

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

# **THE DIALOGUE**

## **May 2017**



### **THE STAFF**

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## From the Pastor



For 47 years, our Wesley Preschool has enjoyed providing loving care and wonderful education to children in the community. It has been a source of enrichment for countless students and families across those decades. For the past 21 years, we have been blessed to have MaryEllen DeJohn as our Preschool Director, and under her wonderful, loving leadership the school has been a place of nurture, creativity, and joy.

However, as you may be aware, over recent years, the Wesley enrollment has been decreasing, a sign of the changing needs of the families in our area. This year our enrollment dipped below that which is needed to sustain the program, meaning that this is a season in which we need to reassess the larger picture for the Preschool. While we certainly wish we were continuing for another year, we recognize that the needs of the community have changed significantly, and the population in general is not seeking the kind of program we offer. We will end this school year with vigor but will not be offering classes in the coming year.

While this is profoundly sad, it is always important to greet life's changes and challenges with integrity and hope. And so we will end on a note of strength and gratitude—celebrating all that has been for these many years.

We are grateful for Mary Ellen's wise and loving leadership, and for ways in which she has nurtured the vision of the Preschool over these years...

We are grateful for the privilege of serving the community with integrity and joy...

We are grateful for the children who learned and played and laughed...

We are grateful for the parents whose support and encouragement made all the difference...

We are grateful for those whose vision gave birth to the Preschool, and for all the opportunities we have had for playing a part in the growth of the precious little ones in our care.

The church will take some time to review the needs of the larger community, and work to connect those needs to the gifts and strengths we have at hand. Feel free to share with me any thoughts or ideas you may have. This is a season for careful discernment, so that whatever the future holds will be a source of blessing to all.

In the coming months plans will be made to celebrate the work of the Preschool and its legacy of care. Please anticipate joining with us in celebrating the loving history we all share.

Shawn Callender Hogan  
Pastor

## **A Letter from MaryEllen DeJohn, Director of the Wesley Center Preschool:**

For the last 21 years, I have had the privilege of being a part of Wesley Center PreSchool. It has filled my heart with joy to work and play with the children and teachers who have joined me here. From my initial interview, I felt that this was a welcoming community. Pastor Anita Grau, Lu Henley Branson and Martha Stamples offered their advice and encouragement whenever I needed it. The Education Committee has offered support and guidance and always presented a helpful sounding board. I send a special “thank you” to Sherri Shumate and Wendi Barry for their input in our discussions on how to meet Wesley Center’s recent challenges. So it is with sadness that I will be closing the school at the end of June.

Over the years, I have been so fortunate to meet some very special people at UMC Summit. A family who will always hold a special place in my heart is the Schaefer family. Terry always supported all of our Wesley functions and even substituted with us for several years. Jim offered his help to fix our playground house and anything else we might need. Of course Jack and Claire were both bright and enthusiastic students! To my great delight, this last summer Claire and several of her alumni classmates helped to create a Wesley Center Facebook page, teaching their teacher some new technology!

Alison Johnson gave us two more bright and kind students, Maddie and Will. Alison was also there to guide us through our most difficult loss. We lost our student, Jacob Brodsky to pneumonia. Alison gave her time to help parents, teachers and children cope with our loss. The beautiful Maple tree in the corner of our playground was planted in Jacob’s memory.

Joanne Teubner always offered her praise and support for our program. One year, she knew we had our eyes on some items in the church rummage sale and she bought and donated them *all* to us.

Shanotte Smith gave us endless hours as a volunteer aide, photographer and computer teacher. She is a remarkable young lady with a heart of gold, and we wish her great success in her new business venture.

Polly del Campo has always offered an ear to listen, a good laugh to perk up drooping spirits and infinite patience and typing for our new website. She has been a lifesaver, an advisor and now, a dear friend.

Susan Daniel gave us her three sweet children: Sarah, Luke and Adam. She also did Wesley Center payroll and all of our accounting. She endured endless e-mails and notes. I always looked so forward to her pop-ins and our conversations about anything and everything. She was one of our best Wesley Center promoters, always recommending us to new families. Thank you, Susan, for your generous gifts!

