

**UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF SUMMIT**

17 Kent Place Boulevard ▪ Summit, NJ 07901

# **THE DIALOGUE**

**March 2016**

*He is  
Risen!*

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### From the Pastor

Holy Week is almost upon us,  
and it is hard to endure.

We pick up the tension on Palm Sunday,  
with the whispers of threat among the  
leaders.

Then we make our way to Thursday,  
with the intimacy of a Passover meal that is  
transformed with words of self-sacrifice.  
We overhear Judas's betrayal; we watch as  
the disciples fall asleep; we realize that "all  
is not well" as the crowds choose between  
Jesus and Barabbas; and bit by bit the  
shadows lengthen.

Friday arrives with its horrible pain, and endless tears, and unspeakable loss.  
We want to turn away, run away, slink away, as Jesus is nailed to the cross. The lights  
dim, the silence falls upon us.

And then Saturday draws the silence out, as we wait, uncomfortable with unhappy  
endings, wondering how to make sense of a God who walks this strange path of self-  
giving.

It is a hard week.

It is a holy week.

And it is tempting to skip it entirely. But I invite you to give yourself a gift this Lent:  
Attend all the Holy Week Services.

Gather in this place to be grounded in the *whole* story of salvation, as a way of inviting  
the power of Easter to be that much fuller.

In the words of Kenneth Collins, "If you just see the happy ending of a movie, everyone  
who saw it from the start is elated, but you go away saying 'So they all were hugging  
each other ... so what?' But if you see the beginning and the middle part, with all the  
suspense and grief, you understand what the characters overcame, and the happy  
ending is all the happier."

Furthermore, this happy ending is more than a happy ending: it is a new beginning.  
Let us welcome it all, together.

Shawn Callender Hogan  
Pastor



**One Great Hour of Sharing Sunday is  
March 6, 2016**

**There will be a special offering envelope in  
Sunday's bulletin.**

When disaster strikes around the globe—Haiti's 2010 earthquake or Typhoon Haiyan in 2013—so many watching the drama unfold on our living room televisions feel entirely helpless. How could any one person make a difference in the wake of such widespread devastation? As responders around the globe scramble to help survivors, the United Methodist Committee on Relief, UMCOR, is prepared to act. So don't be fooled by the word committee.

Since 1940, when UMCOR's forerunner was established to meet the needs of those suffering overseas at the onset of World War II, we've continued to respond to those in desperate need—today throughout more than eighty countries around the world. The response of UMCOR isn't something "they" do, it's something "we" do.

**When You Give You Equip Christ's Body to Serve in His Name**

That's because your generous giving to One Great Hour of Sharing is what allows UMCOR to act as the arms and legs of Christ's church, moving toward the most vulnerable in their darkest days. Convinced that all people have God-given worth and dignity—without regard to race, religion or gender—together we are assisting those impacted by crisis or chronic need.

Because you give, the United Methodist Church's compassionate response to human suffering continues today:

- When tornadoes ripped through Oklahoma, we responded
- When children in Zimbabwe lost parents to AIDS, we responded
- When a massive tsunami devastated lives in Japan, we responded

And when the next mass crisis occurs, we will be prepared to respond.

UMCOR will be able to offer aid in Jesus' name to those who suffer because United Methodists give through One Great Hour of Sharing. In fact, it's your generous giving that allows us to respond when disaster strikes.

Not "they."

We.

**Want to read a story about an impact you are making? Check out:**

<http://www.umcgiving.org/impact-articles/remembering-the-children>

## **JOIN US THROUGHOUT HOLY WEEK**

### **Palm Sunday, March 20, 2016**

Sunday service at 10:30 am

With palms in hand we will recall Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem and the beginning of his journey to the cross.

### **Maundy Thursday, March 24, 2016**

7:00 p.m. (in the Chapel)

We will gather around the table, remembering the Last Supper and the vulnerability of the night before Jesus' death.

### **Good Friday, March 25, 2016**

7:00pm (in the Chapel)

We will reflect on Jesus' final hours, expressing our gratitude for God's ultimate gift.

