

SPARTA

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

September 14, 2025 10:30 a.m.

*Stand if able

Prelude

Amazing Grace

Traditional
Arranged by Jim Brickman
Universal Tunes © 2008

Words of Welcome

*Call to Worship

Inspired by Psalm 15

O Lord, who may abide in your tent? Who may dwell on your holy hill?
The one who lives with integrity, does what is right, and speaks honestly with truth from the heart.
O Lord, who is invited to stay in Your dwelling place?
The one who doesn’t speak evil against others or wrong their neighbors, or slander their friends.
The one who keeps all promises no matter the cost.
If you live this way, you will not be shaken and will live together in the peace of the Lord.

*Opening Song

Surely the Presence

UMH 328

Congregational Prayer

O God from whom every gift derives, we gather to worship You this day. You are an awesome God; beyond any word we could ever use to describe You. And yet, through Jesus, we know the intimacy of Your vast love. We have come to You in thanksgiving and praise, to know that You are God and to place our lives anew into Your perspective. Enlarge our vision with Your Word. Instill in us, again, Your hope in place of our despair, Your peace where our hatred threatens, Your joy amidst our depression, Your love overwhelming our apathy. May Your Holy Spirit surround dwell within us now and forevermore. For we pray in the name of Jesus who taught us to pray:

The Lord’s Prayer

Ian Good

Bell Anthem

Heavenly Metals

© 2021Eighth Constant Music

Ian Good

A Time for Young Disciples

Song of Preparation

Njalo (Always)

Njalo, njalo, njalo, njalo.
Njalo, njalo, njalo, njalo.
Always we pray, always we give, always we bless, always.
Always we pray, always we give, always we bless, always.

Ndebele, Zimbabwe; English translation by
Patick Matsikenziri and Daniel Charles Damon
Translation and arrangement © 2006, Abingdon Press

Scripture Reading

James 3:13-17

¹³ Who is wise and knowledgeable among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. ¹⁴ But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be arrogant and lie about the truth. ¹⁵ This is not wisdom that comes down from above but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. ¹⁶ For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. ¹⁷ But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy.

The Message

Three Simple Rules – First, Do No Harm

Anthem

Hear I Am, Lord

arr. By Ovid Young
Augsburg Publishing

This Week in the Life of the Church

The Offering of Our Gifts and Our Prayers

*Closing Song

Change My Heart, O God

FWS 2152

*Sending Forth

Postlude

Faith of Our Fathers

Music by Henri F. Hemy
and James G. Walton
Hal Leonard © 2017

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

MINISTERSEvery member of Sparta UMC
PASTOR Rev. Dr. Steven Bechtold
PASTOR EMERITUS Rev. Dr. Alden Welch
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES Bonnie Pomeroy
SEXTON Eleanor Shumaker

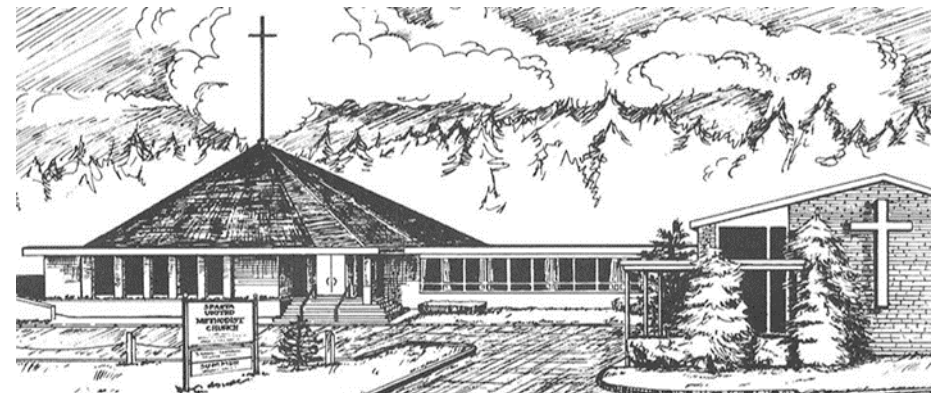
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On-line Giving Platform through Vanco.*

SPARTA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



September 14, 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