

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

THE DIALOGUE

January 2016



THE STAFF

Shawn Callender Hogan, *Senior Pastor*
JoAnne Teubner Prussak, *Director of Music*
Sherri Shumate, *Director of Christian Education*
William Harris, *Property Manager*
Polly del Campo, *Office Administrator*

Wesley Center Preschool: 908-277-3686
MaryEllen DeJohn, *Director*

Telephone: 908-277-1700 **E-mail:** umcofsummit@gmail.com
Fax: 908-277-2330 **Web Site:** umcsummit.org

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FROM THE PASTOR



For three months we have been working diligently to grow in vitality as a church, and have built **four “focus groups”** (think *teams*) to do so. (The October 2015 newsletter gives details on the start of each team.)

Here is an update on the activities taking place:

1. Focus: Address our obstacles

Recognizing that we have a large, aging building and limited congregational resources, which translate into an ongoing deficit in our operating budget, this group has set a two-year goal of cutting our deficit in half.

Toward that end, we have sought to bring more clarity to our needs, through naming the deficit in the stewardship letter, as well as including weekly “Why I Give” statements by our members, encouraging “online bill-pay” arrangements for submitting our offerings, and researching new ways to use our building. Additionally, a “Christmas Festival” is planned for 2016, to raise significant funds through a one-day event that involves a concert, boutique, cookie walk, food sale; and initial plans are being made for an off-site Tea as a fundraiser for 2017.

We have already received some unanticipated gifts in response to the stewardship letter, have a dozen households who have increased their pledge, and have a growing list of participants who will submit “why I give” statements.

This group meets next on Sunday, January 24, 2016, at 12:15 pm; join us and add your ideas!

2. Building on our Strengths!

We have a great many ministries that empower and enliven the community; it is time to get the word out with vigor!

This team has evolved into an energetic *publicity team*, insuring that our programs and activities will be shared with the community online and in person. An extensive checklist of publicity avenues has been created and the team meets to oversee its fulfillment.

Have a church event that needs to be communicated with the surrounding community? Let Bernice Griffith and Debbi Picorale (coordinators) know, and their team will get the word out.

This group meets next on Sunday, January 10, 2016 at 9:30 am; join us and add your ideas!

3. Ministry beyond ourselves:

Recognizing that our surrounding community is a very busy one, often lacking a sense of the sacred in their lives, this team is working to offer avenues to receive the spiritual gifts that will ground/center them in life.

Further reflection has led to the realization of the overwhelmed and stressed lives that teens today have, as well as their need to have avenues to be heard and to share deeply. We see the church’s potential to simply be a safe space to do so. We envision gently welcoming teens in a non-assertive but loving way, offering them tools to be sustained in their journey...

Two projects have been identified thus far:

- explore if a high school club may need space to meet, and offering our facility
- organize a 'Battle of the Bands' at the church as a space for teens to "use your voice!"

This group meets next on Thursday, January 14 at 7pm; join us and add your ideas!

4. Becoming a church that provides renewal

We know that our culture is fast-paced, and can be stressful even in the gifts that it offers. We envision our church being a place that provides avenues for rest and renewal, grounded in our faith. Imagine offering resources that will enable people to feel more rested and renewed, and thus empowered for life's journey!

Four paths have been identified:

- Strengthening the monthly Taize Prayer service (additional leaders have already been identified)
- Establishing periodic Yoga/meditation events: (already two guided meditation events are planned for 2016, and contacts are being made for potential yoga classes)
- Seasonal Hikes: Two hikes are planned for 2016
- Healthy Hospitality (offering healthy food at coffee hour): Ideas will be forthcoming

This group meets next on Sunday, January 10, 2016 at 6 pm; join us and add your ideas!

**Everyone's energy and insight is needed in each of the teams!
Give me a call if you want to help out.**

Shawn Callender Hogan, Pastor



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, **January 10, 2016, 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!





SUMMIT INTERFAITH COUNCIL INVITES YOU TO ITS 2ND ANNUAL

UBUNTU VIGIL

“Ubuntu” is the belief in a universal bond of sharing
that connects all humanity, and
‘that I am who I am because of who we all are.’

