

November 7, 2018

Veterans Day
November 11



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.



The family of Richard and Eva Cone warmly invite you to join in celebrating the 70th Wedding Anniversary of their parents.

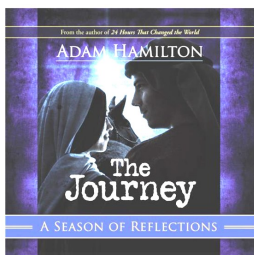
Please come for a meal and fellowship on **Sunday, Nov. 25, 4 to 6:30 PM** at Sparta UMC's dining room. No gifts please but your presence is appreciated.

Lifelong Saints—Rather than limit the celebration of saints to one Sunday, some churches now observe a Season of Saints from World Communion Sunday (the first Sunday in October) to All Saints' Sunday (the first Sunday in November).

Saints aren't merely exceptional Christians, writes worship director Taylor Burton-Edwards. Instead, they're simply believers, all of whom are undergoing a lifetime of transformation into Christ's own people.

Pointing to a saint-themed hymn by Charles Wesley, Burton-Edwards notes that the lyrics are intended to be an "anthem for a lifetime," not a once-yearly occasion.

*Come, let us join our friends above
who have obtained the prize,
and on the eagle wings of love
to joys celestial rise.
Let saints on earth unite to sing
with those to glory gone,
for all the servants of our King
in earth and heaven are one.*



Travel the road to Jesus' birth in this five-week study to the Christmas celebration.

The purpose of this study is to explore the story of Jesus' birth with fresh eyes and ears. We will

walk through the Holy Land and retrace the steps of those involved. We'll draw upon insights gained from historians, archaeologists, biblical scholars, theologians and from walking in the places the story occurred, all in an effort to discover the real meaning of Christmas.

Small groups are forming, and group facilitators are needed. Please contact Pastor Phil or Toni for more information. Sessions begin the week of December 2. To order books (\$8 participant's book, \$9 daily *Reflections*), please use Sunday's Next Step Card by Nov. 18 or contact the church office.

John & Doris Snyder—health issues
Joanna Huizenga—eye surgery Nov. 7
Noah Kamper—ear surgery soon



Watch for information November 11 regarding Church World Service special offering for November. In lieu of blankets, CWS has updated its missional opportunities. Sparta UMC's Mission Team will announce the missions we will support.

Commission on General Conference

Pre-registration for GC2019 now available

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Guests and observers to the 2019 special General Conference can now pre-register online. Registration is required to attend the General Conference sessions, which will be held in St. Louis Feb. 23-26. Early registration is available through Jan. 31.

[Read press release](#) [Pre-register](#)



I would like to thank Doug Shupe for doing the brakes on my car and Joanna Huizenga for her wonderful help with so much. There are two anonymous donors that I have to thank as well. Thank you also to Pastor Phil for his help and support. And many thanks to everyone for your continued prayers through my time of struggles. Please continue to pray for that job to come forth. I have such a beautiful church family, and I am ever so grateful! God bless you all.

Thank you,
Dorothy Hendricks

Many thanks to the following families who are willing to host Fellowship Time at church in December:

- Dec. 9 Morris & Stuhan Families
- Dec. 16 Eggleston & E. Babcock Families
- Dec. 23 M. Hartman & Kids
- Dec. 30 The Chance Family

26th
Annual

Youth
Talent
Auction

Sunday, November 18

Following worship service. Light lunch by donation at 11:30 AM, bidding at 11:45.

It's success depends on your donation and bidding on auction day: **more of both are needed.**

Please leave your donated item in the church parlor by Nov. 16; food items can be brought in Nov. 18.

NAME _____

DONATION _____

Donated items so far include pickled beets, popcorn, pillows, pictures, jar of candy, wooden child's banks, watercolor print, dish clothes & mini dish clothes, salted toffee pretzel candy, a home-cooked meal with a side, 3 hours of SAT/English/grammar tutoring, cheesecake made to order, baklava, 8-inch square cherry cobbler, framed watercolor originals, fudge sauce, photo of Live Cedar by Manistee photographer, 4 nights/5 days in Branson MO condo, 8-ft heavy-duty picnic table, bicycle, pumpkin pies and maple syrup.

The Staff-Parish Relations Committee would like to let the congregation know that we are in the process of Pastor Phil's Annual Assessment for our upcoming Annual Conference. We would like to have input from the congregation and welcome it throughout the year. Please contact any SPRC member:

Jane Bosserd jbosserd@gmail.com
Brad Greeno bsgreeno@gmail.com
Jim Bosserd bosserdjim@gmail.com
Dale Young dlyjudas@icloud.com
Brandon Ingersoll brandon.ingersoll@gmail.com
Jane Wyckoff-Kingshott ms_wyckoff@yahoo.com
Ron Drier rondrier@hotmail.com
Camryn Murdock camryn.murdock@yahoo.com

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 (4:30 Nov. 11)
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 November 11

Soundboard Brandon Ingersoll & Isaiah Marks
Head Usher Alan Hartman
Nursery Assistants Caelin & Camryn Murdock
Welcome Table Bonnie Wilkinson
Greeter Mary Scott
Intercessory Prayer Paul Schulz
Scripture Reader Hilary Miller
Fellowship Time Kurt & Amy Burmeister

Save the Date

Nov. 8 Noon Community Blood Drive
Nov. 10 8:30 AM Men's Mealtime Rally
Nov. 11 International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church
..... All Saints Sunday (recognition)
..... Holy Communion
..... Soup & Chili Take-Out Fundraiser
11:45 AM.. Hand2Hand food packing
Nov. 14 9:30 AM ... Mary/Martha Circle
..... Dorcas Circle
Nov. 15 6 PM Vision Team
Nov. 18 26th Annual Talent Auction
6 PM Community Thanksgiving Service at Holy Family Catholic Church
Nov. 20 6:30 PM ... Trustees
Nov. 22 Thanksgiving Day (Offices Closed)
10–4 Church Dining Room in use

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.