

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

THE DIALOGUE

Summer 2018



THE STAFF

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FROM THE PASTOR

Over recent weeks, our world has been rocked by stories of the suicides of several celebrities, and the Annual Conference also suffered the loss of a staff member who took her own life.

The fragility of life stares us in the face in such a season, and we are prompted to reflect on the fact that for some, the weight of life seems too great to bear; the shadows prevail in ways that make the light hard to find.

This pain cannot be reasoned away or argued against.

The response to such pain can only be compassion:

shown in providing access to the places and systems skilled in caring for those who find themselves considering suicide;
and
demonstrated by reaching out to those we love with expressions of our love.

There are many valuable resources available for those who are hurting, as well as for those seeking to help a loved one in need.

Two such resources are:

the New Jersey Hopeline: 1-855-654-6735

http://nj.gov/health/integratedhealth/dmhas/home/suicide_prevention.shtml

and

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-8255

<https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org/>

As we cherish life, may we cherish one another with the love of our ever-gracious God, the God who stands steadfastly at our side in this life and in the life to come. May we carry the sacred gift of hope to our world.

Shawn Callender Hogan, Pastor





Lunch and Learn

Join in a 5 week lunchtime Bible study:

Bring your lunch if you wish,
or just join for the study:
we meet 5 Tuesdays from 12 noon to 12:45 pm
in the Conference Room—take your lunch break with us!

We will work with five chapters of the book
“We Make the Road by Walking,” by Brian McLaren,
a resource which provides
a brief thoughtful reflection for each week,
accompanied by scripture passages and discussion questions.

Interested? See me and I will pass along the materials!

Tuesdays July 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
12:00 – 12:45 pm

Shawn Callender Hogan
Pastor

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2018 WRAP UP



Miracles Everywhere

"You are the God who performs miracles, everywhere" -
Psalm 77:14

More than 1,400 people attended and six different languages were spoken and sung during the 2018 Greater New Jersey Annual Conference session, the largest attendance in GNJ history. We approved groundbreaking legislation to continue with a lawsuit against the State of New Jersey to desegregate public schools for 271,000 Black and Latino students and approved a budget that will reduce the shared ministry amount we apportion congregations. The Conference also heard that we grew worship attendance in 2017 and several miraculous testimonies of God's wonder-working power through the United Methodists of Greater New Jersey. Miracles are everywhere in and through the ministries of GNJ.

GNJ approved two new partnerships with Tanzania and Puerto Rico Annual Conferences, enacted Leadership 100 in a new strategic plan that will continue us on a path to develop transformational leaders through 2023 and committed to a campaign to raise \$5.2 million for Next Generation, a student ministry seeking to make 2,000 youth and young adult disciples, A Future With Hope to develop 30 Hope Centers in five years and affordable housing, hurricane relief and global mission. Click here to watch the wrap up video. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J02wjshuogk&feature=youtu.be>

Desegregating N.J. Schools

In a historic move, United Methodists affirmed joining a lawsuit coordinated by the New Jersey Coalition of Diverse and Inclusive Schools (NJCDIS) to bring a remedy to school segregation for 271,000 Black and Latino students who attend segregated New Jersey schools. [Click here](#)

<https://www.gnjumc.org/2018-annual-conference/pre-conference-journal-legislation-and-reports/missional-partnerships/> to learn more about the lawsuit and GNJ's involvement.

Puerto Rico and Tanzania

GNJ voted to create a partnership with Methodists in Puerto Rico and Tanzania as a part of the Miracles Everywhere Campaign. Bishop Hector Ortiz of The Methodist Church of Puerto Rico and Bishop Muyombo of the North Katanga Episcopal Region, which includes Tanzania, addressed the 2018 Annual Conference and celebrated GNJ's partnership and commitment to their regions through hurricane recovery work, starting new congregations, and training pastors to make disciples for the transformation of the world. Together, they joined Bishop Schol in a signing of a partnership covenant before the entire body. [Click here to learn more about it.](#)

<https://www.gnjumc.org/2018-annual-conference/pre-conference-journal-legislation-and-reports/missional-partnerships/>

GNJ Grows Worship Attendance and Completes 5 Year Strategic Plan

GNJ grew average worship attendance in 2017 and through its 2013 strategic plan, over the last four years grew the number of people in small groups and hands-on mission, increased giving to mission, started more than 50 new faith communities, rebuilt 271 homes in response to Superstorm Sandy and launched five new resources to assist congregations, laity and clergy in achieving the mission.

