

September 12, 2018

**Fall Kickoff & Tailgate Sunday, September 16**  
**Wear your favorite team shirt or jersey to church**



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).



hand2hand

The first week for packing bags for Hand2Hand will be September 16 at Sparta Baptist Church. This will be the week nice black drawstring backpacks with the Spartan logo will be distributed.

The 16<sup>th</sup> happens to be the Fall Kickoff & Tailgate at Sparta UMC, so everyone will enjoy a great time of fellowship as well as an opportunity to join our first Hand2Hand food packing taking place after Sparta Baptist Church's worship service, at about 12:15 PM. The second Hand2Hand food packing occurs on September 23 (same time and place).

**Highlights of the Church Council Meeting**  
**September 4, 2018**

Devotion: 1 Corinthians 3:5–15: Actions and works should glorify God; we all have a part in God's plan.

Vision Team is heading up fall's stewardship plan. They will revisit the One-Page Plan and provide updates. They are waiting for more responses from committee leaders of the position description contained in the Leadership Directory.

Appointments for Leadership Directory—Pastor Phil will talk to two candidates for the Worship Support Team.

Update of Children & Youth Educational Rooms Renovation—a working TV is needed in the nursery. Ceilings are almost done. Finishing touches, clean up, step flooring needed yet. Crib, rocking chair, and baby swing needed.

Custodian Position—Tena Stuhan was hired and began Sept. 4 with hours from 3–7 PM five days a week. Opening the church building will be coordinated by those using the building.

Preparation for Church Conference Dec. 9, 2018—Reports to be completed by committees are in the chairpersons' hands. Leadership Directory worksheets were distributed containing openings.

Ministry Opportunities—Free Community Breakfast Sat., Sept. 22, 8–10 AM

Upcoming Worship & Events—Community Blood Drive Sept. 13, Noon –7 PM. Sept. 16: Fall Kickoff & Tailgate Party; DISCIPLE *Remember Who You Are* study 8:30–9:45 AM with Julie Barnum; *Real Life Real Faith* small-group study materials distributed; Flu Shot Clinic, 11:30 AM – 1 PM. *Real Life Real Faith* six-week sermon series begins Sept. 23. Family Fun Night Square Dance Sat., Sept. 29, 6:30 PM in the church dining room: This is a fundraiser for the Adult Choir's retreat.

The District Superintendent is encouraging churches to attend Reach Summit in East Lansing November 2 and 3. Pastor Phil is attending Nov. 3 and invites anyone interested in going to join him. Please contact Pastor Phil if you would like to go. November 4 is the Celebration Dinner with a pig roast. We will celebrate All Saints Day Nov. 11. The Youth Auction will be November 18.

**Real Life, Real Faith Small Group Study Opportunities**

All Groups Meet at the Offices & Ministry Building

Tuesdays beginning Sept. 18, 9:30 AM

Sundays beginning Sept. 23, 5:30 PM

Wednesdays beginning Sept. 26, 6:30 PM

Thursdays beginning Sept. 27, 6:30 PM

The material is free and can be picked up in the church parlor.



Adult Choir has kicked off with a cookout. We thank Pastor Phil and Gail for inviting us to start our year with a cookout at the parsonage. Everyone who attended had a wonderful time even though it was rainy.

We are singing this Sunday, and all is back in place for a great year.

Normal rehearsals are

Wednesdays at 7 PM, but we are seeking child care helpers if needed and will move rehearsal to 6:30 to accommodate those with child care needs. *(continued on next page)*



*This Upcoming Week's*

**BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARY**

- Sept. 18 Bob Shangle
- Sept. 19 Michael Maksimchuk
- Sept. 20 Barb Taylor  
Natalie Gross
- Sept. 21 Grant Kelley  
Gwen Kelley
- Sept. 22 Denny Knappen  
Paula Briggs  
Richelle Rasmussen

9/19  
Terry & Diane Hartman



Also a fall rehearsal retreat is planned at Lake Louise Camp Oct. 11–13. New choir members may attend with a \$30 deposit. We are raising funds to help defray the rest of the cost with a Family Fun Night Square Dance Sept. 29 6:30 to 8 PM in the church dining room. The entire community is invited. A free-will offering will be taken.

