SPARTA

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

November 1, 2026, 10:30 A.M.

All Saints Day

**Please stand in body or spirit*

Prelude — *Old-Time Religion* with *Swing Low, Sweet Chariot* — Traditional Spirituals
Arranged by Mark Hayes
Shawnee Press, Inc. © 1998

Welcome

*Call to Worship
Our hearts are filled with joy when we think of those who have framed our faith.
We appreciate all those people who have taught us the great lessons of faith and life.
In gratitude for their gift to us, we offer ourselves so that these same great lessons of life might inspire and encourage others.
We give of ourselves with our prayers, our time, and our talents.
As we worship this day, encourage us Lord, that we might bear witness to your love.
Keep us ready to serve you in all that we say and do.

*Opening Song — *Rejoice in God's Saints* — UMH 708

Congregational Prayer
Lord of love and grace, everywhere we look we see the imprint of your creative love. The wondrous works of nature show your majesty. As we gather today to celebrate your grace that has been known throughout the generations, keep us mindful that we are part of that great cloud of witnesses that bears the good news in word and in deed. Keep us faithful to the journey that leads to hope and joy not just for us, but for all of our great human family that we might be witnesses to the life-transforming blessings that come to us through your Son, Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray saying:

The Lord's Prayer — Ian Good

A Time for Young Disciples

Anthem: *Glory!*
GLORY SONG by Charles H. Gabriel
ROLL CALL by James M. Black
HEAVEN by Emily D. Wilson
Arranged by Howard Helvey
Beckenhorst Press, Inc. © 1998

Reception of New Members

Reading of the Scriptures — *2 Corinthians 9:6-15*

6 The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. 7 Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not regretfully or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. 9 As it is written, "He scatters abroad; he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures forever." 10 He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. 11 You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us, 12 for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. 13 Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your partnership with them and with all others, 14 while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. 15 Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

The Message — Connecting with God's World

Stewardship Moments — Bill Refsland

This Week in the Life of the Church

The Offering of our Gifts and our Prayers
Holy God, who called all of us into life, we thank you this day for all who have shown us your way. We confess that we have not always heeded your word, and seek your love, forgiveness, and reconciliation that we might be instruments of your peace. And so, we listen for your call today. Just as you called us into life through the saints in our lives, to be renewed so that we might serve all your saints; the hungry and thirsty, the sick and imprisoned, the forgotten and the lonely, so help us to be the saints for a new generation, so that through a renewed community of faith we might more closely embody your vision for us to live together in shalom. For we pray, O God, in your most holy name. Amen.

The Celebration of the Lord's Supper
The Great Thanksgiving and Consecration
The Receiving of the Bread and the Cup (with All Saints Video)

*Closing Song — *Hymn of Promise* — UMH 707

Sending Forth

Postlude — *Toccata in D Minor* — by Johann Sebastian Bach
Musicnotes, Inc. © 2008

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

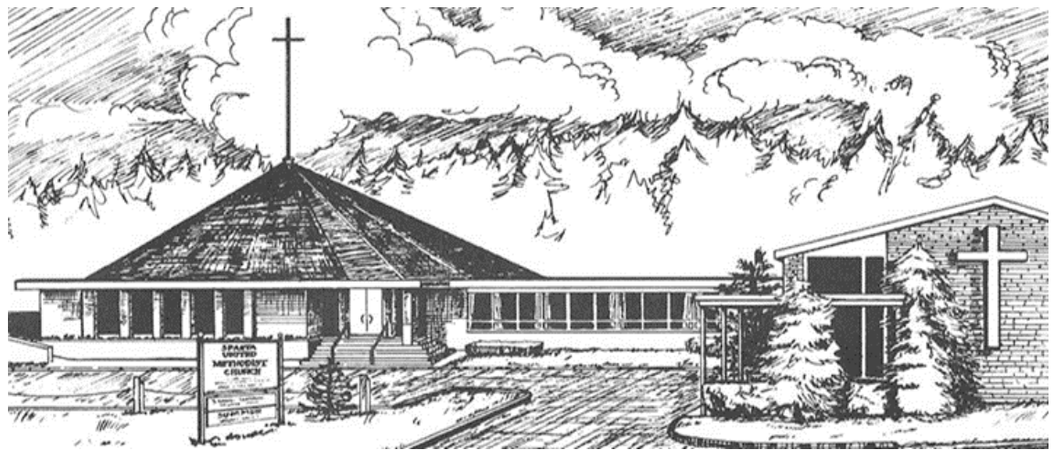
MINISTERS ..... Every Member of Sparta UMC
PASTOR.....Rev. Dr. Steven Bechtold
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT..... Sue Reynolds
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES ..... Bonnie Pomeroy
SEXTON.....Eleanor Shumaker

Website: www.spartaumc.org

All Songs - One License A-719583

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SPARTA
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



November 1, 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