THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF SUMMIT

17 Kent Place Boulevard • Summit, NJ 07901

THE DIALOGUE December 2018



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ADVENT 2018 From Pastor Shawn Callender Hogan

We find ourselves once again at the portal—the threshold where God meets humanity.

Christmas: that mysterious place in which God takes on our human form and comes ever-so-close—close enough for us to wrap our very arms around grace. Is there room in your arms, room in your life, room in your manger for this gift??

How might we prepare for such an invitation?

How do we make our hearts and our lives ready for the opportunity to accept this unparalleled gift?

How might we empty ourselves all that clutters our lives, thereby making room for Emmanuel: God-With-Us?

Join with me as we walk through the weeks of Advent, making room for the gifts of:
silence (Luke 1:5-23),
humility (Matthew 1:18-25),
joy (Luke 1:26-45), and
the stranger (Luke 2:1-20).

"If in your heart you make a manger for his birth, then God will once again become a child on earth." - Angelus Silesius



For your calendar: a quick overview of this month's activities:

(You can find details about each of these events elsewhere in this newsletter):

December 1:

10 am - 4 pm: Holiday Bazaar

December 2:

8:30 am: Came to Believe Service

10:30 am: First Sunday in Advent: the Hanging of the Greenery

11:30 am: Talent Show and Potluck Luncheon

December 5:

7:00 pm: Taize Prayer Service

December 9:

10:30 am Worship: Second Sunday in Advent

12:30 pm: Sip and Paint and Brown-Bag Lunch

7:00 pm: Service of Comfort

December 16:

10:30 am Worship: Third Sunday in Advent

3:00 pm: Christmas Concert

December 23:

10:30 am Worship: Fourth Sunday in Advent

11:30: Caroling on the Point

5:00 pm: Christmas Pageant and Potluck Supper

December 24:

5:00 pm and 9:00 pm: Christmas Eve Services



We hold our loved ones in prayer:

It is with sadness that we share the news of the death of Charles Edwards
III (November 15, 2018) and Ottalie Hall (November 24, 2018).
We also hold in our prayers the Relf family on the passing of Kerry's
mother; the Benton family, on the passing of Tom's mother; and the
Mandel Family on the death of Kim's father. May God grant comfort to us
all in our time of sorrow.

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.



Prayer Service: December 5 at 7:00pm

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 the first Wednesday night of each month



(Dec 5, Jan 2, Feb 6....) to the **Chapel** for 30 minutes of quiet meditation. On these evenings we offer 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.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT & POTLUCK DINNER

Sunday, December 23rd 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 Sunday, December 23rd at 5:00pm followed by a simple potluck dinner. All are welcome to join in and participate. We will hold rehearsals on December 9 and 16, right after worship in the sanctuary.

DECEMBER 24, 2018: CHRISTMAS EVE

--at 5:00 pm join us for a casual service that is geared for all ages, ending in candlelight, and focused on the ways that God is surely with us!
 --at 9 pm join us for a traditional worship service, including the Lord's Supper, also ending in candlelight!

Comfort, Comfort My People

An Advent Invitation

Sunday, December 9, 2018 7:00 p.m.

in the Chapel (DeForest side of the church)

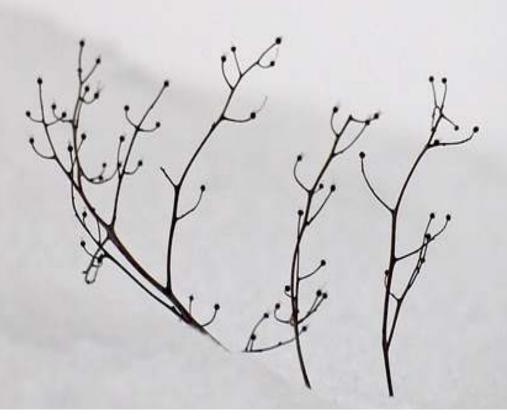
As we make our way to the celebration of Christ's birth, the world fills our days with shopping and tinsel and cheerful songs floating over the radio. Amid the hurry and the excitement of these weeks, do you need a place to spend a bit of time in quiet reflection? Do you find that, because of circumstances 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.

You are invited to come to a special Advent Service of Worship on December 9, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in the Chapel.

