

May 13, 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](http://www.spartaumc.com)

## BLOOD DRIVE **NOT** CANCELED!



This Thursday, May 14, is the Sparta Community Blood Drive hosted in our Church Building from 1 PM to 7 PM. Giving blood right now is crucial to saving lives.

Here are a few changes to expect:

- Donors **must** make an appointment either online ([https://donate.michigan.verisiti.org/donor/schedules/drive\\_schedule/108708](https://donate.michigan.verisiti.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/108708)) or by calling Tom at 616-540-4740.
- All donors must wear a face mask. If you do not have one there will be disposable ones available at the drive.
- The donation process itself poses no risk to the donor or infecting a recipient with COVID-19.
- Blood Donation is considered “essential” and is an exception to the “Stay Home, Stay Safe” order.
  - Our Blood Drive hosts follow CDC and AABB recommendations, including: prescreening of both our staff and potential donors for possible respiratory infections and fever, instituting social distancing throughout the donation process, beds six (6) feet apart and/or separated by a partition, wiping down surface areas and beds frequently with appropriate cleaning solutions and providing only packaged snacks/drinks in our cafés.

## RELAY FOR LIFE GOES VIRTUAL

Relay for Life this year is going virtual! It will still take place this Saturday, May 16 from 12 PM to 9 PM. If you would like to make a donation to the Relay, you can login to the website and use a credit/debit card.



If you'd like to sponsor a registered participant like Deb DeGlopper or Carla VanAsselt, you can do that on their website as well. If you'd prefer to mail a check, please make checks payable to the American Cancer Society and mail them to Deb DeGlopper at 2552 Van Dyke St, Conklin, MI 49403. For more information on the activities taking place that day, please visit their website at

[www.relayforlife.org/sparta](http://www.relayforlife.org/sparta) or search for their Facebook page (Relay For Life of Sparta (Michigan)).

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Deb at 616-446-4420. This Relay is going to be a little different this year but let's have fun with it!

## CHURCH CARELINE

As we strive to “help each other follow Jesus’ way,” a group of volunteers has formed a new program to check-in with our church family. The program is called Church CareLine. Our goal is to keep the lines of communication open during this time of uncertainty and into the future.



We know that many people are already checking in with each other on Facebook, with phone calls, text messages, cards, and emails. Still, the Church Council felt that more needed to be done. In the next few weeks contacts via phone, email, and US mail will be made to people listed in the church directory who may not have been in contact with the church lately.

We appreciate the following volunteers who will be making these contacts and are working as a committee to further develop the program: Kurt Burmeister, Jay Dean, Alan Hartman, Mary Ellen Kimble, Sue Palma, Dave Steenhagen and Jeanette Tobey. We also thank our group leaders, Margaret Blaauw (Mary-Martha Circle), Steve Barnum (Adult Choir), Bonnie Wilkinson (Girl Talk), Deb DeGlopper (Dorcas Circle), and Alan Hartman (United Methodist Men) for connecting regularly with the people in their church group.

This program will evolve over time to best serve the needs of the congregation and community. We welcome your input! If you know someone who needs to be contacted and is not in the directory, or if you want to be a volunteer, please contact the Church Office at 989-745-3492 or Kathy Reed at 616-560-8575. If you need a current Church Directory you can pick it up in the clear plastic box located outside of the back of the Church, email the Office ([spartaumc@spartaumc.com](mailto:spartaumc@spartaumc.com)) to receive an electronic version, or call to have it mailed to you. Even when we don't see each other, please remember that we do care about each other.

## GRADUATION SUNDAY

“Graduation Sunday” is still being celebrated at the end of May. If you'd like to share a photo of your Grad and a little bit of information with our congregation, please email Arieal at [spartaumc@spartaumc.com](mailto:spartaumc@spartaumc.com).

This fun opportunity is for any type of graduate!





