

February 14, 2018



Ash
Wednesday



A weekly newsletter of The Sparta United Methodist Church



Lent Begins

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

DO YOU WANT TO FAST THIS LENT?

In the words of Pope Francis

- Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
- Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
- Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
- Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- Fast from worries and have trust in God.
- Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
- Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
- Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.
- Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.
- Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
- Fast from words and be silent so you can listen. (Provided by Carol Schulz)

Lenten Boxes and Coin Folders Available in Wesley Hall

Your Lenten and Easter Offerings, received on Easter Sunday, April 1, will support Sparta UMC's Samaritan Fund. The Samaritan Fund enables immediate help to people in need.

The Fund is a source of charitable funding to benefit those who are not members or regular attendees of our congregation, giving priority to people made known to the church through the web of relationships of our congregation. Disbursements are authorized by the pastor and two Vision Team members.

Sue Cowden—early melanoma discovered. Doctors feel they will get it all during surgery February 14.

Denny Knappen—Denny's Hike begins Feb. 21. Prayers for a safe journey.



Gordon & Sharon Helsel
336 Needlewood Ct
Cedar Springs MI 49319
616-745-1272



This Week's Upcoming BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARY

- Feb. 18 Carla VanAsselt
- Feb. 19 Ashton Miller
- Feb. 20 Pat Babcock
Jayda Marks
- Feb. 21 Mary Hartman
- Feb. 23 Cheryl Pinckney

2/24/73
Bob & Sue Palma

There are 6 All-Church Study Small Group Opportunities 24 Hours That Changed the World

Groups will not meet the weeks of Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. However, Pastor Phil will preach each consecutive Sunday on the week's topic beginning February 18. Where the groups are able, they are encouraged to continue meeting Holy Week and Easter Sunday week.

Tuesdays beginning Feb. 13 (resuming Feb. 27)

9:30 AM Offices & Ministry Building

Sundays beginning Feb. 18

8:45 AM church dining room

6 PM Offices & Ministry Building

Mondays beginning Feb. 19

1:30 PM Offices & Ministry Building

6:30 PM Offices & Ministry Building (new location)

Fridays beginning Feb. 23

12:30 PM @ the Westra's, 12700 Stebbins, Sparta
Children are invited, too.



A new phone number for Doris Eadie is available from the church office or can be found in the church directory located on the Welcome Table in the church parlor.



	2018	January	Year to Date
General Operating Income		\$16,339.33	\$16,339.33
Operating Expense		\$22,199.54	\$22,199.54
Difference		(\$5,860.21)	(\$5,860.21)
General Fund Balance		\$2,615.63	

Special Gifts & Offerings Received in

Adult Choir.....	\$10	Kids Kans	\$214.78
Community Gas Fund	\$285	& 124 food items	
Community Breakfast	\$289	Legacy	\$3,224.67
Devotionals.....	\$2	Memorials.....	\$315
Hunger	\$10	Rent.....	\$132.25
Initial Offering.....	\$75	Sunday School.....	\$17
Pastor's Disc. Fund.....	\$200	Youth Ministries..	\$760

EASTER FLOWERS



Order beautiful Easter plants for our chancel area for the Sunrise Easter Service (7 AM) and 10:10 AM Easter Celebration April 1. Complete the order form below and return the form with payment to the church office (54 E Division St., Sparta MI 49345) on or before the firm date of Sunday, **March 18**. A list is published in the Easter bulletins of all flower providers and their loved ones.

Given by _____

Number of Mums: White _____ Yellow _____ Lavender _____

Number of Hyacinths: White _____ Pink _____ Lavender _____

Number of White Lilies: _____

Number of Mini-Daffodils: _____

Number of Tulips: Pink _____ Yellow _____ Red _____

TOTAL # of plants _____ x \$7.75 per plant
\$ _____ (include payment with order)

IN MEMORY OF

IN HONOR OF

Please take your plants home with you on Easter Sunday, April 1.

Easter flower order forms can also be found in the church parlor.



Thank you Hal Lindsay and the Trustees for the humidifier at the Offices & Ministry Building. The old humidifier on the new furnace had stopped working. Thanks for all you do!

Dear Church Family,

Whether it was by thoughts and prayers, visits, cards, meals or offers of help, we want you to know we felt your love during our recent hospitalizations and rehabilitations. We are now glad to both be home and getting additional therapy. A special thanks to Pastor Phil for all of your visits and prayers.

With God's love,
Jim and Carla VanAsselt

A shout out of thanks to those who will be helping Pastor Phil in preparation for the Seder Meal. Pastor will be contacting you soon. The Seder Meal takes place March 29.

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)

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 Feb. 18

Soundboard..... Chad & Shelly Murdock

Head Usher..... Dale Young

Acolytes..... Karson & Michelle

Usher..... Julie Barnum

Nursery Leader..... Naomi Collins

Nursery Assistant Jessica Pinckney

Welcome Table Bonnie Wilkinson

Intercessory Prayer ... Barb Taylor

Scripture Reader Rachel Shangle

Fellowship Time Sue Eadie & Margaret Blaauw

Save the Date

Feb. 14 Ash Wednesday (no service)
..... Dorcas Circle

Feb. 18 *24 Hours That Changed the World*
All-Church Study, small groups begin

Feb. 20 9 AM..... Little Dresses for Africa
Girl Talk project in Wesley Hall

6 PM..... Evangelism Team

Feb. 22 6 PM..... UMW Executive Board

Feb. 24 8 AM..... Free Community Breakfast

Feb. 25 Soup & Chili Take-Out Fundraiser
Hosted by Sparta's Relay for Life Team

March 2 World Day of Prayer

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

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.