#### THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF SUMMIT

17 Kent Place Boulevard • Summit, NJ 07901

# THE DIALOGUE December 2017



#### THE STAFF

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### Are you one of God's messengers?



Throughout this Advent season, our Advent candles are being lit by some of God's messengers:
the angels who brought good news of joy, peace, love, and hope to the world.

# You can be a messenger too, and we have just the wings for you!

Check out the backdrop
in the Social Hall (as of December 3),
stand before it, take your picture,
and post it online!
Send the church office your selfies,
and we will post them on the church's Facebook page!





Join God's team of angelic messengers, bringing good news to the world!





As you make your Advent plans, be sure to include the wonderful worship events we have here at the Church this season:

#### Sunday, December 3, 2017: The First Sunday of Advent

In **Sunday worship (10:30am)** we will decorate the sanctuary, celebrating the "**Hanging of the Greenery.**" Come and participate in adorning our church home with the beauty of the season! Gabriel will prompt us to wonder about the gift of joy; we will also gather at the Table for the Lord's Supper.

After worship, head to the Social Hall for a potluck lunch and talent show!

#### Sunday, December 10, 2017: The Second Sunday of Advent

In **Sunday worship** (10:30am) we will consider Gabriel's message to Mary, as her world is turned upside down! Can peace be found in upheaval?

After worship, join us on the front lawn to sing Christmas Carols!

Then at **7:00pm in the Chapel**, a special service will be held.

Knowing that the holidays can be a complicated or difficult season for many, come for "A Service of Comfort," acknowledging that the message of Christmas is one of hope, comfort and strength for those who are in need.

Gather for prayers, scripture, music, and Holy Communion.

#### Sunday, December 17, 2017: The Third Sunday of Advent

In **Sunday worship** (10:30am) we will dream with Joseph, receiving a promise of love.

At **3:00pm**, all are invited to the **Christmas Concert**.

Join us to celebrate the music of the season as our many choirs and gifted musicians fill the air with joy! (see more details in this newsletter).

# Sunday, December 24, 2017: The Fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve

Given the fact that Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year, we will not be holding the 5:00 pm Christmas Eve service, and instead will incorporate many of its elements into the Sunday morning worship service at 10:30am:



In **Sunday worship** (10:30am) we will enjoy many wonderful gifts of music, and hear the angels proclaim hope to the shepherds in a field.

At **9:00 pm** join us for a traditional worship service, including the Lord's Supper, also ending in candlelight.

### **Comfort, Comfort My People**

An Advent Invitation

You are invited to come to a special Advent Service of Worship

Sunday, December 10, 2017 7:00 p.m. in the Chapel (DeForest side of the church)



As we make our way to the celebration of Christ's birth, the world fills our days with shopping and tinsel and cheerful songs floating over the radio.

Amid the hurry and the excitement of these weeks, do you need a place to spend a bit of time in quiet reflection? Do you find that, because of circumstances in your life, it is difficult to feel as "merry" as the season seems to invite?

The Christian message of *light in the darkness* is more than an opportunity to decorate our homes and our lives. It is a message of hope, comfort and strength for those who are in need.

Gather for prayers, scripture, music, and Holy Communion.

Come and let God's Word give Light!

#### **CHURCH DIRECTORY**

As 2017 comes to a close, we intend to provide an updated church directory. If you have changes to make to our current directory, please contact the church office.

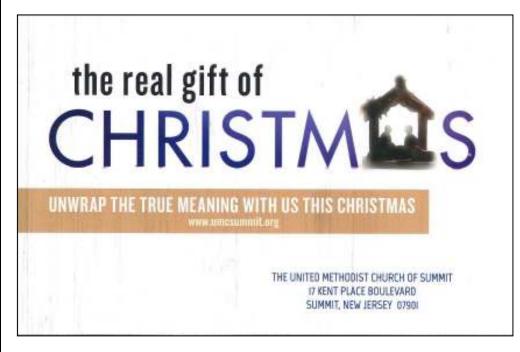
#### **PRAYER LIST**

Each Sunday we provide in the bulletin a prayer list as those we love experience joys and concerns. All are encouraged to include the names in your personal prayer time. At the end of the year, we will once again "clear out" the prayer list, beginning a new one with the New Year. If someone you care about was included on the prayer list and you would like his or her name to be continued as a new list is begun in January, please contact the church office. (Call 908-277-1700 or email UMCofSummit@gmail.com, or complete a new prayer request card during Sunday service.) Thank you.

