

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

# **THE DIALOGUE**

## **December 2019**



### **CHURCH STAFF**

**Christina Lelache**, *Pastor*

**JoAnne Teubner Prussak**, *Director of Music*

**Roy Christensen**, *Property Manager*

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How do you mark the beginning of the Christmas season? Once Thanksgiving is over, my family and I quickly move into decorating for Christmas. The Christmas tree, outside lights, and other decorations go up as we begin discussing what cookies we'll bake and what holiday activities we want to make sure we do this year. One of my favorite preparations, however, is putting together my Christmas playlist, full of seasonal favorites, holiday classics, modern spins on traditional Christmas hymns, and new songs and albums recently released that year. I usually spend a little bit of time over the Thanksgiving holiday updating the list so it's ready to go as we begin our decorating.



Whatever your holiday traditions may be, music is an essential part of our preparations and celebrations. Even though decorations and store displays go up long before Thanksgiving, when the radio stations switchover to Christmas music by the end of Thanksgiving, it is a reminder that we have entered into a new season, complete with its own soundtrack to accompany our hopes for what the season will bring.

Likewise, the scripture passages traditionally read during the liturgical season of Advent are full of prophets announcing that a new season was beginning—one in which God would not be removed from the concerns and cares of humanity, but intimately present in a new way to do a new thing. In much the same way that favorite Christmas songs get us ready for the Christmas season, Advent helps us to prepare for the mystery of the incarnation in our lives today. Our Advent preparations also come with their own soundtrack, and even as we sing along to familiar seasonal favorites sung by Bing Crosby, Harry Connick, Jr., and Mariah Carey, we also sing hymns that express our longing for God and our hope in Jesus' birth.

One of the beautiful reminders of the Christmas message is that the sacred is present in the ordinary, even surprising, places of our world—a promise that held true in a Bethlehem stable many years ago, and a promise that holds true for us today. Honoring that spirit, we're going to pair together secular and sacred music with traditional Advent scriptures as we look again at the promises hoped for in Jesus' birth and where they are present in our midst. In addition to this focus in worship, we have many other opportunities coming up this month to help us prepare, watch, and hope for God-with-us. I am excited to journey with you in this special and sacred season!

Deep blessings,  
Pastor Christina

## **Worship Highlights**

**December 1, 2019** — 1st Sunday of Advent  
"Step Into Christmas"  
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

**December 8, 2019** — 2nd Sunday of Advent  
"Do You Hear What I Hear?"  
Isaiah 11:1-10 & Isaiah 54:10

**December 15, 2019** — 3rd Sunday of Advent  
"White Christmas"  
Isaiah 35:1-10

**December 22, 2019** — 4th Sunday of Advent  
"O Little Town of Bethlehem"  
Matthew 1:18-25

**December 29, 2019**  
Guest Preacher

### **New Sermon Series — "Songs of the Season"**

Nothing gets us ready for the holidays like Christmas music, just as the season of Advent, in the church, prepares us for the wonderful story of Jesus' birth. Familiar carols help us to feel that the season has truly arrived, giving us a glimpse into the heart of the Christmas message. In this series, we will pair popular Christmas songs and traditional Advent scriptures in order to help prepare our hearts and minds to be not only fully present for the miracle celebrated on Christmas Eve, but to also be present to where God is fulfilling these promises in our midst.

### **Blue Christmas Service — December 8**

On Sunday, December 8, all are invited to a special holiday service designed for those for whom the holidays might be difficult. If you have undergone a loss, transition, or life change, please join us in sharing and hearing prayers, scriptures, and music that acknowledge that God's presence is also for those who mourn and struggle, and that God's light shines in every season of our lives. The service begins at 7pm in the Chapel.

### **Christmas Eve Services**

Join us for an inspiring night of worship as we celebrate the wonder of Christmas! Our family-friendly Children's Service is at 5 pm, and offers carols and a lively retelling of the first Christmas Eve. The beauty and hope of the Christmas story is shared through music and candlelight during our traditional service at 9pm. We look forward to celebrating the wonder of Christmas with you!



# Get into the Spirit!

## HANGING OF THE GREENERY – DECEMBER 1

In Advent, we use symbols such as candles, evergreens and wreaths to proclaim our belief in God's unending light and life. Join us in worship on the first Sunday of Advent, December 1, as we decorate our worship space with these symbols of our hope. If you are interested in taking part, please let Pastor Christina know at [clelache@umcsummit.org](mailto:clelache@umcsummit.org).