I am taking some precious gifts with me, two wonderful friendships. Shirlee Faehner, who worked for both UMC and Wesley Center has become a treasured friend. She did all our typing for years and donated many toys, books and materials to Wesley Center. Now, we enjoy long days of shopping and eating in peaceful Ocean Grove.

My other gift is Debbi Picorale. We started out sharing the Green Room and ended up sharing so much more. We have confided in and supported each other through good times and bad. We have similar histories, and Debbi has always supported the Wesley Center to the end. I know we still have lots of afternoon teas in our future!

And last, but certainly not least, we come to Pastor Shawn. I really don’t know how I would have made it through these last few weeks without your steady guidance as we could see that Wesley Center would not be able to continue. You have given me your time, your ear and your care so generously. You acknowledged my sadness and sense of loss. You helped me find the strength to help Wesley Center end with pride in all that we have shared with our Wesley Center families. You have an extraordinary gift of facing challenges with calm, clear thinking. You manage to instill confidence – that solutions will be found and there is always hope in the future. There are no words to express the gratitude I feel for that gift.

I have been so blessed to have a position that I have absolutely loved for so many years, and to have been surrounded by so many kind and generous people. Life is a journey and I am so thankful that Wesley Center and UMC Summit have been a part of mine.

## Special Worship Events in May!

*As we celebrate our 150 Anniversary as a Church community this year, we have invited former pastors and associate pastors from UMC of Summit and Oakes Memorial UMC to join us on a Sunday of their choice.*

**On Sunday, May 7, 2017, The Rev. Bruce Barrabee**, the pastor here at the UMC of Summit from 1984 to 1995, will be our guest preacher. Bruce and Patty are much beloved in our church history and family, and we will welcome them with great joy!

*Holy Communion in May will take place on May 14<sup>th</sup>  
We will enjoy a hymn sing of your favorite hymns on May 28<sup>th</sup>*

### Monthly Prayer Services Resume:

Do you need a few minutes just to *breathe*?  
Could you use a small corner of space to be  
*quiet and still*?

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

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

If so, come at **7pm on the first Wednesday night of each month** (May 3, June 7, July 5....)  
to the **Chapel** for a special time of quiet meditation.

On these evenings we will have 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.



### What were you doing when you were 24 years old?

Join us as we continue our four-week Bible Study of the book of Jeremiah, a young adult who spoke for God, challenged the systems of his day, and had to bring an unpopular message to the people he loved!

**Two sessions remain: May 7<sup>th</sup> and May 14<sup>th</sup>**  
from 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



Preparing our church garden for another planting season, we found a thriving crop of cilantro already growing! Without any effort from us, these seeds fell and started to grow. "Isn't it amazing?" I said to the kids. "That's how God works," the children answered.

God is always working all the time; making things new, helping things grow. If we want more variety than just cilantro and weeds though, this garden will also require some effort from us: choosing seeds, planting,

watering, weeding, faith, and a lot of patient waiting.

This year we are blessed to have Steffi and Wendi helping to organize our church garden work. We still need lots of hands to help care for it. Contact me for more information. I love this church garden, and I'm amazed that in being part of this work, I have grown just as much as the plants. Check out these other opportunities to grow in faith too:

- Faith Partner Relaunch: in May
- Christian Education Sunday: June 11
- Bridges Run: June 21

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

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

## 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.

### Schedule:

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

## FAITH PARTNERS

Several years ago, we started a program called Faith Partners where people were paired to commit to praying for each other weekly. We particularly made an effort to ensure that all children who wanted a Faith Partner received someone to hold them in prayer.

Some of my children's Faith Partners have become some of our dear friends, celebrating special occasions with us, listening to our children sing, taking time to say hello or occasionally sit together in church. As a parent, it means so much to me to have people committed to praying for my children and growing in faith with us.

Over the years, some of our Faith Partners have moved, some have gone home to be with God, and we've also had new members start attending. **This month, we will be relaunching a new round of Faith Partners.** If you'd like to become a Faith Partner, please let me know. If you already have a Faith Partner, you're welcome to keep that relationship and continue praying for each other. The only requirement to be a Faith Partner is agreeing to pray for each other regularly.

## PARENTS' NIGHT OUT

**Saturday, May 13, 5-8pm**

*(Please sign-up by May 1)*

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.