## **EASTER SUNDAY: CHRIST IS RISEN! March 27, 2016**

Join us for **Breakfast from 9 am – 10 am**  
in the Social Hall, then gather for worship at

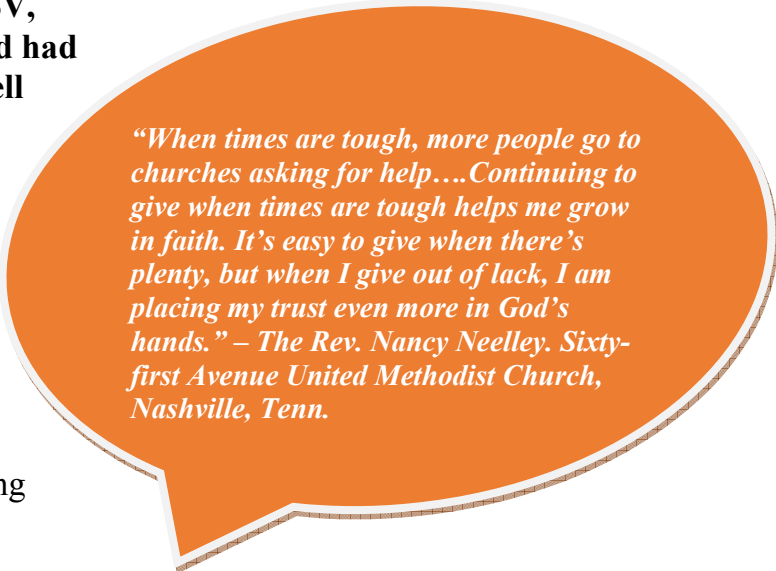
**10:30 a.m.: Easter Service**

**Celebrate the Resurrection through music, prayer, proclamation, and sharing in the Lord's Supper!**

# WHY DO WE GIVE?

## We Give Because It Is What Christians Do.

We read in Acts 2:44-45, NRSV, **“All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need.”** In Acts 4:36-37, we learn that Barnabas “sold a field that belonged to him, then brought the money, and laid it at the apostles’ feet.” The apostle Paul took up a collection among the Gentile congregations to help the Christians in Judea, who were suffering from famine.



*“When times are tough, more people go to churches asking for help....Continuing to give when times are tough helps me grow in faith. It’s easy to give when there’s plenty, but when I give out of lack, I am placing my trust even more in God’s hands.” – The Rev. Nancy Neelley. Sixty-first Avenue United Methodist Church, Nashville, Tenn.*

*The finest hours of being a Christian occur when we respond generously to help persons in need.*

## We Give Because It Is What United Methodists Do.

Did you know that giving generously to help persons in need is something Methodists, United Brethren and Evangelicals – the three roots of the United Methodist Church – did from their beginning? John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement and a primary influence in the founding of the United Brethren in Christ and the Evangelical Association, urged the practice of sound financial stewardship. He expected his followers to do three things:

- Earn all you can.
- Save all you can.
- Give all you can.

Wesley modeled this stewardship. When his income increased, he continued his simple lifestyle and gave the surplus money to Methodist efforts to spread the gospel and help persons in need. We continue that tradition of stewardship and generous giving.

*“I give because I cannot waste any penny that I have earned with so much blood and sweat. I want my money used in the best way for the best cause.” –The Rev. Sungho Lee, Korean United Methodist Church of Santa Clara Valley, Cupertino, Calif.*

[www.umcgiving.org](http://www.umcgiving.org)



## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Children aren't the only ones with questions; that's what we discovered as we prepared for our February Lenten Service led by our children and youth. Together we wondered, "What question would you like to ask God?" The children wondered, "When will my friend feel better?," "Do people have the same problem at the same time in different places?," "What's heaven like?," "How do we find you?" Alongside their questions, children of God at all different seasons of life wondered, "Can we really ask God questions?," "Are you really always with us?," "God who are you?"

Lent is a good season for asking questions of God and of ourselves. What question would you like to ask God? What question might God be asking you? What questions do you carry in your spirit this season? Often our questions are just as important, maybe even more important, than the answers. Join us as we wonder and journey together.

