

**UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF SUMMIT**  
17 Kent Place Boulevard • Summit, NJ 07901

# THE DIALOGUE

**December 2013**



## **THE STAFF**

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## CHRISTMAS MEMORIES

I love the fact that the parsonage here in Summit has a fireplace. Not only is it beautiful, but for me it elicits great childhood memories of the fact that we always had a fire going at Christmas in the fireplace we had when I was a young child.

I also have great childhood memories of sharing in worship leadership at the midnight service once we were old enough to manage the responsibility (and could stay awake that late!).

Other great childhood memories include: opening a little window each day on the cardboard Advent calendars we had; the wonderful Christmas stockings my grandmother knitted for each of us, and the year our cat attempted (unsuccessfully) to climb the Christmas tree...

What memories do you bring into this season?

### **This is an ideal exercise for any household during Advent!**

Invite the members of your household to list the *five things they liked most* about the last five Christmases.

Then have them label the items as follows:

- If it involved close friends or family, put an F next to it.
- If it was done alone, put an A next to it.
- If it was done in church, put a C next to it.
- If it was done in a store or a mall, put an S next to it.
- If it cost money, put a dollar sign next to it.

After everyone has completed this task, invite them to list the *five things they liked least* about the last five Christmases. Using the same labels, have them label their answers.

Then share all your responses, and talk about what, for you, makes Christmas truly meaningful and what causes stress?

### **Another avenue for some valuable family conversation can be found in asking any (or all) of these questions:**

The best gift I ever received was . . .

The best gift I ever gave someone was . . .

To me, the holiday season is . . .

Something I would like to do differently next year is . . .

If I were Mary, I probably would have . . .

If I were Joseph, I probably would have . . .

The character in the manger scene I am most like is . . .

...because . . .

If I could change anything about our family's celebration of Christmas, it would be...

Let's move reflectively through this season, and in so doing, "prepare the way of the Lord."

Shawn Callender Hogan  
Pastor

**Advent is here! Here are some things to take note of:**

*As you make your Advent plans, be sure to include the wonderful events we have here at the Church this season:*



**December 1, 2013: The First Sunday of Advent**

In **Sunday worship (10:30am)** we will decorate the sanctuary, celebrating the “Hanging of the Greens.”

Come and participate in adorning our church home with the beauty of the season! We will also gather at the Table for the Lord’s Supper.



**December 8, 2013: The Second Sunday of Advent**

In **Sunday worship (10:30am)** we will revisit the story of Gabriel’s conversation with Zechariah, as the world finds out what God is up to!



**December 15, 2013: The Third Sunday of Advent**

In **Sunday worship (10:30am)** we will listen to Isaiah’s words about the kingdom of peace that God is building, as the world is invited to share God’s vision!



**December 22, 2013: The Fourth Sunday of Advent**

In **Sunday worship (10:30am)** we will marvel at how God takes a risk at Christmas!



**Tuesday, December 24, 2013: Christmas Eve**

**5:00pm service:** A service of celebration for all ages, ending in Candlelight. Our children will offer the Christmas pageant, celebrating Christ’s birth!

**9:00pm service:** A traditional service of Christmas music and message, including Holy Communion, and ending in candlelight.

## **SPECIAL ADVENT OPPORTUNITIES:**

### **Sunday, December 1, 2013 4-6 pm in the Social Hall**

Join us from 4 – 6 pm in the Social Hall for a great time **creating luminaries** out of the cans we have been donating! You will get to take one home, and the rest of the cans will be used to line the walkway to the church doors on Christmas Eve!



### **Sunday, December 8, 2013 7 pm in the Chapel**



#### **“Comfort, Comfort My People”**

A Gentle Worship Service for the Season

As we make our way to the celebration of Christ's birth, the world fills our days with shopping and tinsel and cheerful songs floating over the radio.

Amid the hurry and the excitement of these weeks, do you need a place to spend a bit of time in quiet reflection? Do you seek a space of gentleness, where the whirlwind of the season will be stilled, and the message of hope will be heard?

You are invited to come to a special Advent Service of Worship on December 8, 2013 at 7:00 pm in the Chapel. Gather for prayers, scripture, music, and Holy Communion.

