

OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

We are called to make new and maturing disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

“The CHIMES” – June

Volume 59, No. 6

2024

Hello friends,



As you may already know, it is planned for me to move to Fifth Ave United Methodist Church in West Bend during my vacation time. This move is part of God's plan and will, and I am accepting it with obedience and joy. I would like to express my gratitude to all who have worked and journeyed with me over the past year, as well as to

those who have loved, encouraged, and supported me. Thank you for all that you have done for the kingdom of God. God will surely remember and reward your efforts for the Kingdom of God, as promised in the Bible.

May God continue to bless you all!

It was surely a very precious and meaningful time for me.

Pastor Hae-Jeong

June Memory Verse

"I lift up my eyes to the mountains—where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth."

Psalms 121:1-2



A Note From The SPRC



Annual conference is quickly approaching June 7 – 9. At this time, pastoral appointments are announced for the upcoming year.

We, as a committee, have been in conversation with our District Superintendent, Rev. Tsuker Yang, about the pastoral leadership here at Sparta United Methodist Church.

Together, and in conversation with Pastor Hae-Jeong, it was determined that our church needed a change.

Pastor Hae-Jeong has been appointed to the UMC in West Bend, effective July 1st. In speaking with her, she told our committee that she is happy to be going to West Bend. She also thanked our congregation for walking with her on her spiritual journey. She is very appreciative of that. We wish her well as her journey continues.

Pastor's last day in the office will be June 20. Her last day preaching for us will be June 16. During the June 16 service, we will have a pastor send-off service conducted by Paul Foulke. A reception for Pastor Hae-Jeong will be held during coffee fellowship time following the June 16 service.

The members of the SPRC committee include: Gary Ascher, Beth Nowak, Paul Foulke, Andrea Cole, Toni Burrows, Marty Walley and Ellen Hemstock.

Many changes are coming for our congregation. Please be prayerful as we move forward. Thank you.

Ellen Hemstock – SPRC Chair



The righteous man walks in his integrity; **His children are blessed after him.**

PROVERBS 20:7

News From The Wisconsin Conference

Bishop Hee-Soo Jung has appointed Rev. Lourdes Teixeira Magalhaes, an Elder in the Brazil Methodist Church (OM), full-time (100%) to the Sparta United Methodist Church effective July 1, 2024. Rev. Lourdes's first Sunday preaching at our church will be Sunday, July 14, 2024.

Rev. Lourdes has served at Wesley UMC in Marshfield, WI and at the Community UMC in Cedarburg, WI as a full-time minister. An important part of her ministry has been to embark on a revitalization process to re-engage members who had shifted to online attendance or had stopped attending altogether. She has also been involved in pastoral care to support shut-ins, and those in assisted living or nursing homes. Her sermons aim to be relevant and relatable, addressing contemporary issues and fostering a sense of inclusivity and belonging. Pastor Lourdes finds that engagement with the local community is a cornerstone of her ministry. She writes in her letter of introduction, "Together with our music team, we have developed inspiring worship services and special events that uplift our community."

Pastor Lourdes is excited to be coming to the Sparta UMC. We will welcome her with a potluck brunch after her first service with us on Sunday, July 14th.

Ellen Hemstock – Staff Pastor Relations Committee (SPRC) Chair

SAVE THE DATE

Wisconsin Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church 2024

Conference Vision:

Radical Inclusion and Racial Justice

Theme: "Abundant God; Beloved Community"

John 10:10b:

I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

June 7 - 10, 2024

KI Convention Center

333 Main Street

Green Bay, WI

Welcome from Bishop Hee-Soo Jung

Nurture Update..



June 16 – Fathers' Day!

Coffee and donuts will be offered in the Gathering Place to honor our dads. Their gentle strength and love are ever with us!

Sunday School

Thank you to our faithful teachers and helpers—Lynn & Larry Humphrey, Margie Lakowske, Aubrey Ebert, and Annabelle Von Ruden, who have nurtured our children this past year. They also treated all of the ladies of the church with lovely flowers on Mothers' Day. Our church truly appreciates you!