Blessings, Sherri Shumate; Director of Christian Education, [sherri.shumate@gmail.com](mailto:sherri.shumate@gmail.com)



### SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR EVERYONE!

9:30am-10:15am in the Chapel

**Sundays: March 6-March 20**



During Lent, we are doing something new!

All are welcome to meet in the Chapel for a six-week, intergenerational experience of growing in faith together. These gatherings will be a place for rest and for renewing our spirits.

We will be exploring the same scripture stories that we will focus on during worship at 10:30 am following our gatherings. No work or reading is required prior to these gathering, but the Scripture references are included below in case you're curious. Please contact me if you have questions. Please join us!

- March 6: The Soldiers Mock Jesus (Matthew 27)
- March 13: Jesus Before the High Priest (Matthew 26)
- March 20: Jesus' Entry to Jerusalem (John 12)

Then Jesus said, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. (Matthew 11:28)

### Mark Your Calendars:

Education Committee Meeting: Sunday, March 6th, 9am, to discuss next year's Pageant  
NO SUNDAY SCHOOL on Easter Sunday, March 27<sup>th</sup>

**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! 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, Christa, and Heather. Please contact me if you have questions.  
[sherri.shumate@gmail.com](mailto:sherri.shumate@gmail.com)

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

Wow It's Wednesday is an intergenerational Christian education and 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](mailto:sherri.shumate@gmail.com)

**WOW Schedule:**

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

**GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER:**

Here are some ways our young people hope to grow in faith this year:

- \*recognize what's important in God's eyes
- \*appreciate God's creation
- \*say blessings before meals
- \*pray every night
- \*tell God, "I love you"

*How will you grow in faith?*

**PARENTS' NIGHT OUT:****Saturday, March 12, 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.

Aligning with our church emphasis on being a place of rest and renewal, we will be incorporating ways of helping our children learn strategies and experiences for rest and renewal, such as noticing our breathing and practicing games that help us learn to focus and calm our bodies.

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. This money goes to purchase supplies for our Bridges lunches that we donate to homeless families.

*Please sign-up via email by March 4th:*

[sherri.shumate@gmail.com](mailto:sherri.shumate@gmail.com)

Meet in the Social Hall.



### **FAITH PARTNERS:**

Did you know, we have 21 pairs of Faith Partners, 42 people from our community who are regularly praying for each other?

Would you be interested in being a Faith Partner?

The only requirement is you pray for your Faith Partner weekly.

Optional suggestions: Greet your Faith Partner each Sunday, occasionally sit together in worship, write or draw a letter, send a birthday note, etc.

Opportunities for you to share God's love are limitless.

Contact me if you're interested in being a Faith Partner! [sherri.shumate@gmail.com](mailto:sherri.shumate@gmail.com) or call the church office.

### **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](mailto:sherri.shumate@gmail.com).

Sunday, **March 6** at 2pm *Mary Poppins*: Summit high school.

Saturday, **March 12**, *Parents' Night Out*: 5-8pm. Youth helpers welcome.

Wednesdays, 6pm *Lenten Soup Supper* and 7pm *Lenten Worship Services*

### **CELEBRATING EASTER TOGETHER:**

1. Explore the following questions:

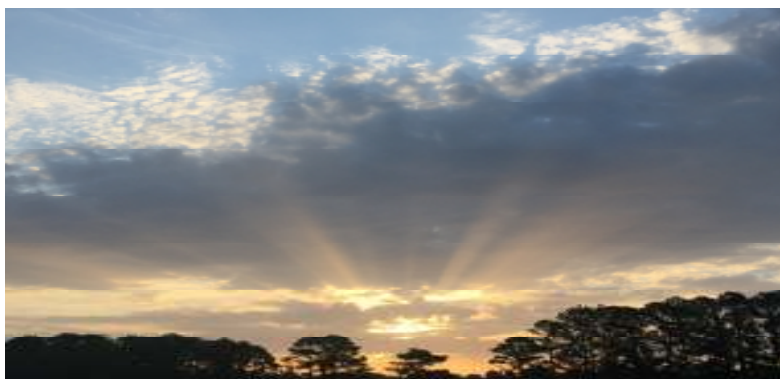
"What is Easter? Why does it matter to you? Read and reflect on John 20. Share your thoughts with others in person, online, etc.