## SAVE THE DATE: BRIDGES RUN

**Wednesday, June 21, 5:30-8:30pm**

We have reserved space for 6 people to accompany Bridges Staff in helping deliver meals to homeless persons in New York. (Ages 14 and up).

We also need helping making 75 sandwiches and bagged lunches to deliver that day. Contact me for more information. <http://www.bridgesoutreach.org/what-is-a-run/>

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:30am -10:15am

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

### **May 7: Lesson 11: Paul**

Paul's story reminds us that God can change what we think and feel, and even who we are if we are open to God's guidance. When was a time you let God change you? How might God invite new changes into your life now?

### **May 14: Lesson 12, Lydia: Acts 16:11-15**

Lydia owns her own business selling purple cloth that only the wealthy can afford. For all her wealth, Lydia knows her life is not complete. God uses Paul to open Lydia's heart and she and her family are baptized. Then she opens her home to Paul and his companions. Who has God used to open your heart? How have you given back in response?

### **May 21: Lesson 13: Peter and Cornelius, Acts 10:1-48**

God helped Peter to understand that God's message was for all people. Only God has the power to overturn such deep prejudices. All are worthy of God's love. What does God need to overturn in our lives today? Who do we still keep out?

### **May 28: Prepare for Education Sunday**

#### **June 4: Prepare for Education Sunday**

- What will your class share about Sunday school this year?
- What liturgy would you like to help choose or write?
- What pieces of the service will your class assist with?

#### **June 11: Education Sunday**

## 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, **May 7: Teen Manhattan Bagel Trip**, 9:30am
- ✓ Saturday, **May 13: Parents' Night Out**, 5-8pm (youth helpers welcomed)
- ✓ Wednesday, **June 12: Bridges Run to deliver meals**, 5:30-8:30pm



## **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”. Rehearsal 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.**

## MUSIC NOTES

I would like to thank our Music Makers for their dedication and devotion  
to their church and to the glory of God.

Heartfelt gratitude for sharing your wonderful gifts of music  
throughout Lent and Holy Week and culminating with a glorious Easter Festival worship.

### 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  
Melissa St. Louis  
Diane Wagnac

### HANDBELL CHOIR

Alison Johnson  
Chris Barry  
Gregg Buttermore  
James Goldman  
Kayla Goldman  
Kim Goldman  
Ximenita Gonzalez  
William Johnson  
Emily LaJeunesse  
Jayme LaJeunesse  
Adrian Phillips  
Dwayne Phillips  
William Teubner

### CONTEMPORARY ENSEMBLE

Beverly Alexis  
Gregg Buttermore  
Bernice Griffith  
Ximenita Gonzalez  
Emily LaJeunesse  
Jayme LaJeunesse  
William Teubner

### CHANCEL CHOIR

#### Soprano

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

#### Alto

Beverly Alexis  
Kayla Goldman  
Ximenita Gonzalez

#### Tenor

Gregg Buttermore  
William Johnson  
William Dembaugh  
William Teubner

#### Bass

Thomas Benton  
Stephen Brown  
William Glancy  
James Goldman  
Neil Johnson  
Jayme LaJeunesse  
Adrian Phillips  
Dwayne Phillips

### VOCAL & INSTRUMENTAL SOLOISTS

Chris Colabaugh, *Trombone*  
William Dembaugh, *Tenor*  
Jordyn Gallinek, *Bassoon*  
Jocelyn Gallinek, *Flute*  
Ximenita Gonzalez, *Alto*  
Bernice Griffith, *Soprano*  
William Teubner, *Trumpet*

With much love,  
*Joanne Teubner Prussak, Director 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!](#)

## THE MEMORIAL FUND



Did you know our church has an **active Memorial Fund**? The Memorial Fund at the United Methodist Church of Summit is comprised of donations given in memory of friends and family.

It is a wonderful way to honor a loved one. A Memorial Book is kept with a list of each person memorialized and by whom. No mention shall be made of amounts contributed.

Some recent donations have been used to purchase the Grand Piano in the sanctuary, as well as additional hymnals and bibles for the pews.

