

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

# **THE DIALOGUE**

## **May 2020**

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

**Roy Christensen**, *Property Manager*

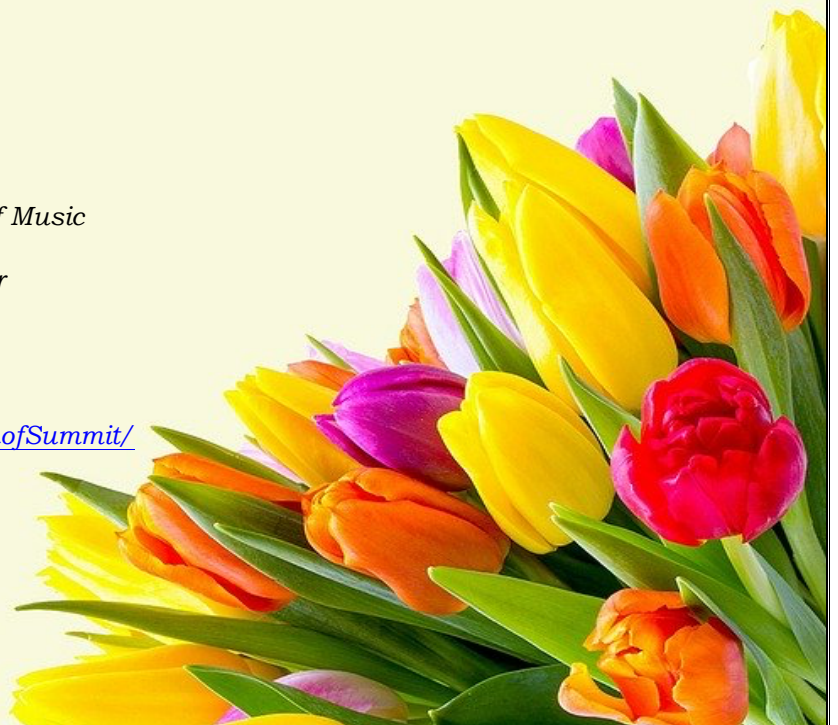
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## From Pastor Christina

Friends,

How is it with your soul? These are challenging times, and I pray each day for you and our community—that you are safe and feel God's presence close to you during these days. When we first made the decision to suspend in-person gatherings at the church, none of us could foresee how long this might last. I'm deeply grateful for your continued support, the ways in which you have adapted to gathering virtually, and how you are caring for each other and those in need in our community. You are good news to your loved ones and neighbors, and we are finding creative ways to be the church together even during a time of physical distancing!

I continue to find deep resonance between the Easter season and our present situation. In John's telling of the story, when Jesus appeared to Mary after the resurrection, she did not recognize him at first. It seems almost hard to imagine, given the time she and the other disciples spent with Jesus. But something about his experience and the resurrection changed his appearance just enough for Mary to have to look more closely. We know resurrection means new life, but this story challenges and invites us to see that a resurrected life does not always look like the life that came before. Mary experienced this with Jesus at the empty tomb, and as we begin to contemplate our new reality and the future ahead of us this year, this is true for us individually and as a church as well.

Although we do not yet know when we will gather again in our building, I am already thinking about what it might look like. It will be gradual, and we will continue to do what we can to ensure the health and well-being of all. Even as we continue to explore the specifics, in consultation with state guidelines and the guidance of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference, what I do know is this. Already, we have adapted to new ways of being the church as we continue to live into our mission of making disciples for the transformation of the world. We are finding ways to care for our community and one another. Things will look different, and we will continue to adapt and do things in new ways, but the heart of our ministry and mission remain the same.

As we contemplate the things that have changed and what might be different moving forward, our new sermon series in May, "Unraveled," will focus on the ways God begins to weave the changes and our experiences into something new. For even though a resurrected life may look different, God's love and grace remain consistent.

Friends, we are still in the Easter season, and every day, we are Easter people. We are people who embrace hope and new life, who practice resurrection amidst the new changes it brings to our life. And we continue to trust that God is with us, that God will see us all through, and that God is doing a new and good thing for all people.

Deep Blessings,  
Pastor Christina



# WORSHIP



## NEW SERMON SERIES BEGINS MAY 3

All of us have experienced unraveling over the past few weeks as our plans, livelihoods, and lifestyles have not gone as planned. Even when things don't go the way we hope they will, unraveling is not always the end we fear it will be. Sometimes unraveling becomes an opportunity, and life surprises us with a new beginning we couldn't have imagined. In this series, we'll explore four biblical stories of unraveling to see not only the different ways God is with us when things unravel, but how God begins to weave the fragments—and us—into something new.



