

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

THE DIALOGUE

February 2017



THE STAFF

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From the Pastor

We all have different spiritual practices that help us grow in faith. Everything from daily prayer, to time of silence, to acts of service....

Last month I came across an article by Daniel Vestal, in which he named four valuable patterns for spiritual growth:



- 1. Pray like a monk.**
- 2. Study like a scholar.**
- 3. Play like a child.**
- 4. Keep records like a scribe.**

In these spiritual disciplines he invites us to find the gifts that hide in taking time to listen for God's whispers, exercising our minds, finding avenues for laughter, and seeking the insight of journaling.

I invite you to reflect on these four patterns:
which one seems most timely for you, in your current season of life?
Which one would take the greatest effort?

I invite you to choose one of these four, write the phrase on an index card and place it in a spot you will see it each day.

Engage in that one activity each day for this entire month.
Be intentional in living into it.
Be alert to the fruits it brings into your soul.

And be blessed.

Shawn Callender Hogan
Pastor



PS:

On January 1st, candles were distributed in worship, inviting our community to light them each day and be in prayer.

All are asked to bring whatever remains of your candle to worship on January 29th. Whether your candle is still in its original state, or whether it is almost gone, please bring it to worship on the last Sunday of January.

The candles will be used to create an altar arrangement on February 5th.

Prayer Service

Are your days full, rushed... do you have a lot on your mind?

Do you hunger for the chance to be in prayer *with no expectations* on you?

If so, come to the Chapel at **7pm on Wednesday, February 1st** for a special time of quiet meditation.



We will share in a prayer service in the Taize tradition—which involves silence, prayer, and songs that are simple, rhythmic and soothing. Come and let the Spirit peacefully enfold you.

(In March and April our services on the first Wednesday of the month will be Lenten services, rather than Taize prayer services.)

A TIME OF WELCOME



*Are you interested in becoming a member of
the United Methodist Church of Summit,
or
Are you enjoying worshipping here and
would just like to know more
about our church?*

Then come to “A Time of Welcome”!

On Sunday, **February 26, 11:30am**

(in the Fellowship Room in our Education wing)

you can meet with the pastor and some of our leaders
who will share a bit about our ministry,
and talk together about how we each came to be here.

It will be a great time for questions, casual conversation,
and getting to know one another.

While a decision about membership is not presumed,
at the end of the gathering anyone who expresses an interest in
joining the church officially will be given all the needed details.

If you wish to become a member,
or if you just are interested in learning more about our church, come!

A WAY FORWARD



Bishop John Schol invites all United Methodists in Greater New Jersey to join him in Praying our Way Forward, the Council of Bishops' prayer initiative which will take place from **January 1, 2017 – Spring, 2018.**

The Commission on a Way Forward was proposed by the Council of Bishops and approved by the 2016 General Conference to do a complete examination and possible revision the Book of Discipline paragraphs concerning human sexuality and explore maintaining and strengthening the unity of the church.

While this Commission undertakes their work, the Council of Bishops is calling on all United Methodists to join together in prayer. Each conference is registered for a week of prayer, and each church is invited to take a day to commit to prayer. **Our church's selected day is Monday, January 30th.**

Additionally, all are invited to a gathering to Discern Greater New Jersey's hopes for the future of The United Methodist Church.

On March 4, clergy and laity will gather to discuss the following questions and consider the seven options below as we develop our recommendation for the Commission on the Way Forward.

- In our diverse and global existence, what is the shared mission/purpose of the Church?
- Is there a proactive way for us to live together in our differences that doesn't presume that we will resolve our differences? What would it be?
- What might be a form of unity that would empower us living together?
- What is our witness and what can be our witness to the world in relation to our differences?

The following are suggestions made by different people and groups who seek a solution for the current impasse regarding The United Methodist Church and homosexuality.

