

April 11, 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.

Celebrate Native Americans April 15

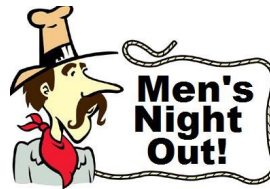


Native American Ministries across the U.S. are strengthened by gifts to the Native American Ministries Offering. Give generously on April 15. [Read more](#)

Denny Knappen—Feb. 21, 2018, Denny set out on Denny's Hike, 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.



The Sparta UM Women are collecting the following items to give away to needy children. Please help by donating **backpacks** and winter outerwear only (**coats, hats, mittens, gloves, scarves, and headbands**).



The annual **Men's Night Out** is Thursday, May 10, at the Bosserd's home (3631 13 Mile Rd, NW) beginning at 5:30 PM. Hot dogs, hamburgers and table service will be provided. Clay pigeon shooting will be available. Please bring a lawn chair and a dish to pass. You're welcome to just come for fellowship, too.

Check your closets, garage sales, clearance and mark-downs for these items. Items can be given to Margaret Collins or any UMW member, or can be left in the assigned bin in Wesley Hall. Thank you for your help in this wonderful community mission.

Alive at Crystal Springs Camp

DOWAGIAC, Mich. — Dedicated in 1860, Crystal Springs Camp and Retreat Center is likely the oldest religious camp in the state. As churches are sending fewer kids to camp, the center has refocused its mission to do more outreach with its neighbors, hosting community events and welcoming campers from schools and other groups. Kay DeMoss reports. [Read story](#)



If you have a graduate or are graduating, please contact the church office or Director of Youth Ministries Heather Westra by May 13 and submit the following: graduate's name, school of graduation, program/major, future plans, and a photo.

Birthing 2020 hymnal



The Hymnal Revision Committee of The United Methodist Church held its inaugural meeting March 19-21 at The United Methodist Publishing House. [Read more](#)



April 14 @ Rockford United Methodist Church

May 3 at 6:30 PM in the Sparta UMC dining room

Purchase tickets April 15 or 22 after worship service. Adults \$7.50, Ages 4 to 11 \$4, 3 and younger Free. You may also contact the church office (887.8255).

Come to the



This Upcoming Week's BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARY

- April 15 Ken Shangle
Brad Greeno
- April 16 Paul Schulz
Wesley Scott
- April 17 Amy Bannink-Burmeister
Clark Schulz
- April 19 Richard VanGessel

4/21/78
Gary & Sue Cowden



Sunrise Easter Service Celebrated by the Fire

The group of 40 worshiped the Risen Lord in the presences of the rising sunlight, then proceeded indoors, and concluded with breakfast together. Thank you Pastor Phil and the United Methodist Men for making this ceremony so meaningful.

Employment Opportunity

Job Title: **Document Coordinator**

We are motivated by our Mission of *Helping each other follow Jesus' way* (John 14:6). We seek a person who is passionate in that way and wants to make a difference for Christ. Responsibilities include opportunities to exercise leadership and ownership of critical projects in successful communication through document preparation. Computer skills and attention to detail are required. Knowledge of Microsoft Publisher is helpful.

Contact spartaumc.employment@gmail.com, stop by the office of Sparta United Methodist Church (54 East Division, Sparta—office hours 9 AM to 1 PM Monday–Thursday) for an employment application, or request an application by email (spartaumc@spartaumc.com).

Highlights of Church Council Meeting April 3, 2018

“Is it still Easter?” Keep the resurrection as a part of our life. Income over expenses for March is \$4,745; for the year, expenses over income is \$3,492. General Fund balance \$4,983. Council approved renewing a CD with the United Methodist Development Fund. April 1: four baptisms and four new members. Ministry Opportunities: Free Community Breakfast Sat., April 28, 8–10 AM. Upcoming Worship & Events Schedule: All-Church Retreat Sat., April 14, 8:30 AM to 1 PM. Native American Ministries Special Offering April 15. Trustees noticed that the Ministry Building living room lighting is poor. It was suggested that families adopt a room to clean.

“The resurrection ... was only the beginning of a great, grand and vast outreach that has never ended and will not end until our Lord Jesus Christ comes back again.” —A.W. Tozer



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 April 15

Soundboard..... Doug Shupe & Kerry Emelander

Head Usher..... Alan Hartman

Acolytes..... Karson & Dylan

Nursery Assistant Carol Schulz

Welcome Table Holly Colby

Intercessory Prayer ... Paul Schulz

Scripture Reader Joanna Huizenga

Fellowship Time DeGlopper & Modderman Families

Save the Date

April 14 8:30 AM ... All-Church Retreat at Rockford UMC
For planning ideas & visioning

2–5 PM church dining room in use

April 15 Native American Ministries
Special Offering

April 16 6:30 PM ... Trustees

April 24 6 PM Staff-Parish Relations Committee

April 26 6 PM UMW Executive Board

April 28 8–10 AM .. Free Community Breakfast

..... tentative date for Spring Clean-up

May 1 5:45 PM ... Finance & Stewardship Committee

6:30 PM ... Church Council

May 3 6:30 PM ... Daughters of God Banquet

May 5 tentative date for Spring Clean-up

May 6 Golden Cross Sunday Special Offering

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.