



UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

71 Sparta Avenue, Sparta, New Jersey 07871
Office (973)729-7773 www.spartaumc.org

Rev. Dr. Steven Bechtold, Pastor

Ian Good, Director of Music Ministries

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your inquiry about having your child baptized at Sparta United Methodist Church. Baptism should not be sought out of fear. Baptism is not about the child's salvation or ability to go to heaven or their personal salvation. Instead, it can be about deciding to raise your child surrounded by God's grace in relationship to the people in the life of the church. Therefore Baptism takes place during the Sunday morning worship service so that the congregation can make a commitment to you and your child, *to establish them in the faith* through Sunday School, music programs, and fun activities, and *to confirm and strengthen them* for the journey of life that is ahead. Holy Baptism is an act that signifies God's love for a child, your child.

And so it is that our book of order states, *that at least one parent must be a participating member in the life of the Church*. There are many ways to be involved and participating. It would be a privilege to be on the journey with your family. We would hope that you would come and be with us for three or four Sundays prior to your date. Please be assured that whether or not you are prepared at this time to make promises to the Church, please know that your child is fully accepted and loved by God now and forever.

Please fill out the attached Baptism Form and return it to the church office by mail or email. Once we receive your form, the pastor will reach out to you to set up a meeting to discuss the details. For specific questions, contact the church office at (973) 729-7773 or officeadmin@spartaumc.org.

Faithfully,

Rev. Dr. Steven Bechtold



SPARTA
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Baptism Form

Date Submitted _____

Date Requested _____

Child's Full Name _____

Birthday _____ Hospital _____

Parent's names _____

Address _____

Member of Sparta UMC Yes No

Received on _____

Active in worship _____

Other congregation _____

Other religion _____

No affiliation _____

Faith History

Mother raised _____ Father raised _____

Contact phone _____ Contact Email _____

Questions or Concerns _____

Witnesses _____

Witnesses _____

The church will be in touch upon receipt of this information. Thank you -God bless you!

For office: Internal records updated _____ Certificate prepared _____