

March 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.

Set clocks ahead one hour before bedtime
on Saturday, March 10, because Daylight Saving Time begins March 11.

**UMCOR Sunday
Special Offering March 11**

The special offering helps cover the annual operational costs for the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). Your gift allows UMCOR to apply 100% of other donations to relief efforts as well as long-term education and support.



Seder Meal

Have you ever roasted lamb before?
Contact Pastor Phil or the church office regarding instructions that best worked for you.

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.

Please feel free to bring in **box top for schools** and leave them in Wesley Hall.



This Upcoming Week's
**BIRTHDAYS &
ANNIVERSARY**

- March 11 Tim Shangle
 - March 12 Tom Christopher
 - March 13 Zach Greeno
 - March 14 Holly Colby
 - March 17 Norm Becker
- 3/11/78
Steve & Julie Barnum



The Sparta United Methodist Church has a Memorials Committee. This panel, with the Finance Committee, reviews

requests and spending of memorial gifts to the church. In collaboration with the families of individuals honored, a determination is made on how to make use of memorial monetary gifts.

Over the years, examples of items attained by memorial gift donations include hymnals, Bibles and songbooks, Jesus stained glass window, eternal flame, pew re-upholstery, repair of east sanctuary stained glass windows, choir music, library books, sanctuary TV's, baby grand piano, memorial gardens, church and Christmas decorations, landscaping, dining tableware, music binders, choir chimes, and altar renovations. All memorial monetary donations are recorded, and individuals are sent a written acknowledgement of appreciation from the church. Families receive a list of all contributors who gave in the memory of their loved one.

A memorial gift to the Sparta United Methodist Church is a thoughtful way to honor a deceased loved one. Memorial donations to the church recognize the importance of the church and your loved one.

... Freely you have received, freely give.

Matthew 10:8 (NIV)

2018	February	Year to Date
General Operating Income	\$15,589.41	\$31,928.74
Operating Expense	\$17,967.11	\$40,166.65
Difference	(\$2,377.70)	(\$8,237.91)
General Fund Balance	\$237.93	

Special Gifts & Offerings Received in February

Adult Choir	\$390	Legacy Fund	\$200
Children's Choir	\$100	Missions	\$20
Compassion Fund ...	\$585.20	Rent	\$179.50
Facility Fund	\$10	Stained glass repair.	\$200
Haiti Hot Lunch	\$35	Sunday School.....	\$4
Hunger	\$10	UM Men.....	\$509
Initial Offering.....	\$15	UMCOR	\$200
Kids Kans	\$280.32	Youth Ministries.....	\$356
& food Items		Youth Dir. Salary.....	\$20
All-church study book reimbursements	\$267		



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, Denny began a four-to-six month adventure of hiking the entire Appalachian Trail. This 2,189 mile trek through the wilderness and mountains begins in Springer Mountain, Georgia, and ends in Mount Katahdin, Maine. Prayers for a safe journey.

Gordon & Sharon Hesel—prayer for the Family of Dorothea Krystiniak (Sharon's sister) who passed away in Fremont

Karen Marohn—prayers for those seeking full-time jobs

Mary Ellen Kimble's younger sister Rita recently passed away

Tyler Russo—Steve & Terri Miling's nephew, brain tumor surgery on March 5



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 11

Soundboard..... Doug Shupe & Kerry Emelander

Head Usher..... Alan Hartman

Acolytes..... Gabby & Dylan

Nursery Leader..... Amy Hume

Nursery Assistants..... Caelin & Camryn Murdock

Welcome Table Holly Colby

Intercessory Prayer ... Dave Huizenga

Scripture Reader Brandon Ingersoll

Save the Date

March 8 12–7 Community Blood Drive—dining room

7 PM..... Adult Choir practice—sanctuary
(no practice March 7)

7 PM..... Alcoholics Anonymous—Wesley Hall

March 10 8 AM Men's Mealtime Rally

..... before bed, set clocks ahead one hour

March 11 UMCOR Special Offering

March 14 9:30 AM Mary/Martha Circle

..... Dorcas Circle

March 18 Easter Flower Orders Due

March 22 6 PM..... Vision Team

6 PM..... UMW Executive Committee

Help 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

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.

