



November 8, 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.



Sunday, November 12, 2017

following worship service
Bidding begins at 11:45 AM

The Youth Talent Auction has a long history at Sparta UMC . . . 25 years of people sharing their gifts and talents, i.e. child care, baking, painting, electrical work, gardening, sewing and so much more.

Here are the details for this year's auction.

- > All proceeds will help offset the cost of sending our youth to Springhill Winter Retreat and UMC summer camps. So bid high, bid often and have fun!
-> Leave donated items in the church parlor by Nov. 10, or drop them off in the dining room on Nov. 11 from 10 AM to noon. Baked or perishable goods can be left in the dining room before church on Sunday.
-> Right after worship, join us in the dining room for a "camp-style" lunch of hot dogs, chips and bug juice. See the items up for auction and get your bid card.

Here is the list of what has been donated so far. Thank you donors!

Get Away: Five-day stay in Branson, MO condo - min. bid \$250 (Carla VanAsselt)

Edibles: Pumpkin pies - 2 pies (Connie Chance); Fudge sauce and kettle corn (Jeanette Tobey); Maple syrup - 2 quarts (Wes & Mary Scott); Lemon cream pie and pecan pie (Mary Eggleston); "Doris Eadie" carrot cakes (Brad & Wendy Greeno); One lb. caramels - 2 packages, and popcorn balls - 3 packages (Cindy Young); Candied applesauce and pumpkin rolls (Heather Westra); "Heath Bar" candy (Toni Potes); Half a bushel of apples (Paul & Barb Bettes); Baklava - 4 batches (Shelly Murdock)

Hand-Crafted: Original watercolor painting (Jan Anderson); Child's animal bank (Sharon Helsel); Wooden sign (Heather Westra); Dish cloths (Tudy Middleton); Scarves - 2 (Carol Schulz); Denim quilt - approx. 43 x 53 in. (Julie Bowden); Christmas gift jars and hand-made cards (De Knappen); Made-in-Michigan gift basket (Kathy Reed & Mary Scott)

Services: One hour of "in home" electrical repairs - 2 (Ron Drier); One pick-up truck load of trash delivered to Rockford Transfer Station (Earl Babcock); Two hours of SAT/ACT tutoring in English - \$60 value (Jane Wyckoff Kingshott); Two times of babysitting (Camryn Murdock); Babysitting - 2 times (Caelin Murdock)

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. 12

- Soundboard Doug Shupe & Mary Hartman
Head Usher Alan Hartman
Ushers Dick VanGessel
Acolytes Abby & Michelle
Nursery Assistant Bethany Riordan
Welcome Table Joanna Huizenga
Greeters Anna Mae Spangenberg and Don Behrenwald
Intercessory Prayer Wendy Greeno
Scripture Reader Joyce Osbeck
Fellowship Time Education Committee
25th Annual Talent Auction

Save the Date

- Nov. 9 Noon-7 PM Community Blood Drive
Nov. 11 8 AM Men's Mealtime Rally
Nov. 12 All Saints Sunday
..... 25th Annual Talent Auction
Nov. 12-13 5-7 PM Fireside Chat
Nov. 15 5:30 PM Dorcas Circle
Nov. 16 5-7 PM Craft Bazaar set up in dining room
Nov. 17 5-8 PM Shop Sparta Event Craft Bazaar
Nov. 19 Blanket Sunday Special Offering
..... Soup & Chili Take-Out fundraiser
6 PM Community Thanksgiving Service
Nov. 20 6:15 PM SPRC meets with DS
7 PM Church Charge Conference



Sparta UMC's 2017 Ministry Shares balance owing is \$16,660. Our budget has allowed \$1,665 to be paid toward this debt. Your gift can help toward the remaining \$15,000. Please note "Ministry Shares" on your gift to Sparta UMC.

2017	October	Year to Date
General Operating Income	\$20,946.46	\$187,694.25
Operating Expense	\$22,018.89	\$182,348.03
Difference	(\$1,072.43)	5,346.22
General Fund Balance	(\$1,111.45)	

Special Gifts & Offerings Received in October

Community Breakfast.....\$218	Memorials.....\$395
CWS/CROP Walk\$1700	Adult Choir.....\$100
Haiti Hot Lunch.....\$25	Rent\$168.25
Hunger.....\$10	Stained Glass.\$100
Kids Kans\$240.26	Sunday School\$15
& 411 food items	UMCOR.....\$300
Pastor's Impeded Fund\$300	Youth Ministries ..\$125
Children's Choir\$100	New Consecration.\$450



Bring new or gently-used blankets during November to church and place on the pew along the east wall in Wesley Hall. These blankets will be donated locally.

Report of the Sparta UMC Church Council

November 7, 2017

The complete report is on the following page.

Highlights:

Status of Church Charge Conference preparation: Going well. **Attendees are asked to bring can goods to the Nov. 20 7 PM Church Charge Conference in the church sanctuary.** (Note: Only members of Sparta UMC have voting privileges.)

Some rooms need painting yet at the parsonage; immediate help is needed. Please contact Jeanne Drier if you can help get this job done.



Janet Bassett—recovering at Porter Hills Rehabilitation

Thank you to everyone who performed in special music night. Memories were made and many hearts were touched! Thank you everyone who came to support them, and to all of the ladies who made cookies.

—Peggy Odren & Steve Barnum



Exodus Place will be having its Thanksgiving meal on Tuesday, November 14, at 6 PM.

We are asking for volunteers to come interact with the men, assist with serving and cleanup, as well as enjoy a delicious turkey dinner. Please let me know you are coming (call 318-0817). Thank you.

