

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

THE DIALOGUE

Summer 2017



THE STAFF

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

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

The background of the entire page is a photograph of various seashells and starfish scattered on a light-colored, sandy surface. The shells are in various sizes, colors (white, orange, pink, brown), and shapes. A large, prominent starfish is in the center, with its arms spread out. Other smaller starfish and shells are scattered around it.

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“What’s next?”

That was the oft-repeated line of Jed Bartlet, the President of the United States in the television show “West Wing.” Upon completion of a task, at the end of some crisis, he would turn to his aides and ask, with conviction, “What’s next?”

He was ready to move into whatever awaited.

“What’s next?”

That is the question of this new season as our Wesley Center ministry comes to completion.

How will we make use of the classrooms that have lovingly welcomed children for the past 47 years? What is next for the space? And how might this juncture invite us to ask a related question: Are there new ministries to which we are being called, whether or not they will make use of the second-floor space?

The Ad Council has begun the task of dreaming into these two questions, and you are invited to join in!

The path of discerning “what’s next” will take several steps—and you are welcome to participate in them all:

1. Take a few minutes to dream about what God might be inviting us to do, or how God might be inviting us to use our building space. There are large pieces of newsprint on the wall outside the nursery—add your thoughts and ideas to those pages! Think big! Think crazy! Be open to whatever might pop into your mind—and **add it to the wall!**

2. Join the Ad Council on *Tuesday, June 27th at 7:30 pm.*

At this gathering, we will dream together, ‘no holds barred,’ and **watch the list of possibilities grow.**

Our dreams and ideas will be gathered into four main categories: ministries with children and youth, ministries with adults and seniors, wellness ministries, and ministries of needed items.

3. Join the Ad Council on *Sunday, September 24th at noon*, during which we will continue our open-ended dreaming, adding to the lists. At the end of this meeting, we will identify the areas around which there is particular energy, and **focus our attention on the two or three ideas that have gained the most ‘traction.’**

4. On *Monday, October 16th at 7:30 pm*, we will gather to review the two or three areas of greatest interest, looking at them through **the lens of what we have discovered about our own strengths and weaknesses.** We will review the insights we gained in 2015 about our community and our church culture, reflect on what is already being offered in the community (and thus may not need to be replicated), and discern which direction seems most in tune with our sense of God’s call in this season.

5. Having recognized the ministry(ies) to which we are being called, we will **identify those who have the skills and talents best suited to get us going!**

Join us in discovering ‘what’s next’!

Shawn Callender Hogan, Pastor



SUMMER WORSHIP HIGHLIGHTS!!



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 July 30, the Rev. Dr. Rich Hendrickson will join us as the morning preacher and on August 20, the Rev. Dr. Gina Hendrickson will be the morning preacher.

The Hendricksons and their family were beloved leaders in ministry here from 2001 – 2008, and we are eager to welcome them back!

Other summer worship highlights include:

Sunday, July 2: Sermon: The Gospel According to Pixar: “Up!”
After worship stay and watch the movie together!

Sunday, July 9: Sermon: The Gospel According to Pixar: “Inside Out”
After worship stay and watch the movie together!

Sunday, August 27: Sermon: “Keeping Time,” Sherri Shumate,
Director of Christian Education

On Sunday, September 3 *worship moves back to 10:30 am*,
and our service of communion will be based on the Methodist communion liturgy from 150 years ago!

On Sunday, September 10: We will take a stroll through our church’s history,
singing hymns that were written in notable years in our church’s journey!



Chalkboard Conversations Resume!

The Chalkboard is positioned outside of our church, on Kent Place Boulevard, throughout the summer.

Stop by any day and add your responses to the chalkboard—a different question is posted each week!

Taize 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 to the Chapel at **7pm on the first Wednesday night each month**

(July 5, August 2, September 6...)

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.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!



Summer fun is coming to Summit! The UMC of Summit is participating in **commUNITY VBS**, a partnership between 6 area churches designed to welcome children into a loving community of Christ- where we learn about the unity of our diverse community while we are learning about God's love for us.

Central Presbyterian is the site for this VBS, which runs the week

of July 31 to August 4 from 8:30am to noon, with extended care available from 8am-6 pm.

Cost is \$25/ child with financial assistance available.