GNJ Strategic Direction and Leadership 100

The Connectional Table led GNJ in a strategic plan for 2019-23, which includes strategies of new faith communities, Next Gen ministries, community development, Hope Centers, cultural shifts and equipping and cultivating 100 clergy and 100 laity who make disciples who make disciples. The body affirmed this plan. [Click here to learn more about it.](https://www.gnjumc.org/resource/2019-2023-strategic-plan-draft/) : <https://www.gnjumc.org/resource/2019-2023-strategic-plan-draft/>

Miracles Everywhere Campaign

GNJ committed to a new mission campaign - Miracles Everywhere, which will transform and deepen the lives and faith of the Next Generation, partner with Puerto Rico in hurricane relief, launch Hope Centers across GNJ and partner with the Tanzania Annual Conference to train new pastors, build new congregations, and build a Hope Center for mission engagement. Bishop Schol gave a moving account of he and his wife, Beverly's own commitment to the campaign and shared the results of leadership gifts which total nearly \$300,000! An offering for the new Miracles Everywhere Campaign was taken and more than \$30,000 was collected to bring the total committed to date to \$2.9 million. The full campaign goal is \$5.2 million. To read more about the Miracles Everywhere Campaign, [Click here to learn more about it.](https://www.gnjumc.org/umsf/miracles-everywhere-campaign/) :<https://www.gnjumc.org/umsf/miracles-everywhere-campaign/>

Celebrations

In other actions, we celebrated our A Future With Hope ministry which will complete its 271st house this June. [Click here http://www.afuturewithhope.org/](http://www.afuturewithhope.org/) to learn more about A Future With Hope. We approved the 2019 budget which reduces shared ministry to 16.1% so more resources are available to local churches.

Passing the Mantle

This year's Annual Conference session opened with a service to commission and ordain clergy. We welcomed eight newly commissioned Provisional Elders, five newly Ordained Elders, one Deacon, one Associate Member, eight transfers from other conferences and or denominations, and 19 new local pastors. We recognized 24 retiring clergy for their 550 years of service. Rev. Ron Watts delivered a powerful sermon during the Service of Remembrance that honored the 27 clergy, clergy spouses and lay members who have passed on during the last year.

Episcopal and Leadership Address

Bishop Schol celebrated the miracles in the midst of GNJ congregations and thanked the laity and congregations for their continued leadership and service to develop transformational leaders to make disciples and grow vital congregations to transform the world. He presented a clear path forward for Greater New Jersey, building on what's been accomplished to take on a new strategic plan that will focus on leadership. He also discussed the challenges United Methodists face regarding how we treat gays and lesbians within our denomination, in our congregations and as clergy. Regardless of the polity within the denomination, the Bishop said now is the time to act for justice and mercy to work toward desegregating schools in N.J. God is calling us now.

"If congregations are growing, but not serving the community, not serving the poor, the oppressed, the marginalized, then we are not the church of Jesus Christ," Schol declared from the stage.

Rev. Hector A. Burgos, Director of Connectional Ministries, led a leadership address that included remarks from Rev. Sang Won Doh, Chair of the Connectional Table, Rosa Williams, Conference Lay Leader, and Rev. Iraida Ruiz De Porras, Chair of the Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries. These leaders shared their visions for a new strategic plan, the progress made in fulfilling mission and the next steps the Spirit is leading GNJ to take in the years to come. They celebrated new faith communities, the success of Team Vital, Coaching, PaCE, Mosaic Ministries, IGNITE, intercultural competence and the work of an Immigration Task Force. They outlined how GNJ will assist 100 congregations to grow from one church size to the next, grow intercultural competency, develop the Next Generation of disciples through summer camps, IGNITE, and campus ministries, and strengthen the resourcing of the laity.

Rise Against Hunger

Volunteers working in unison systematically and excitedly helped pack 30,000 meals to support Rise Against Hunger's effort to feed people around the world with a bold mission to end world hunger by 2030.

