

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

THE DIALOGUE

Summer 2020



CHURCH STAFF

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From Pastor Christina

*"God makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters;
he restores my soul." — Psalm 23:2-3*

We are living in extraordinary times. When 2020 began, we could not foresee what this year would bring. The COVID-19 pandemic has dramatically changed our lives, impacting us in a multitude of ways that will continue to unfold. On top of the coronavirus pandemic, our country is grappling anew with the pandemic of racism. All around us we are seeing renewed calls for justice and movements for social change. Navigating all that is going on, in the midst of ongoing change and ambiguity, calls forth much from us as we seek to not only love our neighbors, but transform the world so that it is better for all.

That is no small task, even in ordinary times! It's no wonder that as we enter into the summer, after months of loss and change, many of us may be finding ourselves tired, exhausted, or overwhelmed. How do we keep up? How do we stay connected to God? How do we find rest so that we can continue the faithful work to which God calls us?

Richard Rohr teaches that compassionate action must be balanced with contemplative practice. While there are many forms of contemplative practice, we see one model of this in Genesis, where after creating all that is, God rested in order to connect with all that had been created. As we go about our summers, engaging in our daily work of loving our neighbors, I invite you to carve out intentional times to rest in the way God rested. To not just slow down or catch up on some sleep—but to pause and enjoy the life you have, to revel in the beautiful gift of creation and the goodness and faithfulness of God that upholds it all. Sabbath and creation not only help us reconnect with God's original blessing, but reconnect with our work and world in meaningful ways.

Our worship will shift this summer to help us in this practice of sabbath renewal—read on to see what other opportunities there are to connect with each other and our greater community. Wherever your summer may take you, in all that you may do, I invite you to ponder this question: what is not just sustaining you, but giving you life?

May you find rest and renewal in the green pastures and still waters God leads you to this summer!

Deep Blessings,
Pastor Christina

WORSHIP



Summer Worship
Starts at 10:30am

 **Livestream on Facebook**
Search "United Methodist Church of Summit"

 **Call in at 1-646-558-8656**
Meeting ID: 410 153 133

The United Methodist Church of Summit | umcsummit.org

SUMMER WORSHIP UPDATES

Given the technology needs to set up the livestream and conference call on Sunday mornings, **summer worship in July and August will remain at 10:30am.**

Services will look and feel a little different as we create intentional time to worship, rest, and experience the gifts of God through sabbath and creation. Plan to spend the half-hour before worship intentionally resting or marveling at the gift of creation. Then, join us for a shorter, meditative worship service at 10:30am.

Starting July 19, we'll explore God's gift of sabbath for three weeks, and the ways in which this gift helps us reconnect with God's blessing of abundant life.

Starting August 9, we'll start a four-week journey through the gifts of creation, reflecting on what the natural world can teach us about experiencing God and living as people of faith.

During the summer series, there will be opportunities to respond to prompts, share your reflections, and send in video clips and pictures to help create the worship experience. Look for more information in our Weekly Opportunities emails starting in July for how you can help in creating worship!

FIND US ON YOUTUBE

View our sermons online anytime on our YouTube channel. To find us, go to [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com) and search "United Methodist Church of Summit."

MISSION



HELP ADDRESS FOOD INSECURITY IN SUMMIT

GRACE is serving more than 500 families each week, and families receive a variety of food and household supplies. They are regularly in need of cleaning supplies, personal care items, and shelf-stable food. The main collection site is located at the UPS store on Union Place in Summit. Donations are also being collected at their distribution site at the Cornog Field House (5 Myrtle Ave, Summit) on Sunday-Tuesday at 1pm.

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

UNITED METHODISTS STAND AGAINST RACISM

Our baptismal vows call us, as United Methodists, to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves. There are many ways we can take a stand against racism as disciples of Jesus Christ. The United Methodist Church has compiled a page of resources to help take action now to resist racism, including resources to help you listen, act, speak, and pray. Visit umc.org/endoracism to find a list of resources to help you take a stand.



CONNECT

Virtual Coffee Hour

Sunday mornings on Zoom
following the end of the service

Join by video:

<https://zoom.us/j/755718960>

Join by phone: 1-646-558-8656

Meeting ID: 755 718 960

CONTEMPLATIVE PHOTOGRAPHY VIRTUAL GROUP

Try out a new spiritual practice this summer while engaging your backyard and neighborhood in a new way! Contemplative photography is a spiritual practice that uses the process of taking photos as a way to pray and open ourselves to God's presence in everyday places. It invites us to slow down, open ourselves to wonder, and discover God in new ways.

Participants will use scripture and worship themes as a lens for seeing the world around them. Any kind of camera will work, and photos will be shared in an online gallery where others can view and comment, offering opportunities to connect throughout the week. The group itself will meet twice a month via Zoom for conversation and sharing what we have seen and discovered in our contemplative practice. These conversations will last no more than an hour.



To join the group, or if you would like more information, contact Pastor Christina at clelache@umcsummit.org.

