

# SPARTA

## UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



## NEWSLETTER

### June 2017

Dear Friends,

There is always so much happening in the life of the church! And it is a very exciting place to be! Please pray for all that we are doing. And for the spiritual lives of each other.

John Wesley, our United Methodist patriarch, believed that people needed to be together, in classes and small groups, to hold each other accountable to growth, and to keep one another on the path of faith, deepening our relationships with God. The members in these small groups would answer the question, "How are things with your soul?"

How ARE things with your soul? If your spirit is not well, let someone know. Let the church, the pastor, be on the journey with you. We **are** here to **grow** and thrive in our lives in faith. Please inquire of one another that same question and be there for each other.

One of the ways that we go deeper in our relationships, get connected, and grow, is to JOIN a small group. Be in conversation, and be in some reflection and study. In June we will be trying out a new hour for **Bible Study**, (Wednesdays at 1 p.m.), a new discussion group before the Contemplative Worship service (**Contemplating Contemplation** first Wednesdays of the month at 11:45 a.m.) where we will discuss the ancient writings and the theory of Contemplative/ Centering Prayer that is employed during the service. **Faith Talks** (theological dialogue for regular people, coffee conversation after church in Room 8, first Sundays of the month). We will also try out an **online Bible Study!** So, put your slippers and jammies on and LOG IN! I will also be working with a new small group of **Leaders of the Future**.

Each of these groups will be tested in June and then resume in September. We are busy! And we need you! And we need you connected! **Please** volunteer to help for **Vacation Bible School**.

I am praying for you! Much love, janice

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# JUNE 2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>8:30am - Communion Sac</p> <p>9:30am - Adult Sunday</p> <p>10:30am - Worship</p> <p>11:45am - Faith Talks</p> <p>11:45am - Youth Choir</p> <p>12pm - Chancel Choir</p> <p>1pm - Youth at Mini Golf</p>	<p>4:30pm - Ladies House</p> <p>5:30pm - Boy Scouts - Den</p> <p>7pm - Book Study</p> <p>7pm - Praise Vocals</p> <p>8pm - Al-Anon</p>	<p>4:30pm - Pathways-DM/KH</p> <p>7:30pm - AA</p> <p>7:30pm - Ball Choir</p>	<p>7am - Men's Breakfast</p> <p>10am - Church Mouse Open</p> <p>11:45am - Contemplating</p> <p>12:15pm - Cookempladye</p> <p>1pm - Bible Study</p> <p>4pm - Song Case Comm-</p> <p>7pm - Conker Cancer Den</p> <p>7:15pm - Contemplative</p>	<p>11am - Feed Body/Soul</p> <p>11am - Al-Anon</p> <p>1pm - Church Mouse Open</p> <p>4pm - TOPPS</p> <p>7pm - YOUTH GROUP-Den</p> <p>8pm - AA</p>	<p>9am - FOOD CARDS</p> <p>9am - Hiltop Using Parking</p> <p>1pm - Church Mouse Open</p>	<p>8:15am - confirmation tisp</p> <p>10am - Church Mouse Open</p> <p>8:30pm - AA Young persons</p>
<p>8:30am - Communion Sac</p> <p>9:30am - Adult Sunday</p> <p>10:30am - New Member</p> <p>10:30am - Worship SS</p> <p>11:45am - Youth Choir</p> <p>12pm - Chancel Choir</p> <p>5pm - MVD about Mission</p>	<p>11am - Menno House</p> <p>4:30pm - Ladies House</p> <p>9pm - Girl Scouts-Rosa</p> <p>8:30pm - Boy Scouts - Den</p> <p>7pm - Book Study</p> <p>7pm - Praise Band practices</p> <p>9pm - Al-Anon</p>	<p>4:30pm - Pathways-DM/KH</p> <p>7:30pm - AA</p> <p>7:30pm - Ball Choir</p>	<p>7am - Men's Breakfast</p> <p>10am - Church Mouse Open</p> <p>11:45am - Contemplating</p> <p>12:15pm - Cookempladye</p> <p>1pm - Bible Study</p> <p>4pm - Song Case Comm-</p> <p>7pm - Conker Cancer Den</p> <p>7:15pm - Contemplative</p>	<p>11am - Feed Body/Soul</p> <p>11am - Al-Anon</p> <p>1pm - Church Mouse Open</p> <p>4pm - TOPPS</p> <p>7pm - YOUTH GROUP-Den</p> <p>8pm - AA</p>	<p>9am - FOOD CARDS</p> <p>9am - Hiltop Using Parking</p> <p>1pm - Church Mouse Open</p>	<p>8:15am - confirmation tisp</p> <p>10am - Church Mouse Open</p> <p>8:30pm - AA Young persons</p>
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**SPARTA  
YOUTH**

