

SPARTA

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

August 16, 2026, 10:30 A.M.

**Please stand in body or spirit*

Prelude

Majesty

Jack W. Hayford

Arranged by Phillip Keveren

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Words of Welcome

*Call to Worship

We gather together in the name of Jesus Christ—
members of God’s family, and brothers and sisters to one another.
There are no outsiders here among us, no one has any special standing or bragging rights.
For we have been brought together by the redeeming love of Jesus.

*Opening Song

Christ Has Broken Down the Wall

W & S 3122

Congregational Prayer

Creating God, we praise you for your word which called the universe into being; and for your spirit which breathed life into your human creation, made in your image. We praise you that in your love you seek to embrace us in our brokenness; that while your only Son was handed over to death, you raised him to life, a new creation by which you recreate each of us as we believe in hope and accept in faith. Source of life, Word of life, Breath of life, we give you thanks for all the blessings we have received as we pray in the name of Jesus, who taught us to say:

The Lord’s Prayer

Ian Good

A Time for Young Disciples

Songs of Praise from the Good Ole’ Days

Scripture Reading

Ephesians 2:13-18

¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴ For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us, ¹⁵ abolishing the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶ and might reconcile both to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. ¹⁷ So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near, ¹⁸ for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father.

The Message

Jesus: The Bridge Builder

The Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings

This Week in the Life of the Church

The Offering of Our Prayers

*Closing Song

Jesus, the Light of the World

W & S 3056

*Sending Forth

Postlude

How Majestic is Your Name

Michael W. Smith

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**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

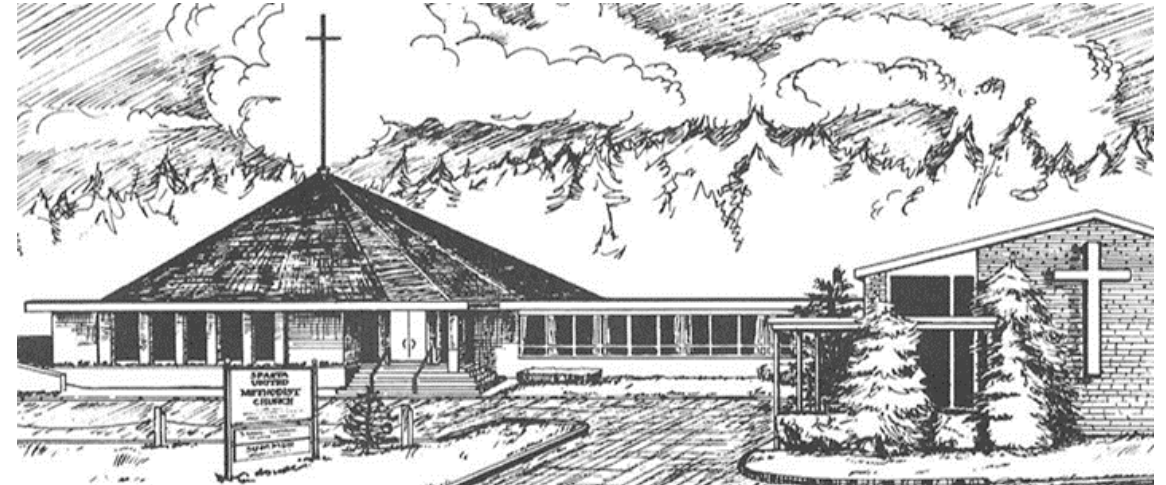
All Songs - One License A-719583

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



SPARTA

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



August 16, 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