



October 18, 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

Discover our church website and all of the stories linked to our newsletter at www.spartaumc.com.



2017 Stewardship Trip Presence

Our Stewardship Journey continues in Week 4. Rev. Ray Townsend is our guest preacher on Oct. 29.

We want to know that you're coming Nov. 5 to Consecration

Sunday, when your 2018 Estimate of Giving card that you received in the mail will be offered during the morning service, followed by the Celebration Luncheon of a delicious Pig Roast & Potluck. Use the Next Step Card or call the office. Choose a Potluck category: hot or cold side dish, hot or cold meat dish, or dessert.

Highlights of the Oct. 10 Church Council Meeting

Devotion—Matthew 5:13: Have a God kind-of-view of the world. Vitality should be present and real.

Council approved (1) a new Leadership Directory format and (2) moving the responsibilities of Nominations/Leadership Development to Church Council.

Yearly Planned Giving Seminar was very successful, very helpful. Young adults are encouraged to come to the annual event next year.

Annual Church Charge Conference reports are due.

Budget requests should be submitted by Nov. 6. Finance meets in November to prepare a budget for Council review.

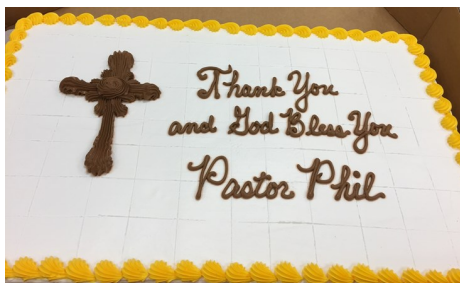
Thank you from Paul Schulz for the seven walkers in the Sparta Area CROP Walk from our church who raised \$1,700. There were over 50 walkers from the three participating churches.

Ministry Opportunities: Free Community Breakfast Oct 28, 8-10 AM. Fall Church Yard Clean-up afterwards as well as moving Pastor into his office after the room is painted (please come help on Oct. 28).

Trunk-or-Treat with Sparta Baptist Church Oct. 31, 5-8 PM. Candy donations may be left in the church office. Participants in Trunk-or-Treat are asked to contact Margaret Blaauw by Oct. 22.

Upcoming Worship & Events Schedule: October is Pastor Appreciation month.

Special Music, Hymn Sing & Cookie Social Oct. 29 6 PM in the sanctuary. 25th Annual Talent Auction Nov. 12.



Schedules

Choir Practices

Sundays

9:30 AM Children's

Parents: please pick up your child at 10 AM from practice.

9:50 AM Adult preservice rehearsal

Wednesdays 7 PM Adult

Tuesdays

9:30 AM Girl Talk Study Group

6:30 PM GriefShare (Sept. 12-Dec. 5)

Third Thursday of the Month

1 PM Reading Group

Sundays

8:45 AM Adult Sunday School

9 AM Middle School Sunday School

9 AM Pre-K - 5th Grade Craft/Prayer Time

10:10 AM Morning Worship Celebration

10:30 AM Pre-K - 5th Grade Sunday School

10:10 AM Worship Attendant Volunteers October 22

- Soundboard Doug Shupe & Mary Hartman
Head Usher Alan Hartman
Ushers Denny Knappen & Kathy Reed
Nursery Assistant Deb DeGlopper
Greeters Dave & Joanna Huizenga
Intercessory Prayer Bonnie Shupe
Scripture Reader Joanna Huizenga
Fellowship Time Bill & Cheryl Meyer
Paul & Pat Spangenberg

Save the Date

- Oct. 22 Session 4 of All-Church Study
Deadline for adults to register with Margaret Blaauw for Trunk-or-Treat
Oct. 26 6 PM UMW Executive Board meeting
Oct. 28 8-10 AM Free Community Breakfast followed by yard clean-up and Pastor's office move-in
Oct. 29 Guest Preacher Rev. Ray Townsend
Week 5 of All-Church Study
6 PM Special Music, Hymn Sing & Cookie Social at Sparta UMC
Oct. 31 5-8 PM Trunk-Or-Treat @ Sparta Baptist
Nov. 4 5-8 PM Family Fun Night Hayride/Bonfire
Nov. 5 New Consecration Sunday with Celebration Luncheon, All-Church Study concludes with Session 6



The Family of Sherry Nelson—Sue Cowden’s sister passed away unexpectedly this month
 Janet Bassett—fell recently
 Bob Morrow—Kerry Emelander’s best friend’s father
 Marriages
 Safe travels



We would like to thank you all for your prayers, hugs, concerns and planters on the sudden death of my sister, Sherry Nelson.

