

SPARTA
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors
June 21, 2026, 10:30 A.M.
Father's Day/Celebration Sunday

**Please stand in body or spirit*

Prelude *Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy* Early American Hymn
Violin: Julia Juan Arranged by Rich Heffler
Richard T. Heffler, Jr. © 2014

Words of Welcome

*Call to Worship

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.
Worship the Lord with gladness;
come into God's presence with singing.
Know that the Lord is God who made us and we belong to God
We are God's people, and the sheep of the pasture.
Enter the gates with thanksgiving, and the courts with praise.
Give thanks to God, for the Lord is good, and the love of God endures forever.

*Opening Song of Praise *We Are Singing* FWS 2235-a

Congregational Prayer

O Living God of past and future, we praise you for this present moment. Fill us with your joy and empower us with your Holy Spirit, that our strength may be renewed to sing a new song of your glory in a world which longs for your justice and peace. Especially today, we give our thanks for the fathers in our lives and the many sacrifices they make for their families, both big and small. So too, we remember all those who have helped fill the void when fathers are absent; grandfathers and uncles, brothers and cousins, teachers, pastors and coaches, and the women of our families. For all those who have led and guided us throughout the years, we give you thanks and pray for continued strength and wisdom for the journey. All this we ask in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray:

The Lord's Prayer Ian Good
Bell Anthem *Dry Bones* Arranged by Hart Morris
Agape © 1999

A Time for Young Disciples

In Celebration of Our Sunday School Teachers

Choir Anthem *Honor Thy Father and Thy Mother* Words & Music by
Joseph M. Martin
Malcolm Music © 1993

In Celebration of Music Ministries

Song of Preparation *Halle, Halle, Halleluja!* FWS 2026

Scripture Reading *John 6: 60-69*

60 When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?" 61 But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, "Does this offend you? 62 Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? 63 It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. 64 But among you there are some who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the beginning who were the ones who did not believe and who was the one who would betray him. 65 And he said, "For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father." 66 Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. 67 So Jesus asked the twelve, "Do you also wish to go away?" 68 Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. 69 We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."

Message *Questions Jesus Asked: Do You Also Want to Leave?*

In Celebration of Our Graduating Seniors

The Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings

This Week in the Life of the Church / Dedication of the COP Team

The Offering of Our Prayers

*Closing Song *Here I Am Lord* UMH 593

*Sending Forth

Postlude *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* by Martin Luther
Violin: Julia Juan arranged by Rich Heffler
Richard T. Heffler, Jr. © 2012

**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

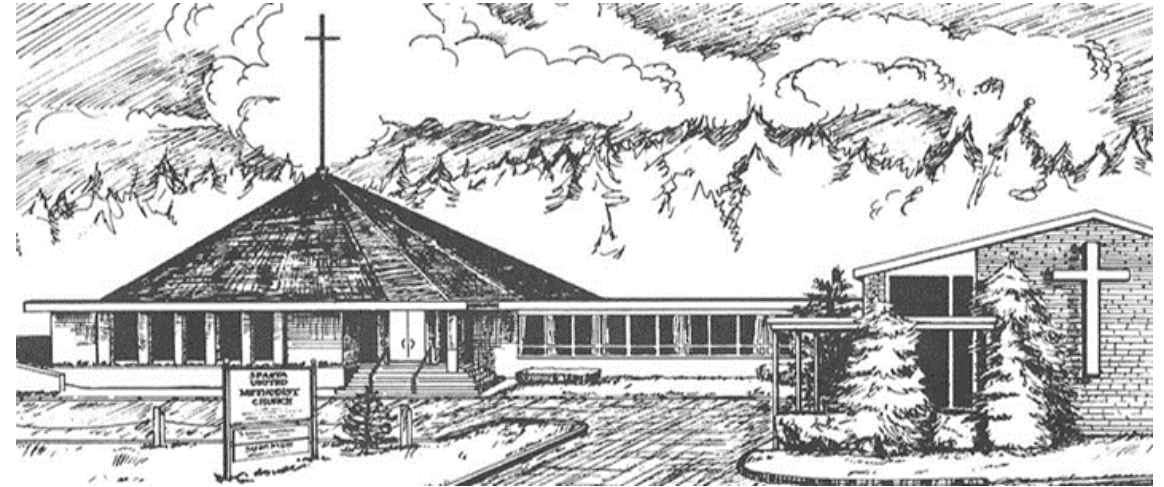
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through Vanco.*

SPARTA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



June 21, 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