



# Can You Step In?

Please sign up where needed to assist in worship service for the month of March. Refer to the free-standing bulletin board in the church parlor which contains opportunities for March and the rest of the year to host Fellowship Time, usher in church, provide flowers for the altar, and 30-minute time slots for the 24-Hour Prayer Vigil.

Here are immediate needs for March:

Fellowship Time March 11 & 18

Instructions will be emailed/mailed to you in February.

Altar Flowers March 18

The church office will contact you inquiring if you want to bring flowers of your own, order them for delivery, or have the church order the flowers for you, and what you want noted in the bulletin.

Ushering March 4, 11, 18 & 25

Duties and helpful hints are posted by the sign-up bulletin board.

Other opportunities to serve include

- the Welcome Table (contact Mary VanGessel)
- Sound Tech and PowerPoint (contact Chad Murdock)
- serving Holy Communion (contact Doug or Bonnie Shupe)
- Good Friday Prayer Vigil, noon March 30 to noon March 31. Prayer will take place in the church sanctuary. Please sign up for a 30-minute shift. Two or more are also welcome to sign up in one slot, but it is important that every 30-minute shift is covered.



- Feb. 25 Hannah Greeno
- Feb. 26 Cindy Young
- Feb. 27 Bill Taylor
- Miles Brillinger
- Brenden Modderman
- March 1 Bethany Riordan
- March 2 Eva Cone
- March 3 Levi Daniel Kline

3/2/79  
Pastor Phil & Gail Friedrick



## Please 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 distributed at the conclusion of the worship service, or in the white mail box in Wesley Hall, or in the church office. To date, \$93,403 has been received in Direct Your Dollars; that's \$6,000 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 Dollar receipts, Missions will receive \$1,000. (FYI: some purchases do not apply, like gasoline and gift cards from Family Fare; purchases at Meijer, Wesco, McDonald's, Mr. Burger, and Smuggler's Cove . . .)

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



Denny Knappen—Denny's Hike begins Feb. 21.

Prayers for a safe journey.

Karla Stephen with cancer

Hilary Miller's Grandma Shirley has lot of hip pain, may need surgery.

One of the residents of Harvest Way passed away

Sunday; pray for families in morning.

Michael Way—hospitalized; in a medically-induced coma

Dear SUMC Women,

Thank you very much for the generous box of goodies. I have shared it with my roommates, and everyone is enjoying it. It was such a nice surprise to see I got a package for Valentine's Day. Thanks again.

—Emily Tilli



Dear Sparta UMC Women,

Thank you so much for the wonderful Valentine's Day box filled with great things! It is always such a great surprise every year to know you're thinking of me. This time of the semester right before spring break is always so busy, so my roommates and I really appreciate the variety of things included. Thank you again!

Love, Oliva Tilli ☺



Approximately 22 women from the Sparta Community participated in the **Little Dresses for Africa** sewing project on February 20 in Wesley Hall at Sparta United Methodist Church.

The approximately 65 dresses were made with pillow cases and donated sewing items (thank you!). The women enjoyed service, fellowship, and a light lunch and snacks.

**Easter Flower Order Forms** can be found in the church parlor. Deadline to place an order is March 18.

## 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 (no practice March 7, instead practice is March 8)

#### Tuesdays

9:30 AM..... Girl Talk Study Group

6:30 PM..... GriefShare (Feb. 6 to May 1)

#### 4th Thursday of the Month

6 PM..... Vision Team

#### 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 Feb. 25

Soundboard ..... Chad & Shelly Murdock

Head Usher ..... Justin Westra

Acolytes..... Addison & Ella

Usher..... Julie Barnum

Nursery Leader..... Amy Hume

Nursery Assistant ..... Elizabeth Hartman

Welcome Table ..... Diane Young

Intercessory Prayer ... Ron Drier

Scripture Reader ..... Julie Barnum

Fellowship Time ..... Sparta UMC Relay for Life Team

AND Soup & Chili Takeout Fundraiser

### Save the Date

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

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

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

March 1 6 PM .....Vision Team

March 2 .....World Day of Prayer

March 4 .....TobyMac Concert (with the Youth)

March 6 6:30 PM ...Church Council

March 8 12–7 .....Community Blood Drive

7 PM .....Adult Choir practice (no practice 3/7)

March 17 12 AM .....Set Clocks Ahead One Hour

March 11 .....UMCOR Special Offering

March 14 9:30 AM .Mary/Martha Circle

.....Dorcas Circle

March 18 .....Easter Flower Orders Due

March 22 6 PM .....Vision Team

March 24 8 AM .....Free Community Breakfast

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)

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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. Contact the church office with updates and additions.