SPARTA
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors
October 25, 2026, 10:30 A.M.

**Please stand in body or spirit*

Prelude — *Be Thou My Vision* — Irish Traditional
Oboe: Karen Cavaliere — Arranged by Peter Hilliard
Peter Hilliard © 2024

Words of Welcome

*Call to Worship — *Micah 6:6-8*

"With what shall I come before the Lord and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old?
Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"
God has told you, O mortal, what is good, and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?

*Opening Song — *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy* — UMH 121

Congregational Prayer

Holy and transforming God, you know us better than we know ourselves. By your grace you call us, shape us, and lead us toward the people you created us to become. Yet, we confess that we often define ourselves by achievement, success, or the approval of others. We forget that our identity is rooted in your love. We resist the work of transformation when it becomes uncomfortable or challenging. Forgive us when we seek our own way instead of yours. Open our hearts to your Spirit. Renew our minds, strengthen our faith, and deepen our love continuing your work of transformation within us, that our lives may reflect the character of Jesus Christ who taught us to pray:

The Lord's Prayer — Ian Good

Anthem — *Amazing Grace* — Early American Melody
Soloist: Ruth Fulgenzi — Text by John Newton
Adapted and arranged by John Coates, Jr.
Shawnee Press, Inc. © 1971

A Time for Young Disciples

Scripture Reading — *Ephesians 2: 8-10*

[8] For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— [9] not the result of works, so that no one may boast. [10] For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we may walk in them.

The Message — *Connected to Our Truest Selves*

Stewardship Moment — Ruth Fulgenzi

The Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings

This Week in the Life of the Church

A Time of Prayer

*Closing Song — *The Summons* — FWS 2130

*Sending Forth

Postlude — *Let All Things Now Living* — Welsh folk tune
Oboe: Karen Cavaliere — Arranged by Peter Hilliard
Peter Hilliard © 2024

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

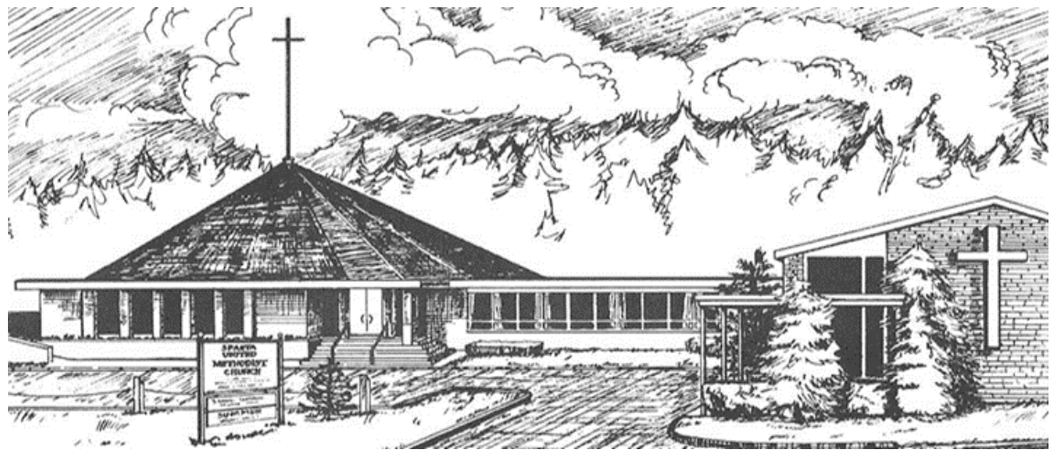
MINISTERS ..... Every Member of Sparta UMC
PASTOR.....Rev. Dr. Steven Bechtold
PASTOR EMERITUS ..... Rev. Dr. Alden Welch
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT..... Sue Reynolds
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES ..... Bonnie Pomeroy
SEXTON.....Eleanor Shumaker

Website: www.spartaumc.org

All Songs - One License A-719583

For your convenience, you may scan the QR Code to reach the Sparta UMC Online Giving Platform through Vanco.

SPARTA
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



October 25, 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