# JUNE

2017

May presented us with new challenges, which we have overcome. May provided us with more opportunities to strengthen our bonds with one another and the institutions for whom we serve - and we did. We feel empowered by the love and guidance of our Lord and proud of our many accomplishments here at SUMC and out in our local communities. So much more good work to be done!



@SpartaUMCYouth  
on Instagram!

June will be a busy month for many of us, but with no shortage of fun! Youth Group every Thursday, our Day at the Lake on the 17th: full of boat rides, swimming, fantastic food and friends, as well as continuing our efforts to spread the gift of a smile to our friends at Bristol Glen Senior Living Community on the 11th. Much love, health and happiness to you all!



## This Month's Events

**Thurs. 6/1, 7-8:30: Youth Group, Demarest Hall**

**Thurs. 6/8, 7-8:30: Youth Group, Demarest Hall**

**Sun. 6/11, 1-2PM: Bristol Glen Volunteering**

**Thurs. 6/15, 7-8:30: Youth Group, Demarest Hall**

**Sat. 6/17: Day at the Lake, Mohawk Lk, Sparta**

**Thurs. 6/22, 7-8:30: Youth Group, Demarest Hall**

**Thurs. 6/29, 7-8:30: Youth Group, Demarest Hall**



### YOUTH TRIP to RED BIRD MISSION

August 12 – 20  
6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> graders

**Signup and Payment Deadline is June 30th**



**@ SPARTAUMCYOUTH**



# for the kids!



## Vacation Bible School

July 31 - August 4

Please sign up in the hallway!

**Leaders** are needed for crafts & science.

**Helpers** are needed for drama/story, recreation, mission/snack, crafts, & science. Someone is needed to manage **video & technology**. **Shepherds** are needed for Pre-K, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grade classes. Two

**Nursery** attendants are needed, and **drivers** are needed for the Travelers.



SPARTA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
**MAD**  
(Mothers And Daughters)  
**ABOUT MISSION**  
A UNITED METHODIST WOMEN GROUP

**June 4, 5-6:30 p.m.**



## Rehearses

Sundays

11:45 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

We are preparing for our worship performances. New members are always welcome!

# Church Council News

## May 10, 2017 Church Council Meeting Update

The Council approved a Mission Committee recommendation distributing \$10,000. This is in addition to distributions made each month of \$7,000.

Church and Society has a speaker lined up for Peace with Justice Sunday, June 11.

A motion to approve up to \$20,000 for an audio/visual system in the sanctuary, with funding sources to be determined by the Trustees and Finance Committees, was approved.

A motion to approve up to \$40,000 for the new Demarest Hall entrance, following information being presented to the congregation, and with funding sources to be determined by the Trustees and Finance Committees, was approved.

Trustees have received various requests for the use of the World Mission Gift Shop space. A decision will be made at the end of the year. Furniture will be put in the room and room use monitored to help in making the decision.

The Pastor's report included: advising that SMART Goals had been submitted to the Conference; a visioning Mini Retreat will be held June 24; proposing a variety of small groups; the calendar of events during June Worship services; when she would be at Annual Conference, and that she will be taking renewal leave this summer.

The next Church Council meeting will be August 9 at 7 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Muriel Godbersen, Recording Secretary

# WORSHIP

## Sermon Series for the Season of EASTER

Sundays 8:30 and 10:30a.m.

*What Kind of a Christian Are You, Anyway?* (on a scale of 1 – 10)

Predestination or Prevenient Grace? Acts 17.22-31

Is Christ Coming? Again? – But how? Acts 1.6-14

Is Jesus the Only Way? Or Is He *Our* Way? Acts 2.1-21

To be Continued...

The Bible – Written by God or the Story of God (written by people)?

On Salvation: Born Again? Or Still Growing Up?