Passionate Discipleship and Eliminating Poverty

Guest speaker Junius Dotson, General Secretary of Discipleship Ministries, spoke on making, shaping and engaging passionate disciples of Jesus Christ. He challenged United Methodists to unpack what it means to truly be a disciple, holding an altar call where he invited members of GNJ to come forward and publicly commit to disciple-making. [Click here to learn more about it.](#) : <https://www.seeallthepeople.org/>

Susan Henry-Crowe, General Secretary of Church and Society, spoke to the Annual Conference about eliminating poverty, the realities of its root causes, and how we as the church ought to address the issue. "When did we start caring about ourselves more than we care about those who serve and work for us?" she asked. She challenged United Methodists to imagine an economy that works and honors the dignity and worth of all people. [Click here to learn more about it.](#) : <https://www.umcjustice.org/>

Closing

Bishop Schol closed the session with moving testimony calling GNJ to go deeper in conversation with each other and with conference leaders about questions they have regarding the governance and legislation before the body.

Worship and Prayer

The conference was led in joyful worship with praise songs sung in six languages, a 50 plus member choir and a special guest performance by Mark Miller during the Service of Remembrance. The prayer team, led by Gina Yeske, coordinated [40 days of prayer](#) before Annual Conference and set up prayer stations throughout the convention center. The prayer team prayed for every delegate by name and prayed over every seat in the convention center before the Ordination Service on Sunday night.

Miracles were Everywhere

This year's Annual Conference will go down in history as one in which profound decisions were made and plans enacted to transform our community, state and the world. Attendees left inspired, recognizing the miracles in their midst and realizing that they too are part of making those miracles happen.

DENOMINATIONAL NEWS!

UM Bishops and The Upper Room launch Phase 3 of Praying our Way Forward



PRAYING OUR WAY FORWARD



We are One in Christ

UMCprays.org • A UMC Prayer Community

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- The Council of Bishops, in partnership with [The Upper Room](#), is launching Phase 3 of [Praying our Way Forward](#).

Phase 1 involved 84 members of the Council of Bishops praying for The United Methodist Church's way forward for 15 minutes daily, from August to December 2016.

This was followed by **Phase 2**, which resulted in 18 continuous months of daily individual and corporate prayer by faithful members of annual conferences around the globe.

"Now we are ready to launch **Phase 3**, which begins June 3 and continues through the [Special Session of General Conference](#) in February 2019. In this phase, we are encouraging every United Methodist to fast weekly and to pray daily with the [Council of Bishops](#)," said Bishop Al Gwinn, the Prayer Team Coordinator.

In Phase 3, all United Methodists are invited to:

- 1. Engage in a weekly Wesleyan 24-hour fast from Thursday after dinner to Friday mid-afternoon.** Those who have health situations causing food fasts to be unadvisable might consider fasting from social media, emails or another daily activity.
- 2. Pause and pray for our church's mission and way forward daily for four minutes from 2:23 through 2:26 a.m. or p.m. in their own time zone OR at another time.** This is because the Special Session of General Conference will be held February 23 through February 26, 2019.
- 3. Pray using a weekly prayer calendar that will be posted on the [UMCPrays.org](#) website from June 2, 2018, through the end of February 2019.** The calendar will list a unique cluster of names each week. The names will balance United States bishops and delegates with Central Conference bishops and delegates. It will also include General Secretaries, Commission on a Way Forward members, the Commission of the General Conference and the staff of the General Conference.

Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett, Council of Bishops Life Together chair, added: "We believe that the acts of weekly fasting and prayer will help us approach General Conference both individually and corporately in a posture of humility and receptivity to one another and to the leadership of God's Holy Spirit." For more details, visit [UMCPrays.org](#).

MUSIC NOTES

Thank you to the following people for their dedication and devotion to our church.
Heartfelt gratitude for sharing your wonderful gifts of music praising our Lord and Creator.

With much love,
Joanne Teubner Prussak, Director of Music

WESLEY CHOIR & SINGING BELIEVERS

Adam Daniel
Caroline Relf
Oliver Relf
Bradley Smith
Joseph Smith
Riley Smith
Melissa St. Louis
Diane Wagnac

HANDBELL CHOIR

Gregg Buttermore
Lucas Daniel
Sarah Daniel
James Goldman
Kim Goldman
Ximenita Gonzalez
William Johnson
Adrian Phillips
Josh Reyes
William Teubner

CONTEMPORARY ENSEMBLE

Beverly Alexis
Gregg Buttermore
Bernice Griffith
Ximenita Gonzalez
William Teubner

