

December 11, 2019



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.

NURSERY ATTENDANTS NEEDED



As our present Nursery Worker retires and our Church continues to grow, our Church Council has decided to hire 2 new Nursery Attendants. The position pays \$10 an hour and requires 3 hours of your time every Sunday morning. Please contact the Ministry Office at 616-887-8255 for application inquiries or Pastor Phil at 616-799-4281.

CHRISTMAS DINNER

Anyone who would like to help serve Christmas Dinner at Exodus Place on Tuesday, December 17th at 5:30 PM please contact Dale Young at 616-401-5304.

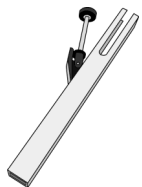


JOYFUL NOISE CANCELLED



Joyful Noise was cancelled last week due to an illness. The rescheduled date has also been cancelled.

CHIME BELL CHOIR



The Chime Bell Choir will be performing verse 1 of *O Little Town of Bethlehem* this Sunday, December 15th! Parents please have your kids come to the early 9:00 to 9:30 AM practice that day. Thank you, Mary Ellen Kimble

NEW SIGN-UP SHEETS POSTED

There are new sign up sheets posted in the Church Sanctuary for next year! Please take a look and sign up! Updated signs include: Alter Flowers, Fellowship Time and Welcome Table.



MEL TROTTER DONATIONS

Just a friendly reminder to bring your gently used donations to Mel Trotter in Jenison and Sparta. Just mention that you're apart of the Sparta United Methodist Church upon drop off.



Sparta UMC has partnered with Mel Trotter's *Corners of Your Field* program and your donations help give Mel Trotter Gift Cards to people in need in our community!

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM COSTUMES



Please don't forget! Once the Christmas Program costumes have been sewn, please drop it off on the table in the box labeled "finished". Please have all the costumes back to the table by December 18th, finished! These will be used at our next Practice and Pizza on December 19th from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM. If you have any questions please feel free to text or call Heather Westra at 616-298-6849.

NEW HAND2HAND FEATURED ITEMS

Based on the Hand2Hand menu we have planned for the kids in February, we will be collecting the following featured items from now through the end of January: pancake mix, maple syrup, canned chicken and rice or pasta sides (kid-friendly flavors that pair well with chicken). In addition, we always need individually packaged breakfast and snack items like oatmeal packets, Pop Tarts, applesauce/fruit cups, microwave popcorn, granola bars, peanut butter/cheese cracker sandwiches, fruit snacks, pudding cups, meat sticks, trail mix, etc. Thank you for your continued prayers and generous support of this mission as we bless kids in our community with weekend food!



Brenda McCracken

SAVE THE DATE

The **Children's Christmas Program** will be Sunday, December 22nd with Sunday's Service



Christmas Eve Services include:

7 PM Traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Service in the Church Sanctuary

11 PM a very Special Christmas Eve Service at Bettes Barn at the corner of Peach Ridge and 14 mile. The theme this year is "Just Another Homeless Family." All is welcome!

RECYCLING REMINDER



Please be sure to only put dry, clean recycling items into the recycling bins. Example of items to throw away include: used tissues, wet cardboard, & used food wrappers.

GIVING TREE

Please remember to take a tag off the Giving Tree in Wesley Hall! Please return your unwrapped gift by Sunday, December 15th and place it back under the tree.



Also needed are hats and waterproof mittens for the Sparta area schools. Those are due by December 15th under the Giving Tree as well.



Thank you,
Mindy Tilli

HEIFER INTERNATIONAL

Sparta UMC will be working with the Heifer International Organization this coming year! They help provide in the areas of livestock and agriculture to develop programs that alleviate hunger and poverty in the world. Gifts may be purchased though Epiphany. Stop by the display table in the Church Parlor for more information!



THANK YOU

Thank you for adorning the Altar this year with such beautiful flowers! A new sign up sheet is available in the Church Parlor for the upcoming year. Thank you,
Mindy Tilli



PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for my dear friend, Vivian. She is battling cancer. Thank you, Diane Jensen



Please send your warmest prayers to Kathi Meulenberg. She is recovering from shoulder surgery this week. Thank you, Mary Ellen Kimble

Schedules

Mondays

7 pmBoy Scouts Church Wesley Hall

Tuesdays

9:30 amGirl Talk Study Group Ministry Building

1st Tuesday of each Month

5:45 pm.....Finance Meeting Church Dining Room

6:30 pm.....Ad Council Meeting Church Dining Room

2nd Tuesday of each Month

6:30 pm.....Trustees Meeting

Wednesdays

6 pmWorship Design Team

7-8 pm.....Adult Choir Practice

2nd Wednesday of each Month

9:30 amMary Martha's Circle

5:30 pmDorcas Circle

4th Thursday of each Month

6 pmVision Team

2nd Saturday of each Month

8 am.....Men's Mealtime Rally

4th Saturday of each Month

8:00-10:00am.....Free Community Breakfast

Sunday mornings

9:00-9:45.....Adult Bible Study (Ministry Building)

9:00.....Middle & Senior High Sunday School

9:00-9:30.....Children's Chimes (DANIEL ROOM)

9:30-10:00.....Children's Choir (UPPER ROOM)

*Parents: please pick up your children from the UPPER ROOM at 10:00am

9:50.....Adult Choir Pre-Service Rehearsal

10:10Morning Worship Celebration

10:30Pre-K – 5th Grade Sunday School

10:10 am Worship Attendant Volunteers December 15, 2019

Soundboard & PowerPoint...Chad & Shelley Murdock

Head Usher.....Dale Young

Nursery AssistantDeb DeGlopper

Welcome TableMillie Cass

Intercessory Prayer.....Cindy Young

Scripture Reader.....Tena Stuhan

Fellowship Time.....Marge Blaauw

Greeters.....Dale & Cindy Young

Altar Flowers.....Mary Hartman

Office Volunteers Scheduled Week of December 16, 2019

Monday.....Jeanne Drier

Tuesday.....Sue Palma

Wednesday.....Jeanne Drier

Thursday.....Mary Scott

Friday.....TBD

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)

CHURCH OFFICE p 616.887.8255 • Pastor Phil Friedrich c 616.799.4281 • FAX 616.887.8256 • WEBSITE www.spartaumc.com

OFFICE HOURS Monday – Friday, 9 AM – 3 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 by Tuesday at 2 PM. Contact the church office with updates and additions.