1. We continue as we are, no change to The Book of Discipline. If we chose this option, what would you need to participate in the life of the church?
2. We change The Book of Discipline to allow gays and lesbians to be ordained and to permit same gender weddings. If we chose this option, what would you need to participate in the life of the church?
3. The annual conference determines who is fit and ready for ordination and whether to allow clergy to perform same gender weddings. If we chose this option, what would you need to participate in the life of the church?
4. Local congregations decide whether they will accept an openly gay or lesbian pastor and whether their pastor celebrates same gender weddings. If we chose this option, what would you need to participate in the life of the church?
5. The church has authority on these matters by geographic region (we are organized into regions by the Africa, Asia, Europe and the United States). If we chose this option, what would you need to participate in the life of the church?
6. We divide into separate denominations based on gay and lesbian ordination and same gender marriage. If we chose this option, what would you need to participate in the life of the church?
7. Other suggested ideas.

To register for this conference-wide event:

<https://www.gnjumc.org/gracefulcontroversies/graceful-controversies-registration/>

Prior to the gathering, we suggest you read and consider the following resources:
[Wonder, Love and Praise: Sharing a Vision of the Church](#) by the The United Methodist Committee on Faith and Order:

http://s3.amazonaws.com/Website_Properties/general-conference/2016/documents/gc2016-wonder-love-and-praise_final.pdf

[Be Strong and of Good Courage](#) by Gil Rendle of the Texas Methodist Foundation:

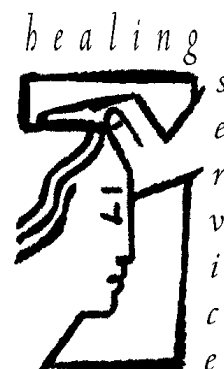
https://www.tmf-fdn.org/assets/uploads/docs/Rendle_Courage_monograph.pdf

HEALING SERVICE:

**Sunday, February 26, 2017
10:30 a.m. Worship Service**

An Introduction:

(resource: The United Methodist Book Of Worship)



All healing is of God.

Scripture strongly affirms ministries of spiritual healing, which in recent years have received renewed emphasis throughout Christ's holy Church. The root of the word *healing* in New Testament Greek, *sozo*, is the same as that of *salvation and wholeness*.

God works to offer persons balance, harmony, and wholeness of body, mind, spirit, and relationships, seeking reconciliation between God and humanity, among individuals and communities, within each person, and between humanity and the rest of creation. The Church's healing ministry in no way detracts from the gifts God gives through medicine and psychotherapy. It is no substitute for either medicine or the proper care of one's health. Rather, it adds to our total resources for wholeness.

Healing is not magic, but underlying it is the great mystery of God's love. God does not promise that we shall be spared suffering but does promise to be with us in our suffering. Trusting that promise, we are enabled to recognize God's sustaining presence in pain, sickness, injury, and estrangement.

A Service of Healing is not necessarily a service of curing, but it provides an atmosphere in which God's presence and healing can become known. *The greatest healing of all is the reunion or reconciliation of a human being with God.* For the Christian the basic purpose of spiritual healing is to renew and strengthen one's relationship with the living Christ.

On Sunday, February 26, 2017 our service of worship will focus on God's healing presence, and will include the opportunity for any so inclined to receive anointing with olive oil, as an act of God's touch.



Dialogue Circles on Race: Conversations Worth Having

***Facilitated Dialogues
About Racial Prejudice and Systemic Racism
In American Life Today***

**Four Two-Hour Group Sessions during the weeks
of February 12, 26 and March 12, 26, 2017**

With issues of race lacing the daily news revealing how far we have to go as well as how far we've come, this is an opportunity to join with other local citizens to explore issues of race, share our responses to challenging reading material, listen carefully to others, deepen our understanding and consider ways to act to make our communities better. Many of last year's participants said their experience was a "life-changing awakening to the reality of race today."