### **Sunday, December 15, 2013 3 pm in the Sanctuary Christmas Choral Concert**

Come celebrate Advent by hearing Joanne Teubner Prussak direct our church's choirs in sacred music. There will be singing, bell ringing, trumpet and guitar playing, and soloists.

Continue the Christmas spirit as you head to the Social Hall for a post-concert reception.

(Please see p.13 for more details).





## 16 BLANKETS!

That is the count to-date.  
Our Knitting and Crocheting ministry  
has gotten off to a strong start!

On October 27, 2013, we dedicated the  
wonderful articles to God's glory, and then  
they were on their way to their new homes:

- some went to loved ones in our community
- some went to persons undergoing cancer  
treatment (through Pathways Women's  
Cancer Support)
- some went to the homeless community  
(through Bridges Outreach)
- some went to little children (through the  
new "book and blanket" program of Family  
Promise)

You can support this great ministry, in any of the following ways:

- pray for the ministry!
- join the group any Thursday at 11am or Friday at 7pm
- donate yarn (no wool, please) or knitting needles/crochet hooks
- donate funds for the participants to purchase more materials

Let's continue to wrap God's loved ones in warmth!

### PRAYER LIST

Each Sunday we provide in the bulletin a prayer list as those we love experience joys and concerns. All are encouraged to include the names in your personal prayer time.

At the end of the year, we will once again "clear out" the prayer list, beginning a new one with the new year.

If someone you care about was included on the prayer list and you would like his or her name to be continued as a new list is begun in January, please contact the church office. (Call 908-277-1700 or email [umcsummit@verizon.net](mailto:umcsummit@verizon.net), or complete a new prayer request card during Sunday service.) Thank you.



# December Education Article

This December there are a lot of exciting things occurring in our Education ministry. In our Sunday school the children will learn about Advent. Our **children's class** will be using the "Grow Proclaim Serve" curriculum. The children will hear Isaiah's prophecy of a coming messiah, a special message from the Virgin Mary, and even the words of an angel who spoke to Joseph.



Meanwhile our **senior high class and T'weens class** will share together a special advent curriculum called "Bethlehem in the Midst of Bedlam". This curriculum will lead our Sr.'s and T'weens on a journey of waiting as they learn about this holy season of Advent.

**Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>** will be the last Sunday school session until January 19<sup>th</sup> as we take a short recess during the holiday season.

The children of the church are also already working hard to prepare for this year's **Christmas pageant**. This year's pageant will be offered during our 5:00pm service on Christmas Eve. Rehearsals are during the Wow it's Wednesday activities as well as a dress rehearsal on December 22<sup>nd</sup> after worship from 12:30-2:30 pm. All Children are welcome to be involved and adults are also welcome to help with scenery, props, and costumes. If you or your child are interested please contact Drew as soon as possible.

## Ways to get involved with Summit UMC Education

### Wow It's Wednesday



4:30pm Snacks & Greeting

4:40pm Wesley Choir or Homework help

5:00pm Devotions

5:15pm Singing believers or green room time

5:00-6:00pm Wednesday conversations

### Sunday School

+Children (Pre-K-3<sup>rd</sup>)

10:45 [2<sup>nd</sup> floor]

+T'weens(4<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>)

9:30 [3<sup>rd</sup> floor]

+Sr High(8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>)

9:30 [3<sup>rd</sup> floor]



### Parents Night Out



December 20<sup>th</sup>

6-9pm

In the Green Room

Suggested \$10 donation and \$5 for every child after the first



### Nursery Care

Nursery Care is available on Sundays from 9:00 AM until 11:30AM for children 6 weeks to 2 years!



