

SPARTA

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

September 27, 2026, 10:30 A.M.

*Please stand in body or spirit

Prelude

Shall We Gather At the River /
Near to the Heart of God

Arranged by Mark Hayes
GlorySound © 1988

Words of Welcome

*Call to Worship

We were never meant to walk this journey alone.
We are stronger when we walk together.
When one of us falls, another can reach out a hand.
When we grow weary, we can lean on one another.
Let us give thanks for the people who encourage, support, and carry us.
And let us be people who offer that same strength to others.
Together, let us worship the God who binds us together in love.

*Song of Praise

They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love

FWS 2223

Congregational Prayer

Loving God, you call us together as a community of faith to inspire us and fill us with your Spirit that we might reach out in love together. We recognize that the journey towards peace and wholeness in our world is a difficult one and we can grow weary, yet we also know that we are stronger together, and together we can face the challenges of life. We are grateful for the people who surround us with love and support, particularly in difficult times that we have from time to time in our own lives. Just knowing that they are there is enough of an encouragement to live with hope, and to share that love and hope with others. So bless us in our worship today, that we might once again commit ourselves to live a life as we have seen in Jesus, who taught us to pray:

The Lord's Prayer

Ian Good

Anthem

Family of Light

Words & Music by Tina English
Arranged by Jay Rouse
Candelaworks Music © 2015

A Time for Young Disciples

Scripture Reading

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

⁹ Two are better than one because they have a good reward for their toil. ¹⁰ For if they fall, one will lift up the other, but woe to one who is alone and falls and does not have another to help. ¹¹ Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone? ¹² And though one might prevail against another, two will withstand one. A threefold cord is not quickly broken.

Song of Preparation

Bind Us Together
Chorus Only, 2 times

FWS 2226

The Message

I Need You, You Need Me

The Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings

This Week in the Life of the Church

The Offering of Our Prayers

*Song of Praise

Be Thou My Vision

UMH 451

*Sending Forth

Postlude

We're Marching to Zion

by Robert Lowry
arranged by Mark Hayes
Lorenz Publishing 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

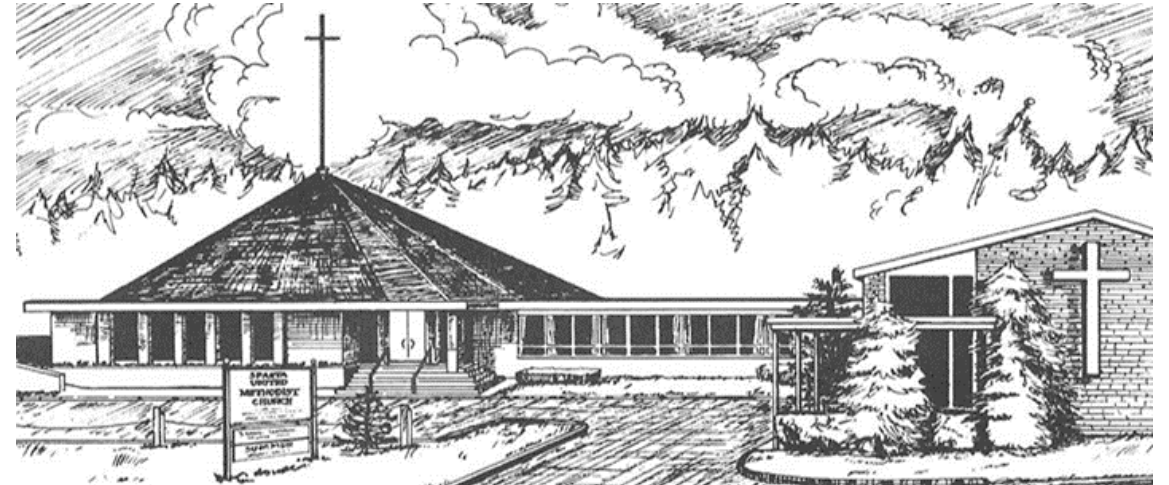
All Songs - One License A-719583



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

SPARTA

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



September 27, 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