**In Solidarity with Victims of Gun Violence, Syrian refugees, Muslim Brothers and Sisters,
Immigrant Communities & All Grieving Communities Nationwide**

Sunday, January 17th, 2016 at 6pm at the Summit Village Green.
(We will gather here at the Church at 5:45 and walk over together by candlelight.)
Let us gather and affirm our shared humanity.



WHEN CHRISTIANS GET IT WRONG

A 6-week study based on Adam Hamilton's book

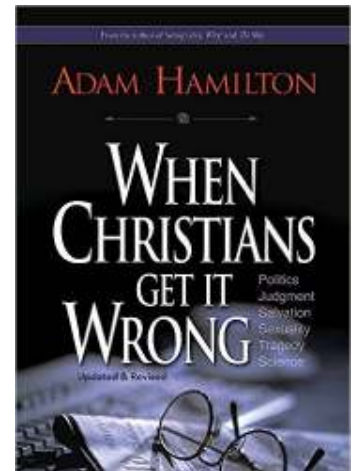
Check out the trailer online:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NEp5aGSwUmY>

More and more young adults have opted out of Christianity and the church. The reason? Christians.

When young adults talk about the problems they have with Christianity and the church, they often name certain attitudes and behaviors they believe are practiced too often by Christians: judging others, condemning people of other faiths, rejecting science, injecting politics into faith, and being anti-homosexual.

With his familiar style, Adam Hamilton tackles these issues and addresses the how's and why's of Christians getting it right when it comes to being Christ in the world. Those who read *When Christians Get It Wrong* will gain a different way of understanding the issues that keep people away from Christianity and keep Christians from living a more compelling faith.



Chapter topics:

1. When Christians are unChristian
2. Christians, science, and politics
3. When speaking of other religions
4. When bad things happen
5. In dealing with homosexuality
6. When Christians get it right

**Join us at 4 pm on Sundays:
Jan 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, February 7**
See Pastor Hogan if you need a copy of the book

"BOOKS THAT MATTER" SERIES IN OUR COMMUNITY

Join in the conversation!

All are welcome at these community-wide book studies:

#1 Tuesdays between MLK Day and Valentine's Day

Book: *Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates

What's Happening: Come explore Coates' letter to his son.

Listen to faith leaders share their perspectives and engage in small group discussion. All are welcome.

Locations and Dates:

Tues, Jan 19th, 7:30 pm at The Unitarian Church in Summit, 4 Waldron Ave.

Tues, Jan 26th, 7:30 pm at St. John's Lutheran Church in Summit, 587 Springfield Ave.

Tues, Feb 2nd, 7:30 pm at The Unitarian Church in Summit, 4 Waldron Ave.

Tues, Feb 9th, 7:30 pm at St. John's Lutheran Church in Summit, 587 Springfield Ave.

Coming Soon:

#2 Sunday afternoons during Lent

Book: *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson

Host: Central Presbyterian Church, 70 Maple Street, Summit

#3 Tuesdays during Passover

Book Options: Choose one book of the following two books.

- *White Like Me* by Tim Wise
- *Waking Up White* by Debby Irving



NEWS FROM THE SUMMIT GREENFAITH CIRCLE

Climate Crossroads

When we embrace our relationship to the earth we are nurturing a transformative journey for ourselves as well as the planet that is our home. Pope Francis' Encyclical "Laudato Si: Caring for Our Common Home" has elevated the issue of climate change, and the moral, spiritual imperative to protect our environment, to new heights.



Come hear GreenFaith's Fletcher Harper describe his experience at the recent UN climate negotiations in Paris, and discuss how we can all be a part of this important work in effecting transformational change – in our congregations, at home, and at work. For more than 20 years GreenFaith has been organizing NJ faith communities on these issues.

Fletcher Harper is an Episcopal priest, award winning spiritual writer and executive director of GreenFaith. Under his leadership, GreenFaith has developed innovative programs linking religious belief and practice to the environment. He is a graduate of Princeton University and Union Theological Seminary.

Thursday, January 7, 7:00pm

Snow date January 14th)

Calvary Church – 31 Woodland Avenue, Summit, NJ

Goodwill Offering –



LET'S GATHER TO MAKE BREAD TOGETHER ON

Sunday, January 3, 2016

1:00pm – 3:00pm in the Social Hall

As we create delicious loaves: adding yeast, kneading the dough, letting it rise, baking the bread, and then enjoying the delicious results, we will reflect on the **new year** we are entering.

