THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF SUMMIT

17 Kent Place Boulevard • Summit, NJ 07901

THE DIALOGUE February 2019



THE STAFF
Shawn Callender Hogan, Senior Pastor
JoAnne Teubner Prussak, Director of Music
Roy Christensen, Property Manager
Polly del Campo, Office Administrator

Telephone: 908-277-1700 E-mail: umcofsummit@gmail.com

Facebook: UnitedMethodistChurchofSummit/

Web Site: www.umcsummit.org

WHAT'S INSIDE

FROM THE PASTOR	Page 3 - 10
MUSIC NOTES	Page 11
FOR YOUR INFORMATION	Page 12
"To Do" List	Page 13
BIRTHDAYS	Page 14
MONTHLY CALENDAR	Page 15

Dear Beloved Church Family;

As you are aware, ministry in the United Methodist Church is an itinerant ministry, meaning that clergy are appointed to a church for a season.

A few days ago I learned that on July 1st, 2019, I will be appointed as the Pastor of the First United Methodist Church of Oakhurst, New Jersey. A new season of ministry will unfold for you and for me. It has been an honor to serve in your midst for eleven years, and in that time I have enjoyed the many discoveries that God has provided.

Over the next few months, our Staff Parish Relations Committee will be working with our District Superintendent as the Bishop and Cabinet identify your next Pastor. Such discernment is blanketed in prayer and wisdom. The Committee will keep you up to date on any details and will guide you in ways to make sure the transition is smooth and joy-filled.

The scriptures portray God as something of a Pilgrim—steadfastly at our side throughout all of life's seasons.

This Divine Pilgrim walks with us when the way is unfamiliar and when we come to unexpected turns in the road.

We will trust this traveling companion as we make our way into the months ahead, grateful for what God has accomplished in our time together.

Peace,
Shawn Callender Hogan
Pastor

Pastoral Transitions in the United Methodist Church

The recent news of Pastor Hogan's move to another church has sparked a number of questions, primarily around the role of the local church in such times of change.

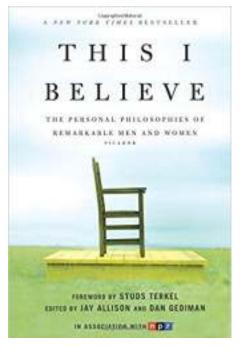
In the UMC, pastors are seen as something of a mission team, sent into the field as and where needed. We have an itinerant system, understanding that movement is a natural and healthy part of our reality.

In our denomination, pastors are appointed by the Bishop: they are not hired by the church and they are not identified by a search committee. Local churches do, however, have an important voice in the consultation process, through a number of avenues. Each year the Staff Parish Relations Committee provides an updated Church Profile, outlining the nature of the church and its ministry, its gifts and its needs.

In seasons of transition, the District Superintendent meets with the Staff Parish Relations Committee and reviews the Profile to gain full clarity on the leadership most needed in this season, and includes insights from that form and conversation in the discernment process.

The District Superintendent joins with other Superintendents and the Bishop to prayerfully identify the pastor best suited for the church in the current season. Said candidate is introduced to the Staff Parish Relations Committee and, presuming there is no missional reason identified that would prohibit fruitful ministry together, the Staff Parish then shares word with the congregation.

FROM THE PASTOR



"This I Believe"

This month as I drive I have been listening to recordings of NPR's "This I Believe" series.

Reaching back across decades and stretching into the present time, the series invites us to hear responses from persons (unknown or famous, past or present) reflecting on their personal philosophies.

Each writer names in simple terms the core principles that guide their life. Each reflection lasts only 3 or 4 minutes, forcing the writer to be focused in their reflection. The writers vary greatly: students, parents, athletes, homemakers, politicians, musicians, and more.

As the introduction to the series notes:

"There is risk in what they did: they wrote of their most closely held convictions and then spoke them on a radio to an audience of millions in a media climate that tends toward sound-bites, potshots and spin."