### **May 3:** *Overwhelmed*

- Matthew 14:22-33

### **May 10:** *Weave New Dreams*

- Jeremiah 29:1-7

### **May 17:** *Fresh Start*

- Acts 9:1-20

### **May 24:** *Unexpected Joy*

- Genesis 18:1-15, 21:1-7

## HOLY HUMOR SUNDAY — MAY 24

Join us for a laughter-filled morning as we celebrate Holy Humor Sunday on May 24. Holy Humor Sunday is an ancient Easter tradition, rooted in the musings of early church theologians that God played a practical joke on the devil by raising Jesus from the dead. This Sunday gives us an opportunity to not only release tension as we laugh together, but celebrate the small resurrections we experience in this life.

If you have a favorite, family-friendly joke you would like to share, email a video recording of you giving the joke, or the text of the joke, to Pastor Christina at [clelache@umcsummit.org](mailto:clelache@umcsummit.org). We'll share some of the videos and jokes in worship!

## MIDWEEK PRAYER SERVICE — NEW TIME

Center yourself with a time of prayer on Wednesday afternoons at 12:30pm. This short prayer service consists of scripture, music, and a time of sharing prayer requests.

**To join Wednesday by video:** <https://zoom.us/j/243446792>

(Meeting ID: 243 446 792)

**To join Wednesday by phone:** +1 (646) 558-8656

(Meeting ID: 243 446 792)



### **Watch the livestream on Facebook starting at 10:30am.**

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.

# MISSION



## COLLECT FOOD FOR GRACE

GRACE is now serving more than 500 families each week. Every family who comes to GRACE receives a variety of food and household supplies. In this time of need, GRACE continues to need help with food and other donations.

Requested items are as follows:

Cleaning Supplies	Personal Care Items	Food
Disinfectant spray Clorox wipes Hand sanitizer	Shampoo Soap Lotion Toothpaste Baby wipes Size 3-6 diapers	Dried beans (1lb bags) Rice (1lb bags) Pasta Canned tuna Canned salmon Canned chicken Canned beef

Fresh produce donations are also being accepted Sunday-Tuesday.



The main collection site for GRACE is now located at the UPS store on Union Place in Summit. They are also collecting donations at their headquarters in the Cornog Field House (5 Myrtle Ave, Summit) on Sunday-Tuesday at 1pm.

## FAMILY PROMISE HOSTING UPDATE

We were originally scheduled to host families at the church during the week of May 10. Following Family Promise's safety protocols, in lieu of hosting families, Family Promise is asking for help to provide food and meals for the week of May 10. We are raising funds to help provide this food. To donate, please go to [umcsummit.org/give](https://umcsummit.org/give) and select "Family Promise" from the Fund menu, or send a check to the church with "Family Promise" in the memo line. Please have all donations to the church by Monday, May 4.



## PHONE CARE TEAM

We have a team of volunteers who are helping to keep our congregation connected by making phone calls. 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 volunteer as part of this team, please contact the church office to get started!

## FOOD MINISTRY TEAM

We have a team of volunteers who are helping to deliver groceries and supplies to those in need. If you are unable to get to the store or need help, please reach out to the church office so we can arrange for someone to help.

If you would like to volunteer to shop and make deliveries, please contact the church office.



# CONNECT

## NEW SMALL GROUPS — LAUNCHING EARLY MAY

During this time, it's more important than ever to be in community with others. As we seek to stay connected and support one another in our faith journeys, we will be launching new small groups during the month of May. There will be a few different options throughout the week, and meetings will last no more than an hour. Participants will be able to join by video or by phone.

If you would like to participate in a small group when they launch later this month, please contact Pastor Christina at [clelache@umcsummit.org](mailto:clelache@umcsummit.org) so she can make sure you receive the information on when the groups are meeting and how to join. Group information will also be shared in the weekly "Get Connected" emails.

Also, if you would like to host or put together a small group of your own, please let Pastor Christina know so she can help you get started! You will be provided with materials to help lead and facilitate conversation—all hosts need is a willingness to provide space for people to connect.

## VIRTUAL COFFEE HOUR — EVERY SUNDAY AT 11:30AM

Missing out on the opportunity to chat with others after worship is finished? Bring your own food and join us at our virtual coffee hour! Although the "virtual" room is open for about a half hour, you can stop by to say a quick hello or stay for longer conversation. We'd love to see or hear you!

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

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



## VIRTUAL OPEN MIC NIGHT

While we have not been able to gather in-person, Open Mic Night has moved online! Performers have been sharing recordings of their work for everyone to enjoy at home, which are shared through an email distributed to the Open Mic audience at the end of the month. If you want to share a recording or receive the email of performances, please send a message to [umcopenmicnight@gmail.com](mailto:umcopenmicnight@gmail.com).



