

# “The CHIMES” – September

Volume 58, No. 9

2023

## Continuing the Conversation...



### Elisha and the floating Axe head

In the 2 King 6, there is a story of Elisha with his students. The group of Elisha in that old time looks like a theological seminary of those who followed Elisha. It indicates that at this time Elisha had a significant impact on the nation. They lived together to learn from the prophet teacher Elisha. The space was not large enough to live together, so they decided to move, and to build a bigger building so that all his students might live together. When they came to the Jordan, they cut down trees. But as one was cutting down a tree, the iron axe head flew, and fell into the water. And he cried out and said, “Alas master! For it was borrowed.” So Elisha cut off a stick, and threw it into the water; and he made the iron float. A miracle happened.

Whenever people gather and work together for a good purpose, there are always things that happen. Elisha’s theological seminary was flourishing; they had to expand their space. What a joyful thing to work with! They had to build a bigger building. The students had no money to purchase an axe. The item made of iron must have been very expensive at that time so they borrowed it. When they started to cut wood, the head of the axe flew from the handle of it, and fell into a pond. There was no way to get the axe back. What would you do? What we could you do in that situation? It would be to kneel and pray until the axe floats. It is to kneel and pray until the miracle of God happens. God uses Elisha to throw a stick.



Does our church have any axes that have been borrowed and lost? Yes. We also want to build a church. We need

something very important to build the church of God, and do not have the tool. What should we do? We should cry out, “Alas, what shall we do!” Elisha was a man of God who had a powe of God. Elisha took a stick, threw it in the water and the axe floated. They retrieved it.

What should we do? What axe did we lose in the last years? Financial axe, youth ministry axe, and future vision axe since without younger family there is no future for our church. Imagine what our church would look like in 20 years? It is a truth of our church. We should kneel, and pray fervently until it appears in front us and we take it back to build the house of God continuously. Of course, we all need to do what we can do during the waiting period. Let’s respond to it with small things we can do and with prayer from our deep heart. We will see God will perform a miracle of a floating axe head. Thank you Lord, you are always with us!

Grace and Love,  
Pastor Hae-Jeong

## September Sermon Series: For Shalom

Sep 3 / John 15:5  
Theme: Relational Health

Sep 10/ Matthew 6:31-33  
Theme: Financial Health

Sep 17/ Proverbs 2:6-7  
Theme: Vocational Health

Sep 24/ Luke 14: 12- 14  
Theme: Hospitality

## Records and History Committee Update...



Save the Date: Records and History will be hosting our fifth *Our Community In Concert* on Saturday, October 21, 2023 from 2-4 p.m. We have a wide variety of musical talent and many of our own parishioners will perform. This is a free, ecumenical concert so please plan to come and support our church and our community and invite your family and friends!

*We are – Keeping the Eternal Flame Glowing*

Anyone with a little extra time on their hands that would like to come help clean (dusting and sprucing up) the Sanctuary and the Gathering Place is invited to join the Records and History Committee on Wednesday, October 11<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. Many hands make light work - let's make our church shine!



## 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 **September 10**. If you have questions or need an order form contact Michele at the church office 608-269-6949.

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 sometimes has a few extra scrip cards for local businesses on hand.



## Nurture Update...



**September** – a time to reflect on the easy going days of summer! But...then we shift our thoughts to renewed energy, new ideas, productive plans and programming, and meaningful relationships with each other and our community!

### September 10 – “Ministry Fair”

Our church is filled with volunteers who share their gifts of ministry in countless ways. These various ministries will be highlighted after church in the Fellowship Hall. Please join us in celebration, and possibly find a ministry that interests you. Please bring a snack or finger food to share.

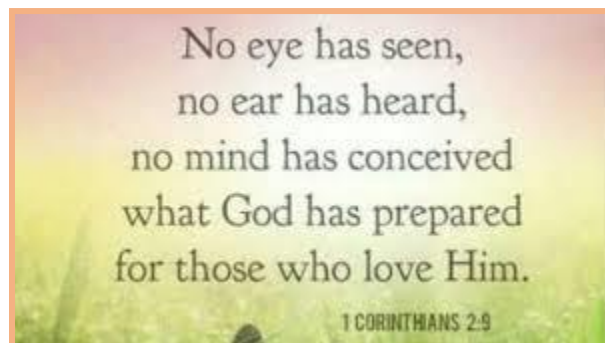
**September 10** – First day of Sunday school. May God bless our faithful teachers and helpers.

