**SPARTA**

**UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

*Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors*

May 22, 2022 10:30 a.m.

Prelude *All Things Bright and Beautiful* John Rutter

Welcome and Announcements

\*Call to Worship

We meet as a family in the presence of our loving, sustaining God.  
**We meet as brothers and sisters in Christ, accepting the responsibility that this places upon us to love one another as you have loved us.**  
We meet as your lights in this dark world and pray that through our words and our lives others might be drawn into your family

**We meet to seek shalom with all people in this place and all people in our world.**

\*Opening Song *My Life is in You, Lord* FWS 2032

Opening Prayer

**Lord, you know how easy it is for us to sit here, tethered to fear and darkness, bound up by chains of mistrust. We dare not to hope so as to avoid disappointment. We fail to see you drawing near to us when we are surrounded by uncertainty or insecurity, buy you are there. Flood us with your powerful light of love and mercy. Help open our eyes to the good news of your grace. Give to us visions of the place in which love and hope will reign. Forgive our stubborn resistance to your mercy and your love so that we might embrace the abundance of living that you have shown us in your Son, Jesus, who taught us to pray saying:**

The Lord’s Prayer Ian Good

Anthem *The Colors of Your Grace* Mark Hayes

A Time for Young Disciples

Song of Preparation *Sanctuary*  FWS 2164

Scripture Lesson *Ephesians 4:17-24*

*17Now this I affirm and insist on in the Lord: you must no longer walk as the gentiles walk, in the futility of their minds; 18they are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of their ignorance and hardness of heart. 19They have lost all sensitivity and have abandoned themselves to licentiousness, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. 20That is not the way you learned Christ! 21For surely you have heard about him and were taught in him, as truth is in Jesus, 22to put away your former way of life, your old self, corrupt and deluded by its lusts, 23and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, 24and to clothe yourselves with the new self, created according to the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.*

Bell Anthem *Acclamation in G Minor*  by Karen Thompson

The Message  *Renewal*

The Offering of Our Gifts and our Prayers

\*Closing Song *Precious Name* UMH 536

Sending Forth

Postlude  *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name* arr. Brent Edstrom

***Thoughts and Prayers***

***Rich Kelley, Linda Giammanco Joel, Phoebe Rude, Brenda Losey, Wayne Mackey***

**\* Stand if able**

**WELCOME TO ALL**

Who hope for a better world

& all who have lost hope:

Believers and seekers

Conventional Christians & questioning skeptics

Women, men, youth and children

Of all sexual orientations & gender identities

Of all races and cultures,

Of all income levels

Of all social classes

Of all physical & mental abilities.

***COME AS YOU ARE . . .***

***YOU ARE WELCOME!***

SPARTA

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Ministry Team

MINISTERS Every member of Sparta UMC

PASTOR Rev. Dr. Steven Bechtold

PASTOR EMERITUS Rev. Dr. Alden Welch

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT Karen Shaw

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES Ian Good

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRIES & SUNDAY SCHOOL Jack Tironi

SEXTON Eleanor Shumaker

WEBSITE: [www.spartaumc.org](http://www.spartaumc.org/)

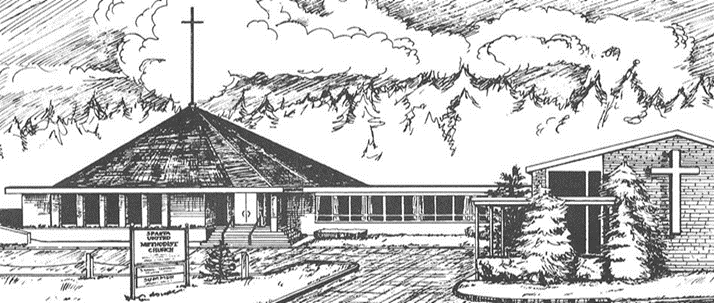
*My Life is in You, Lord*, Words & Music: Daniel Gardner - CCLI 11297801

*Sanctuary*, Words & Music: John Thompson and Randy Scruggs - One License A-719583

*Precious Name*, Words: Lydia Baxter, 1870; Music: William H. Doane, 1871 - One License A-719583

SPARTA

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



May 22, 2022

10:30 a.m. Worship Service

71 Sparta Avenue

Sparta, New Jersey 07871

*Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors:*

**Not Just a Tagline: This IS who we are**