Register by clicking on the “Maker Fun Factory” link at www.centralpres.org.

Coloring is not just for kids!

People of all ages are invited to join us in a **“Coloring Afternoon!”**
During Coffee Hour (immediately following the worship service)
on the first Sunday of every month, crayons, pencils, and coloring pages are available in the Social Hall—relax as you enjoy fellowship and refreshments!
Come and enjoy this quiet, restful activity--

Enjoy the colors,
the pace,
the pictures,
the community!





ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2017 WRAP UP

Rejoice always -1 Thessalonians 5:16

United Methodists in Greater New Jersey gathered together to rejoice in God's faithfulness at the 2017 Annual Conference in Wildwood, N.J., May 21-23 with more than 1,400 people in attendance. Bold, forward-thinking visions were shared as we were called to step out on the edges of faith with joyful hearts and the Conference responded with bold actions.

Click here to watch a wrap-up video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qmpDOGUIMEs&t=20s>

Key Actions that Will Shape GNJ Future

1. Approved a \$900,000 budget cut and a new Shared Ministry formula that will save money for congregations for years to come. The Shared Ministry formula uses a fixed percentage that will require the Conference to budget and spend Shared Ministry dollars based on the health and vitality of the congregations.
2. Approved a *Next Generation* Student Ministry plan that challenges GNJ leadership to:
 - a. Work with congregations to have 12 or more active youth engaged in faith formation and discipleship in the community
 - b. Develop 10 college campus faith communities with 75 or more students
 - c. Reinvigorate a 21st century camping experience
 - d. Grow the IGNITE Student Conference to 5,000 participants
 - e. Develop 1,000 leaders to lead student ministries
3. Approved a 10-year intercultural competency plan that will develop laity and clergy to be more culturally competent so that we strengthen and grow diversity, inclusion and collaboration
4. Approved work to begin on a 2019-2023 strategic ministry plan

Commissioning, Ordination and Retirement

This year's Annual Conference session opened with a service to commission and ordain 22 clergy on Sunday evening. Bishop John Schol's powerful sermon invited leadership to choose joy over happiness, to move to the margins of faith and practice real life joy and hope in one's leadership. In addition, 37 clergy were recognized for their more than 700 years of service at the closing worship on Tuesday.

Leadership Addresses

In the Episcopal Address, Bishop Schol challenged Greater New Jersey to rejoice in our progress and our trials. He outlined the key challenges disciples face in the world, denomination, communities and congregations, and presented a path forward that includes four pillars: passionate faith, transformational leadership, vital mission partners and money. He encouraged GNJ to lead the way for the denomination to move to the edges of faith where hope and joy live. He promised to be the bishop for the whole church, rejoicing in diversity even if there are different understandings of the scriptures.

Rev. Hector A. Burgos, Director of Connectional Ministries, led a Leadership Address that included remarks from Sang Won Doh, Chair of the Connectional Table, Rosa Williams, Conference Lay Leader, Vanessa Wilson, Chair of the Commission on Religion and Race, Debbie Barnett, Chair of the Council on Youth Ministries and Blair Goold, Chair for the Council on Young Adults. These leaders shared their visions for a new strategic plan, a recommitment to adult baptisms, a bold, God-sized vision of a Next Generation ministry plan and a commitment to intercultural competence within GNJ.

Mission Fund Campaign

An offering for the Mission Fund was taken and more than \$44,500 was collected to help eliminate death from malaria and rebuild homes for people struggling to get home following Superstorm Sandy.

GNJ Strategic Direction and Legislation Highlights

The body reaffirmed the direction of GNJ to recruit and develop transformational spiritual leaders to make disciples and grow vital congregations to transformation the world with the GNJ Connectional Table resolved to lead GNJ in a process to develop a new strategic plan for 2019-2023. The 2018 budget and a new Shared Ministries formula was passed which will convert the formula to a flat rate of 16.3%. The flat rate will allow more resources to be used at the local church and will require the conference to seek outside funding sources through its vital mission partners to grow resources. A new student ministry plan was passed rebranding the GNJ Camping and Retreats Board into Next Generation Student Ministries and expanding its oversight to include all youth and young adult ministries including IGNITE and Campus Ministries. Additionally, a 10-year intercultural competence plan was passed so GNJ can lead the way as bridge-builders living into a calling to be a church for all people and nations to make disciples of Christ for the transformation of the world.

