



July 12, 2017

The Mission of Sparta United Methodist Church:
Helping each other follow Jesus' way (John 14:6)
The Vision: That through Him all might be saved (John 3:17)



A weekly newsletter of the Sparta United Methodist Church

Attention Volunteers of this Year's
Vacation Bible School Program

Please attend the meeting for volunteers taking place
Wednesday, July 19, at 6 PM in Wesley Hall at church.
Contact Heather Westra if you have any questions.

Volunteers are asked to be at church by 8:30 AM each
day during the week of Vacation Bible School for brief-
ing.

Highlights from Church Council Meeting of
July 11, 2017

Devotion: "When you don't like the story God is
writing" Communicate with God. Acknowledge His
presence. Proverbs 3:5-6: Trust Him.

Council approved the following appointments: Kay
Chase-Memorials; Ruby Skibinski-Health Coordina-
tor; Mindy Tilli-Missions.

The Council-approved steps taken by Finance have
been completed: the General Fund is balanced, and
Ministry Shares are paid to date (50% of the yearly
expense). These are reasons to celebrate, and we are
looking for ways to do so. Income is at 48% of projec-
tion to date; expenses are at 46%.

Pastor's one-on-one with the district superintendent is
Oct. 17. SPRC meets with the DS at 6:15 PM Nov. 20.
Sparta's Annual Church Charge Conference is 7 PM
Monday, Nov. 20. Reports will be forwarded to com-
mittee leaders shortly.

Pastor Phil would like people to call him directly any-
time (cell 799.4281). His home visits happening now
are very important; they are going very well.

Light fixtures and a dishwasher have been obtained for
the parsonage; we are thankful for that. The downstairs
needs work yet. Gypsy moths are a problem right now
for the trees-some damage. Windows for church base-
ment have been ordered. Stained-glass window in the
sanctuary is being taken care of. Pastor reported that
the Trustees and volunteers are phenomenal.

Sparta Rotary is moving its meeting location to the
Sparta High School effective this fall. The Sparta
United Methodist Women will no longer provide meals.

Ministry Opportunities: Sparta Community Blood
Drive July 13. Free Community Breakfast canceled in
July; instead Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser at the
Sparta Civic Center is July 22.

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Schedules

Sundays

10:10 AM Morning Worship Celebration
..... Sunday School for Pre-K - Grade 5
during morning worship service

Tuesdays

9:30 AM Girl Talk Study Group

10:10 AM Worship Attendant Volunteers July 16

Soundboard Brandon Ingersoll/Kerry Emelander
Head Usher Gary Cowden
Nursery Assistant Carol Schulz
Greeters Jeanette Tobey & Joyce Marohn
Intercessory Prayer Ron Drier
Scripture Reader Mary Eggleston
Welcome Table Mary Eggleston
Fellowship Time Cathy Knapp, Justin Westra,
and Mary Scott

Save the Date

July 13 6 PM Trustees meeting
July 19 6 PM VBS Volunteers meeting
7 PM Parade Safety meeting @
Sparta Civic Center
July 19-22 Sparta Town & Country Days
July 22 7:30 AM Pancake Fundraiser @ Civic Center
sponsored by Sparta UM Men
10:30 AM ..UMW water distribution
Noon Town & Country Days Parade
July 23 Rural Life Special Offering
July 24 6 PM Finance committee meeting
July 24-27 9 AM Vacation Bible School

Important Cues

Help is needed right after morning worship service on
July 23 to set up for Vacation Bible School. No
experience is necessary-just your willingness to assist.
Please stay to help. Thank you.

Please wear your name tag in church. We have a
new pastor and many new people in church who would
like to get to know us!

Due to technical difficulties still under review, the
church office computer is currently unable to email
out.

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Upcoming Worship & Events Schedule: Vacation Bible School July 24–27 (Mon.–Thurs.) 9 AM–noon. Back-to-School Kickoff August 29 6–8 PM. Sparta Area Schools' first day is Sept. 5.

A connection has been made with a contemporary praise band, Carpenter's Cross. Check out their website:

<https://sites.google.com/site/carpenterscrossband/>. They are interested in worshipping with Sparta UMC, maybe at the Back-to-School Kickoff. Brandon Ingersoll is willing to coordinate a worship team.

Council will meet every month.



The Family of Doris Sutcliffe—Harry's mother passed away July 7. Her funeral was July 11. Pastor Phil officiated. The Family of Jim Kane—Jim passed away July 6.

Hope Graves—friend of Kathy Reed, strength and no complications after third cancer surgery.

Emmy Scott—in Spain for a few weeks

All military and public service personnel



Pastor Phil & Gail are looking for your recommendations to try in the Sparta Community—in particular for hair cuts, restaurants, dental work, eye exam, car repair, entertainment, websites of community events, groceries, pharmacy, where to find unusual items, library, walking paths, recreation like bowling, etc. Use Sunday's Next Step Card to share, or give Pastor Phil a call at 799.4281.



It's A Boy!

Dan, Brenda and big sister Kara McCracken announce the birth of their baby, Sean Timothy McCracken on July 5, 2017, weighing 7 lbs., 13 oz., and 21 inches. All are doing well!

Pastor Phil's in-home visit took place July 12, so he got to meet *all* of the family.



Contact the office with updates and additions.

Hero Central VBS Registration Form



Student's Name Age & Last School Grade Completed

_____ Age: _____

_____ Age: _____

_____ Age: _____

_____ Age: _____

Parent/Guardian & Emergency Contact Information

Address _____

E-mail Address _____

Best phone number to contact _____

Allergies/Medical Information/Other

Dismissal Information: Person(s) who may pick up child from VBS: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

____ (initial) By this child's participation in this church activity, I agree that photographs video, audio and any other audio/visual material of my child recorded during this program may be reproduced/used by Sparta United Methodist Church. I release Sparta UMC from any claim against them as a result of injury or illness incurred during the course of participation in VBS activities.

- 16 Tony Levandoski
Diane Young
- 17 Pat Spangenberg
- 18 John Chance
- 19 Jaime Gunderson
- 20 Ron Marohn
Vickie Hammond
- 21 Andrea Taylor
Randy Fleese

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WEBSITE • www.spartaumc.com

OFFICE HOURS • Monday – Thursday, 9 AM – 1 PM

WORSHIP TIME • Sunday 10:10 AM

We are a connected ministry. Check out

[Michigan Area United Methodist Church](#)
[United Methodist, Grand Rapids District](#)
[United Methodist News Service Daily Digest](#)



Articles for next week's *News Flash* are due on Tuesday.