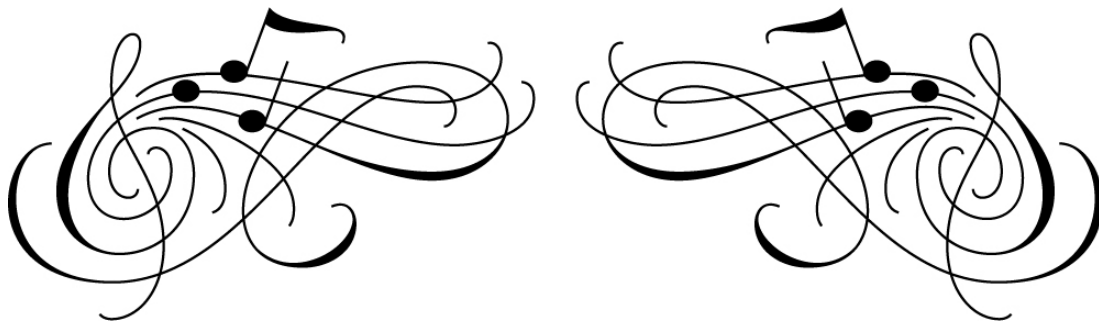
2. How might you share the hope of Jesus Christ with others? Do you have an elderly neighbor whose day would be brightened by a batch of cookies? Is there someone who you could pick up for church or include in your Easter dinner?

3. Hold your own Easter Sunrise Service (if possible, outside). Start just before the sun begins to rise—notice the darkness. As rays of sunlight appear, be mindful of how the light dispels the darkness. Notice what you see, hear, and feel. Be present to the moment.

*Adapted from:*

<http://www.familylife.com/articles/topics/holidays/featured/easter-and-lent/10-ideas-creative-ways-to-celebrate-easter>





## **MUSIC NOTES**

*Joanne Teubner Prussak, Music Director*

*Sing praises to the Lord, for He has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth.*

### **Wesley Choir and Singing Believers**

These choirs are preparing for Palm Sunday and Easter worship. Rehearsals for the Wesley Choir (part of *Wow, It's Wednesday*) is 5:15pm. The Singing Believers rehearse at 12:45pm. **All choirs will have a warm-up on March 20 and March 27 at 10:15am in the Sanctuary** to prepare for worship. Please have your robes on and be seated in the front pew. Let us praise the Lord with our Hosanna and Alleluias.

### **Hand Bell Choir**

Our Hand Bell Choir rehearses on Sunday mornings at 11:45am in the Sanctuary. The Bells will be ringing for Palm Sunday and Easter worship.

### **Contemporary Ensemble**

Our Contemporary Ensemble meets following worship at 11:45am. We encourage singers and instrumentalists to join us. The ensemble uses the contemporary "Worship and Song" book. Come and raise your voices or your musical instruments in praise.

### **Chancel Choir**

The Chancel Choir rehearses on Sunday mornings at 9:30am in the Chapel. The Choir sings at Sunday 10:30am worship and will sing for **Holy Thursday, March 24th** – worship at 7:00pm **warm-up at 6:30pm**. We will rehearse **after worship service in the Sanctuary at 8:00pm** in preparation for Easter.

As is our tradition, we will be singing the Hallelujah Chorus from "The Messiah". Please come and join us in the chancel area. We have additional music ready for you! Come and make a joyful sound with voices, trumpet and organ.

*"Easter is the ultimate day for singing our songs of praise and joy.  
So let us sing to the God of our joy!"*

# 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!](#)

## SPRING RUMMAGE SALE!!!



**June 11, 2016** from 8:30 am – 12:00 pm

Only furniture, sporting goods, and housewares will be accepted for this sale!!

*(No clothes, shoes or televisions please)*

## WESLEY CENTER PRE-SCHOOL



Wesley Center would like to thank **Bill Harris, Bill Hogan, Jesse Reyes and Alf Edwards** for their help in removing and replacing all the items off the shelves in the library. Division of Children and Families (former DYFS) who grants us a license to operate, is requiring that wooden rooms be coated with a clear fire-retardant paint. We apologize for the inconvenience. We hope to have it completed soon. Thank you for your support and patience. Thank you to **Pastor Shawn** for our new red building blocks!