For those who did not participate in our dialogues previously, the **Summit Interfaith Council's Anti-Racism Task Force** is offering the series again with opportunities on various days the week, for an every-other-week series of four two- hour sessions, led by trained group facilitators. As people sign up, we will finalize meeting times. For more information, and to sign up online, contact **Reverend Emilie Boggis** at <https://ucs1908.wufoo.com/forms/m1or2133034052p/>
Or at: emilie@ucsummit.org



Summit Green Star

A Collaborative Effort of the Summit Environmental Commission,
the Summit Recycling Committee, Summit Downtown, Inc. and
the Suburban Chamber of Commerce

January 3, 2017

*Summit Environmental
Commission*
Beth Lavejoy, Chairperson
908.277.3074
commmita@gmail.com

*Summit Recycling Advisory
Committee*
Marjorie Fox, Chairperson
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Summit Downtown, Inc.
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*Suburban Chamber of
Commerce*
Karen Hadley, Marketing
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908.322.1700
khadley@suburanchamber.org

Dear Ms. Hogan,

Congratulations on the United Methodist Church's certification as a Summit Green Star!

You are making a difference in the Summit community by adopting behaviors that preserve the environment, engage the public, and support other local businesses and organizations.

Specifically you:

- Have a recycle bin for customers
- Use reusable plates, coffee cups glasses and silverware for most church activities
- Pick up litter
- Use email for some church communications
- Reuse and repurpose banners
- Work in community vegetable garden
- Organize nature walks
- Promote walk/bike/take mass transit/carpool to worship events
- Host meditation classes
- Use CFL or LED bulbs
- Turn off lights, computers, and office equipment at night
- Use programmable thermostat(s)
- Sponsor community events
- Collaborate with other businesses

Your certification as a Summit Green Star lasts for two years from the date of this letter.

Thank you for your contributions to Summit.

Sincerely,
The Summit Green Star Committee



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



**What is your prayer
for our world this year?**

WORSHIP TOGETHER

We believe the body of Christ includes all of us, bringing our gifts and growing in faith together. Sunday morning all children are invited to remain in worship with their families. Worship buckets with coloring and activities for children connected to the messages are available in the front and rear of the sanctuary. Bathrooms and a changing table are located in the back of the sanctuary.

Staff childcare is available in the nursery on Sundays from 9:00am-10:15am and in the Hospitality Room in the rear of the Sanctuary from 10:20-11:30am! On weeks we worship in the Social Hall, nursery care remains in the Nursery throughout the entire time. Parents are welcome to sign in and drop off their child or to stay with their child. Our staff nursery caregivers are paid, experienced, childcare professionals: Luz and Christa. Please contact me if you have questions. sherri.shumate@gmail.com.



Feeding People • Changing Lives

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

CUMAC Food Pantry

Saturday, March 11

9:00am- 12:00pm

Please join us for a day of service at the CUMAC food pantry in Patterson, NJ.
Ages 12 and up welcome. Please contact Sherri Shumate to sign- up or for more information.
Meet at church at 8am to carpool.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:30am -10:15am

Age	Teacher	Helper
Children Pre K-3 rd	Noelle Benton	Myrene Reyes
Tweens 4 th - 7 th	Alison Johnson	Dan Smith
Teens 8 th - 12 th	Sherri Shumate	Volunteers Welcome

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and might."
Deuteronomy 6:5

February 5: The Lord's Prayer; *Matthew 6:9-13, Luke 11:1-4*

The Lord's Prayer is probably the most familiar Christian prayer. Jesus offered this prayer to his disciples when they asked him to teach them to pray. It's a prayer of adoration, confession, thanksgiving, and supplication. Take time to pray the Lord's Prayer this week...like you really mean it.

February 12: The Shema; *Deuteronomy 6:4-9, Matthew 22:36-40*

Life is full of choices. What guides your choices? "Shema" is the Hebrew word for "listen" or "hear". When Jesus is asked the greatest commandment he replies with the words of the Shema: we are to love God with all our heart, soul, and might. What does it mean to you to love God with all your heart?

February 19: The Golden Rule; *Matthew 7:12, Luke 6:31*

We must seek out ways to treat others with loving care and compassion. How are you loving your neighbors? In what ways could you love more?

