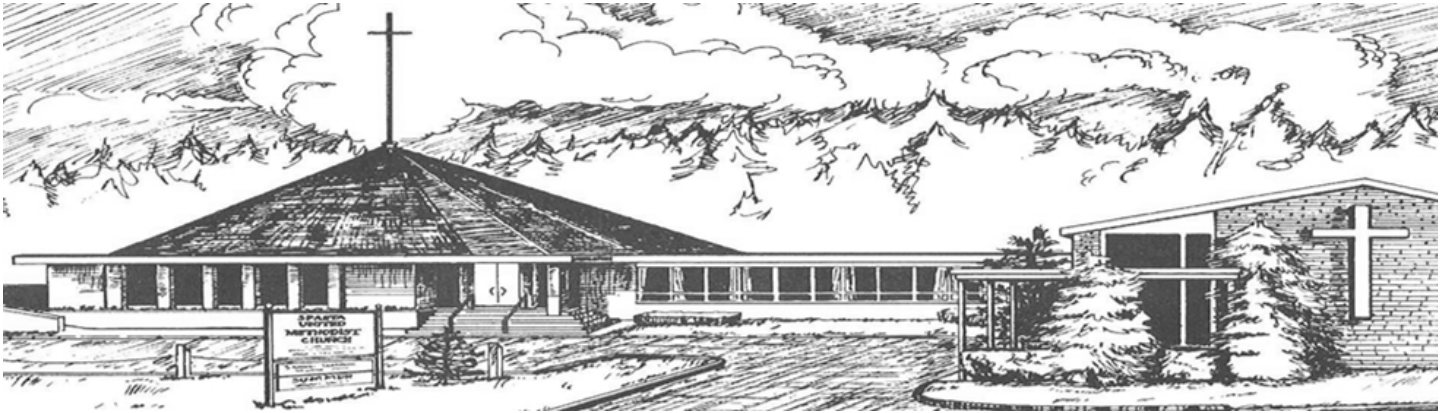


SPARTA

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



NEWSLETTER – June 2026

Dear Friends in Christ,

During my seminary days, I served as Associate Pastor in a 5-church parish where, every other month, I preached three times on a Sunday morning at 9, 10, and 11 a.m. During that time, there was a bridge that crossed the Musconetcong River in the village of Changewater that I had to cross in travelling between the churches. Part of it fell into the river and was obviously closed while repairs were done. Suddenly, what was usually a 7-minute trip between two churches was now a 12-minute trip which may not seem like that big of a deal, but it meant that there was a time crunch every Sunday morning with the services this close together. During that time, I became acutely aware of the importance of bridges in our day-to-day living.

Bridges is a wonderful metaphor for the church as it symbolizes the connections that need to be made for us to be a faithful and impactful community that brings Jesus to the world. We need bridges between one another within the community as we seek to support and care for one another. We need bridges between the faith community and the community at large to build partnerships and effectively serve others and particularly those who are vulnerable. We need bridges between our community here in Sparta and the world at large where we can make a difference in the lives of people near and far.

Bridges is also the name of a process that we have been working on for the past year that will help us to focus our ministry and make a plan for focusing our ministry for at least the next five to ten years, setting the congregation on a new outward focused trajectory. During the month of June, this plan will be fine-tuned and focused for implementation beginning this summer. It is filled with opportunity for each one of us to be engaged in promoting new ministry, reigniting continuing ministries, and fulfilling our call to make disciples and transform the world around us. Copies of this proposal will be available for you to read and provide your ideas and feedback prior to the Church Council's adoption. It will also be a time for each one of us to look at where we find ourselves engaging in ministry each according to our gifts.

As with all organizations, our bridges get worn and wearied and need restoration, repair, and rebuilding so that we can continue to faithfully respond to God's call to go into all the world. We are in a post-COVID world when life is different than it was even 10 years ago. Without a time of refocusing and discernment, we may very well choose to wither away, or we can engage the future with hope and excitement because God isn't done with us yet. I am looking forward to this journey, I hope you are as well.

