

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

THE DIALOGUE

November 2018



THE STAFF

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FROM THE PASTOR

Last month I attended an overnight retreat, and the framework for the retreat was based on the Benedictine form of spirituality known as “The Liturgy of the Hours.” The Hours are a way of praying through the day. And as of dusk, we entered into the period of time called “The Great Silence.”



The Great Silence is a span of 12 hours or so, from nightfall through the morning start, during which one keeps silence. We are silent when being in one other’s presence, silent while eating breakfast, silent in one’s private and communal activities. There are no sounds from tvs, radios, phones or conversations breaking into the quiet.

The gift of silence is a way of intentionally creating an atmosphere for meeting God.

Naturally, the experience led to deeper thinking about the gift -- and the burden -- of silence.

Silence is a wonderful gift when it invites a pause to our day, inviting inner as well as outer quiet. It is a blessing when it arrives amid the fullness of a worship service, causing our spirits to pause and breathe. It is a portal into thoughts and memories when a wave of silence hits unexpectedly. It is a sign of depth when chosen instead of speaking out of reflex or ignorance.

But silence is also a burden.

It weighs heavily when the house is quiet because the loved one is gone.

It deepens the shadows when it is the only response to an offer of grace.

And silence is also an affliction.

It does utter harm when one is silenced, kept quiet, by others, or by the power of shame, or because of fear. Such silence breaches community and damages the soul. It was impossible to observe the Great Silence without reflecting on those places where silence is imposed rather than chosen.

As we make our way in the world, let us pay attention to silence. When and where this week did you observe silence? Was it a gift? A burden? An instrument of harm?

How is silence a part of our spiritual lives, our personal lives, our public lives?

“For God alone, o my soul, wait in silence.” Psalm 62:5

Shawn Callender Hogan, Pastor

MORE FROM THE PASTOR

On November 3, 2018 we will hold our annual church conference, at which officers are elected and we reflect upon our ministry. I offer you here my report:

Pastoral Reflections:

Preschool update

In the year since the closure of our beloved preschool, discerning next uses and preparing the space has been a slow process, as we navigated emotions of grief and hope. The Ad Council put significant effort into seeking to identify a single new purpose for the unused classrooms, and concluded that it is best in this season to use the rooms for short-term periodic building needs as outside groups identify interest.

Meanwhile, we reviewed all of the preschool items, identified what needed to be saved for our own use, invited area preschools to come and select items of interest, and held a yard sale for remaining items. In these efforts we have been faithful stewards of both the legacy and the equipment, as countless items have new loving homes in which to continue to be used. The two large classrooms are prepared for multi-purpose usage and have been able to accept the occasional inquiry for use.

Community Programs

The monthly Open Mic Nights have continued in strength, each month filling our Social Hall with talent of all sorts and an audience eager to offer support and affirmation. With a number of high school students heading to college, we have faced the first significant shift in the leadership team since Open Mic Night's inception, and the transition has gotten off to a wonderful start. The strength of this ministry seems to lie in the spirit of welcome and encouragement that everyone brings, and is fortified by the steadfast work being done behind the scenes by those who make sure that communication, refreshments, décor, and equipment are ready for all who arrive.

This year we initiated a monthly service of worship for friends and members of the recovery community, providing a creative and thoughtful time of worship for all. We also have continued the periodic conference-call prayer gatherings, during which participants are led through an Examen-style silent prayer time.

This fall we initiated a "Bags to Benches" program being the first among the Summit houses of worship to offer an avenue to recycle plastic bags and plastic film packaging. This continues our ongoing efforts to do our part in making the community greener.

Ministry Changes

This spring, our Director of Christian Education, Sherri Shumate, came to the season in her life for which full time employment was appropriate, thus concluding her time as our beloved DCE. The impact of her four years in our midst will be long-lived.