**\*\*Registration for the 2016-2017 year** is now in progress.  
Please call 908-277-3686 for more information. -- Mary Ellen

## BIRTHDAYS and Anniversaries in March:

1	Terry Schaefer	17	AJ Lopez
	Abbey Smith		Karen Toulon
2	Heather Fern	25	Armando Lopez
7	Beverly Brown	26	Bill Houpt
	Aiden Curtis		Bradley & Riley Smith
	Rich Rodriguez	30	Jay & Natalie Flammé
9	Joshua Reyes		Cynthia Post
12	Waveny Hall		Jenna Vartan
15	Adam Fern	31	Louise DeMartin

# Easter Baskets

## for the Jefferson Elementary School Community

*Jefferson Elementary School has some unique needs for support, and we can make a difference. Our donation of Easter dinners last year brought much-needed provisions and joy to many families; so we are once again arranging **Easter dinners for 2016.***

### How You Can Get Involved

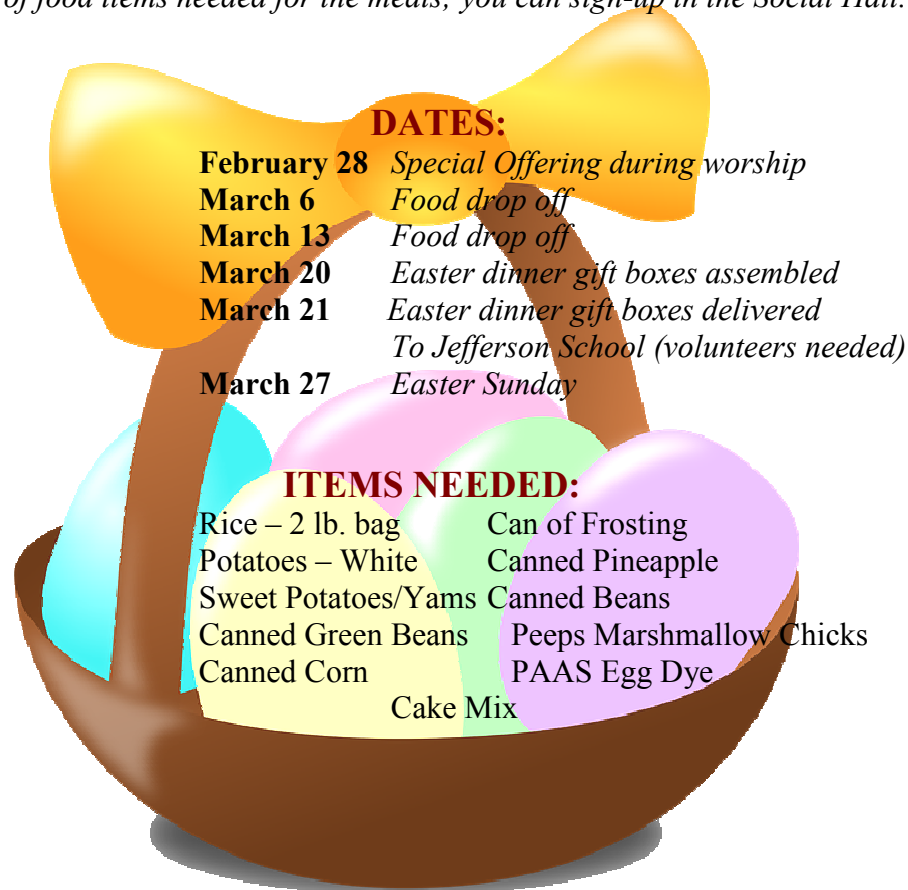
#### Special Offering:

On Sunday, **February 28th** we will have a special offering envelope in the Sunday bulletin for you to give funds that will be transformed into food and gift cards to families in need. *Please make out any checks to the United Methodist Church; note in the memo "Jefferson School."*

#### Easter Meals:

We will put together Easter dinners for families in need. All Easter dinner donations will be gathered by **March 20th**, and delivered to and distributed by Jefferson School.