## COOKIE WALK & HOLIDAY BAZAAR – DECEMBER 7

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! Please contact the church if you are interested in being a vendor. Begins at **10:00am** in the Social Hall.

## POTLUCK LUNCHEON AND TALENT SHOW – DECEMBER 8

This year our talent show **is on Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>** immediately following the service. Sign-up sheets for the talent show and potluck will be in the Social Hall. Everyone is welcome and we look forward to a great turn out! Any questions, contact Debbi Picorale; Shela Waldron or Faye Cunningham, for Talent Show: Coordinators: Faye Cunningham [Fayeandian@comcast.net](mailto:Fayeandian@comcast.net) and Kim Goldman [kymburlig@comcast.net](mailto:kymburlig@comcast.net).

## CHRISTMAS CONCERT – DECEMBER 15

**At 3:00pm in the Sanctuary.**

The Christmas Concert features our *Chancel Choir, Handbell Choir, Youth and Contemporary Ensembles* sharing joyful music. Professional instrumental and vocal soloists will offer beautiful arrangements for the Christmas season. Following the concert everyone is invited to gather for a reception in the Social Hall.

## CHRISTMAS CAROLING – DECEMBER 22

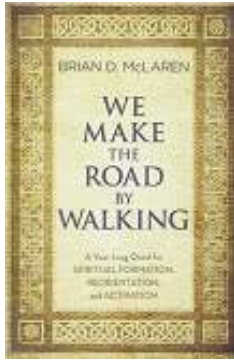
**After worship, on the Point.**

Get into the holiday 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.



### ALTAR FLOWER ARRANGEMENT

If you like the altar arrangement **Circle 3** is collecting contributions for a spring/summer arrangement. Please leave your donation at the church office.



### LUNCH & LEARN BIBLE STUDY

Take your lunch break with us as we grow together! The group will meet **Tuesdays from 12:00 - 12:45pm** in the Conference Room. No advance prep is necessary—bring your lunch or just join us for the study. The group will be working through *We Make the Road by Walking* by Brian McLaren. If you are interested, or would like a copy of the book, please contact Pastor Christina at [clelache@umcsummit.org](mailto:clelache@umcsummit.org).

### CHAPEL AVAILABLE FOR INDIVIDUAL PRAYER

Need a space to pray, reflect, rest, or worship during the week? Our chapel is available to all in need of such space. The chapel is open for individual prayer during church office hours (M-F, 9am-3pm). Those wishing to practice music or use the piano may use the chapel between 9am-12pm Monday to Friday.

### OPEN MIC NIGHT – DECEMBER 27

**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](mailto: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", a vital ministry of care for those in great need located at St. Teresa's Roman Catholic Church, Summit, NJ.

You can also leave bags in the kitchen (on the steps to the pantry) at any time.

### LIKE AND FOLLOW OUR CHURCH'S FACEBOOK PAGE

Be sure to like The United Methodist Church of Summit on Facebook! Our page shares reminders about upcoming activities and events, updates about our ministries, and other stories and resources to nourish your faith. It's a great way to stay connected with the church wherever you are!

### WEEKLY EMAIL

Are you signed up to receive our weekly email? The email contains the latest information on upcoming events, worship notes, and other timely and important information. Please be sure to subscribe so you can stay up to date on what's happening in the life of the church. Send an email to Polly at [Office@umcsummit.org](mailto:Office@umcsummit.org) to get on our email list today!



# Sing For Joy



## MUSIC NOTES

Joanne Teubner Prussak, *Music Director*

Our **Christmas Concert** will be on **Sunday, December 15 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. There will be a **dress rehearsal on December 14 at 1:30 pm in the sanctuary**. Our regular rehearsals are on Saturdays at 1:30 pm.

Our **Bell Choir** will be ringing at our concert. The **dress rehearsal will be on Sunday, December 15 at 9:15am**.

The **Contemporary Ensemble** is preparing music for the Christmas Concert and Christmas Eve worship. **Dress rehearsal on Sunday, December 15 at 9:00 am**.

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 9:30 am on Sunday, December 15** with the **final combined rehearsal at 2:15pm in the Sanctuary**.

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

Additional rehearsals for **December 15**  
(for concert preparation):

9:00am – Contemporary Ensemble  
9:15am – Bell Choir  
9:30am – Chancel Choir  
2:15pm – Combined Rehearsal  
3:00pm – Concert

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

We will be blessed by two professional vocal soloists, **April Martin**, Soprano, and **Adelmo Guidarelli**, Baritone. Come hear their outstanding voices!



