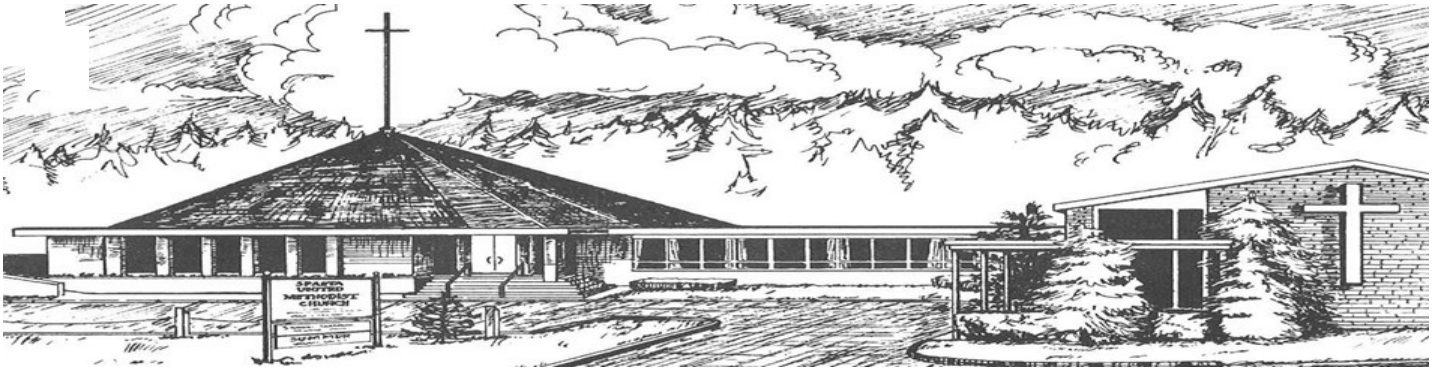


SPARTA

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



NEWSLETTER—JULY/AUGUST 2025

Dear Friends,

The world is changing at a faster pace than at any other time in human history (at least up to the present – who knows about what tomorrow will bring). These changes present ethical questions and challenges for people of faith. The knee jerk reaction is often to assume that modern technology and advancement must be wrong and therefore oppose our faith practices and traditions. It wouldn't be the first time that modern technology challenged the church to change. Pipe organs were generally viewed as secular instruments for the first 1000 years of Christianity, and their gradual introduction to the typical church was met with grave suspicion. Electric lights in churches were also viewed as revolutionary at one point as well. We don't think twice about what was once a modern technology.

But today we are faced with technologies that less than a century ago would have been considered science fiction. Cell phones, AI, genetic engineering, instant global communication through the internet, digital economy, each of these raises serious ethical dilemmas in the church today. Where might the Bible and the traditions of the faith guide us in facing these knowing that these technologies weren't even a passing thought in the time of Jesus?

That will be the focus for our summer preaching series entitled "Wrestling Matches: Ethical Dilemmas in our Ever-Changing Times." Each week will focus on a different situation and see how God can use these for good for all people. Some will focus on new technologies, others on other ethical challenges for our society and therefore people of faith. I hope that you will join us each week either in person, by live stream, or "on demand" when your circumstances allow.

I pray that you will have a blessed summer that brings you joy and much needed rest from the routines of life.

In Christ,

Steve



Altar Flowers

Celebrate with Flowers!

Celebrate loved ones or special occasions with an Altar flower arrangement. Arrangements only cost \$30.00 (A great value! We keep costs low by reusing containers.) Please pay the church directly, including a note that the payment is for altar flowers for a specific date.

Reservations are being taken for August 3, 10, 17, September 14, 21 & 28. Use this [link](#) to reserve flowers. We need your name, phone number or email address and what the dedication should say. We also need to know if you plan to take the flowers after the 10:30 service, or if you want them delivered to someone needing a pick-me-up.

Any questions? Contact Yvonne Roux, yrouxrings@gmail.com, or 973-534-6129.

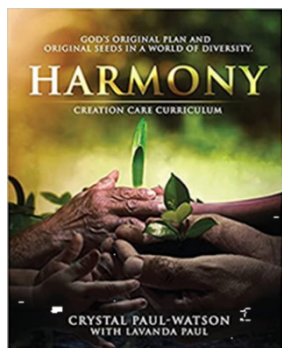
Art Show

2ND ANNUAL ART SHOW

Our 2nd Annual Art Show to benefit our Youth Programs will held on Saturday, November 22nd from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Please see Carolyn Hartley with any questions.



EARTHKEEPER'S DAY CAMP



2025 Earthkeeper's Day Camp

SUMC --- 71 Sparta Ave, Sparta, NJ, 973-729-7773

(in the outside pavilion)

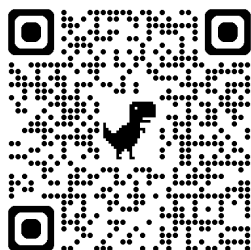
July 21 - 25, 9 AM - Noon

Ages 4 years - 5th grade

\$25/child (\$50 max per family)

Scholarships Available – ALL are welcome!

Registration forms found at <https://forms.gle/jMQCZHFWoETqVpwz5>



How can you help?

Some ideas:

- Help spread the word (take flyers and hang them, tell your neighbors)

- Be an extra body (sometimes hugs are needed the most)

- Teach a lesson....some past lessons have been

 - make infused water- why drinking water is important

 - lesson on flight and career as a pilot

 - caring for chicks

 - farm animal fun

- We need someone to be our Recreation/Games leader (we also need an assistant)

This year Jeni Moriarty has offered to help us “hatch” eggs!