Evangelism is a Bad Word – Social Media and the Book of Mormon

## PRAISE SERVICE

### Dates & Times Changing

Stay tuned for exciting details!



## Contemplative Quiet Time and Sacred Space

*Practicing Christian Meditation*

12:15 and 7:15 p.m.

FIRST WEDNESDAYS

Next Practice: June 7

Embracing the ancient practice.



# WORSHIP

## JUNE WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	<u>Liturgists</u>		<u>Children's</u>
	<u>8:30 a.m.</u>	<u>10:30 a.m.</u>	<u>Message</u>
June 4	Lynn Godbersen	Patrick McCall	Pat Schutz
June 11	Steve Sawicki	SUNDAY SCHOOL	Sean Jans
June 18	Jean LaFrance	Cullen Kempson	Debbie Dickerson
June 25	Donna Scott	CONFIRMATION	Mike Batche

## COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE

**May 21, 28 & June 4**

**Bob & Pat Schutz**

Brett & Sora Doogan Gudrun Rank  
 James & Kim Green Justin & Nicole Rumore  
 Jean Jones Jeff & Karen Sutphen

**June 11, 18 & 25**

**Cullen & Laura Kempson**

John & Susan Appalucio Edna Moriarty  
 Michael & Kerri Batche Joseph & Noelle  
 Jason Howard Riesenman  
 Harry & Linda Tappen

### Coffee-Hour Outside June 4th with Labyrinth-Walking Instructions

June 4th after the 10:30 service the coffee hour will be held outside (weather permitting). A four-minute presentation will be given (rain or shine—inside or outside) on the labyrinth. Spring, summer, and fall months are the prime seasons to walk and there is little that you need to know. Receive a hand-out, continue your coffee discussions, and walk the labyrinth.



Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

The Trustees of SUMC want to express their sincere gratitude to all members of the congregation who turned out on the workday on Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup>. Whether you shoveled gravel, pulled weeds, spread mulch, planted flowers, cleaned vents, dusted, washed windows, moved furniture, or a dozen other unglamorous tasks, you have given our church a needed boost and demonstrated your care and concern for our spiritual family. The Trustees understand how precious Saturdays can be to you and your family, so the fact that you would sacrifice this time (whether it was hours and hours or a brief stop-in) is greatly appreciated. Your efforts have really made the church shine!

**Volunteer for FAMILY PROMISE NOW!!**

See Mike Vrabel., Tammy Vrabel, or Linda Giammanco or log into Volunteer Hub! May 30 - June 5.

# United Methodist Women

## On June 12 - 9:30am

The United Methodist Women's book group, called the BookWorms, are meeting on June 12 at 9:30 am to discuss *Pre-Post-Racial America* by Sandhya Rani Jha. There are two copies circulating. In the current disarray of the Library, look on top of the file cabinet for copies of the June book.

In the UMW book catalog for 2017 it said this about the book: *Pre-Post-Racial America* uses the powerful tool of storytelling to speak prophetic truth in a most disarming way. Rani Jha shares stories that help us look at issues of race in America through other lenses—stories of real people today and stories of scripture. These stories can help us reexamine our own narratives, taking power away from those who seek to divide us and giving that power back to God. BookWorms have been a UMW group at Sparta since July of 2009—we are getting ready to start our ninth year—be sure to join us.

## Save July 10 for Expanded BookWorms

In July, on the 10th to be exact, the BookWorms group picked a book that they hoped would appeal to families and hoped that in the summer they could join us. The book is *Seamless Faith—Simple practices for daily family life* by Traci Smith. This includes easy-to-organize traditions, ceremonies, and spiritual practices for many of life's stressful and faith-filled moments. Save the date, and we may be able to add some of your traditions to those in the book. Look for copies of the book on top of the file cabinet in the Wesley Room OR on the UMW section of the library (when it gets put back together).