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

Come and let God's Word give Light!



Lunch and Learn

Bring your lunch if you wish, or just join for the study: we meet on Thursday, December 20th (one session) from 12:00 pm to 12:45 pm

in the Conference Room—take your lunch break with us!

We will work with Christmas-related materials from 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 Pastor Hogan for the materials!

Thursday, December 20 (one session) 12:00 – 12:45 pm

OPEN MIC NIGHT

Friday December 28, 2018 8:00pm – 11:00pm (in the Social Hall)

Do you have a talent that only rarely sees the light of day?

Have you always wanted to perform in front of a small audience?

Are you perhaps looking for that next step towards stardom?

Bring your talent along to a series of monthly 'Open Mic Nights' to be hosted by the United Methodist Church of Summit.

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 at <u>umcopenmicnight@gmail.com</u> or call the office at (908) 277-1700.

A Statement from the Summit Interfaith Council Anti-Racism Committee:

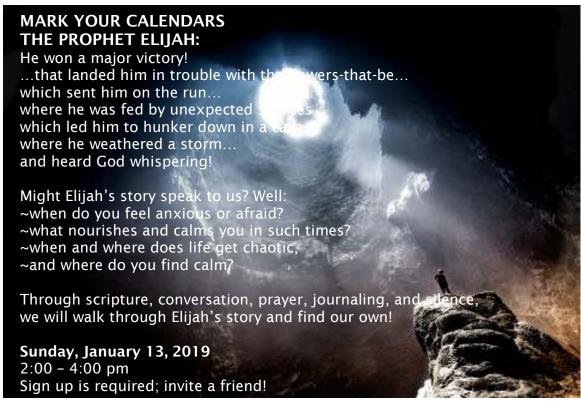
"We, the Summit Interfaith Council of Summit, NJ, unequivocally denounce the rising tide of bigotry and hatred reflected in the tragic killings at Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, and in a racist attack in Kentucky killing two African Americans last week.



In our own area, this has been embodied in Ku Klux Clan literature recently distributed to homes, seeking new recruits for their White Supremacist, anti-Semitic, anti-Black and anti-gay campaign. Such actions endanger us all, and are contrary to the core values of all our faiths.

As interfaith leaders who "seek the welfare of the City" (Jeremiah 29:7) we call upon our fellow citizens to stand firm for the dignity of all persons, rejecting all forms of anti-Semitism, racial hatred, and identity or group affiliation hatred, so that we may all go about our lives without fear of hate speech, hateful violence, and other forms of harassment.

We join with all others of good will to mourn the victims of such death-dealing, prejudice-driven hatred."



Looking for a simple, convenient way to support the church? Consider online giving!

Did you know that most banks offer online bill-pay as a free convenience to its customers? For Parishioners who use online banking and online bill-pay, you may want to consider establishing a recurring payment to the Church as a means of depositing your financial offering. Some advantages of online bill-pay include:



- ✓ Ease of setting up a recurring payment once for the entire year.
- ✓ Convenience of not having to write checks and not having to remember to bring money/envelopes to worship service.
- ✓ Comfort in knowing that your tithing continues even if you are away on vacation.

All checks received from your bank by the church would be processed in the same manner as checks placed in the offering plate and would be credited to your offering statement in a timely fashion. If you like the idea of submitting your offering using online bill-pay but have additional questions, please contact Wendi Barry, our Finance Chair, for assistance.

Wondering how the church handles cancellations for inclement weather?

First and most importantly: in the event of poor weather, please make wise choices about your own travel decisions—your safety is of utmost importance!

In the rare event that we need to cancel a planned program or service, we would post the cancellation on our church's Facebook page, and would record the news on our church's answering machine. Call the church (908-277-1700) and listen to the recorded message,

or check out any updates on Facebook.

Be safe, for you are beloved!







MUSIC NOTES

Joanne Teubner Prussak, Music Director

Our **Christmas Concert** will be on **Sunday, December 16 at 3:00 pm**. All of our choirs; Chancel Choir, Contemporary Ensemble, Bell Choir, Singing Believers, soloists and instrumentalists will be sharing their gifts of music. Please enjoy the music of the season and support our music makers.

