

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

THE DIALOGUE

November 2015



THE STAFF

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FROM THE PASTOR

On October 24, 2015, we held our annual church conference, at which officers are elected and we reflect upon our ministry. I offer you here my report:

In its regular pattern of our congregational life, there is always much reason for joy.

For example, a community garden was added to our lawn in the hopes that, as folks engage in our summer Chalkboard Conversations, they would also avail themselves of the produce growing nearby. Several small groups continue to faithfully meet for mutual learning and spiritual support; and the overall community has maintained its growing interest in adult study. In the past twelve months studies have been offered on the prophet Isaiah, the Minor Prophets, the books "What's So Amazing About Grace" and "Being Mortal," studies on the environment from a faith perspective, and African-American spirituals. Intergenerational learning experiences have also provided creative opportunities for expanding the steadfast Sunday School ministry.

Furthermore, opportunities for quiet reflection continue to multiply. The annual enthusiasm for Lenten mid-week services has taught us that there is an eagerness for spaces for meditation; we have begun monthly Taize prayer services, and are exploring alternative avenues for learning and worship.

This year, as we joined the community GreenFaith initiative, we have endeavored to enlighten our community through education and service opportunities, including "ride a bike to church" Sundays, paperless Coffee Hours, video series, and invitations to regional events.

The mission work of the church continues to be strong, as hospitality is offered to Family Promise guests four weeks each year, Sandy victims receive relief through A Future With Hope efforts, monthly food drives for the CAUSE pantry in Jersey City continue, a team spent a day at CUMAC assisting in its ministry, and persons in need receive knitted/crocheted items made with prayer and love.

This has been a full year for our church.

In addition to the normal activities of church life, we engaged Connie Merchant, a congregational consultant, to assist us in establishing a clearer and more focused vision for our life in this season. The fruit of that work was a greater understanding of our church identity, which can serve to guide us in making more grounded and informed plans as we let go of who we once were or who we wish we were, and lay claim to who we are as the body of Christ. We can more readily acknowledge our strengths and weaknesses, letting go of the temptation to mimic what might work in other communities and instead faithfully live into who we are.

We have determined that, as a congregation, we are much like a person in the sandwich generation: busy with multiple responsibilities, limited in resources, gifted with compassion and generosity, and hungry to participate in offering renewal to others in similar circumstances.

In light of this identity, we now move forward to act on four areas of focus: our strengths, our obstacles, ministry beyond ourselves, and our future. As of this writing we are establishing teams for each of these areas, as action plans are created.

The fruitfulness of these endeavors will depend upon the commitment of the congregation. This is a season in which all hands are needed as we take hold of new direction and deepened insight into who we are as God's people in this time and place.

May God bless us as we move forward into this year with a renewed sense of vision and commitment.

Faithfully;

Shawn Callender Hogan



Photo: David Wright/creative commons license

ALL SAINTS DAY

On Sunday, **November 1, 2015**
we will celebrate All Saints Day,
giving thanks for Christian loved ones
whose lives have ended.

It is an important day of remembering
those who have shared life with us, as we
proclaim our faith in the life to come.
To mark this holy day is to acknowledge
both our gratitude and our grief.

In worship we will read the names of
those who have died in the past year,
and gather around the Lord's Table
to share in communion,
declaring that we share the meal
“with all the company of heaven.”

FALL VIDEO DISCUSSION SERIES

“Wrestling with ANGELS: AN INTIMATE LOOK AT THE TOUGH QUESTIONS OF LIFE”

Sundays at 11:45 am *or* 4:00 pm (pick the time that works for you!)
October 18, October 25, November 1, November 8, November 15

What are the places in which you wrestle with your faith? Like Jacob wrestling the angel at Peniel, we all have different faith issues over which we struggle.

This video series provides an opportunity for us to explore some common areas in which Christians wrestle. Each week’s topic will be presented in a brief video, and then there will be ample time for discussion. *(The videos will include such leaders as Richard Foster, Philip Yancey, Lewis Smedes, Madeline L’Engle, and Keith Miller.)*

Remaining Topics:

- 11/1: “FORGIVENESS (How Do I Forgive and Get On With My Life?)”
11/8: “DOUBT (How Can I Question and Still Believe?)”
11/15: “LOVE (Why is Loving So Hard?)”