\*Please take note of the “**Joyous Opportunities**” list with the bulletin each week. God has blessed us in many ways so that we can share our love, faith, service and encouragement.

**Thank you** Margie Lakowske and Scott Naeseth (trustees) for the successful church yard sale held in August. Countless items filled the driveway and by Sunday morning, all was gone! That was the goal! Thanks to all who helped and/or donated items to sell.

The next Nurture meeting is September 7 at 6 p.m. in the library.

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



## Practice Makes Perfect...

In the last six minutes of the University of Kentucky's 1996 national semifinal men's basketball victory over the top-ranked University of Massachusetts, Mark Pope – Rhodes Scholar candidate and senior – calmly sank all six of his free throws. Twice he stepped to the line with Kentucky clinging to a three-point lead. Pope did not miss. Putting to rest the speculation that Kentucky would wilt in the national spotlight, Pope remarked after the game, "We go through those exact situations every day in practice. That gives us all confidence in ourselves because we have confidence in our preparation." Just as Pope recognized that practice is the key to playing a good basketball game, we understand that the same is true in every aspect of our lives. Children are reminded to do their homework so they can do well on their tests. Youth learning to drive can practice for up to 12 months with a permit before they get their own driver's licenses and set out on their own. Speeches and presentations are reviewed and practiced, giving the deliverer the familiarity needed to speak confidently and clearly. Christian discipleship is no different. Routine and practice are needed to give us the foundation we need to face the dilemmas we encounter in life. The habits of worship, generosity, daily prayer, study, and the sacraments help us develop our relationship with God so that we don't find ourselves scrambling when hard times hit. While it is true that God will never abandon us in difficult times whether we have this foundation or not, it is easier to rely on our faith while the seas of life are calm instead of trying to anchor ourselves amid a storm.

Rev. Jason Mahnke, Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation

## Photographer Wanted...



Do you enjoy taking pictures? Do you have time to spare on a Sunday following church or on an occasional evening? We are thinking about making our pictorial family church directory. Please contact me if you are interested in this endeavor. We do not have a timeline

but would like to capture our congregation and compile a directory. Thank you for considering sharing your gift of photography.

Margie Lakowske

## Altar Plants



UWIF would like to thank all those who signed up for one or more plants on one or multiple dates for 2023. Each date has two lines for one plant per line. Plants are \$5.50 each or two for \$11.00. Plant money goes to Eileen Gajewsky, UWIF treasurer, who pays the invoice from Sparta Floral quarterly. At this time please continue to make your checks out to UMW.

Call the church office if you would like one or more dates(s) and Michele will add to the Altar Plant calendar in hallway.

Thank you to the volunteers who deliver plants to church and to designated recipients after a service. Plants and volunteers brighten our days.

Thank you for your continued support of UWIF,  
Cathy Nichols

## Ministry Celebration



Hello friends, this year we will start Ministry Celebration! What is it? It is to celebrate our ministry in and outside of the church. It is a good opportunity to know and learn about our various church ministries. It is a very good way of communication. You can check what ministry is speaking to you, and you can join!

This way, you can serve the Lord, and find new friends in the church. Encourage your faith to grow through the various ministries offered at Sparta United Methodist Church.

Come and let's celebrate our ministries! And Join where you want!



**Pizza and a movie** night this month is **September 16** pizza will be served in the small kitchen at 6 p.m. with the movie to follow in the Chapel. Everyone is welcome! Bring a friend! Please contact Toni

Burrows at 608-343-3029 **before noon** on September 16 if you will be attending so we know how much pizza to order.

**September's movie is**



**"Jesus Revolution"**

Tells the story of a young Greg Laurie (Joel Courtney) being raised by his struggling mother, Charlene (Kimberly Williams-Paisley) in the 1970s. Laurie and a sea of young people descend on sunny Southern California to redefine truth through all means of liberation. Inadvertently, Laurie meets Lonnie Frisbee (Jonathan Roumie), a charismatic hippie-street-preacher, and Pastor Chuck Smith (Kelsey Grammer) who have thrown open the doors of Smith's languishing church to a stream of wandering youth.

