



**Parking Information for December 9's Church Charge Conference:**

Cedar Springs UMC, 140 S. Main Street, one mile east of US 131, Exit 104. Main Street is also Northland Drive/Wolverine Blvd/East Beltline from Grand Rapids.

Ample off-street parking on Church Street (south of the church building). Handicapped parking spaces next to the church along the south side. Main parking lot is across the street from the building, south side of Church Street. Enter at the Church Street entrance and take the stairs or the lift to the next level. Greeters will assist you.

**On Saturday, Dec. 8,** SPRC's will meet in the Library/Parlor straight ahead.

**On Sunday, Dec. 9,** all will meet in the Sanctuary.

\*Note: There are limited handicapped spaces on the north side of the building if you arrive early. From this (north) parking lot, enter the building through the front door on Main Street and take the stairs or the elevator to the Sanctuary level.

**Help Wanted – Church Hiring New Office Manager**

As Toni Potes retires, our church will be hiring a new Office Administrative Assistant. This person is our primary office support person. He/She will be managing office volunteers, handling phones, receiving visitors, preparing publications (newsletters, bulletins, etc.), maintaining calendars and contacts, offering support to our pastor, managing building use, preparing PowerPoint presentations, maintaining social media platforms, overseeing accounts payable and payroll. She/He will work as a member of a team, with the goal of strengthening the ministries of our church. The office will be expanding our schedule. The new office schedule will be 9 AM to 3 PM Monday through Friday. If you know someone who might be interested, please direct them to our church office for additional information.

**Dec. 4, 2018, Church Council Meeting Highlights**

Devotion: Christmas Eve themes (7 PM Candlelight Service *The Christmas Candle*; 11 PM Candlelight in a Stable *The Huron Carol*) provide two simple values: (1) Along life's journey, there are going to be people to help. (2) Meet people where they are to share the Good News of God's Kingdom.

2020 Vision One-Page Plan / Updates: Vision Team will bring an update to the Church Charge Conference.

Council approved a balanced 2019 Budget and to pay 50% of the Ministry Shares due, and to pay one-half of one-fourth of the 2018 Ministry Shares.

Missions Team is receiving \$1,000 from the Direct Your Dollars program. It took two years to collect the receipts, and Missions would like to continue the program.

A gift was received to increase our audio/visual needs.

Ministry Opportunities: Exodus Place Christmas Dinner Tues., Dec. 11. Volunteers needed at 5:30 PM (meal at 6). Food Truck Food Distribution Dec. 11, 4:30 PM. Free Community Breakfast Dec. 22, 8–10 AM.

Upcoming Worship & Events: SPRC meeting with the DS Dec. 8, 1:30 PM. Sunday, Dec. 9: Church Charge Conference 2 PM at Cedar Springs UMC (thank you Mindy Tilli for taking notes at the Charge Conference); Joyful Noise Praise Night 6 PM. Sunday, Dec. 16: Children's Christmas Program during worship service; Retirement Recognition of Toni Potes during worship service; Fireside Story Time



Join Pastor Phil and Gail at the parsonage (1960 Skyview Drive) on Sunday, Dec. 16, at 4 PM to hear the story of St. Nicholas. Children, parents and grandparents are invited. Learn about the origins of Santa Claus. Light snacks provided.

**Dining Room Table Needed**

A family is in need of a dining table, with or without chairs. Please call Joanna Huizenga at 887-9182 if you have something available.



**Candlelight in a Stable 11 PM Christmas Eve**

This remarkable service will take place in a non-heated barn (please dress appropriately). Pastor Phil is in need of the following: old-style snow shoes, trapping furs, traps—anything that is of the fur trading period in this part of the world 350 years ago. Please contact Pastor Phil if you can help.

**Church Steps Up after Alaska Earthquake**

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (UMNS) — Alaska's most powerful earthquake since 1964 caused major road and property damage. It also knocked out power and water at an Anchorage home for people who have struggled with chronic alcoholism and homelessness. **Read story**



Order poinsettias through the church office for display on the altar Dec. 23 through the 30<sup>th</sup>. Designate in memory or in honor of a loved one. Orders and payment are **due in the church office (54 E. Division, Sparta, MI 49345) by the firm date of Sunday, Dec. 9.** Your flower(s) may be taken from the altar after worship December 30.

Given By: \_\_\_\_\_

Indicate the number of plants you want by your choice of color:

Red \_\_\_\_\_ White \_\_\_\_\_ Pink \_\_\_\_\_ Jingle-Bells \_\_\_\_\_

Marble \_\_\_\_\_

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$6.75 each)

In Memory of:

\_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of:

\_\_\_\_\_

at the parsonage with Pastor Phil, 4 PM. Christmas Eve: Candlelight Service 7 PM (Worship Attendant Volunteers Needed: lighting luminaries by 6:15 PM and picking up afterwards, shoveling and salting if needed at 6:15, ushering, candle distributing, nursery assistants, greeting, acolytes, scripture readers, Holy Communion assistants, or helping hands at the end of the service); Candlelight in a Stable 11 PM (Needed: fur-trading items distinctive of 350 years ago and tall propane heaters).  
SPRC posted the administrative assistant job opening on Indeed.

**Prayers** for Roger Tawney—loss of daughter Nov. 30.

### Recognition of Retiree Toni Potes

Our church will be giving a Love Gift to Toni in recognition of 17 years of service at Sparta UMC. If you would like to participate in this, there will be an envelope passed around the congregation to receive those gifts on December 16, or they may be dropped off in the church office to our volunteer receptionist.

### Schedules

Tuesdays

9:30 AM ..... Girl Talk Study Group

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 December 9

Soundboard ..... Doug Shupe & Kerry Emelander

Head Usher ..... Dale Young

Greeters ..... Ron & Jeanne Drier

Nursery Assistant ..... Kathy Reed

Welcome Table ..... Jackie Brewer

Intercessory Prayer .... Cindy Young

Scripture Reader ..... JoEllen Pinckney

Fellowship Time... Morris & Stuhan Families

### Save the Date

Dec. 8 1:30 PM.....SPRC meets with the DS

Dec. 9 2 PM.....Church Charge Conference at Cedar Springs United Methodist Church

6 PM.....Joyful Noise Praise Night

Dec. 11 4:30 PM ....Food Truck food distribution

6 PM.....Exodus Place Christmas Dinner

Dec. 12 11:30 AM ..Mary/Martha Circle Luncheon

.....Dorcas Circle

Dec. 16 .....Children’s Christmas Program

.....Retirement Recognition

4 PM.....Fireside Story Time @ Parsonage

Dec. 18 6:30 PM ....Trustees

Dec. 22 8–10 AM ...Free Community Breakfast

Dec. 23 .....dining room and kitchen in use

Dec. 24 7 PM .....Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

11 PM.....Candlelight in a Stable

11611 Peach Ridge Ave NW, Sparta

A special service hosted by Sparta UMC and Peace Lutheran Church

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.