

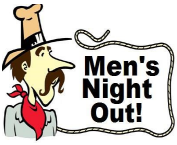
May 9, 2018



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.



The annual **Men's Night Out** is Thursday, May 10, at Jim 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.

Please Note: This event takes place in lieu of the United Methodist Men's Mealtime Rally originally scheduled for May 12.

The UM Men's Mealtime Rally meets on the second Saturday of every other month (Jan., March, May, July, Sept., and Nov.). The next date is July 14 at 8 AM.



As we make summer plans, please include on your calendar Sparta UMC's Vacation Bible School taking place from **July 29 to August 2, 5:30 to 8 PM daily**. Help will be needed in the way of donated items and food, people to help during the event, and spreading the word to parents to bring their children. Watch for details coming soon.

Thank you Mary/Martha Circle for the donation of a new coffee pot for the church kitchen. The funds used for the purchase are from memorial gifts received by the Circle.



Margaret Cibula, De Knappen's mother—with Hospice. Husband Denny is back from the Appalachian Trail to be with De at her mom's bedside during this difficult time.

Clarence Cass—declining health
Pastor Phil—may God continue to bless him and Gail in their ministry at Sparta UMC. Pastor Phil celebrates a birthday on May 12.



Sparta United Methodist Church's Howard Montgomery Education Fund Committee Is Now Accepting Applications

Sparta United Methodist Church has a ministry called the Howard Montgomery Education Fund. The proceeds from the endowment established in 1981 help persons train for full-time service of the church through a loan from the fund. The terms of the program, as well as an application for a loan, can be obtained from the church office.

The Montgomery Fund Committee meets annually to review loan status and applications. This year's meeting is tentatively scheduled for the end of June. All applications must be submitted prior to June 17, 2018.

This is an excellent opportunity to help our congregation send more people into full-time ministerial service. Consider making a gift to the Howard Montgomery Education Fund of the Sparta United Methodist Church. Contributions to the fund can be made at any time and are tax deductible.

Highlights of Church Council Meeting, May 1, 2018

Devotion from Luke 2:5, "Wait for it". Recognize the presence of God. Ask God to sharpen your spiritual senses. Be alert.

(Continued on next page)



- May 14 Kay Chase
- May 16 Gary Cowden
Janice Anderson
- May 17 Steve Barnum
- May 18 Camryn Murdock
- May 19 Stephen Brillinger
Aloe Guiles

- 5/15/04
Adam & Tanya Schulz
- 5/17/75
Paul & Carol Schulz

All-Church Visionary Retreat Update: The group prioritized their vision; the Vision Team will discuss on May 24. The information will be included on the One-Page Plan.

The individual staff job descriptions are almost complete. The committee job descriptions have not yet been started.

Candidates approved: Naomi Collins Greeter Coordinator. JoEllen Pinckney second Lay Leader; Bonnie Wilkinson Lay Leader in Training. Mary Ellen Kimble Traditional/Blended Worship Design Team.

A church credit card is needed for online purchases and other technical support. Options will be obtained.

H. Westra presented ideas for floor samples, equipment, painting, information stations and places to sign up to serve.

April's food truck sponsored by Sparta UMC had much help and excellent food. Fewer people are in need of food from the truck because of the economy.

Annual Conference begins May 31 in Traverse City.

Ministry Opportunity: Community Breakfast May 26, 8 AM.

Upcoming Worship & Events Schedule: Graduate Sunday May 20. Peace with Justice Sunday (special offering) May 27.



2018	April	Year to Date
General Operating Income	\$21,727.92	\$75,257.55
Operating Expense	\$17,446.85	\$74,469.23
Difference	\$4,281.07	\$788.32
General Fund Balance	\$9,264.16	

Special Gifts & Offerings Received in April

Adult Choir.....	\$10	Memorials.....	\$613.25
Community Breakfast.....	\$270	Missions.....	\$10
Facility Fund.....	\$10	Native American ...	\$10
Haiti Hot Lunch.....	\$10	Rent.....	\$226
Hunger.....	\$10	Samaritan Fund...	\$489
Kids Kans.....	\$307.21	Sunday School.....	\$11
& 886 food items		UM Men.....	\$13
		Youth Ministries .	\$430

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 Choir

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 and Adult Sunday School normally taking place prior to worship service will not convene from June 3 through August 26.

10:10 AM Worship Attendant Volunteers May 13

Soundboard..... Chad & Shelly Murdock

Greeters..... Margaret Collins & Julie Barnum

Head Usher..... Dale Young

Acolytes..... Addison & Ella

Nursery Leader..... Amy Hume

Nursery Assistant..... Elizabeth Hartman

Welcome Table..... Mary VanGessel

Intercessory Prayer ...

Scripture Reader..... Sharon Helsel

Fellowship Time..... United Methodist Men

Save the Date

May 10 12–7 PM.. Community Blood Drive

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

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

May 13..... Mother's Day

May 19–20..... Change the World Weekend

May 20..... Day of Pentecost—**wear red to church**

..... Graduate Sunday

May 22 6 PM..... Staff-Parish Relations Committee

6:30 PM .. Trustees

May 27..... Peace with Justice 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.