#### LOOKING FOR A SMILING FACE AND A WARM HANDSHAKE!

If you have a warm handshake and a friendly smile, we're looking for you! The Worship Committee would love to add your name to its list of church members who are willing to be Greeters! Talk about an easy way of making a great impact!!! By donating just 20 minutes, once a month, you can welcome members and visitors alike to our wonderful church service! Please consider joining our group of greeters. You can also sign up to be on our substitution list ~ filling in when one of the 'regulars' can't make it!

Please speak with Pastor Hogan or Terry Schaefer if you're interested!



Throughout the coming weeks, we have so many wonderful events planned:

Help us get the word out!

Take a stack of our pre-printed postcards for distribution to the people in your life.

You can address, stamp, and mail the postcards yourself, or simply address them and we will stamp and mail them for you!

Postcards are available at the ushers table (in the sanctuary), in the church office, and in the Social Hall.



# **Serious Answers to Hard Questions**

An Adult Study

In this Adult study, Christian and Jewish theologians – world experts in their fields and persons of faith – each address a single perplexing issue that tends to be an obstacle to faith for many both in and outside of the church. The resource is prepared by the Wesley Theological Seminary.



Three sessions: each topic is independent, so come to one, two, or all three!

Each week, **prior to attending the class**, participants will begin to think about the topic through a short scriptural study and personal reflection questions.

**In the class time**, we will view and discuss video presentations by the noted scholars, and

**in the days following the class session**, you will be invited to participate in a Facebook group specifically designed for further conversation.

January 7: 3:30 pm Evil

How do you reconcile the presence of evil in the world with belief in a loving God?

January 21: 3:30 pm The "Old Testament God"

February 4: 3:30 pm The Sins of the Church

See Pastor Hogan to receive the participant's guide!

#### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



What do you hope for this season? What are your hopes for your family? What are your hopes for our world? As you plan your Advent activities and make choices about how to use your time, gifts, and money, how will you invest in hope?

How will you make time to let God speak to you in quiet and stillness?

How will you let God use you to be a gift of hope for our world?

Blessings, Sherri Shumate; Director of Christian Education, <a href="mailto:sherri.shumate@gmail.com">sherri.shumate@gmail.com</a>

Pray to the Baker Woman.
Sing to the Sustainer in the stars.
Dance to the Creator because we can.
Compliment Holy Christ with gestures
for God loves us.
Praise the Redeemer with French horn,
piccolo, ukulele, trumpets, and actions!
Celebrate the Holy Spirit with beat boxes!
Rave about God with loud bangs!
Let everybody praise God!

-A Modern Psalm 150, Written by our Tween Sunday School 11-5-17

#### 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. <a href="mailto:sherri.shumate@gmail.com">sherri.shumate@gmail.com</a>.

#### SUNDAY SCHOOL

#### 9:30am -10:15am

Sunday school is an opportunity to share our ideas, our questions, our hopes and our prayers. It's a place where all are welcome and where we grow in faith together.

Would you be interested in teaching or helping? Have a new idea you'd like to share? Contact Sherri Shumate at <a href="mailto:sherri.shumate@gmail.com">sherri.shumate@gmail.com</a>.

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	Cara Verma	
Teens 8 <sup>th</sup> - 12 <sup>th</sup>	Susan Woolever	Sherri Shumate	

#### **December 3:** *The Prophecies*

Micah 5:2-5. Lesson 1

Micah was a prophet and poet who expressed his thought in verse. Micah made his prophecy 700 hundred years before Jesus came. Times were hard for the Hebrew people and they were looking for another king to set them free. How does waiting four weeks for Christmas compare to waiting 700 years for the coming of Jesus? How would you have felt hearing this prophecy?

#### **December 10:** *Journey to Bethlehem*

Luke 2:1-5, Lesson 2

When we follow God's will, God never promises that everything will be easy. Mary and Joseph's journey certainly wasn't easy. God does promise to guide us and help us, and that we are never alone. With what journey do you need God to help you with today? How does Mary and Joseph's faith encourage you?

#### **December 17:** *Jesus' Birth*

Luke 2:6-7, Lesson 3

Can you imagine laying a baby in an animal feeding trough? In the midst of a busy season, pause to envision a quiet manger and a mother cradling her newborn child. Jesus changed history, but on the night Jesus was born he was just a crying baby. Jesus had great possibility, and God used him to do amazing things. We too are children of God - love and cherished by Him. God can also use us to do great things.

