



October 25, 2017

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.

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)



Reformation milestone: celebration and repentance

October 31, 2017, marks the 500th anniversary of the start of the Protestant Reformation, when Martin Luther posted his "95 Theses" on a church door in Germany. This wasn't an unusual act at the time; Luther was simply welcoming scholarly debate. But his ideas opposing certain teachings and practices of the Roman Catholic Church led to a monumental shift in Christianity.

Along with other reformers, Luther taught that Scripture is the supreme authority for the believer; that salvation comes by grace alone, through faith alone; and that baptism gives all full access to God in Christ ("the priesthood of all believers"); so there's no need for an intermediary such as a pope, priest or saint.

Initially, the reformers intended not to leave the Catholic Church but to reform it. But those who protested church practices became known as Protestants, and eventually multiple denominations arose—Lutheranism, Presbyterianism, Anglicanism and others—and did, in fact, separate from the Roman tradition.

Sadly, woven amid the good intentions to rightly teach and live the faith were sins on all sides: Luther hurled insults "with the best of them"; the pope excommunicated him and had other reformers executed; and the beliefs and faith of theological opponents were regularly disparaged. As Heinz Josef Algermissen, a present-day Roman Catholic bishop in Germany, states: "In commemorating the Reformation, we cannot just see it as a jubilee, but should also admit our guilt for past errors and repent on both sides for the past 500 years."



**Sunday, Oct. 29, 6 PM at
Sparta United Methodist
Church**

You won't want to miss this concert of music filled with solos, duets, instrumentals and more. There will be 20 performers of various ages sharing a variety of musical styles. It will be an awesome evening, so invite your friends and family!

Set your clocks back one hour Saturday night, November 4, (after the Family Fun Night Hayride and Bonfire) because Daylight Saving Time ends.



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 29

Soundboard Chad & Shelly Murdock

Head Usher Gary Cowden

Usher Mary VanGessel

Acolytes Emma & Dylan

Nursery Assistants Caelin & Camryn Murdock

Welcome Table Millie Cass

Greeters Brad & Wendy Greeno

Intercessory Prayer Stephanie Rienks

Scripture Reader Rachel Shangle

Fellowship Time Earl & Pat Babcock

Alan & Mary Hartman

Save the Date

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 at Sparta Baptist

Nov. 1 6:30 PM Vision Team

Nov. 4 6–8 PM Family Fun Night Hayride/Bonfire

Nov. 5 New Consecration Sunday with Celebration Luncheon, All-Church Study concludes with Session 6

Nov. 6 6:30 PM Staff-Parish Relations Committee



Saturday, November 4
6 to 8 PM

Hayride & Bonfire

@ the Bettles & Barnum homesteads
on Peach Ridge Avenue, Sparta

Bring the family; friends are invited, too! You may want to bring a chair or blanket to sit on. Please let us know you're coming so we know how many to expect for the hayride and refreshments. Use the coupon to the right. Park at either location Saturday: 10910 Peach Ridge or 11611 Peach Ridge.



2017 Stewardship Trip
Presence

Our Stewardship Journey continues in Week 5 on Oct. 29 hearing the Word from guest preacher Ray Townsend and gathering in our small groups after church.

Our Journey culminates November 5 as we present our Estimate of Giving Cards and enjoy the Celebration Luncheon of a Pig Roast and Potluck (let us know how many from your household will be present on Sunday's Next Step Card).

Gordon & Sharon Helsel
3661 Knapp NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49525
Phone: 616-447-8103



Jack Rhymer—recovering from surgery
Margaret Blaauw—wrist surgery
Oct. 25
All military and community service personnel

UMCOR in Puerto Rico

The United Methodist Committee on Relief is now on the ground in Puerto Rico. UMCOR has made an initial grant of \$100,000 to relief efforts there. [Read more](#)

Design Comes Alive

Four months after an historic vote at Annual Conference, The Michigan Conference takes shape.

[Read more](#)

Name Michigan districts! Bishop David Bard invites everyone across the Area to suggest possible names for the nine new districts of The Michigan Conference.

[Read more](#)



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

Saturday, November 4, 2017
6 to 8 PM
Hayride & Bonfire

I'm coming! _____
(name)

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

(this coupon may be left in the blue basket circulated at the end of worship service, in the church office, in the offering plate, or handed to Heather Westra)



Sunday, Nov. 12, 2017

following worship service

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

Donation forms can be found by the Basket of Talents in the church parlor, at the church website, and in former issues of the News Flash.



Sunday, November 19, right after worship service. Proceeds support Sparta UMC's Relay for Life Team.



The Upcoming Week's

BIRTHDAY & ANNIVERSARY Celebrations

Contact the office with updates and additions.

October	
29 Adam Schulz Margaret Collins	
30 Kristin Johnsen	
November	
3 Janice Workman Patti Bloomstrom Taylor Gunderson	11/1/03 Mark & Jane Kingshott

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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.