

SPARTA
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

September 24, 2023 10:30 a.m.

Prelude *Let There Be Peace On Earth*
Words & Music by Sy Miller and Jill Jackson
Arranged by Dan Coates

Welcome

Call to Worship

We come to you with the hassles and business of life upon us.

All of us.

You have created all that is.

And so we come before you this morning extending our hands and hearts, our whole selves to one another.

You have abundantly provided, yet we have forgotten.

Through our worship, may we remember again. May thanksgivings be on our tongue, May sharing be from our hands, and grace spring from our hearts.

K. Stone

*Opening Song *There's a Spirit of Love in this Place* W & S 3148

Congregational Time of Prayer and Reflection
(O Virus Sapientiae, Hildegard of Bingen)

Holy God, Divine Wisdom, encircle us, keep us upon your path. Enliven us to seek you in the heavens, upon the earth and in all of your creation. For all we have is a gift from you, given freely and in your Spirit of Divine Love. We give you all praise, as it is right for us to do. For we lift up our prayers in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray:

The Lord's Prayer Ian Good

Anthem *Make Me a Channel of Your Peace* (Prayer of St. Francis)
Music by Sebastian Temple
Arranged by Mark Hayes

A Time for Young Disciples

The Reading of the Scriptures

Genesis 1 – Selected Verses

When God began to create the heavens and the earth, ² the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³ Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. ⁴ And God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. ⁶ And God said, “Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. ⁸ God called the dome Sky. ⁹ And God said, “Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. ¹⁰ God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. ¹¹ Then God said, “Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.” And it was so. ¹² The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good.

²⁰ And God said, “Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.” ²⁴ And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.” And it was so. . And God saw that it was good. ²⁶ Then God said, “Let us make humans in our image, according to our likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over the cattle and over all the wild animals of the earth^[d] and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.”

²⁹ God said, “See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. ³⁰ And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the air and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. ³¹ God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good.

The Message

Visions of Abundance: Where's the Problem?

This Week in the Life of the Church

The Giving of our offerings and Our Prayers

*Closing Song *In the Midst of New Dimensions* FWS 2238

Sending Forth

Postlude *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*
Lobe Den Herren
Stralsund Gesangbuch, 1665
Arranged by Joel Raney
***Stand if able**

Thoughts and Prayers

*Prayers for: Healing for Eli McLaren, friend of Sandy DeYoung Kennedy,
healing for Bev DeYoung, Pat and Sandy DeYoung's sister-in-law,
John Iaroli (serious back operation), Lucas - who is undergoing repeated brain surgeries,
Katy and Lenny, Edith VanHousen (just diagnosed with breast cancer),
Tibbie Reynolds, (Jill Kubin's mother), Anthony Hutchison, Kelly Stites,
Alba Haas, Diane Cironi, Judy Remo, Allen Koriakin's brother, Sue Gibson,
Sharon Gordon, Karen Sutphen, Lester Hemphill, Rich Kelley, Linda Giammanco,
Brenda Losey*

WELCOME TO ALL

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..... Bonnie Pomeroy
DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRIES & SUNDAY SCHOOL
SEXTON..... Eleanor Shumaker

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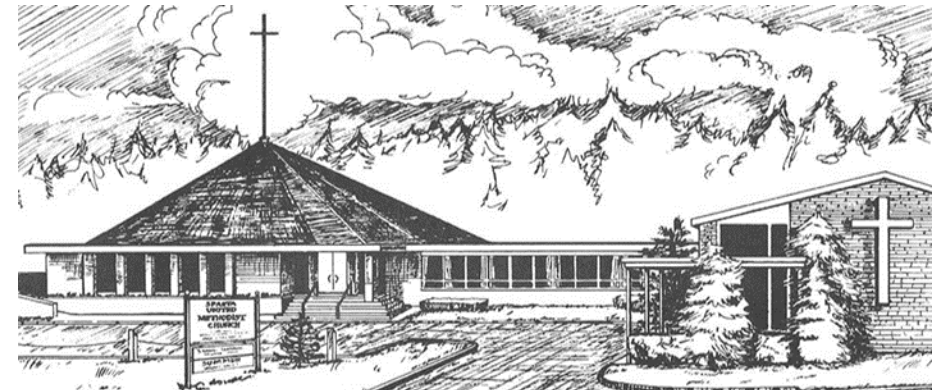
There's a Spirit of Love in this Place, Words & Music: Mark A. Miller
In the Midst of New Dimensions, Words & Music; Julian B. Rush
All Songs One License A-719583



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SPARTA

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



September 24, 2023
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