

October 3, 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.

October is Clergy Appreciation Month

Ways to Thank Your Pastor — by Ed Stetzer & Chris Martin

1. Pray for them. Take time each day to pray for the church staff. Pray for their emotional well-being, their physical strength, their spiritual wellness, and any specific needs you know. This is definitely the simplest and perhaps most impactful way you can support our church leaders. Before you do any of the following, be sure to pray.
2. Write an encouraging letter. Letters of encouragement, especially handwritten ones, are true treasures. Thank pastor and leaders for their time outside the typical workday. Share Scripture that may be encouraging. Tell about how the Lord has been using ministry to make you more like Jesus. Write about a friend who came to Christ.
3. Serve in church. Ask leaders where they need help. Spend a couple of months being a greeter. Help with youth groups. Volunteer to hold and pray for babies while their parents worship in the sanctuary.
4. Give generously. Pastors aren't in the ministry for the money. You can show your appreciation for pastor by giving generously and viewing your gifts as an act of worship, not merely ministry maintenance.
5. Encourage the families of our church leaders the same way you encourage the church leaders: prayer, notes and acts of kindness.
6. Speak well of the church. The body of Christ is a wounded body because it is made up of wounded people. Don't add salt to its wounds. Speak of the bride of Christ as you would like someone to speak of your spouse.

Be an encourager and celebrate Pastor Phil and his family with Sparta UMC on October 7.

Prayers for kids of divorced parents
Sharon Helsel's daughter Mary needs prayers for next cancer treatment schedule

From Mary Ellen Kimble: sister-in-law's brother Bruce, aorta surgery in November. Co-teacher's dad Frank, slow knee surgery recovery and cancer



Pick up your complete pork loin dinner Sunday, Oct 14, after worship service.

The dinner is hosted by the Sparta United Methodist Women. The cost is your generous donation, which supports the missions of the Sparta UMW. Take-out is available.

Signup at church to spend about an hour enjoying dessert and hearing of the future of Sparta UMC. Thank you to our hosts for opening their homes and providing a marvelous dessert. There are six opportunities to gather, so please signup at church or contact the church office. Thank you.

Dessert/Coffee Gatherings

Mon., Oct. 8, 7 PM	Steve & Julie Barnum 10910 Peach Ridge Ave., Sparta
Wed., Oct. 24, 7 PM	De & Denny Knappen 12133 D Mar Dr., Greenville
Thurs., Oct. 25, 7 PM	Kurt & Amy Burmeister 11530 Cedar Lane, Sparta
Fri., Oct. 26, 7 PM	Mike & Tena Stuhan 349 Fair Lane, Sparta
Sat., Oct. 27, 7 PM	Jim & Jane Bosserd 3631 13 Mile Rd., NW, Sparta
Sun., Oct. 28, 6 PM	Chad & Shelly Murdock 1355 Murdock Dr., Sparta



This Upcoming Week's **BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARY**

Oct. 7	Alesha Kutlzi Linda Lindsay	10/9/10
Oct. 10	Michelle Morris	Brandon & Ashley Ingersoll
Oct. 11	Spencer Riordan	10/10/14
Oct. 12	Gail Friedrick	Kevin & Michelle Fitzgerald
Oct. 13	Carol Schulz	

Did you happen to take home a Pyrex dish by accident? Julie Levandoski's Pyrex cake pan was mistakenly taken recently from the church kitchen. Julie had made an apple crisp for church, but when she came to pick up the dish, it was not there. It may have been for the Tailgate Party Sept. 16. Please check to see if you picked up her Pyrex pan by mistake (Julie would appreciate it). Thank you.

Highlights of the Oct. 2, 2018 Church Council Meeting

Devotion: Even when God's answer isn't the one you want, God is still in control.

Discussion & Consensus of Candidates—after discernment and prayer for one month: By unanimous consent the following appointments were approved: Brandon Ingersoll Lead Tech Operator / Audiovisuals Operation. Millie Cass for Trustees immediately with term ending 2021. John Chance for Trustees beginning 2019 with term ending 2021.

New wedding policy: Council approved the proposed new policy.

Update of Children & Youth Educational Rooms Renovation: Waiting on lights and flooring on stair steps.

Update on preparation for Church Charge Conference Dec. 9, 2018: A reminder to the committee chairs will be sent this week to please complete and return the reports sent to them.

Finance: Utilities are going to be over budget; otherwise, everything is running close. Discussion ensued about lack of churches paying Ministry Shares, including Sparta UMC. The 2019 Budget Request forms will be distributed this week.

Review of Family Camp Registration Guidelines. Guidelines to soon be published.

Ministry Opportunities: Feeding America Food Truck, Oct. 9, 4:30 PM. Free Community Breakfast Sat., Oct. 27, 8–10 AM. Trunk or Treat @ Sparta Baptist, Oct. 31, 5–8 PM (let M. Blaauw know by 10/21 of your participation).

Upcoming Worship & Events Schedule: Pastor's Feud with Pastor Phil @ Meijer Gardens Oct. 4 (fundraiser for North Kent Connect). Sunday, Oct. 7—World Communion Sunday; Pastor Appreciation Sunday. Adult Choir Retreat Oct. 11–13. Sunday, Oct. 14—Guest Preacher Rev. Dick Riley; All-Church Pork Loin Dinner Oct. 14 (fundraiser for the Sparta United Methodist Women). Hand2Hand food packing Oct. 28, 11:45 AM. Exodus Place Annual Dinner Nov. 1, 5:30 PM. New Consecration Sunday Pig Roast Nov. 4 after worship service (Daylight Saving Time ends Nov. 3).

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 October 7

Soundboard Chad & Shelly Murdock
Head Usher Dale Young
Nursery Assistant Amy Hume
Welcome Table Millie Cass
Intercessory Prayer Amy Bannink-Burmeister
Communion Assistants... Ron & Jeanne Drier
Scripture Reader Julie Barnum
Fellowship Time Pastor Appreciation Sunday hosted by Staff-Parish Relations Committee

Save the Date

Oct. 7 World Communion Sunday offering
..... Pastor Appreciation Celebration
Oct. 9 4:30 PM Food Truck, food distribution
Oct. 10 9:30 AM Mary/Martha Circle
..... Dorcas Circle
Oct. 11–13 Adult Choir Retreat
Oct. 14 Guest Preacher Rev. Dick Riley
..... All-Church Pork Loin Dinner
..... UMW fundraiser
Oct. 16 6:30 PM Trustees
Oct. 21 Deadline to register with Margaret Blaauw for Oct. 31 Trunk or Treat candy distribution
Needed: **Donated candy** to be handed out.
Please leave your donation in the church office.
Oct. 25 6 PM UMW Executive Board

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.