



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



Guest Preacher Loren Mote

February 4, 2018

Join us Sunday, Feb. 4, as we welcome Loren Mote to the pulpit to share the Good News. Pastor Phil will be away, so we're thrilled to have Loren join us in worship!

ALL Church



Lasagna Dinner

The Sparta United Methodist Men will host the annual Lasagna Dinner **February 4** right after worship service Sunday morning. Cost is by your generous donation. Proceeds benefit the ministries of the UM Men.

Care Packages for College Students: 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 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.

Discipleship Ministries

Hymns of freedom

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — "O Freedom" is a hymn from the African-American tradition, and "Freedom Is Coming" derives from the struggle against apartheid in South Africa. Both are in "The Faith We Sing" hymnal used in many United Methodist churches. C. Michael Hawn's History of Hymns column gives the back story on these stirring songs.

[Read column](#)



Get ready to jam this year as Director of Youth Ministries Heather Westra is lining up tickets to a number of great concerts!

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.

April 8 (Sunday), 6 PM at Van Andel Arena—Mercyme, Tenth Avenue North, and Tim Timmons.

July 6 (Friday) Tribute coming to Sparta Baptist Church.

Unity Fest at Heritage Landing in Muskegon:

August 8 (Wednesday), 4 PM—David Crowder

August 9 (Thursday), 1 PM—Mercyme

August 10 (Friday), 1 PM—Casting Crowns

August 11 (Saturday), 1 PM—For King and Country, with 15 other bands TBA

Ticket costs for the Youth are covered through their fundraising (thank you for your support!). More details coming, including pricing for adults to attend.



Sunday, Feb. 11 Service of Ashes

Sparta UMC encourages acts of love toward one another, whether it be a kind word, buying a meal for a stranger, notes of encouragement, lifting each other up in prayer and word, and especially sharing the Good News. With the day of love, Valentine's Day, February 14, falling on Ash Wednesday, Sparta UMC has made arrangements to include the imposition of ashes in the worship service February 11 so that those who celebrate Valentine's Day with loved ones can do so, giving thanks to God for that special person He has brought into their life.

(Continued on next page)

Sunday, Feb. 18 All-Church Study Begins

24 Hours That Changed the World. This seven-week study will help us better understand the events that occurred during the last 24 hours of Jesus' life; to see more clearly the theological significance of Christ's suffering and death; and to reflect upon the meaning of these events in our lives. Week 1 begins Feb. 18. Pastor Phil will preach on the weekly topics. Small groups are forming now—one is Mondays at 1:30 PM at the Offices & Ministry Building (more to be announced). Books are available in the church parlor.

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 church office know your willingness to help.

Friday, March. 30 Good Friday Prayer Vigil

Beginning at noon and concluding at noon on Holy Saturday, March 31. Prayer will take place in the church sanctuary. Please sign up for a 30-minute shift.

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.



This Week's Upcoming
BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARY

Feb. 4 Julie Stedman

Feb. 7 Clarence Cass
Ethan Collins

Feb. 8 Michael Shangle

Feb. 9 Gail Brophy

Feb. 10 Andrew Taylor
Tudy Middleton

2/6/60
Ron & Janice Workman

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 – 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. 4

Soundboard.....

Head Usher..... Justin Westra

Acolytes..... Dylan & Madelyn

Ushers.....

Nursery Leader..... Brenda McCracken

Nursery Assistant..... Amy Brillinger

Welcome Table..... Jeanette Tobey

Intercessory Prayer... Bonnie Wilkinson

Scripture Reader..... Sharon Helsel

Fellowship Time..... Lasagna Fundraiser Dinner

hosted by the United Methodist Men

Save the Date

Feb. 4 Guest Preacher Loren Mote
..... Fundraiser Dinner following worship service, hosted by the UM Men
..... Small-group materials are available

Feb. 5 6:30 PM..... Trustees

Feb. 6 6:30 PM..... Church Council

Feb. 7 6 PM..... SPRC

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

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

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.