What unfolds becomes the greatest spiritual awakening in American history. Rock and roll, newfound love, and a twist of faith lead to a JESUS REVOLUTION that turns one counterculture movement into a revival that changes the world. (Rated PG-13 for strong drug content involving teens and some thematic elements)



**UMIF Update...**

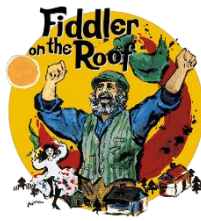


The Executive Committee of UWIF will meet September 5 in little kitchen to propose 2024 budget to its membership. All members of UWF are encouraged to attend/view the September 10 service where a Special Mission pin will be presented.

Each Circle has empty chairs and open arms to fill. We extend an open invitation to join Lois or Wesleyan Circles.



**Attention Theater Fans**



Fiddler on the Roof will be at the La Crosse Community Theater (Weber Center) from October 6-22, 2023. Normally the tickets cost about \$38.00 per person.

However, you could see it for free by volunteering as an usher with our SUMMIT Spirits Theater Group. I have blocked several volunteer slots on the following days:

- Sunday – October 15 – 12:30pm-5:00pm – 6 ushers
- Sunday – October 22 – 12:30pm-5:00pm – 10 ushers

If you are interested, please contact Toni Burrows 608-343-3029.



**Library News**

Do you prefer to see the movie instead of reading the book? Have we got a deal for you!



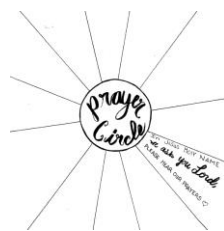
The church library recently received a donation of **25 DVD movies**. The movies are ones that have already been shown at the monthly Pizza and a Movie Event held at our church.

Some of the titles include God's Not Dead, Heaven is for Real, WWJD, The War Room, What If, and Courageous.

Feel free to check them out and enjoy.



**Prayer Circle**



Pastor will send a weekly prayer list to those who want to pray for the church and church family. If you want to receive the list, please let the pastor know. Currently ten members are receiving the prayer list.



# COMING SOON

The Executive Committee of the UWF will meet September 5 at 9 a.m. in the small kitchen.

SUMMIT Spirits will meet Tuesday, September 5 at 6:30 p.m. in the library.

There will be a Stewardship Taskforce meeting, Tuesday, September 5 at 6:30 p.m. in the small kitchen.

The Sparta Ministerial Association will meet at noon, in the small kitchen, September 6.

Nurture will meet Thursday, September 7 at 6 p.m. in the library.

Pastor will start having prayer meetings Sunday evenings in the chapel at 6:30 p.m., starting September 10.

Lois circle will be meeting Tuesday, September 12 at 1:00 p.m. in the small kitchen. Group photos will be taken.

Wesleyan Circle will meet in the Gathering Place at 6:30 p.m. on September 12. Group photos will be taken.

Records & History will meet at 9 a.m. in the library on Wednesday, September 13.

The Gospel of John starts on Thursday, September 14 at 2 p.m. in the library.

Pizza and a movie returns Saturday, September 16 with pizza in the small kitchen at 6 p.m. and the movie in the chapel at 6:30 p.m.

Servant Leadership Board will meet in the small kitchen, Monday, September 19 at 6 p.m.

October *Chimes* newsletter deadline is Tuesday, September 24 by noon.



## thank you

**Thank you** for helping us go to church camp at Lake Lucerne. We learned about the fruits of the spirit, played games, went swimming and had campfires. We had so much fun and appreciate your help.  
From Erin & Maddie

**Thank you** to the following individuals for your unwavering support with our recent rummage sale. Bob and Cyndi Wise, Scott Naeseth, Amy Kiefer, Marty Walley, Cathy Nichols, Scott and Brenda Herrman, Eileen Gajewsky, Michele Thornton, Pastor Hae-Jeong and Kevin Lakowske. We did not make a lot of money (\$242.00) but we got many places cleared out and have a fresher look. We still have some larger items to sell but we are on our way to neatness!  
Margie Lakowske

**Thank you** Toni Burrows for generously donating many DVD's to our church library. I have placed some in the Gathering Place in a basket, and another basket of movies are located in the library. Please feel free to borrow them and return once you have viewed them so that others may enjoy them too!  
Margie Lakowske, Church Librarian

United Methodist Church Congregation, A sincere **thank you** to all of the caring members who have made donations to the Ecumenical Food Pantry. Your continuing support directly benefits many members of our community who need a helping hand. Your generous gifts to this important mission are truly appreciated.  
Judy Bennett  
Board member, Ecumenical Food Pantry



### **Sunday Prayer Meeting with Pastor Hae-Jeong.**

Come and join in the prayer meeting. You can have a conversation with Pastor Hae-Jeong about your life, and pray together for personal, church family, and for God's church. Starting Sunday, September 10 at 6:30 p.m. in the chapel.