Our **Singing Believers** will be singing at the Christmas Concert Sunday, December 16. There will be a **dress rehearsal on December 15 at 1:00 pm in the sanctuary.** Our regular rehearsals are on Saturdays at 1:00 pm. The Youth Choir is also preparing for our **December 23 Pageant and 5:00pm Christmas Eve worship.**

Our **Bell Choir** will be ringing at our concert and at Christmas Eve worship at 5:00 pm. **Dress rehearsal on Saturday, December 15 at 12:00 pm in the Sanctuary.**

The **Contemporary Ensemble** is preparing music for the Christmas Concert and Christmas Eve worship. **Dress rehearsal on Saturday, December 15 at 12:30 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 11:00 am on Saturday, December 15.**

Our wonderful **instrumental soloists as well as vocal soloists** will share the sounds of this blessed season.

Additional rehearsals for **Saturday, December 15** (for Concert Preparation):

11:00 am – Chancel Choir

12:00 pm – Bell Choir

12:30 pm – Contemporary Ensemble

1:00 pm – Singing Believers

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



The Summit United Methodist Church music ministry has been invited to participate in Advent Sing Vienna during the Advent season of 2020. Specifically December 3-7, 2020. The choir attending would be offered the opportunity to share their musical talent with enthusiastic audiences performing in several historic and stunning halls, churches and palaces, as well as local schools and senior homes in Vienna during this week while enjoying the fellowship and camaraderie of other choirs from around the world who are also participating. In addition there are marvelous sightseeing opportunities on this tour for those attending. Both singers as well as family members and non-singing attendees are invited and welcome to attend.

For more information please review the accompanying pages for a description of the opportunity.

Basic Info For You

Departure from US: Wednesday December 2, 2020

Festival Dates: Thursday December 3, 2020 to Sunday December 6, 2020

Return to US: Monday: December 7, 2020

Required number of attendees: We need a minimum of 30 attendees as that's the minimum a charter bus for the tour requires. Can be any combination of performers and tourists. Attendees do not have to be members of the Summit UMC community.

Cost of the trip: There are two separate costs involved: 1) Cost for attending the festival and 2) the airfare to travel to/from Vienna.

Vienna Festival Cost: \$1,275 for 2019 festival. Estimated similar cost to slightly higher cost for 2020.

What's included in this fee:

- Tour bus and transportation to all performances and venues on the tour
- Almost all meals
- Lodging: double occupancy lodging with an extra charge for single occupancy rooms.
- A dedicated tour operator who accompanies the group
- Tour handbook

Airfare: This will depend on airfare costs at the time of booking, but currently \$1,200-\$1,300 per person round trip. We have been advised to budget \$1,300 to \$1,500 per person for a trip two years from now from Newark/JFK. It may be possible to find less expensive airfare, but this was the festival's coordinators advice.

Total Cost: Double occupancy lodging plus airfare: \$2,500 to \$2,800 per person depending on airfare. Add about \$350 to the total cost for single occupancy lodging. Does not include any costs for tourist incidentals such as souvenirs, snacks or other events the group may want to participate outside the formal tour.

Financial Resources: The church is unable to budget financial support for this trip. However, it is possible that the music ministry may hold fundraising events to defray some of the costs for the group. This fundraising is not guaranteed so each participant must be prepared to bear the entire cost of the tour plus airfare.

Required Deposit: In order to gauge interest and commitment we need to secure a \$50 **deposit from each attendee by February 1, 2019.** In the event UMC can't obtain the minimum 30 participants by February 1, 2019, this deposit will be refunded.

Other requirements: A valid passport for travel that does not have an expiration date sooner than June 10, 2021.

General Information Vienna Advent Sing December 2-7 2020

Vienna is where Mozart found inspiration, Strauss wrote his famous waltzes, and Beethoven, Schoenberg, Berg, Haydn, Schubert, Liszt, and Bruckner lived and performed for decades. Now it is your turn! Join the International Advent Sing in Vienna and share your choir's repertoire in this incredible city of music and culture!

Perform concerts in Vienna's prestigious City Hall, where Strauss first presented the waltz to the world and where Pavarotti, Carreras, and Domingo performed. Sing in the gilded Abbey of Melk, considered the most stunning example of Baroque architecture in Europe, and share holiday songs at the festive Christmas market in front of Schönbrunn Palace, where a seven-year-old Mozart played for Empress Maria Theresa. Become part of a quintessential European Advent season!

