

June 13, 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](http://www.spartaumc.com).

### Where was the first Father's Day service?

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (UMC.org) — Do you know where the first Father's Day service was held? Check your knowledge about Father's Day with a quiz from United Methodist Communications. [Take the quiz](#)



### Help Needed at Sparta UMC's Free Community Breakfast

The Community Breakfast reaches out to those who are struggling emotionally, financially and spiritually.

Every fourth Saturday of the month, spirit-led volunteers from Sparta UMC join together to provide a meal to over 100 people in our community. More volunteers are needed to set up, cook, serve and clean up—a time commitment of up to four hours. Breakfast is served from 8 to 10 AM. Please come to the church dining room at 7 AM on June 23 to see where you can plug in!

### Denny's Hike

As of May 4, Denny Knappen had hiked a total of 823 miles of the Appalachian Trail before having to come home due to the passing of his wife's mother. Prior to that, he had already decided to leave the trail at the half-way mark of 1,096 miles after having lost too much weight. Denny has decided not to return to the trail this year and possibly not at all.

If you have not yet turned in your pledge for Denny's Hike, you may do so by marking your pledge "Denny's Hike" in the memo and placing in the Sunday offering. Your gift will benefit the Youth Ministries of Sparta UMC.

Along with our Youth Ministry, Denny and De Knappen would like to thank you all for the enormous amount of support and prayers received throughout this adventure!

On a personal note, De would also like to thank everyone for the thoughts, prayers, hugs and cards extended over the passing of her mom.

**United at Last:** Michigan United Methodists, east and west, celebrated a faithful legacy and anticipated a strong future together when they met for Annual Conference May 31 - June 3, 2018. Thank you Pastor Phil and Jim Bosserd for your dedication to attend this important event. [Read more](#)

Hilary Miller's Grandma Shirley—hip surgery June 19, but having blood pressure problems  
Prayers for summer travelers and people who work outside



### Please Bring Your Family Fare & Econofoods Receipts to Church

Donating your Family Fare / Econofoods receipts to Sparta UMC supports the missions of the church. Bring your receipts to church, leaving the *entire* grocery receipt in the blue basket distributed at the conclusion of the worship service, or leave in the white mail box in Wesley Hall, or in the church office. To date, we have received \$123,011 in Direct Your Dollars receipts!

The Direct Your Dollars amount is noted at the bottom of your cash register receipt. When Sparta UMC has collected \$150,000 in Direct Your Dollar receipts, Missions will receive \$1,000. (FYI: some purchases do not apply, like gasoline and gift cards from Family Fare)

Receipts that qualify can come from any of the 160 SpartanNash-owned retail stores or fuel centers in nine states.



### This Week's Upcoming Birthdays & Anniversaries

- |         |                    |         |                        |
|---------|--------------------|---------|------------------------|
| June 17 | Trevor Miling      | 6/18/60 | Earl & Pat Babcock     |
| June 19 | Nicholas Hartman   | 6/18/60 | Gordon & Sharon Helsel |
| June 20 | Doris Snyder       | 6/20/09 | Jim & Carla VanAsselt  |
| June 22 | Anthony Levandoski | 6/21/75 | Steve & Terri Miling   |
| June 23 | Roger Osbeck       |         |                        |

**Worship Music Opportunities!** There are opportunities to provide special music at church worship services this summer. If you would like to schedule a solo or group, the following dates are available. Please contact Peggy Odren or Steve Barnum if you would like to fill one of these dates: June 24; July 15, 22, 29; September 2.

### Church Council Highlights June 5, 2018

Devotion inspired by Matthew 6:27: Dear God, help us remember you are always with us. Amen.

Vision Team will review and discern the results of the survey taken at worship time on June 3, 2018.

Development of job descriptions for each committee: The committees are asked to make up their own description using the Leadership Directory descriptions, and make changes. Then the Vision Team will review their results. The descriptions should include a meeting schedule to be published at the beginning of the year, and the committee should identify its chairperson.

The following appointments were approved: Gail Friedrich for Family Camp Coordinator. Jane and Mark Kingshott, Julie Barnum and Mike Maksimchuk for Traditional/Blended Worship Design Team.

Finance approved the production of a memorials brochure. Finance is working on reciprocal audits with another UM church. As of the end of May, income over expenses is \$3,391, and the General Fund balance is \$12,407. A church credit card account has been opened. Remodel of the educational rooms will be detailed and articulated to the congregation.

Small group study coming in January; the Nooma series for our fall study, along with the Quill stewardship program. Pastor will distribute the syllabus to Council.

Ministry Opportunities: Exodus Place BBQ June 13, 4–8:30 — Volunteers are needed. Little Dresses for Africa Sewing Project June 19, 9 AM. Free Community Breakfast June 23, 8–10 AM.

Upcoming Worship & Events Schedule: Father’s Day June 17. Howard Montgomery Education Fund Annual Meeting June 25. United Methodist Missionaries Lester and Deborah Dornon will be visiting Sparta UMC August 5. We will hear about their mission work and enjoy a church potluck.

Pastor distributed the church’s current wedding policy and a proposed new draft for consideration. The Trustees are reviewing the document; SPRC will also look it over.

### Schedules

Tuesdays  
9:30 AM .....Girl Talk Study Group

Wednesdays  
6 PM.....Worship Design Team

4th Thursday of the Month  
6 PM .....Vision Team

Sundays  
10:10 AM .....Morning Worship Celebration  
10:30 AM .....Pre-K – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Sunday School

### 10:10 AM Worship Attendant Volunteers June 17

Soundboard .....Doug Shupe & Kerry Emelander  
Head Usher .....Alan Hartman  
Acolytes .....Michelle & Dylan  
Nursery Assistant .....Kathy Reed  
Welcome Table .....Margaret Blaauw  
Intercessory Prayer ....Barb Taylor  
Scripture Reader .....Brandon Ingersoll  
Fellowship Time .....Sparta United Methodist Women

### Save the Date

June 13 4 PM .....Exodus Place BBQ  
June 17 .....Father’s Day  
June 19 9 AM .....Little Dresses for Africa Sewing Project  
June 23 8–10 AM ...Free Community Breakfast  
June 25 6 PM .....Howard Montgomery Education  
Committee Annual Meeting  
June 26 6 PM .....GriefShare Potluck  
6 PM .....SPRC  
7 PM ..... Trustees (Note time change)

July 6, 7 PM—  
Tribute Quartet at Sparta Baptist Church

Unity Fest at Heritage Landing in Muskegon:  
August 8, 4 PM—David Crowder  
August 9, 1 PM—MercyMe  
August 10, 1 PM—Casting Crowns  
August 11, 1 PM—For King & Country  
and 15 other bands

Tickets for the Youth are covered through their fundraising. Details coming, including pricing for adults to attend.



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.