We initially sought a new candidate by working with Drew Theological School, but when one did not surface, the Staff Parish Relations Committee assessed that this is an appropriate time to regroup and review our overall ministry and staffing needs. The education ministry is undergoing significant transitions, as children's Sunday schedules are increasingly strained, leaving fewer regular participants in our Sunday School classes and our Wednesday programming. We have initiated a multi-age one-room classroom style of Sunday School, and will continue the monthly "Manhattan Bagel" walks, as well as the periodic volunteer days at CUMAC and Bridges. Furthermore, our 'Wow It's Wednesday' program has come to an end as we move the youth choir rehearsals to Saturday.

In this time of transition, we have been blessed as Noelle Benton has accepted the responsibility of serving as Sunday School Superintendent, bringing her love of children and her training in children's work to this ministry. Noelle will be a tremendous support in this new time of caring for our children's faith development.

Faithful Service

As the year is reviewed, while much has changed, we are grateful for the things that are steadfast: the dedication and creativity of our wonderful staff: Polly del Campo, JoAnne Teubner Prussak, Roy Christensen, and Rosa Marquinhos. Their integrity, vision, and efforts collectively enable the ministry to proceed smoothly.

We are grateful for the ongoing work of our knitting and crocheting teams, who continue to weave items of love for those in seasons of need or change. The volunteers who manage and provide refreshments on Sundays, ring the church bell, greet and usher and sing and play instruments, together open the doorway for the Spirit to move.

And to all of you who pray daily for the life and vitality of the church, all who attend worship, all who participate in studies and small groups and committees, all who give generously of your resources, all who respond when there is a call for help with some project or task, all who take God's grace into the world in the corners of your life, I thank you. It is through you that God is actively, quietly, powerfully in our midst.

Shawn Callender Hogan
Pastor

Mark your calendars:



Each year every United Methodist Church reviews the details of its ministry in a **Church Conference**.

All are welcome, and all members have voting privilege as we share reports of our work, elect new officers into leadership, and celebrate our life together.

Once again, our Conference is holding **clustered Church Conferences**, which means that we will gather for our annual business session with 10 other churches on

Saturday, November 3, beginning at 11:45 am
at the Chatham UMC (460 Main Street, Chatham, NJ 07928)

The meeting schedule will be:

11:45 am – 12:30 pm Church Conference Meeting

12:45 pm– Devotions

Please note that at this Conference we will act on the distribution of a \$20,000 bequest from the estate of Barbara Wallis. Please put this date on your calendar, and join in this important annual meeting!



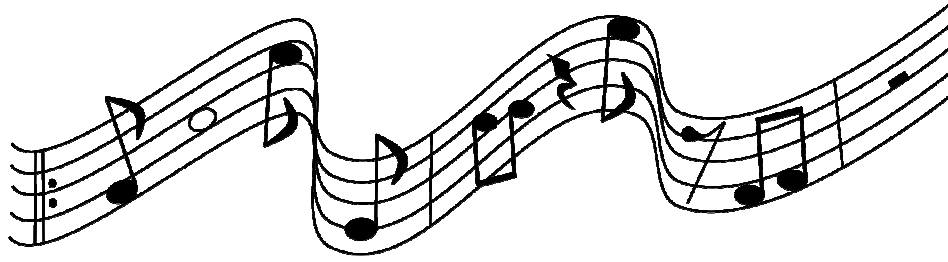
ALL SAINTS DAY

On Sunday, **November 4, 2018**
we will celebrate All Saints Sunday,
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 remember with love
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."



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

Singing Believers

Come and sing the joyful songs to God. Let us grow together in our faith through music. **Rehearsals are at 12:30pm on Saturdays in the Music Room.**

Contemporary Ensemble

Our Contemporary Ensemble is studying music from the contemporary hymnals “The Faith We Sing” and “Worship and Song”. **Rehearsals 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.*

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2019

Offering envelopes for 2019 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 2019, please contact the church office.

