

SPARTA

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

June 29, 2025 10:30 a.m.

Prelude

*The Light of the World Is Jesus*

Words & Music by Philip P. Bliss

Arranged by Mark Hayes; GlorySound © 1988

Words of Welcome

\*Call to Worship

In a world that cries out, “Fear me!”  
**We will listen to Jesus’ words, “Don’t be afraid!”**  
In a world that wants us to hate the other...  
**We will live Jesus’ call to,**  
**“Love God. Love your neighbor, as you love yourself.”**  
In a world that radicalizes...  
**We, too, will be radical. Radical with our hospitality.**  
**Radical with our hope. Radical with our love.**  
Then come to this place, ready to be who we are called to be.  
**Let us gather together and worship God.**

\*Opening Song

*Come and Find the Quiet Center*

FWS 2128

Congregational Prayer

O God, you broke down the barriers when you came to walk beside us. In Jesus, your hands touched all, and touched us. You opened our eyes to see how the hands of the rich were empty, and the hearts of the poor were full. You took the widow’s mite and the child’s loaves and used them to show us the Kingdom. Here in the company of the neighbor whom we know and the stranger in our midst, and the self from whom we turn, we ask that you would help us to love as Jesus loved. Make this the place and time, good Lord, when heaven and earth become one, and we might acknowledge and accept that we are your beloved children. For we pray in the name of Jesus who taught us to pray:

The Lord’s Prayer

Ian Good

A Time for Young Disciples

Song of Preparation

*Seek Ye First*

UMH 405

Scripture Reading

*Mark 12: 28-34*

<sup>28</sup> One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well he asked him, “Which commandment is the first of all?” <sup>29</sup> Jesus answered, “The first is, ‘Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; <sup>30</sup> you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ <sup>31</sup> The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” <sup>32</sup> Then the scribe said to him, “You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that ‘he is one, and besides him there is no other’; <sup>33</sup> and ‘to love him with all the heart and with all the understanding and with all the strength’ and ‘to love one’s neighbor as oneself’—this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.” <sup>34</sup> When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” After that no one dared to ask him any question.

The Message

*UnBiblical: God Only Loves Some of Us*

This Week in the Life of the Church

The Offering of Our Gifts and our Prayers

\*Closing Song

*Sent Out in Jesus’ Name*

FWS 2184

\*Sending Forth

Postlude

*He's Got the Whole World in His Hands*

Spiritual

Arranged by Tedd Smith

Folk-Rock Images by Hope Publishing Co. © 1973

\*Stand if able

WELCOME TO ALL *COME AS YOU ARE . . . YOU ARE WELCOME!*

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.

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  
SEXTON ..... Eleanor Shumaker

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

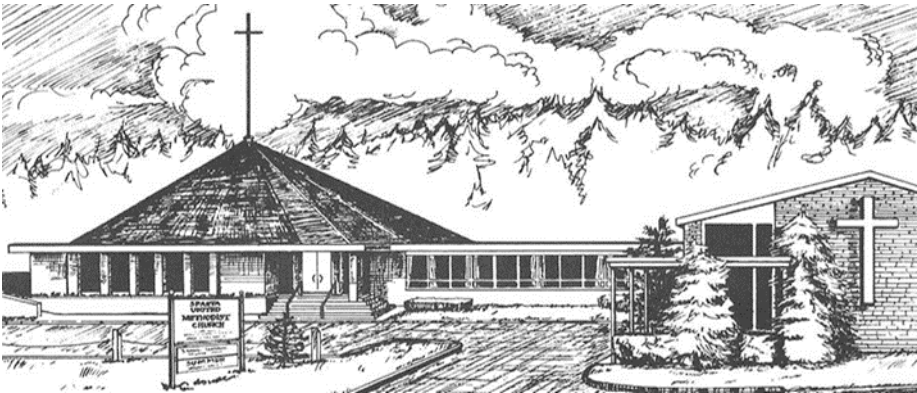
*Come and Find the Quiet Center*  
Words: Shirley Erena Murray; Music: Attr. to B.F. White

*Seek Ye First*  
Words & Music: Karen Lafferty, 1972

*Sent Out in Jesus' Name*  
Words: Anon; trans. by Jorge Maldonado, alt.; Music: Trad. Cuban; arr. by Carmen Pena

All Songs - One License A-719583

SPARTA  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



June 29, 2025  
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**



*For your convenience, you may scan the QR Code to reach the Sparta UMC On-line Giving Platform through Vanco.*