She attended church here a few years ago, and some of you might remember her. This all happened so fast and so unexpected, we are still trying to absorb the fact that she is no longer with us. It will all take time, and just knowing she is in a better place is comforting to us.

All the cards we received are so beautiful and heart-felt. Thank you so much.

—Sue, Gary Cowden and Family



Bring Your Family Fare / Econofoods Receipts to Church

Thanks to the many families and friends who have donated their Family Fare / Econofoods receipts to the church. The holidays are approaching, so please keep the church in mind to bring your receipts. To date, \$67,948 has been received in Director Your Dollars. When we have collected \$150,000 in receipts, Missions will receive \$1,000. Please leave *entire* receipts in the blue basket at worship, the white mail box in Wesley Hall, or the church office.

(FYI: some purchases do not apply, like gasoline) Receipts that qualify can come from any of the 160 SpartanNash-owned retail stores or fuel centers in nine states.



Sunday, Oct. 29, 6 PM

Please come for an enjoyable night singing your favorite hymns and listening to many talented performers from Sparta UMC and Sparta Baptist. Oct. 22 is the last day to sign up if you want to perform.

Also, we still **need cookies**, 18 dozen total.

Please **sign up in the parlor** that you can bring cookies so we know how many we have.

Contact Peggy Odren or Steve Barnum with questions.



The Upcoming Week's

BIRTHDAY & ANNIVERSARY Celebrations

10/23 Helen Lang	10/24/87 Steve & Amy Brillinger
10/26 Jordyn Marks Justin Westra Caleb Miller	

Contact the office with updates and additions.

SPARTA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH • 54 EAST DIVISION STREET • SPARTA MI 49345

PHONE • 616.887.8255 FAX • 616.887.8256

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.



Saturday, November 4

5 to 8 PM

Hayride & Bonfire

@ 11611 Peach Ridge Avenue, NW, Sparta

Invite friends, too!

We're going on a hayride, then snacks and fellowship by the bonfire.

Thank you Paul & Barbara Bettes and Steve & Julie Barnum for hosting.

Bring the family. Friends are invited, too!

You're asked to bring a snack for campfire eating.

Please let us know you're coming and what you're bringing.

Ideas include crescent roll dough for campfire pigs in a blanket, hot dog condiments, s'mores fixings including Hershey's/Rolos/Reese/berries/etc., popcorn, roasting sticks for marshmallows and hot dogs, skillets and/or foil if you want to cook something special over the fire, chips, sides, and snacks.

Please bring a chair or blanket to sit on.

Hot dogs, buns, and beverages will be provided.

Use this form to let us know how many to expect at



Saturday, November 4, 2017

5 to 8 PM

Hayride & Bonfire

@ 11611 Peach Ridge Ave., NW, Sparta

I'm coming! _____
(name)

and I'm bringing _____ with me.
(number of people)

I'm also bringing (don't forget a chair or blanket):

(food item)





Sunday, Nov. 12, 2017

following worship service

Light lunch by donation @ 11:30 AM,
bidding begins at 11:45

The auction is a fantastic way to help the church, do something nice for someone else, and get to know each other. All proceeds will offset the cost of summer camp.

Donate whatever you are good at, whatever your God-given talent or skill is. If you like to garden, give away your produce or perennials. If you make things out of wood, glass, material, etc., donate it or lessons. If you sew or are handy around the house, donate that talent. Donate your craftwork. Donate a trip or cottage getaway. All baked and cooked foods are *hot* items at the auction. Whatever your talent is (and we all have one), donate it. Also, remember the kids . . . they enjoy bidding too.

Note: Redeem last year's auction purchases
no later than Oct. 31.

NAME _____

Phone #: _____

DONATION _____

Please leave your donated items in the church parlor before Nov. 10.

Regarding Fellowship Time . . .



Fellowship Time 2018

The 2017 Fellowship Time Schedule was distributed at the end of 2016. The schedule was something new in that the 52 Sundays were divided up in a way that a family would serve on one Sunday for the year. It turned out to be a favorable alternative to committees hosting each week.

A suggestion was received regarding scheduling: Families and friends have an opportunity to pre-select a Sunday for the coming year when they would desire to host. So please select your 2018 Sunday and convey your choice to Fellowship Time Coordinator Deb DeGlopper, or call the church office (887.8255), or on a Sunday's Next Step Card before December 1, 2017. At that time, a formal schedule as was used in 2017 will be developed.

A monthly reminder is sent to Fellowship Time hosts for the coming month. An average of three people and 15 dozen serving pieces are needed at Sunday morning Fellowship Time.

Thank you to all of the families, friends, groups and committees who provided cookies, goodies, cake, ice cream, ice cream floats, candy, and dinners this year.

It is very much appreciated and enjoyed.