# **PAGEANT REHEARSAL**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**12:30 - 2:30 pm**

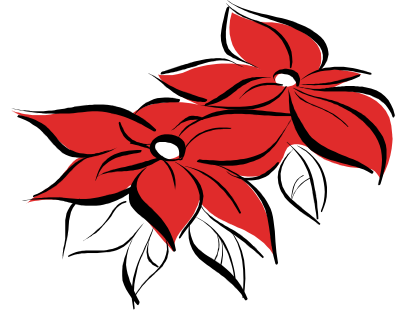






# CHANCEL FLOWERS

*at Christmas 2013*



***Contributions for Christmas Flowers will be taken until Friday, December 13th.*** The money collected is used to decorate the sanctuary, with any remaining money going to provide flowers for future Sunday services. The flowers from Christmas will be distributed to our shut-ins, hospitalized members and others, as determined by the Pastor.

If you would like your contribution noted in the bulletin on Christmas Eve, please complete the form below. This form may be placed in the offering plate or returned to the Church Office. Please make your checks ***payable to UMC Flower Fund.***

**Your Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**In Loving Memory of:**

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**In Honor of:**

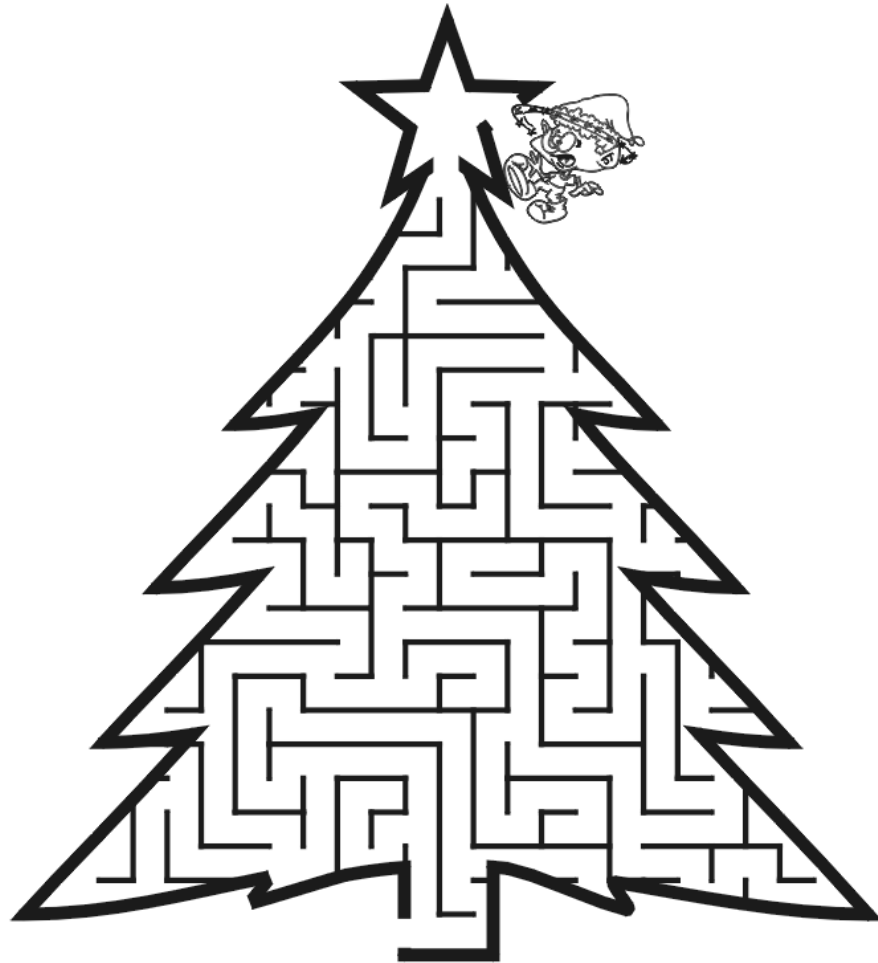
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# CHILDREN'S



