

Sparta United Methodist Church

The Chimes - October

Volume 59, No. 10 2024

216 North Court, Sparta, WI 54656

| Email: office@spartamethodist.com | Phone: (608) 269-6949

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

Bible Study Thursdays 2 p.m. | full program visit: www.spartaumc.net or find us



Dear Sparta UMC Family and friends,

As we step into the beautiful season of fall, I can't help but think of the many cyclists who come to our town to enjoy the trails. The cool air, changing colors, and gentle breeze make this time of year a wonderful opportunity to hop on a bike and explore the winding paths. Cycling through the trails is not only an enjoyable activity, but it also offers an important analogy for our spiritual journey.

Just like cycling, our walk with God requires movement, direction, and perseverance. Some trails are smooth, while others may be uphill or filled with obstacles. Yet, as we pedal forward, we gain strength, endurance, and a greater appreciation for the journey. Similarly, in our faith, we are encouraged to keep moving forward, no matter the challenges. As Galatians, 6:9 (NLT) reminds us, "So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up."

In this season of change, I invite you to embrace optimism about the road ahead. Let's grow spiritually together, encouraging one another as we cycle through life's joys and trials. Whether it's deepening our personal relationship with God or actively participating in church life, we are called to pedal forward with positive and vibrant enthusiasm.

Think of your spiritual growth as a trail—each Sunday, each prayer meeting, and each moment of reflection as one more mile toward the greater destination of becoming more Christ-like. As we enjoy this ride, why not invite someone to come along with you? Imagine the joy of bringing a friend to church, sharing the excitement of worship, and watching them grow in their faith. Make it a personal goal to invest in one friend—someone you can encourage to become a regular part of our church family.

Together, let's ride the path God has set before us with hope and anticipation, trusting that He is guiding us every step (or pedal) of the way. Let's invite others to join us on this journey so that Sparta UMC can continue to be a place of growth, love, and community.

Blessings and peace,

Pastor Lourdes Magalhães



Cycling alone can be fun and refreshing, but cycling with others brings greater joy. In the same way, worshiping God on your own can be meaningful, but when we worship together, miracles happen—even among those we might see as "sinners."

We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are. For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.. – Romans 3:23 (NLT)

Just Hanging On

Once upon a time, there was a man who saw that it was a beautiful day outside, so he decided to go for a walk. As he walked along through a local park, he looked at the leaves on the trees that were changing colors; he watched the children playing with glee; he looked at the beautiful blue sky that had a few clouds in it. As he was enjoying all of the lovely scenery, he forgot to look where he was walking and he fell off the edge of a cliff. While falling, he began to reach for anything that would stop his plummet towards demise, when his hands happened upon a tree root that was sticking out of the side of the cliff. He held on to that tree root with all of his might and yelled out to the top of the cliff, "Help me! Is anyone out there?" An anonymous voice from above replied, "Yes, I am here. I am the Lord. Do you believe me?" The man in desperation, called out, "Yes Lord, I believe you. Please help me!" The mysterious voice then instructed the man saying, "Okay, if you truly believe that I am the Lord, then let go of the root you're hanging from and I will save you." After a brief pause to think about his options, the man looked upward and yelled, "Is anyone else up there?"

Many times in life, we can feel like the man hanging on for dear life with nothing below us but destruction. Our lives are overflowing with commitments, our families demand our time, and any number of challenges can push us to the edge of our own personal cliffs. During times of heavy demands and personal crisis we may wonder where God comes in as we struggle. These are times that often challenge our faith.

In these times, it may be helpful to remember Jesus' parting words to his disciples, as he addresses our doubts as well. He says, "And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:20). We are promised that throughout our lives, in the hard and happy times, Christ will be with us. This doesn't mean that he will solve all of our problems with the wave of a magic wand. What it does mean is that God will always be with us, weathering life's storms with us, giving us strength to move forward in difficult times, and opening up opportunities for us when we need them. What is important for us to remember throughout our entire lives is that the Lord wants to be in

relationship with us, and is always there waiting for us to turn to God in prayer.

~ Rev. Jason Mahnke, Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation



I would like to thank all those that have reached out to me. Your emails, text messages, phone calls, cards, and prayers have touched me deeply.
Cindy Isensee

Thank you for the prayers, flowers, calls, texts, and cards while I'm recuperating at home. Also, thanks to the UMW for the lovely altar flower Julie delivered, it's still blooming. I appreciate you thinking of me. God Bless.
Maxine Gudbauer

Thank you Pete for relieving Scott with the mowing duties. You two do a terrific job. I hope you know that we all appreciate all your hard work in keeping the grounds looking so pristine!

Thank you Scott for painting the benches and entry at K Street. You never realize how much something needed to be painted until you see it repainted! It looks marvelous! Thank you!



