

SPARTA

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

September 6, 2026, 10:30 A.M.

*Please stand in body or spirit

Prelude

How Beautiful

by Twila Paris
arranged by Lloyd Larson
Mountain Spring Music © 2017

Words of Welcome

*Call to Worship
We are called to be people of faith in the midst of the world,
and so we mix our worship and our work, our faith and our life.
We gather here as people who live in the world and yet, we gather as people who have been
called to see the world from a different viewpoint.
**God has called us together, God has called us to be part of a community, challenging us to
consider our priorities as we engage with the world around us.**

*Opening Song

Come and Find the Quiet Center

FWS 2128

Congregational Prayer
**God of love and grace, as we worship you today, lead us from where we are, to where you
want us to be; make us not merely guardians of a heritage, but living signs of your coming
Kingdom; fire us with passion for justice and peace between all people; fill us with that
faith, hope and love which embody the Gospel; and through the power of the Holy Spirit
make us one. That the world may believe, that your name may be lifted up among all
people, that your church may more effectively be your body, we commit ourselves to love
you, serve you, and follow you as co-journeymen along the pathway to a peace that passes
all our human understanding. For we pray this is the name of Jesus, who taught us to
pray:**

The Lord’s Prayer

Ian Good

A Time for Young Disciples

Scripture Reading

Ephesians 4:11-16

*¹¹ He himself granted that some are apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers ¹² to equip the
saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³ until all of us come to the unity of
the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of
Christ. ¹⁴ We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine by
people’s trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming; ¹⁵ but speaking the truth in love, we must
grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and
knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes
the body’s growth in building itself up in love.*

Song of Preparation

Make Us One

FWS 2224

The Message

Serving God – Serving Each Other

The Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings

This Week in the Life of the Church

The Offering of our Prayers

Celebration of the Lord’s Supper

The Great Thanksgiving and Consecration
Receiving of the Bread and the Cup

*Closing Song

Help Us Accept Each Other

UMH 560

*Sending Forth

Postlude

Called to Serve

Medley:
Called to Serve: Adam Geibel, 1855-1933
We'll Bring the World His Truth:Janice Kapp Perry
Ye Elders of Israel: Traditional
I'll Go Where You Want Me to Go: Carrie E. Rounsefell, 1861-1930
Arranged by Dale Jessee
Dale Jessee © 2023

**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

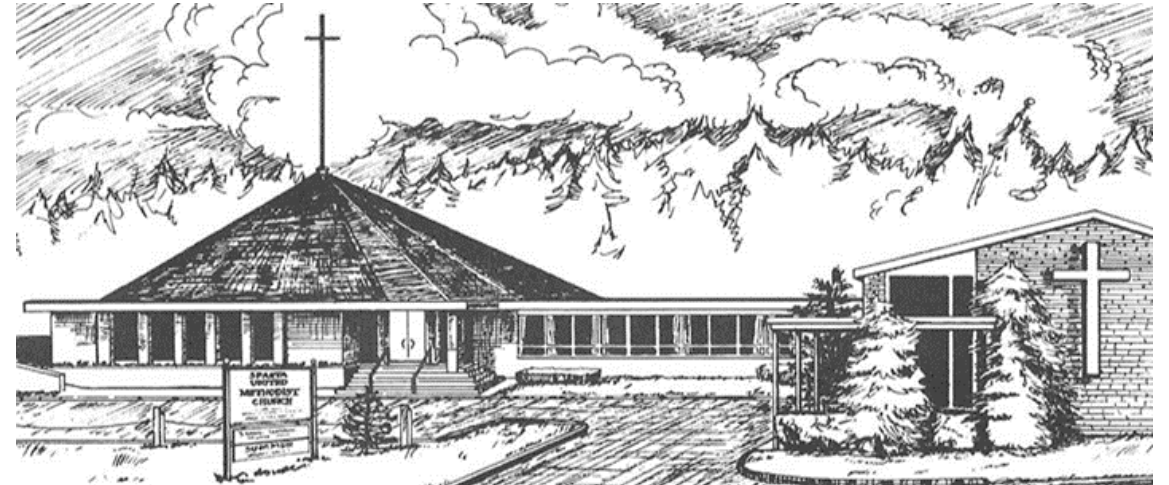
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UMC On-line Giving Platform through Vanco.*

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UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



September 6, 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