



October 4, 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)



Sparta United Methodist Church is partnering with Sparta Baptist Church on Halloween, Oct. 31, in the event known in the past as Trunk or Treat. Instead of holding the event in our parking lots, the food and fun has moved inside at Sparta Baptist Church. Adult participants are asked to decorate a room door* and distribute their Trick-or-Treat candy from 5 to 8 PM.

Please register your participation with Margaret Blaauw (887.0773) no later than October 22, in order for Sparta Baptist to know how many rooms to reserve. *There is a door-decorating contest. Decorating your room door at Sparta Baptist Church can be done after church on Oct. 29, between 9 AM and 2 PM Oct. 30, or all day on Oct. 31. Participants are also welcome to be in costume.

If you would like to donate candy to be handed out, you may leave your donation in the church office.



Our Stewardship Journey continues as we read the daily Scripture, hear the Word Sunday mornings, and gather together in fellowship at the small-group meetings. Join in a group after church at one the following locations:

Prayer & Study Room (with Brad Greeno)

Downstairs Middle Sunday School Room (with Hal Lindsay)

Wesley Hall (with Kurt Burmeister)

Living Room at the Offices & Ministry Building (with Joanna Huizenga)

Pick up your complete pork loin dinner Sunday, Oct. 8, after worship service. Small group participants are encouraged to share their meal together at their meeting location!



The dinner is hosted by the Sparta United Methodist Women. The cost is your generous donation, which supports the missions of the Sparta UMW. Take-out is available.

Remember to sign up and pick up your CROP Walk pledge/contribution envelope in the parlor prior to the October 8th event.



Schedules

Choir Practices

Sundays

9:30 AMChildren's

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

9:50 AMAdult preservice rehearsal

Wednesdays 7 PMAdult

Tuesdays

9:30 AMGirl Talk Study Group

6:30 PMGriefShare (Sept. 12-Dec. 5)

Third Thursday of the Month

1 PMReading Group

Sundays

8:45 AMAdult Sunday School

9 AMMiddle School Sunday School

9 AMPre-K – 5th Grade Craft/Prayer Time

10:10 AMMorning Worship Celebration

10:30 AMPre-K – 5th Grade Sunday School

10:10 AM Worship Attendant Volunteers October 8

Soundboard Chad & Shelly Murdock

Head Usher Gary Cowden

Acolytes Emma & Dylan

Nursery Leader Amy Hume

Nursery Assistant Mindy Tilli

Greeters Thom & Pat Babcock

Intercessory Prayer Ron Drier

Scripture Reader Mary Scott

Welcome Table Earl Babcock

Fellowship Time Mission Fundraising Dinner

Hosted by the Sparta United Methodist Women

Save the Date

- Oct. 8 UMW Missions Fundraising Dinner
- Session 2 of All-Church Study
- Sparta Area CROP Walk
- 1 PM Registration @ Peace Lutheran
- 2 PM Walk
- Oct. 9 6:30 PMSPRC
- Oct. 10 4:30 PMFood Truck food distribution
- 6:30 PMTrustees, Offices & Ministry Bldg.
- 6:30 PMChurch Council, church dining rm.
- Oct. 11 9:30 AMMary/Martha Circle
- 5:30 PMDorcas Circle
- Oct. 15Pastor Appreciation Celebration
-Session 3 of All-Church Study



Sunday, Oct. 29, 6 PM
Sparta United Methodist Church
 Please join us for a wonderful night of blessings and fellowship with performances from both Sparta UMC and Sparta Baptist Church.

If you have your own musical selection, poetry reading, or testimony you would like to share, then please sign up in the church parlor. Or if your talent is baking cookies, we need those too! Let us know by signing up in the parlor. Contact Peggy Odren (616.866.2451) or Steve Barnum (616.292.7338) with any questions.



Families and victims of the Las Vegas shooting
 Residents of hurricane-struck cities
 All military and community service personnel

Monthly Financial Update 2017	September	Year to Date
General Operating Income	\$16,632.98	\$166,747.79
Operating Expense	\$15,337.74	\$160,329.14
Difference	\$1,295.24	\$6,418.65
General Fund Balance	(\$39.02)	

Ministry Shares support many connectional ministries such as New Church Development, Ministerial Education, and Grand Valley Campus Ministries. Sparta UMC is currently \$7,497 behind in what is due of the remaining \$16,086 to be paid in 2017. Your gift can help. Please note "Ministry Shares" on your gift to Sparta UMC.

Special Gifts & Offerings Received in September

Adult Choir	\$100	Memorials	\$735
Christian Education	\$25	Missions.....	\$20
Children's Choir	\$100	Noah Kamper.....	\$20
Community Breakfast	\$599	Rent	\$192.25
Facility Fund	\$100	Stained glass.....	\$100
Haiti Hot Lunch	\$10	Sunday School	\$1
Hunger	\$10	UMCOR.....	\$910
Kids Kans	\$196.29	Youth Ministries ..	\$125
& 345 food items			



The Upcoming Week's
BIRTHDAY & ANNIVERSARY
 Celebrations

10/10 Michelle Morris	10/9/10 Brandon & Ashley Ingersoll
10/11 Spencer Riordan	
10/12 Gail Friedrick	
10/13 Carol Schulz	
10/14 Bonnie Wilkinson	

Contact the office with updates and additions.



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.

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.