



EASTER EGG HUNT DONATIONS

There is a donations bin in the narthex, if you'd like to donate small items (to stuff in eggs) for the Easter egg hunt.

Altar Flowers

Altar flowers are a way to acknowledge someone special or highlight an important occasion. Many thanks to all who have requested altar flowers. The flower calendar is full through April. Requests are now being taken for May 5th, and 12th, as well as June 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th.

Altar flowers cost \$30. We keep costs low by reusing containers and vases. Please pay the church directly and include a note that the funds are for Altar Flowers and the date chosen.

When requesting flowers please provide your name, phone number, email address and dedication. Let us know if you plan to take the flowers after the 10:30 service, or if you want them delivered to someone needing a pick-me-up.

Use this [link](#) to reserve your flowers. Any questions? Contact Yvonne Roux, yrouxrings@gmail.com, or 973-534-6129.

Special Worship in March for Lent:

Contemplative Worship for Lent

Wednesday, March 20, and 27 at 12:15 p.m.
In the Sanctuary

Sunday, March 24th – Palm Sunday Worship
8:45 and 10:30 a.m.

Thursday, March 28th – Maundy Thursday Communion
7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Friday, March 29th – Good Friday Tenebrae Service
7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Sunday, March 31st – Easter Sunday Celebration!
8:45 and 10:30 a.m.
With Special Music

Holy Week

March 17, 2024

The Altar Flowers are given by

Lynn and Barry Higgins

In celebration of our daughter Kate's birthday

Thank you to our Worship Leader this morning

Yvonne Roux



Thoughts and Prayers

Prayers for: Landy Breeden and family, and Sally's sister, Corinne

Continued prayers for: Tammy and Mike Vrabel and family for their granddaughter Izabella Vrabel, Susan Foy, recovering from cancer, Abbie Wright (Jane Smith's great granddaughter). She is 11 years old and was just diagnosed with leukemia, Ann Freeman Price, Norma Joseph, Terri, Chanele Spivak, Jill Kubin, Linda Donelson (friend of Ruth Kelley's), Edith VanHousen, Anthony Hutchison, Kelly Stites, Alba Haas, Diane Cironi, Judy Remo, Arnie Koriakin, Sue Gibson, Sharon Gordon, Karen Sutphen, Lester Hemphill, Rich Kelley, Linda Giammanco, Brenda Losey.

Healing for, Bev DeYoung, Pat and Sandy DeYoung's sister-in-law

Before you place anyone on our prayer list, please make sure you have permission from the person to do so.

SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITIES

For all Zoom Gatherings, you may use either the Video Link or the Phone in # with ID #

BEYOND THE BASICS - (ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL)

Sunday Mornings at 9:30 a.m. in Room 8

MONDAY NIGHT

Monday evenings at 7:00 p.m. via ZOOM

The Monday Night Group will be reading Howard Thurman's "Jesus and the Disinherited" through the month of February in recognition of Black History Month. Thurman was an acclaimed theologian at Boston University School of Theology and an influential teacher for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. For February 5, we will read the preface and the first chapter.

All are welcome to join for this book discussion held on ZOOM from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

The link is

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/771970415?pwd=bFdUQk9YQUIyZXRhYUZnNVhRVEZvUT09>.

Even if you can't come each week, please feel free to join whenever you can. If you need help finding the book, please see Pastor Steve

HEALTHIER LIVING GROUP

PLEASE NOTE NEW TIME!! Every TUESDAY Morning at 10:30 a.m. Join Zoom Meeting

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85294018790?pwd=bScXqgjh6RlCDFWN93116_aMcguqxF.1

Meeting ID: 852 9401 8790 Passcode: 389789

One tap mobile +16465588656,,85294018790#

Dial by your location +1 646 558 8656 Meeting ID: 852 9401 8790

UMW BOOK GROUP-

THE 2ND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH IS UMW BOOK GROUP

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89033468706?pwd=M3FYTHZPcm55Sm1jdGIRckRXTjgrQT09>

Meeting ID: 890 3346 8706 Passcode: 681008 -- One tap mobile

+13017158592,,89033468706#

Dial by your location: 1 301 715 8592, Meeting ID: 890 3346 8706

WEDNESDAY MORNING MEN'S STUDY

Wednesday Mornings at 7:15 a.m.

Angelo's Franklin Diner

READING TOGETHER/BIBLE STUDY

Friday's at 10:00 a.m. If God Is Love Don't Be a Jerk

Book by John Pavlovitz

Join Zoom Video Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/389284226>

Alternate Phone in #: +1 646 876 9923; Meeting ID: 389 284 226 -- Passcode: 7773

SATURDAY PRAYERS & CONVERSATION GATHERING

Join a ZOOM gathering on Saturday mornings at 10:30 a.m. just to touch base and connect with others from the congregation just to check in and share with each other. Join Zoom

Video Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/826747498> Phone in #: +1 646 876 9923;

Meeting ID: 826 747 498 Passcode: 7773



We would like to thank Yvonne Roux, Cullen Kempson, Pat Harvey, Chris Deery and Julia Juan for making Livestream Worship Services possible by recording and posting the service for us to watch as they happen.