Share your thoughts and ideas with us by emailing or contacting Pat Schutz,
pat.schutz@yahoo.com or 201-230-5504

EARTHKEEPER'S DAY CAMP

Snacks



There is a container in the narthex for donations of snacks for Earthkeepers.

NO snacks with NUTS please. We can use any **individually wrapped** snacks: boxes of raisins, chips, pretzels, cookies, packages of apple slices (Costco has them), baby carrots, granola bars (no nuts).

Thank you!

PFLAG

The Power of Resilience: Support, Share & Heal: A Community Support Meeting

As we continue our healing journey together, we invite you to join us for a community support meeting designed to foster connection, understanding, and renewal. This follow-up to our *Empowered Within: A Journey to Resilience* workshop offers a safe space for sharing stories, navigating struggles, and strengthening one another's ability to cope and grow. Whether you're looking for support, affirmation, or simply a chance to be in community with those who care, we welcome you with open hearts. Because we are strongest when we heal together.

Pet Food Drive

The Sparta Community Food Pantry provides groceries for those in need in our area. This includes pets, as they provide important emotional support and companionship.

We will be collecting donations of dry and canned food for dogs and cats during the month of July. When doing your grocery shopping this month, put some extra dog and cat food in your grocery cart to add to the collection bin located in the Narthex. The Food Pantry also accepts pet food donations year-round.

The Sparta Community Food Pantry is located at 99 Demarest Road, Sparta, NJ 07871 (near the Sparta Shop Rite). Hours of operation are Wednesdays from 9 am to 3 pm and 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm, Fridays from 9 am to 1 pm. <https://www.thespartacommunityfoodpantry.com/>

Please help by providing a meal for a pet in need!

Church & Society



**The Church and Society Committee
of the Sparta United Methodist Church
Pursuing Peace; Seeking Justice; Living Faith**

The UMC General Board of Church and Society advocates on timely issues before the US Senate and the House of Representatives.

Below are two issues the Sparta UMC Church and Society Committee also supports.

Oppose Eliminating Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

The Trump administration has set out to eliminate “Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion” (DEI), a term which generally refers to movements for racial justice, LGBTQIA+ rights and women’s equality.

The General Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church supports Diversity, Equity and Inclusion policies as acts of restorative justice seeking to honor and advance all persons and to eliminate exclusion and discrimination.

What does The United Methodist Church Say About Migrants, Immigrants and Refugees

The United Methodist Social Principles call for humane immigration policies, the protection of immigrant families, and the upholding of dignity for all persons as bearers of God’s image. Mass deportations tear apart families, destabilize communities, and exacerbate global suffering—actions that are incompatible with our Christian belief “to seek justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God” (Micah 6:8).

“We urge United Methodists to welcome migrants, refugees, and immigrants into their congregations and to commit themselves to providing concrete support, including help with navigating restrictive and often lengthy immigration policies, and assistance with securing food, housing, education, employment and other kinds of support.” (The United Methodist 2025-2028 Social Principles, Political Community, G., Basic Rights and Freedoms)

In addition, UMC Social Principles call for United Methodists to “oppose all laws and policies that attempt to criminalize, dehumanize or punish displaced individuals and families based on their status as migrants, immigrants or refugees”.

Church Mouse

July is the 50th Anniversary of The Mouse!

In this 50th year, let's try to maintain 50 volunteers! It takes a village to keep the Mouse running. Please consider joining the beautiful Community we have & serve in The Church Mouse Thrift Shop.

Contact: Christina Kraemer @ 201-715-2515 call/text OR complete application & return to the Church Mouse/Thrift Shop mailbox by Church office.



CHURCH MOUSE VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NUMBER & EMAIL

ADDRESS: _____

Small Group Opportunities

BEYOND THE BASICS - (ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL)

Sunday Mornings at 9:30 a.m. in Room 8

MONDAY NIGHT BOOK GROUP

The Book Group meets by ZOOM at 7:00 P.M.

Zoom Link is:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/771970415?
pwd=bFdUQk9YQUlyZXRhYUZnNVhRVEZvUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/771970415?pwd=bFdUQk9YQUlyZXRhYUZnNVhRVEZvUT09)

HEALTHIER LIVING GROUP

Every TUESDAY Morning at 10:30 a.m.

The Tuesday morning Healthy Living group is now reading:

The Secrets of Women who Never Give Up by Dr Katja Lindemann MD

Join Zoom Meeting

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85294018790?pwd=bScXqgjh6RICDFWN93I16_aMcguqxFL

Meeting ID: 852 9401 8790 Passcode: 389789

One tap mobile +1 646 558 8656,,85294018790#

Dial by your location +1 646 558 8656 Meeting ID: 852 9401 8790

WEDNESDAY MORNING MEN'S STUDY

Wednesday Mornings at 7:15 a.m.

Angelo's Franklin Diner*

READING TOGETHER/BIBLE STUDY

The group will not be meeting until Friday, August 1st

SPARTA

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

71 Sparta Avenue
Sparta, NJ 07871

973-729-7773
spartaumc.org

Inside This Issue:

Altar Flowers	2	Earthkeeper's Day Camp	3,4
Art Show	2	Pet Food Drive	4
Church & Society	5	PFLAG	4
Church Mouse	6	Small Groups	7

Thrift Shop

973-729-9121

Wednesday 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Thursday 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Friday 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