The time will be one of conversation, reflection, and fellowship! As we move through the steps of bread-making, we will find that each step invites us to think about our lives and be fed on many levels. And this year you will bring home your unbaked loaf, so that as you bake it at home your house will be filled with the wonderful aroma!

You'll need to bring a few things:

- a large bowl for mixing
- a cloth to cover it while the dough rises
- a loaf pan in which to bake your bread!
- and a friend to join us in the fun!

Please sign up on the sheet posted in the Social Hall by December 27th
(so that sufficient materials can be made available)

(Our last bread-baking event was particularly popular—
join us this time—all ages are welcome!)

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION - Happy New Year!



Every first Sunday the teen Sunday school class walks to Manhattan Bagel, a tradition Drew started and the teens excitedly recommended we continue. It's always a special treat as we share breakfast and what's happening in our lives. Prior to our December trip, we were learning about peace, ways we bring peace and things we do that prevent peace. Before we started walking, I challenged our group to try to share peace with people we passed in whatever way they wanted to share it.

Our adult helper said something like, "I'm not sure I have much peace to share."

One of our teens said, "I know: I'll read lines from my scripture that I'm reading today in church to people as we pass them."

She took this on wholeheartedly sharing lines from Mary's song, *The Magnificat*, to everyone we passed, sometimes softly like a hushed secret; sometimes shouted like our street-preaching founder John Wesley. "My soul magnifies the Lord... My spirit rejoices in God my Savior...the mighty one has done great things for me...God has filled the hungry with good things..."

Some people ignored her. Some people looked really confused; some people smiled. As she read the scripture waiting in line to place her order, the person in line beside her put aside his newspaper to secretly read along, looking over her shoulder.

Our billboard sign that Sunday said the words: "Mary Sings." All the people we passed in Summit that Sunday heard Mary sing in the faith and courage of one of our youth.

What song will you be singing this year? Who will hear your faith song?

Blessings,

Sherri Shumate, Director of Christian Education, sherri.shumate@gmail.com

Please contact me if you're interested in being added to my weekly Christian Education email blast

SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30 -10:15am

Age	Teacher	Helper
Children Pre K-3 rd	Shanotte Smith	Myrene Reyes
Tweens 4 th - 7 th	Alison Johnson	Dan Smith
Teens 8 th - 12 th	Sherri Shumate	<i>Volunteers Welcome</i>

"Bring in your kingdom so that your will is done on earth as it's done in heaven." Matthew 6:10

PreK-3rd & Teens will explore how Jesus' life shows us an example of how to live using "**Grow, Proclaim, & Serve**". (Matthew 2:1-12, Matthew 3:1-6;13-17, Matthew 6:5-13, Matthew 6:25-34, Matthew 7:12)

Tweens will explore Gospel, "Good News," stories using "**Grow, Proclaim, & Serve**". (Baptism: Matthew 3:1-17, Calling : Luke 5:1-11, 27-32; 6:12-16, Miraculous Signs: Mark 4:35-41, How to Treat Others: Luke 6:20-38).

Sunday, January 3 Teen & Tween Sunday school trip to Manhattan Bagel at 9:30am

Please bring money for breakfast. Dress warmly; meet in the church driveway at 9:25am!

For more information: sherri.shumate@gmail.com.

Mark Your Calendars:

Education Committee Meeting: Sunday, January 17 after worship, Fellowship Room



CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Thank you to everyone who made this year's Christmas Pageant such a beautiful and moving worship experience and

for all the great and unique ways we've found to share God's love and peace this past year! May you keep singing God's songs all year long and keep inviting others to join God's song.

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 10:20am-11:30am!

There is a live video showing the worship service, but more room for kids to move and wiggle than in our pews. 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: Heather, Luz, and Christa. Please contact me if you have questions.

sherri.shumate@gmail.com

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

No WOW: Jan. 6, 13, 20.

WOW resumes on Wednesday January 27th!

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. 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.