Service of Remembrance

Rev. Dr. Varlyna Wright delivered a message on casting our cares and anxieties on God, relying and depending on our faith with an understanding of God's strength and faithfulness. "It's easy to rejoice when things are going well," Wright said, "It's a challenge to do so when feelings of grief, loss, and hopelessness surround you. But God cares about you, and that is the time to rejoice." We worshipped, relying on God's sufficiency, remembering our loved ones who have gone on to be with the Lord since the Annual Conference session in 2016.

Stewardship Foundation and Advancement Report

The United Methodist Stewardship Foundation addressed the conference on their work and partnership with Wespath investments, the largest faith based reporting investor. Through Wespath's socially responsible investing, United Methodists are creating change in the world and how companies do business. Wespath has more than \$22 billion invested including over \$20 million in NJ affordable housing initiatives and a school in Newark. Wespath shared that they use women and minority owned firms that achieve above the market benchmarks. Through Wespath's Godly, socially responsible investments, GNJ is becoming strengthened. The congregations were encouraged to learn more about investing through the GNJ Stewardship Foundation with Wespath.

Conference Workshops

More than 1,100 people attended five workshops inspiring spiritual leaders with creative strategies to think big and pursue excellence in the church. The workshops included a creative session on discovering the power of the narrative experience, creating new spaces and engaging vitality, developing a diverse community, leading congregations through change, and financial security.

Rise Against Hunger

More than 200 volunteers working in unison systematically and excitedly helped pack 30,000 meals in just an hour and a half to support Rise Against Hunger's effort to feed people around the world with a bold mission to end world hunger by 2030.

Intercultural Competence

Guest speaker Erin M. Hawkins, General Secretary of the General Commission on Religion and Race, spoke to the 2017 Annual Conference on Intercultural Competency. She challenged United Methodists to be bridges and bridge-builders in our communities and commended GNJ for its 10-year cultural competency commitment. "What greater time for the church to be the church than when there's so much division?" she said. "This is the work Christ beckons us toward." Hawkins is a lead official of the denominational agency

that cultivates racial inclusion and the full participation of all people into the work, witness and life the United Methodist Church.

Retired NJ Supreme Court Justice Gary Stein spoke about segregation within New Jersey School Districts and an effort to integrate public schools through magnet schools and other innovative strategies that are being used around the country. Bishop Schol asked the GNJ Board of Church and Society to follow up on this effort.

Videos

Throughout the conference, powerful videos of our work together were shared. Check out this link to view and download. In the next few weeks, live stream videos of the worship services and teaching speaker will be posted to the website and announced in the Digest:

https://www.google.com/url?hl=en&q=http://gnjumc.us11.list-manage1.com/track/click?u%3Db2ab2248b91542a5f476025fe%26id%3D411f27171d%26e%3De20512f9b2&source=gmail&ust=1495722871750000&usg=AFQjCNFDpHfeDrFGpz_7LEXkVd4FoHqhKA

Rejoicing

Laity and clergy rejoiced together over all that is happening and set to happen within GNJ in the past, present, and future. Many reunited with friends and made new connections during lunches, dinners and informal gatherings. Annual Conference attendees left with hearts of joy, thanks and gratitude, challenged to step out in faith and into bold, new visions for the future.

Annual Conference Firsts

First GNJ AC to break the 1,400 registration barrier
First GNJ AC to pack 30,000 meals in 90 minutes
First GNJ AC to have a NJ Supreme Court Justice speak (retired Justice Gary Stein)
First GNJ AC to have over 1000 participants in workshops
First GNJ AC to ordain a Hattian Woman
First GNJ AC to commission a Chinese Woman

And we adjourned 30 minutes ahead of time!



*Please come and share your gifts of music
for our summer worship services!*

*Let us continue to fill our sanctuary with music,
while our choirs are on summer break.*

*Please use the sign-up sheet in the Social Hall
if you are interested, or speak to Joanne
about your willingness to serve.*

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

FACEBOOK



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



SUMMER DIALOGUE

There will be no August Dialogue.

Articles for the September Dialogue are due August 15.



**For the months of JULY AND AUGUST
we worship at 10 am.**

While we do not provide nursery care during these months, the nursery and hospitality room are available for all to use!

