression or sadness
- Constipation
- Difficulty breathing
- Anorexia
- Fatigue
- Trouble sleeping



Here's some information to help you get ready for your first consultation appointment.

- Bring a list of symptoms you're experiencing. Note specifically what makes the symptoms better or worse and whether they affect your ability to go about your daily activities.
- Bring a list of medications and supplements you use.
- Consider bringing a family member or friend with you to the appointment.
- Bring any advance directives and living wills you've completed.

Palliative care is an approach to care that you may want to access at any stage of a serious illness. It helps you manage symptoms and address concerns that matter most to you. You may consider palliative care when you have questions about:

- What to expect with your care plan and how to tailor it to what matters most to you
- What programs and resources are available to support you throughout your illness
- Your treatment options and their pros and cons
- Making decisions in line with your personal values and goals

Your first meeting may take place while you're in the hospital or in an outpatient clinic. Research indicates that early use of palliative care services can improve the quality of life for patients with serious illness, decrease depression and anxiety, increase patient and family satisfaction with care, and, in some cases, even extend survival.

Your palliative care team will talk with you about your symptoms, current treatments, and how this illness is affecting you and your family. You and your palliative care team make a plan to prevent and ease suffering and improve your daily life. This plan will be carried out in coordination with your primary care team in a way that works well with any other treatment you're receiving.

Your palliative care plan is designed to fit your life and needs. It may include elements such as:

- **Symptom management.** Your palliative care plan will include steps to address your symptoms and improve your comfort and well-being. The care team will answer questions you may have, such as whether your pain medicines

will affect treatments you're receiving from your primary care doctor.

Support and advice. Palliative care services include support for the many difficult situations and decisions you and your family make when you're facing a serious illness or approaching the end of life.

You and your family may talk with a palliative care social worker, chaplain or other team member about stress, spiritual questions, financial concerns or how your family will cope if a loved one dies. The palliative care specialists may offer guidance or connect you with community resources.

- **Care techniques that improve your comfort and sense of well-being.** These may include breathing techniques, healing touch, visualization or simply listening to music with headphones.
- **Referrals.** Your palliative care clinician may refer you to other doctors: for example, specialists in psychiatry, pain medicine or integrative medicine.
- **Advance care planning.** A palliative care team member can talk with you about goals and wishes for your care. This information could then be used to help you develop a living will, advance directive and a health care power of attorney.

Your palliative care team collaborates with your regular doctors to ensure your care is well-coordinated.

If you're have any questions or for more information feel free to contact me. Remember I am in the office at Church on Wednesdays, 10:30 am-1:30 pm.

In Christ's Love, Priscilla



Thank you to all who have donated to Soles4Souls!

We have collected 1,809 pair of shoes through September!

CHANGING THE WORLD
ONE PAIR AT A TIME

World Communion Sunday



"Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread." (1 Corinthians 10:17, NRSV)

United Methodists join Christians of different traditions to celebrate World Communion Sunday on the first Sunday in October. World Communion Sunday began in 1936 as a way to recognize our ecumenical oneness in Christ and to bring Christians together in a spirit of unity and peace.

In the United Methodist Church, congregations throughout the denomination will also join together to receive a Special Sunday offering that helps students from around the world reach their full potential through scholarships, training, and mentoring. **The World Communion Sunday offering** is one of six church-wide special offerings received throughout the year. To support this ministry give a gift with your regular offering designated to World Communion Sunday. Thanks in advance for your generous support.



New Partnership

SUMC is partnering with Soaring Skills LLC to provide a safe and affordable space to teach social and emotional life skills to adults and children with disabilities so they can be as independent as possible in their everyday life. Three experienced Special Education Educators saw a need that wasn't being filled through public education and founded Soaring Skills.



They will meet one or two Saturdays a month in the kitchen and fellowship hall. Some of the activities they work on will include: cooking a light meal, paying for items at a store, making a to-do list, cleaning up after themselves, attending a community event, and more. This is an exciting opportunity for SUMC to share our space for an excellent cause. If you would like more information about Soaring Skills contact Pastor Loretta.

