

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

THE DIALOGUE

January 2020



CHURCH STAFF

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Every year, after the decorations are put away and the guests have returned home, we move quickly from Christmas into the new year, back to our regular rhythms and schedules. It's often in this transition time that I see this poem shared on social media, entitled "The Work of Christmas" by Howard Thurman:

"When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations
To bring peace among brothers,
To make music in the heart."



It's a wonderful reminder that even though our Christmas celebrations may be over for another year, the work that God began in the birth of Jesus begins anew. Jesus, in beginning his public ministry many years later, said as much for himself: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me. He has sent me to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the prisoners and recovery of sight to the blind, and to liberate the oppressed, and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor" (Luke 4:18-19). As those who seek to follow Jesus, this becomes our work and calling as well.

Many people often mark the beginning of the new year with resolutions, often personal in nature, to better themselves or seek to make the year ahead better in some way. While it's often a joke that many of these resolutions don't last past January, there's a valuable exercise in pondering what it is we'd like to be about in the year ahead. As Howard Thurman puts it, "Whether the individual is able to carry out in detail the resolution—whether you are able to fulfill the thing that you intend to do—there is a clear gain in being able to bring together all of one's self in a point of focus and say that this is the thing I intend to do tomorrow and tomorrow and tomorrow."

We are moving into a new year in 2020, as well as a new decade. We know that this will be a year marked by divisive politics as we gear up for another election, as well as other unforeseen challenges. We also know that this will be a year with much good, because the hope, peace, love, and joy that God brought at Christmas continues year-round. What is it that you intend to do and be about in 2020? We have a renewed opportunity, in all that lies ahead, to point to God's love, peace, compassion, and joy in our lives.

Take time to ponder Jesus' words and Thurman's poem, as well as what it is that you seek to commit yourself to in the year ahead. I am looking forward to this year of ministry together, and to seeing how God will work in and through us to proclaim good news to a hurting world. May you have a blessed New Year!

Deep Blessings,
Pastor Christina

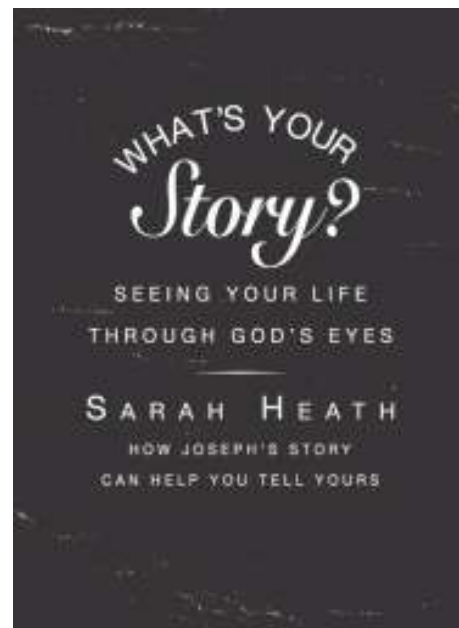
New Sermon Series - "What's Your Story? Finding God's Story in Our Stories"

Stories are a significant part of our lives. They have the power to captivate us, inspire us, move us to tears or laughter, and even change us. Jesus told stories that changed the world, and you have a story worth sharing as well—one that God is working through to tell the greatest story ever told. In this series, looking at a variety of stories from the Bible, we'll look for where God's story shows up in our own stories. **This sermon series will begin Sunday, January 29 in worship!**



New Study: Discovering Our Stories and Seeing Your Life Through God's Eyes

Envision your life as an adventure co-created by God! The story of Joseph in Genesis will be our guide as we learn to reread our own stories and co-create them with God. We're going to look closely at what makes a story great and how you can choose to see your life experiences as part of a larger narrative—the story of God. This small-group study, based on Sarah Heath's book *What's Your Story?: Seeing Your Life Through God's Eyes*, will last **four weeks beginning Sunday, January 26 at 1:00pm**. *Bring your lunch* as we reflect on what kind of story we're living and seeking to live! Please sign up for the class by contacting the church office or emailing Pastor Christina at clelache@umcsummit.org. **Copies of the book will be available for a suggested donation of \$12.**





Came to Believe Service:

For members and friends of the recovery community.

Sunday, January 5, 2020
8:30am (in the Chapel)

THANK YOU FOR A WONDERFUL HOLIDAY BAZAAR!