—Brad Greeno



For the Thanksgiving Baskets, we will need 4 more turkeys, 5 bags potatoes, 4 flour, 4 sugar, 5 pie crusts, and anything else you would like to donate.

There is a tote box in Wesley Hall for food items. If you can provide a turkey, please contact me at 887-9182. Thank you!

—Joanna Huizenga



The Upcoming Week's

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Nov. 14 Nicole Gross
Wendell Wilson

Nov. 18 Robert Palma

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.

SPARTA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH COUNCIL

Tuesday, November 7, 2017, 6:30 PM

Dining Room, Sparta United Methodist
Church, Sparta, Michigan

Present:

Council Chair/Evangelism Team Leader Wendy Greeno,
Council Vice Chair/Staff-Parish Relations Committee
Chair/Missions Chair Paul Schulz, Pastor/Lay Leadership
Chair Phil Friedrich, Lay Leadership Vice Chair/Lay
Leader/Lay Member to Annual Conference Brad Greeno,
Finance/Stewardship Chair Diane Young, UM Women
President Margaret Collins, UM Men President Alan
Hartman, Trustee Chair Jeanne Drier, Treasurer Maggie
Clough, Nursery Coordinator Terri Miling, Council/
Membership Secretary Toni Potes, Director of Children
& Youth Ministries Heather Westra, Communications
Chair Kathy Reed

Absent:

Senior High Youth Rep. Caelin Murdock,
Middle School Youth Rep Tyler Zomberg

1. Devotion by Brad Greeno: from *My Utmost for His Highest*, drudgery is the test of our character.
2. Unfinished Business
 - a. Lay Leadership
 - i. 2020 Vision One-Page Plan Update: The Leadership Directory is coming together. The Leadership Covenant will be re-upped. Discussion at the Vision Team meetings included a second service, music, attendance and interest for all ages, trying to bring relevance years down the road, promotion of The United Methodist Church, and Training Up Timothys (succession).
 - b. Status of Church Charge Conference preparation: Going well. **Attendees are asked to bring can goods to the Nov. 20 7 PM Church Charge Conference in the sanctuary.** (Note: Only members of Sparta UMC have voting privileges.)
 - c. New Consecration Sunday Results / Status of 2018 Budget Preparation: A 4.2% increase in giving in 2018 is estimated. The preliminary budget was reviewed showing \$372 of income over expenses.

There was much discussion about Ministry Shares and what they represent.

3. New Business, Blessings & Successes: Finance is meeting Nov. 8 to discuss the 2018 budget and how to pay for the new furnace at the Offices & Ministry Building. Paul Schulz shared that he has been dubbed "Bowlman" in the balcony, and he has confidence in GRAPIDS furnace work. Hot Minutes form was distributed, and committees are asked to use the form, leaving it in the church office right after the meetings. B. Greeno will ask about attending a church security workshop presented by the Michigan State Police on Dec. 14 from 9 to 4 in Lansing. New Consecration Sunday turn out and food were great.

4. Ministry Opportunities

- a. Community Blood Drive (every other month @ Sparta UMC) Nov. 9, noon–7 PM
- b. Free Community Breakfast Nov. 25, 8–10 AM
- c. Exodus Place Thanksgiving meal Nov. 14 from 5:30 to 8 PM
- d. Exodus Place Christmas dinner Dec. 12
- e. Kids Craft/Prayer Time is making cards, cookies and ornaments for shut-ins and Exodus Place

5. Upcoming Worship & Events Schedule

- a. Men's Mealtime Rally Nov. 11, 8 AM
- b. 25th Annual Talent Auction Nov. 12 after worship service, proceeds for camp scholarships including Spring Hill Winter Retreat
- c. Fireside Chat with Pastor Phil & Gail Nov. 12 & 13, 5–7 PM: More opportunities will be available after Christmas.
- d. Shop Sparta Event / Craft Show @ Sparta UMC Nov. 17, 5–8 PM
- e. Blanket Sunday Special Offering Nov. 19, new or gently-used blankets collected all month

f. Soup & Chili Take-Out for Sparta UMC's Relay for Life Team Nov. 19, after worship service

g. Community Thanksgiving Service @ Holy Family Catholic Church Nov. 19, 6 PM: Sparta UMC's Adult Choir is singing

h. Church Charge Conference Nov. 20, 7 PM (SPRC meets with DS at 6:15)

i. United Methodist Student Sunday Special Offering Nov. 26

j. United Methodist Women's Christmas Breakfast Dec. 5, 9:30 AM

6. Other Business: K. Reed requested a Blessing of Pets ceremony; this may be done with VBS and/or Back-to-School Kickoff. The Trustees installed carbon monoxide detectors at the Offices & Ministry Building and the parsonage; they installed windows in the nursery, blinds, furnace, and many helped with yard work. **Some rooms need painting yet at the parsonage; immediate help is needed. Please contact Jeanne Drier if you can help get this job done.**

7. Next Meeting (December 5, 2017, 6:30 PM) & Adjournment: Pastor closed in prayer at 8:25 PM.



If you have an idea or suggestion to share for a Family Fun Night event, please contact the FUN Team (Family, Unity & New Friends) of Rachel Shangle, Brenda McCracken, Carol Schulz, Amber and Isaiah Marks, Jim Bosserd, De and Denny Knappen, and Tim Shangle.

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.

For a few weeks yet, 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 before December 1 to Fellowship Time Coordinator Deb DeGlopper, to the church office (887.8255), on a Sunday's Next Step Card, or **on the posted 2018 Fellowship Time schedule in the parlor**. In December, 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.