

SPARTA
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors
May 3, 2026, 10:30 A.M.

**Please Stand in body or spirit*

Prelude *When Morning Gilds the Skies* Tune: LAUDES DOMINI
by Joseph Barnby, 1868
arranged by J. B. Taylor
Lorenz Publishing Co. © 2022

Words of Welcome

***Call to Worship**

In the days of the Lord, justice and peace shall flourish. and the voice of those who are oppressed will be heard.

The poor will receive enough on which to live and the rich will share gladly the abundance they have received at the hand of God.

The wolf will lie down with the lamb: the fierce gives way to the tame, the weak protect the strong, the powerless contain the power of the mighty.

God shall establish peace and justice with integrity and with mercy.

*Opening Song *From the Rising of the Sun* FWS 2024

Congregational Prayer Pope Francis

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty. Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one. O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes. Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction. Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth. Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light. We thank you for being with us each day. Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace. For we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray:

The Lord's Prayer Anthem *For the Beauty of the Earth*

Words by F. S. Pierpoint
(1835-1917)
Music by John Rutter
Oxford University Press © 1980

A Time for Young Disciples

Song of Preparation *Spirit of the Living God* UMH 393

Scripture Reading *Amos 5: 21-24*

*I hate, I despise your festivals,
and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.
²² Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,
I will not accept them,
and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals
I will not look upon.
²³ Take away from me the noise of your songs;
I will not listen to the melody of your harps.
²⁴ But let justice roll down like water
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.*

The Message *Prophets, Justice, and the Land*

The Receiving of Our Tithes and Offerings

This Week in the Life of the Church

The Offering of Our Prayers

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

*Closing Song *The Trees of the Field* FWS 2279

*Sending Forth

Postlude *I Sing the Mighty Power of God* Tune: ELLACOMBE
From Gesangbuch der Herzogl, Wittenberg
Arranged by Molly Ijames
Beckenhorst Press, Inc. © 2025

**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

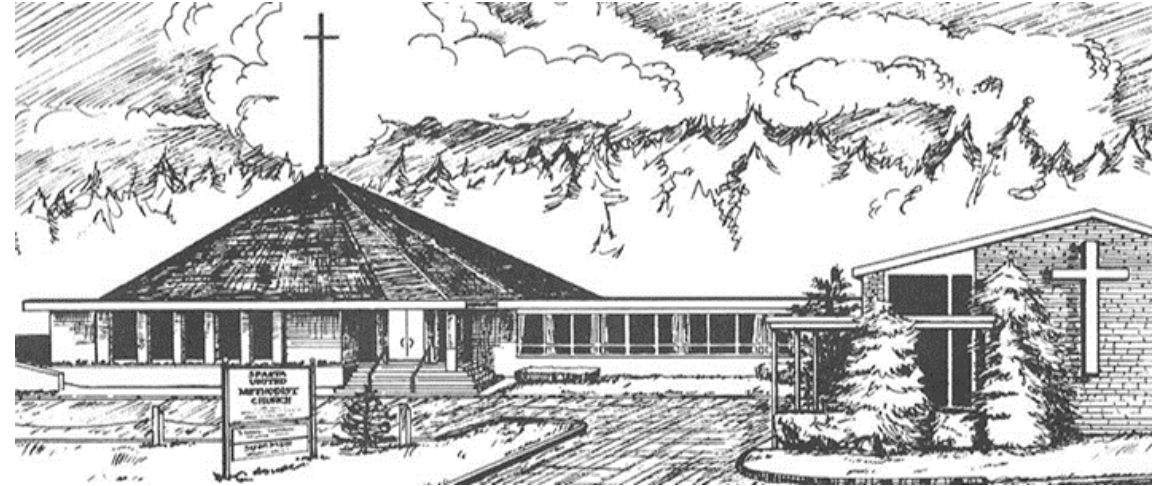
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Platform through Vanco.*

SPARTA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



May 3, 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