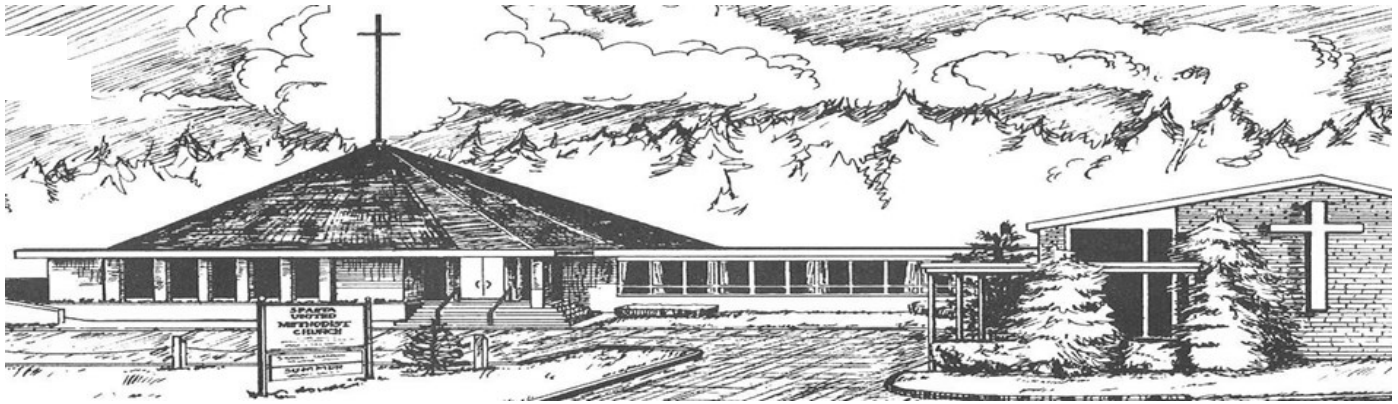


SPARTA

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2025

Dear Friends,

One of the things that I believe about our role as followers of Jesus is that we are all called to be leaders in the world. We usually think about leadership as being in charge, being out front, making the decisions for an organization. However, the most effective leaders in my own journey have been those who have been quiet examples of how to live a life consistent with the good news of love and hope. Parents lead their children in the right ways to live. Neighbors lead neighbors in showing kindness and acceptance. We lead most effectively when we are growing in our faith and seeking to be more and more like Jesus.

This month, I will be starting a new preaching series focused on Moses and what we learn from him about how to be effective leaders for Jesus Christ. If you are someone who doesn't think you have leadership capacity, I think this series will help all of us look at how we can lead for Jesus Christ in our nation and our world that is overly fearful, anxious, and choosing pathways that fail to lead us in healthy or helpful directions.

Think about what it means for us to be leaders in our community. We lead when we stand firm in our understanding that we are all beloved children of God who are treasured in the eyes of God. We lead when we stand for justice for all people, and speak truth when others might prefer falsehoods. We lead when we are in mission to those who are economically on the edge through ministries such as Feed the Body/Feed the Soul or the Christian Outreach Project. We lead when we teach our children the importance of our world and the gift of our environment through Earthkeepers. Where else might we lead?

That is where our faith comes in as we are open to the leading of the Spirit. Fellow leaders, I hope you will join me on this journey of learning and growing in our faith so that we might together be blessed as we experience God's trust in us.

In Christ,

Pastor Steve

Altar Flowers

Say it with Flowers

Your donation of altar flowers honors special people in your life, and can also brighten up someone's day.

Reservations for flowers are being taken for February 16 and 23, and March 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30. Altar flowers cost \$30. We keep costs low by reusing containers and vases. (Donations of vases that are between 7 and 9 inches tall are needed!) Please pay the church directly, and include a note that the payment is for Altar Flowers and the date chosen.

Use this [link](#) to reserve flowers. Please provide your name, phone number, email address and dedication. Let us know if you plan to take the flowers after the 10:30 service, or if you want them delivered to someone needing a pick-me-up.

Any questions? Contact Yvonne Roux, yrouxrings@gmail.com, or 973-534-6129.

Feed the Body/Feed the Soul

Feed the Body/Feed the Soul occurs on Valentine's Day this year! YAY!!! 

The Mission Committee has set a goal of collecting 200 Valentines between now and Sunday, February 9 so each of our FTB/FTS clients receives a Valentine with their lunches. These can be home made, store bought, kids Valentines, or a combination. Encourage your children and grandchildren to make them also.