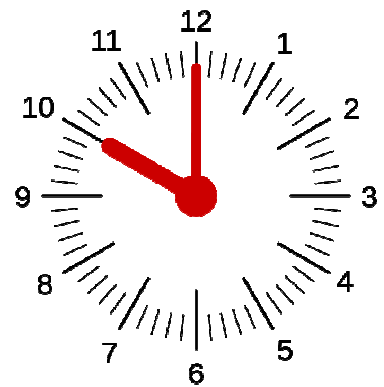


Image : <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0-3.0-2.5-2.0-1.0>



You are invited to the

150th

Anniversary

of the

United Methodist Church of Summit

September 17, 2017

10:30am Worship followed by

12:30pm Brunch

at the Grand Summit Hotel

150th Anniversary Menu

The Grand Summit Hotel

A selection of chilled juices and sodas
Sliced seasonal fresh fruits
An assortment of imported & domestic cheeses
Roasted new potato salad
Farfalle pasta salad with sun-dried tomatoes
Grilled vegetable platter with balsamic vinaigrette
Salad of American field greens with assorted dressings

A selection of assorted sweet breads, muffins,
bagels and croissants
Served with butter, cream cheese, and preserves

From our Chafing Dishes

Hickory smoked bacon & link sausage
Eggs Benedict with Hollandaise sauce
French toast with maple syrup
Garden fresh vegetables
Rice pilaf
Penne pasta with plum tomatoes, garlic and basil
Chicken breast Francaise
Sautéed salmon with lemon dill sauce

Omelette Station

Omelettes and egg white omelettes prepared to order

Desserts

An assortment of sweets from our pastry shoppe
to include mini-pastries

Coffee, decaffeinated coffee, assorted herbal teas

Alcoholic beverages available at additional cost

150th Anniversary Ticket Information

Celebrating 150 Years
Please RSVP by August 23, 2017

Name_____

Street Address_____

City_____State_____Zip_____

Phone_____Email_____

Tickets *(all reservations will be held at the door)*

☐ Please reserve_____individual tickets at \$40.00 each

☐ Please reserve_____children tickets at \$15.00 each [6yrs - 12yrs] *under 6yrs free*

☐ Please reserve a large table of 10 at \$400.00

☐ I will be unable to attend, but please accept my donation of \$_____ to support UMCS programs

Enclosed is a check for \$_____ *made payable to The United Methodist Church of Summit*

If you are unable to attend the brunch:

kindly send *a note, a video clip or USB*
by **August 15, 2017** that can be used in our celebration collage.

mail to:
The United Methodist Church of Summit
17 Kent Place Boulevard
Summit, New Jersey 07901

SUMMER

“To Do” List:

MINISTRY:

Taize Service – first Wednesday of each month

Knitting Ministry – Thursdays and Fridays

AND MORE:

“Movie Time” – 7/2 & 7/9

Care for our Community Garden

Chalkboard Conversations

Be a Summer Soloist

Buy a ticket to the 150th anniversary



JULY Birthdays and *Anniversaries

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2	3 Megan Champney	4	5	6	7	1 <hr/> 8
9 Charles Lord	10	11 *Leslie & Susan Williams	12 Jesse Reyes	13 Johanna Aguilera Don Wernsing	14 *Deanne and Brian Burns	15
16	17	18	19	20	21 *Jayme & Emily LaJeunesse	22
23	24	25 Parker LaJeunesse *Cliff & Laura Wilkins	26	27	28	29
30 Julia Dunnder	31 Ellen Dunnder Jayme LaJeunesse *George & Sarah Shuttleworth	<h1>ENJOY YOUR DAY!</h1>				

AUGUST Birthdays and *Anniversaries

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5 Susan Daniel
6 Caroline Relf	7 Mary Ellen DeJohn James Somers	8 Andrew Aird	9 Jim Schaefer	10	11 John Blossom	12
13	14 <i>*Craig & Lisa Burns</i>	15	16 Alf Edwards	17	18 <i>*Bob and Denise Florindi</i>	19
20	21	22 Bob Reed	23	24 Lisa Burns	25	26
27	28 Doug DeMartin Melissa Tassé Andie Vida	29	30	31 Sam Russell	ENJOY YOUR DAY!	