PRAYER SERVICE

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 first Wednesday night each month (Nov 4, Dec 2...) 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 enfold you with peace.



Just like projects in your home, church projects often benefit from an extra pair of hands.

The Property Committee is looking to increase our “Building Buddy” volunteer list.

image source: <http://www.cliparthut.com/volunteer-hands-up-clipart.html>
Routine tasks like changing a light bulb are far

more challenging in our sanctuary and unable to be completed by a single individual. Many additional tasks/projects benefit from someone holding the base of a ladder or helping to move a piece of furniture. No special skills or tools are required.

Adding your name to our existing list provides greater flexibility and improves the timeliness of project completion. If interested, please contact the church office and ask Polly to add your contact information to our file. Thank you for your consideration.

A LETTER OF THANKS



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Summit, New Jersey 07901

908-273-1100 tel
908-273-0030 fax
info@familypromise.org

www.familypromise.org

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Points of Light Award

September 25, 2015

Rev. Shawn Callender Hogan
Summit United Methodist Church
17 Kent Place Blvd.
Summit, NJ 07901

Dear Shawn,

I wanted to let you know that I will be retiring as President of Family Promise as of January 15, 2016. It has been an amazing journey and I feel privileged to be part of this community that has made a positive impact in the lives of so many.

I am so very grateful for Summit United Methodist Church's participation as a host congregation in Union County. The hospitality, home-cooked meals, and the compassionate support of the volunteers continue to make an incredible difference in the lives of homeless families.

I care deeply for Family Promise and will continue my involvement in 2016 and beyond through speaking engagements, meeting with Affiliate leadership as well as volunteering locally with our Union County program. I've thought for years about when I would want to do this, and I recognize that now is the time.

Our Director of Affiliate Services, Claas Ehlers, will serve as President of Family Promise after my retirement. Claas has been with our organization for 14 years and, as you know, is deeply committed to Family Promise and to helping homeless families. Claas possesses that rare combination of knowledge, dedication, and compassion along with a strategic vision. I can think of no one better to lead Family Promise in the future.

It is difficult to put into words what Summit United Methodist Church's amazing support means to Family Promise, the families we serve, and to me personally. Simply said, your congregation changes lives, enabling countless homeless families to get back on their feet and achieve lasting independence.

I see a bright future for our organization. I look forward to watching Family Promise continue to grow and assist more families in finding their way home.

Sincerely,

Karen Olson
President



Summit Interfaith



Thanksgiving

Service

Sunday, November 22

5:00 p.m.

Christ Church

561 Springfield Ave, Summit

"Immigration and Migration"

Come together as a community to give thanks and explore the topic of immigration and migration. Hear and tell stories, discuss current immigration trends, hear music from around the world, and enjoy readings from various cultures and religious traditions. Principal speaker Bola Lawrence will tell the story of her recent immigration from Nigeria.

All are welcome.

Tell Your Story

Submit a 30-second video telling your family's immigration story for inclusion in a video to be shown at the service. Email the clip to jthiemann@centralpres.org by November 13. Smart phone video is fine!



On the First Sunday of each month, we invite you to bring nonperishable food items to worship, that we might feed others!

Your donations are then brought to CAUSE, a food pantry in Jersey City.

Why is this one of our ministries? Here is the history of CAUSE:

About 35 years ago there were five Methodist churches in Jersey City. All of them were having financial problems. They wanted to help the many homeless people and others who were living at a very low income level in Jersey City.

Members of the five churches met with officials of the NJ Annual Conference to decide what to do. They decided to ask the suburban Methodist churches for help. They formed an organization called CAUSE (Christian Approach to Urban Suburban Encounter). One of the primary purposes of this organization was to get suburban churches involved in helping the poor in Jersey City. CAUSE is a program of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church which contributes a large part of their annual budget.

About 25 years ago, CAUSE purchased a building in Jersey City on Bergen Avenue. This building houses the CAUSE shop and has four tenants. The CAUSE shop is divided into two areas, each with its own access to the street. In one area, clothes and small household items are sold for very low prices. These items are almost all from donations by churches and individuals. The other half of the shop is devoted to giving food to needy people. Some of the food is donated by our church and other churches, but most of it is purchased from the Food Bank in Elizabeth. In order to receive food from CAUSE, the recipients must show a letter from an agency such as the Red Cross.

