

“The CHIMES” – May

Volume 59, No. 5

2024

Hello friends,



May is Family Month. I thought it might be meaningful to think about family devotion. May I assume that we all do devotion at a personally right time of the day? We need to maintain a beautiful relationship with the Lord with all our hearts because it is oxygen for our souls and spirits.

How do you do family devotions with your children? I know that young families are busy with various activities and that there is no perfect family. Every family experiences struggles, and difficult seasons. This means that perfect family devotion doesn't exist either. Even if something doesn't seem to be working in your family, will the devotion really be worth the effort to make it work? The answer is a big YES! There is so much value in gathering around the table with the common goal of discussing God's word. The result may not come immediately or soon. Even if you think they aren't listening, the effort you put into family devotion will not be wasted. And there are spiritual benefits as we learn from each other. Good conversation about God's word is beneficial for each family member, even for a little child.

The strategy for easy family devotion is to start small and keep it simple. Make the time appropriate for the various ages of your kids, the lifestyle you live, the time you have available, and the spiritual maturity of your family. You can start with 10 minutes.

The Bible plays a central role during family devotions. I have heard great things about The Big Picture Story Bible from Crossway books for children. I found that people I respect highly admire it. It covers the entire range of Scripture and is grounded in sound theology. If you encourage little children to read a verse or two, sing a song together, listen to them respectfully and lovingly whatever they say, and conclude with a brief prayer, then it will be wonderful! That's it. Even if the devotion doesn't happen, that's okay. Just make sure you are opening the Bible daily.

If you have teenage children and have never done family devotions before, don't expect them to immediately understand the purpose or see the benefits of deep discussions or answers. Instead, focus on progress. Aim to improve a little each time and celebrate small victories. Each individual must choose to follow Christ on their own. Children must feel motivated to make that choice for themselves, and this can be challenging if they see God as something their parents impose on them. If you could continue to pray for children patiently, I am sure that God will make a chance for them to come to the Lord. Help them develop a personal relationship with God as a guide, teacher, and encourager.

For a simple format, consider

- Inviting the Holy Spirit
- Reading and discussing what God is teaching through the Bible
- Singing a song a cappella
- Praying together for the day

If you live without children, it may be a little easier to gather around the Word of God to share thoughts, concerns, and life issues. The Upper Room or Our Daily Bread could be a good helpful resource.

A life rooted in the joy of God will provide our children with life-giving nourishment and a solid foundation for the future. Along with prayers filled with love for their lives, introducing them to the presence of God will be an eternal gift for the next generation.

With grace and love,
Pastor Hae-Jeong

For pastoral care while Pastor Hae-Jeong is away on vacation, May 7 – May 26, please contact Pastor Fran Hewuse Jr., at 608-343-7237.

May Memory Verse

"And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased."

Hebrews 13:16

May Sermon Schedule

May 5th Pastor Hae-Jeong Yoon
May 12th Pastor Paul Foulke
May 19th TBD
May 26th Pastor Paul Foulke



Nurture Update..



“Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not turn from it.”

Proverbs 22:6

A Mothers’ Prayer

“I pray that my children will learn godliness with contentment, and that in doing so, they will become satisfied with what God gives them.

–Wm. Carmichael

Thank you to all who shared lovely spring plants and lilies for Easter, and fresh flowers for Blossoming of the Cross. This reflected the beauty of the spring and resurrection of Jesus Christ who fills our lives with love, forgiveness and hope!

May 5 – Bibles presented to our young people
– Records & History Sunday
Our church’s “lighted cross” highlighted

May 12 – Mothers’ Day
Sunday school children will present flowers to mothers.

May 19 – Pentecost
You may bring a red geranium to be planted at church if you wish. Also, please wear something red on this special day.
– Honor high school and college graduates (please call the church office with names.)

May 26 – Memorial Day – God bless our fallen veterans. If you have someone to add to the list who has died since last Memorial Day, please call the church office with the name and the branch of service by May 20.

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

United Women in Faith



The women of Lois Circle and Wesleyan Circle thank the members of our congregation and our Sparta community for the support of the 2024 Spring Luncheon that was served on April 17 in the well-appointed Fellowship Hall. I would like to give my personal thanks to the dedicated women who gave their time, talents and use of kitchen gadgets leading up to our Mission fundraiser annual event. We ask you to support the local merchants of Hansen’s IGA, Northwood Country Market, Kwik Trip and Walmart as each business donated to our fundraiser luncheon.

