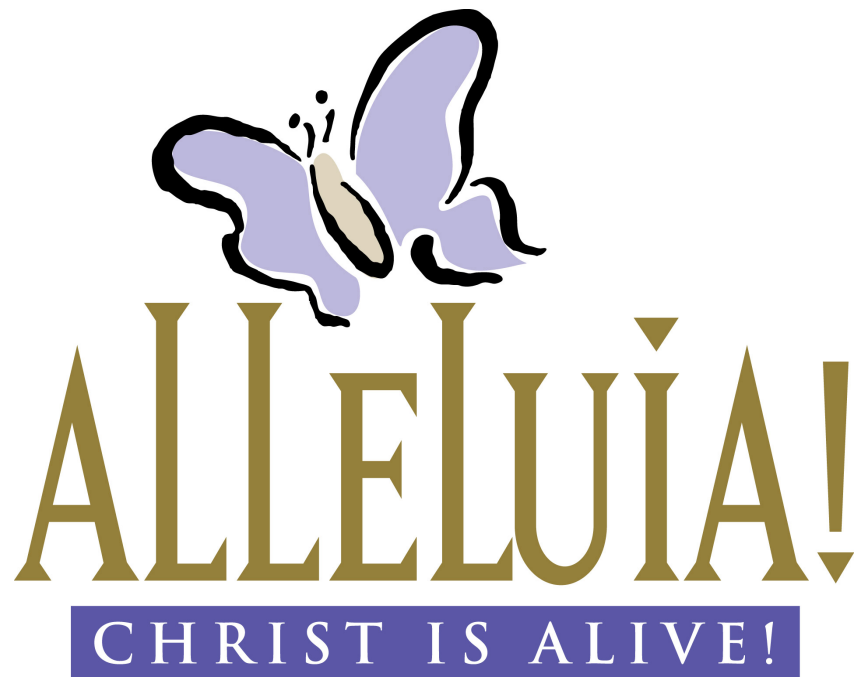


THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF SUMMIT
17 Kent Place Boulevard • Summit, NJ • 07901

THE DIALOGUE

April 2020



CHURCH STAFF

Christina Lelache, *Pastor*

JoAnne Teubner Prussak, *Director of Music*

Roy Christensen, *Property Manager*

Polly del Campo, *Office Administrator*

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Pastoral Letter

"They were saying, 'The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!' Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of bread." — Luke 24:34-35

I always knew my first Holy Week and Easter at UMC Summit would be different from previous years, but I never imagined it would be quite this different. And yet, here we are, unable to gather and celebrate these special and holy days in the ways we're used to, and without the rituals and traditions that make these celebrations even more meaningful.



As I contemplate what Easter will look like as we worship together virtually, I find myself thinking of the Emmaus story in Luke 24—an Easter tale in its own right, as it takes place on the day the women found the tomb empty. Despite having heard from some of the other disciples that Jesus had risen, the disciples walking this road are struggling to comprehend how quickly their world and circumstances have changed. They utter some of the most heartbreaking words in all Scripture: "We had hoped [Jesus] would be the one to save Israel." But it's been three days since he died.

In light of how quickly our world has changed in the past month, as we face health and economic challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, these words feel poignant, if not ones we have uttered ourselves as we try to comprehend what's happened. We had hoped to be celebrating Holy Week and Easter Sunday in person. We had plans and ideas for what spring, even summer, would look like. But suddenly, things feel very different, and not like we had hoped.

The disciples share these dashed hopes and expectations with a stranger on the road—one they later realize to be none other than Jesus, who is indeed risen! In our dashed hopes and expectations, as we struggle to grasp all that has changed and will continue to change, God is not finished, but has something more in store. Easter takes on new meaning this year.

Perhaps you are already finding glimpses of new life in the midst of this situation. Perhaps you are still trying to comprehend all that has happened. Wherever you may be on the road, the resurrection has happened, reminding us that God promises us so much more than uncertainty, fear, and death. We can hope in both the promise and reality of new life. We may not yet be able to see it now, but there will be a moment where we look back and realize just how close God has been to us during these times with the promise of new life.