## A United Methodist Women's Invitation to Read the Bible

The Skylands District of United Methodist Women is inviting women, men, and youth of Sparta Church to read the bible with them. No meetings. No gatherings. We'll supply the passages to be read each day (maximum of three chapters, total of fifteen minutes). And we'll know that others are reading those passages that day also. It will link us together. We'll start on June 4, 2017, the day of Pentecost and the birth of the church. We will finish on November 19, 2018—having successfully read the entire bible together. You will receive each month the list of passages to be read each day. The most there will be is two chapters and one Psalm. We will start with the New Testament, reading in the order that the books were written, and using as our guide Marcus Borg's book "The Evolution of the Word." You do not have to have that book—you just need to have the Bible in whatever translation you prefer. There will be a copy of Borg's book in the reference section of the church library. It can NOT be checked out, so that it will be available to everyone. If you are interested, contact Sandy Svenningsen at [201-317-4493](tel:201-317-4493), or her email is: [sandra.svenningsen@gmail.com](mailto:sandra.svenningsen@gmail.com).

## FATHERS — Remember and Honor

Once again this year at Father's Day, the Sparta United Methodist Women are inviting you to honor the fathers in your lives. In the church bulletin on June 18th we will have a special page listing the fathers you want to recognize.

We are asking that for each name you donate \$2.00. This money will go to the World Thank Offering of United Methodist Women and be used for mission programs helping women, children, and families. Please make out any checks to Sparta United Methodist Women.

We have two categories: "In Memory Of" and "In Honor Of". Please fill out the form and put it in an envelope in the United Methodist Women's box. There is a supply of empty envelopes in that box for your convenience.

For Father's Day (please put in United Methodist Women's box by June 4th!)

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

List names ONLY—extra words will not be used.

# Church Mouse Thrift Shop

**Can you help?** The Thrift Shop needs able-bodied People to periodically to help carry trash and cardboard to the dumpsters. **Monday morning** is our normal cleaning day and sometimes we have lots of trash to move. We could also have help on on **Saturdays** between 10-2 during business hours to do the same thing. **One half hour** of your time is all we need! Sometimes we have enough help, so you can call first to see if you are needed. The shop phone number is [973-729-9121](tel:973-729-9121) and ask for Sandi. We would so appreciate your help and consideration!  
**Thank you Thank you Thank you!**



## Get connected

**We are looking for volunteers to open their homes.**

1. Volunteer to open your home.
2. Interested folks will contact you.
3. Together you will decide the schedule..
4. Ideas for conversation and fellowship will be provided.
5. The groups will decide together what they wish to do.

*We would like a household open in each neighborhood with a particular interest for study and discussion. Some ideas: book studies, faith talks, bible reading, dinners.*

*Your openness and willingness is always appreciated.*



### New in June

#### Bible Study

Wednesdays 1 p.m. in the Library  
Some basics, some background, and discussion.

#### Online Bible Study

PM online video chat.  
The interested group will set the date and time.

#### Contemplating Contemplation

11:45 a.m. First Wednesdays before the Service  
Primary and secondary sources will be discussed.

#### Faith Talks

11:45 a.m. First Sundays of the month  
Theological dialogue for regular people: what we believe and why?

### Sunday Lunch Bunch

*a group for further socialization*

**Sunday after church.**

**Watch the bulletin  
for the next date.**

(4th or 5th Sunday)

If you are interested in a church family meal, please call Wilma Smith, 973-729-4740 or Ginger Stecklein, 973-729-0549.



Grief  
Support



### WIDOW'S WELL

*for those who have lost husbands.*

Next meeting is 11:30 a.m. Friday, June 16.  
at the home of Nancy Starnes. Please call  
973-729-3329 if you plan to attend.

# Church & Society



**The Church and Society Committee  
of the Sparta United Methodist Church**  
*is connected to both the Conference and the General Boards of Church and Society. The job of the Church and Society Committee at all these levels in the United Methodist Church is to work on issues of social justice.*

## **Dr. Mohammad Ali Chaudry Speaks On Peace with Justice Sunday**

June 11 Dr Mohammad Ali Chaudry will speak at both services at Sparta United Methodist Church on the “Pledge to Stand Up for the Other.” Dr. Chaudry initiated the pledge in response to the rising tide of bigotry, and in December of 2016 it was taken by all New Jersey State Senators and by members of the NJ Assembly.

Dr. Chaudry will also participate in the 9:30 Sunday School class on June 11.

Persons at Sparta will have an opportunity on June 11 to sign the pledge which says: While interacting with members of my own faith, or ethnic, or gender community, or with others, if I hear hateful comments from anyone about members of any other community, I pledge to stand up for the other and speak up to challenge bigotry in any form.