WOW Schedule:

4:30-4:55pm	Story, Snacks, & Sharing
5:00-5:15pm	Devotions Together
5:15-6:00pm	Adult Conversations
5:20-6:00pm	Singing Praises Together

PARENTS' NIGHT OUT:

Saturday, **January 9**, 5-8pm

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 \$10/child. Meet in the Social Hall. This money goes to purchase supplies for our Bridges lunches that we donate to homeless families.

Please sign-up via email by Friday, January 1:

sherri.shumate@gmail.com



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

Sunday January 3, Teens & Tweens *Manhattan Bagel Trip*, 9:30am. Bring money, dress warmly, meet in the parking lot at 9:25am.

Saturday, January 9, *Parents' Night Out*: 5-8 pm. Youth helpers needed.

Friday, January 29, *Summit Play*, 7pm
See one of our own in a great Summit school production!

Friday, January 30-31, *Youth Lock-In* 7pm-9:30am
Sunday. Bring a snack to share, sleeping bag, pillow, toothbrush, and change of clothes to wear for Sunday school and church Sunday morning. Friends are welcome. Please RSVP by Friday, Jan. 15th!
Grades 4th and up!

MUSIC NOTES

I would like to thank the following people for their dedication and devotion to our church.
Heartfelt gratitude for sharing your wonderful gifts of music throughout Advent,
the Christmas Concert and the entire Christmas season.

With much love,
Joanne Teubner Prussak, Director of Music

WESLEY CHOIR and SINGING BELIEVERS

Amanda Brown
Adam Daniel
Lucas Daniel
James Goldman
Kayla Goldman
Maddie Johnson
William Johnson
Caroline Relf
Oliver Relf
Joshua Reyes
Bradley Smith
Joseph Smith
Riley Smith

HANDBELL CHOIR

Chris Barry
Davis Barry
William Dembaugh
James Goldman
Kayla Goldman
Kim Goldman
Alison Johnson
William Johnson
Emily LaJeunesse
Jayme LaJeunesse
Adrian Phillips

CONTEMPORARY ENSEMBLE

Beverly Alexis
Gregg Buttermore
Bernice Griffith
Ximenita Gonzalez
Alison Johnson
Emily LaJeunesse
Jayme LaJeunesse
Jesse Reyes
Myrene Reyes
Christine Tipton

CHANCEL CHOIR

Sopranos

Bernice Griffith
Latonia Hall
Maddie Johnson
Emily LaJeunesse
Sherri Shumate
Shela Waldron
Jacqueline Wasniewski

Altos

Beverly Alexis
Kayla Goldman
Ximenita Gonzalez

Tenors

Gregg Buttermore
William Johnson
William Dembaugh
William Teubner

Baritones

Stephen Brown
Ian Cunningham
William Glancy
James Goldman
Neil Johnson
Jayme LaJeunesse
Adrian Phillips
Dwayne Phillips

VOCAL & INSTRUMENTAL SOLOISTS

William Dembaugh, *Baritone*
Jocelyn Gallinek, *Flute*
Ximenita Gonzalez, *Alto*
Latonia Hall, *Soprano*
Jesse Reyes, *Guitar*
William Teubner, *Trumpet*
Jacqueline Wasniewski, *Soprano*

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!](#)

NEED A RIDE?



Please call the church office if you need a ride to worship or any other church event. We have many volunteers ready to pick you up and return you home!

FAMILY GAME NIGHT

Who's ready for some indoor FUN!!!



Our Game Nights this winter will be **Friday, 1/22, 2/26 and 4/1.**

* 6:30 pm Potluck dinner: Bring something / anything your family likes

* 7:00 pm Board games: If you like, bring a game you've been wanting to try out with others. There will be a many games to choose from.

We will meet in the Social Hall. No signups are needed but a phone call to the church office or an email to myrene.reyes@gmail.com would be helpful in planning this event (or in case the weather requires us to cancel).

Bring yourself, invite your friends, and come ready for a great night of laughs and some healthy table top COMPETITION!



FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

The United Methodist Church of Summit is on TV!