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# PAGE

# CHILDREN'S

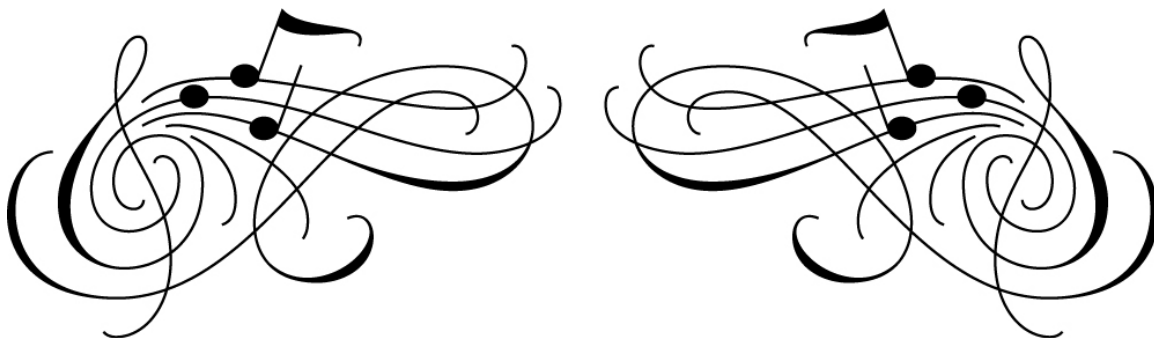
## Nativity Word Search

C A N O I T A V L A S D N S H S  
Q S H E P H E R D S R F A L L U  
R A T S A M T S I R H C T E J S  
N E M E S I W S H E E P I G O E  
J G N I K M A R Y G I U V N S J  
M O S Y I H X Q U R Q W I A E T  
D O N K E Y R E G N A M T D P M  
Z I L I N N K E E P E R Y O H F



angels  
Christmas  
donkey  
innkeeper  
Jesus  
Joseph manger  
king Mary  
nativity  
salvation  
sheep  
shepherds  
star  
wisemen

# PAGE



## **MUSIC NOTES**

*Joanne Teubner Prussak, Music Director*

Our **Wesley and Singing Believer Choirs** will be singing at the Christmas Concert Sunday, December 15. There will be a dress rehearsal on December 14 at 11:00 am. This is such an exciting time!

Our regular rehearsals are on Wednesday at 4:40 pm for the Wesley Choir and 5:15 pm for the Singing Believers, which is part of the *Wow, It's Wednesday* program. Both choirs will also be singing on Sunday, December 22 at 10:30 am worship and for the Pageant on Christmas Eve, 5:00 pm Candlelight Worship.

Our **Bell Choir** will be ringing at our concert and on Christmas Eve for the 5:00 pm Candlelight Worship.

Our **Christmas Concert** will be on Sunday, December 15 at 3:00 pm. All of our choirs; Wesley, Singing Believers, Contemporary Ensemble, Bell Choir and soloist will be sharing their gifts of music. Please enjoy the music of the season and support our music makers.

The **Contemporary Ensemble** is preparing music for the Christmas Concert and the December 22nd worship as well as Christmas Eve 5:00 pm worship.

The **Chancel Choir** is singing throughout Advent and Christmas. They will be singing at our concert and every Sunday in Advent, as well as the 9:00 pm Candlelight Worship.

Our Chancel Choir and **vocal and instrumental soloists** will share the sounds of Christmas for this blessed season.



**The United Methodist Church of Summit  
Presents**

**A CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

**Sunday, December 15th at 3:00pm**

17 Kent Place Boulevard

Summit, New Jersey

*reception to follow*

*Featuring the choirs of the church as well as professional soloists  
under the direction of Joanne Teubner Prussak.*

***The Youth Choirs, Hand Bell and Chancel Choirs,  
Contemporary Ensemble, and soloists:***

*William Dembaugh*

*Brian Ernstes*

*Ximenita Gonzalez*

*Bernice Griffith*

*Adelmo Guidarelli*

*Latonia Hall*

*William Robinson*

*Jacqueline Wasniewski*

***and instrumentalists:***

*Jocelyn Gallinek, Flute*

*Jesse Reyes, Guitar*

*William Teubner, Trumpet*

Suggested donation/tickets \$10.00

For more information and tickets  
please contact the church office at 908-277-1700.

# FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

## OUR CHRISTMAS 4 OTHERS



This year the Outreach Committee is bringing back “Our Christmas 4 Others,” an opportunity to learn about a number of outreach ministries and support the needs of others in this sacred season. We will be coordinating these needs with the Greater New Jersey Conference Mission Fund, “A Future With Hope.”