December 24 & December 31: No Sunday school. Join us for worship!

#### **VOLUNTEERS WELCOME!**

Interested in helping our young people grow in faith? We could always use additional helpers to assist with Sunday school for children, tweens, and youth, Wow It's Wednesday, and Parents' Night Out. Please contact me if you're interested at <a href="mailto:sherri.shumate@gmail.com">sherri.shumate@gmail.com</a>.

#### 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.

#### WOW will not meet on December 27th and takes a break in January

WOW Schedule:

4:30-4:55pm Story, Snacks, & Sharing

5:00-5:15pm Devotions Together

5:15-6:00pm *Adult Conversations* 

5:20-6:00pm Singing Praises Together

#### CHRISTMAS PAGEANT & POTLUCK DINNER

#### Wednesday, December 20th at 5:00pm

Come experience the joy of this season as children tell the story of Jesus' birth in simple readings and songs. The pageant will take place on Wednesday, December 20th at 5:00pm followed by a simple potluck dinner. All are welcome to join in and participate. We will start rehearsing on December 6th and 13th during Wow It's Wednesday.

#### **PARENTS' NIGHT OUT**

Resumes on Friday, January 12, 2018 5:00 – 8:00pm

Drop off your children for an evening of fun.

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.

Please sign-up via email: 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.

- ✓ Friday, December 1 & Saturday, December 2: Summit Middle School Play, 7:30pm
- ✓ Saturday, December 2: Gift Wrapping for Missions, 2:00-5:00pm in the Social Hall
- ✓ Sunday, December 17: Christmas Concert, 3:00pm in the Sanctuary
- ✓ Wednesday, December 20: Christmas Pageant and Potluck Dinner, 5:00pm







Joanne Teubner Prussak, Music Director

Our **Christmas Concert** will be on **Sunday, December 17 at 3:00 pm**. All of our choirs; Wesley, Contemporary Ensemble, Bell Choir, soloists and instrumentalists will be sharing their gifts of music. Please enjoy the music of the season and support our music makers.

Our **Wesley Choir** will be singing at the Christmas Concert Sunday, December 17. There will be a **dress rehearsal on December 16 at 12:00 pm in the sanctuary.** Our regular rehearsals are on Wednesdays at 5:15 pm, which is part of the *Wow, It's Wednesday* program. The Youth Choir is also preparing for our **December 20 Pageant** and 10:30am Christmas Eve worship.

Our **Bell Choir** will be ringing at our concert and at Christmas Eve worship. **Dress rehearsal on Saturday, December 16 at 12:30 pm in the Sanctuary.** 

The **Contemporary Ensemble** is preparing music for the Christmas Concert and Christmas Eve worship. **Dress rehearsal on Saturday, December 16 at 1:00 pm.** 

The **Chancel Choir** is singing throughout Advent and Christmas. They are preparing for our concert and every Sunday in Advent, as well as the 9:00 pm Candlelight Worship on Christmas Eve. **Dress rehearsal at 1:30 pm on Saturday, December 16.** 

#### Our instrumental soloists

will share the sounds of Christmas for this blessed season, as well.

Additional rehearsals for **Saturday, December 16** (for Concert Preparation):

12:00 pm – Wesley Choir

12:30 pm - Bell Choir

1:00 pm – Contemporary Ensemble

1:30 pm - Chancel Choir

"Can you hear the angels sing, glory, hallelujah" Come to worship and you will!





#### **\* 2018 GIVING ENVELOPES**

Giving envelopes for 2018 are available and **ready for pick up in the Social Hall**. If you have not had envelopes in the past but would like them for 2018, please contact the church office.

#### **\* LOAVES AND FISHES**

On **the first Sunday of each month** we invite you to bring nonperishable food items to worship (or you can leave bags in the kitchen at any time) that we might feed others! "Loaves and Fishes" is a vital ministry of care for those in great need and is located at St. Teresa's Roman Catholic Church in Summit, NJ.

#### \* HOLIDAY BAZAAR & COOKIE WALK

Saturday, December 2 from 10:00am - 4:00pm (in the Social Hall).

Come do your holiday shopping with us! Vendors, food and more! Five dollars lets you fill up a box with homemade cookies. Hurry before the goodies run out!