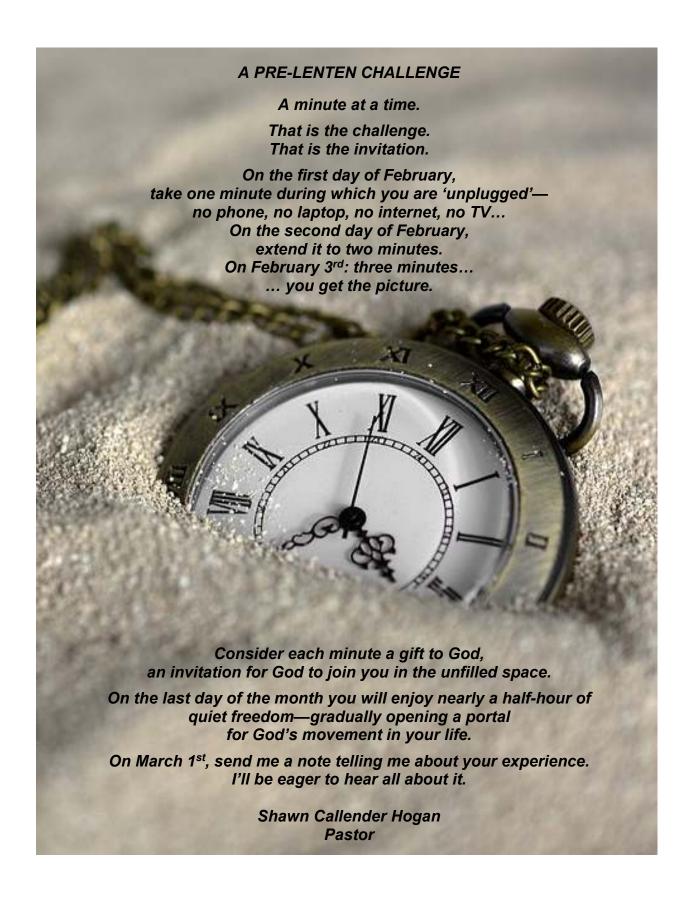
As the authors take these risks, the listener has one's own work, accepting the strenuous task of "Quiet listening to the beliefs of others without rebuttal or criticism."

What are the core principles that frame <u>your</u> life? Are there particular experiences that have framed your beliefs? What opportunities do you have to simply listen to others sharing what they believe?

I offer two invitations:

- 1) Jot down some notes that would, if invited, be the framework of your own "This I Believe" statement. Perhaps start with a list of 2 or 3 core values that are fundamental to your life. Find someone with whom you can share your notes.
- 2) **Join me on Sunday, February 10 from 9:30 10:15 am**; we will listen to a few of your choices of the varied recordings and share in whatever conversation they spark!

Shawn Callender Hogan Pastor



Safety in Houses of Worship

Recently the Summit Police Department, in conjunction with the Summit Interfaith Council, hosted a seminar to better equip the community when faced with an "active shooter" scenario.

The program was designed and presented by Lieutenant Rick Proctor of the Summit Police Department.
The program, while catering in part to houses of worship, is very similar to the training received by teachers in the Summit school system. Our pastor and three of our congregants attended the seminar on behalf of our church.

Houses of worship are unique when it comes to securing facilities and occupants. Where school doors and many workplaces are locked and monitored by a security person, church doors typically remain open and welcoming. We carefully seek to maintain both safety and hospitality.

One important insight shared at the seminar was the need to adjust our mindset regarding what to do when faced with an emergency like an "active shooter". Gone are the days of "duck & cover" as this practice presents passive targets for people who would inflict harm. Lieutenant Proctor explained that we need to follow our fight-flight response in an effort to minimize casualties. As our representatives de-briefed the presentation that evening, the thought was to share with you a video that illustrated the recommended response to such a scenario. A portion of this video was included in the program we attended and is intended to better prepare us all. The video may be found at:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5VcSweiU2D0

Some other helpful suggestions:

While dialing 9-1-1 in an emergency is certainly easy to remember, dialing the local police emergency number may result in a quicker response by local authorities. Lieutenant Proctor suggests adding your local police emergency number to the contacts of your cell phone. In Summit that number would be (908) 273-0051.

When you find yourself in a situation that just doesn't feel quite right, please contact the police. They are there to help; always err on the side of caution.

Our shared attentiveness to our surroundings is a strong deterrent to unwelcome danger, and it serves well to create an atmosphere of welcome as well as safety.

THE NEXT PAGE PROVIDES AN ACTIVE THREAT INCIDENT RESPONSE CHECKLIST.

Summit Police Department Active Threat Incident Response Checklist



EVACUATE THE AREA:

- Only when safe to do so
- Run away from the sound of gunfire
- Encourage others to go with you
- If others refuse to go with you, leave them for your own safety
- Help disabled, elderly, etc.
- Dissuade others from running toward the gunfire

SECURE IMMEDIATE AREA:

- Lock and barricade doors
- Turn off lights
- Turn off radios & computer monitors
- Keep occupants calm, quiet & out of sight
- Keep yourself out of sight & take adequate cover/protection
- Use cover to protect yourself from bullets (concrete walls, thick desks, filing cabinets)
- Silence cell phones
- Remain in secure location until police find you

CONTACTING AUTHORITIES:

- Use Emergency 911 (landline or cell*)
- Use Summit Police Department direct line (908-273-0051) from cell or landline

*911 cell phone calls may be directed first to other police agency and then transferred to local authorities.

