

January 17, 2018



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](http://www.spartaumc.com).



## PRAY FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

Community Service at Sparta UMC Jan. 21, 6 p.m.

### DENNY'S HIKE



**"Denny's Hike" Supports  
Sparta UMC Youth Ministry  
With Your Pledge**

On February 21, 2018, Denny Knappen will begin a four-to-six month adventure of hiking the entire Appalachian Trail. This 2,189 mile trek through the wilderness and mountains begins in Springer Mountain, Georgia, and ends in Mount Katahdin, Maine.

It is with great enthusiasm that Denny has invited 100% of any pledge donated (whether per mile or a one-time gift) to go to Sparta UMC's Youth Ministry! Denny has worked with youth groups, fixing houses in the Appalachians, three different years in the past through a GVUMC (which is where his dream of walking the trail began). Last year, he volunteered, along with Jane Wyckoff-Kingshott, to co-lead our youth here. Denny has a strong desire to see our youth group grow at Sparta United Methodist Church.

A map of the trail and adventure updates will be provided by De Knappen throughout husband Denny's hike via posted bulletins in the church. If you haven't already, please sign your pledge on the provided form located in the church parlor. At any time through the hike or at the conclusion, your gift can be made payable to "Sparta United Methodist Church", noting "DENNY'S HIKE" in the memo, and placing in the Sunday offering plate, or mail to/drop off in the church office.

Your pledges will serve as great motivation for Denny on the rough part of the trail. Keep him in your prayers throughout for a safe and rewarding journey!

**Thank You!**  
**THANK YOU!**

Dear Sparta Church Family,  
I was simply overwhelmed by your generosity in the Christmas gift I received. Thank you so very much. I am happy to serve in this capacity and be a part of this wonderful group of believers.

Most sincerely, Terri

### Usher in the New Year as an Usher

Did you usher in the New Year with hope for peace, good health and security? Well, then please consider taking action, and be an Usher at church.

We are thankful for our Head Ushers—Alan Hartman, Justin Westra and Dale Young, whose service provides us with peace and well-being during our Sunday morning worship time. But they need help to welcome worshipers and to pass the offering plate and blue baskets for the Next Step Cards. All that is needed is a willing heart and to sign up on the sheet in the parlor. A list of the usher's duties is posted by the sign-up sheet.

Reminder emails are sent to all who serve. Contact Margaret Collins (745.3753), Kathy Reed (887.1624) or any of the Head Ushers with additional questions, or to add your name to the schedule. Thank you.

—Kathy Reed & Margaret Collins  
Usher Coordinators



From Pat Sharpe-Babcock: Our neighbor, Aaron Dalt, was tragically killed in an automobile accident Sunday morning, Jan. 7. Please pray for his family.  
Jim VanAsselt—at Mary Free Bed recovering from a brain-bleed surgical procedure  
Carla VanAsselt—hospitalized for breathing issues related to her cancer treatment  
Jeanne Drier's cousin, Jack Scott, has cancer  
Travel prayers for Chad & Marie Uzarski's Florida trip  
Prayers for those with addiction problems and mental illness



*This Coming Week's*  
**BIRTHDAYS &  
ANNIVERSARIES**

Jan. 23 Kathy Reed  
Mindy Tilli

1/25/64  
Keith & Sue VanderWall  
1/26/07  
Thom & Pat (Sharpe) Babcock

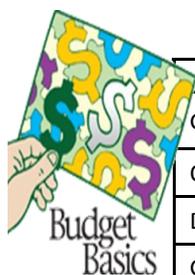
## Church Council Meeting Highlights of January 9, 2018

Devotion: Oswald Chambers “My Sacrifice Living”.

Lay Leadership asked for ideas for 60-day or 12-month plan of action. They will develop job descriptions for each committee. Youth group: Heather is doing a great job and has ideas for this fall. Finance Chair is happy with year-end balance—\$9,000 in the black. Missions Committee ideas include more hands-on approach and localize. Finance Committee will meet before the February Council meeting. The committee structure will be updated for simplicity. Dale Young is getting info on a workshop for church safety with the State Police; five are interested in attending.

A joy mentioned, giving thanks at church for housing help received from our church.

A clipboard will be passed during church for cookie/treat signup for the Christian Unity Service Jan. 21.



	2017	December	Year End
General Operating Income		\$23,044.86	\$228,912.39
Operating Expense		\$18,749.70	\$218,978.88
Difference		\$4,295.16	\$9,933.51
General Fund Balance		\$3,475.84	

### Special Gifts & Offerings Received in December

Adult Choir .....	\$100	
Bishop’s Advent Appeal ...	\$499	Kids Kans.....\$246.65
Children’s Choir .....	\$100	& 645 food items
Community Breakfast .....	\$200	Legacy Fund.....\$3000
Facility Fund .....	\$2000	Memorials .....
Food Truck .....	\$550	Missions.....\$10
Furnace .....	\$3360	Pastor Fund. ....
Glass Repair.....	\$100	Rent .....
Haiti Hot Lunch .....	\$20	Sunday School .....
Hunger .....	\$10	Youth Ministries ..
		\$355

## 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 (Feb. 6 to May 1)

#### 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 – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Craft/Prayer Time

10:10 AM..... Morning Worship Celebration

10:30 AM..... Pre-K – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Sunday School

### 10:10 AM Worship Attendant Volunteers Jan. 21

Soundboard..... Brandon Ingersoll & Isaiah Marks

Head Usher..... Justin Westra

Acolytes..... Karson & Anthony

Ushers .....

Nursery Leader..... Amy Hume

Nursery Assistant ..... Mindy Tilli

Welcome Table ..... Millie Cass

Intercessory Prayer ... Carla VanAsselt

Scripture Reader ..... Hilary Miller

Fellowship Time ..... The Collins & Hartman Families

### Save the Date

Jan. 18–25 ..... Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Jan. 21 6 PM..... Community Service @ Sparta UMC for Prayer for Christian Unity

Jan. 27 8–10 AM... Free Community Breakfast

Feb. 4 ..... Fundraiser Dinner following worship service, hosted by the UM Men



### Please Continue to Bring Your Family Fare / Econofoods Receipts to Church

Donating your Family Fare / Econofoods receipts to Sparta UMC supports the missions of the church. Bring your receipts to church, leaving the *entire* grocery receipt in the blue basket at worship, the white mail box in Wesley Hall, or the church office. To date, \$87,015 has been received in Direct Your Dollars; that’s over \$3,000 since last month!

The Direct Your Dollars amount is noted at the bottom of your cash register receipt. When Sparta UMC has collected \$150,000 in Direct Your Dollars receipts, Missions will receive \$1,000. (FYI: some purchases do not apply, like gasoline)

Receipts that qualify can come from any of the 160 SpartanNash-owned retail stores or fuel centers in nine states.

SPARTA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH • 54 EAST DIVISION STREET • SPARTA MI 49345

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)

CHURCH OFFICE p 616.887.8255 • Pastor Phil Friedrick c 616.799.4281 • FAX 616.887.8256 • WEBSITE [www.spartaumc.com](http://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. Contact the church office with updates and additions.