#### **\*** OUR CHRISTMAS FOR OTHERS

**December 3 and December 10** (in the Social Hall)

This Missions Fund Event is an opportunity to support local needs through gifts to Summit Helping Its People (SHIP), regional needs left in the wake of Superstorm Sandy through A Future with Hope, national needs in the wake of summer hurricanes through gifts to UMCOR, and global needs related to malaria prevention and elimination through Imagine No Malaria. With a minimum donation of \$1.00, you can support any ministry you feel called to by donating to one or all of the ministries.

#### **\*** CAROLING ON THE POINT

#### Sunday, December 10, 11:30am

Get into the Christmas spirit and join the United Methodist Church of Summit in singing traditional carols and holiday favorites outside the church. Afterwards, warm-up with hot chocolate, hot cider and cookies.

#### **\*** GIFT WRAPPING EVENT

Saturday, December 16 from 2:00pm – 5:00pm (in the Social Hall).

Help people who are homeless while you get your gifts wrapped by our church teens. We will wrap your holiday gifts in exchange for a donation of a new pair of adult socks for people who are homeless. Monetary donations will also be accepted. For more information contact Alison Johnson.

#### **\*** OPEN MIC NIGHT

Friday, December 29, 8:00pm (in the Social Hall)

Bring your talent along to our series of monthly 'Open Mic Nights'.

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, call the office at (908) 277-1700 or just drop us a line at umcopenmicnight@gmail.com

# CHANCEL FLOWERS

### at Christmas 2017

Contributions for Christmas Flowers will be taken until Sunday, December 17th. The money collected is used to decorate the sanctuary, with any remaining money going to provide flowers for future Sunday services. The flowers from Christmas will be distributed to our shut-ins, hospitalized members and others, as determined by the Pastor.

If you would like your contribution noted in the bulletin on Christmas Eve, 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"*.

Your Name:	4	
In Loving Memory of:		
7		
<b>3</b> -		
In Honor of:		



## **DECEMBER 2017**

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

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Hanging of the Greenery (Talent Show and Potluck Lunch to follow) Our Christmas for Others (during Coffee Hour) Confirmation Class 5:30-6:30pm (Social Hall)	4	5	Wow, It's Wednesday  Taize Service 7:00pm (Chapel)	7 Knitting Ministry 1:00pm (Fellowship Room)	1 Knitting Ministry 7:00pm (Fellowship Room) 8	Singing Believers - 1:00pm Holiday Bazaar & Cookie Walk  Singing Believers - 1:00pm
Our Christmas for Others (during Coffee Hour) Caroling on the Point 11:30am Service of Comfort 7:00pm (Chapel)	11	12	Wow , It's Wednesday	Knitting Ministry 1:00pm (Fellowship Room)	15 Knitting Ministry 7:00pm (Fellowship Room)	16 Singing Believers – 1:00pm Gift Wrapping Event 2-5pm (Social Hall)
Christmas Concert 3:00pm (Sanctuary)  Confirmation Class 5:30-6:30pm (Social Hall)	18	19	Children's Christmas Pageant and Potluck Dinner 5:00pm	Knitting Ministry 1:00pm (Fellowship Room)	Knitting Ministry 7:00pm (Fellowship Room)	Singing Believers - 1:00pm
Christmas Eve Service: 9:00pm	25 Christmas Day – Office is Closed	26	27 No Wow , It's Wednesday	28 Knitting Ministry 1:00pm (Fellowship Room)	<b>Xnitting Ministry</b> 7:00pm (Fellowship Room) <b>Open Mic Night</b> 8-11pm (Social Hall)	30 Singing Believers - 1:00pm
31	9:30am - Sunday Sch 9:30am - Sunday Sch 9:30am - Chancel Cha 10:30am - Worship 11:30am - Refreshme 11:45am - Bell Choir 12:15pm - Contempor	ool (all grades) oir nts and Fellowship				

# **DECEMBER** Birthdays and \*Anniversaries **SUNDAY TUESDAY** WEDNESDAY **THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY MONDAY Madeleine Johnson** John Hugin **Dan Somers** 13 15 Joseph Smith **Beverly Wolff** 23 18 20 Rachel Hoffman **Ashton Flamme** Melissa Hoffman \*Elaine and Carl **Mary Jane Somers** Alec LaJeunesse Susan Hogg Alison Johnson Hilary Hugin Stolpe Enjoy your day!