Our Community in Concert

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:
Just wanted to be sure you have your calendars marked for Our Community in Concert on Saturday, October 19 from 2:00-4:00 pm. This is a free concert featuring many talented musicians and vocalists. Please mark your calendars to attend this FREE ecumenical event, which also offers free refreshments at the conclusion.



Nurture Update..



“How we spend our days is, of course, how we spend our lives. Begin the day with a song and a prayer, and the rest of the day will take care of itself.”

- ❖ **Sunday school** began on September 8 and we are still welcoming more 3-12 year olds. There will be no Sunday school on the 1st Sunday of each month so the teachers and families with children can share communion during the worship service.
- ❖ **October 19** - “Our Community In Concert” at 2 p.m.
- ❖ **November 3** – “All Saints Sunday” – remembering those who have died this past year – please call the office with those you would like to remember.
- ❖ **November 24** – Charge Conference with potluck following.
- ❖ **November 24** – “Hanging of the Greens”, 5 p.m. – please come and share the fun decorating our church for Advent and Christmas!
- ❖ **November 26** – Thanksgiving meal with our Soup Supper friends.
- ❖ **November 28** – Thanksgiving community dinner at the American Legion – please watch for details for ways to volunteer.
- ❖ **December 8** – “Children’s Christmas Program”, 9 a.m. during worship service – Ellen Hemstock directing “The Living Crèche” – Soup and Sandwich meal following in the Fellowship Hall.
- ❖ **December 14** – “Christmas Cookie Sale” – watch for ways to participate in this festive event 8-12 p.m.
- ❖ **December 15** – “Chancel Choir Christmas Cantata “ Love is Born” at 2 p.m. with Trinity Lutheran choir members joining us.
- ❖ **November 22, 23, 24/December 6, 7, 8** – Summit Spirits presents “Nunsense.”

Continued...

Special Mission Recognition

Pastor Paul Foulke received a Special Mission Recognition pin from United Women in Faith for faithfully sharing God’s word, volunteering with a servant’s heart, and blessing us with his kindness. Thank you, Paul, for all you do for us at church and in the community.



Pizza and a Movie



night this month is **October 19** Pizza will be served in the small kitchen at 6 p.m. with the movie to follow in the Chapel. Everyone is welcome! Bring a friend! Please contact Toni Jensen at 608-343-3029 before noon on October 19 if you will be attending so we know how much pizza to order.



October’s Movie is: “Mountain Top”

A lawyer-turned-preacher living in a small Appalachian town is pursued by an eccentric man to represent him in court. Now involved in a case that ties into his own small-town life, the former attorney agrees to help a man. Rated PG



Altar Plants



United Women in Faith (UWIF) would like to thank all those who signed up for one or more plant(s) on one or multiple dates for 2023. The calendars are up for 2024. Each date has two lines for one plant per line.

Plants are \$5.50 each or two for \$11. Plant money goes to Eileen Gajewsky, UMW treasurer, who pays the invoice from Sparta Floral quarterly.

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

Thank you for your continued support of UMW,
Cathy Nichols

Needing a Card

For Someone Special?



You can now find new and recycled cards for all occasions: Birthdays, Anniversaries, Weddings, Thank 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 if you'd like to check them out!



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 6**. 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 the church (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.

OCTOBER BLESSINGS

May the month lead you
to progress and prosperity
in health, wealth and love.

Stay Blessed and Happy !!



- SUMMIT Spirits will meet on Tuesday, October 1 at 6:30
- The Ministerial Committee will meet on Wednesday, October 2 at noon.
- Nurture will meet on Thursday, October 3 at 6 p.m.
- Lois Circle will Tuesday, October 8 in the small kitchen at 1 p.m.
- Wesleyan Circle will meet on Tuesday, October 8 in the Gathering Place at 6:00 p.m.
- Records & History will meet Wednesday, October 9 at 9 a.m. in the library.
- Our Community in Concert will be held in the Sanctuary, Saturday, October 19 from 2-4 p.m.
- Pizza and a movie will be Saturday, October 19 at 6 p.m. in the small kitchen for pizza and 6:30 in the chapel for the movie, "The Blind."
- Servant Leadership Board will meet on Tuesday, October 15 at 6 p.m.
- November *Chimes* newsletter deadline is Thursday, October 24 by noon.



Volunteers Needed!

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

Lori Ascher- Pantry President

Christmas Bake Sale



How many of you remember the Christmas Cookie Sale that the Sparta UMC did many years ago? We are going to resurrect a similar event.

On Saturday December 14 from 8AM – 12 Noon in fellowship hall we will be having a “Christmas Bake Sale”.

The proceeds from this fundraiser will go towards the general budget. You can bake items at home or you can come to the church and bake with a group of your friends.