*Below is a list of food items needed for the meals; you can sign-up in the Social Hall.*



*These acts of care and generosity will go a long way in helping families in our community to have a holiday of joy and abundance.*

***Please sign up in the Social Hall beginning February 28th***

*For more information please see **Debbie V. or Debbi P.***

## **EASTER FLOWERS 2016**

***Contributions for Easter Flowers will be received until March 20th.***

The money collected is used to decorate the Sanctuary, with any remaining money going to provide flowers for future Sunday services. The flowers from Easter will be distributed to our home-bound and hospitalized members and others, as determined by the Pastor.

If you would like your contribution noted in the bulletin on Easter Sunday, March 27th, 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.*** Thank You!

**Your**

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**In Loving Memory**

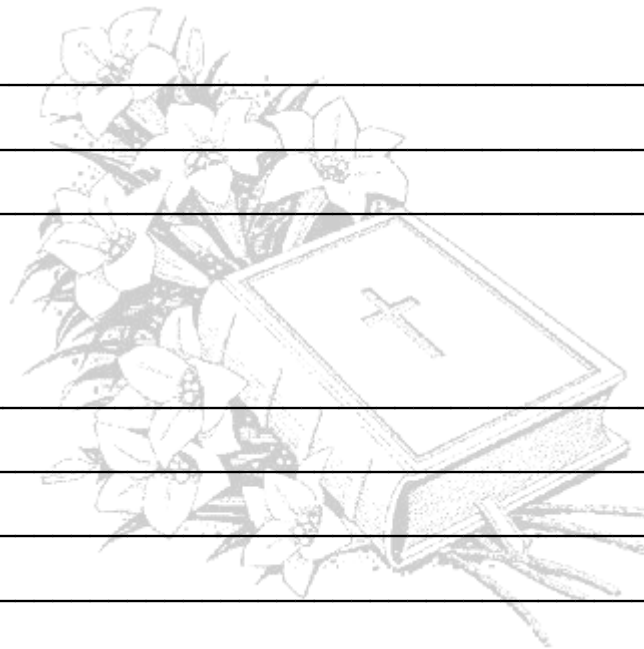
**of:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**In Honor**

**of:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_





# MARCH

## *"To Do" List:*

### **MEETINGS:**

**Staff Parish** – 3/3  
**Worship Committee** – 3/6  
**Education Committee** – 3/6  
**Green Team** – 3/13  
**Focus Group "Obstacles"** – 3/13

### **MINISTRY:**

**CAUSE** - donations every first Sunday  
**Prayer Warriors** – Wednesdays  
**Knitting Ministry** – Thursdays and Fridays  
**Donate Food items for Easter Baskets** – 3/6  
& 3/13  
**Soup Suppers** – through 3/16  
**Lenten Services** – through 3/16  
**Family Promise Guests** – 3/13 through 3/20  
**Palm Sunday** – 3/20  
**Maundy Thursday** – 3/24  
**Good Friday** – 3/25  
**Holy Saturday** – 3/26  
**Easter Sunday** – 3/27

### **AND MORE:**

**Parents' Night Out** – 3/12  
**Sunday School for Everyone** –  
Sundays through 3/20  
**Easter Sunday Breakfast** – 3/27  
**March Lenten Calendar**