February 26: The Lilies of the Field; *Matthew 6:25-33*

"I trust in you O Lord," but sometimes we still worry. What are the things that cause you to worry? What helps you remember to trust God? God is with us and takes care of us no matter what we face.

Sunday, February 12 teen Sunday school trip
to Manhattan Bagel at 9:30am.

YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

Throughout the year we make an effort to attend our children and youth's concerts, plays, and special events. If your child has an upcoming event you'd like us to be part of, please let me know! We also try to plan our youth ministries around our young people's passions, interests, and needs. sherri.shumate@gmail.com

- ✓ **Friday, February 3:** *Peter Pan* (Lincoln Hubbard School) 7:00pm
- ✓ **Saturday, February 4:** *Peter Pan* (Lincoln Hubbard School) 11:00am
- ✓ **Sunday, February 12:** *Manhattan Bagel Trip*, 9:30am (pending 2nd adult helper)
- ✓ **Saturday, February 11 – Sunday morning worship:** *Youth Lock-In*, 6:00pm, (ages - middle school and up)
- ✓ **Saturday, February 25:** *Parents' Night Out*, 5:00-8:00pm (youth helpers welcomed)

WOW IT'S WEDNESDAY: 4:30-6:00pm

Wow It's Wednesday is an intergenerational Christian education & music experience. All are welcome to join us for food, fun, and fellowship. WOW follows the Summit public school calendar. We do not meet on days the Summit public schools do not meet, have early dismissals, or have weather closings.

Our WOW program is a hands-on, interactive way to engage the themes and stories we are learning in worship and Sunday school. One of the ways we will be aligning with our church emphasis on being a place of rest and renewal will be incorporating ways of helping our children learn strategies and experiences for rest and renewal. We make healthy snacks related to our theme together each week. Please alert me if your children have food allergies. There is no staff supervision available until 4pm or after 6pm. Please plan accordingly. Contact me for more information. sherri.shumate@gmail.com.

Please note: WOW resumes on February 1st. Join us!

PARENTS' NIGHT OUT

Saturday, February 25, 5-8pm

(Please sign-up by February 10)

Drop off your children for an evening of fun designed and lead by our youth. We offer a mix of fun and worship and make sustainable lunches for Bridges. We will provide a light dinner & snack or you may pack your own.

Friends and guests are welcome, just please RSVP so we have enough supplies, food, and helpers. Suggested donation \$15/child; max \$40/family. This money goes to purchase supplies for our Bridges lunches that we donate to homeless families.



GRACEFUL CONTROVERSIES

A Gathering to Discern Greater New Jersey's hopes for the future of The United Methodist Church

For more information visit: <http://www.gnjumc.org/gracefulcontroversies/>



March 4, 2017

9:30am - 3:30pm

The Mission and Resource Center
205 Jumping Brook Rd.
Neptune, NJ 07753

Bishop Schol invites all laity and clergy from GNJ into a deeper conversation to develop our hopes and aspirations for the future of The United Methodist Church and send them to the Commission on the Way Forward. We have the opportunity to model graceful controversy. We will hold a

gathering for GNJ members to identify how best we would like to see the church move forward and all church members and clergy are welcome to participate.

Registration cost for Graceful Controversies is \$10 to cover lunch and refreshments for the day. Registration will be open until February 10.

Prior to the gathering, we suggest you read and consider the following resources:

[Wonder, Love and Praise: Sharing a Vision of the Church](#) by the United Methodist Committee on Faith and Order

http://s3.amazonaws.com/Website_Properties/general-conference/2016/documents/gc2016-wonder-love-and-praise_final.pdf

[Be Strong and of Good Courage](#) by Gil Rendle of the Texas Methodist Foundation
https://www.tmf-fdn.org/assets/uploads/docs/Rendle_Courage_monograph.pdf

Saturday February, 11

6:00pm - Sunday 11:30am

Food & Fun & More!

Ages: middle school & up

Where: United Methodist Church
17 Kent Place Blvd. Summit, NJ

Please bring: change of clothes, sleeping bag, toothbrush, snack & drink to share, permission slip, anything else you need.



