

April 25, 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.



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.

Be a Trail Angel

We invite you to support Denny Knappen, as he journeys the Appalachian Trail, 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 Sunday, April 29, in the parlor, and add your name and thoughts.



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.



Getting Ready for Missions Week 2019

The Missions Team is focusing on a full week next spring on a fun event called Missions Week. Before Missions Week though, we need pictures. We need you to take pictures of missional and evangelistic people and events for the Missions Brochure that's in the works. Email any photo to spartaumc@spartaumc.com from your computer or phone. Or drop off your photos at the church office. Thank you for your help in this exciting event coming in 2019!

Denny Knappen—on Denny's Hike of the Appalachian Trail Feb. 21 for four to five months. Safe travels.

Pray for the many cancer patients
Prayers for Sue Steenhagen, loss of brother



Thank you to all helpers for Evelyn Blaauw's funeral luncheon. The set up crew was Kay, Sue, Joyce, Sally, and Jeanette. Funeral luncheon workers were Kay, Joyce, Tudy, Ruby, and Jeanette.

Thanks to all who furnished side dishes and desserts; they were devoured with relish. The family was very pleased to have a gathering spot to meet with friends also. Thanks to all.

—Jeanette Tobey

Pray on Behalf of the Pastor

Intercessory Prayer takes place during worship service. Use Sunday's Next Step Card to let us know you would like to help in Intercessory Prayer on May 13, July 15, and September 16. The church office will forward details to you.



This Upcoming Week's

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

50th Birthday! The United Methodist Church was officially formed on April 23, 1968, with the unification of the Methodist Church and the Evangelical Brethren Church, along with the dissolution of the Central Jurisdiction, a segregated group of African-American congregations.

- April 29 Judi Anderson
- May 1 Gordon Briggs
- May 2 Erica VanLaan
- May 3 Jackie Brewer
- May 5 Heather Westra

- 5/1/71
Norm & Jane Becker
- 5/2/09
Eric & Amanda Kline
- 5/3/03
Dave & Sue Steenhagen
- 5/5/78
Keith & Deb DeGlopper

Planning for post-General Conference church

CHICAGO (UMNS) — No matter what happens at the special General Conference next year, United Methodists will still have a mission to fulfill. That was a frequent refrain at the recent meeting of the Connectional Table, a church leadership body responsible for coordinating mission and ministry even during this time of uncertainty. Heather Hahn reports.

[Read story](#)

[Read message from the Connectional Table](#)

[Bishop urges new mindset for way forward](#)



FORMING TRUSTED LEADERS

Dear Friends:

Please join Bishop David Bard and me to learn about a ministry of The United Methodist Church to ensure that all leaders across our global connection have adequate opportunities for theological education. ~ Bill Haggard

MONDAY, MAY 14, 2018, 6:30 PM

ARRIVAL: 6:30 PM • REMARKS: 7:00 PM

GRAND RAPIDS FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

227 Fulton St E, Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Heavy appetizers will be provided

R.S.V.P. by May 4 to Liz Bode at: lbode@michiganumc.org or 616.459.4503 x-1211

HOST COMMITTEE:

- Mary Ivanov, Lake Harbor UMC
- Brad Kalajainen, Cornerstone UMC
- Mark Miller, Central UMC
- Dean Prentiss, Wesley Park UMC

The impact of United Methodist pastors around the world is immeasurable. Millions of faithful followers have been transformed and led to Christ through their work. Yet despite their vital role in our Church, and in the world, pastors do not have adequate opportunities to receive theological training in Africa, Europe and the Philippines – otherwise known as the Central Conferences. Established by the Council of Bishops, the Endowment Fund for Theological Education in the Central Conferences offers a sustainable, long-term solution to this critical need.

FORMING TRUSTED COMMUNITY LEADERS FOR THE UMC

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

Please Note: All Sunday morning children's activities normally taking place prior to worship service will not convene from June 3 through August 26.

10:10 AM Worship Attendant Volunteers April 29

Soundboard..... Doug Shupe & Kerry Emelander

Head Usher..... Justin Westra

Acolytes..... Michelle & Madelyn

Nursery Assistants..... Caelin & Camryn Murdock

Welcome Table Alan Hartman

Intercessory Prayer ... Ron Drier

Scripture Reader Thom Babcock

Fellowship Time Paul & Carol Schulz

Adam & Tanya Schulz

Save the Date

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

May 10 12–7 PM .. Community Blood Drive

5:30 PM .. Men's Night Out @ Bosserd's

May 12 8 AM..... Men's Mealtime Rally

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.