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

1. Devotion: *Two Gardens* by Adam Hamilton, from John 18:1 and Mark 14:36. John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, popularized a prayer meant to help us follow in Jesus' steps, surrendering to the will of God (see *A Covenant Prayer in the Wesleyan Tradition*, #607 in the UM Hymnal).
2. Unfinished Business
 - a. Lay Leadership
 - i. 2020 Vision One-Page Plan Update: An all-church visionary retreat is being planned for April 14, from 9 – 1 at Rockford UMC. At the retreat, input from all of the congregation is sought on planning ideas and vision going forward for the church.
 - ii. Development of job descriptions for each committee: This is in process.
 - b. Appointments for Leadership Directory: No action.
3. New Business, Blessings & Successes
 - a. Finance & Stewardship presented the Pastor's Discernment Fund Policy for approval. B. Greeno moved to adopt the policy; motion carried.

SPARTA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Guidelines of the Pastor's Discernment Fund

 - Intended use of the Fund is for items that are not covered by the Compassion or Samaritan Funds. Exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis according to the level of need.
 - Priority is given to growing the needs of Sparta United Methodist Church, for people's passion for ministry, and to make an immediate difference.
 - The need for help is usually presented to the pastor in confidence.
 - The amount and form of payment must be approved by no less than two of a three-person panel. The panel consists of the pastor and two authorized members of the Vision Team, who also have the ability to turn down the request.
 - Pastor submits a Payment Voucher for payment or reimbursement, with supporting receipt or invoice.
 - All information will be kept confidential.
 - The Fund will not benefit the pastor personally or financially in any way.


(Confirmed by Church Council March 6, 2018)
 - b. SPR Committee recommended approval of a new hire part time, 8 hours per week. This position would be for doing the bulletin and newsletter. It would be paid by cutting hours from Toni Potes' hours. It was approved by the Council to move forward on this posting.
4. Ministry Opportunities
 - a. Community Blood Drive, March 8, Noon to 7 PM
 - b. Separating the palms from buds, March 22, 10 AM
 - c. Free Community Breakfast, March 24, 8–10 AM
 - d. Needed in March: Candy donations for the Easter Egg Hunt, and volunteers to stuff the eggs
5. Upcoming Worship & Events Schedule
 - a. Men's Mealtime Rally, March 10, 8 AM
 - b. UMCOR Special Offering, March 11
 - c. Seder Meal, March 29, 6 PM—**everyone is invited**
 - d. Prayer Vigil, March 30–31, Noon to Noon
 - e. 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
 - f. Sparta UMC Sponsors the Feeding America Food Truck April 10
6. Other Business

Hand 2 Hand was discussed. 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.

Discussion ensued about internet service added to the sanctuary.

The Trustees are looking into putting programmed locks in place at entry doors and also having a survey done by EPS on security for the premises.
7. Next Meeting (April 3, 2018, 6:30 PM) & Adjournment at 7:30 PM with prayer by Pastor Phil.

—Diane Young
Acting Secretary

The background of the entire page is a repeating pattern of stylized, light gray fish. The fish are simple line drawings with small fins and eyes, scattered across the white background.

Employment Opportunity

**Sparta United Methodist Church has a job opening
in the church office.**

**The position is for 8 hours per week,
Tuesday and Wednesday, 9 AM to 1 PM.**

**Job responsibilities include, but are not limited to,
answering the church phone, greeting visitors, and
preparing the bulletin and church newsletter.**

**Interested candidates should contact the church right
away at spartaumc.employment@gmail.com (request
confirmation of receipt), stop by the church office for
an employment application,
or request an application by email.**