

November 21, 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).

### Adult Bible Study beginning December 2

*Our Love for God*

Hear and discuss how God commands our love, respect and obedience, how to love God by trusting Christ, and love songs that glorify God. Adult Bible Study begins at 9 AM Sunday mornings in the church dining room. Study material is provided. Nursery and activities for children and youth are available at 9 AM as well.

### United Methodist Student Day

When you support United Methodist Student Day at church November 25, you make it possible for more students to serve the world God loves. So although you can't meet every need you'd like to, your giving allows members of Christ's body to do it in Jesus' name. Will you give on United Methodist Student Day?

[Read stories about the impact you are making with your gifts.](#)



hand2hand.

We have one more Hand2Hand packing left to do this month. It will take place after church this Sunday, November 25.

The Hand2Hand program provides supplemental weekend food for about 55 children of families needing some extra assistance or are experiencing a hardship. We help students at Applevue Elementary School (3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grades).



**To Members of Sparta UMC:** The Annual Charge Conference of Sparta United Methodist Church will be held Sunday, Dec. 9, 2018, at 2 PM at the Cedar Springs United Methodist Church (140 S. Main St, Cedar Springs). The agenda includes reports of Lay Leadership, Membership, Pastor, Ministry Shares paid, and other groups and individuals within the church, as well as Staff-Parish Relations Committee's (SPRC) motions for members to vote on clergy salary support and furnishings allowance. The SPRC will meet with the District Superintendent at 1:30 PM Saturday, Dec. 8, at the Cedar Springs UMC.



**Goal Attained & Exceeded!** For a little over two years, Sparta UMC has been collecting Direct Your Dollar sales receipts from Spartan/Nash Stores. The goal was \$150,000 in receipts, and we made it! Our Mission Team will receive \$1,000 to use toward the missions of the church. Thank you *everyone* who participated.

### Sparta UMC's Missions Team Announces Church World Service (CWS) Best Gift



Ever wonder why we put so much pressure on ourselves to find the "best gift"? At the heart of it, we want to let others know we care about and love them. We want to offer one sacred moment of hope, love, joy and peace.

The Best Gift list below is so important because it gives that moment (and a lifetime of those moments) to people all over the world—from the family who is hungry, to the child who desperately wants to learn, to the person living on the street who could use some comfort and warmth. Your gift represents more than the items on this page. It represents our deep connection and commitment to one another. It's the Best Gift because you become part of that connection.

Please indicate your Best Gift quantity and make your check payable to "Sparta UMC". You may leave these items in the offering plate on any Sunday or mail to the church office. More information is available at the BEST GIFT table in the parlor now until December 16.

Your Best Gift	Price	Qty.	Total
A goat in Haiti	\$65		
School supplies for refugee children in the U.S.	\$50		
Drop-in shelter services for a child in Serbia	\$35		
A biosand water filter for a family in Vietnam	\$30		
Books for 10 students in Vietnam	\$20		
1 rooster and 2 hens in Myanmar	\$18		
Rehabilitation for a severely malnourished child in Indonesia	\$15		
A CWS Hygiene Kit	\$15		
10 concrete blocks for house walls in Haiti	\$10		
A CWS Blanket	\$10		
4 cans of corn for farmers to plant in Haiti	\$10		
A visit to a health center for a refugee child in Indonesia	\$5		
TOTAL			

