

**SPARTA**  
**UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
*Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors*  
May 10, 2026, 10:30 A.M.  
**MOTHER'S DAY / FESTIVAL OF THE CHRISTIAN HOME**

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*\*Please Stand in body or spirit*

Prelude *Morning Has Broken* Tune: BUNESSAN  
Traditional Gaelic Melody  
Arranged by J. B. Taylor  
Lorenz Publishing Co. © 2022

Words of Welcome

Call to Worship  
We gather together to worship our loving, nurturing God,  
**who, like a mother, knows us intimately, loves us unconditionally.**  
We gather together to worship God who teaches us the way we should go, and comforts us in  
times of need.  
**Praise God, the Source and Sustainer of life!**

Opening Song *I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry* FWS 2051

Congregational Prayer  
**We join our hands in this family circle, Lord, and raise our voices in thanks to You.**  
**Because of Your great love, we know the love of parents, child, brothers, sisters. You have**  
**done great wonders in the world, yet You hear the prayers of each of us, small as we are.**  
**Your understanding is beyond our imagination, but You care enough to listen to us, and**  
**You understand our hurts and fears. Your hand created the heavens, the stars, the moon,**  
**and Your power keeps them in their places, yet You still have time to touch our lives. When**  
**we are hungry or tired or lonely, you provide us with food or rest or comfort. We give**  
**thanks to You, the God all creation and loving parent who love endures forever. For we**  
**pray in the name of Jesus who taught us to pray:**

The Lord's Prayer Ian Good

Anthem *I Carry You in My Heart* Words based on a poem  
by e. e. cummings  
and Philippians 1  
adapted by Kathy Burdette  
Music by Donna Butler  
Alfred Publishing Co., Inc. © 2007

A Time for Young Disciples

Scripture *Revelation 21: 1-5*

*Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. <sup>2</sup> And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them and be their God; <sup>4</sup> he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away." <sup>5</sup> And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true."*

Song of Response *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow* UMH 94

The Message *Renewing the Earth, Restoring Hope*

The Receiving of Our Tithes and Offerings

This Week in the Life of the Church

In Celebration of Women of Faith and Mothers

The Offering of Our Prayers

\*Closing Song *Your Grace is Enough* W&S 3106

\*Sending Forth

Postlude *Creatures of Our God and King* from Geistliche Kirchengesange  
Arranged by Larry Shackley  
Alfred Music Publishing Co., Inc. © 2004

**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

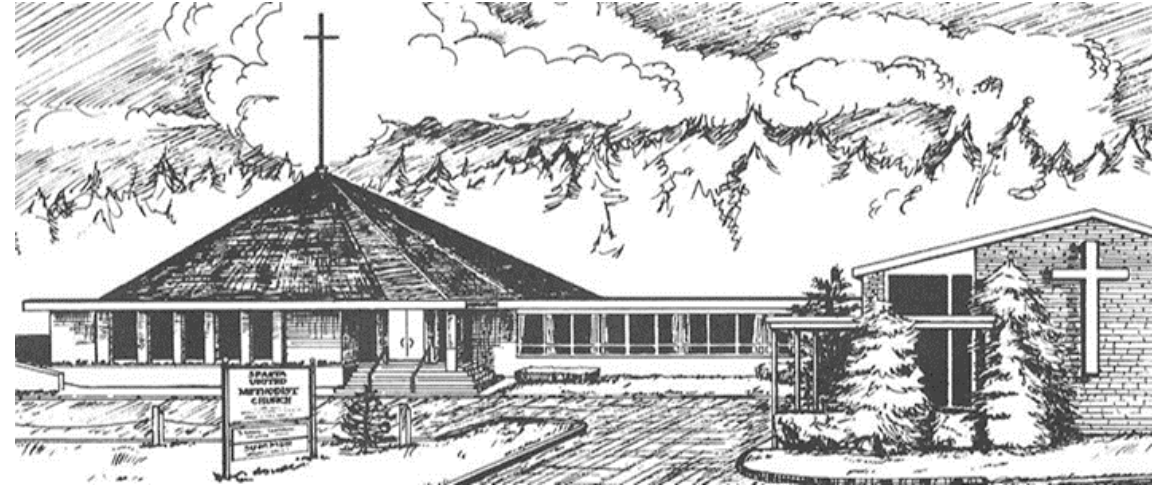
Website: [www.spartaumc.org](http://www.spartaumc.org)

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# SPARTA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



**May 10, 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**