



November 29, 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.



The Sparta United Methodist Women's Christmas Breakfast is Tuesday, Dec. 5, 2017, at 9:30 AM in the church dining room.

Our annual program will be the Coopersville Old Kids Choir, and they will be ready to sing for us following the Breakfast, about 10:00 AM. Please come and bring a friend.

The public is also welcome to attend the performance of the Old Kids Choir in the sanctuary at 10:00 AM. So invite your friends!



Four more hams are needed, as well as potatoes and some other food items. Please use the box in Wesley Hall for Christmas food items. If you are able to provide a ham, contact me at church or call 887-9182. Thank you.

-Joanna Huizenga



Attention Middle-School Age to Adult Women of the Church

Share a special Christmas moment with a Secret Sister from Sparta UMC.

1. Simply complete the form below and turn in your form to UMW Executive Board Representative Margaret Collins by Sunday, Dec. 3. Margaret will be available in the parlor following worship celebration on December 3.

2. Retrieve a Christmas card from the Christmas Card Tree in the parlor between Dec. 4 & Dec. 10. In the card will be your Secret Sister's completed form. Shhhh, it's a secret.

3. Leave a gift (limit \$5) and Christmas card from you at the Christmas Card Tree for your Secret Sister (place your Secret Sister's name on card envelope) by the Reveal Date Dec. 17. Also, pick up your gift and Christmas card to you at the tree from your Secret Sister.

Secret Sister Gift Exchange (form due Dec. 3)

Name: _____

Favorite Color: _____

Things You Like: _____

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 Dec. 3

Soundboard Doug Shupe & Mary Hartman

Head Usher Alan Hartman

Acolytes Brenden & Madelyn

Nursery Assistant Barb Taylor

Welcome Table Margaret Blaauw

Greeters Hal & Dylan Lindsay

Communion Assistants .. Doug & Bonnie Shupe

Intercessory Prayer Carla VanAsselt

Scripture Reader Mary Hartman

Fellowship Time Dale & Cindy Young

Dave & Joanna Huizenga

Save the Date

Dec. 5 9:30 AM UMW Christmas Breakfast

6:30 PM Church Council meeting

..... Deadline for the special edition Christmas Bulletin Board page of Dec. 6th's newsletter

Dec. 7 6 PM UMW Executive Board meeting

Dec. 10 Poinsettia Orders Due

Dec. 12 4:30 PM Feeding America Food Truck

Dec. 13 11:30 AM Mary/Martha Christmas Luncheon

5:30 PM Dorcas Circle

Dec. 17 Children's Christmas Program

Dec. 24 1 PM church dining room in use

7 PM Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

Receiving Donations Yet for the New Furnace at the Offices & Ministry Building

It was necessary to replace the 25-year-old furnace. The new furnace cost is \$5,500; the bill has not come in yet, so there's still time to help. Thank you to those who contributed a combined total of about \$2,000 toward this cost. Please send your donation to Sparta UMC, or leave it in the offering plate this Sunday, indicating "furnace" on your envelope or check memo.



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The Christmas season is just around the corner, and that means our Children's Choir is preparing for their Christmas program! Our set date for the program is December 17, and I'd love it if all the kids could dress up in Christmas colors. I will be giving all the children a sheet this coming Sunday, December 3, with what songs we are singing, and it will also include if they have a solo in a certain song.

PARENTS: If you are interested in helping in any way, shape or form (passing out instruments, passing the microphone, etc.), both Heather and I would appreciate that a lot!

If you have any questions or concerns, please see me this coming Sunday.

—Caelin R. Murdock, Children's Choir Director



A big thank you goes out to Ron Drier and Chad Murdock for their coordinated efforts in getting the TV in the Nursery back up and running! It makes such a difference, and I appreciate that it wasn't an easy task to accomplish. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

—Terri Miling and all the Nursery Attendants



The Upcoming Week's

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Contact the office with updates and additions.

Dec. 3 Sally Tobey
Dec. 8 Hess Wever
Dec. 9 Deborah Smith

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: _____



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, Dec. 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:

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.