



Be a Trail Angel

Have you heard about Denny's Hike? Many people are following Denny Knappen's adventures as he hikes the Appalachian Trail and raises funds through pledges for our Youth Ministries. His wife De, whose "trail name" is Post-it, has shared details with us about his journey on Sunday morning during worship and on Facebook (Denny's Hike). This past Sunday, Pastor Phil talked to Denny on speaker phone, so the congregation could hear Denny and a bit about how he's doing!

Denny's dream adventure began on February 21, 2018, with a goal of completing this 2,189 mile trek in approximately four months. As you can imagine, some days are harder than others. But we know that support and prayers from our friends help us get through tough times.

We invite you to support Denny (trail name Colonel) and other hikers by signing a note that will be taped to a snack and delivered to a meeting spot along the trail. People who provide snacks for the Appalachian Trail hikers are called Trail Angels. Stop at the Denny's Hike/Trail Angel table on Sundays, April 22 and 29, in the parlor, and add your name and thoughts. (Note: Due to the fact that Denny carries all of his belongings on his back every day, we cannot send any additional items.)

—Kathy Reed



Seated left to right: Hailey Peterson, Gail Friedrick, Carsen Modderman and Michael Shangle

Fireside Bedtime Stories of Hope with Pastor Phil & Gail

Many children, with their parents or grandparents, enjoyed remembering Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. They met at the parsonage during Spring Break week and shared stories, cookies and milk by a crackling fire. The evening reminisced on Rev. Dr. King, the date marking the 50th anniversary of his assassination. Children were invited to come in pajamas, with a blanket or pillow in tote. Thank you Pastor Phil and Gail for sharing this message and time with the children.

Little Dresses for Africa Community Sewing Project

Wesley Hall at Sparta UMC — April 24 — 9 AM to 1 PM hosted by Girl Talk Study Group

The dresses are simply made with pillow cases. If you would like to donate cases, funds for shipping the dresses, or extra wide double-fold bias tape, please contact Cindy at 887.9380. All ladies are invited. Stay as long as desired for fellowship, to sew (bring own sewing machine), stenciling, fabric cutting, measuring, sorting, and ironing (bring an iron and ironing board). Bring a snack to share.



On Saturday, May 5, at 9 AM, let's beautify our church yard and ministry building

All ages are welcome to come and work. Bring the tools you need. You don't have to stay the whole time—any amount of time you can spare to help is appreciated. Contact Jeanne or Hal if you have any questions.



Graduate Sunday is May 20. If you have a graduate or are graduating, please contact the church office or Director

of Youth Ministries Heather Westra by May 1 and submit the following: graduate's name, school of graduation, program/major, future plans, and a photo.



This Upcoming Week's
BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARY

April 22 Kerry Emelander
April 24 Joshua Greeno

4/25/09
Jeremy & Sara DeGlopper



Are you and your friends or family willing to adopt a room in the church building or the Offices & Ministry Building to clean and tidy up every so often? We are looking for people to take a room to clean once a week or once a month (multiple

families or friends taking turns)—basically vacuuming, dusting, window and glass cleaning, disinfecting, etc. If you would like to learn more, please contact Pastor Phil or Trustee Chair Jeanne Drier.



Friday, July 6, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.
Sparta Baptist Church — 38 S. State St., Sparta

Free Concert *Sponsored by:*

- Sparta United Methodist Church
- Sparta Baptist Church • Jody's Restaurant
- Church of the Nazarene • Rockford Floor Covering
- Jamie T. May Ameriprise Financial
- Mamrelund Lutheran Church • Independent Bank of Rockford
- Bible Baptist Church • Roger's Hardware

Freewill Offering will be taken for North Kent Connect
North Kent Connect is a Christian organization committed to improving lives of all people in northern Kent County by providing access to basic needs and promoting economic independence.

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 22

Soundboard..... Brandon Ingersoll & Isaiah Marks

Head Usher..... Dale Young

Acolytes..... Addison & Ella

Nursery Assistant Jessica Pinckney

Welcome Table Naomi Collins

Intercessory Prayer ... Barb Taylor

Scripture Reader Wendy Greeno

Fellowship Time Steve & Julie Barnum

Thom & Pat Babcock

Save the Date

April 24 1 PM Little Dresses for Africa Sewing Project

6 PM Staff-Parish Relations Committee

April 26 6 PM UMW Executive Board

April 28 8–10 AM .. Free Community Breakfast

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

6:30 PM ... Church Council

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

May 5 9 AM Spring Clean-up at church

May 6 Golden Cross Sunday Special Offering

May 9 Mary/Martha Circle at the Shack

..... Dorcas Circle Dinner Out

Daughters of God Banquet

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

Purchase tickets April 22 and 29

after worship service.

Adults \$7.50, Ages 4 to 11 \$4, 3 and younger Free.

You may also contact the church office (887.8255).

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.