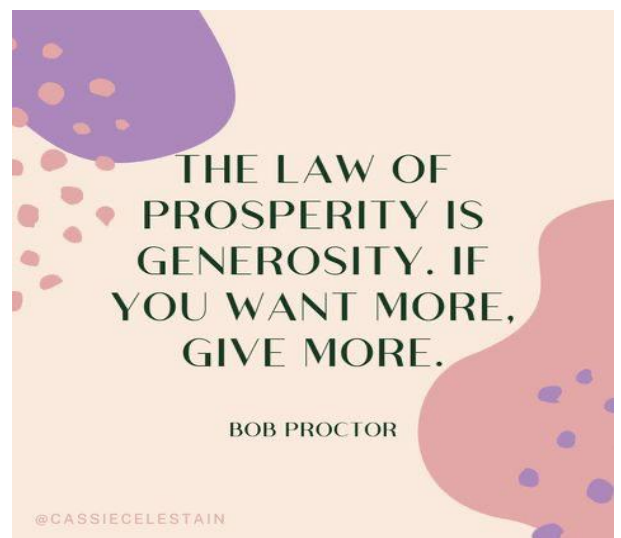
Thank you Scott for being our delivery driver and Rich and Kurt for being ready to go if needed.

Times are indeed changing. In 2012, a total of 171 meals were prepared for dine-in or delivery. This year the total was just under 100 plates/carry-outs. Our kitchen and dining room has gone from hectic to “maybe the rush will be at noon.” The fellowship and conversations of our “church basement ladies” can never be replaced.

We’ll put our thinking caps on and keep you posted. Nothing we have done or will do would be possible without the blessings of God and our brothers and sisters in Christ. We are thankful beyond measure.

Wishing you a beautiful spring,

Cathy Nichols & the United Women in Faith of SUMC



Records & History



Don't forget to update your contact information with Michele. You can call or cut the form out below and return to the office. The following information is asked to be updated:

Name:

Address:

Phone Number:

E-mail:

Thank you for taking the time to update this vital information!

We are - Keeping the Eternal Flame Glowing

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

- Thank you -

Thank you to Dave and Sara Kemp for donating the vacuums and brooms to the church. It is really nice to not have to tote vacuums to all levels of our church. Your thoughtfulness is appreciated.

Thank you for your donation to the Backpack Program. Your generous contribution helps assure the children of our community receive proper nourishment. We appreciate the donation very much. Sparta Area School District

Pizza and a movie



night this month is **May 18** 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 May 18 if you will be attending so we know how much pizza to order.

May's Movie is: "Catching Faith"

John and Alexa Taylor appear to have the perfect life - they're the envy of all the parents in town. Their son Beau is the high school football star and their daughter Ravyn is a straight-A student. But when Beau is caught drinking alcohol, his place on the team and his bright future are on the line.

Rated PG13

Stewardship Committee..

As you all know, the Stewardship Grow-One Sunday is May 5, 2024. We ask the congregation to prayerfully consider pledging one step up from their current giving. All congregation members unable to attend the Grow-one Sunday will be mailed a Giving Card and stamped address envelope for the financial secretary. This Estimate Giving card needs to be returned by Monday, May 20. Stewardship Committee

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



In 2019, the Administrative Council brainstormed ideas to help the churches finances. One of the ideas that came out of the brainstorming was to start a Scrip program at Sparta UMC. There are still so many in our congregation that doesn't understand how this program works. Each month I place an order for Scrip (gift) cards.

This program doesn't cost any additional money in your monthly or weekly budget. Here is an example of how this program works. If your weekly or monthly budget for groceries, gas, and health & beauty aids is \$300; if you purchase a \$100 Hansen's card, \$100 Kwik Trip card and \$100 Walmart card the church gets a percentage of the cost of the card costing you nothing. You pay \$100 for a Hansen's card, the church receives 5%; \$100 Kwik Trip card the church receives 4%; and \$100 Walmart card the church receives 2.5%.

$$\$100 \times 5\% = \$5$$

$$\$100 \times 4\% = \$4$$

$$\$100 \times 2.5\% = \$2.5$$

With your \$300 purchase of the above cards the church receives \$11.50 and it doesn't cost you any more in your weekly or monthly household budget. Most of our businesses offer denominations of \$25, \$50 or \$100 cards. We currently have 36 businesses that you can purchase cards for. There are many more businesses that participate but we can't list everything. If you are wondering if a particular business is part of the Raise Right Scrip program contact me (Cheryl Isensee) and I can look at the larger list. I would like to thank everyone that has used this program. When I put the monthly order in I usually order extra cards that are available until the next order is submitted.

One happy Scrip card customer says, "I am so happy for this program, I wish I would have started doing it much sooner. I don't worry about carrying cash around or having to write a check when I go to the store, I just get my Scrip card and make the purchase and the church makes money from something that I would normally be purchasing anyway. I highly recommend the Scrip program to others".

