

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

February 8, 2026, 10:30 A.M.

Prelude

Pass It On

*Stand if able
by Kurt Kaiser
arranged by Mark Hayes
GlorySound © 2008

Words of Welcome

*Call to Worship

We are called to bring a new understanding of God: that God so loves the world.

We are the salt of the earth.

We are called to bring a new hope in God: that God gives us new life.

We are the light of the world.

Come, let us be the salt of the earth, the light of the world.

Come, let us love one another with the love of God. Let us join together in our love of God to worship and follow Jesus.

*Opening Song

Open the Eyes of My Heart

W&S 3008

Congregational Prayer

There is no part of life you do not touch, O God, drawing out and lifting up the love around us until defenses are lowered, barriers broken down and the power of your love reveals the beauty you intended for all your children. May our actions draw attention to you, to the richness you bring to all life and the abundance you share, setting the scene for us to share too. Help us to bring light into all the darkness of life, spreading hope for a better world, a world where justice is made real by your children living in harmony. Help us to bring salt into the blandness of life, encouraging vitality and joy in living in a world that dares to hope for the future that you promise where all your children will know themselves loved and valued and treasured, created in your image, bringing you glory forever. We pray in the name of Jesus who taught us to pray:

The Lord's Prayer

Anthem

Lord, Here Am I

Ian Good

by John Ness Beck

Text by Fannie Crosby (1820-1915)

Beckenhorst Press, Inc. © 1984

A Time for Young Disciples

Scripture Reading

5:13-16

¹³ *You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.*

¹⁴ *You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.*

Response to the Gospel

*Here I am, Lord
Verse 3*

UMH 593

The Message

Given: Poured Out for Others

The Offering of Our Gifts

This Week in the Life of the Church

The Offering of Our Prayers

*Closing Song

Take My Life and Let It Be

UMH 399

*Sending Forth

Postlude

Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus

Arr. by James Koerts

Tune: WEBB

by George J. Webb

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**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 Sue Reynolds
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES Bonnie Pomeroy
SEXTON Eleanor Shumaker

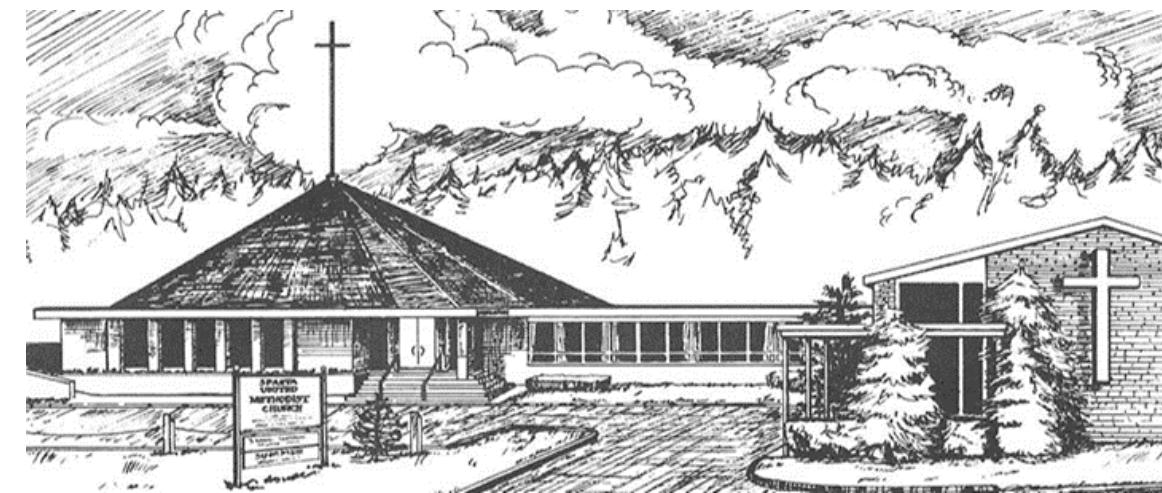
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Platform through Vanco.*

SPARTA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



February 8, 2026
10:30 A.M. Worship Service

71 Sparta Avenue
Sparta, New Jersey 07871
973-729-7773

*Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors:
Not Just a Tagline: This IS who we are*