This Mission Fund focuses on three needs located in the local, regional and global communities: two local needs of the Summit community (SHIP and CAUSE), regional needs left in the wake of Superstorm Sandy, and global needs related to malaria elimination and prevention. Displays of these mission projects will be set up in the Social Hall on **December 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>** and you can support any ministry you feel called to by donating to each or all of the ministries (there will be a *\$1 minimum donation*).

As you give you will receive a special note to send to a friend or relative indicating that you have made a contribution in their honor to Our Christmas 4 Others and the “Future With Hope” Mission Fund.

*Come and experience the joy of making a difference in others’ lives in this season of giving.*



The **Wesley Center Pre School** is enrolling for the 2014-2015 school year. We offer 2 ½, 3 and 4 year classes. Church members receive a 10% discount and the enrollment fee is waived. Please contact MaryEllen DeJohn at 908-277-3686 or [medejohn@verizon.net](mailto:medejohn@verizon.net) for more information.



## BIRTHDAYS & Anniversaries in December:

6	Madeline Johnson	21	Ashton Flammé
8	Michael Stewart	22	Melissa Hoffman
9	John Hugin	24	Susan Lopez
	Dan Somers		<i>Elaine &amp; Carl Stolpe</i>
10	Joseph Smith	26	Alec LaJeunesse
12	Ruth Dangler	29	Alison Johnson
14	Beverly Wolff	30	Hilary Hugin
19	Rachel Hoffman		

# DECEMBER

## “To Do” LIST:

- 
- *HANGING OF THE GREENS - 12/1*
  - *ADVENT EVENT - 12/1*
  - *CHRISTMAS FOR OTHERS - 12/8 & 12/15*
  - *SERVICE OF COMFORT - 12/8*
  - *PROPERTY COMMITTEE MEETING - 12/12*
  - *CHRISTMAS CONCERT - 12/15*
  - *PARENT'S NIGHT OUT CHRISTMAS PARTY - 12/20*
  - *CHRISTMAS PAGEANT - 12/24*

# DECEMBER 2013

Summit United Methodist Church ▪ 17 Kent Place Boulevard ▪ 908-277-1700

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1</b> <b>Hanging of the Greens</b> <b>Advent Event</b> 4-6pm (Social Hall)	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> <b>Youth Quartet</b> 4:15 pm	<b>4</b> Prayer Warriors 11:30am Wow, It's Wednesday - <i>Pageant Prep</i>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> <b>Soloist Rehearsal</b> 1:00 pm
<b>8</b> <b>Christmas for Others</b> <b>Service of Comfort</b> 7:00pm (Chapel)	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> <b>Youth Quartet</b> 4:15 pm	<b>11</b> Prayer Warriors 11:30am Wow, It's Wednesday - <i>Pageant Prep</i>	<b>12</b> <b>Property Committee Meeting</b> 6:30pm <i>(Conference Room)</i>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> <b>Soloist Rehearsal</b> 1:00 pm
<b>15</b> <b>Christmas for Others</b> <b>Christmas Concert</b> 3:00pm (Sanctuary)	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> <b>Youth Quartet</b> 4:15 pm	<b>18</b> Prayer Warriors -11:30am Wow, It's Wednesday - <i>Pageant Prep</i>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> <b>Parents' Night Out Christmas Party</b>	<b>21</b> <b>Soloist Rehearsal</b> 1:00 pm
<b>22</b> <b>Christmas Pageant Rehearsal</b> 12:30-2:30pm	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <b>Christmas Eve Service</b> 5:00pm (*The children's pageant will be presented*) <b>Christmas Eve Service</b> 9:00pm	<b>25</b>  <b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b> <i>Office is Closed</i>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> <u>No Sunday School</u>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>Sunday Choir Rehearsals:</b> 9:00am Bell Choir 9:30am Chancel Choir 11:45am Contemporary Ensemble		<b>Wow, It's Wednesday:</b> 4:30pm Snacks & Greeting 4:40pm Wesley Choir & Homework help 5:00pm Devotions 5:00pm Conversations with Pastor Hogan 5:15pm Singing Believers & Green Room time 6:00pm All adjourn	