You'll find the order form on the next page, please fill out and return to Cheryl. **The next order is going in June 2.**

Attention Theater Fans



"Bright Star" will be at the La Crosse Community Theater (Weber Center) from May 2-19, 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

several volunteer slots on the following day:

Sunday, May 19 - 12:30 p.m.- 5:00 p.m. – 8 ushers
BRIGHT STAR MUSICAL –THEATRE PG
 Magical. Romantic. Pure.

Inspired by a true story and featuring the Tony®-nominated score by Steve Martin and Edie Brickell, Bright Star tells a sweeping tale of love and redemption set in the American South in the 1920s and '40s. When literary editor Alice Murphy meets a young soldier just home from World War II, he awakens her longing for the child she once lost. Haunted by their unique connection, Alice sets out on a journey to understand her past—and what she finds has the power to transform both of their lives.

Music, book & story by Steve Martin. Music, lyrics & story by Edie Brickel.

If you are interested, please contact Toni Burrows 608-343-3029 by May 1.

Name:		Phone #	
Product	%	QTY	Total
All American Do-It Center \$25	10%		\$ -
Amazon.com \$100.00	2.25%		\$ -
Amazon.com \$25.00	2.25%		\$ -
Amazon.com \$40.00	2.25%		\$ -
American Eagle® \$25.00	10%		\$ -
Applebee's \$25.00	8%		\$ -
Applebee's \$50.00	8%		\$ -
Arby's \$10.00	8%		\$ -
Barnes & Noble \$10.00	8%		\$ -
Barnes & Noble \$25.00	8%		\$ -
Bath & Body Works \$10.00	12%		\$ -
Bath & Body Works \$25.00	12%		\$ -
Best Buy \$25.00	4%		\$ -
Buffalo Wild Wings® \$10.00	8%		\$ -
Buffalo Wild Wings® \$25.00	8%		\$ -
Burger King \$10.00	4%		\$ -
Cabela's \$25.00	10%		\$ -
Cenex \$25.00	3%		\$ -
Dairy Queen \$10.00	3%		\$ -
Dick's Sporting Goods \$25.00	8%		\$ -
Fazoli's \$25.00	9%		\$ -
Festival Foods \$25.00	3%		\$ -
Ginny's Cupboard \$5	10%		\$ -
Ginny's Cupboard \$20.00	10%		\$ -
Hansen's IGA \$25.00	5%		\$ -
Hansen's IGA \$50.00	5%		\$ -
Hansen's IGA \$100.00	5%		\$ -
Hardware Store \$25.00	10%		\$ -
iTunes \$15.00	5%		\$ -
Kohl's \$100.00	4%		\$ -
Kohl's \$25.00	4%		\$ -
Kwik Trip \$100.00	4%		\$ -
Kwik Trip \$25.00	4%		\$ -
Kwik Trip \$50.00	4%		\$ -
Menards \$100.00	3%		\$ -
Menards \$25.00	3%		\$ -
Olive Garden \$25.00	8%		\$ -
Olive Garden \$10.00	8%		\$ -
Outback Steakhouse \$25.00	8%		\$ -
Outback Steakhouse \$10.00	8%		\$ -
Panera Bread \$10.00	8%		\$ -
Papa Murphy's Pizza \$10.00	8%		\$ -
Pizza Hut (Not AK or HI) \$10.00	8%		\$ -
Red Lobster \$25.00	8%		\$ -
Starbucks \$10.00	7%		\$ -
Subway Restaurants \$10.00	6%		\$ -
Target \$10.00	2.50%		\$ -
Target \$25.00	2.5%		\$ -
Texas Roadhouse \$25.00	8%		\$ -
Theisen's \$25.00	10%		\$ -
Walgreens \$100.00	5%		\$ -
Walgreens \$25.00	5%		\$ -
Walmart \$100.00	2.5%		\$ -
Walmart \$10.00	2.50%		\$ -
Walmart \$25.00	2.5%		\$ -
Walmart \$50.00	2.5%		\$ -
			0 \$ -



This section to be completed by the SCRIP team member completing your transaction:

Paid: CASH CHECK
(Circle One)

CHECK#_

Initials: _____
\$

Consider purchasing gift cards to purchase your weekly or monthly groceries, gas, entertainment or gifts. By doing so Sparta UMC receives a % for each card purchase.

Total Order \$

5

\$

-

Free Organ!



Located in the hallway of the church by the Garden Room. It just needs a new cord. Yours for the taking!

Contact Margie Lakowske if you're interested!

COMING SOON



Time to Learn

Diabetes Workshop

This workshop is designed to help adults with type 2 diabetes or pre-diabetes learn self-management skills and increase their confidence in managing their diabetes or for adults living with/caring for someone who has diabetes.


The workshop meets virtually once a week for six weeks—2-1/2 hours each session.

Where: Virtually

When: Wednesday, May 22 – June 26, 9 a.m. to Noon.

Cost: \$30

Pre-register by calling 608-775-6870 or visit gundersenhealth.org/living-well.



