

SPARTA

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

September 13, 2026, 10:30 A.M.

*Please stand in body or spirit		
Prelude	<i>I've Got Peace Like a River</i>	Traditional American Spiritual Arranged by Mark Hayes Lorenz Publishing Co. © 2011
Words of Welcome		
*Call to Worship		
Give thanks to God! We thank God for joy, for laughter, for abundant blessings of every kind. Give thanks to God at all times and for everything! We thank God, when we can and as we can, for struggles, for solitude, for fears. Give thanks to God at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We thank God that, in Christ, our joys as well as our pain, our losses as well as our laughter, are in God's heart and hands.		
*Opening Song	<i>God of Great and God of Small</i>	W & S 3033
Congregational Prayer		
O God, we gather together in Your presence with expectation, hungry for an encounter with You, eager to hear Your Word. Open our eyes and ears to the presence of Your Holy Spirit. May the seeds of Your Word scattered among us this morning fall on fertile soil. May they take root in our hearts and lives, and produce an abundant harvest of good words and deeds. Help us, forgive us when we fall short, and keep us always focused on living into the goodness and blessings with which You have created us and all of Your creation. Hear our prayer in the name of Jesus Christ, our teacher and our Lord, who taught us to pray:		
The Lord’s Prayer		Ian Good

Special Music	<i>His Eye Is On the Sparrow</i> Soloist: Ruth Kelley	Music by Charles Hutchinson Gabriel Words by Civilla Durfee Martin, 1905 Musicnotes, Inc. © 2006
A Time for Young Disciples		
Congregational Song	<i>Where Children Belong</i>	FWS 2233
Scripture Reading	<i>James 1:19-27</i>	
<i>¹⁹ You must understand this, my beloved brothers and sisters: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger, ²⁰ for human anger does not produce God’s righteousness. ²¹ Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.</i>		
<i>²² But be doers of the word and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. ²³ For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; ²⁴ for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. ²⁵ But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.</i>		
The Message	<i>Listen Very Carefully</i>	
The Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings		
This Week in the Life of the Church		
The Offering of Our Prayers		
*Closing Song	<i>The Summons</i>	FWS 2130
*Sending Forth		
Postlude	<i>The Gospel Train</i>	African-American Spiritual Arranged by Glenda Austin The Willis Music Co. © 2011

**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,
Adults, 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

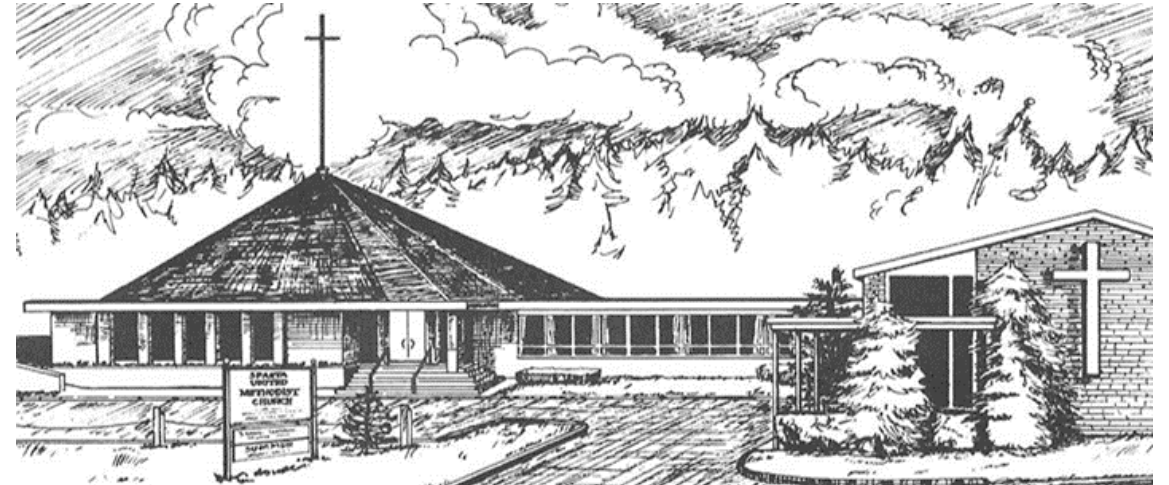
All Songs - One License A-719583



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UMC On-line Giving Platform through Vanco.***

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September 13, 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***