If you would like to have more information on the Memorial Fund or if you are interested in serving on the committee, *please contact Irma George or Pastor Shawn.*

## THANK YOU!



Thank you so much to everyone who contributed to the **Jefferson School Easter dinners**. Your response was overwhelming! With your help, ten families were able to enjoy Easter dinner. We look forward to helping more families in the near future. – *The Jefferson School Committee*

# FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

## *May Opportunities for Renewal:*



### *"Growing Your Faith"*

*An interactive activity with plants!*

*Meditation can take lots of different forms and can involve many senses.*

*Join us on Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup> at 12:30 pm as we participate in a creative "horticultural meditation."*

*No green fingers required! Just bring your willingness to grow in faith and love through an experiential encounter with plant life.*

*Everyone is invited! Please contact the church office to let us know your intent to join us, so that sufficient materials will be available.*

**Wednesday May 31, 2017**

### ***YOGA for kids!***

*4:45-5:30pm*

*Christine Tipton will lead a special children's yoga time in the chapel.*

*Please join us!*

*All are welcome!*





## **OPEN MIC NIGHT**

**Friday May 26, 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.

In the intimate, safe and loving environment  
of the UMC Summit’s Social Hall,  
let your talents run free and allow the community of Summit  
to enjoy what you like to express!

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





## **MAY**

### *"To Do" List:*

#### **MEETINGS:**

**Trustees** – 5/5

**Green Team** – 5/7

**Ad Council** – 5/8

#### **MINISTRY:**

**CAUSE** - donations every first Sunday

**Taize Service** – first Wednesday of each month

**Knitting Ministry** – Thursdays and Fridays

**Family Promise Guests** – 5/14

#### **AND MORE:**

**Parents' Night Out** – 5/13

**Adult Bible Study** – through 5/14

**Horticultural Meditation** – 5/21

**Open Mic Night** – 5/26

**Coffee Hour at the Parsonage** – 5/28

**Yoga for Kids** – 5/31

# MAY 2017

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3 Wow , It's Wednesday  Taize Service 7pm (Chapel)	4 Knitting Ministry 1:00pm (Fellowship Room)	5 Trustees' Meeting 7:30am (Conference Room) Knitting Ministry 7:00pm (Fellowship Room)	6 Singing Believers - 1:00pm
7 Green Team Meeting - 8:30am (Fellowship Room)  Adult Bible Study 4:00pm (Fellowship Room)	8 Ad Council Meeting - 7:30pm (Fellowship Room)	9	10 Wow , It's Wednesday	11 Knitting Ministry 1:00pm (Fellowship Room)	12 Knitting Ministry 7:00pm (Fellowship Room)	13 Singing Believers - 1:00pm  Parents' Night Out 5-8pm
14 Family Promise Guests Arrive Adult Bible Study 4:00pm (Fellowship Room)	15	16	17 Wow , It's Wednesday	18 Knitting Ministry 1:00pm (Fellowship Room)	19 Knitting Ministry 7:00pm (Fellowship Room)	20 Singing Believers - 1:00pm
21 Horticultural Meditation - 12:30pm	22	23	24 Wow , It's Wednesday	25 Knitting Ministry 1:00pm (Fellowship Room)	26 Knitting Ministry 7:00pm (Fellowship Room)  Open Mic Night 8-11pm (Social Hall)	27 Singing Believers - 1:00pm
28	29 <u>Memorial Day</u> <u>Office is Closed</u>	30	31 Wow , It's Wednesday  Yoga for Kids - 4:45pm	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		

## MAY Birthdays and \*Anniversaries

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Dorothy Koernig	2	3	4	5 Leslie Williams	6 *Nick & Steffi Mansilla
7	8	9 *Neil & Alison Johnson	10 *Eric & Kim Goldman Ann Houpt *Kenny James & Alicia Solomon	11 *Dan & Mary Jane Somers	12	13
14	15 Bryson James	16 Austin Fern Nick Mansilla	17 Maria Hughes	18 Carlos Aguilera	19	20 J. Clyde Branson
21	22 Irma George	23	24 Camille Tassé	25 Benjamin Burns Kimberly Vida	26 Gabriella Tassé	27
28 *Susan & Scott Daniel *Bob & Dotti Zotti	29 Doug Rockoff	30 Dwayne Phillips	31 Robert Somers	Enjoy your day!		