

August 22, 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.

WE'RE HIRING!

Sparta United Methodist Church has an immediate opening for the custodian position of our church. The position is for 16 hours per week weekday mornings, with some flexibility needed for extra events.

Job responsibilities include cleaning of church building and the Offices & Ministry Building, set-up for meetings and events, and stocking supplies.

Interested candidates should contact the church right away at spartaumc.employment@gmail.com, mail a resume to the church office (54 E. Division St., Sparta MI 49345), or stop by the office to complete a job application.



New Choir singers are always welcome. If you are interested in joining the Adult Choir or have questions about choir,

please see Adult Choir Director Steve Barnum. You are welcome to attend a special welcome night at a try-it-out rehearsal Wednesday, Sept. 12, at 7:00 PM.

Our Adult Choir is a great and welcoming group. We are all one in song and verse! Reading music is not required but helpful. We help you share your song in service to the Lord.

Flu Shot Clinic Coming to Sparta UMC September 16

The community flu shot clinic will be held after morning worship celebration on Sunday, Sept. 16, in Wesley Hall from 11:30 AM to 1 PM.

Board moves to slash general church funds

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (UMNS) — The board of The United Methodist Church's finance agency approved changes to apportionments that would cut more than \$105 million from the 2021-2024 general church budget. The goal is to keep more funds within U.S. local churches, but that's not guaranteed. Heather Hahn reports.

[Read story](#)

Put On Your Dancing Shoes!

Family Fun Night Square Dance!
Saturday, Sept. 29, 6:30 to 8 PM
Sparta UMC Dining Room

Nursery provided for the littlest ones.

Bring the family to enjoy fellowship, snacks, music and dance

The adult choir is hosting this event. A free-will offering will be taken to help offset the expenses for the fall choir retreat.



Square Dance



Remember Who You Are

Sunday Mornings 8:30-9:45 AM
Beginning September 16

Sparta UMC's Offices & Ministry Building
Led by Julie Barnum

Do you want to go deeper into the Bible? Join me!
Do you feel you're too busy to do this? You're not!
In the first 12 weeks of this study, we will study the Major and Minor Prophets of the Old Testament (except Daniel). The second 12 weeks will explore the Letters of Paul. Please join me! Let Julie Barnum know by Sept. 9 so we can order enough materials. Text or call Julie at 616.881.6204 or email julequilts@yahoo.com.

Sharon Helsel—continued prayers for daughter Mary's cancer treatments
Kathy Reed asks for prayers for family friend with high-risk pregnancy



Dear God,
Thank you for the Holy Spirit's help in prayer. Amen.

This Upcoming Week's



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Aug.26 Paul Spangenberg | 8/26/95 |
| Isabella Larsen | Dave & Joanna Huizenga |
| Aug. 30 Warren Guiles | 8/26/17 |
| Jackson Morris | Jackson & Michelle Morris |
| Caelin Murdock | 8/28/64 |
| Sept. 1 Wendy Greeno | Wayne & Jan Anderson |
| Elizabeth Hartman | 8/29/59 |
| | Ron & Jeanne Drier |

Join One or More Faith Formation Groups in September

God's World and God's People—Exploring Genesis,
Adult Bible Study with Tim Shangle, 8:45 AM Sundays in
the church dining room, Sept. 9 – Nov. 25. Nursery is
available during this study, so this is an excellent oppor-
tunity for all adults to learn God's Word together.

Real Life — Real Faith 40 Days of Getting It Together
All-church, small-group Fall study beginning the week of
September 23

This 40-day study is based on an exciting short movie
series produced by Nooma Films. The theme of each
week will be introduced in Sunday worship with small-
group discussions held at various times throughout the
week. This will be supported by short daily Bible readings.

There will be opportunities to sign up for small groups
beginning Sunday, September 9. Daily study books will
be available on September 16. Day One of this 40-day
adventure is Sunday, Sept. 23. We hope that everyone
finds this time of reflection and interaction vital to their
spiritual journey.



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

Support the missions of Sparta UMC. 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 \$130,308 in Direct Your Dollars receipts!

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

Schedules

Tuesdays
9:30 AMGirl Talk Study Group

Wednesdays
6 PM.....Worship Design Team

4th Thursday of the Month
6 PMVision Team

Sundays
10:10 AMMorning Worship Celebration
10:30 AMPre-K – 5th Grade Sunday School

10:10 AM Worship Attendant Volunteers August 26

SoundboardChad & Shelly Murdock
Head UsherDale Young
Nursery AssistantsCaelin & Camryn Murdock
Welcome TableAnna Mae Spangenberg
Scripture ReaderBrenda McCracken
Fellowship TimeTrustees

Save the Date

Aug. 28 6 PMGriefShare Potluck

Aug. 30 6 PMUMW Executive Board

Aug 31–Sept 3.....Family Camp @ Lakeview UM Camp

Sept. 3Labor Day (Offices Closed)

Sept. 4 5:45 PMFinance & Stewardship
6:30 PM.....Church Council

Sept. 8 8 AMMen's Mealtime Rally

Sept. 9Signup at church with a small group
for the all-church study

Sept. 11 6 PMGriefShare (Sept. 11 – Dec. 4)

Sept. 12 9:30 AMMary/Martha Circle
.....Dorcas Circle
7 PM....Adult Choir Try-It-Out Welcome Rehearsal

Sept. 13 12–7 PM ...Community Blood Drive

Sept. 16 8:45 AM ...DISCIPLE Fast Track begins
11:30–1 PM ...Flu Shot Clinic in Wesley Hall
.....Pick up your copy of the all-church
study material at church

Worship Assistant Openings

Altar Flowers September 30
Fellowship Time September 16 & 23
Sign up in the church parlor to serve!

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.