

March 14, 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.



Help Needed at Sparta UMC's Free Community Breakfast

The **Community Breakfast** reaches out to those who are struggling emotionally, financially and spiritually.

Every fourth Saturday of the month, spirit-led volunteers from Sparta UMC join together in providing a meal to over 100 people in our community. More volunteers are needed to set up, cook, serve and clean up—a time commitment of up to four hours. Breakfast is served from 8 to 10 AM. Please come to the church dining room at 7 AM on March 24 this month to see where you can plug in!



Help is needed separating the palms from the buds on Thursday, March 22, at 10:30 AM at the Offices & Ministry Building. If you're available, please stop in to help. Thank you.

UMCOR Recipients Pay It Forward

WEST, Texas — For more than 50 years, United Methodist congregations have participated in a special UMCOR Sunday (formerly One Great Hour of Sharing) offering, laying the foundation for the ministry of the United Methodist Committee on Relief. Sparta UMC received \$430 toward the effort on March 11.

Barbara Dunlap-Berg writes about the difference the denomination's relief arm has made. "UMCOR is us," says one flood survivor turned relief leader.

[Read story](#)



This Upcoming Week's BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARY

- March 21 Naomi Collins 3/21/09
- March 24 Beth Murray Dan & Brenda McCracken

Highlights of the Sparta United Methodist Church Council Meeting of March 6, 2018

Devotion: *Two Gardens* by Adam Hamilton. John Wesley popularized a prayer meant to help us follow in Jesus' steps, surrendering to the will of God: *A Covenant Prayer in the Wesleyan Tradition*.

An all-church visionary retreat is scheduled for April 14, from 9 AM to 1 PM at Rockford UMC. **(Congregation: Please calendar this event and plan to attend.)** At the retreat, input from all of the congregation is sought on planning ideas and vision going forward for the church.

Council approved the Pastor's Discernment Fund Policy. Council approved a new part-time position of 8 hours per week for Tuesdays and Wednesdays for bulletin and newsletter preparation; compensation offset by a reduction in Toni Potes' hours.

Ministry Opportunities: Separating the palms from buds, March 22, 10:30 AM. Free Community Breakfast, March 24, 8–10 AM. Needed in March: Candy donations for the Easter Egg Hunt, and volunteers to stuff the eggs.

Upcoming Worship & Events Schedule: Seder Meal, March 29, 6 PM—**everyone is invited**. Prayer Vigil, March 30–31, noon to noon. Sunrise Easter Service, April 1, 7 AM—a 10- to 15-minute outdoor service with light breakfast following, provided by the UM Men; 10:10 AM Easter Sunday Celebration followed by Easter Egg Hunt in the sanctuary; Baptisms and New Members at Easter Sunday Celebration; Lenten / Easter Offerings received April 1—for the Samaritan Fund. Sparta UMC sponsors the Feeding America Food Truck April 10.

Hand 2 Hand: We will join with the Sparta Baptist Church to provide weekend food packages for those in need at one of Sparta's elementary schools. It is in the planning stage and will start in the fall. Internet service may be added to the sanctuary. The Trustees may put programmed locks at entry doors and also have a survey done by EPS on security for the premises.



Henry Beverwyk will be 100 years old on April 10 this year! Henry has been a member of Sparta UMC since 1960. Wish Henry a Happy Birthday with a card sent to him at 486 Leisure Acres, Sparta.

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.

Denny Knappen—Denny's Hike began Feb. 21, 2018. Prayers for a safe journey.



Come Alive. The Easter brochure in Sundays' bulletins contain Sparta United Methodist Church's times of service on Easter Sunday, April 1. Take the brochure each week and give it to a friend, co-worker, neighbor or family member and invite them to church Easter Sunday; or leave the brochure in a waiting room, office breakroom, a taxi or bus, or other public location.

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)

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 – 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 March 18

Soundboard..... Chad & Shelly Murdock

Head Usher..... Justin Westra

Usher..... Michelle Morris

Acolytes..... Michelle & Anthony

Greeters..... The Tilli Family

Nursery Leader..... Naomi Collins

Nursery Assistant..... Jessica Pinckney

Welcome Table..... Jackie Brewer

Intercessory Prayer... Stephanie Rienks

Scripture Reader..... Jay Dean

Fellowship Time..... Tena Stuhan & Michelle Morris

Save the Date

March 18..... Easter Flower Orders Due

March 22 6 PM..... Vision Team

6 PM..... UMW Executive Committee

Help is needed separating the palms from the buds on March 22, 10:30 AM at the Offices & Ministry Building.

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

March 25..... Passion/Palm Sunday

March 26 6:30 PM...Trustees

March 29 6 PM..... Holy / Maundy Thursday Seder Meal

March 30–31 Noon to Noon Good Friday Prayer Vigil

April 1 7 AM..... Sunrise Easter Service followed by a light breakfast hosted by the UM Men

10:10 AM... Easter Celebration Service followed by an Easter Egg Hunt in the sanctuary

April 3 5:45 PM Finance & Stewardship

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.