

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

January 21, 2024 10:30 a.m.

Prelude *Standing in the Need of Prayer* Spiritual  
Arranged by Jason W. Krug  
Lorenz Pub. Co. © 2021

Welcome

\*Call to Worship

We gather in this place, taking time apart from the pace of our days.

**Gentle God, meet us here, and nourish us for the journey.**

Our minds and lives are cluttered, needs and responsibilities overflow;  
we yearn to be focused.

**Gentle God, meet us here, and center our hearts in your grace.**

\*Opening Song *Leaning on the Everlasting Arms* UMH 133

Congregational Prayer

**Good and gracious God, we enter into your courts with praise and celebration. Enable us to fulfil the purpose that you have created each of us to do. As we spend time in your presence today, touch our hearts, our minds and our souls to respond to your calling on our lives. We recognize how easy it can be to get caught up in what is happening around us, missing the mark of what you would have us do and be. Move in our very being as never before so we can continue to be a blessing to others. We thank you for the example of Jesus in how to serve and how to rest. Continue to open our eyes, our hearts, and our minds to the way that leads to abundant life, as we pray in the name of the one who taught us to pray:**

The Lord's Prayer Ian Good

Anthem *Lord, Listen to Your Children* Words & Music by Ken Medema  
Arranged by Jack Schrader  
Hope Pub. Co. © 1983

A Time for Young Disciples

Scripture Lesson

Mark 1: 32-39

<sup>32</sup> That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed by demons. <sup>33</sup> And the whole city was gathered around the door. <sup>34</sup> And he cured many who were sick with various diseases and cast out many demons, and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

<sup>35</sup> In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. <sup>36</sup> And Simon and his companions hunted for him. <sup>37</sup> When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." <sup>38</sup> He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also, for that is what I came out to do." <sup>39</sup> And he went throughout all Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

The Message *Reset Our Priorities: Being on Track*

This Week in the Life of the Church

The Offering of our Gifts and Our Prayers

\*Closing Song *It's Me, It's Me, O Lord* UMH 352

Sending Forth

Postlude *I Sing the Mighty Power of God*  
Gesangbuch der Herzogl  
Arr. by Bernadine Johnson  
Alfred Music © 2019

*Thoughts and Prayers*

*Prayers for Susan Foy, recovering from cancer, Jackie Cascio and her granddaughter, Emily--they were in a bad car accident on 1/8/24, Abbie Wright (Jane Smith's great granddaughter). She is 11 years old and was just diagnosed with leukemia, Katrina Schutz and family, on the loss of her grandmother, Dot Robin Ann Freeman Price, Norma Joseph, Terri, Chanele Spivak, Jill Kubin, Elaine Iaroli, 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 Eli McLaren, friend of Sandy DeYoung Kennedy, healing for Bev DeYoung, Pat and Sandy DeYoung's sister-in-law*

\*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..... Bonnie Pomeroy  
SEMINARY INTERN .....Shan Gao  
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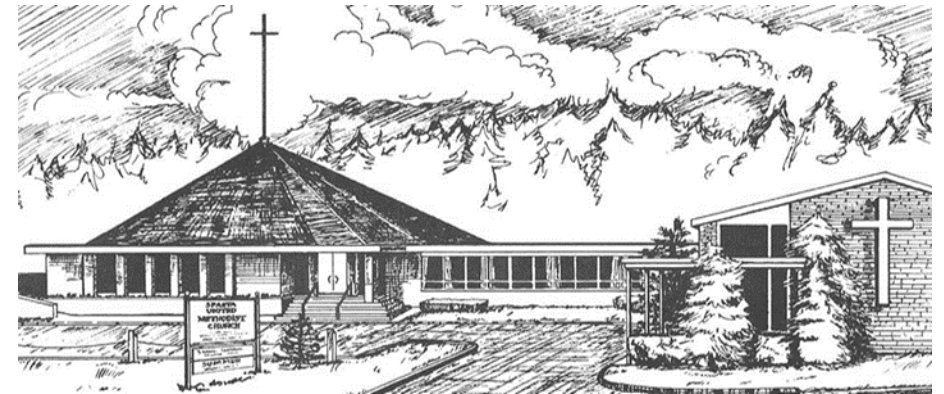
WEBSITE: [www.spartaumc.org](http://www.spartaumc.org)

*Leaning on the Everlasting Arms*, Words: Elisha A. Hoffman, 1887; Music: Anthony J. Showalter, 1887  
*It's Me, It's Me, O Lord*, Words: Afro-American spiritual; Music: Afro-American spiritual; arr. by William Farley Smith,  
1986 -All Songs One License A-719583



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# SPARTA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



January 21, 2024  
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**