OPEN MIC NIGHT

Friday, November 23, 2018

Doors open at 8:00pm (*in the Social Hall*)

Bring your talent along to our 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, just drop us a line at umcopenmicnight@gmail.com or call the office at (908) 277-1700.

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.

COMMITMENT SUNDAY

“There are Many Ways to Say I Love You”

Two weeks ago, we celebrated Commitment Sunday, during which we offered to God our commitment of financial support for the coming year.

We celebrate your generosity!

On Commitment Sunday we celebrated the fact that our financial gifts are one way we say “I Love You” to God.

Our gifts of love are then transformed into signs of that love: through our ministries of worship, education, outreach, and fellowship.

If you have not yet sent in your Commitment Card,
please do so as soon as possible.

Your pledge is an expression of love, which enables us to plan for the many ways we will share God’s love with the world!

The Finance Committee

CALLING ALL BAKERS

UMC of Summit
is hosting its
3rd Annual Cookie Walk
on

Saturday December 1st, 2018

for the
Holiday Bazaar

We are looking for donations of
Homemade cookies, (varieties encouraged)
At least 5 dozen or more for each recipe.

Deliver all cookies on
Friday, November 30, 2018

To the
UMCS Kitchen with the words “Cookie Walk” written on them.

Please tell your friends and post on your social media.

Let us try to get a good turn-out.

Thanks in advance for your help
Any questions contact Kim Goldman

Kymburlig@comcast.net

NOVEMBER

"To Do" List:

MEETINGS:

Property Committee – 11/10

MINISTRY:

Came to Believe – 11/4

Taize Service – 11/7

Family Promise Guests – 11/11 – 11/21

Loaves and Fishes –
donations accepted the first Sunday of each month

Knitting Ministry – Thursdays and Fridays

AND MORE:

Open Mic Night – 11/23

CELEBRATE IN NOVEMBER

DATE	BIRTHDAYS	ANNIVERSARIES
1		
2	Alexander Gibbens	
3	Craig Burns Ottalie Hall Liz Martin	
4	Dylan Miles	<i>Daniel & Melissa Tasse</i>
5	Emily Koernig	
6		
7		
8		
9	Kim Mandel	
10		
11		
12		
13		
14		
15	Bob Florindi	
16	Anne Engelhardt Myrene Reyes	
17		
18		
19		
20		
21	Gail Ghampney	
22	Neil Johnson Phoebe Rhinehart	
23	Janice Conti	
24	Sarah Goetzl	
25	Fred Prussak	
26		
27		
28		
29	Kayla Goldman	
30		

NOVEMBER 2018

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
SUNDAY SCHEDULE: 9:30am – Sunday School (all grades) 9:30am – Chancel Choir 10:30am – Worship				1 Knitting Ministry 1:00pm <i>(Fellowship Room)</i>	2 Knitting Ministry 7:00pm <i>(Fellowship Room)</i>	3 Church Conference at the UMC of Chatham Singing Believers – 12:30pm
4 Came to Believe – 8:30am <i>(Chapel)</i>	5	6	7 Taize Prayer Service – 7:00pm <i>(Chapel)</i>	8 Knitting Ministry 1:00pm <i>(Fellowship Room)</i>	9 Knitting Ministry 7:00pm <i>(Fellowship Room)</i>	10 Property Committee Meeting – 8am <i>(Conference Room)</i> Singing Believers – 12:30pm
11 Family Promise Guests Through November 21	12	13	14	15 Knitting Ministry 1:00pm <i>(Fellowship Room)</i>	16 Knitting Ministry 7:00pm <i>(Fellowship Room)</i>	17 Singing Believers – 12:30pm
18	19	20	21	22 <u>Thanksgiving Day</u> – Office is Closed	23 <u>Office is Closed</u> Open Mic Night – 8pm (Social Hall)	24 Singing Believers – 12:30pm
25	26	27	28	29 Knitting Ministry 1:00pm <i>(Fellowship Room)</i>	30 Knitting Ministry 7:00pm <i>(Fellowship Room)</i>	