

March 18, 2020



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.

CHURCHES CLOSE ACROSS THE NATION

What a difference a week has made in the life our church. Our doors are closed, but our phones and computer devices are working overtime. We are still the church, Pastor Phil is still on duty, and we are adjusting to what it means to provide ministry in the midst of the Coronavirus crisis. Today we are closing our church office until further notice, but Pastor Phil can be reached at 616-799-4281.

Changes Around Our Church

- **No face-to-face gatherings.** This includes worship and meetings. This also includes non-church groups using our facilities.
- **Office closed** until further notice.
- **Sunday worship live-streamed** on our Facebook page at 10:10 a.m. This capability will be very helpful on into the future for those who cannot be in church and for those who are traveling. You can also visit our Facebook page and watch our recorded service after it has been broadcast as well.
- **Kids Goodie Bags** can be found outside the east door of our church office with activities to keep kids active during our school closings.
- **Church offerings** can be sent to the church at:
Sparta United Methodist Church
54 East Division Street
Sparta, MI 49345
Or by making a donation from our webpage at:
www.spartaumc.com
- **Hand2Hand** is on a break as Sparta Public Schools are providing meals for all children throughout the week (and weekends!) at various pickup sites around the district. Go to the school website for more information.
- **Church altar flowers** will not be ordered during this time unless a special communication is made to Pastor Phil.
- **Easter Flowers** have been canceled for this year.

A Letter from Heather Westra

Please be in prayer for the world during this time. More specifically, pray for the children and youth to be Biblically guided by their parents and caregivers. We have been learning about the “Fruit of the Spirit” from Galatians 5:22-23: “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self control. Against such things. There is no law.”

I don't believe it is a coincidence that our next lesson was going to be faithfulness. Please talk about faithfulness with your families and friends. Look to Jesus Christ for hope! Look to God's Word for wisdom! I encourage you faithful disciples of Christ to reflect God's light into the world around you. The Holy God of the World is still Good! He is still in control! He is still worthy! Worthy of your praise and worship, trust and prayers. He is FAITHFUL ALWAYS!!! During a time when we feel like everything is changing from one minute to another... Have faith in our Lord who does not change!
Malachi 3:6

Brandon & Ashley Ingersoll Welcome Baby Freya

Freya Ann Ingersoll entered the world on Monday, March 16th, at 8:03 p.m. She weighed 9 pounds and was 21.25 inches long. What a bundle of joy!

Cards and notes can be sent to:
496 Atkinson Street
Sparta MI 49345

Ariael & Adis — Our Office Admin. Assistant Welcome Baby Rosie!

How happy we are to announce that on March 7th, Ariael gave birth to a healthy baby girl! Little Rosie arrived at 9:58 p.m. and was 20.5 inches long, and weighed 7.2 pounds. Ariael will be away on maternity leave for the next 5 weeks (returning, Monday, April 20th).

Cards and notes can be sent to:
Ariael & Adis Lynch
13706 Ritchie Ave. NE
Cedar Springs, MI 49319