High School Graduates

Aidyn Hanson, son of David Hanson & Darcie Hanson

Steven Burrows, son of the late Daniel Burrows – Challenge Academy

Brayden Eddy, son of Brandy Eddy – Black River Falls

Elijah Talsky, son of Kelly Talsky

Thank you to **Russ Janzen** and **Ben Simplot** for reading the names of our fallen veterans for Memorial Day. In memory of many, that meant so much to so many—we remember them!

Thank you **Scott Naeseth** and **Rose White**, for your lovely flower plantings at the "K" Street entrance—beautiful! And to **Cathy Nichols**, who planted perennials at the Court Street steps last fall—looking very pretty this spring!

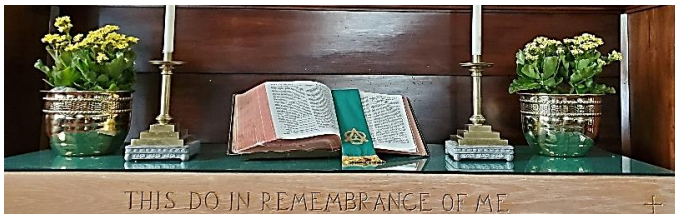
Vacation Bible School

Tentative plans are made for the end of July to hold 3 or 4 days of Vacation Bible School. Watch for more details, and please consider helping with this summer event.

"Stay connected to God—
Stay connected to each other."



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

Pizza and a Movie



night this month is **June 15** 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 June 15 if

you will be attending so we know how much pizza to order.

June's Movie is:

“Ordinary Angels”



A struggling hairdresser moves mountains to help a girl waiting for a liver transplant, and sets in motion an inspiring tale of faith, everyday miracles, and ordinary angels.

Starring Hilary Swank and Alan Ritchson. Rated PG

Please note: If the weather is forecasted to be 90 degrees or above, Pizza and a Movie will be cancelled.

Thank you

Thank you United Methodist Church! Our sincerest thank you goes to all members of the congregation who have made donations to the Ecumenical Food Pantry. Your support is vital to our ongoing efforts to help provide food for those families in need. Through contributions, we have been able to touch the lives of so many in our community.

Thank you again for your unwavering support!

Judy Bernett
Board Member

Thank you Hank & Barb McGreevy for donating your leaf blower! It's being put to good use!

Thank you to everyone, that includes you too, Michele, for stepping up and cleaning the church. I think you all will agree it looks great! The outside is also looking nice. Thanks to those who sprayed for weeds and for the mowing. Your kindness does not go unnoticed.

Margie Lakowske

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 **June 5**. 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 sometimes has a few extra scrip cards for local businesses on hand.



COMING SOON

- The Finance Committee will be meeting at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, June 4.
- SUMMIT Spirits will meet on Tuesday, June 4 at 6:30
- The Ministerial Committee will meet Wednesday, June 5 at noon in the small kitchen.
- Records & History next meeting is Wednesday, June 12 at 9 a.m. in the library.
- Lois Circle will meet Tuesday, June 11 at 11:30 a.m. at La Herradura, 701 Industrial Dr., Sparta.
- Wesleyan Circle will meet on Tuesday, June 11, for a potluck at Cathy's house at 6:00 p.m.
- Pizza and a movie returns on Saturday June 15 at 6 p.m. in the small kitchen for pizza and 6:30 in the chapel for the movie.
- Servant Leadership Board will meet on Tuesday, June 18 at 6 p.m.
- Sunday, June 23 the Servant Leadership Board will meet for their monthly visionary meeting after Worship.
- June *Chimes* newsletter deadline is Monday, June 24 by noon.

All Church Fundraiser


I would like to let everyone know that we are going to bring the Christmas Bake Sale back this year. It won't be exactly the same as the past. Items will be priced per plate instead of by the pound. I am planting the seed so that you can start thinking about it. We are going to need everyone to help out with this project.



Things that go well at Christmas bake sales are: Rosettes, cutout cookies, Sandbakkels, homemade donuts, quick breads, candies, pies, assorted bars and cookies.