Home Towne TV
Will be airing our December 13th
Christmas Concert on
Channel 36 – Comcast
Channel 33 – Verizon

Wednesday, January, 6 @ 1pm



BIRTHDAYS in January:

2	Barbara Dickinson		
	Dylan Levine	15	Wendi Barry
	Dotti Zotti	18	Laura Dunnder
3	Brian Heaton	20	Zoe Rhinehart
	Elizabeth Kennedy		Andrew Wernsing
	Oliver Relf	24	Mark Mandel
6	Caroline Remillard	25	Christopher Hoffman
7	Lucas Daniel		Claire Schaefer
9	Beverly Alexis	28	Owen Fern
14	LuHenley Branson		Debbie Vartan
	Frank Ferguson	30	Charles Edwards
	Kim Goldman		Denea Kaup
	Latonia Hall	31	Karen Aird
	Shanotte Smith		Maryellen Wernsing

JANUARY

“To Do” List:

MEETINGS:

Property Committee – 1/9

Publicity Team – 1/10

“Renewal” Team – 1/10

“Ministry Beyond Ourselves” Team – 1/14

Education Committee – 1/17

Worship Committee – 1/24

“Obstacles” Team – 1/24

MINISTRY:

CAUSE - donations every first Sunday

Taize Service – first Wednesday of every month

Prayer Warriors – Wednesdays

Knitting Ministry – Thursdays and Fridays

Epiphany Sunday – 1/3

Youth Lock-In – 1/30 through 1/31

AND MORE:

Adult Study – 1/3 through 1/31

Bread Baking – 1/3

Parents’ Night Out – 1/9

New Members Gathering – 1/10

Family Game Night – 1/22

Women’s Potluck Dinner – 1/31

JANUARY 2016

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 <u>New Year's Day</u> <u>Office is Closed</u>	2
3 EPIPHANY SUNDAY Bread Baking - 1:00pm <i>(Social Hall)</i> Adult Study 4:00 pm <i>(Fellowship Room)</i>	4	5	6 Prayer Warriors - 1:00pm <i>(Fellowship Room)</i> Taize Service - 7:00om <i>(Chapel)</i>	7 Knitting Ministry 1:00pm <i>(Fellowship Room)</i>	8 Knitting Ministry 7:00pm <i>(Fellowship Room)</i>	9 Property Committee Meeting 8:00 am <i>(Conference Room)</i> Parents' Night Out – 5-8pm
10 Publicity Team – 9:30am New Members Gathering – 11:30am <i>(Fellowship Room)</i> Adult Study 4:00 pm <i>(Fellowship Room)</i> Focus Group – 6pm <i>(Conference Room)</i>	11	12	13 Prayer Warriors - 1:00pm <i>(Fellowship Room)</i>	14 Knitting Ministry 1:00pm <i>(Fellowship Room)</i> Focus Group 7:00 pm <i>(Chapel)</i>	15 Knitting Ministry 7:00pm <i>(Fellowship Room)</i>	16
17 Education Committee Meeting – 11:30 am <i>(Fellowship Room)</i> Adult Study 4:00 pm <i>(Fellowship Room)</i> Ubuntu Prayer Vigil – 6pm	18 Martin Luther King Jr.'s Day	19	20 Prayer Warriors - 1:00pm <i>(Fellowship Room)</i>	21 Knitting Ministry 1:00pm <i>(Fellowship Room)</i>	22 Family Game Night 6-9pm <i>(Social Hall)</i> Knitting Ministry 7:00pm <i>(Fellowship Room)</i>	23
24 Worship Committee Meeting - 11:45am <i>(Fellowship Room)</i> Focus Group -12:15pm <i>(Chapel)</i> Adult Study 4:00 pm <i>(Fellowship Room)</i>	25	26	27 Prayer Warriors - 1:00pm <i>(Fellowship Room)</i> <u>Wow It's Wednesday</u> <u>Resumes</u>	28 Knitting Ministry 1:00pm <i>(Fellowship Room)</i>	29 Knitting Ministry 7:00pm <i>(Fellowship Room)</i>	30 Youth Lock-In
31 Youth Lock-In Adult Study 4:00 pm <i>(Fellowship Room)</i> Women's Potluck Dinner - 5:00pm	SUNDAY SCHEDULE: 9:30am – Sunday School (all grades) 10:30am – Worship 11:30am – Refreshments and Fellowship					