VISIT THE CHURCH MOUSE!



Don't forget to stop in and check out the latest bargains at the Mouse!

**March 20th – 23rd: EVERYTHING IN THE SHOP IS 50% OFF,
EXCLUDING EASTER ITEMS**

MARCH 27th – 30th: ALL EASTER ITEMS ARE 50% OFF

SHOP HOURS: WED & SAT: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Thurs & Fri: 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.



Join us for our **FREE**



Sparta United Methodist Church

Visit with the Easter Bunny, and stay for coffee, hot chocolate and donuts
bring your own basket

Saturday, March 30, 11:00

ALL ARE WELCOME!



From Sparta UMC Missions Committee:

How does our Church Mouse Thrift Shop help others, you might ask? We are a kind face to many who need help. We provided gently used, inexpensive clothing, accessories, toys, and household items for a small fee, but in emergencies, Jackie, our shop manager, and her mice will give items for free. Not only does the shop help people, but it also helps the environment by keeping items out of the landfill.

The profit (after shop expenses are paid) from Thrift Shop sales are used to fund church missions such as RISE Against Hunger, Feed the Body/Feed the Soul, Christian Outreach Project, MAD About Mission, Earthkeepers, United Women in Faith, and the building of our new ramp, which makes the downstairs accessible to all. In addition, we have donated to the following Mission Partners this month: CUMAC in Paterson, Ginnie's House, Heifer Project, Justice 4 Our Neighbors, Jersey Battered Women's Shelter, Manna House, Market Street Mission Sussex County, Project Self-Sufficiency, Reconciling Ministries Network, Samaritan Inn, Sparta Community Food Pantry, Tanzania Fund through GNJ Conference, UMCOR kits, Mission u scholarships, and we have put aside money to help absolve school lunch debt for children in Sussex County.

Sparta UMC is a wonderfully giving and active community! We have several on-going places you and your family can be involved with hands-on mission. Your donations to the Church Mouse Thrift Shop are one tangible way you can help. Start your spring cleaning now and make a pile to give away. You and your children can help with Feed the Body/Feed the Soul, you and your kids can help at MAD About Mission, you can volunteer in the Thrift Shop, you and your teens can help repair houses with our Christian Outreach Project crew, you can volunteer to help with Earthkeepers, and you and your family can help put together UMCOR kits on April 21!

For information on any of these missions, see any member of the Missions Committee.

Thank you for being the hands and feet of Jesus to the community and the world!

From Missions Committee:

We are kicking off a collection to make 100 Hygiene kits for United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) today. They have very specific materials because they are shipped all over the world. Please sign-up using Sign Up genius and leave your items in the bin in the narthex. If you have trouble using Sign up Genius, please ask Pat Schutz for help. Always remember that when using Sign up Genius, you need to fill out your name and email address, and then hit **SAVE**. You may have to scroll down a bit to see it. You will get a confirmation email. If that doesn't arrive in your in-box, you are not signed up. If you are purchasing 5 items, you will need to enter your name 5 times. I have signed up so you can follow my example. Kits will be assembled on **April 21** after church. Put it on your calendar now and plan to stay to help! We hope you can be part of this ministry.

Sign-up Genius link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0D4EAAAE23A3FD0-47963395-umcor>

An update for the UMCOR kits:

**We have enough washcloths and ziplock bags.
Everything else is still needed. You can get an update by
using the Signup Genius link.**

Hygiene kit materials (for 100 kits):

- 100 hand towels (15 x 25 –17 x 27 inches) - No kitchen, cleaning, or microfiber towels
- 100 washcloths - No kitchen, cleaning, or microfiber towels
- 100 combs - Must be sturdy with at least 6 inches of teeth No pocket combs or picks Rattail and combs without handles are acceptable but must have at least 6 inches of teeth
- 100 toenail or fingernail clipper - No emery boards or metal nail files
- 100 Bath-size soap (3 oz. bar or larger) No Ivory or Jergen's soap. Do not remove from packaging
- 100 adult toothbrush - Do not remove from packaging, Personal advertising not acceptable
- 1000 adhesive bandages (¾ by 3 inches) - Common household bandages acceptable
- 100 one-gallon size re-sealable bags

Chime Choir Returns

Chime Choir (for Kindergarten through grade 3) is continuing on Mondays from 5 to 6 pm. Chime Choir introduces children to music theory through games and other activities. They will meet through most of April and play during the 10:30 worship service on either May 5th or 12th.

For additional information contact Yvonne Roux at yrouxrings@gmail.com or 973-534-6129.