The pledge can be found on line at: [www.standupfortheother.org](http://www.standupfortheother.org) [www.facebook.com/standupfortheother](https://www.facebook.com/standupfortheother) [www.njifc.org](http://www.njifc.org)

### **Biographical Information About Dr. Mohammad Ali Chaudry**

Dr. Chaudry graduated from the London School of Economics in 1967 and earned a Ph.D. in Economics from Tufts University in 1972. He worked at AT&T from 1968 to 1998, serving as CFO of its Public Relations Division.

He was a lecturer at Rutgers University teaching business courses on leadership, multinational business management, business policy. Since 2007, he has been teaching a ten-week long course on Understanding Islam and Muslims, including a special course on the Qur'an for non-Muslims, at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Rutgers University. Beginning in 2013 he has been lecturing on Islam and Muslims at the New Jersey State Police Academy as a part of cultural awareness training for law enforcement officials.

Dr. Chaudry has co-authored a college level textbook on Islam and Muslims with Dr. Robert Crane.

He was elected to the Bernards Township Board of Education (1990 to 1995) in Basking Ridge, New Jersey. He was elected to the Bernards Township Committee in 2001 for a 3-year terms and was re-elected for a second 3-year term in 2004. He served as Mayor in 2004, becoming the first Pakistani born mayor in America.

Since 2012, Dr. Chaudry has served as an active member of the New Jersey Attorney General's Outreach Committee for the Muslim Community created to build a relationship of mutual trust and understanding between law enforcement and the Muslim community. In 2014, he became part of the team of interfaith instructors offering different cultural perspectives at the NJ State Police Academy. In March 2015, Dr. Chaudry joined the Interfaith Advisory Council of New Jersey Department of Homeland Security and Preparedness.

Dr. Chaudry co-founded the Islamic Society of Basking Ridge (ISBR) and currently serves as its President.

He has been named ambassador for Peace by the Inter-religious and International Federation for World Peace.

## **Join the Peace Train On June 17**

The name of the march is “Women’s March to Ban the Bomb” and it’s happening on June 17 from 12 pm to 4 pm in New York City, There’s a train leaving Dover with persons from Northwest New Jersey and YOU can be on it.

This is a global initiative led by the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom and people of all genders, sexual orientations, ages, races, abilities, nationalities, cultures, faiths, political affiliations and backgrounds will march. Sister marches will be held in cities around the world.

Throughout June and July governments will negotiate the ban on nuclear weapons at the United Nations. The United Methodist Social Principles say in the section on war and peace in paragraph 165.C: we condemn “the production, possession, or use of nuclear weapons.”

Some persons from Sparta UMC will be on the train. If you are interested call or email Litsa Binder: [973-886-1150](tel:973-886-1150); [litsa@embargmail.com](mailto:litsa@embargmail.com)

## **Torture Is A Moral Issue**

June is National Torture Awareness month, a time to draw attention to this global atrocity and take action to eradicate it both domestically and abroad. Please go to [www.nrcat.org](http://www.nrcat.org), the website for the National Religious Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT). There you can find information about this important issue and learn how you can do your part to help to end torture.

## **April 29—United Methodists Joined The People’s Climate March**

Hundreds of United Methodists were among the estimated 200,000 people who converged on Washington April 29 for the People’s Climate March. Before the march, an interfaith prayer service was held on the steps of the United Methodist Building on Capitol Hill.

In the 2017 United Methodist Social Principles it says in paragraph 160.C: “We support efforts of all governments to require mandatory reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and call on individuals, congregations, businesses, industries, and communities to reduce their emissions.

# SPARTA

## UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

71 Sparta Avenue

Sparta, NJ 07871

973-729-7773

spartaumc.org

### **Worship Every Week**

Communion Service at 8:30 a.m.

Choir and children's message at 10:30 a.m.

### **Contemplative/Meditation Service**

FIRST WEDNESDAYS

at 12:15 p.m. and 7:15 p.m.

### **GOD ROCKS! PRAISE**

Watch for Updates!

**YOUTH GROUP EVERY THURSDAY at 7 p.m.**

### **Thrift Shop**

973-729-9121

Wednesday 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Thursday 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Friday 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

**THE DEADLINE FOR THE  
JULY NEWSLETTER  
WILL BE JUNE 15**