Let everyone know God loves them and so do the people of the Sparta United Methodist Church.

Please give your Valentines to Marilyn Garrison on Sundays and she will be sure to get them to the bag stuffers for Valentine's Day. Start creating NOW!

Thank you for being the church!

Feed the Body/Feed the Soul, February 14, 2025

Please review the available slots below and click on the button to sign up. Thank you!

[Feed the Body/Feed the Soul, February 14, 2025](#)

Christmas Thank You....

Thank You!

I want to thank the congregation for your generosity this past Christmas through your gifts, your cards and messages, and your presence as we worshipped and celebrated the birth of Jesus. Sparta UMC is such a wonderful congregation, and your kindness in the season of Peace on Earth means so much to me. Thank you again, and I look forward to the weeks and months ahead as we serve together.

Blessings,

Pastor Steve

To the Sparta UMC Congregation:

Thank you so much for your generous Christmas gift! It was much appreciated. It has been a joy to work for your church and share the gift of music with you. I hope that we continue to share many happy years together.

God bless you all!

Fondly,

To Sparta United Methodist Church Family:

Thank you all for the generous Christmas gift—it was very much appreciated!!

Happy and Healthy New Year to you all!

Karen Shaw



A heartfelt thank you to our entire church family and all who donated to our Christmas Angel Tree program! Thanks to your generosity, 89 gifts were purchased for 56 children from Pathways 2 Prosperity and Feed The Body Feed The Soul. Your support helps bring the magic of Christmas to children in need. A special thanks to Marilyn Garrison for organizing all these gifts.

For all Zoom Gatherings, you may use either the Video Link or the Phone in # with ID #

BEYOND THE BASICS - (ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL)

Sunday Mornings at 9:30 a.m. in Room 8

MONDAY NIGHT BOOK GROUP

The Monday Night Group meets at 7:00 p.m. via ZOOM.

New Book: Good Goats, Healing Our Image of God. The author is Dennis Linn.

Zoom link for Monday Nights: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/771970415?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/771970415?pwd=bFdUQk9YQUlyZXRhYUZnNVhRVEZvUT09)

[pwd=bFdUQk9YQUlyZXRhYUZnNVhRVEZvUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/771970415?pwd=bFdUQk9YQUlyZXRhYUZnNVhRVEZvUT09)

HEALTHIER LIVING GROUP

Every **TUESDAY Morning at 10:30 a.m.** Join Zoom Meeting

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85294018790?pwd=bScXqgjh6RICDFWN93I16_aMcguqxF.I

Meeting ID: 852 9401 8790 Passcode: 389789

One tap mobile +16465588656,,85294018790#

Dial by your location +1 646 558 8656 Meeting ID: 852 9401 8790

WEDNESDAY MORNING MEN'S STUDY

Wednesday Mornings at 7:15 a.m.

Angelo's Franklin Diner

READING TOGETHER/BIBLE STUDY

Friday's at 10:00 a.m.

Join Zoom Video Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/389284226>

Alternate Phone in #: +1 646 876 9923; Meeting ID: 389 284 226 -- Passcode: 7773

SATURDAY PRAYERS & CONVERSATION GATHERING

Join a ZOOM gathering on Saturday mornings at 10:30 a.m. just to touch base and connect with others from the congregation just to check in and share with each other.

Join Zoom Video Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/826747498> Phone in #: +1 646 876 9923;

Meeting ID: 826 747 498—Passcode 7773

Church & Society



The Church and Society Committee
of the Sparta United Methodist Church

Pursuing Peace; Seeking Justice; Living Faith




Join us for our Community Support Meeting on Wednesday, January 15, as we engage in an important discussion on “How to Be an Advocate.” Together, we’ll explore how to advocate effectively, amplify your voice, and identify meaningful ways to support the LGBTQ+ community. Advocacy takes many forms, and allies play a crucial role in fostering change—after all, “ally” is a verb!


This session will focus on actionable steps for being a better advocate, including insights on effective allyship, building awareness, and initiating conversations for change. Whether you are part of the LGBTQ+ community or an ally, your voice matters. Join us as we work together to make a difference!"

Community Support Meeting
“How To Be An Advocate”

Wednesday
January 15th, 2024
7:00pm



#PFLAGally



SPARTA

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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spartaumc.org

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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.