

SPARTA
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors
June 14, 2026, 10:30 A.M.

Pride Sunday

**Please stand in body or spirit*

Prelude *He Leadeth Me* by William B. Bradbury
arranged by Jason W. Krug
Lorenz Publishing Co. © 2011

Words of Welcome

*Call to Worship *Rev. Ann B. Day Program Coordinator,
Open and Affirming Program of the United Church of Christ*

The heavens are telling the glory of God!
Day to day and night to night, unending is their silent speech of beauty and wonder.
How shall we join their joyful witness?
With words that proclaim God's inclusive love, with works that bring forth God's powerful justice, with worship that rejoices in God's wondrous presence, now and always.

*Opening Song *A Place at the Table* W & S 3149

Congregational Prayer *Adapted from a prayer published by the United Church of Canada*

Creating God, we acknowledge the diversity in this amazing world, created in atoms and molecules but with an underlying spirit of mystery, yet we must also admit that, at times, we have forgotten of the wonders of that diversity. We have longed for things to be familiar and as they have always been. We know that the great religious traditions have caused harm in the past and continue to cause harm and pain to those who express their being in ways different than the majority. We know, too, that we individually, either intentionally and unintentionally, have rejected and shunned those who are not like us. Help us to strive for ways to be more inclusive and celebrate all in this wondrous world. For in Jesus' name we pray:

The Lord's Prayer Ian Good

Anthem *Draw Me Close*

Words & Music by Kelly Carpenter
Choral Setting by Jack Schrader
Mercy/Vineyard Publishing © 2004

A Time for Young Disciples

Presentation of "Celebrate Diversity" Scholarships

Scripture Reading *Matthew 5: 43-48*

⁴³ "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' ⁴⁴ But I say to you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ so that you may be children of your Father in heaven, for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. ⁴⁶ For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? ⁴⁷ And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the gentiles do the same? ⁴⁸ Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Song of Preparation FWS 2164

The Message *Questions Jesus Asked: Who Do You Love?*

Giving of our Tithes and Offerings

This Week in the Life of the Church

Prayers of the People Spencer LaJoye
During our prayer time this morning, all are asked to allow the words displayed on the video to be your prayer as well, calling to mind persons whom you may know, or know of, who are in need of prayer today.

*Closing Song *In the Midst of New Dimensions* FWS 2238

*Sending Forth

Postlude *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me*
Traditional American Spiritual
arranged by Mary McDonald
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

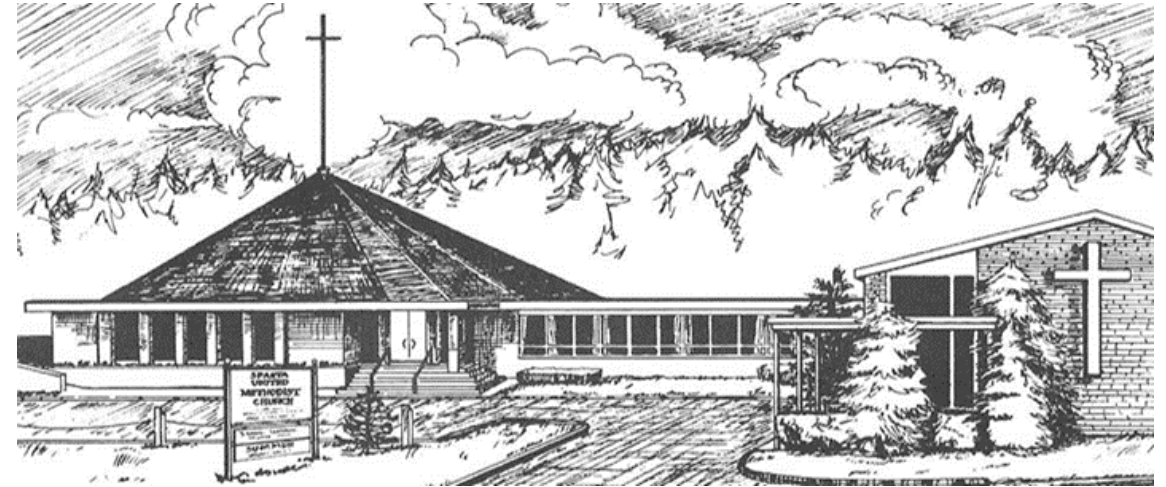
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SPARTA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



June 14, 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