



November 22, 2017



Happy Thanksgiving!



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

Attention Parents of 3rd Graders

This Sunday, Nov. 26, we will distribute Bibles to 3rd graders during the morning worship service. Please contact, call or text me right away to confirm your child is on my list of 3rd graders. Thank you.

—Heather Westra
616.322.3267



GIVING TREE

Stop by the Giving Tree in Wesley Hall to pick up a reminder tag of a needed item for the United Methodist Community House of Grand Rapids. Please leave unwrapped, donated items under the Giving Tree by December 13 for delivery the next day. Needed for children: books, toys, dolls, socks, hats and mittens. Needed for adults: XL and XXL sweat-shirts, long underwear, hats, gloves and socks.



Together, we educate students so they can make a difference in the world.

Across the country, the people of The United Methodist Church are serving the people God loves in Jesus' name. We're doing it at home, but so often we'd like to do more.

- We want to serve those in other places who are suffering.
- We want to offer spiritual words of hope and life.

And we want to be well-equipped to do both! But the reality for most of us is that our responsibilities—home, family, work—don't allow us to engage with every need we'd like to meet. Right now there are UMC young people—who might not have had the resources to attend a school of their choice, or, for some, any school at all—who've been sent by you into the world God loves because of your giving to United Methodist Student Day. When you give generously, you are supporting these students as they prepare for a life that unites faith with knowledge.

What no one person or congregation can do alone, we're doing together.

Nurturing Christian Leaders Like Ricky Blue

The son of two addicted parents, Ricky Blue had grown up without much hope for a future. But when Ricky's church family—Louisiana's Luling UMC—

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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. 12)

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 Nov. 26

Soundboard Brandon Ingersoll & Kerry Emelander

Head Usher Justin Westra

Usher Mary VanGessel

Acolytes Dylan & Karson

Nursery Assistant Elizabeth Hartman

Welcome Table Millie Cass

Greeter Jackie Brewer

Intercessory Prayer Amy Bannink-Burmeister

Scripture Reader Mary Eggleston

Fellowship Time Becky Souter

Ron & Jeanne Drier

Save the Date

Nov. 23 & 24 Thanksgiving (offices closed)

Nov. 25 8–10 AM Free Community Breakfast

Nov. 26 United Methodist Student Sunday Special Offering

Nov. 27 9:30 AM Decorating the church building Help Needed! Also on Nov. 26, help is needed moving the heavier boxes from the Offices & Ministry Building to the church building.

Nov. 28 6:30 PM Trustees (meeting at church)

Dec. 5 9:30 AM UMW Christmas Breakfast

Dec. 10 Poinsettia Orders Due

Dec. 12 4:30 PM Feeding America Food Truck

raised \$4000 for Ricky to begin college, hope was born. Then, the Gift of Hope Scholarship, made possible only by your generous giving to United Methodist Student Day, allowed Ricky to continue. Today Ricky is a certified candidate for ministry in the Illinois-Great Rivers Annual Conference.

Together We're Raising Up Gifted Christian Leaders. When you support United Methodist Student Day, you make it possible for more students like Ricky to serve the world God loves. So although you can't meet every need you'd like to, your giving allows members of Christ's body, people like Ricky, to do it in Jesus' name. Will you give to United Methodist Student Day November 26 at Sparta UMC?



Thankful
FOR YOUR KINDNESS

A big thank you to everyone who was involved in one way or another in this year's annual Talent Auction. We obviously couldn't have done it without all the volunteers, donations, bidders and Dorcas Circle providing our meal! With your love and dedication to our youth, we were able to raise more than \$3,600 to send our kids to camp! The relationship they will be able to build and grow with our Savior Jesus Christ is priceless. Now we have the funds to help get the children and youth to camps that will help enrich that relationship!

The 1992 Furnace Expired at the Offices & Ministry Building

It was necessary to replace the furnace. The cost of the new furnace is \$5,500. Thank you to those who contributed toward this cost. The bill has not come in yet, so there's still time to help. Please send your donation to Sparta UMC, or leave it in the offering plate this Sunday, indicating "furnace" on your envelope or check memo.



Contact the office with updates and additions.



The Upcoming Week's

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

November 27	Amy Hume
November 28	Alan Hartman
November 29	Brenda McCracken
December 1	Bonnie Shupe



The Family of Art Marohn—Art passed away Nov. 19. Click [HERE](#) for his obituary from Hessel-Cheslek Funeral Home.

Denise Helmer—Moved to Mary Free Bed, recovering from stroke. Continued improvement and health prayers.
Heather Westra & Family—her grandfather is in his final days with us

Preparing for Christmas: Advent is a time of preparation for the coming of Jesus Christ. During the Season of Advent beginning Dec. 3, use the free daily devotion booklet found in Wesley Hall entitled "Lifting Up the Lowly".



Order poinsettias through the church office for display on the altar Dec. 25 through the 31st. Designate for publication in the bulletin in memory or in honor of a loved one.

Orders and payment are due in the office (54 E. Division, Sparta, MI 49345) by the firm date of Sunday, December 10, 2017. Your flower(s) may be taken from the altar after worship service December 31.

Given By: _____

Indicate the number of plants you want by your choice of color:

Red ___ White ___ Pink ___ Jingle-Bells ___ Marble ___

Total \$ _____ (\$6.75 each)

In Memory of:

In Honor of:

Be a Worship Attendant in 2018

Having a part in the worship service is a great way to serve the Lord on Sunday. Please choose any of the following opportunities below and leave the slip in the offering plate or blue basket at church. A ministry leader will contact you with details and scheduling.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Soundboard | <input type="checkbox"/> PowerPoint |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ushering | <input type="checkbox"/> Nursery Assistant |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greeter | <input type="checkbox"/> Acolyte (children) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Scripture Reading | <input type="checkbox"/> Welcome Table |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fellowship Time Host | <input type="checkbox"/> Provide Altar Flowers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Holy Communion Assistant | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Intercessory Prayer on behalf of the pastor | |

Name: _____