

SPARTA

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

August 9, 2026, 10:30 A.M.

*Please stand in body or spirit		
Prelude	Thy Word	Amy Grant and Michael W. Smith Arr. Bill Wolaver
Words of Welcome		
*Call to Worship		
We have come to worship the living God, Who calls prophets and teachers to bear witness. We have come to praise the almighty God, Who answers the forces of hatred and hurt with the power of grace. We have come to worship the all-gracious God, Who chooses even us to receive and carry the Word of life and hope.		
*Opening Song	Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service	UMH 581
Congregational Prayer		
Gracious and loving God, You have gathered us together as your people, not only to worship you with our words, but to serve you with our lives. Open our hearts to hear your call anew. Remind us that each of us has been created with gifts to share, compassion to offer, and a purpose to fulfill in your world. Send your Holy Spirit among us today, that our worship may strengthen our faith, deepen our love, and prepare us to be your hands and feet in our homes, our community, and wherever you lead us. Give us eyes to see those who are overlooked, courage to welcome those who feel alone, and generosity to share your hope with all people. As we worship, shape us into disciples who reflect the love of Christ through acts of mercy, justice, kindness, and peace. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray as he taught us		
The Lord’s Prayer	Ian Good	
Time for Young Disciples	Serving Others	

Reading of the Scripture	Isaiah 58: 6-12	
<i>⁶ Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?</i>		
<i>⁷ Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them and not to hide yourself from your own kin?</i>		
<i>⁸ Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you; the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.</i>		
<i>⁹ Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, “Here I am.”</i>		
<i>If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,</i>		
<i>¹⁰ if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday.</i>		
<i>¹¹ The Lord will guide you continually and satisfy your needs in parched places and make your bones strong, and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water whose waters never fail.</i>		
<i>¹² Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.</i>		
Song of Preparation	Through it All	UMH 507
The Message	Serving God, Building Bridges Video Presentation and Speakers: Scott and Kimberly Noel	
The Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings		
This Week in the Life of the Church		
Offering of Our Prayers		
*Closing Song	Sent Out in Jesus' Name	TFWS 2184
*Responsive Sending Forth		
We have been embraced by the love of God, empowered by the Holy Spirit, and blessed by Jesus. Let us go into this world to offer healing and hope, to serve God and one another. Amen		
Postlude	Higher Ground	Johnson Oatman, Jr. and Charles H. Gabriel Arr. Mark Hayes

**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

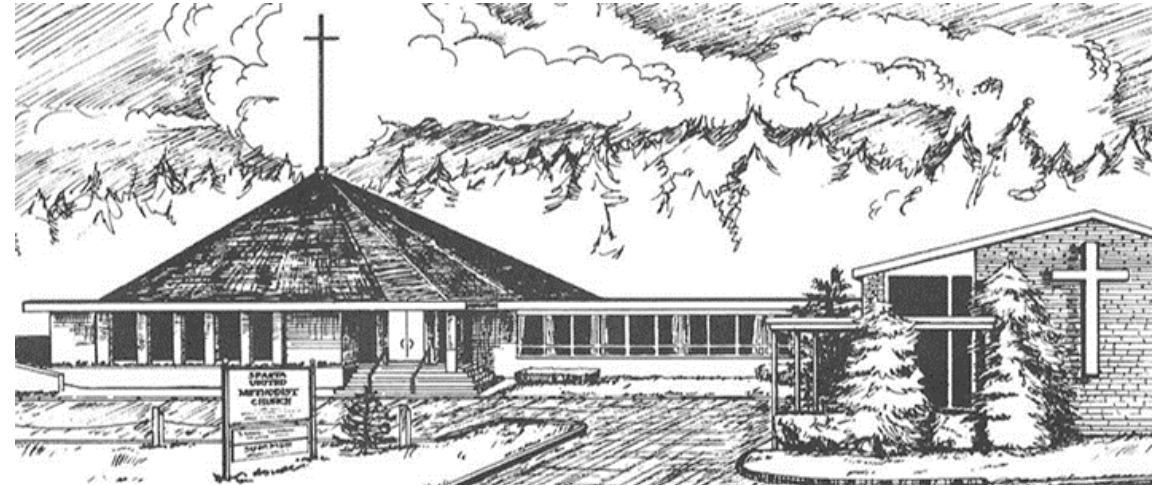
All Songs - One License A-719583

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UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



August 9, 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