When CAUSE was first established, members of the suburban churches went to Jersey City to work in the shop. Anna Clark and Sarah Epperly from our church went in at least once a week. Some years ago the Epperly's moved away. Anna became the Treasurer, a position she held for 17 years. Gradually, fewer suburbanites participated but people from the Jersey City Methodist churches took up the slack. After Anna's death, Ken Clark was asked to serve on the board. He is now the only board member from a suburban church. The other board members are all from Jersey City Methodist churches, except for a pastor who represents the Conference. The board presently has ten members.

CAUSE now has only two permanent employees. One is the Director who also runs the food pantry. The other is the woman who runs the thrift shop. Both live in Jersey City. Local people work in the shop, help unload the food, drive the van and do other temporary jobs. Some are volunteers. Some receive small payments.

CAUSE is a vital ministry of care for those in great need. If you wish to contribute, you can bring bags of non-perishable food to the church on the first Sunday of each month, or you can leave bags in the kitchen at any time.

Christian Education

At a “Wow It’s Wednesday last month,” we discussed God choosing David because of what was in his heart. “What do you want God to see in your heart?, I asked. Responses included, “Kindness, love, thankfulness, hope, and joy.” What I loved even more than the responses was asking the question together. Children and adults were both journeying in faith together, learning with and from each other. At our equine experience, we wondered together about how to create a safe space to be with God. How are you learning from and with our children? How might the questions we have be just as important as the responses? Join us this month. All are welcome!



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

Sunday School

9:30AM-10:15AM

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

“Teach me your way, Lord, so that I can walk in your truth. Psalm 86:11”

PreK-3rd will explore ways the Bible can teach us how God wants us to live : *Elijah and the Ravens* (1 Kings 16:29-30; 17:1-7), *Elijah and the Prophets* (1 Kings 18:20-39), and *Elijah and Elisha* (2 Kings 4:1-7), and *Josiah* (2 Kings 22:1-23:23).

Tweens and Teens will explore: *Being Anointed by God* (1 Samuel 16:1-13), *Worshipping God* (1 Kings 6:1-38), *Living Faithfully* (2 Chronicles 29:1-30:1), *God’s Faithfulness* (2 Chronicles 36:11-23; Nehemiah 1:1-11).

For more information: 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.

November 1 - *Manhattan Bagel Trip*, 9:30am, (pending 2nd adult helper)

November 14 - *Parents’ Night Out*, 5-8pm, (youth helpers needed)

November 28 - *Holiday Lights at the Turtle Back Zoo*, 5-8pm

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

4:30-6:00 pm

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: **NO WOW Nov. 4th and Nov. 25th**. Our WOW program will be a hands-on, interactive way to engage the themes and stories we are learning in worship and Sunday school. We will be making 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. All are welcome and we'd love to have you join us!

Contact me for more information.

sherri.shumate@gmail.com

Schedule:

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

PARENTS' NIGHT OUT:

Saturday, November 14, 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. This money goes to purchase supplies for our Bridges lunches that we donate to homeless families.

Please sign-up via email by Friday,

Nov. 6: sherri.shumate@gmail.com

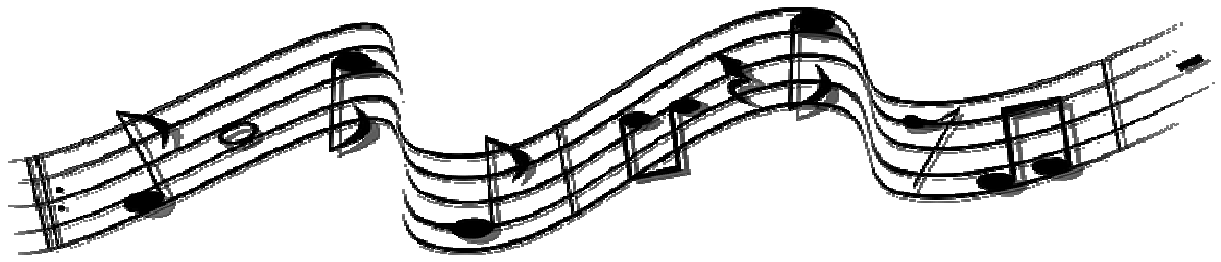
Meet in the Social Hall.

