

Celebrate with Flowers!

Altar Flowers for the New Year. We are now accepting requests for altar flowers for May 10, 24, 31, and June 21.

You can acknowledge loved ones or special occasions with an altar flower arrangement. Arrangements cost \$35.00. Please pay the church directly, including a note that the payment is for altar flowers for a specific date.

Use [this new link](#)* to reserve flowers. We need your name, phone number or email address, and the dedication. Please let us 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.

*bit.ly/4sUJELRQ

Scan this QR Code to reserve flowers.



Scan me

Earthkeepers

Mark your calendars now to **RENEW!**

Earthkeepers (a summer camp experience where children will learn all about God's World and Growing in God's Love) will be held the week of July 27-31 from 9-noon.

There will be a "Prayers Around the Peace Pole", Sunday, July 26, 7:00, which will include prayer for all our campers, including the adults. All church members, friends, and neighbors are invited to attend.

If you'd like to hear more or have ideas to share, please come to our first EK planning meeting on **Wednesday, April 8 at 7:00 PM**. There are so many ways you can help, small and larger. This is such a rich and rewarding week. You will love it!

Children are our most precious gifts from God. Come be part of the excitement!

Music Ministries

All are welcome to join the Choir!

We rehearse on Sundays from 12p.m.-1:15p.m.

Please see me if you have any questions!

Bonnie Pomeroy, Music Director.

Donations

When you send your pledge payments via cash, check, or Vanco, if you intend the payment to be split between the Operating Budget and the Capital (Building) Fund, **please indicate how you want it split** on your envelope, check, or Vanco payments.

Sometimes we have to guess, but we don't always get it right. So please tell us.

If you make recurring donations through Vanco and have changed your pledge this year from what it was last year, be sure to make those changes to your account in **Vanco**.



Church Mouse Thrift Shop

Watch our [Facebook](#) page to find out details on any Pop-Up sales.

Yarn Extravaganza is still going on.

After last Saturday's Changeover Day, there is now a WHOLE NEW selection of spring and summer apparel, beach themed décor, and brand-new treasures waiting to be discovered on our shelves!

The shop is looking for a glass-front display cabinet with lock to show off our fabulous jewelry and other delicate items. If you have one you are looking to get rid of, please let us know.

From Tags To Riches

Our Sparta UWF is supported by Soup and Quiche sales and a new ministry called:

From Tags to Riches. Jill is turning old/used greeting cards into gift tags! These tags come in an assortment of festive themes. Imagine adorning your gifts with tags featuring delicate butterflies, winter wonderlands, animals, and flowers for **Easter**, and trees for **Arbor Day!** Also, **Birthdays** and **Anniversaries** happen **all year long!** Grab a selection of 10 tags for just \$1! Every penny supports the amazing work of United Women in Faith (UWF) at our church. If you are interested in supporting UWF through the purchase of gift tags, please see Sue in the office.

Recycling your old cards is easy! Gather your used cards, pop them in a bag labeled "Jill," and drop the cards off in the Church Secretary mailbox.

Let's upcycle and support UWF together! Thank you.

BEYOND THE BASICS - (ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL)

Sunday Mornings at 9:30 A.M. in the Wesley Room

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>

TUESDAY MORNING HEALTHIER LIVING GROUP

Join Zoom Meeting on Tuesdays at 10 A.M.

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85294018790?pwd=bScXggjh6RICDFWN93I16_aMcguqx.F.1

Meeting ID: 852 9401 8790 Passcode: 389789

One tap mobile +16465588656,,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. at Angelo's Franklin Diner

FRIDAY MORNING READING TOGETHER/BIBLE STUDY

Starting on Friday, February 20th, at 10 A.M.

For Lent, we will be reading and studying the book ***Why did Jesus Have to***

Die? By Adam Hamilton. Have questions? Need more info?

Please contact Laura Kempson, ljempson27@gmail.com

Please come join this hybrid study group in person at the church in the Wesley room at 10 A.M. or via Zoom.: <https://zoom.us/j/389284226>

Alternate Phone in #: +1 646 876 9923; Meeting ID: 389 284 226 -- Passcode: 7773

Feed the Body/Feed the Soul, April 2026

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0D4EAAAE23A3FD0-63057812-feed>



April 5, 2026

Thank you to our Worship Leader this morning:

Dave Johnson

We would like to thank— Susan Foy, Jen Hutchison, David Foote, Sue Reynolds, Yvonne Roux, Pat Harvey, and all those who help to make Livestream Worship Services possible by recording and posting the service for us to watch as they happen. We're always looking for more folks to help with the livestream.

(Especially folks who are not in the bell choir.) Please see Yvonne.

Uplift and Support

Prayers for the Aughenbaugh Family who lost their 22-year-old daughter in a car accident. Continued prayers for Ron and Dave, parents of Vali Hunsicker who passed away February 2; Pat Schutz's sister and family on the death of Louis Allegra; Kimmy Trevot, fighting heart problems at 32; Sig Binder; Jill's mom, Tibbie Reynolds; Mike & Debbie LaRose; the family of Maryanne Spence; Michael Franek; Brooke; Bev DeYoung; the family of Sally Yellinski; Adam Jacob's father Hank Jacob; Nancy Starnes; Abbie Wright; Edith VanHousen; Alba Haas; Diane Cironi; Sharon Gordon; Lester Hemphill; Rich Kelley; Linda Giammanco; Janet Hoffer; and Brenda Losey.

Before you place anyone on our prayer list, please make sure you have permission from the person to do so.

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.

Anthem: *Empty Now* Words and Music by
Joseph M. Martin
Soprano soloist: Laura Kempson Malcolm Music © 1997

The Message *A Cause to Celebrate*

Offertory: *Second Movement* by Antonio Vivaldi
from *Concerto in D Major* Arranged, after J. S. Bach
Trumpet: Bryce James Grier (BWV 972)
by Huw Morgan
Resonata Music LTD, London © 2013

Receiving of the Offering for Easter

This Week in the Life of the Church

The Offerings of Our Prayers

*Closing Song *Christ the Lord is Risen Today* UMH 302
Verses 1 – 4

*Sending Forth

Postlude: *Resurrection Medley* Arranged by:
Trumpet: Bryce James Grier Sheila J. Nelson
David E. Smith Publications © 1995

SPARTA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Ministry Team

MINISTERS..... Every Member of Sparta UMC
PASTORRev. Dr. Steven Bechtold
PASTOR EMERITUS Rev. Dr. Alden Welch
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTSue Reynolds
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES.....Bonnie Pomeroy
SEXTON Eleanor Shumaker

www.spartaumc.org
71 Sparta Ave, Sparta, NJ 07871
973-729-7773

All Songs - One License A-719583