



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



Reminder

Easter candy (for the plastic eggs in April 1's Easter Egg Hunt) should be brought in by Sunday, March 25, and given to Heather Westra.

Hilary Miller's Grandma Shirley hip pain; surgery in June.

Denny Knappen—Denny's Hike began Feb. 21: a 2,189 mile, four-to-six month hike of the Appalachian Trail through the wilderness and mountains from Springer Mountain, Georgia, to Mount Katahdin, Maine. Denny invites pledging (whether per mile or a one-time gift), 100% of which goes to Sparta UMC's Youth Ministry! Prayers of support for a safe journey and the Youth Ministry.



**Seder Meal March 29
6 PM in the Church Dining Room**



Seder Meal

Please come to share in this ceremonial occasion on Holy Thursday. The entire family is invited to attend. A complete meal will be served including a kid-friendly menu and side dishes.

Everyone is invited to bring in fresh-cut flowers to decorate the cross on Easter Sunday!



Sunday, April 1

right after 10:10 AM Easter Celebration Service

Children: Come learn about the "Resurrection Egg" at Sunday school April 1!



This Upcoming Week's
BIRTHDAYS

- March 26 Kurt Burmeister
Mary VanGessel
Hal Lindsay
- March 27 Deb DeGlopper
Erik Tilli
- March 28 Tammie Purcell
- March 30 Diane Jensen
Kevin Pinckney
- March 31 Dave Steenhagen

Employment Opportunity

Sparta United Methodist Church has a job opening in the church office. The position is for Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 9 AM to 1 PM. Job responsibilities include answering the church phone, greeting visitors, and preparing the bulletin and church newsletter (training provided). Interested candidates should contact the church right away at spartaumc.employment@gmail.com, stop by the church office for an employment application, or request an application by email.



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

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

July 6 (Friday) Tribute at 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.

Friday, March. 30 Good Friday Prayer Vigil

The signup sheet has many openings. Interested participants should sign up by Sunday, March 25 for a 30-minute or more slot. The Vigil is scheduled from noon March 30 to noon March 31 in the church sanctuary. (Note: If we are unable to fill the time slots, the Vigil will not take place in the sanctuary.)

Please share this information with your congregation!

As we move closer to the District #4 Organizing Conference on Sunday, April 22, from 4-5:30pm at Greenville UMC (204 West Cass Street, Greenville, MI 48838), we are continuing to solicit names for the NEW District #4, a name that will be selected on April 22!



The Bishop has set the overarching guideline that NEW District names will have some geographic component and our Communications Director, Mark Doyal, suggests the fewer the words, the better.

Currently these are the names under consideration that fall into the above guidelines: Grand West District. West Grand District.

If you have other names that fit the above criteria, please send them for consideration and ultimately a decision by the April 22 conference.

Thanks,
Grand Rapids District Superintendent Bill Haggard

Details about April 22 are below ↓↓↓

Please inform your congregations and invite them to attend this important organizing conference! No RSVP's are necessary!

View District #4 churches* → [HERE](#)

* The map of District #4 churches will be updated to reflect the addition of Middleville UMC

At the organizing conference leaders will be elected for the following BoD required areas:

1. Superintendency Committee (5-9 persons)
2. District Committee on Ministry (7-12 persons)

District Board of Church Location & Building (7-10 people)

And this initial team along with these positions:

1. Vision Team (8-12) persons who will serve as the leadership body as we determine what we need going forward)
2. Lay Leader
3. Treasurer (hopefully a volunteer who can care for the administration of the District budget as all Districts become incorporated)

Appointed clergy, please forward names and contact info for laity in your congregation who have a desire to serve on a District #4 committee. We want to make sure we have good representation from across new District #4. Please contact Liz in the GR District Office at lbode@michiganumc.org or 616.459.4503, ext. 1211.

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 25

Soundboard..... Brandon Ingersoll & Isaiah Marks

Head Usher..... Alan Hartman

Ushers

Acolytes..... Addison & Ella

Greeters

Nursery Assistant Elizabeth Hartman

Welcome Table Millie Cass

Intercessory Prayer ... Amy Bannink-Burmeister

Scripture Reader Mary Scott

Fellowship Time Becky Souter, Ron & Jeanne Drier

Save the Date

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

6:30 PM..... Church Council

April 10 4:30 PM ... Sparta UMC Sponsored Feeding America Food Distribution

April 11 9:30 AM Mary Martha Circle

..... Dorcas Circle at Hope Lodge

April 14 9 AM All-Church Retreat at Rockford UMC for planning ideas and forward-going vision

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.