On Saturday, December 7, 2019 the UMC of Summit held its 4th Annual Holiday Bazaar and Cookie Walk. I am happy to share with all of you that it was a resounding success and we were sold out of cookies before our allotted end time. \$810.00 was raised for our Music Department and the hope is to increase that number next year. That said, I would like to say a hearty 'Thank You' to everyone who worked at the event, who bought cookies and especially everyone who took the time to bake all those amazing cookies that have people coming back each year- yes we have regulars- Thank You, Thank You, Thank You! - Kim Goldman

OUTREACH –

The next meeting for the Outreach Committee in Sunday, January 5, after worship.
New members welcome!



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 1:30pm on Saturdays in the Sanctuary and will resume on Saturday, January 18th.**



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 and will resume on Sunday, January 19th.** 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 and will resume on Sunday, January 19th.



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 and will resume on Sunday, January 19th.**



*Come! There is power and importance
in sharing your faith through music.*



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

SINGING BELIEVERS

Adam Daniel
Vanessa Feltis
Caroline Relf
Oliver Relf

HANDBELL CHOIR

Gregg Buttermore
Adam Daniel
Lucas Daniel
Sarah Daniel
James Goldman
Kim Goldman
Isabel Gonzalez
Ximenita Gonzalez
Lois Honchurak
Adrian Phillips
Dwayne Phillips
Joshua Reyes
Carol Tanner
William Teubner

VOCAL & INSTRUMENTAL SOLOISTS

William Dembaugh, *Tenor*
William Edwards, *Baritone*
Jocelyn Gallinek, *Flute*
Ximenita Gonzalez, *Mezzo Soprano*
Adelmo Guidarelli, *Baritone*
Latonia Hall, *Soprano*
April Martin, *Soprano*

CONTEMPORARY ENSEMBLE

Beverly Alexis
Gregg Buttermore
Ximenita Gonzalez
Dwayne Phillips
Carol Tanner
William Teubner

CHANCEL CHOIR

Soprano

Jean Dembaugh
Margaret Edwards
Amy Grove
Latonia Hall
Carol Tanner
Shela Waldron

Alto

Beverly Alexis
Ximenita Gonzalez

Tenor

Gregg Buttermore
William Dembaugh
Kuda Mtisi

Bass

Thomas Benton
William Edwards
William Glancy
Neil Johnson
Adrian Phillips
Dwayne Phillips
William Teubner

JANUARY

"To Do" List:

MEETINGS

Outreach Committee – 1/5 at 11:30am

MINISTRY:

Came to Believe Service – 1/5 at 8:30am

Taize Service – 1/8 at 7:00pm

Loaves and Fishes –

Donations accepted on the first Sunday of each month

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

AND MORE:

"What's Your Story?" – Beginning 1/26 at 1:00pm

Open Mic Night – 1/31, doors open at 8:00pm

CELEBRATE IN JANUARY

DATE	BIRTHDAYS
1	
2	Dotti Zotti
3	Oliver Relf
4	
5	
6	Caroline Remillard
7	Lucas Daniel
8	
9	Beverly Alexis
10	
11	
12	
13	
14	LuHenley Branson Kim Goldman Toni Hall Shanotte Smith
15	Wendi Barry
16	
17	
18	Laura Dunnder
19	
20	Zoe Rhinehart Andrew Wernsing
21	
22	
23	
24	
25	Christopher Hoffman Claire Schaefer
26	
27	
28	Owen Fern Debbie Vartan
29	
30	Denea Kaup
31	Karen Aird Maryellen Wernsing

JANUARY 2020

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
SUNDAY SCHEDULE: 9:30am – Sunday School 9:30am – Chancel Choir 10:30am – Worship			1 <u>NEW YEAR'S DAY</u> <u>OFFICE IS CLOSED</u>	2 Knitting Ministry 1:00pm	3 Knitting Ministry 7:00pm	4
5 Came to Believe- 8:30am <i>(Chapel)</i> Outreach Committee – 11:30am	6	7 Bible Study – 12:00pm <i>(Conference Room)</i>	8 Taize Service 7:00pm <i>(Chapel)</i>	9 Knitting Ministry 1:00pm	10 Knitting Ministry 7:00pm	11
12	13	14 Bible Study – 12:00pm <i>(Conference Room)</i>	15	16 Knitting Ministry 1:00pm	17 Knitting Ministry 7:00pm	18
19	20	21 Bible Study – 12:00pm <i>(Conference Room)</i>	22	23 Knitting Ministry 1:00pm	24 Knitting Ministry 7:00pm	25
26 “What’s Your Story?” -1:00pm	27	28 Bible Study – 12:00pm <i>(Conference Room)</i>	29	30 Knitting Ministry 1:00pm	31 Knitting Ministry 7:00pm Open Mic Night – 8:00pm	