

SPARTA
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors
June 28, 2026, 10:30 A.M.

**Please stand in body or spirit*

Prelude *My Jesus, I Love Thee* by Adoniram J. Gordon
arranged by Carol Tornquist
Alfred Music Publishing Co., Inc. © 2009

Words of Welcome

*Call to Worship

Children of God, do you love the God who hovered over the face of the deep and called the worlds into being?

Yes, we do and show that love as together we feed God's children.

Children of God, do you love the God who was revealed in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus the Christ?

Yes, we do and do all that we can to care for God's children

Children of God, do you love the God who breathes new life into us even as we gather this day?

Yes, we do and offer the gift of abundant life to all who will listen.

*Opening Song *Holy Ground* FWS 2272

Congregational Prayer

Loving and gracious God, we gather in this sacred place longing to draw nearer to you. In the busyness of our lives, we confess that our love for Jesus can grow distracted, comfortable, or complacent. Yet your love for us never falters. Open our hearts anew to the beauty of Christ's presence among us. Help us to hear his voice above the noise of the world, to recognize his love that welcomes and transforms, and to follow him with renewed devotion and joy. Deepen our trust in your grace, awaken our desire to walk in your way, and kindle within us a love that overflows into compassion, justice, mercy, and service. In the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Friend, we pray as he taught us saying,

The Lord's Prayer

Ian Good

A Time for Young Disciples

Scripture Reading *John 21: 15-19*

¹⁵ When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." ¹⁶ A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." ¹⁷ He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. ¹⁸ Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go." ¹⁹ (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, "Follow me."

Song of Preparation *Christ Has Broken Down the Walls* W & S 3122

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

Receiving of Our Tithes and Offerings

This Week in the Life in the Church

Offering of Our Prayers

*Closing Song *The Gift of Love* UMH 408

*Sending Forth

Postlude *At the Name of Jesus* Based on KING'S WESTON
by Ralph Vaughan Williams
arranged by Hugh S. Livingston, Jr.
Lorenz Publishing Co. © 1995

**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

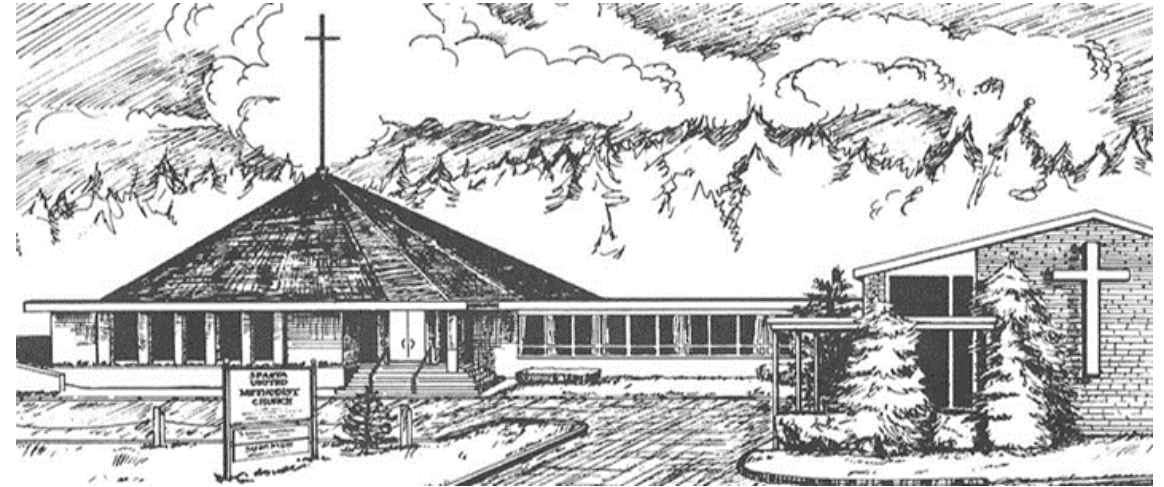
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SPARTA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



June 28, 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