Exchange with other choirs attending the festival from around the world, and hear their unique musical presentations. Soak up the ambiance and magic of the season as you stroll the festively adorned streets of the city and browse the many Christmas markets for souvenirs and specialty items from Austria. Enjoy a traditional dinner in the 800-year-old wine village of Gumpoldskirchen.

Take this opportunity to bring your choir to the home of classical music in Europe and add your voices to this festive celebration of the holiday season.

Schedule Overview

WEDNESDAY, December 2, DEPARTURE FROM NORTH AMERICA

THURSDAY, December 3 | ARRIVAL IN VIENNA AND WELCOME DINNER

FRIDAY, December 4 | CONCERT IN SENIOR CENTER OR SCHOOL, SIGHTSEEING

SATURDAY, December 5 | CONCERT IN THE FESTIVAL HALL OF THE VIENNA CITY HALL, SIGHTSEEING

SUNDAY, December 6 | CONCERT AT MELK ABBEY AND CLOSING CEREMONY

MONDAY, December 7 | DEPARTURE



Advent Sing Vienna 2020 Individual Application Due by February 1, 2019

Please complete the following application and return it with with a \$50 deposit per attendee in cash or check made out to "Summit United Methodist Church". Return this application to Polly in the church either in person or mail to the church to her attention. Please submit no later than February 1, 2019.

Your Name:
Best Email Address:
Best Phone Number:
Address, City, State, Zip:
Name(s) of Performers:
Name(s) of tourists not performing:
I am submitting a deposit of \$50 per person with this application with the understanding that it will be applied to the costs for the people listed above and will be refunded to me if UMC does not have enough participants to attend the festival.
TOTAL DEPOSIT AMOUNT:
TODAYS DATE:



FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

COOKIE WALK AND HOLIDAY BAZAAR

Saturday, December 1, 10:00am - 4:00pm

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!

POTLUCK LUNCHEON AND TALENT SHOW

Sunday, December 2, 11:30am

Our celebration does not end with the *Hanging of the Greenery* service! Let's gather in the Social Hall after the service for a Potluck Luncheon and Talent Show. Family, friends and visitors are welcome!

ADVENT SIP (tea!) AND PAINT

Sunday, December 9, 12:30pm

Come, relax and paint to gentle music. Enjoy fellowship with church family and friends. Bring your own lunch or enjoy the refreshments provided. Please RSVP by December $7^{\rm th}$.

CAROLING ON THE POINT

Sunday, December 23, 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.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT AND POTLUCK DINNER

Sunday, December 23, 5:00pm

Come experience the joy of the season as children tell the story of Jesus' birth in simple reading and songs. The pageant takes place in the Sanctuary and will be followed by a simple potluck dinner. All are welcome!

OPEN MIC NIGHT

Friday, December 28, 2018, Doors open at 8:00pm (in the 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.

The United Methodist Church Renewal Group is hosting....

(tea!)

An Advent Season Sip-n-Paint

o Come and relax. Embrace your inner Picasso! o Absolutely no painting talent what-so-ever preferred!

o Think ...



Christmas present for some lucky person!

Sunday December 9th, 12:30 to 3:00

Bring your own bag lunch - some healthy light refreshments will be available.

In the spirit of making our hearts a manger, ready to receive Jesus, our time will be spent painting in a follow-along-style for those who would like some structure, while others are invited to enjoy the painting time in any way that feels relaxing and restorative.

We will have gentle music and fellowship with our church friends and family.

ALL ARE WELCOME

Please RSVP by December 7th by contacting the church office (<u>VMCofSummit@gmail.com</u>, 908-277-1700) or by adding your name to the sign-up sheet in the Social Hall so that we can anticipate our need for supplies.

