

February 7, 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.

Care Packages for College Students Student Information & Donations Needed By Feb. 8

The Sparta United Methodist Women will be mailing care packages to college students (college years one through four). If you have a student, contact Deb DeGlopper or the church office by February 8 with the student's name, mailing address, college or university, and year of education.

If you would like to donate to the care packages, please leave your donation in the church kitchen by February 8, clearly identified for the care packages. The boxes will be mailed February 9. Thank you.



March 4 (Sunday), 7 PM at Van Andel Arena—"Hits Deep Tour" TobyMac, Matt Maher, Mandisa, Mac Powell (from 3rd Day), Ryan Stevenson, Hollyn, Capital Kings.

Contact Heather Westra at church Feb. 11 or by phone/text 616.322.3267 if you want to go. Adults pay half ticket price; Youth are covered.

Little Dresses for Africa Community Sewing Project

Wesley Hall at Sparta UMC — Feb. 20 — 9 AM to 2 PM hosted by Girl Talk Study Group

The dresses are simply made with pillow cases. If you would like to donate extra wide double-fold bias tape, please contact Cindy at 887.9380. All ladies are welcome to come any time and stay for as long as desired for fellowship, to sew (bring own sewing machine), stencil, fabric cutting, measuring and sorting. There will be a light lunch and snacks.

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.



This Week's Upcoming BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARY

Feb. 11 Paul Bettes

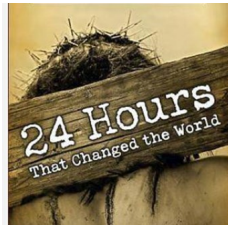
Feb. 12 Ron Drier

Feb. 13 Jennifer McKay

Feb. 17 Mike Stuhan

2/16/13

Eric & Corinne Mulanda



Small Group Opportunities for All-Church Study 24 Hours That Changed the World

Please feel free to join any of the following short-term study groups.

This is an excellent opportunity to meet new friends and to gain a better understanding of God's Word.

Sundays

8:45 AM with Tim Shangle in the church dining room

6 PM with Julie Bowden in the Offices & Ministry Building living room

Mondays

1:30 PM with Toni Potes in the Offices & Ministry Building living room

6:30 PM with Dale Young in the Prayer & Study Room in the church building

Tuesdays (Note: this small group begins February 13)

9:30 AM with Girl Talk Study Group in the Offices & Ministry Building. Due to the Little Dresses for Africa project on Feb. 20, this group is starting a little earlier than the others and will not meet on Feb. 20.

Another small group is in the works, inviting parents with children to participate. Please watch for details.



Sunday, Feb. 11

Service of Ashes

Sunday, Feb. 18

All-Church Study Begins

Sunday, March 25

Palm Sunday

Thursday, March 29

Holy / Maundy Thursday

A Seder Meal is schedule. *Volunteers are needed.* Please let Pastor Phil or the office know your willingness to help.

Friday, March. 30

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. Look for the green signup sheet in the church parlor. Two or more are also welcome to sign up in one slot, but it is important that every 30-minute shift is covered.

Sunday, April 1

Easter Sunday

Sunrise Easter Service will begin at 7 AM, followed by a light breakfast. The 10:10 AM worship service will also take place.

Church Council Meeting Highlights of February 6, 2018

Devotion: Are you ready to be poured out for your offering? Tell God you're ready, and He will lead the way.

Michigan State Police / Security Workshop Update: Dale Young hosted a well-attended seminar at Sparta UMC in January. He is enrolled in the Lansing class. This class is to raise awareness of potential dangerous situations that could arise at church. The seminar will be offered again at Sparta UMC.

Leadership Directory Appointments: Denny Knappen approved on the Board of Trustees with term ending 2020. There will be no separate committee of endowment/memorials; there will be two individuals on the Finance & Stewardship Committee with staggering terms as "Endowment-Memorials".

Finance: 66% of our Ministry Shares were paid in 2017. A second service will cost money to succeed. The new furnace bill totaled \$5843, and \$5500 was received. Council approved a 2018 Budget, Resolution Authorizing Signatures on Bank & Investment Accounts, and Resolution Authorizing Agents to Receive Empty Bank Pouches.

Revitalizing whole lower Sunday school classroom/nursery area: Plans for the open area include painting, updated shelving and storage, room doorway signs, colorful décor, establishing a welcome area and parent resource wall, and removing items in the area that are not functional. Classroom updating includes painting, new corkboard, corkboard strips, shelving, chalkboards, and Bible verse decals. All of these improvements make the areas kid-friendly. More Bibles are needed. Updating the upstairs Youth Room may be done in the fall.

Ministry Opportunities: Care Packages to College Students. Little Dresses for Africa Feb. 20. Free Community Breakfast Feb. 24, 8–10 AM: Over 200 were served in January. A food license is being secured for each breakfast.

The Missions Team has been contacted about a new outreach opportunity called Hand-2-Hand. It entails providing a sack lunch of non-perishable food items to struggling children from Appleview Elementary in Sparta on Fridays. Nazarene Church already does this each week for 70 children from Ridgeview Elementary; their cost has been zero. The Sparta Baptist Church may want to join us in this endeavor. Youth involvement would include packing the sacks. We would need a chairperson and eight people with a passion.

Pastor Phil would like Sparta UMC to experience a work camp mission trip. He has worked with several and wants us to breakout into the field this summer—a go-see trip like visiting a site for an afternoon. He likes Group Works Camp Foundation and would like to send a team in 2019.

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. 11

Soundboard..... Doug Shupe

Head Usher..... Alan Hartman

Acolytes..... Abby & Anthony

Ushers Boy Scouts

Greets..... Boy Scouts

Nursery Leader..... Naomi Collins

Nursery Assistant Patti Bloomstrom

Welcome Table Earl Babcock

Intercessory Prayer ... Amy Bannink-Burmeister

Scripture Reader Sharon Hessel

Fellowship Time Dave & Joanna Huizenga
Dick & Mary VanGessel

Save the Date

Feb. 11 10:10 AM... Service of Ashes at worship service

Feb. 13 4:30 PM Food Truck Food Distribution

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

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

March 4 TobyMac Concert (with the Youth)

March 6 6:30 PM .. Church Council

March 8 Community Blood Drive

March 11 UMCOR Special Offering

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.