

January 24, 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.



Lasagna Dinner

The Sparta United Methodist Men will host the annual Lasagna Dinner on **Sunday, Feb. 4**, following worship service. Cost is by your generous donation. Proceeds benefit the ministries of the UM Men.

Men: Please include this event on your calendar and join in to help.

Auschwitz survivor, United Methodist dead at 92

WARSAW, Poland (UMNS) — A faithful and committed United Methodist who was one of the last surviving inmates of the infamous Auschwitz-Birkenau Nazi concentration camp died on Dec. 19, 2017. Jadwiga Bogucka-Regulska was 92. Kathy L. Gilbert reports.

[Read story](#)



GRIEF SHARE

The GriefShare support group will begin **Tuesday, Feb. 6**, and every Tuesday thereafter, concluding May 1, 2018. This support group is for anyone (ages 13 to adult) who has lost a loved one from an accident, illness, suicide or cancer. It is a 13-week course with each meeting consisting of watching a 40-minute DVD on different grief topics/situations. We spend another 30-to-60 minutes sharing whatever is on the hearts of those attending.

A participant can come to all or any of the meetings. Mary Ellen Kimble, Julie Bowden, Bonnie Shupe and Nancy Berger are the facilitators of this support group. It is an informal gathering offering coffee, tea, snacks before the meeting, and caring friendships. We have lost loved ones, have attended a GriefShare in the past, and found GriefShare very helpful. We want to offer the hope and healing that we received to those in the Sparta area.

The meetings begin at 6:30 PM and end at approximately 8:00 PM. The meetings are held in the Offices & Ministry Building living room of Sparta UMC. If you have any questions, please talk with Mary Ellen, Julie, Bonnie or Nancy.

Prayers for all who are hurting

Hilary Miller—injured foot

Hilary Miller's dad Jeff and grandfather Norman diagnosed with heart valve disease

Carla VanAsselt—at Mary Free Bed for breathing issues related to her cancer treatment

The Family of Viola Meyer—Viola passed away Jan. 23



The Sparta United Methodist Women will be mailing care packages to colleges students (college years one through four). If you have a student, contact Deb DeGlopper or the church office with the student's name, mailing address, college or university, and year of education.

If you would like to donate to the care packages, please leave your donation in the church kitchen by February 8, clearly identified for the care packages. The boxes will be mailed February 9. Thank you.

Thinking of Lent (Lent Begins February 14)

Ash Wednesday is February 14 / Easter is April 1

Advent prepares us for Christ's birth; Lent prepares us for the glorious act of Christ's resurrection. Churches have special services during the weeks of Lent, but it's what each of us does regarding our spiritual life that makes Lent most meaningful.

Lent is a good time to read, study and inwardly digest the four gospels. (The word gospel means "good news.")

Did you know? In the Republic of Ireland, Ash Wednesday is National No Smoking Day. The date was chosen because quitting smoking ties in with giving up luxury for Lent. In the United Kingdom, No Smoking Day was held for the first time on Ash Wednesday 1984 but is now fixed as the second Wednesday in March.

Get to know the good news. Learn, engage and enjoy the value of a small group setting.



Fellowship Time Hosts & Ushers Needed

There are openings for 2018 Fellowship Time Hosts and worship service ushers who are needed to help the head usher. Please check the signup bulletin board in the parlor to see where you can help. Usher duties are also posted on the board.

If we do not have hosts for Fellowship Time on a particular Sunday, that means there is no one to clean up coffee and punch cups, so the head usher will not make coffee and punch on those Sundays.

Fellowship Time Host Available Dates

Feb. 18 & 25 / March 11 & 18 / April 1 / June 10 & 24
 July 8, 22 & 29 / Aug. 5, 19 & 26 / Sept. 9, 16 & 23
 Dec. 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30

Every Sunday has Openings for Ushering

Altar Flowers Available Dates

March 11 & 18 / April 22 / May 20 / June 10 & 24
 July 1, 8, 22 & 29 / Aug. 5, 19 & 26
 Sept. 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30
 Oct. 14 & 21 / Nov. 4 & 25 / Dec. 9 & 16

Church Council Meeting Highlights of January 9, 2018

Devotion: Oswald Chambers "My Sacrifice Living".

Lay Leadership asked for ideas for 60-day or 12-month plan of action. They will develop job descriptions for each committee. Youth group: Heather is doing a great job and has ideas for this fall. Finance Chair is happy with year-end balance—\$9,000 in the black. Missions Committee ideas include more hands-on approach and localize. Finance Committee will meet before the February Council meeting. The committee structure will be updated for simplicity. Dale Young is getting info on a workshop for church safety with the State Police; five are interested in attending.

A joy mentioned, giving thanks at church for housing help received from our church.

Schedules

Choir Practices

Sundays

9:30 AM..... Children's (Parents: please pick up your child at 10 AM from practice)

9:50 AM..... Adult preservice rehearsal

Wednesdays 7 PM. Adult

Tuesdays

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

6:30 PM..... GriefShare (Feb. 6 to May 1)

Third Thursday of the Month

1 PM..... Reading Group

Sundays

8:45 AM..... Adult Sunday School

9 AM..... Middle School Sunday School

9 AM..... Pre-K – 5th Grade Craft/Prayer Time

10:10 AM..... Morning Worship Celebration

10:30 AM..... Pre-K – 5th Grade Sunday School

10:10 AM Worship Attendant Volunteers 28

Soundboard..... Chad & Shelly Murdock

Head Usher..... Alan Hartman

Acolytes..... Gabby & Addison

Ushers

Nursery Leader..... Amy Hume

Nursery Assistant Elizabeth Hartman

Welcome Table Margaret Blaauw

Intercessory Prayer ... Paul Schulz

Scripture Reader Mary Scott

Fellowship Time GriefShare

Save the Date

Jan. 27 8–10 AM... Free Community Breakfast

Feb. 4 Guest Preacher Loren Mote

..... Fundraiser Dinner following worship service, hosted by the UM Men

Feb. 5 6:30 PM..... Trustees

Feb. 6 6:30 PM..... Church Council

Feb. 7 6 PM..... SPRC

Feb. 14 Ash Wednesday

..... Dorcas Circle



This Coming Week's BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Jan. 31 Evelyn Blaauw

Feb. 3 Emily Tilli

2/3/00

Mike & Tena Stuhan

2/3/07

Ron & Karen Marohn

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.