As we journey this road together, engaging in new rhythms and connecting with one another virtually, name your story. Share what it is you're feeling. Together, as we celebrate the resurrection once more, we'll discover anew that Christ is risen and walking this road with us.

Deep Blessings,
Pastor Christina

HOLY WEEK & EASTER SERVICES

Our Holy Week and Easter services will be offered digitally this year. You can watch them live on our Facebook page (no Facebook account is needed), or call in from your phone to listen.

At-home liturgies and activities for Maundy Thursday and Easter Sunrise will also be offered to enrich your Holy Week celebrations. These items will be distributed via email, so please make sure you are subscribed to our church email list. If you are not receiving emails, contact the church office and get signed up.

Please note: When calling in, the phone number is the same, but the meeting ID varies for each service. Please be sure you are using the correct meeting ID number when calling.

April 5 @ 10:30am: Palm Sunday Worship Service

- Livestream on Facebook
- Join by Phone: 1-646-558-8656
 - Meeting ID: 410-153-133

April 9 @ 7:00pm: Maundy Thursday Worship Service

- Livestream on Facebook
- Join by Phone: 1-646-558-8656
 - Meeting ID: 786 125 919

April 10 @ 7:00pm: Good Friday Tenebrae Service

- Livestream on Facebook
- Join by Phone: 1-646-558-8656
 - Meeting ID: 974 290 263

April 12 @ 10:30am: Easter Worship Service

- Livestream on Facebook
- Join by Phone: 1-646-558-8656
 - Meeting ID: 410-153-133

Please share this information with your family and friends so they can worship with us!

Church Office Updates

As we follow the governor's stay-at-home order, all staff are working remotely. However, we are actively monitoring the office email and voicemail, so please continue to email or call us, and one of our staff will be in touch with you.

Phone Care Team

We want to offer a word of thanks and gratitude for the volunteers who are helping to keep the congregation connected by making phone calls during these days of social distancing. If you have a need or prayer concern, please reach out to the church office so that one of our volunteers or staff can be in touch with you. If you would like to help volunteer as part of this team, please contact Polly at office@umcsummit.org to get started!

New Digital Offerings Being Developed

Pastor Christina is working to develop new digital content and ministry offerings, including an online Bible study. We are sharing these opportunities through weekly emails, so please be sure you are subscribed to the church email list or follow us on Facebook to receive the latest updates. If you do not have email and want to receive a phone call when new opportunities are available, please contact the church office.



Zoom for Group Meetings

Zoom, a video and phone conferencing software, provides options for computer, smartphone and non-smartphone users to remain connected and meet together even when they are in different locations.

If your small group would like to meet virtually, please contact the church office at office@umcsummit.org to get started.



Support the Church with Your Gifts

We are deeply thankful for everyone who is continuing their financial support of the church during this time, especially in light of the economic impacts of the coronavirus. Your continued support helps us sustain our ministries and staffing that are offering hope, encouragement, and connection in these challenging times.

We know that the weeks ahead might be a financially pressing time for your family, and you may not be able to give at the same level for some time. For others who have the ability to work from home with a steady paycheck, we ask that you continue to give, and even consider whether you can fulfill a portion of your annual pledge in advance at this time so that ministry will not be interrupted. In whatever way you are able at this time, please visit umcsummit.org and click the "Give" button on the home page, where you will be taken to a safe and secure page to make a donation or recurring gift. You can also continue to send (via mail) checks to the church. Thank you for your continuing generosity and support!



JOIN US IN WORSHIP:

WATCH THE LIVESTREAM on [Facebook Live](#) or [our website](#) starting at 10:30am.

Click either of the links to view the stream. You don't need a Facebook account to watch! However, if you have an account, be sure to like and follow the church's page so you will receive a notification when the service goes live.

JOIN FROM YOUR PHONE by calling 1-646-558-8656 (Meeting ID: 410 153 133).

No internet or computer accessible? You can call in and listen to the service by using the above number. When prompted, enter the meeting ID followed by the # key. There is no participant ID, so if asked, simply press the # key.

VIRTUAL COFFEE HOUR @ 11:30am

When the service is finished, grab a cup of coffee and join us for a virtual coffee hour as we share in some light conversation and fellowship with one another!