## PRAYER REQUESTS & PEOPLE NEWS

- Carol Schulz is having surgery on May 14. Please pray for a successful surgery and a fast recovery.
- Prayers for Mary Hyde. She is scheduled for surgery Wednesday, May 13 at Advent Hospital in Orlando.
- Jane Bosserd's sister, Sally, has passed. There will be a celebration of life at a later time.
- Please pray for my daughter Kate, who is 23 weeks pregnant and having complications. She is on complete bedrest. She was in the hospital yesterday again. Thank you, Terri Miling
- Wednesday is Gary's last day of work at NAPA, as he is retiring! Please pray for a healthy, happy, long retirement for him. Nobody deserves it more than him! Thank you, Sue Cowden

## NORTH KENT CONNECT REOPENS FOR DONATIONS

It's time to bring all of those gently-used clothes and household items you've been holding on to since the pandemic started. Starting Saturday, May 16, North Kent Connect will reopen their donation area! This will be a touchless process.



You will need to exit your car and place your bagged or boxed items into the designated containers. Please note that we do not take appliances (other than small kitchen items like blenders, coffee makers, etc.), and absolutely NO televisions. We ask that you maintain a social distance of six (6) feet, and wait in your car until the car in front of you has finished. Thank you for your patience!

## HAND2HAND WIN WIN PROGRAM

Amid the Covid-19 pandemic Hand2Hand is partnering with restaurants in 8 of their 37 school districts to help local families. Those include Wyoming, Grandville, Byron Center, Jenison, Hudsonville, Zeeland, West Ottawa, and Holland. Hand2Hand recently realized it was getting more difficult to purchase large amounts of food, so they came up with the Win Win campaign as a solution to not only help feed families but support local restaurants. They asked several restaurants to come up with a menu that feeds a family of four that they can still make a profit on but for a reasonable price.

Organizers with the non-profit then purchased gift cards to those restaurants through donations to give out to families. All in hopes to help feed more than 7,800 children! At the moment this is only for families already enrolled with Hand2Hand through their school. Not every family will get a gift card each weekend, this will be in addition to the food they already receive. If you'd like to learn more or donate to help, please visit the Hand2Hand website.



hand2hand.



## FOUR EASY METHODS OF GIVING

1. Using your debit or credit card through our website: Gifts may be made through our website by pressing the menu box at the top and pressing "give" in the drop down menu.
2. Mail a check: Checks may be sent to the Church at Sparta United Methodist Church, 54 East Division Street, Sparta, MI 49345
3. Automatic Debit: This is another way that some people of our church make their contributions. This is an automated process that requires a signed form that Pastor Phil or Arieal can help you set up. Call him at 616-799-4281 or Ari at 989-745-3492 if you would like to do this. Church income from this uninterrupted source has been very valuable during this crisis!
4. Automatic Bill Pay: This is an arrangement you can make with your bank or financial institution. With this procedure, your bank sends the church the amount you determine at the intervals you also choose.

## DON'T FORGET

Join us every week, virtually, for the following activities via our Facebook page:

- Sunday Worship Service at 10:10 AM
- Fellowship follows Sunday Worship Service
- Ad Council meets on Mondays at 7 PM via ZOOM (email the Church Admin for login details)

## TIPS & TRICKS

If you don't want to miss the Churches live stream or Facebook updates follow these instructions:

1. Log into Facebook on your computer, tablet or smart phone device that you want to watch the live stream on.
2. At the top of Facebook, search for Sparta United Methodist Church or use this link: [www.facebook.com/SpartaUnitedMethodistChurch](http://www.facebook.com/SpartaUnitedMethodistChurch)
3. Click on the "Like" button. If the page already has "liked" under the picture then you have already liked the page.
4. Be sure you are on the device you'd like to watch the Sunday Service live stream on. Around 10 AM on Sundays, watch for the notification from Facebook that we are "live" and click on the notification (it will bring you right to the live service).
5. If you did not get the notification by 10:05AM on Sundays, you can find the live stream manually by searching for Sparta United Methodist Church on Facebook and it will be towards the top of our page.

**You can also phone in and listen to the service:**

Meeting ID: 616 887 8255

Password: 316

+16465588656,,6168878255#,,1#,316# US