In the past, I believe that families or groups gathered at the church to bake their specialty items. The date that we are looking at is Saturday December 14 (8am-noon). More details to come.

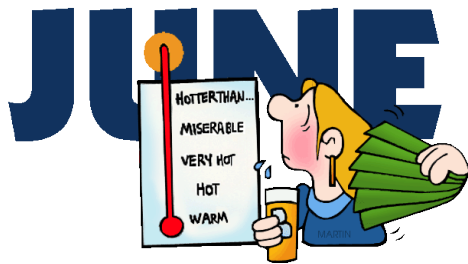
Cheryl Isensee
Bake Sale Coordinator



Thank you to all who have donated to Soles4Souls! We have collected 792 pair through the year so far!

CHANGING THE WORLD
ONE PAIR AT A TIME

Wanted! The Garden Room is in need of new curtains. If you have curtains or valances that you are updating—would you consider donating your used ones to the church? There are six windows in that room and the length is 63". Currently on pair fits per window. Thank you!



June Anniversaries

- 05 Rich & Danette Zidich
- 06 Margie & Kevin Lakowske
- 12 Cathy & Bob Nichols
- 13 Scott & Deb Thurston
- 17 Beverly & Mike Donahue
- 17 Lori & Gary Ascher
- 20 Dot & Dave Hering
- 23 Judy & Allen Erickson
- 25 Lorie & Richard Dale
- 25 Dick & Eileen Gajewsky
- 25 Priscilla & Jeff Hemmersbach
- 25 Rose White & Scott Naeseth
- 27 Coy & Alex Rudie
- 30 Berndt & Mary Borreson

June Birthdays

- 06 Amara Echeverria
- 09 Alex Vaver
- 10 Rich Zidich
- 11 Erin Tadisch
- 12 Aubrey Ebert
- 12 Edwina Olson
- 13 June Jackson
- 14 Katie Jerman
- 17 Clarice Stuessel
- 17 Patty Wiedemann
- 19 Scott Herrman
- 22 Danette Zidich
- 26 Russell Culpitt
- 26 Larry Humphrey
- 30 Deanna Hutchinson



Ushers

- 2 Kurt & Amy Kiefer
- 9 Joe & Betsy Tadisch
- 16 Ron, Donna & Peggy
- 26 Kurt & Amy Kiefer
- 30 Russ & Tina Janzen

Tech Team

- 2 Ben Simplot & Hailee Scheurich
- 9 Toni Burrows & Amy Kiefer
- 16 Ron & Kristine Phillips
- 23 Cheryl Isensee & Cindy Isensee
- 26 TBD

Liturgist

- 2 Beth Nowak
- 9 Eileen Gajewsky
- 16 Judy Fuhrmann
- 23 Marty Walley
- 26 Annabelle Von Ruden

Scripture Readers

- 2 Kristine Phillips
- 9 Annabelle Von Ruden
- 16 Hailee Scheurich
- 23 Beth Nowak
- 26 Amy Kiefer



Bishop's Soul Food - General Conference



The postponed and much anticipated 2020 General Conference in Charlotte, North Carolina has concluded. It was an amazing experience – filled with powerful worship and inspiring missional reports all grounded and surrounded in prayer.

There were many areas in which petitions were submitted and approved. There was intentionality about the constitutional amendment that creates the regionalization of the United States, this being an equal partner with all other “central” conferences (those previously designated that are outside the U.S.). This legislation will need to be ratified by each Annual Conference requiring a 2/3 majority vote of all conferences.

After years of intensive and prayerful debate, the General Conference delegates from all over the world have discerned to remove language that prohibited United Methodist clergy from performing weddings for same-gender couples. There are still some important things about this decision that I want laity and clergy to know.

First, pastors, as chief administrator of the church, and with responsibility to lead the congregations, make the decision about officiating at a wedding. This decision is based on several factors including the couples’ preparation for the marriage covenant. The change in the Book of Discipline does not change the pastoral authority in making the decision about officiating at a wedding. There is no mechanism in Conference leadership nor desire on my part as bishop to determine pastoral authority as it pertains to marriage.