**The United Methodist Church  
of Summit  
Presents**

**A CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

**Sunday, December 15th at 3:00pm**

**17 Kent Place Boulevard**

**Summit, New Jersey**

*reception to follow*

*Featuring the choirs of the church  
as well as professional soloists  
under the direction of  
Joanne Teubner Prussak, Director of Music.*

For more information  
please contact the church office at 908-277-1700



## Calling All Bakers!

**THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF SUMMIT**  
is hosting its

# 4<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL COOKIE WALK

on

**Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

For the Holiday Bazaar

### **WE ARE LOOKING FOR DONATIONS OF:**



*Homemade cookies (varieties encouraged)*



*At least 5 dozen or more for each recipe  
(Just double your favorite recipe)*

### **DELIVER ALL COOKIES ON:**

**Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

*to the UMCS kitchen with the words "Cookie Walk"  
and the type of cookie on them.*

*Please tell your friends and post on your social media.  
Looking forward to a great turn out!*

Thank you in advance for your help!

Any questions please contact Kim Goldman at [Kymburlig@comcast.net](mailto:Kymburlig@comcast.net)



## **CHANCEL FLOWERS** *at Christmas 2019*

***Contributions for Christmas Flowers will be taken until Sunday, December 15th.*** 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:**

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**In Loving Memory of:**

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**In Honor of:**

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# DECEMBER

## *"To Do" List:*

### MEETINGS

**Ad Council** – 12/2 at 7:30pm

### MINISTRY:

**Taize Service** – 12/4 at 7:00pm

**Came to Believe Service** – 12/8 at 8:30am

**Loaves and Fishes** –

Donations accepted on the first Sunday of each month

**Knitting Ministry** – Thursdays at 1:00pm  
Fridays at 7:00pm

### AND MORE:

**Bible Study** – Tuesdays at 12:00pm

**Hanging of the Greenery** – 12/1

**Cookie Walk and Holiday Bazaar** – 12/7 at 10:00am

**Talent Show and Potluck Supper** – 12/8

**Blue Christmas Service** – 12/8 at 7:00pm

**Christmas Concert** – 12/15 at 3:00pm

**Christmas Caroling** – 12/22 after Worship

**Christmas Eve Services** – 12/24 5:00pm and 9:00pm

**Open Mic Night** – 12/27, doors open at 8:00pm



## CELEBRATE IN DECEMBER

DATE	BIRTHDAYS	ANNIVERSARIES
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6	Madeleine Johnson	
7		
8		
9	John Hugin Dan Somers	
10	Joseph Smith	
11		
12		
13		
14	Beverly Wolf	
15		
16		
17		
18	Noelle Lelache	
19	Rachel Hoffman	
20		
21	Ashton Flamme	
22	Melissa Hoffman	
23		
24		<i>Elaine and Carl Stolpe</i>
25	Mary Jane Somers	
26	Alec LaJeunesse	
27		
28	Susan Hogg	
29	Alison Johnson	
30		
31		

# DECEMBER 2019

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Hanging of the Greenery	2 Ad Council Meeting -7:30pm (Fellowship Room)	3 Bible Study – 12:00pm (Conference Room)	4 Taize Service 7:00pm (Chapel)	5 Knitting Ministry 1:00pm	6 Knitting Ministry 7:00pm	7 Cookie Walk and Holiday Bazaar – 10am (Social Hall)
8 Came to Believe- 8:30am (Chapel)  Talent Show and Potluck supper – after worship (Social Hall)  Blue Christmas Service – 7:00pm (Chapel)	9	10  Bible Study – 12:00pm (Conference Room)	11	12  Knitting Ministry 1:00pm	13  Knitting Ministry 7:00pm	14
15 Christmas Concert - 3:00pm (Sanctuary)	16	17 Bible Study – 12:00pm (Conference Room)	18	19 Knitting Ministry 1:00pm	20 Knitting Ministry 7:00pm	21
22 Christmas Caroling on the Point – after worship	23	24 Bible Study – 12:00pm (Conference Room) Christmas Eve Services – 5pm Family Service and 9pm Candlelight Service	25 <u>Christmas Day Office is Closed</u>	26 Knitting Ministry 1:00pm	27 Knitting Ministry 7:00pm  Open Mic Night – 8:00pm	28
29	30	31 Bible Study – 12:00pm (Conference Room)	SUNDAY SCHEDULE: 9:30am – Sunday School (all grades) 9:30am – Chancel Choir 10:30am – Worship  11:30am – Refreshments and Fellowship 11:45am – Bell Choir 12:15pm – Contemporary Ensemble			