—Steve Barnum, Adult Choir Director

Dorothy Hendricks—currently struggling financially. Asking for prayers to find a better-paying job with good benefits. Thank you. God bless.

Mary Scott’s former co-worker has Stage 4 cancer.

Loss of Marlene Marble, family of Sparta



I would like to thank everyone who supported our church at the Celtic Festival in August. We had many different people assisting with their time and talents. We all worked together as a church family obtaining and cooking food, acquiring the necessary permit, setup and take down, and all of the busy work in between to accomplish a huge undertaking. We don’t think we served the 2,000 we were told to expect, but we sure did feed a lot! Many hands made our part of the event possible. We received many compliments about the bangers, mash, and Reuben sandwiches served. Thank you everyone.

Margaret Collins, UMW President



“North Kent Pastors’ Feud” on October 4 is a Family Feud-style game show. Enjoy hearty appetizers and hors d’oeuvres beginning at 6 PM. The program starts at 7 PM.

Teams of pastors\*, Rotarians and Lions Club members battle against each other by naming the most popular answer to various survey questions, often to hilarious results. Single ticket (\$75) sales begin Sept. 11 (call NKC at 866.3478). Proceeds benefit the food and educational programs of North Kent Connect, a resource center serving northern Kent County.

### Schedules

- Tuesdays
  - 9:30 AM ..... Girl Talk Study Group
  - 6 PM ..... GriefShare (Sept. 11–Dec. 4)
- Wednesdays
  - 6 PM ..... Worship Design Team
  - 7–8 PM ..... Adult Choir practice
- 4th Thursday of the Month
  - 6 PM ..... Vision Team
- Sunday mornings
  - 8:45–11:45 ..... Nursery (ages 0–4 years)
  - 8:30–9:45 ..... DISCIPLE Bible Study
  - 9:00 ..... Adult Bible Study
  - 9:00 ..... Middle & Senior High Sunday School
  - 9:00 ..... Craft & Prayer Time (Pre-K – 5th)
  - 9:30 ..... Children’s Choir Practice (Pre-K – 5th)  
Parents: pick up your child at 10 AM from practice
  - 9:50 ..... Adult Choir pre-service rehearsal
  - 10:10 ..... Morning Worship Celebration
  - 10:30 ..... Pre-K – 5th Grade Sunday School

### 10:10 AM Worship Attendant Volunteers September 16

- Soundboard ..... Chad & Shelly Murdock
- Head Usher ..... Dale Young
- Nursery Assistant ..... Mindy Tilli
- Greeters ..... Diane Young & Joyce Marohn
- Welcome Table ..... Eva Cone
- Intercessory Prayer .... Cindy Young
- Scripture Reader ..... Mary Eggleston
- Fellowship Time ..... Tailgate Party

### Save the Date

- Sept. 16 ..... Fall Kickoff & Tailgate Party  
..... Bibles to 3rd Graders  
11:30–1 PM ...Flu Shot Clinic in Wesley Hall  
..... Pick up your copy of the all-church study material at church  
12:15 PM ..Hand2Hand lunch packing
- Sept. 18 6:30 PM ..Trustees
- Sept. 22 8–10 AM ..Free Community Breakfast
- Sept. 23 ..... Day One of 6-week sermon series
- Sept. 25 7 PM ..... Adult Choir practice (not 9/26)
- Sept. 27 6 PM ..... UMW Executive Board
- Sept. 29 6:30 PM ..Family Fun Night Square Dance
- Oct. 3 6:30 PM ...Planned Giving Seminar
- Oct. 4 6 PM ..... Pastors’ Feud @ Meijer Gardens  
Fundraiser for North Kent Connect  
⇒ \*Come cheer on Pastor Phil!

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.