SPARTA
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors
October 18, 2026, 10:30 A.M.

**Please* stand in body or spirit

Prelude *How Can I Keep from Singing?* Tune: ENDLESS SONG
by Robert Lowry
arranged by Mary McDonald
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Call to Worship
God calls us into community.
We belong to God and to one another.
God gathers people from every walk of life.
Together we are the Body of Christ.
Every person matters.
Every gift matters. Let us worship the God who connects us in love.

*Opening Song *The Gift of Love* UMH 408

Congregational Prayer

God of grace and community, you created us for relationship and call us into the fellowship of your Church. Thank you for the people who have encouraged us, challenged us, prayed for us, and helped shape our faith. Yet, we confess that at times we fail to see the gifts and worth of others. We allow differences to divide us. Forgive us when we neglect the needs of our neighbors or withdraw from the community you have given us. Through this time of worship, strengthen the bonds that unite us in Christ. Help us recognize the gifts you have placed within one another and teach us to live as one body, serving together for the sake of your kingdom. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray:

The Lord's Prayer Ian Good

Bell Anthem *Wade in the Water* Arr. by Sandra Eithun
Lorenz, ©2008

A Time for Young Disciples

Scripture Reading *1 Corinthians 12:12-27*

[12] For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. [13] For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. [14] Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. [15] If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. [16] And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. [17] If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? [18] But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. [19] If all were a single member, where would the body be? [20] As it is, there are many members yet one body. [21] The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." [22] On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, [23] and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect, [24] whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, [25] that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. [26] If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it. [27] Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

Choir Anthem *Break Forth, O Joyful Heart* Lyrics by Fanny Crosby
Music by Dan Forrest, Jr.
Beckenhorst Press, Inc. © 2002

The Message *Connected to Others: Everyone Belongs*

Stewardship Moments Davy Foote

The Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings

This Week in the Life of the Church

The Offering of Our Prayers

*Closing Song *The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve* FWS 2241

*Sending Forth

Postlude *Sunshine and Joy Medley* Tunes: SUNSHINE
by John R. Sweney
and I'VE GOT THE JOY
by George Willis Cooke
Arranged by Mark Hayes
Lorenz Publishing Co. © 2013

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

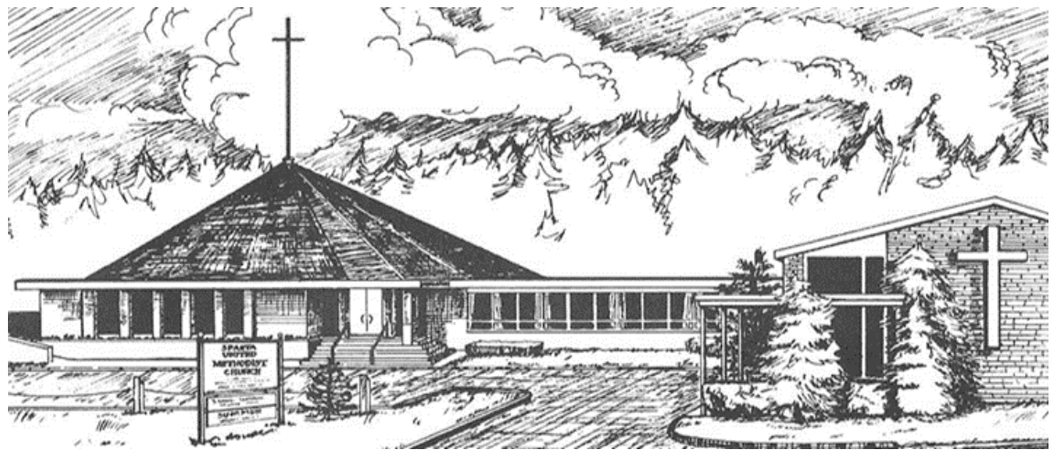
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SPARTA
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



October 18, 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