

SPARTA
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors
March 22, 2026, 10:30 A.M.

*Stand in body or spirit

Prelude *Give Me Jesus* Traditional Spiritual
Arranged by J. B. Taylor
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Words of Welcome

*Call to Worship based on Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

O God our Guide and Helper, we come to worship you!
You stay beside us as we journey through life.
O God our Just and Holy One, we come to thank you!
You lead us in your path of justice and peace.
O God, our Trustworthy Leader, we come to praise you!
We know we can always rely on your promises.
O God, we gather to worship, praise and thank you.

*Opening *O God, Beyond All Praising* FWS 2009

Congregational Prayer

We confess, Anointed One, that we excuse ourselves from reaching out to those who need your care. We take your words that there will always be unmet needs as a reason not to try to meet the needs we can. Forgive us and help us to renew our determination to live as faithful followers and disciples. Help us to embrace the truth that we are a part of your amazing work of love and restoration of your creation and kingdom, remembering that we are not called to do this work alone, but as your beloved children. Equip us for all we are asked to do in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray:

The Lord's Prayer Ian Good

Anthem *And Walk Humbly with Your God* Text from Micah 6: 6-8
Music by Douglas E. Wagner
Lorenz Publishing Co. © 2006

A Time for Young Disciples

Song of Preparation *Make Me a Servant* FWS 2176

Scripture Reading *John 12: 1-8*

Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ² There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those reclining with him. ³ Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus's feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. ⁴ But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, ⁵ "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" ⁶ (He said this not because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) ⁷ Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. ⁸ You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

The Message Rev. Gina Yeske
Associate Superintendent, GNJAC

The Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings

This Week in the Life of the Church

The Offering of Our Prayers

*Closing Song *Go to the World* W&S 3158

*Sending Forth

Postlude *My Jesus, I Love Thee / What a Friend / Jesus Is All the World To Me*
Arranged by Dino Kartsonakis

**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 ASSISTANTSue Reynolds
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES.....Bonnie Pomeroy
SEXTON Eleanor Shumaker

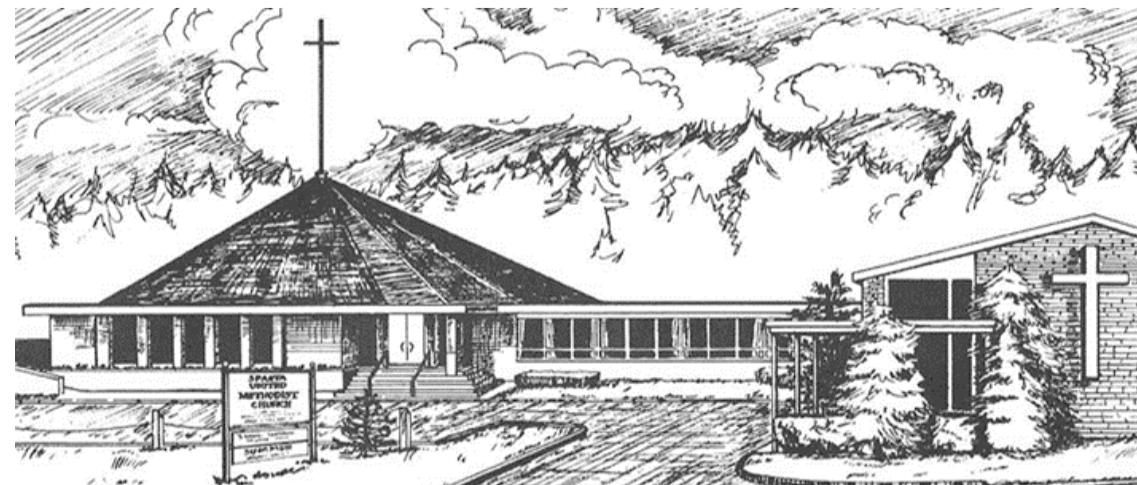
Website: www.spartaumc.org

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SPARTA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



March 22, 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