WHAT TO REPORT:

- Your specific location building name & office/room number
- Number of people at your specific location
- Injuries number injured, types of injuries
- Assailant(s) information location, number of assailants, identity if known, race, gender, clothing descriptions, physical features, types of weapons (long gun or hand gun), separate explosions from gunfire, etc.

POLICE RESPONSE:

OBJECTIVE:

- Save lives
- Immediately engage assailant(s)
 - Stop the assault
 - Evacuate victims
 - Facilitate follow-up medical care, interviews, counseling
 - Investigation

Sunday, February 24, 2019 10:30 a.m. Worship Service



An Introduction:

(resource: The United Methodist Book Of Worship)

All healing is of God.

Scripture strongly affirms ministries of spiritual healing, which in recent years have received renewed emphasis throughout Christ's holy Church.

The root of the word *healing* in New Testament Greek, *sozo*, is the same as that of *salvation* and *wholeness*.

God works to offer persons balance, harmony, and wholeness of body, mind, spirit, and relationships, seeking reconciliation between God and humanity, among individuals and communities, within each person, and between humanity and the rest of creation. The Church's healing ministry in no way detracts from the gifts God gives through medicine and psychotherapy. It is no substitute for either medicine or the proper care of one's health. Rather, it adds to our total resources for wholeness.

Healing is not magic, but underlying it is the great mystery of God's love. God does not promise that we shall be spared suffering but does promise to be with us in our suffering. Trusting that promise, we are enabled to recognize God's sustaining presence in pain, sickness, injury, and estrangement.

A Service of Healing is not necessarily a service of curing, but it provides an atmosphere in which God's presence and healing can become known. The greatest healing of all is the reunion or reconciliation of a human being with God. For the Christian the basic purpose of spiritual healing is to renew and strengthen one's relationship with the living Christ.

On Sunday, February 24, 2019 our service of worship will focus on God's healing presence, and will include the opportunity for any so inclined to receive anointing with olive oil, as an act of God's touch.



Looking for a simple way to make a difference?

On the first Sunday of each month we collect nonperishable food items to be donated to St. Teresa's Loaves and Fishes food pantry.

We collect about 4 - 6 bags of food each month.

We are looking for someone willing to deliver the items each month—at a time that works for you!

Interested? Willing?
Contact Pastor Hogan to offer your time and energy!

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

"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 1:00pm 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:

OPEN MIC NIGHT

Friday, February 22, 2019

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 <u>umcopenmicnight@gmail.com</u> 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.

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Attention Graduating Seniors:

The United Methodist Church offers two scholarships for graduating students who will be attending an institution for higher education in the fall. These scholarships have been made possible by the compassion of Ms. Evelyn Welsh and Ms. Mildred Wyckoff. To apply for a scholarship you need to submit the following by **April 30th**:

- A two page essay highlighting your community, church and school involvement. Please also explain your economic need.
- **Proof of enrollment** from the university/college you will be attending in the fall.

Applications can be submitted to the church office or by email to noellebenton1@gmail.com

For additional United Methodist scholarship opportunities, visit this website.

GNJ scholarships:

https://www.gnjumc.org/higher-education-and-campus-ministries/2019-scholarship-opportunities

FEBRUARY "To Do" List: **MEETINGS:** Outreach Committee -2/10Ad Council -2/11MINISTRY: Came to Believe – 2/3 Taize Service – 2/6 Service of Healing -2/24Loaves and Fishes donations accepted the first Sunday of each month **Knitting Ministry** – Thursdays and Fridays AND MORE: "This I Believe" -2/10Open Mic Night -2/22



FEBRUARY 2019

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
SUNDAY SCHEDULE: 9:30am - Sunday Sch 9:30am - Chancel Cha 10:30am - Worship		11:30am – Refreshmer 11:45am – Bell Choir 12:15pm – Contempore			Knitting Ministry 7:00pm (Fellowship Room)	Singing Believers 1:00pm
Came to Believe 8:30am (Chapel)	4	5	6 Taize Prayer Service - 7:00pm (Chapel)	Knitting Ministry 1:00pm (Fellowship Room)	Knitting Ministry 7:00pm (Fellowship Room)	Singing Believers 1:00pm
Outreach Committee Meeting - 8:30am (Fellowship Room) "This I Believe" Study - 9:30am (Fellowship Room)	Ad Council Meeting - 7:30pm (Fellowship Room)	12	13	Knitting Ministry 1:00pm (Fellowship Room)	Knitting Ministry 7:00pm (Fellowship Room)	Singing Believers 1:00pm
17	18	19	20	Knitting Ministry 1:00pm (Fellowship Room)	22 Knitting Ministry 7:00pm (Fellowship Room) Open Mic Night – 8pm (Social Hall)	Singing Believers 1:00pm
Service of Healing	25	26	27	Knitting Ministry 1:00pm (Fellowship Room)		