“M” is for the million things she gave me,
“O” means only that she’s growing old,
“T” is for the tears were shed to save me,
“H” is for her heart of purest gold;
“E” is for her eyes, with love-light shining,
“R” means right, and right she’ll always be,
Put them all together, they spell “MOTHER,”
A word that means the world to me

Howard Johnson-Theodore Morse



- The Ministerial Committee will meet Wednesday, May 1 at noon in the small kitchen.
- Nurture will meet in the library, Thursday, May 2 at 6 p.m.
- Sunday, May 5 the Servant Leadership Board will meet for their monthly visionary meeting after Worship.
- Pastor will be on vacation from May 7 through May 26. Please contact Pastor Fran Hewuse Jr., for pastoral emergency at 608-343-7237.
- SUMMIT Spirits will meet on Tuesday, May 7 at 6:30
- Records & History next meeting is Wednesday, May 8 at 9 a.m. in the library.
- Lois Circle will meet Tuesday, May 14 at 1 p.m., in the small kitchen.
- Wesleyan Circle will meet on Tuesday, May 14, in the Gathering Place at 6:30 p.m.
- Pizza and a movie returns on Saturday May 18 at 6 p.m. in the small kitchen for pizza and 6:30 in the chapel for the movie.
- June *Chimes* newsletter deadline is Friday, May 24 by noon.
- Servant Leadership Board will meet on Tuesday, May 30 at 6 p.m.





May Anniversaries

10 Joe & Betsy Tadisch
21 Mark & Denise Halverson

May Birthdays

04 Richard Dale
04 Judy Erickson
05 Carolyn Lieder
06 Abby Smith
06 Denise Halverson
06 Scott Thurston
09 Joshua Ebert
09 Ellen Hemstock
09 Dorothy Zillmer
10 Brittany Flury
14 Muriel Canfield
18 Lorna Schamens
18 Liz Risseuw
20 Jonathan Loeffelholz
21 Aidyn Hanson
21 Jason Moore
22 Tom Hemstock Jr.
24 Joey Esterline
30 Eric Cole



Ushers

5 Ron & Donna Burnham & Peggy Wright
12 Joe & Betsy Tadisch
19 Russ & Tina Janzen
26 Kurt & Amy Kiefer

Tech Team

5 Ron & Kristine Phillips
12 Toni Burrows & Cindy Isensee
19 Ben Simplot & Amy Kiefer
26 Ben Simplot & Hailee Scheurich

Liturgist

5 Beth Nowak
12 Eileen Gajewsky
19 Marty Walley
26 Judy Fuhrmann

Scripture Readers

5 Annabelle Von Ruden
12 Beth Nowak
19 Hailee Scheurich
26 Kristine Phillips



CHANGING THE WORLD
ONE PAIR AT A TIME

Thank you to all who have donated to Soles4Souls! We have collected 542 pair through the year so far!

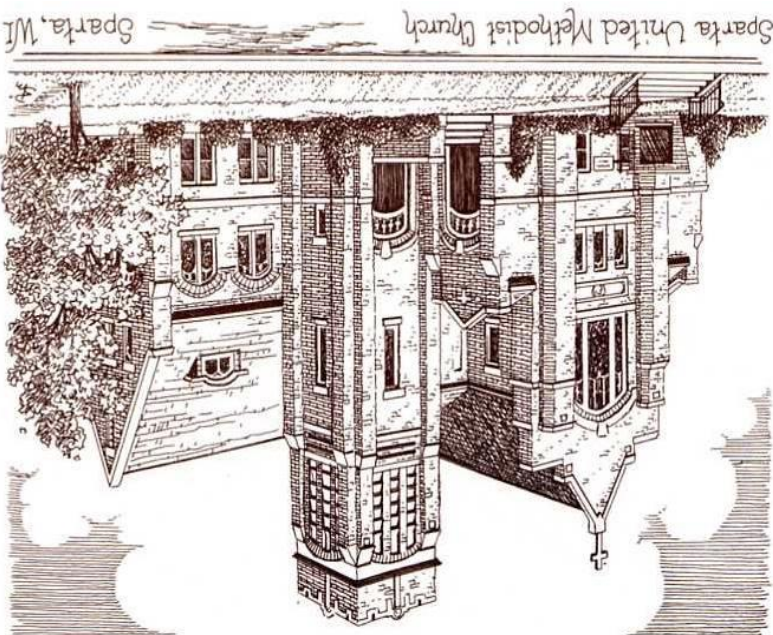
The Chimes

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Prepared Especially For:



Pastor: Rev. Dr. Hae-Jeong Yoon
Pastor's Cell Phone: 608-633-8613

Phone: (608)269-6949

Fax: (608)269-6940

Email: office@spartamethodist.com

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