See the LIGHTS AT TURTLE BACK ZOO

Saturday Nov, 28th, 5-8pm

Free Admission. Donations of canned goods, toys, and pet food encouraged. Meet at the zoo entrance at 5:45pm. 560 Northfield Ave. West Orange, NJ 07052
<http://turtlebackzoo.com/holiday-lights-zoo/>





MUSIC NOTES

Joanne Teubner Prussak, *Music Director*

I pray the notes and words on each page will be the song within our hearts! Being part of a choir is both a wonderful opportunity and a challenging responsibility. As we continue our fall season we are beginning preparations for our Thanksgiving Festival and Advent Christmas Concert. Yes, much preparation is required. I know our Wesley Choir, Singing Believers, Contemporary Ensemble, Bell Choir and Chancel Choir are up to the challenge.

Wesley Choir

Our children and young people learn Christian songs and better understand the meaning of the text through music and rhythm. The choir welcomes all children ages three and up.

Rehearsals are in the chapel on Wednesdays at 5:20 pm.

Singing Believers

Our youth develop their faith and experience worship through their singing in choir.

Rehearsals are on Saturdays at 12:45 pm.

Contemporary Ensemble

Our Contemporary Ensemble of singers, drum, recorder, bass and piano are praising God through music from contemporary hymnals. **Rehearsals are Sundays at 12:15 pm in the sanctuary.**

Bell Choir

Come and ring a joyful sound to the Lord. **Rehearsals are Sunday mornings at 11:45 am in the sanctuary.**

Chancel Choir

Our Chancel Choir rehearses **Sunday mornings at 9:30 am.** The choir is already preparing for Advent and our Christmas Concert.

It is in doing that we are enriched and that we grow closer to God and to each other. Come, join us and make music to praise Our God!

All our choirs, ensembles and soloists will be featured in our **Christmas Concert, Sunday December 13 at 3:00 pm.** The concert will be taped for Home Towne TV, Family TV 36 as part of our "Outreach to Our Community".



**The United Methodist Church of Summit
Presents**

A CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Sunday, December 13th at 3:00pm

17 Kent Place Boulevard

Summit, New Jersey

reception to follow

*Featuring the choirs of the church as well as professional soloists
under the direction of Joanne Teubner Prussak, Director of Music*

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

William Dembaugh

Ximenita Gonzalez

Bernice Griffith

Latonia Hall

Jacqueline Wasniewski

and instrumentalists:

Jocelyn Gallinek, Flute

Jordyn Gallinek, Bassoon

Jesse Reyes, Guitar

William Teubner, Trumpet

The concert will be taped for **Home Towne TV**,
Family TV 36 as part of our “Outreach to Our Community”

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

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

*Sunday, November 29th is
'HANGING OF THE GREENERY'*

*And we will again be having
OUR POTLUCK LUNCHEON AND TALENT SHOW
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE SERVICE.*

*Since Hanging of the Greenery is so close to 'Turkey Day'
why not reimagine your
THANKSGIVING leftovers into something creative and edible
or bring in a traditional family holiday dish.*

*Sign-up sheets for the TALENT SHOW and POTLUCK
will be in the Social Hall.*

Everyone is welcome and we look forward to 100% participation!

*Any questions, contact Debbi P.; Shela W. or Faye C.
For Talent Show: Coordinators: Faye C. and Kim G.*

A BIG THANK YOU TO JIM S.

Wesley Center would like to thank Jim S. for his work on our playground house. Jim purchased the wood that was needed and donated his time to repair the roof.

It makes the playground much more attractive,
and the house is also safer for the children.

Thank you Jim from all of us at the Wesley Center.

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.