# UPDATES

## PASTORAL CARE

If you have any pastoral or prayer needs, please contact the church office or send Pastor Christina an email at [clelache@umcsummit.org](mailto:clelache@umcsummit.org). We are also continuing to monitor the church's voicemail for messages left during the week.

## STAY UPDATED - JOIN OUR MAILING LIST

We are sharing two emails each week with the latest opportunities to connect, help others, and worship together. If you are not receiving these emails, please contact the church office so we can add you to the mailing list.

## 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 generosity is greatly appreciated and enables us to sustain our ministries and staffing that are offering hope, support, and connection!

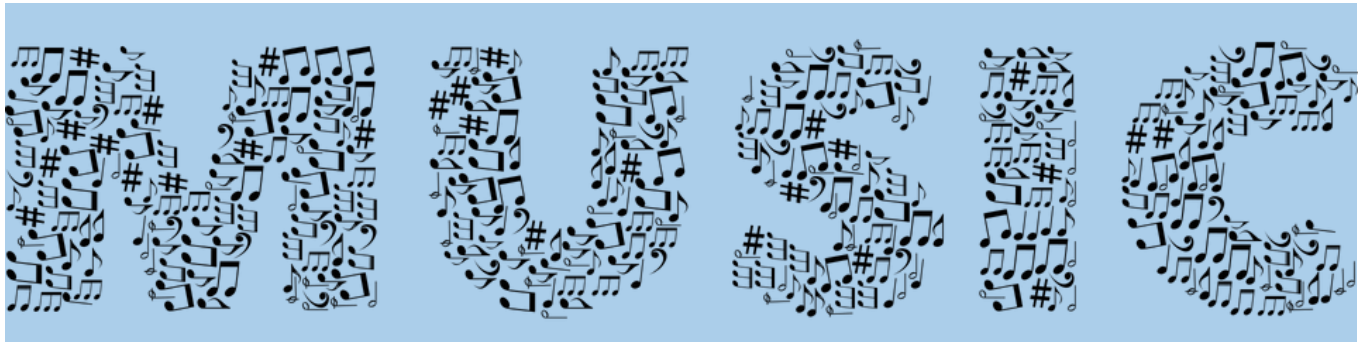
If you are unsure how to give in the absence of in-person worship services, there are a few options:

- **Give electronically** through our safe and secure giving portal by going to [umcsummit.org/give](https://umcsummit.org/give)
- **Send in a check via mail** to the church at 17 Kent Place Blvd, Summit, NJ 07901
- **Set up online "bill pay"** through your bank to make your offering. Please follow the instructions provided by your bank. This service will send your funds electronically or print out a paper check and mail it to the church



We also encourage you to consider setting up a recurring gift through our online portal or by contacting your bank to set up an automatic bill pay. The ongoing ministry at UMC Summit depends on regular financial support, and recurring giving makes it easier for you to contribute regularly, especially when you can't make it to church.

Thank you for your continuing generosity and support!



Dear Wonderful Music Makers:

*"God of love, we open our hearts and minds to Your presence in our midst. Let us feel Your love, and help us to witness to it as we care for our sisters and brothers in Christ Jesus. Amen."*

How very much I miss all of our music makers - from our Wesley Choir, Singing Believers, Bell Choir, Contemporary Ensemble, Chancel Choir and our Instrumentalists. It is such a joy to 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.

A big "thank you" to all our members who have shared their voices and musical gifts on our videos to be shared on the live stream worship each Sunday morning.

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.

Let's reach out to each other and share how we are doing through **Zoom Chat**:

**New Time:** Sundays at 9:45am

**To Join:** <https://zoom.us/j/213133291>

**Chat ID:** 213 133 291

**Dial-in by your location:**

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)  
(Chat ID: 213 133 291)

Congratulations to our Jordan Gallinek who has been accepted into the Doctoral program at the Juilliard School. We are so proud and happy for the entire Gallinek family.

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

With much love,

Joanne



## CELEBRATE IN MAY:



### Date

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### Birthdays

Dorothy Koernig  
Leslie Williams  
Ann Houpt  
Bryson James  
Austin Fern  
Nick Mansilla  
Maria Hughes  
Carlos Aguilera  
J. Clyde Branson  
Irma George  
Bette McDermott  
Camille Tasse  
Benjamin Burns  
Kimberly Vida  
Gabriella Tasse  
Doug Rockoff  
Dwayne Phillips  
Robert Somers

### Anniversaries

6 Steffi and Nick Mansilla  
9 Alison and Neil Johnson  
10 Kim and Eric Goldman  
Kenny James and Alicia Solomon  
11 Maryann and Dan Somers  
28 Susan and Scott Daniel  
Dotti and Bob Zotti