In Christ,
Steve

NEWSLETTER – June 2026

Worship Schedule



Worship Every Sunday at 8:45 and 10:30 a.m.

Communion is celebrated each week at the 8:45 a.m. service, and at the beginning of each month at the 10:30 a.m. service.

Contemplative Services are back to the first Wednesday of the month at 12:15 p.m.

Altar Flowers

Celebrate with Flowers!

We are now accepting requests for altar flowers for **May 31**, July 5, and July 12.

You can acknowledge loved ones or special occasions with an altar flower arrangement. Arrangements cost \$35. Please pay the church directly, including a note that the payment is for altar flowers for a specific date.

Use [this link](https://bit.ly/4sUQLRQ)* 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/4sUQLRQ



Scan this QR Code to reserve flowers.

Scan me

Publication Deadlines

The deadline for the Newsletter is on the **15th of the month before**. For the weekly bulletin and announcements, the deadline is the **Wednesday before**.

NEWSLETTER – June 2026

Feed the Body/Feed the Soul

Love like Jesus and “feed my sheep.”

“Love and compassion are necessities, not luxuries. Without them, humanity cannot survive.” ~Dali Lama

You can help by signing up using the link below. You can also help by donating to the Thrift Shop, helping in the Shop and by holding all the workers, shoppers, and people needing help, in prayer.

Sign Up Genius

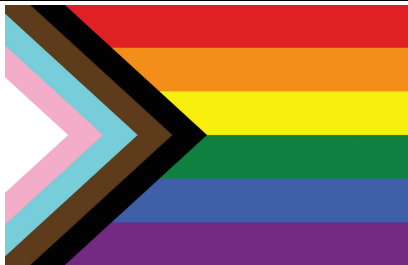
Feed the Body/Feed the Soul, June 12, 2026



www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0D4EAAAE23A3FD0-64091814-feed

Please review the available slots and click on the button to sign up. Thank you!

P-R-I-D-E!!!!



Sussex County LGBTI+ Pride 2026 is on
Saturday, June 13th 12 PM to 5 PM

One Brooks Plaza, Newton, NJ

Sparta UMC will have a table in the Festival and we will be taking the group photo of us at **2:00 PM.**

NEWSLETTER – June 2026

Church Mouse Thrift Shop



Church Mouse Thrift Shop
71 Sparta Ave.
Sparta, NJ 07871
973-729-9121

Hours:

Wed. & Sat.: 10:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

Thur. & Fri.: 1:00 - 4:00 P.M.

Did you know the Church Mouse Thrift Shop has a Facebook Page? **The Church Mouse Thrift Shop of The Sparta United Methodist Church**

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.

We're always looking for **new volunteers** to help in the thrift shop, especially on **Thursdays and Fridays.**

Happening in the store **this month:**

The Church Mouse is getting ready for Summer! Graduation merchandise, Teacher Appreciation gifts, and Father's Day gifts are going fast! Lots of outdoor dishes, glasses and picnic supplies are available! Our jewelry department is bursting at the seams! Thank you very much for your support as always!

- Keep a lookout on our Facebook page for the Father's Day Sale details:

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61578137110625>



Prayers Around the Peace Pole

Upcoming
Prayers Around the Peace Pole
services:

All starting at 7:00PM.

June 5

July 26



NEWSLETTER – June 2026

United Women in Faith

FATHERS—Remember and Honor

Once again this year at at Father’s Day, the Sparta United Women in Faith is inviting you to honor the fathers in your lives. In the church bulletin on June 21st we will have a special page listing the fathers you want to recognize.

We are asking that for each name listed, you donate \$2.00. This money will go to the World Thank Offering of United Methodist Women and be used for mission programs helping women, children, families. Please make out any checks to: Sparta United Women in Faith.

