

SPARTA
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors
June 7, 2026, 10:30 A.M.
Celebration of the Sacraments

**Please stand in body or spirit*

Prelude: *Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart* Tune: Morecambe
by Frederick C. Atkinson
arranged by Janet Vogt
Lorenz Publishing Co. © 2006

Words of Welcome

*Call to Worship

The river of God's grace flows around us, wide and deep.
We come to the waters to be cleansed and made whole.
God calls us by name, declaring us His beloved children.
We immerse ourselves in His love, rejoicing in His presence.
Today, we celebrate a new beginning at the font and God's ongoing grace at the table
Let us praise the Lord, who breathes new life into us all!

*Opening Song *Baptized in Water* FWS 2248

Congregational Prayer

God of grace, we gather today to celebrate your presence in our lives from our first to final breath. You work in and through us even before we are aware of your presence. You extend your hand of forgiveness to us throughout our lives, reminding us that there is nothing that we do that can separate us from your great love in Jesus Christ. You sustain us with the bread of life that strengthens us for the journey. Open our hearts as we worship this day, inspiring us to grow in our faith and sharing that faith with all the world. For we pray in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray:

The Lord's Prayer Ian Good

Sacrament of Baptism
*Today we welcome Caelan James Fudge, child of Madison and Tracy Fudge,
into the family of God through the Sacrament of Baptism*

Congregational Response:

We give thanks for all that God has already given you and welcome you in Christian love. With God's help, we renew our covenant to live according to the example of Christ and proclaim good news of great joy for all people. We will surround Caelan with a community of love and grace and forgiveness that he may grow in his service to the world. We will pray for him, that he may live a life of your abundant grace. Amen.

A Time for Young Disciples
Scripture Reading

Luke 8: 22-25

²² One day he got into a boat with his disciples, and he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side of the lake." So they put out, ²³ and while they were sailing he fell asleep. A windstorm swept down on the lake, and the boat was filling with water, and they were in danger. ²⁴ They went to him and woke him up, shouting, "Master, Master, we are perishing!" And waking up, he rebuked the wind and the raging waves; they ceased, and there was a calm. ²⁵ Then he said to them, "Where is your faith?" They were terrified and amazed and said to one another, "Who then is this, that he commands even the winds and the water and they obey him?"

The Message *Questions Jesus Asked: Where is your Faith?*

The Receiving of our Tithes and Offerings

*Today, we celebrate and learn about one of the ministries offered through
United Methodist Communities*

This Week in the Life of the Church

Lifting Up of Our Concerns, Joys, and Prayers Answered

Anthem: *At This Table, There Is Love*

Words & Music by Roger Summers
Lorenz Publishing Co. © 2006

The Celebration of the Lord's Supper

*Closing Song *When the Storms of Life are Raging, Stand by Me*

UMH 512

*Sending Forth

Postlude: *Lord, I Know I Been Changed*

Traditional American Spiritual
Arranged by Larry Shackley
Lorenz Publishing Co. © 2010

**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 EMERITUSRev. Dr. Alden Welch
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT..... Sue Reynolds
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES Bonnie Pomeroy
SEXTON Eleanor Shumaker

Website: www.spartaumc.org

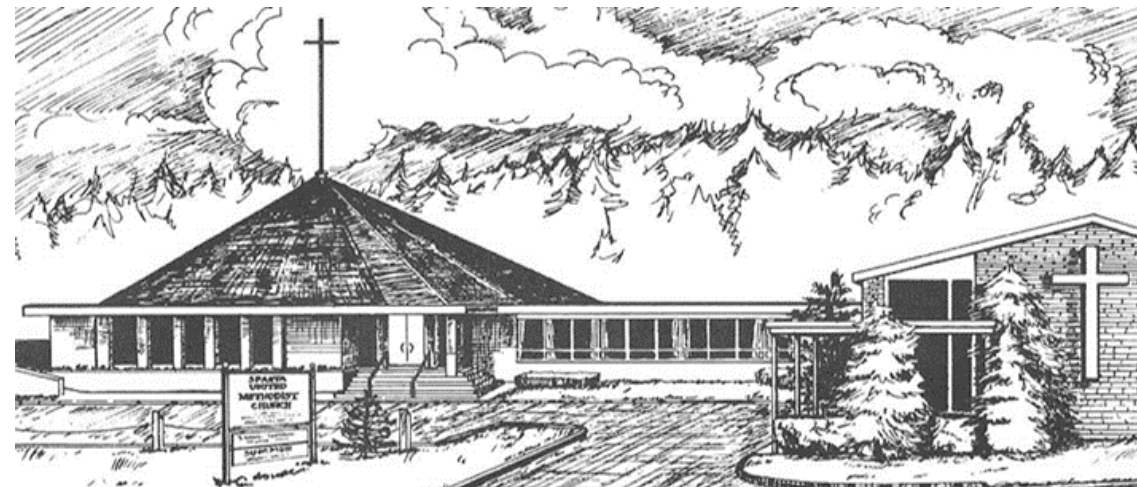
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Platform through Vanco.*

SPARTA

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



June 7, 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