To join by video: <https://zoom.us/j/755718960>

To join by phone: 1-646-558-8656
(Meeting ID: 755 718 960)

STAY CONNECTED:

MIDWEEK PRAYER

In lieu of our Lenten midweek services, there will be a short midweek prayer call on Wednesday evenings at 7:00pm.

To join Wednesday evening by video: <https://zoom.us/j/243446792>
(Meeting ID: 243 446 792)

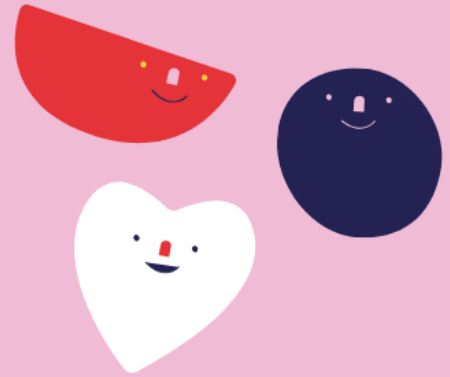
To join Wednesday evening by phone: +1 (646) 558-8656
(Meeting ID: 243 446 792)

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES:

Together We Can Overcome

A call for donations for those in need.

The Covid-19 outbreak and need to stay at home has had many impacts on those in our community. Listed below are ways you can help support those in need during this time.



FOOD COLLECTION FOR GRACE & FAMILY PROMISE

The Summit YMCA is serving as a food and supply collection site to help support GRACE, Family Promise, and other local groups helping to make sure families have the food and supplies they need at this time. If you are out and have the ability to drop off any of the needed supplies, you can find drop-off boxes at the Cedar Street Entrance.

SEW MASKS FOR OVERLOOK HOSPITAL

Overlook Hospital is asking for people to sew masks to be used by those in health care spaces who are not taking care of COVID-19 patients but still may want additional protection. This will allow the professional gear to be used exclusively by those who are at highest risk of exposure.

If you can help, please find video and written instructions for making masks, as well as drop-off locations, by [clicking here](#).



Dear Wonderful Music Makers:

*" Make us true servants, Oh God, to proclaim hope to the weary, to inspire the fearful,
and to witness that in You alone is perfect peace and comfort;
through Jesus Christ, who is our peace" Amen.*

I miss each music maker from our Wesley Choir, Singing Believers, Bell Choir, Contemporary Ensemble, Chancel Choir and Instrumentalists. It is my great privilege that we can work together and praise our Lord and Savior through sacred music.

We need to praise our Lord in our individual homes at this time. All the music we have prepared together is in our hearts and souls. How very blessed we are to be able to find comfort and strength through sacred music.

We hold in our prayers all the brave people caring for our fellow human beings, in all capacities. From our own congregation, in the medical field: Alison Johnson, Emily and Robert Koernig, Lois Honcharuk and our daughter Karen Prussak. We hold you in our prayers and are so proud of you for your caring.

Let us all have courage and look forward to when we can all be together again.

We have an opportunity to communicate through a **Zoom meeting:**

Topic: Chancel Choir

Time: Sundays at 9:30 AM

Join Zoom Meeting <https://zoom.us/j/213133291>

Meeting ID: 213 133 291

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

(Meeting ID: 213 133 291)

On a joyous note "Trumpet" William was blessed with a grandson. His name is Owen Raymond, and he and his mom Christina are doing very well!

Stay strong and let us care for each other in our thoughts and prayers.

With much love,

Joanne

CELEBRATE IN APRIL:



Date

1

Birthdays

Elaine Cederquist-Stolpe

Chris Cunningham

2

Sarah Shuttleworth

3

Joan Bollman

Emily LaJeunesse

4

Betsy Chorpensing

14

Amanda Brown

Ethan Kaup

17

Elizabeth Koernig

18

Valerie DeMartin

19

Hannah Flamme

Kofi Quaynor

20

Steven Rodriguez

Kristine Rodriguez

22

Ian Cunningham

Allie Wernsing

25

Veronica Clark

Graham Relf

26

David Hughes

Debbi Picorale

Anniversaries

1

Stephen and Beverly Brown

7

Greg and Debbie Vartan

17

Dorothy and Mark Koernig