To RSVP or for more info:

Contact Sherri Shumate, Director of Christian Education

Sherri.shumate@gmail.com or call 908-277-1700.

YOUTH LOCK-IN

February 11

Saturday, 6:00pm – Sunday, 11:30am

UMC of Summit: 17 Kent Place Blvd. Summit, NJ

<http://umcsummit.org/>

To attend this event, please fill in the form below and hand it to Sherri Shumate at the beginning of the event.

Without a permission slip you cannot attend.
Parents will be expected to stay for the first 15 minutes to create and sign a group behavior covenant.

Person(s) Attending: _____

Emergency Contact name: _____

Contact Phone: _____

Any Allergies/Special Needs?

I give permission for my son/daughter to be photographed _____

I give permission for my son/daughter to attend _____

Parent Signature: _____

Parent Name: _____



MUSIC NOTES

Joanne Teubner Prussak, *Music Director*

"May the God who gives endurance and encouragement, give you a spirit of unity as you follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ" – Romans 15:5

Wesley Choir

Singing is so much fun! We learn songs about Jesus and how to follow his teachings in our lives. Rehearsals are **Wednesdays at 5:20pm** in the Chapel.

Singing Believers

Come and sing the joyful songs to God. Let us grow together in our faith through music. Rehearsals are at **1:00pm on Saturdays** in the Chapel for youth grades 3 through high school.

Contemporary Ensemble

Our Contemporary Ensemble of singers, guitarists, drums, recorders, bass and piano are studying music from the contemporary hymnals "The Faith We Sing" and "Worship and Song". Rehearsals are **Sundays at 12:15pm** in the Music Room. Come and share your musical gifts and enrich your faith.

Bell Choir

Making a joyful sound is the mission of our Bell Choir. This is a good time to come and try ringing hand bells and hand chimes with your friends at church. Rehearsals are **Sundays at 11:45am** in the Sanctuary.

Chancel Choir

Won't you come and join us as we sing joyful songs to our Lord? It's a joy to work together and lift your voices in praise. Our regular rehearsals are on **Sunday mornings at 9:30am** in the Music Room.

Come! There is power and importance in sharing your faith through music.

Thank you for sharing your wonderful gifts of music.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

CAUSE



Like all "**first Sundays of the month**" we collect nonperishable food items for CAUSE, the United Methodist food pantry in Jersey City. Drop off your items on your way into worship; feel free to leave them on the sanctuary pew near the entrance.

FACEBOOK



Do you follow our Church's Facebook page? There you can find reminders of church activities, links to national and global articles of interest, thought - provoking articles, and educational materials. [Join us in our Facebook conversation today!](#)

SUMMER GARDEN



Have you stopped by the Summit UMC garden yet? If not, make your way out there next time you are at church.

The garden bed was built in April of 2015 on the lawn across the street from Winberies as a culmination of the intergenerational study about caring for creation.



Over the past two years we have had so much fun working with all ages to drill the lumber together, mix the bumper crop and soil to create a healthy garden, add nutrients to the soil, and grow beautiful flowers and yummy vegetables!

We look forward to another growing season and invite the community (that includes you!) to receive gifts of food and flowers from us, Summit UMC. As you can read on the garden sign, "Take what you need, leave some for others."

The garden is a project that requires many volunteer helpers to plant, water, weed, and harvest. Would you be willing to help?

Please contact the church office for more information on how to get involved.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

OUR CHRISTMAS FOR OTHERS



During Advent the Outreach Committee sponsored an alternative Christmas market giving congregants the opportunity to donate to several causes. This effort was initiated by the Committee in response to the Conference asking that all churches pledge to support a mission fund called “A Future with Hope Mission Fund Campaign,” a campaign designed to allow us to make a difference to those in need on local, regional and global levels.