## Spiritual Formation

On Tuesdays, starting September 12 and going through November 14, Pastor Hae-Jeong will introduce various ways of approach toward a spiritual life that can build a personal relationship



with God. She will meditate together with the voice of the Father written by Graham Cooke, and teach how to read the Bible meditatively in the Ignatius method, the power of the crafted prayers, Guided Meditation on the Fruits of the Holy Spirit, and Centering Prayer.

You will enter a spiritual space where you can understand and know God personally. This practice will guide and transform your spiritual life profoundly. You can find the best practice for your devotional life.

If you want to participate, please let the office or Pastor Hae-Jeong know. Also if you want to participate, but the schedule doesn't work for you, let the pastor know.



## Fall Carnival



**Where:** Recreation Park, Tomah, WI

**When:** September 16, 2023 – 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**What:** Face painting, dunk tank, food, and carnival games!

**Cost:** Tickets are 5 for \$1.00 or 25¢ each until the day of the carnival then they are 25¢ each.

Tickets go on sale September 1. You can purchase them at 1<sup>st</sup> United Methodist Church, 1105 Butts Ave., Tomah, Wi.

\*Funds will go towards the playground\*

For more information contact Danielle Anderson, Noah's Ark Christian Learning Center Director/Administrator.

Work: 608-372-4543 Cell: 608-343-0884

Email: [preschool@tomahumc.org](mailto:preschool@tomahumc.org)

Website: [tomahumc.org](http://tomahumc.org)

Facebook: [facebook.com/tomahumc](https://www.facebook.com/tomahumc)

## From The Garden



Trying to find new recipes for all that squash and zucchini? Here are a few new ones to try: Squash and zucchini are interchangeable in all three of these. Removing the seeds will make your dish less watery.

### Chicken Bake:

Grease 9 X 9 casserole dish.

Dice or shred 4 cups of zucchini/squash.

Add ¼ cup of water

Optional: Diced leftover chicken, Onions, Peppers

Pour 1 can cream of chicken soup (undiluted) over the mixture. Cover/seal dish with foil and bake at 375 for one hour.

### Italian Bake:

Grease 9 X 9 casserole dish.

Dice or shred 4 cups of zucchini/squash.

Optional: Precooked ground beef or Italian Sausage, Onions, Peppers

Pour 1 can/jar of spaghetti sauce over the mixture. Cover/seal dish with foil and bake at 375 for one hour.

Optional: remove from oven add shredded mozzarella bake additional 10 minutes.

### Bacon Cheeseburger Bake:

Grease 9 X 9 casserole dish.

Dice or shred 4 cups of zucchini/squash.

Add ¼ cup of water

Pre-cooked ground beef (1 LB)

Optional: onions, peppers, bacon bits

Pour 1 can cheddar cheese soup (undiluted) over the mixture. Cover/seal dish with foil and bake at 375 for one hour.

Recipes can be doubled for 11 X 14 casserole dish.

Squash and zucchini are easy to freeze for later use. Just remove seeds, shred or cube and store in bags in the freezer.



*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

Romans 15:13

## Sunday school News



Sunday school will start on September 9. Children will meet upstairs at 9 am for the beginning of the Sunday service and will come down to the Sunday school rooms after the Children's Message.

Good News! Ellen Hemstock will meet with the children two times a month for music. The time will be from 9:45 to 10 a.m. We will let you know the dates

soon.

Do you have a talent, a craft or a hobby that you would like to share with our young people? We could set up a time during Sunday school for you to share it with them. If you are willing to share with the kids we could help with material. You could have half an hour to 45 minutes.

Also looking for teachers or helpers. We can be flexible with time. We will be looking for grade 4 and up, who would like to be acolytes and help usher before the church service.

