



**Lenten / Easter Special Offering April 1**

supports Sparta UMC's Samaritan Fund  
(helping those God sends to us  
to assist in at-risk situations of rent and utility shut-off)



at Rockford United Methodist Church  
159 Maple Street, Rockford  
Saturday, April 14, 2018  
8:30 AM to 1:00 PM

All who attend Sparta United Methodist Church are invited to the All-Church Retreat! Your input is needed for past, present and future plans as God's work moves forward for us. A clipboard will be passed in church in April. Please sign up so we have an idea for set up and food.



Henry Beverwyk will be 100 years old on April 10! Please send a card to Henry at 486 Leisure Acres in Sparta.

Denny Knappen—Denny set out just over a month ago; he is doing well. He was in Hot Springs, Tennessee, Mile 273.4 on March 21. He has had a few really tough hiking days with snow/freezing rain and cold, windy freezing nights. Hopefully that will be the end of "winter". De met up with Denny this past weekend to provide supplies. She keeps a daily blog on Facebook, with beautiful pictures. It's called Denny's Hike and is open to the public even if we're not FB friends. Keep praying for a safe journey, as De does in between each phone call when Denny finds a cell signal. ☺



Donna Edward—hip & leg surgeries  
Gordon & Sharon Helsel's daughter Mary—cancer diagnosis  
Erik & Mindy Tilli's niece Kate Hascher—soft-tissue sarcoma (cancer) metastasized, very rare and aggressive, not curable but possibly manageable  
The Family of Lorraine Baehre (age 88)—Sharon Helsel's 2nd sister passed away March 25 from Parkinson's. Funeral on March 31 in East Lansing.



Thank you Jackie Brewer for separating the palms from the two buds for use on Palm Sunday. The congregation really appreciates your help.

**Fireside Bedtime Stories of Hope  
Remembering Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. & His Cause  
1929 – 1968**

Led by Pastor Phil & Gail Friedrich  
Church Parsonage: 1960 Skyview Drive, Sparta  
Monday, April 2 7 – 8 PM / Friday, April 6 7 – 8 PM  
Books . . . Cookies . . . and Milk . . .

A time for children and parents (or grandparents) to share some meaningful bedtime stories about the courageous and faithful people who led our country through our struggle for justice and equality. We'll gather by a crackling fire and share books like "Our Children Can Soar", "Back of the Bus", "Going Somewhere Special", and "My Daddy, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr."

Join us on one or both of these evenings as we remember Rev. Dr. King and mark the 50th anniversary of his assassination. Feel free to come in your pajamas (with a blanket or pillow in tote). This gathering has been designed for children between the ages of 3 to 12. All children are asked to attend with a mom, dad or grandparent.



*The Week's Upcoming*

**BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES**

- |         |                      |                     |
|---------|----------------------|---------------------|
| April 1 | Carsen Modderman     |                     |
| April 2 | Shirley McFall       |                     |
|         | Anna Mae Spangenberg | 4/3/70              |
| April 4 | Shelly Murdock       | Hal & Linda Lindsay |
|         | Brandon Ingersoll    | 4/5/75              |
|         | Margaret Blaauw      | Dale & Cindy Young  |
| April 5 | Felicia Stuhan       |                     |
| April 6 | Celsa Moreno         |                     |



Meet Hannah Joy Westra born March 22 to Justin & Heather & Girls. Hannah weighed 6 lbs., 9 oz., and was 19 inches long.

Come to the



## Daughters of God Banquet

### Attention Ladies of Sparta UMC & Their Friends

The Daughters of God Banquet will take place Thursday, May 3, 2018, at 6:30 PM in the church dining room. Our program in the sanctuary is Puppeteer Mary Riley's *All Hands In*, an interactive puppet experience with short stories brought to life.

Come and enjoy the fun and fellowship of this special Sparta UMC event! Purchase tickets on April 8, 15 or 22 after worship service: Adults \$7.50, Daughters Age 4 to 11 \$4, and Daughters 3 and younger Free. You may also contact the church office (887.8255).



The Missions Team discussed the 'Box Tops for Education' project of Sparta UMC at its recent Missions meeting.

They confirmed with the United Methodist Community House that it is no longer collecting the box tops. The Missions Team agreed to donate the collected box tops to Sparta Area Schools. If you would like to help, please leave your clipped box tops (as seen above) in Wesley Hall.



### 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, \$97,666 has been received in Direct Your Dollars—that's another \$4,000 since February 21, and with Easter Sunday dinner quickly approaching, please remember Sparta UMC's need for your grocery receipts!**

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)

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

### 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 – 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 April 1

Soundboard..... Chad & Shelly Murdock

Head Usher..... Dale Young

Acolytes..... Gabby & Anthony

Nursery Assistant ..... Naomi Collins

Welcome Table ..... Jeanette Tobey

Intercessory Prayer ... Cindy Young

Scripture Reader ..... Brenda McCracken

Fellowship Time ..... Dorcas Circle

#### Save the Date

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

**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 8 ..... Holy Communion

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 & visioning

April 15 ..... Native American Ministries Special Offering

April 16 6:30 PM ... Trustees

April 26 6 PM ..... UMW Executive Board

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.