CHANCEL CHOIR

Soprano

Jean Dembaugh
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
Kuda Mtisi
William Teubner

Bass

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

VOCAL & INSTRUMENTAL SOLOISTS

William Dembaugh, *Baritone*
Jocelyn Gallinek, *Flute*
Jordyn Gallinek, *Bassoon*
Ximenita Gonzalez, *Alto*
Bernice Griffith, *Soprano*
Perri Sussman, *Soprano*
William Teubner, *Trumpet*



*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:

CAME TO BELIEVE

Our Monthly “Came to Believe” worship services (for friends and members of the recovery community) **will resume in the fall at a new time**. Details will be shared in the September Dialogue.

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!**



BAGS TO BENCHES RECYCLING PROGRAM

Join in a **Summit Interfaith Collective** effort to care for Creation by removing harmful plastic bags from our environment.

We are one of several houses of worship in Summit who will work with Trex and Acme in New Providence to remove, recycle and refurbish 500 pounds of plastic film into a plastic bench.

Eight million metric tons of plastic find their way into the oceans each year. In response to this troubling development **our church will begin collecting** the following plastic items on **Sunday, September 23rd**:

Bags from:

<i>Bread</i>	<i>Produce</i>
<i>Cereal</i>	<i>Sidewalk salt</i>
<i>Dry Cleaning</i>	<i>Wood pellets</i>
<i>Groceries</i>	<i>Ziploc</i>
<i>Ice</i>	

Additional sources:

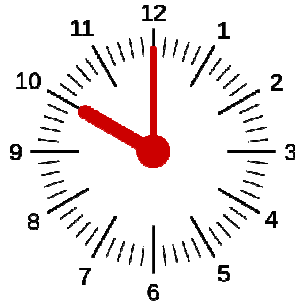
Bubble wrap
Case overwrap
Newspaper sleeves

****Additional information will be provided in August or early September****

For Your Information:

For the months of JULY AND AUGUST we worship at 10:00 am

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



LOAVES AND FISHES

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

We deliver your donations to “Loaves and Fishes”. “Loaves and Fishes” is a vital ministry of care for those in great need and is located at St. Teresa’s Roman Catholic Church, Summit, NJ.

If you wish to contribute, you can bring **bags of non-perishable food** to the sanctuary on the first Sunday of each month, or you can leave bags in the kitchen (on the steps to the pantry) at any time.

SUMMER DIALOGUE

There will be no August Dialogue. Articles for the September Dialogue are due August 15.

TAIZE SERVICES

Please Note the Summer Haitus:

Our Monthly Taize Prayer Services will **resume October 3rd, 7pm.**

MONDAY YOGA

Due to an (unrelated) injury, our yoga instructor is currently unavailable, so our weekly yoga gatherings are suspended until further notice.

SUMMER

"To Do" List:

MEETINGS:

Worship Committee – 7/8

MINISTRY:

Loaves and Fishes –

donations accepted the first Sunday of each month

Knitting Ministry – Thursdays and Fridays

AND MORE:

Bible Study – Tuesdays in July, 12-1pm

Summer Soloists – July and August

CELEBRATE IN JULY

DATE	BIRTHDAYS	ANNIVERSARIES
1		
2		
3	Megan Champney	
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		<i>Anthony and Nechelle Dorbu</i>
9	Charles Lord	
10		
11		<i>Leslie and Susan Williams</i>
12	Jesse Reyes	
13	Johanna Aguilera	
14		<i>Diane and Brian Burns</i>
15		
16		
17		
18		
19		
20		
21		<i>Jayme and Emily LaJeunesse</i>
22		
23		
24		
25	Parker LaJeunesse	<i>Cliff and Laura Wilkins</i>
26		
27		
28		
29		
30	Julia Dunnder	
31	Ellen Dunnder Jayme LaJeunesse	<i>George and Sarah Shuttleworth</i>

CELEBRATE IN AUGUST

DATE	BIRTHDAYS	ANNIVERSARIES
1		
2		
3		
4		
5	Susan Daniel	
6	Caroline Relf	
7	MaryEllen DeJohn James Somers	
8	Andrew Aird	
9	Jim Schaefer	
10		
11	John Blossom	
12		
13		
14		<i>Craig and 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 Tasse Andie Vida	
29		
30		
31	Sam Russell	