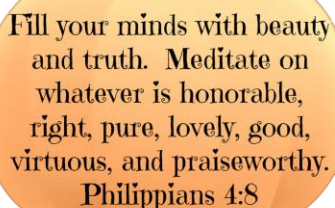

We will also be continuing to host Family Fun Nights twice a month. Have an idea or would like to host. Please let me know. Dates will be posted soon.

Thank you to Margie, Cyndi, Eileen, Larry, Addy, Megan and Emma for helping set up, clean up, and for all donations. Thank you for all that came to fellowship and to Pastor Hae-Jeong for the idea. What a great night!

God has blessed us with a wonderful group of kids and families. Please pray for the Sunday school, Family Fun Night, teachers, helpers and our church community.

You can contact me at 608-343-7015 or email at [lahumphrey06@gmail.com](mailto:lahumphrey06@gmail.com).

God Bless,  
Lynn Humphrey  
Sunday School Coordinator



Fill your minds with beauty and truth. Meditate on whatever is honorable, right, pure, lovely, good, virtuous, and praiseworthy.  
Philippians 4:8

## 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 [facebook.com/umcsparta](https://facebook.com/umcsparta). Once you are there just "like" the site and you will receive updates when new information is posted.



## The Gospel of John



Paul Foulke will be discussing Gospel of John starting Thursday, September 14 at 2

p.m. in the library.

The Gospel of John begins with a poetic hymn that tells the story of Jesus's origin, mission, and function. John says that Jesus is the incarnated Word of God, bringing "grace and truth," replacing the law given by Moses, and making God known in the world ( 1:17 ).



## Chancel Choir Returning



The Chancel Choir will be starting up again this fall. We will start rehearsals on Wed. Sept. 6th from 7 to 8 pm in the choir room at church. Rehearsals will continue on Wednesdays. We welcome all who love to sing. The choir will be singing during the first and third Sundays of the month except for September when we will sing during the second and third Sundays. Questions, please contact Ellen Hemstock at 608 633 0889.



## The Praise Band returning



The Praise Band is starting again beginning September 24. If you are interested in joining, please contact Toni Burrows at 608-343-3029.

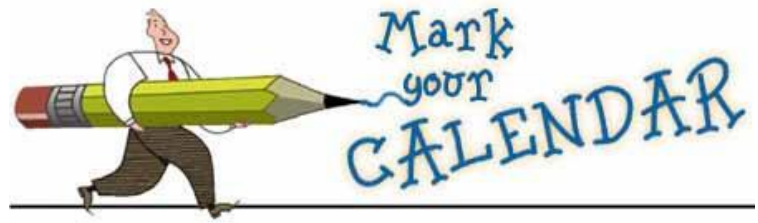


### SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 03 Carolyn & Kevin Lieder
- 09 Jane & Duane Hobson
- 14 Sara & Elliot Blackdeer
- 15 Carson & Mindy Wiedemann
- 17 Julie & Dennis Hanson
- 17 Ron & Kristine Phillips
- 30 Scott & Kelly Lakowske

### SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 01 Addison Alvarado
- 01 Ace Girard
- 02 Mary Borreson
- 02 Ann Olson
- 03 Amy Kiefer
- 06 Sue Harrie
- 08 Judy Fuhrmann
- 10 Jean Evans
- 10 Marcia Knoll
- 10 Dave Wiedemann
- 11 Grace Johnson
- 12 Allen Erickson
- 12 Maxine Gudbaur
- 15 Damijon Talsky
- 18 Yvonne Chamberlain
- 18 Kevin Eddy
- 20 Wayne Johnson
- 21 Emmersyn Alvarado
- 21 Lisa Arvizu
- 21 Gail Clark
- 22 Chuck Adams
- 23 Kevin Lieder
- 27 Teresa Brown
- 27 Laurie Hesselberg
- 28 Chris Angle
- 28 Sherry Breeser
- 28 Cyndi Wise
- 30 Mindy Wiedemann



### Bakery pick-up

- 3 Cyndi Wise
- 10 Margie Lakowske
- 17 Amy & Kurt Kiefer
- 24 Dave & Sara Kemp

### Tech Team

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

### Liturgist

- 3 Ellen Hemstock
- 10 Annabelle Von Ruden
- 17 Marty Walley
- 24 Clarence Brooks

### Ushers

- 3 Bob & Cathy
- 10 Kurt & Amy
- 17 Peggy, Donna & Ron
- 24 John & Karen

\*Note: These may change due to Chancel Choir and Praise Band starting.







