



December 13, 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.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Sunday, December 17

7 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

(Nursery available)



Saying 'Goodbye' to 11 Fuller



On November 29, 2017 a group gathered in Grand Rapids to decommission the West Michigan Conference Center at 11 Fuller SE.

Read more

Help Sponsor a Local Food Truck

Half of your Advent gift will support the Bishop's initiative of alleviating natural disaster suffering of 2017—the other half will help feed the hunger at a local food truck in April.



Duncan Schulz—hospitalized with headaches
The many friends and families struggling with health issues, illnesses, addictions and strife.

Family of Bob Pingston—Cindy Young's father passed away Dec. 11.

All military and public service personnel

2018 Fellowship Time Opportunities

Please use the sign-up form posted in the church parlor to host Fellowship Time next year. Two to three people are needed each Sunday, as well as about 15 dozen single-serving goodies.

Thank you, Church Family, for the cards, gifts, and thoughtful notes thinking of me, my family, Bob, Karen and Ron.

—Joyce Marohn



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

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. 17

Soundboard ..... Chad & Shelly Murdock

Head Usher ..... Justin Westra

Acolytes ..... Madelyn & Michelle

Ushers ..... Mary Hartman & Margaret Collins

Nursery Assistants ..... Caelin & Camryn Murdock

Welcome Table ..... Earl Babcock

Greeters ..... Paul & Carol Schulz

Intercessory Prayer ..... Cindy Young

Scripture Reader ..... Thom Babcock

Fellowship Time ..... Keith & Sue VanderWall

Craig & Amy Hume

Save the Date

Dec. 17 ..... Children's Christmas Program

Dec. 23 8–10 AM ..... Free Community Breakfast

Dec. 24 10:10 AM ..... Worship Celebration Service

7 PM ..... Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Nursery care will be available

Dec. 25 & 26 ..... Church Offices Closed

Jan. 1 ..... Church Offices Closed

Conference staff relocating

Offices in Lansing and Grand Rapids are welcoming Michigan Conference staff members this week. Relocations hope to be completed by December 15, 2017.

Read more

Dear Church Family,

We are very appreciative and grateful for our eight church employees. Terri, Caelin, Celsa, Heather, Steve, Peggy, Toni and Pastor Phil are truly Gifts from God to our church. As a way of showing our thanks for all they do for us, we will be taking a love offering for them on Sunday, December 10, and Sunday, December 17. To accomplish this, a special bag will be passed through the congregation during these services. Please help us show our love and appreciation.

—Paul Schulz  
Staff-Parish Relations Chairperson



Dec. 19 Kami Switzer  
Dec. 20 Jasmyn Marks  
Dec. 21 Nancy Christopher  
Doris Eadie  
Mike Modderman  
Jack DeGlopper

December 7, 2017

Dear District #4 Pastors and Local Church Leaders,

Welcome to District #4, while we will not be an *official* entity until July 1, 2018, I want to welcome you to what will be, and share with you some of the work we need to do to get ready! We are one of the new nine Districts in the Michigan Conference. We are 91 churches, 80 charges in the middle to west, central part of our state. I am excited about this new District and the possibilities that the future holds for our connection and work together. View District #4 churches [HERE](#).



I want to let you know where we are heading as we move forward into this new thing.

We will be holding an organizing conference on Sunday, April 22 from 4-5:30pm at Greenville UMC (204 West Cass Street, Greenville, MI 48838). At the organizing conference we will be electing leaders for the following Discipline required areas:

1. Superintendency Committee (5-9 persons)
2. District Committee on Ministry (7-12 persons)
3. District Board of Church Location & Building (7-10 people)

And this initial team along with these positions:

1. Vision Team (8-12) persons who will serve as the leadership body as we determine what we need going forward)
2. Lay Leader
3. Treasurer (hopefully a volunteer who can care for the administration of the District budget as all Districts become incorporated)

I need you to share with me names of persons whom you would recommend to serve in various areas of the new District. These names will be very helpful as we seek to build our ministry teams going forward.

Also at the organizing conference we will be selecting a name for our District. District #4 is comprised of parts of 3 prior Districts (Grand Rapids, Grand Traverse, Heartland). There will be some general theme direction given by the Bishop, but we will decide what the specific name will be.

I am looking forward both to this organizing conference and all that will happen in our Conference, District, and our local congregations as we engage this new journey. I'm glad you're a part of it!

Please feel free to call or email me with any questions or ways I can be helpful to you. Please also again prayerfully share with me the names of lay persons you believe may serve effectively in the committees we will elect on April 22.

Peace,

Bill Haggard, Grand Rapids District Superintendent of the West Michigan United Methodist Conference  
616.430.6694 / [billh5955@gmail.com](mailto:billh5955@gmail.com)

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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.