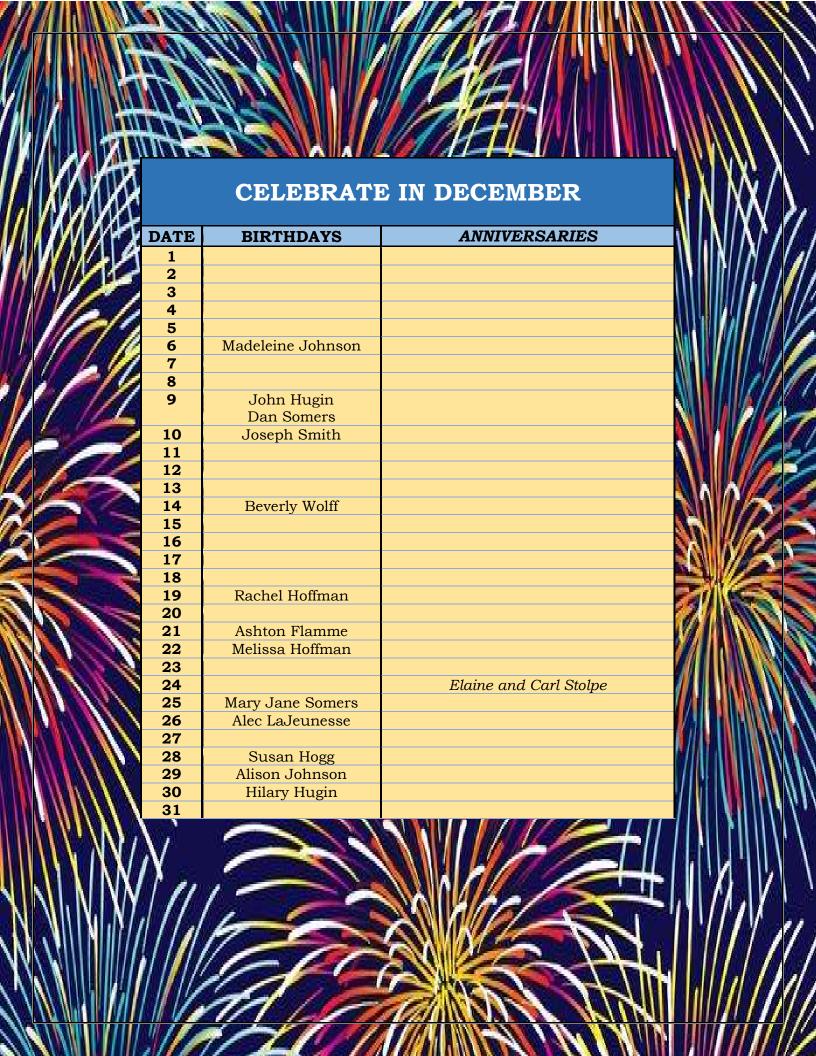
CHANCEL FLOWERS

at Christmas 2018

Contributions for Christmas Flowers will be taken until Sunday, December 16th. 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"*.





DECEMBER 2018

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

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY		
SUNDAY SCHEDULE: 9:30am - Sunday Sch 9:30am - Chancel Cha 10:30am - Worship		11:30am – Refreshments and Fellowship 11:45am – Bell Choir 12:15pm – Contemporary Ensemble				Cookie Walk 10am - 4:00pm (Social Hall) Singing Believers -		
Hanging of the Greenery (talent/potluck show to follow) Came to Believe – 8:30am (Chapel)	Ad Council Meeting - 7:30pm (Fellowship Room)	4	Taize Prayer Service - 7:00pm (Chapel)	Knitting Ministry 1:00pm (Fellowship Room)	Knitting Ministry 7:00pm (Fellowship Room)	8 Singing Believers - 12:30pm		
Sip and Paint – 12pm Service of Comfort 7:00pm (Chapel)	10	11	12	Knitting Ministry 1:00pm (Fellowship Room)	Knitting Ministry 7:00pm (Fellowship Room)	Singing Believers - 12:30pm		
Christmas Concert 3:00pm	17	18	19	20 Lunch and Learn – 12:00pm Knitting Ministry 1:00pm (Fellowship Room)	21 Knitting Ministry 7:00pm (Fellowship Room)	Singing Believers - 12:30pm		
Caroling on the Point – after worship Christmas Pageant – 5pm (Sanctuary) followed dinner in the Social Hall	Christmas Eve Services – 5pm and 9pm	Christmas Day- Office is Closed	26	Knitting Ministry 1:00pm (Fellowship Room)	28 Knitting Ministry 7:00pm (Fellowship Room) Open Mic Night – 8pm (Social Hall)	Singing Believers - 12:30pm		
30	31	Merry Christmas!						