

NEWSFLASH

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF THE SPARTA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



OUR TENT IS RISEN!

After a very challenging warm day, our Multipurpose Outdoor Worship Tent has risen! Thank you to everyone who came out to help this past Wednesday, August 12. Without all of your help, team work, and dedication, our vision wouldn't have been possible. See page 2 for more pictures of the eventful day!

Also, a huge shout out to our local Sparta Fire Department for coming to save the day! Without their brute strength, smiling faces and resources, our big top wouldn't have touched the sky. If you'd like to give thanks to our Sparta Fire Department, you may bring a gift (baked goods, food, cards, etc.) to this week's Sunday service. Renee Miles and Sheila Pederson will be taking all gifts to the Fire Department following worship on Sunday.



SUMC QUICK REEL

Our Multipurpose Outdoor Worship Tent Fundraiser total now stands at \$19,951 which includes the match from our Administrative Council.



See page 5 for more information on Upper Room Devotionals, September and October editions.



Please continue to save your Family Fare receipts and bring them with you to Sunday service each week. Thank you, Missions



SUNDAY ATTENDANCE IN REVIEW

- 7/19 - 36*
- 7/26 - 59
- 8/2 - 49*
- 8/9 - 45

attendance marked with an asterisk () is an estimate based upon our Facebook live views.





BIG TOP WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY

Don't forget to join us under our beautiful big top (aka the Multipurpose Outdoor Worship Tent) for our FIRST EVER big top worship this Sunday, August 16 at 10 AM. Siding will arrive later next week and we are asking that you bring your own seat (and of course, face coverings) to join us! Hope to see you there!



OFFICE ADMIN OUT OF VIRTUAL OFFICE

Ariael, the Church Office Administrator, will be out of the virtual office, Monday, August 24 through Friday, August 28. She will be unavailable by phone and by email until her return, Monday August 31. If you have any urgent matters during this time, please call Pastor Phil at 616-799-4281. Thank you!



(MAYBE NOT SUNDAY SCHOOL AS WE KNOW IT)

COVID-19 has changed the way we worship and it may change the way we engage with the children & youth of our church for the foreseeable future. We're looking for a handful of people (parents and others with a heart for children) who can help us plan and carry-out "resilient" children & youth programming that can continue whether we're able to work with them in-person on Sunday mornings or if we need to connect with them "virtually" using social media, online videos, or other methods. If you're a parent or have a heart for children, we could use your help (and if you're tech-savvy even better!). Please consider being a part of the Children's & Youth Programming Team! For more information, please contact either Kurt Burmeister (SPRC Committee Chairperson) at 616-291-6524 or Pastor Phil. Thank you!

ADMIN COUNCIL MEETS MONDAY

The next Administrative Council virtual meeting will be this coming Monday, August 17 at 7 PM. Please email Ariael at spartaumc@spartaumc.com for joining information.



SURPRISE PARTY...SHH!

Please keep August 30 open on your calendars! We are throwing a SECRET sweet 16 party for Elizabeth (Hartman). This will be held at Dave Nelson's house on 3560 13 Mile Ave., and will start at 2 PM. We are asking that you please keep this quiet! It's a SURPRISE! Hope to see you there. Thank you, Alan & Mary

POWER OF PRAYER

Would you like to be on the Intercessory Prayer rotation? Intercessory Prayer takes place during the worship services, usually in the Church Office but can be done in the peace of your Home during this unique pandemic. There is much to be said about the power of two or three gathered in His name; therefore, you are welcome to ask someone to join you if you wish. Prayer

focus is on behalf of the Pastor. Guidelines are provided that cover difficulties Pastors face today, such as loneliness, stress, feelings of inadequacy, depression, and spiritual struggles and doubt.

Therefore, we are in need of a few Intercessory Prayer readers for the following dates:

- * 9/27
- * 10/4
- * 11/22
- * 11/29

Indicate your willingness to be on the rotation for morning worship by contacting the Church Office at spartaumc@spartaumc.com. Thank you!



PRAYER REQUESTS & PEOPLE NEWS

Please pray for Javi (Javier) Lastra. He is an acquaintance of my sister, Char, in Florida. Javi is 40 years old and has been hospitalized and in isolation in the ICU with COVID, for the past 2 weeks. He is need of a lung transplant and isn't even able to see his wife. Thank you, Mary Ellen Kimble

Also, please add the Collison family to your prayers. My friend Roxie who lives in Florida, her son lost his Father-In-Law due to heart complications caused by COVID. Thank you, Mary Ellen Kimble

Please continue to pray for LTJG Nicholas R. Spaleny, US Navy, who is stationed in Bahrain. He is serving on the Navel base there as a Public Affairs Officer for one year. Please pray for his safety. Thanks, De Knappen



There is now a special children's bulletin that will be printed and available at our Outdoor Sunday Worship! These bulletins will be geared towards our younger attenders (ages 3-12). However, we will not be providing writing utensils (due to COVID safety concerns), so we are asking that you please bring a pen or pencil for your younger one to use. Thank you!



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Wanna make the list? You don't have to be an official member to be mentioned below. If you'd like to be included or if you notice a mistake, please email the Church Office Admin at spartaumc@spartaumc.com

- Aug. 2 Mark Reed
- Aug. 3 Mary Ellen Kimble
- Aug. 5 Ethan Rasmussen
- Aug. 6 Jackie Williams
- Aug. 7 Ruby Skibinski
Jamie McKay
- Aug. 9 Michelle Hollomon
Kathy Newman
- Aug. 11 Abigail Hollomon
- Aug. 12 Doug Shupe
- Aug. 15 Kelly Larsen
- Aug. 19 Brianna Kline
- Aug. 20 Earl Babcock
Kristi Dougan
Bill Redner
- Aug. 21 Patrick Kimble
- Aug. 22 Ted Anderson
- Aug. 23 Chad Murdock
Sue Palma
- Aug. 26 Paul Spangenberg
Isabella Larsen
Ariael Lynch
- Aug. 30 Warren Guiles
Jackson Morris
Caelin Murdock

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. There are some small fees associated with this service.
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 Ariael can help you set up. Call her at 989-745-3492 if you would like to do this.
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.

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
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 10:05 AM 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.



UPPER ROOM DEVOTIONALS

The September-October, large print Upper Room Devotional Books have arrived! You may pick up a copy in the clear plastic box located outside of the back of the Church, by the double glass doors (the doors by the elevator). In that box, you will find copies of the Upper Room (and much more). If you'd like or need a copy mailed to you, please contact Ariael at 989-745-349 and ask for a copy to be mailed to you.