Second, churches will continue to determine what weddings are held in their church buildings. Further, the desires of all clergy are to be honored and not judged by others. We know that different people have different opinions on these matters and our churches are in different contexts within the bounds of the Conference and it is my expectation that the diversity of everyone’s opinion and everyone’s context is to be honored.

Third, is the removal of the prohibitions that prevented a Board of Ordained Ministry from recommending a LGBTQIA+ person for ordination. Qualified LGBTQIA+ persons approved by the Board of Ordained Ministry would now be licensed, commissioned, and ordained. As the bishop, the Cabinet will continue to work with churches and clergy to ensure we have the best match possible when making appointments. We will honor the gifts of pastors and congregation’s traditions. We want everyone to have a vital ministry rather than one defined by conflict. Our continued goal is to enhance ministry through theological and missional compatibility. All will be accepted, so that ministry can thrive. Integrity will be a matter for all God’s people and every church will be focused to grow into the vital ministry in this changing season. Your Bishop and Cabinet will carry the faithful works of supervision and service to all churches.

The United Methodist Church truly is an international global church. We are sensitive to and honor regional and cultural attitudes toward contentious issues. We celebrate the ways these recent decisions reinforce the primacy of God’s love in our lives and the world. I also recognize how they will add complexity to our life together as United Methodists.

I have been diligent in practicing my lived-out faith within our community of believers, which is diverse and inclusive. It has been intentional that our Conference lives into “Beloved Community,” which affirms the unity and oneness in God, “for by one Spirit we are all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free, and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.” (1 Corinthians 12:13).

Through this lens of oneness in Christ, we are invited to examine and fully embrace the “beloved community,” in which we welcome all and include all. It is our time to set aside political labels and societal aspirations and practice our faith in hospitality, grace, and compassion. We are now at a point of avenues for focused ministry with global intention.

As we begin to move into understanding the implications of these decisions, I once again remind us of a quote by one of the founders of Methodism, John Wesley, “Though we cannot think alike, may we not love alike? May we not be of one heart, though we are not of one opinion? Without all doubt, we may. Herein all the children of God may unite, notwithstanding these smaller differences.”

May God make it so.

Bishop Hee-Soo Jung

Dear
God,



Thank
you

for my
Daddy!

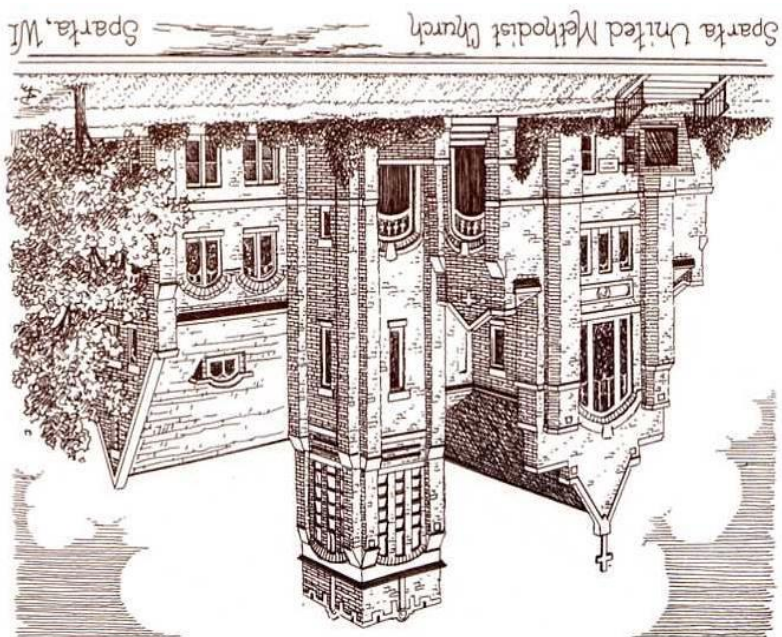
The Chimes

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



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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