



August 23, 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



This Is It!

Thanks again to the many volunteers helping with this year's Back-to-School Kickoff Tuesday, August 29. The event runs from 6 to 8 PM. All volunteers are receiving a letter of confirmation.

Help is needed clearing the parking lot Aug. 28 at 6:30 PM. Please bring a leaf blower and/or broom.

Extraordinary Sundays in September at Sparta UMC

- September 3: We welcome Loren Mote to the pulpit at 10:10 AM worship celebration.
September 10: Noah and Liz Kamper will share at morning worship service how God has blessed their ministry in Costa Rica. Then at Fellowship Time, Margaret Blaauw will highlight her work this past summer in Mission Peru.



September 17: Wear your favorite football team t-shirt or jersey for Sunday School Kickoff. Sunday school is for ages Pre-Kindergarten through Adult beginning at 9 AM. Separate classrooms are available for school ages.

- September 17: Flu Shot Clinic 11:15 AM - 1:15 PM

Community Clinic Payment Details

- Individuals can use any one of the following insurance plans to pay for their immunization. An insurance card needs to be provided at the time of service. Any insurance plan not listed, including Medicaid, will not be accepted.

Priority Health Aetna
Blue Care Network ASR
Cofinity Medicare
Blue Cross/Blue Shield

- Individuals are responsible for any copays or insurance denials and may receive a bill if either pertains.
Individuals who do not present with an acceptable insurance are expected to pay for their own immunization at a cost of \$55 for a Quadrivalent flu shot, or if offered, \$72 for a High Dose flu shot.
Sparta UMC is not responsible for the cost of immunizations administered at the clinic.

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 August 27

Soundboard Doug Shupe & Mary Hartman
Head Usher Gary Cowden
Nursery Assistant Jessica Pinckney
Greeters Wayne & Mary Hyde
Intercessory Prayer Cindy Young
Scripture Reader Hilary Miller
Welcome Table Naomi Collins
Fellowship Time Margaret Blaauw
Anna Mae Spangenberg
Don Behrenwald

Save the Date

August 26 8-10 AM Free Community Breakfast
Morris/Mavima Wedding

August 28 6:30 PM Clearing the parking lot

August 29 6-8 PM Back-to-School KICKOFF

August 31 6 PM UMW Executive Board
6 PM Vision Team meeting

Sept. 3 Loren Mote, guest preacher

Sept. 4 Labor Day (offices closed)

Sept. 6 7 PM Adult Choir practice

Sept. 7 6:30 PM Church Council

Sept. 9 8 AM Men's Mealtime Rally



The Family of Joanne Dake-Joanne passed away Aug. 18. Funeral is Sun., Aug. 27, at 3 PM at Sparta UMC; visitation at 2 PM.
Isabelle-Kerry Emelander's 14-year old niece diagnosed with stage 2 melanoma

Mid-year giving statements are available for pick up in the church parlor beginning August 27.

## GRIEF SHARE

The GriefShare support group takes place Tuesdays beginning September 12 through December 5, 2017. This support group is for anyone (ages 13 through adult) who has lost a loved one from an accident, illness, suicide or cancer. It is a 13-week course with each meeting consisting of watching a 40-minute DVD on different grief topics/situations. We spend another 30 to 60 minutes sharing whatever is on the hearts of those attending. A participant can come to all or any of the meetings.

Mary Ellen Kimble, Julie Bowden, Bonnie Shupe and Nancy Berger are the facilitators of this support group, which is an informal gathering. We offer coffee, tea, and snacks before the meeting as well as caring friendship. We have lost loved ones, attended a GriefShare in the past, and have found GriefShare very helpful. We wanted to offer the hope and healing that we received to those in the Sparta area.

The meetings begin at 6:30 PM and end at approximately 8:00 PM. The meetings are held at Sparta UMC's Offices and Ministry Building living room. If you have any questions, please talk with Mary Ellen, Julie, Bonnie or Nancy.



Adult Choir will begin with its first choir practice of the season on Wednesday, Sept. 6, at 7 PM in the church sanctuary. The Choir will sing at worship on Sept. 10.

There is always room for another singer in the Choir. We sing at morning worship celebrations throughout the school year schedule and some additional special community events of worship. I would be glad to answer any questions you may have about how you may become a part of the Adult Choir. If you are currently serving or returning to the Choir, thank you! If you are new and would like to discuss how you could serve, please let me know. I can be reached via phone at 616.292.7338 or email [shbarnum@att.net](mailto:shbarnum@att.net).

—Steve Barnum  
Adult Choir Director



### UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Contact the office with updates and additions.



## Annual Dinner Banquet Featured Speaker Dean VanderMey Executive Director of Setfree Ministries

# SILENT AUCTION

**Thursday September 21, 2017**

Doors open at 4 :00 PM  
Dinner served at 6:45 PM

The Bluff Banquet & Conference  
2035 28th St. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49508  
Located in the Grand Central Plaza Center on  
28th Street SE next to Indian Trails Golf Course

**Tickets: \$30 per person**  
**Table Sponsors: \$240, Table Seats 8**

#### RSVP by Mail:

Send check or  
money order to: Exodus Place  
PO Box 1170  
Grand Rapids, MI 49501

#### RSVP by Phone:

616-242-9130 Ext 33

### Serving UMCOR—a rewarding experience

BALDWIN, La. — Linda and Jimmy Bence have seen firsthand how the United Methodist Committee on Relief alleviates suffering and advances hope. The United Methodist couple like UMCOR's mission so much that they spent a month this summer serving at the agency's Sager Brown supply depot in Baldwin, Louisiana. Kara Witherow of the South Georgia Conference reports on the couple's ministry and UMCOR's impact. [Read story](#)

August Birthdays		August Anniversary	
29	Flor Marcos	8/29/59	
30	Warren Guiles Jackson Morris Caelin Murdock Shannon Skibinski-Preston	Ron & Jeanne Drier	
September Birthdays		September Anniversaries	
1	Wendy Greeno Elizabeth Hartman	9/2/60	
2	Joanna Huizenga Sherwin Rabacal	Vern & Maggie Clough	
		9/2/66	
		Wayne & Mary Hyde	

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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.