## **Soul Food**

*By Bishop Hee-Soo Jung*

*“Peace, I leave with you. My peace I give to you” John 14: 27*

And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus” Philippians 4:7.

Peace. This principle is much desired. We seem to encounter so much violence each day. We are living in a culture of violence that is creating great harm. We typically think of dramatic events like mass shootings, genocide, and war.

Yet, consider the acts of violence that are more subtle and yet just as painful, such as exclusion and dominance. There are numerous ways in which we do this, like not honoring another’s: language, culture, economic status, gender, sexual orientation, mental capabilities, or social abilities. It is challenging for us to think, act, and live differently.

We are called to a life of holy living. As United Methodists, we have been given guidance from John Wesley in how to live faithfully, in three very specific general rules, which are: do no harm; do good; and attend upon the ordinances of God.

I want to focus on the first general rule of “Do no harm.” In John Wesley’s societies it meant “no buying or selling of slaves,” “no conversations that are meant to tear others down,” and, asking one tough and personal question: “have you been buying luxuries for yourself instead of helping the poor?”

We are called to holy living. In so doing, must ask how we live this out. As a people living into “do no harm” and our conference understanding of “beloved community,” we: speak kindly and lovingly about and to each other; welcome all people to be part of the church; seek ways that honor language and cultural differences; foster relationships; and be reconciling – a people of grace and forgiveness.

More fully, “do no harm” requires us to move from an individual “me” focus to a more global “we,” all while remembering our “why.” We “do no harm” because Christ has loved us first and we extend that love to all.

As we approach our time together at Annual Conference, we are challenged to “do no harm,” especially as we approve resolutions of disaffiliation. We lament that we have come to a point and time when we can no longer be together. We might hold some resentments for things of the past, for the current journey of The United Methodist Church, or for the beginning of other forms of Methodism. We could be frustrated about the “how” and “why” of disaffiliation.

It is in this time and in these moments that I call upon us to “do no harm,” to look for ways to reconcile our hearts and minds to the way of Jesus, and to be the people of grace that God has called us to be.

“Peace, I leave with you. My peace I give to you” (John 14: 27).

Amen.

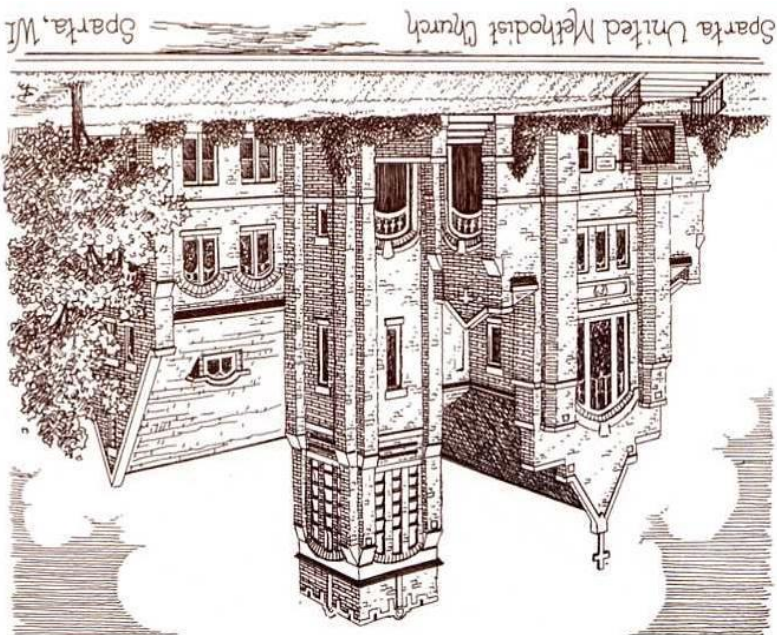
# The Chimes

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



*Prepared Especially For:*



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**Phone:** (608)269-6949

**Fax:** (608)269-6940

**Email:** [office@spartamethodist.com](mailto:office@spartamethodist.com)

**Website:** [spartamc.net](http://spartamc.net)

## **SUMC Worship Schedule**

### **In-house Service**

9:00 a.m. Sunday mornings

### **Livestream Service**

9:00 a.m. on Facebook

### **Online Service**

YouTube: Sparta UMC month day year