

SPARTA
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors
April 19, 2026, 10:30 A.M.

**Please Stand in body or spirit*

Prelude *All Things Bright and Beautiful* Traditional English Melody
Tune: ROYAL OAK
Arranged by J. B. Taylor
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Words of Welcome
Call to Worship

Responsive Call to Worship – Creation Care (Psalm 8)

The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it.

We come to worship the Creator of all life.

From the mountains and rivers to the fields and forests, creation sings of God's beauty and abundance.

God calls us to be caretakers of this sacred gift, to tend the earth with gratitude and love.

In all we do, may we honor the goodness of creation, reflecting God's justice, care, and renewal.

We gather to worship the God of creation., to praise God with thankful hearts and faithful hands.

*Opening Song *Let All Things Now Living* FWS 2008

Congregational Prayer

Loving God, who has created all things and called them good, we gather together today with grateful hearts for the many blessings that we have been given that surround us every day. The sustaining air we breathe and the water we drink, the birds of the air whose songs of praise raise our spirits, the mountains and hills that remind us of your majesty and greatness. We confess that we at times fail to feel gratitude for these daily gifts, that we take them for granted and fail to act as faithful stewards of the world that you have created and entrusted to your care. Forgive us when we are blind to your gifts and our responsibility, and guide us to care for your creation so that generations to come may continue to receive these same blessings. For we ask this in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray:

The Lord's Prayer

Ian Good

Anthem

A Heart Like Jesus

Text by Charles Wesley
Music by Ray D. Hatton
Lorenz Publishing Co. © 1998

A Time for Young Disciples

Scripture Lesson *Psalm 8*

O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens.

² *Out of the mouths of babes and infants you have founded a bulwark because of your foes, to silence the enemy and the avenger.*

³ *When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established;*

⁴ *what are humans that you are mindful of them, mortals^[a] that you care for them?*

⁵ *Yet you have made them a little lower than God^[b] and crowned them with glory and honor.*

⁶ *You have given them dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet,*

⁷ *all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field,*

⁸ *the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.*

⁹ *O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!*

Song of Preparation

How Majestic is Your Name

FWS 2023

The Message

Created in Love, Called to Care

The Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings

This Week in the Life of the Church

The Offering of Our Prayers

*Closing Song

For the Beauty of the Earth

UMH 92

*Sending Forth

Postlude

All Creatures of our God and King

Arranged by Hal. H. Hopson
Harold Flammer, Inc. © 1983

**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

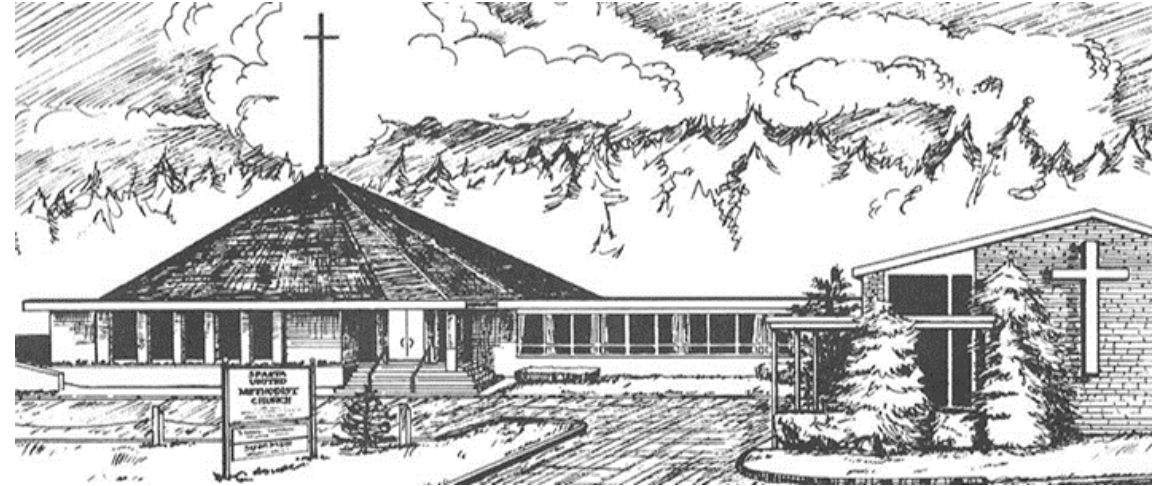
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Platform through Vanco.*

SPARTA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



April 19, 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