October Anniversaries

- 01 Ron & Donna Burnham
- 02 Marty & Larry Walley
- 15 Evan & Jess Wiedemann
- 18 LeRoy & June Jackson
- 19 Beth & Tyler Anderson
- 19 Dan & Deb Dishinger
- 23 Jim & Clarice Stuessel
- 25 Muriel Canfield & Hutch Hutchinson
- 29 Tom & Jeanine Houtevelde
- 31 Laurie & Jerry Hesselberg



October Birthdays

- 03 Mary Lou Cole
- 04 Lloyd Chenoweth
- 05 Jess Wiedemann
- 07 Pat Clark
- 07 Zach Herrman
- 09 Monica Davis
- 09 Kelsey Foss
- 10 Nicole Jacobs
- 10 Pete Jerrman
- 10 Angel Loeffelholz
- 11 Duane Hobson
- 12 Kegan Rodgers
- 12 Emily Von Ruden
- 14 Beverly Donahue
- 15 Latesha Dishinger
- 17 Ron Ebert
- 17 Dot Hering
- 18 Antonia Gutierrez
- 18 Dan Davis
- 20 Berndt Borreson
- 20 Sarah Rodgers
- 21 Kory Foss
- 22 Emma Wiedemann
- 23 Beth Nowak
- 24 Nathan Goodenough
- 25 Eden Glut
- 27 K'Andrea Ebert
- 27 Cathy Nichols
- 29 Dick Gajewsky
- 31 Hailee Scheurich



October Schedules

Bakery pick-up

- 3 Pat & Gail Clark
- 10 Donna Burnham
- 17 Cyndi Wise
- 24 Margie Lakowske
- 31 Amy & Kurt Kiefer

Tech Team

- 3 Ron & Cheryl
- 10 Cindy & Cheryl
- 17 Ben & Hailee
- 24 Toni & Amy
- 31 Ron & Kristine

Liturgist

- 3 Amy Kiefer
- 10 Priscilla
- 17 Eileen Gajewsky
- 24 Beth Nowak
- 31 Toni

Ushers

- 3 Bob & Cathy Nichols
- 10 Kurt & Amy Kiefer
- 17 Peggy Wright
- 24 Dick & Eileen Gajewsky
- 31 Peggy Wright



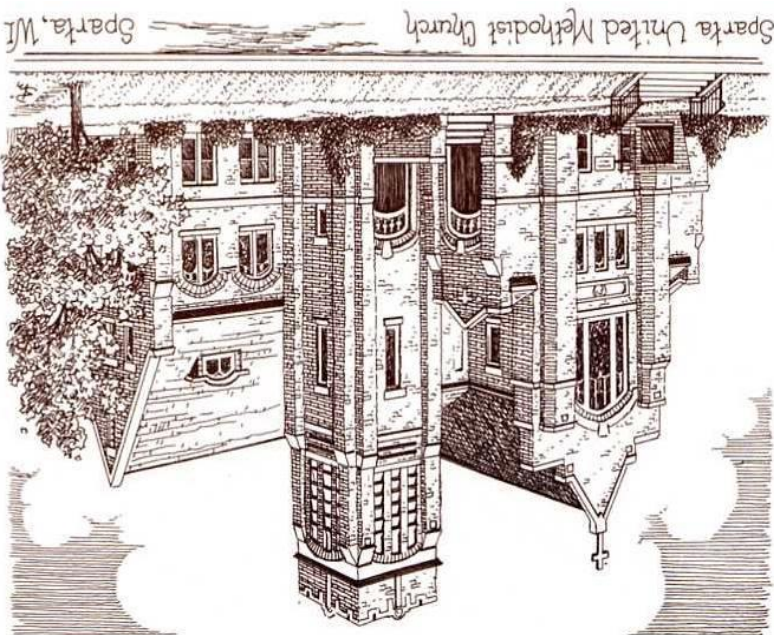
The Chimes

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



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Website: lewaughal.wixsite.com/spartaumc

SUMC Worship Schedule

In-house Service

9:00 a.m. Sunday mornings

Online Service

YouTube: Sparta UMC month day year