The Outreach Committee is pleased to report that, thanks to the compassion and generosity of our church community, a **total of \$1375 was raised** and will be distributed to five mission projects:

Global:	<i>Imagine No Malaria</i> [\$275]
Regional:	<i>Super Storm Sandy Relief</i> [\$580]
Local:	<i>Summit Helping Its People (SHIP)</i> [\$175]
Local:	<i>Christian Approach to Urban-Suburban Encounter (CAUSE)</i> [\$150]
Local:	<i>Bridges</i> [\$195]

The Outreach Committee sincerely thanks those who donated and helped us fulfill our pledge to the Conference mission fund.

OPEN MIC NIGHT

Friday February 24, 2017

8:00pm – 11:00pm (*in the Social Hall*)

*Do you have a talent that only rarely sees the light of day?
Have you always wanted to perform in front of a small audience?
Are you perhaps looking for that next step towards stardom?*

Bring your talent along to a series of monthly ‘Open Mic Nights’ to be hosted by the United Methodist Church of Summit.

*If you would like to perform, just drop us a line
at umcopenmicnight@gmail.com
or call the office at (908) 277-1700.*

FEBRUARY

"To Do" List:

MEETINGS:

Worship Committee - 2/5
"Renewal" Focus Group - 2/5
Outreach Committee - 2/5
Ad Council - 2/6
"Addressing Our Obstacles" - 2/12
Education Committee - 2/19

MINISTRY:

CAUSE - donations every first Sunday
Taize Service - first Wednesday of each month
Knitting Ministry - Thursdays and Fridays
Morning Mindfulness - 2/19
Time of Welcome - 2/26

AND MORE:

Youth Lock-In - 2/11 through 2/12
Open Mic Night - 2/24
Parents' Night Out - 2/25



FEBRUARY 2017

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Wow , It's Wednesday Resumes Taize Service 7pm (Chapel)	2 Knitting Ministry 1:00pm (Fellowship Room)	3 Knitting Ministry 7:00pm (Fellowship Room)	4 Singing Believers – 1:00pm
5 Worship Committee Meeting - 9am (Fellowship Room) Outreach -11:45am “Renewal” Focus Group – 12:30pm (Conference Room)	6 Ad Council Meeting 7:30pm (Fellowship Room)	7	8 Wow , It's Wednesday	9 Knitting Ministry 1:00pm (Fellowship Room)	10 Knitting Ministry 7:00pm (Fellowship Room)	11 Singing Believers – 1:00pm Youth Lock-In 6:00pm – Sunday
12 “Addressing Our Obstacles” 11:30am (Chapel)	13	14	15 Wow , It's Wednesday	16 Knitting Ministry 1:00pm (Fellowship Room)	17 Knitting Ministry 7:00pm (Fellowship Room)	18 Singing Believers – 1:00pm
19 Morning Mindfulness 8:45am (Chapel) Education Committee Meeting – 11:30am (Fellowship Room)	20	21	22 Wow , It's Wednesday	23 Knitting Ministry 1:00pm (Fellowship Room)	24 Knitting Ministry 7:00pm (Fellowship Room) Open Mic Night 8-11pm (Social Hall)	25 Singing Believers – 1:00pm Parents' Night Out 5-8pm
26 Time of Welcome 11:30am (Fellowship Room)	27	28	SUNDAY SCHEDULE: 9:30am – Sunday School (all grades) 9:30am – Chancel Choir 10:30am – Worship 11:30am – Refreshments and Fellowship 11:45am – Bell Choir 12:15pm – Contemporary Ensemble			

FEBRUARY Birthdays

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Davis Barry Jamie Kennedy	2	3	4 Deanne Burns Brian Tipton
5 Millie Eichhorn	6 Angelika Miles JoAnne Teubner - Prussak	7 Christine Tipton	8 Stacey Daniel	9	10	11
12 Audrey Boise	13 Jane Hagner	14 Daniel Tassé	15 Martha Stampes Gregory Vartan III	16 Angelica & Richard Hughes	17 Jane McKinley	18 Natalie Aguilera
19	20	21	22	23	24 Marg Edwards Kathy Whipps Susan Williams	25 Will DeMartin
26	27	28	Enjoy Your Day!			