

SPARTA

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

August 2, 2026, 10:30 A.M.

*Please stand in body or spirit		
Prelude	<i>It Is Well with My Soul</i> Violin: Julia Juan	Music by Philip P. Bliss Arranged by Peter Hilliard
Words of Welcome		
*Call to Worship		
Come, let us celebrate the forgiving, reconciling love of God.		
For once we were lost and felt so far away;		
now we have been found and welcomed home.		
Know that God’s love is lavished upon you forever.		
We rejoice at the news of forgiveness and hope!		
Come, let us celebrate and praise the God of Love.		
AMEN!		
*Opening Song	<i>I Come with Joy</i>	UMH 617
Congregational Prayer		
God of wonder and glory, this world around us is awesome. You have created it and		
continue to hold it together, even as we threaten to tear it apart. God of justice and		
righteousness, to you we look for the truth. Your wisdom cuts through the lies. God of grace		
and mercy, the love you have shown us in Jesus is more than we deserve. Your arms are		
open wide, like a waiting parent awaiting the prodigal children, ready to welcome and		
restore. We come to you thirsting for your living water. Guide us to the streams of your		
wonder and glory, your justice and righteousness, your grace and mercy, that we may drink		
and be satisfied, renewed for our continuing journey with Jesus. This we pray in the name of		
Jesus who taught us to pray:		
The Lord’s Prayer	Ian Good	

A Time for Young Disciples

Reading of the Scripture *Luke 15:1-10*

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

³ So he told them this parable: ⁴ “Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? ⁵ And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. ⁶ And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost sheep.’ ⁷ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

⁸ “Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹ And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ ¹⁰ Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

The Message *Building Bridges: Two Stories, One Message*

The Giving of our Tithes and Offerings

This Week in the Life of the Church

The Offering of Our Prayers

The Celebration of the Lord’s Supper

The Great Thanksgiving and Consecration

Receiving of the Bread and Cup

*Closing Song *As a Fire Is Meant for Burning* FWS 2237

*Sending Forth

Postlude *Abide with Me* Music by William H. Monk

Violin: Julia Juan Arranged by Peter Hilliard

**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

Website: www.spartaumc.org

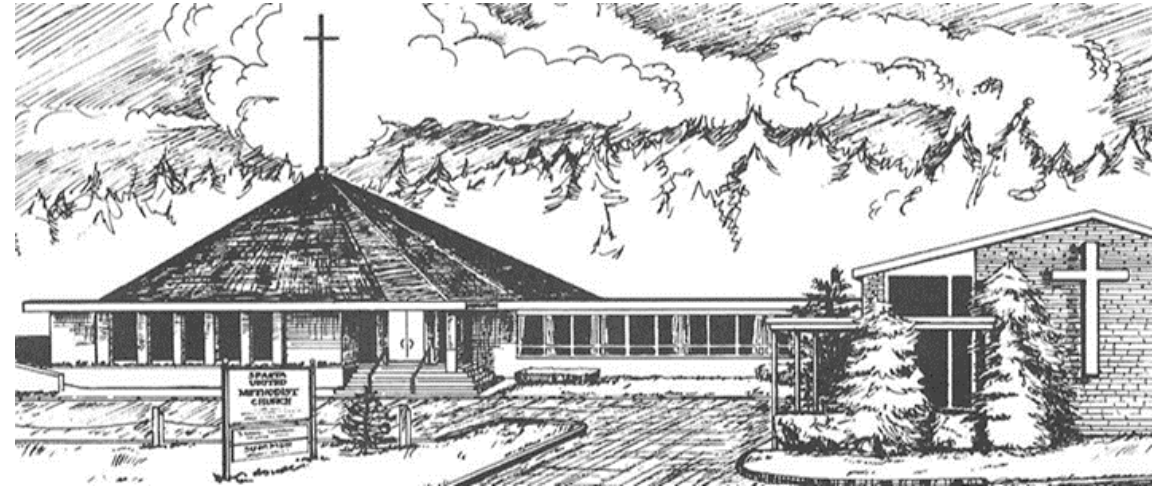
All Songs - One License A-719583

*For your convenience, you may scan the QR Code to reach the Sparta
UMC On-line Giving Platform through Vanco.*



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UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



August 2, 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