Meeting Schedule: Thursdays, 12:30-1:30pm, on the following dates:

- July 16
- July 30
- August 13
- August 27

UPDATES

REOPENING UPDATE

Dear friends,

We hope this message finds you safe and well! It has been some time since we have been able to gather together in-person, and we are all looking forward to when we can gather together again. We have been hard at work over the past month working on a reopening plan for our worship and ministries, and as we move into the summer, we wanted to provide you with an update on where we are in our process.

We are closely following the [guidelines from the Greater New Jersey \(GNJ\) Annual Conference](#), the State of NJ, and the CDC. In all of our conversations, safety for every member of our community is our guiding priority. We also recognize that any plan we make is contingent upon the continuing decrease of COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations in our area, and that it is subject to change based on the prevalence of the virus in New Jersey in the months to come.

GNJ is requiring that churches prepare a plan that addresses from when we arrive to the building to when we leave, while also addressing health and safety areas such as setting capacity limits on gathering size, maintaining 6 feet of social distancing, thorough cleaning processes for all surfaces and commonly used areas, signage, and protective measures such as masks and hand sanitizer.

We are working on a multi-stage plan that provides protocols for worship gatherings, staff & office use, small groups & committees, outside building use, and cleaning. We have so far put together draft protocols for worship and staff, and will be discussing the other areas in the next month. Once we have finished putting together a draft plan, we will seek input from GNJ to make sure we have not missed a critical piece of preparation, and then present the plan to Ad Council for approval.

What is becoming quickly apparent in our conversations is that when we reopen, things will look different in terms of how we gather and worship together. These changes, while not permanent, will be the new normal for us at least through the rest of this year. Worshipping in enclosed spaces poses some of the highest risk scenarios for virus transmission, and all of the guidance we are following urges us to take precautions seriously and adjust our worship life together so as to minimize as much risk as possible. These recommendations include shortening indoor services, limiting congregational singing and speaking, and implementing social distancing measures from when we arrive to when we leave.

We also recognize that many may not feel comfortable joining us for worship when we start regathering in-person; thus, we will continue to offer our livestream ministries to make sure that everybody has the opportunity to remain connected. Part of our work this summer is making sure our sanctuary is equipped to stream worship when we regather so everyone has the opportunity to worship.

At this point, we will continue to worship online for the rest of the summer, and it is not likely that we will gather for in-person worship until September. This timeframe is necessary not only to make sure we are fully prepared for in-person gatherings that accommodate everyone's safety, but to also prepare for meaningful ministry this fall across in-person and virtual gatherings.

These conversations are difficult as we try to balance spiritual, physical, social, and health needs. We acknowledge that there will be doubt and sadness about the modifications we need to make; we know many are eager to see one another again; but we also don't want to see anyone contract the virus through our worship services or ministries. What gives us hope in our conversations is the willingness and resiliency of our congregation over the past three months as we have adapted to the changes brought by the pandemic. Truly, our church never closed, for we have continued to be the church in our homes and communities.

If you have specific questions or considerations you would like for us to know as we continue our work, please email the church office at office@umcsummit.org. We will continue to provide you with updates on this process and what to expect when the time comes to gather in-person.

Thank you for your continued prayers for our work and for our congregation!

The Reopening Advisory Committee

Pastor Christina Lelache

Alf Edwards

Beverly Alexis

Chris Goetzl

Craig Burns

Jesse Reyes

Susan Daniel

Terry Schaefer

Wendi Barry

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. We are also continuing to monitor the church's voicemail for messages left during the week.

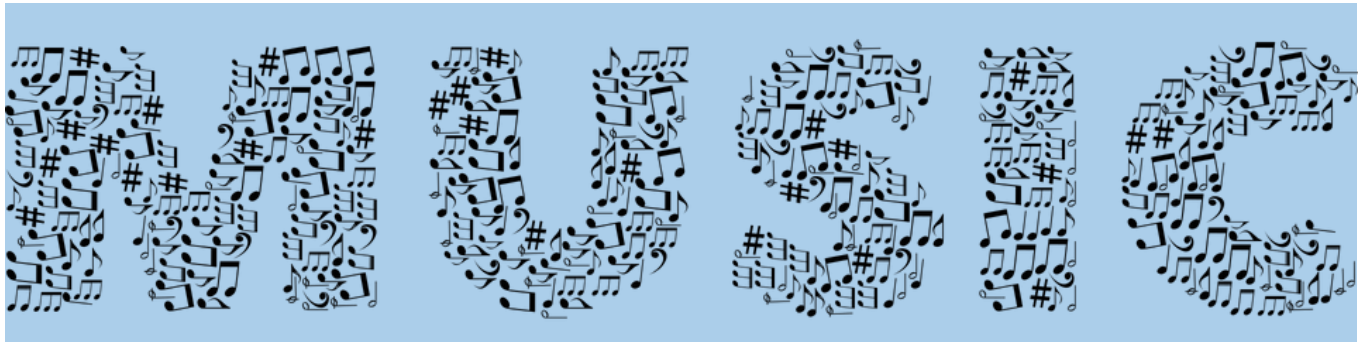
VIRTUAL OFFICE HOURS

Pastor Christina is available to talk during her virtual office hours on Tuesday afternoons from 2-4pm. To schedule a time to talk, use this link: <https://calendly.com/clelache/virtualofficehours>

SUPPORT THE CHURCH WITH YOUR GIFTS

As we enter into these summer months, please remember the church with your tithes and offerings. Your support makes a difference in the life of our congregation and the surrounding community as we offer inspiration, hope, and faith resources in these extraordinary times.