We have two categories: “In **Memory** of” and “In **Honor** of”. Please fill out the form and put it in an envelope in the United Methodist Women’s mail slot or place in the offering plate. Father’s Day deadline is **June 13th**. E-mail names **now!** Pay later.

***** PLEASE PRINT *****

For Father’s Day (please email OfficeAdmin@SpartaUMC.org by **June 13th!**)

Submitted by: _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

List names ONLY. Extra words will not be used.

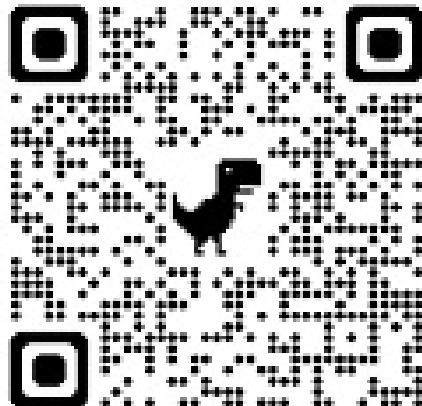
NEWSLETTER – June 2026

Vacation Bible School



Sparta United Methodist Church

July 27-31, 2026 ◆ **9:00 am to Noon**



NEWSLETTER – June 2026

United Women in Faith

Skyland's District United Women in Faith will be meeting in our pavilion on Sunday, June 28 at 2:00 (potluck food) to make some future plans.

If you would like to help us, be part of the Skyland's team, or are just interested, please come to hear more. Input is so important.

Please see one of us if you have questions.

Pat Schutz
Susan Pironti
Betty Sayner



United Women in Faith

From Tags to Riches

Tag Your Gifts with Purpose!

Our Sparta UWF is supported by Soup and Quiche sales and another 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, birds, and flowers for **Mother's 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.

NEWSLETTER – June 2026

Meeting Groups

For all Zoom Gatherings, you may use either the Video Link or the Phone-in # with ID #

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.

Currently reading *Being Jesus in Nashville* by Jim Palmer. Feel free to join on any Monday.

For more information, see Pastor Steve.

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/771970415?pwd=bFdUQk9YQUlyZXRhYUZnNVhRVEZvUT09>

TUESDAY MORNING HEALTHIER LIVING GROUP

Every TUESDAY Morning at 10 A. M. Join Zoom Meeting

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85294018790?pwd=bScXqgjh6RICDFWN93l16_aMcguqxF.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

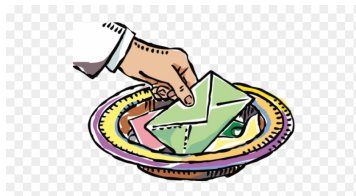
Friday's at 10:00 A. M.

***What Paul Really Said About Women: The Apostle's Liberating Views on Equality in Marriage, Leadership, and Love Paperback* by John T. Bristow**

Join Zoom Video Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/389284226>

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

Donations



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

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

s 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**.

Volunteering

Here's a list of the various committees and other activities we have going on here at the Sparta United Methodist Church. Something here might spark an interest to get you involved.

Choir: Every Sunday 9:45 & Noon.

Church Mouse Board: 1st Monday of the month 12:00 PM.

United Women in Faith: One Monday a month 12:30 PM.

Mission Committee: 1st Wednesday of even # months 7:00 PM.

Bell Choir: Every Tuesday 7:00 PM. (September – June)

Church Council: Usually on one Wednesday a month 7:00 PM.

Trustees: Usually on one Thursday a month 7:00 PM.

FTB/FTS Setup: The evening before the 2nd Friday 7:00 PM.

Feed The Body/Feed The Soul: 2nd Friday 10:00 AM.

Church & Society: 1st Saturday 10:00 AM.

Memorial Committee.

Art Show Planning Committee.

Worship Committee.

Sunday School.

Finance Committee.

Earthkeepers.

Lay Leaders.

Church Mouse Volunteers.

SPARTA

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

71 Sparta Avenue

Sparta, NJ 07871

973-729-7773

www.SpartaUMC.org

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