

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

August 24, 2025 10:30 a.m.

Prelude *Nearer, My God, to Thee* by Lowell Mason
arranged by Peter Hilliard; Peter Hilliard © 2022

Violin: Julia Juan

Words of Welcome

*Call to Worship

Christ calls us to lead a life worthy of the calling to which we are called:

We cannot do this alone, we dare not try this alone, so we gather as God's people.

Christ calls us to lead a life worthy of our calling, a life filled with service and meekness.

We come to build up Christ's Body, in humility and gentleness, with patience and love.

Christ calls us to lead a life which reflects our calling, a life of peace grounded in the Spirit.

We rejoice in our oneness in Christ; we would share the grace offered to us.

*Opening Song *Baptized in Water* FWS 2248

Congregational Prayer

Holy God, we see a drop of water, insignificant in isolation. Yet when dropped in a pool, the ripples move out into infinity, the water is changed by one drop of water. Holy God, as we consider the magnitude of a drop of water to touch and change the pool, may we hear the power of your touch in our lives, the potential for our lives to touch others, the far extending blessing of your grace that works in and through all people in your global family. For we pray in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray:

The Lord's Prayer Ian Good

The Sacrament of Baptism

*We welcome into the family of God Ivy Lynn Garner,
Daughter of James Garner and Mattison Burkholder and
Great-Granddaughter of Pat and Bob Schutz*

Congregational Response: We give thanks for all that God has already given you and welcome you in Christian love. With God's help, we renew our covenant to live according to the example of Christ and proclaim good news of great joy for all people. We will surround Ivy Lynn with a community of love and grace and forgiveness that she may grow in her service to the world. We will pray for her, that she may live a life of your abundant grace. Amen.

Special Music: *Healing Is in Your Hands* Words & Music by Daniel Carson,
Christy Nockels, Nathan Nockels, Matt Redman and Chris Tomlin
worshiptogether.com © 2010

Soloist: Emma Kimble

A Time for Young Disciples

Scripture Reading *Ephesians 4: 11-20*

¹ He himself granted that some are apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³ until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity,^[a] to the measure of the full stature of Christ. ¹⁴ We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming; ¹⁵ but speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

¹⁷ Now this I affirm and insist on in the Lord: you must no longer walk as the gentiles walk, in the futility of their minds; ¹⁸ they are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of their ignorance and hardness of heart. ¹⁹ They have lost all sensitivity and have abandoned themselves to licentiousness, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. ²⁰ That is not the way you learned Christ!

The Message *Uncancelled: Faithful Speech in a Silencing Age*

This Week in the Life of the Church

The Offering of Our Gifts and Our Prayers

*Closing Song *Shout to the North* W & S 3042

*Stand if able

*Sending Forth

Postlude

All Creatures of Our God and King
Geistliche Kirchengesange, Koln
arranged by Peter Hilliard; Peter Hilliard © 2022

Violin: Julia Juan

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

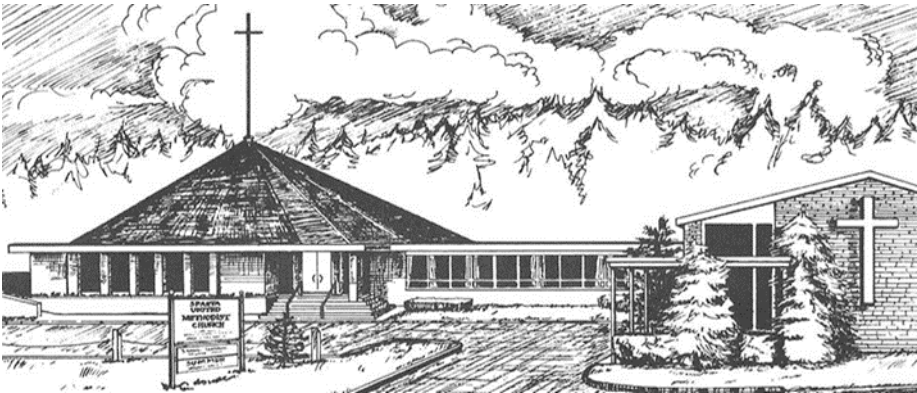
WEBSITE: www.spartaumc.org

Baptized in Water
Words: Michael Saward; Music: Trad. Gaelic melody, One License A-719583
Shout to the North
Words & Music: Martin Smith, CCLI #11297801



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

SPARTA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



August 24, 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