# MARCH 2016

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>SUNDAY SCHEDULE:</b> <b>9:30am</b> – Sunday School (all grades) <b>10:30am</b> – Worship <b>11:30am</b> – Refreshments and Fellowship		1	2 <b>Prayer Warriors -1pm</b> <b>Wow , It's</b> <b>Wednesday</b> <b>Soup Suppers - 6pm</b> <i>(Social Hall)</i> <b>Lenten Worship</b> <i>7pm (Chapel)</i>	3 <b>Knitting Ministry</b> 1:00pm <i>(Fellowship Room)</i>  <b>Staff Parish Meeting</b> 7:30 pm <i>(Conference Room)</i>	4 <b>Knitting Ministry</b> 7:00pm <i>(Fellowship Room)</i>	5
6 <b>Education Committee</b> <b>Meeting – 9am</b> <b>Worship Committee</b> <b>Meeting – 9am</b> <b>Sunday School for</b> <b>Everyone - 9:30am</b> <i>(Chapel)</i>	7	8	9 <b>Prayer Warriors -1pm</b> <b>Wow , It's</b> <b>Wednesday</b> <b>Soup Suppers - 6pm</b> <i>(Social Hall)</i> <b>Lenten Worship</b> <i>7pm (Chapel)</i>	10 <b>Knitting Ministry</b> 1:00pm <i>(Fellowship Room)</i>	11 <b>Knitting Ministry</b> 7:00pm <i>(Fellowship Room)</i>	12 <b>Parents' Night Out</b> 5-8pm
13 <b>Green Team - 8:30am</b> <b>Sunday School for</b> <b>Everyone - 9:30am</b> <b>Focus Group:</b> <b>"Obstacles" – 11:45am</b> <b>Family Promise Guests</b> <b>Arrive</b>	14	15	16 <b>Prayer Warriors -1pm</b> <b>Wow , It's</b> <b>Wednesday</b> <b>Soup Suppers - 6pm</b> <i>(Social Hall)</i> <b>Lenten Worship</b> <i>7pm (Chapel)</i>	17 <b>Knitting Ministry</b> 1:00pm <i>(Fellowship Room)</i>	18 <b>Knitting Ministry</b> 7:00pm <i>(Fellowship Room)</i>	19
20 <b>Palm Sunday</b> <b>Sunday School for</b> <b>Everyone - 9:30am</b> <i>(Chapel)</i>	21	22	23 <b>Prayer Warriors -</b> 1:00pm <i>(Fellowship Room)</i> <b>Wow , It's</b> <b>Wednesday</b>	24 <b>Maundy Thursday</b> 7pm - <i>(Chapel)</i>  <b>Knitting Ministry</b> 1:00pm <i>(Fellowship Room)</i>	25 <b>Good Friday</b> 7pm – <i>(Chapel)</i>  <b>Knitting Ministry</b> 7:00pm <i>(Fellowship Room)</i>	26 <b>Holy Saturday</b>
27 <b>Breakfast in the</b> <b>Social Hall – 9am</b>  <b>EASTER SUNDAY</b>	28	29	30 <b>Prayer Warriors -</b> 1:00pm <i>(Fellowship Room)</i> <b>Wow , It's</b> <b>Wednesday</b>	31 <b>Knitting Ministry</b> 1:00pm <i>(Fellowship Room)</i>		

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>LENTEN CALENDAR</b> <b>March 2016</b>		1	2	3	4	5
		Eat only leftovers today.	Buy and deliver food for a local food bank.	Pray for a stranger	Dry your laundry on a rack or clothesline instead of using a dryer.	Bring reusable bags when shopping.
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Pray for 3 people you know from church.	Pick up debris on the street where you live.	Stand outside for 20 minutes and observe the birds.	Write a prayer to God about your workplace.	Count the number of faucets in your home and consider how you use water.	Is it snowing? Make a snow-angel!	Recycle some clothing by bringing items to a local thrift store.
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Do you have any pets? What have you learned about creation from them?	Begin spring gardening by going organic.	Stop at the church to welcome our Family Promise guests.	Attend tonight's soup supper (6pm) and service (7pm).	Show reverence for life and earth by obeying the speed limit.	Log onto GreenFaith.org and explore the resources it offers.	Out loud, sing a song that makes you smile.
20 <b>Palm Sunday</b> Learn about the impact of using "Fair Trade" palms ( <a href="http://www.ecopalms.org">www.ecopalms.org</a> )	21 Has someone hurt you? Pray for the power to forgive.	22 Check windows and doors in your home for leaks, and seal them up.	23 If you eat out, leave a thank-you note for your server.	24 <b>Maundy Thursday</b> Remembering the Last Supper, hold bread in your hands and say a prayer for those who have none.	25 <b>Good Friday</b>  Read John 19:16-30	26 <b>Holy Saturday</b>  Spend 30 minutes in total silence.
27 <b>Easter Sunday</b>  Alleluia! Christ is Risen! Share the Easter story with 2 people.	<b>HAPPY EASTER!</b>					