We would like someone to organize a time to make, bake and decorate Christmas cutout cookies at the church. We also need someone to organize making rosettes at church. Contact Cyndi Wise if you would like to help make lefse. Baking ingredients for baking at church will be provided with a Thrivent grant.

I would like to encourage you if you have a favorite Christmas cookie, bar, dessert or snack that you would like to make and donate to the bake sale to do so. A few ideas that always go good at a bake sale are: bars, cookies, holiday specialty cookies and desserts, candy (fudge, caramels, peanut brittle, etc), puppy chow, Chex mix, pies and quick breads. I would suggest that if you make desserts that you put them in 8 x 8 aluminum pans to be sold (small families usually don't want a 9 x 13 pan of dessert). Bars and cookies will be packaged at church in 6 or 12 count packs.

This will be open to the public so we will need the whole church family to help us out. More information will be provided as we go.

Cheryl Isensee



I Give You Thanks

*For harvest moon
And leaves of gold
For autumn beauty
I behold
I give you thanks*

*For dreams fulfilled
For peace and hope
Abundant grace
You've bestowed
I give you thanks*

*For gentle rains
For sunny days
For misty mornings
For fields of hay
I give you thanks*

*For answered prayers
And tears you wiped
For restful sleep
All through the night
I give you thanks*

*For seeds to sow
And open doors
For all of these
And so much more
I give you thanks*

By Marie Williams



October

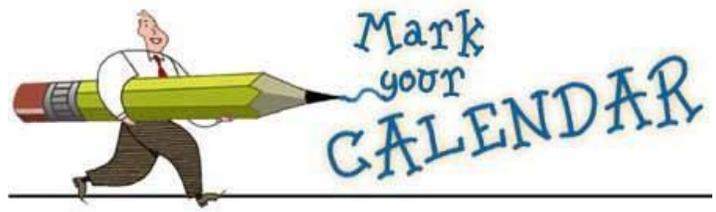
October Anniversaries

- 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
- 05 Jess Wiedemann
- 07 Pat Clark
- 07 Zach Herrman
- 09 Monica Davis
- 09 Kelsey Foss
- 09 Zhoey Von Ruden
- 10 Nicole Jacobs
- 10 Pete Jerrman
- 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



Ushers

- 6 Kurt & Amy Kiefer
- 13 Kurt & Amy Kiefer
- 20 Rich & Danette Zidich & Peggy
- 27 Joe & Betsy Tadisch

Tech Team

- 6 Annabelle Von Ruden
- 13 Cheryl Isensee & Annabelle
- 20 Ron & Kristine Phillips
- 27 Ben Simplot & Hailee Scheurich

Liturgist

- 6 Beth Nowak
- 13 Eileen Gajewsky
- 20 Marty Walley
- 27 Paul Foulke



CHANGING THE WORLD
ONE PAIR AT A TIME

Thank you to all who have donated to Soles4Souls! We have collected 1517 pair through the year so far!



BE STRONG,
and let your

HEART

take courage,
all you

who wait
for the

LORD

PSALM 37:24

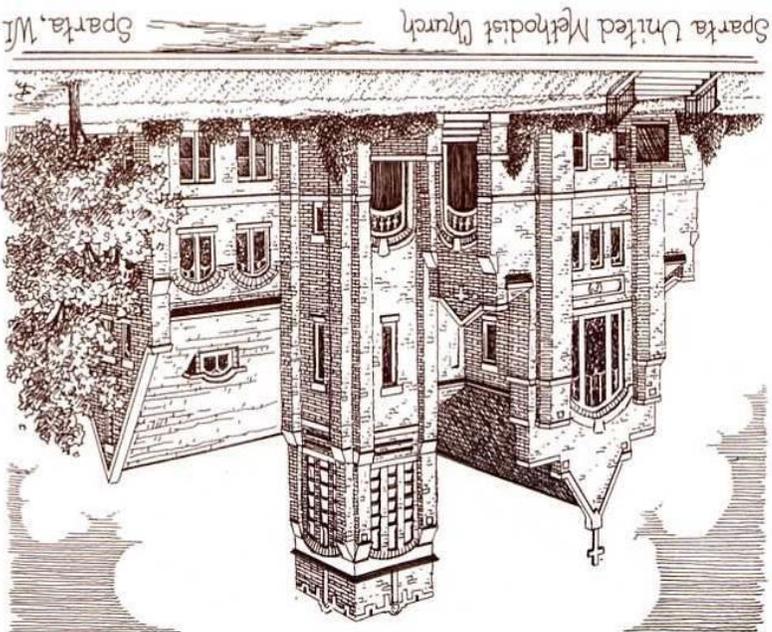
The Chimes

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



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Website: spartaumc.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