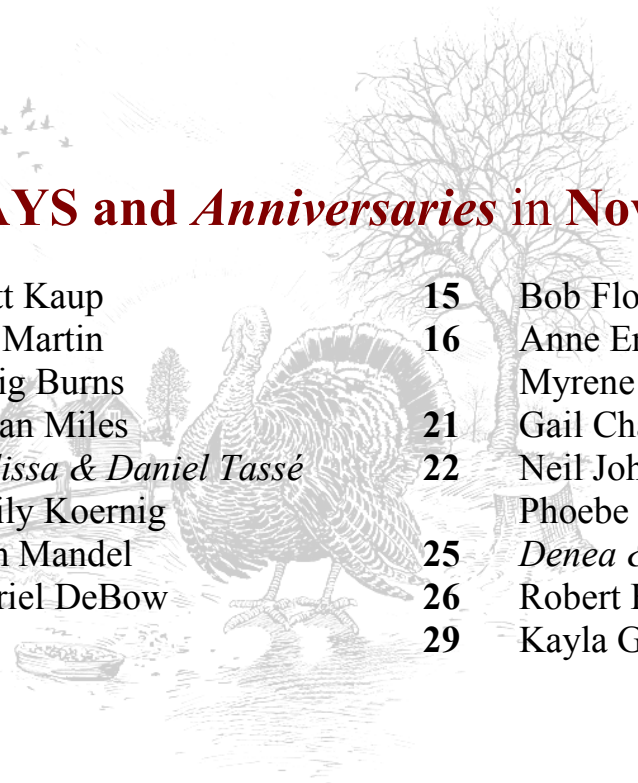
FACEBOOK



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!](#)

BIRTHDAYS and *Anniversaries* in November:

A faint, artistic illustration of a turkey standing in a field with trees and birds in the background, serving as a background for the birthday and anniversary list.

1	Matt Kaup	15	Bob Florindi
3	Liz Martin	16	Anne Engelhart
	Craig Burns		Myrene Reyes
4	Dylan Miles	21	Gail Champney
	<i>Melissa & Daniel Tassé</i>	22	Neil Johnson
5	Emily Koernig		Phoebe Rhinehart
9	Kim Mandel	25	<i>Denea & Matt Kaup</i>
13	Muriel DeBow	26	Robert Binder
		29	Kayla Goldman

November

“To Do” List:

MEETINGS:

Worship Committee - 11/1

Staff/Parish Committee - 11/19

Education Committee - 11/22

MINISTRY:

CAUSE - donations every first Sunday

Prayer Warriors - Wednesdays

Knitting Ministry - Thursdays and Fridays

Taize Prayer Service - 11/4

Family Promise Guests Arrive - 11/15

Thanksgiving Interfaith Service

at Christ Church- 11/22

AND MORE:

Become a “Building Buddy”

“Wrestling with Angels” - 11/1, 11/8 & 11/15

Focus Group - 11/1 & 11/8

Parents’ Night Out - 11/14

Hanging of the Greenery- 11/29

NOVEMBER 2015

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 All Saints Day Worship Committee Meeting - 9am <i>(Fellowship Room)</i> “Wrestling with Angels” -11:45am & 4pm Focus Group – 12:15 & 5:15pm <i>(Chapel)</i>	2	3	4 Prayer Warriors -1pm <i>(Fellowship Room)</i> <u>No Wow It’s Wednesday</u> Taize Prayer Service 7pm <i>(Chapel)</i>	5 Knitting Ministry 1:00pm <i>(Fellowship Room)</i>	6 Knitting Ministry 7:00pm <i>(Fellowship Room)</i>	7
8 “Wrestling with Angels” -11:45am & 4pm Focus Group – 8:30am & 6pm <i>(Chapel)</i>	9	10	11 Prayer Warriors -1pm <i>(Fellowship Room)</i> Wow It’s Wednesday	12 Knitting Ministry 1:00pm <i>(Fellowship Room)</i>	13 Knitting Ministry 7:00pm <i>(Fellowship Room)</i>	14 Parents’ Night Out 5-8pm
15 Family Promise Guests Arrive “Wrestling with Angels” -11:45am & 4pm	16	17	18 Prayer Warriors -1m <i>(Fellowship Room)</i> Wow It’s Wednesday	19 Knitting Ministry 1:00pm <i>(Fellowship Room)</i> Staff/Parish Meeting 7:30 pm <i>(Fellowship Room)</i>	20 Knitting Ministry 7:00pm <i>(Fellowship Room)</i>	21
22 Education Committee Meeting -11:30am <i>(Fellowship Room)</i> Thanksgiving Interfaith Service – 5:00 pm <i>(Christ Church)</i>	23	24	25 <u>No Prayer Warriors</u> <u>No Wow It’s Wednesday</u>	26 <u>Thanksgiving Day</u> Office is Closed	27 <u>Office is Closed</u>	28
29 Hanging of the Greenery	30	SUNDAY SCHEDULE: 9:30am – Sunday School (all grades) 10:30am – Worship 11:30am – Refreshments and Fellowship				