

**SPARTA**  
**UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
*Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors*

March 23, 2025 10:30 a.m.

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Prelude *People Need the Lord*  
Words & Music by Greg Nelson and Phill McHugh  
Arranged by Bill Wolaver; River Oaks Music Co./ Shepherd's Fold Music © 1986

Words of Welcome

Call to Worship  
Responding to God's call, Jesus traveled, preaching and teaching all who would listen. Who will hear his message?

**We will listen and we will hear!**

Christ sent out disciples two by two, to spread the good news in any place that would welcome them. Who will hear their message?

**We will listen and we will hear!**

God's prophets are among us still, around the world and in these pews. Who will hear their message?

**We will listen and we will hear!**

\*Opening Song *The Voice of God is Calling* UMH 436

Congregational Prayer

**We thank you, loving God, for the surprises which you spring on us! You take the unlovely and cherish them, the mediocre and make them gifted, the mere nobodies and ordain them your apostles. You entrust us with an authority and ministry far beyond our own strength. We know that we are reticent. Yet under your patient care we discover that all things are possible to those who love you. Surprise us again, loving God. Surprise us with the Christ who believes in us and the grace which is made perfect in human weakness. For we pray in the name of Jesus Christ who taught us to pray:**

The Lord's Prayer Ian Good

Anthem *Go Ye Into All the World* Adapted from the Scriptures  
by Eugene Butler; Carl Fischer, Inc. © 1974

A Time for Young Disciples

Song of Preparation *Sanctuary* FWS 2164

Scripture Reading Mark 6: 1-13

*He left that place and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. <sup>2</sup> On the Sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, "Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! <sup>3</sup> Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?" And they took offense<sup>[b]</sup> at him. <sup>4</sup> Then Jesus said to them, "Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown and among their own kin and in their own house." <sup>5</sup> And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. <sup>6</sup> And he was amazed at their unbelief.*

*Then he went about among the villages teaching. <sup>7</sup> He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. <sup>8</sup> He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff: no bread, no bag, no money in their belts, <sup>9</sup> but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. <sup>10</sup> He said to them, "Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. <sup>11</sup> If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them." <sup>12</sup> So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. <sup>13</sup> They cast out many demons and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.*

The Message *Who's Next*

Special Mission Recognition United Women in Faith

This Week in the Life of the Church

The Offering of Our Gifts and Our Prayers

\*Closing Song *We All are One in Mission* FWS 2243

\*Sending Forth

Postlude *This Little Light of Mine*  
*Music attributed to Harry Dixon Loes*  
Arranged by Mark Hayes; Lorenz Publishing Co. © 2011

\*Stand if able

**WELCOME TO ALL**

Who hope for a better world & all who have lost hope:

Believers and seekers, Conventional Christians & questioning skeptics

Women, men, 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.

***COME AS YOU ARE . . . YOU ARE WELCOME!***

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 ..... Karen Shaw  
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES ..... Bonnie Pomeroy  
SEXTON ..... Eleanor Shumaker

WEBSITE: [www.spartaumc.org](http://www.spartaumc.org)

*The Voice of God is Calling*  
Words: John Haynes Holmes, 1913; Music: William Lloyd, 1840  
*Sanctuary*  
Words & Music: John Thompson and Randy Scruggs  
*We All Are One in Mission*  
Words: Rusty Edwards; Music: Finnish folk melody  
All Songs One License A-719583

*For your convenience, you may scan the QR Code to reach the Sparta UMC On-line Giving Platform through Vanco.*



**SPARTA  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**LENT**

March 23, 2025  
10:30 a.m. Worship Service

71 Sparta Avenue  
Sparta, New Jersey 07871

*Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors:*  
**Not Just a Tagline: This IS who we are**