You can continue to support our ministries by sending your gift to the church through the mail, or by giving through the secure online giving portal at umcsummit.org/give. You can also set up your gift to be a recurring gift through our online portal or by contacting your bank to set up a bill pay arrangement. Thank you for your continuing generosity and support!



Dear Wonderful Music Makers:

*"Oh God, You have given us the precious gift of music and of song.
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."*

Please, let us all stay strong in spirit and show loving compassion to each other.

How very much I miss all of our music makers: **Wesley Choir, Singing Believers, Bell Choir, Contemporary Ensemble, Chancel Choir, Instrumental Soloists.** It is such a joy to work together and praise our Lord and Savior through sacred music. It is my hope that the music we have prepared together has been a comfort for you in this time we cannot be together.

The Staff/Parish Committee recognizes the musicians and choir for the music they prepared. A heartfelt "thank you" for all of our members who have shared their voices and musical gifts in our worship experience.

An important message from the Staff/Parish Committee:

The Greater New Jersey (GNJ) annual conference has recommended that a special two-week COVID-19 renewal leave be permitted for all conference clergy. Our Staff Parish Relations Committee met this week and voted that Pastor Christina should take advantage of this special renewal opportunity, beginning Sunday, June 21 through Saturday, July 4. What does this mean: GNJ will be providing full online worship services for Sunday, June 21 and Sunday, June 28. They will be available on our UMC Summit Facebook page starting at 10:30am and also available for viewing later on the GNJ YouTube and GNJ Facebook page. If there are any pastoral care requests or emergencies during this time, please feel free to leave a message on the office answering service or send an email to the office at office@umcsummit.org and the office or Pastor Christina will get back to you.

With much love,

Joanne

Please say "hello" in our **Zoom Chat**. It's so good to share stories and hear each other's voices,

New Time: Sundays at 9:45am

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

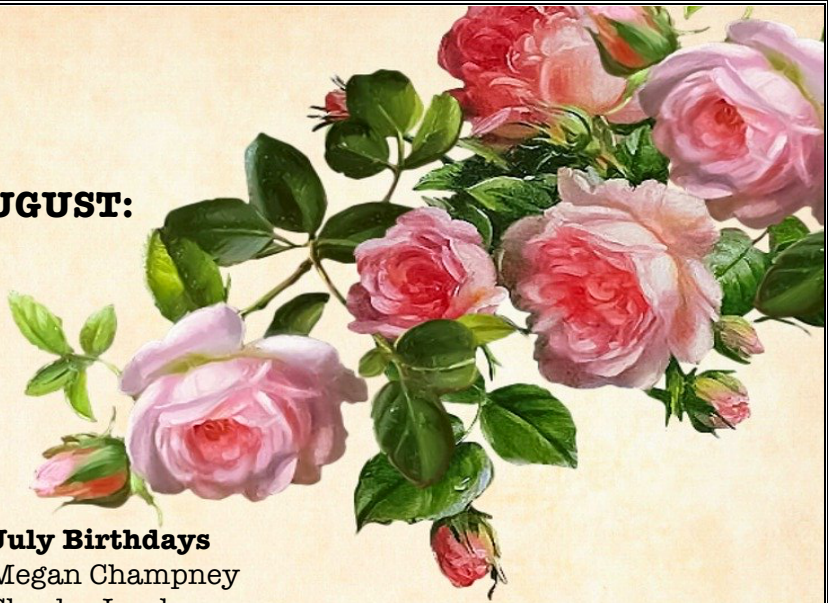
Chat ID: 213 133 291

Dial-in by your location:

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

(Chat ID: 213 133 291)

CELEBRATE IN JULY/AUGUST:



Date

3

9

12

13

25

30

31

July Birthdays

Megan Champney

Charles Lord

Jesse Reyes

Johanna Aguilera

Parker LaJeunesse

Julia Dunnder

Ellen Dunnder

August Birthdays

5

6

7

8

9

11

16

22

24

28

31

Susan Daniel

Caroline Relf

MaryEllen DeJohn

John Somers

Andrew Aird

Jim Schaefer

John Blossom

Alf Edwards

Bob Reed

Lisa Burns

Doug DeMartin

Melissa Tasse

Andie Vida

Sam Russel

July Anniversaries

8

14

21

25

Leslie and Susan Williams

Deanne and Brian Burns

Emily and Jayme LaJeunesse

Cliff and Laura Wilkins

August Anniversaries

14

Craig and Lisa Burns

